



The Probe

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Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of Ottawa/Alta Vista will be held on Wednesday, November 28th, 2007 at 9:30 am in the Church Hall of Pleasant Park Baptist Church.

The agenda will include:

- Minutes of the 2006 AGM and matters arising from the minutes.
- Treasurer's Report and Financial Business
- Reports from Officers and Committees
- Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers and Management Committee members for 2008
- Appointment of Auditors
- Such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.

Alan Taylor - Secretary

Notes to the AGM Notice

The AGM will be at 9:30 with the thought that our speaker should not be delayed by the conduct of the Club's business. We will bring everything forward by half an hour so coffee and cookies will be available about 9 am.

The Nominating Committee is still looking for candidates for Office (Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer) and for the Management Committee. None of the jobs is very onerous and part of the Probus ideal is that there should be a regular turnover and that everyone should have the opportunity to take part in the management of the club. One Committee job we particularly need to fill is a position on the membership sub-committee.

Please attend the AGM - we need 20% of the membership to constitute a quorum.

PROBUS' Vital Purpose ...

To stimulate thought, interest and participation in activities at a time in life when it is easy to become complacent and self-centred.

The Brooding Soldier

Robert Martin is a heritage architect who has worked on restoration of some of Canada's monuments at home and abroad and is currently working on the National Memorial Centre at Beechwood Cemetery. He divided his illustrated talk into two sections - the St Julien Monument in France and the Beechwood Project.

The St Julien monument is in Belgium, 3 to 4 km from Ypres. It is a stone column with the head and upper torso of a soldier in the 'rest on your arms reversed' position at the top. The soldier's bowed head has led to the name, 'The Brooding Soldier'.



The monument was dedicated on the 8th of July, 1923 and was included in a review of 11 Canadian monuments from a health and safety aspect. This led to a decision to do repairs and renovations. The original drawings and specifications had been lost so it was a question of examining the monument closely to decide what could and should be done and how to do it.

The scope of the project included walkways and stone benches as well as the monument itself. Overall it was in good condition with some water damage to masonry. The quarries which provided the original stone are still open, so it was simple to match the masonry. (Page 2)

(From page 1) One of the hazards of working near the monument is unexploded ordinance which meant staying close and keeping to well used areas. The monument was cleaned by 'sandblasting' with crushed walnut shells! Apparently walnut shells are hard enough to remove the grime but much less abrasive than sand.

To finish the project, 'as built' drawings were made and will be kept for future renovations, and a 'maintenance' manual was written to help preserve the monument. The project took about 4 months on site and three years overall.

The Beechwood Project

Beechwood Cemetery has entered into an agreement with the Department of National Defence to become Canada's National Military Cemetery and as part of the agreement a National Memorial Centre is being built. The inspirations for the design (see the September *Flyer*) were 'Nature through a Cleft Rock' and the marking of the seasons and time.



Nature through a cleft rock

The design work was very high-tech. For example the passage of light through space was modelled on a computer for all conditions and seasons, and software was designed to control the acoustics and lighting. Complete models show the crane operators exactly how components can be lifted into place. The use of a nine-sided design for the main hall made for many complications through the need for non-standard angles and joints. The design includes a 'Hall of Colours' a permanent home for the Colours of Canadian Regiments. This hall can be closed off when the main hall is used for other functions.

Robert concluded by inviting us to visit the site even before it is completed. After dedication it will be open for public functions.

Canada Remembers

--and well it should. The fascinating talk given by Robert Martin to our August meeting provided a springboard to seek out more of the story on Canadian Memorials than could be covered in one lecture. An internet check with Veterans' Affairs Canada led to a web page "Memorials to Canadians' Achievements and Sacrifices" (www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers). Here was the key to the memorials in Canada and around the rest of the world.

Memorials in Canada are then listed by province. There are nine major memorials in Ontario plus at least one in most cities, towns and village. Memorials are listed in six European countries and in five countries in Africa and Asia.

The description of each of the individual sites consists of three main parts:

- the name of the memorial;
- the major event that is memorialized;
- how to get to the site.

Le Quesnel Memorial near Amiens in France provides a good example of the information available.

Memorials in the United Kingdom are divided into two types:

- Those developed by the Canadian Government and the Commonwealth, and
- Local memorials listed under Northern Ireland, Scotland and England.

A further division lists the sites by county. These memorials range from plaques in churches to grave sites to individual local monuments. Local monuments in the United Kingdom are similar to those found in most villages, towns and cities of Canada.

There is a memorial in Montreal "Last Post Fund National Field of Honour". This memorial is one that can be readily visited from Ottawa and I would advise any prospective visitor to check the web page for this site beforehand. The information available runs for several pages and provides a detailed look at the site and its history and includes a road map of the area. An annual day of Commemorative Ceremonies is held the first Sunday in June of each year.

The Memorials are an excellent example of one aspect of the remembrance process. They are not the only form but the site and its development create a strong visual impact, and emphasize their national significance. They can provide a memorable stop on any trip that includes the area.

Gordon D. Taylor.

Aiding the Aiders

How does a country emerge from the situation of being a Warsaw Pact member and a fully controlled satellite of the Soviet Union to become an independent nation welcome and able to become a member of the European Union and a part of world society? This was the problem that the countries of Central Europe faced after the collapse of the USSR in 1991. They found that they lacked most of the elements needed to satisfy the requirements that would allow EU membership, one requirement being that they become net aid donors and have assistance programs directed toward improving the lot of countries less developed than their own.

A Canadian solution to this problem was the subject of the September meeting addressed by Reg Evans, former Justice Dept Senior ADM and later Public Works ADM, and David Chaplin, a 30 year veteran of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). To assist four countries - the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia; later Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia as well - CIDA created the 5 year, \$15million 'Official Development Assistance in Central Europe' (ODACE) program in 2002 under Mr. Chaplin's leadership. Mr. Evans was one of 50 ODACE consultants engaged to explain how Canada approached development assistance and the governance practices, policies, procedures and structures needed to make Canadian assistance possible and effective. The ODACE objective was to help establish, support, monitor and evaluate the client countries as they moved to become effective aid providers as quickly as possible.

ODACE did not try to create a clone, but aimed to provide support, information and explanations that could be used as reference for the Europeans as they built their own assistance programs. By documenting the Canadian approach with good explanations, Mr. Chaplin believes Canada made a valuable contribution to the development of the next generation of young and exceptionally bright Central European bureaucrats who will soon be guiding their countries' aid efforts.

As the client countries reached the point where they became aid donors, Canada, through ODACE, eventually became involved in 126 trilateral aid projects. As our client countries' aid programs become stronger, Canada's involvement will no longer be necessary.

Reg Evans said this is an aid story that deserves to be told to Canadians and he and David Chaplin appreciated the opportunity to show us this light from underneath the bushel where it's been hidden for too long.

Ed & Cathy Borza

November 28th - Ed Broadbent

John Edward Broadbent, PC, CC, PhD, LLD, served as a Member of Parliament for Oshawa from 1968 to 1990 and for Ottawa Centre from 2004 to 2006. He was the first President of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development and served from 1990 to 1996. During his 14 years as leader of the NDP, he was known for his work on an equitable tax system, equality for women, and the constitutional entrenchment of aboriginal rights.

Mr. Broadbent's talk will be preceded by the AGM starting at 9:30. Please come early.

December 12th - Christmas Party

As usual we have brought our December meeting forward by two weeks and, also as usual, it will be our Christmas Party day.

Entertainment will be by Ottawa's singing policeman, Dominic D'Arcy supported by the Alta Vista Probus Club Choir (make sure that you are in good voice!).

We ask that you provide the Christmas fare. If your last name starts with:

- A to G, please bring sandwiches
- H to M, please bring Christmas goodies, cake and pies
- N to Z, please bring appetizers, dips, veggie bites, cheese, crackers.

More in the November Flyer.

World Views

John Kruithof has provided us with the fall program of the World Views group which offers free monthly photo evenings.

Fall 2007 Program

Bethany Baptist Church
Centrepointe Drive West, at Baseline Road
PROGRAMS BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M.

All Welcome

Saturday, October 27 – **COSTA RICA, Naturally**
Birds, bananas and red-eyed frogs
Gwen Williams and Jim Robertson

Saturday, November 24 – **EXPEDITION CRUISING
IN THE CANADIAN ARCTIC**

Encounters with geography and wildlife
Susan Aiken

For more information call Tom Frisch (613-725-2221)
or Gurt Lemke (613-592-3227)

Japan Bulleting

At 10 am on Wednesday, September 26th, instead of being at Probus, I was sitting with my son, Peter, on the Bullet Train half way between Kyoto and Tokyo. My Japan Rail Pass took me from Nagasaki 2000 km north to Aomori at the tip of Honshu - Japan's main island - via Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto, Tokyo, Niigata, Morioka and several other cities as well as many castles, shrines, gardens and museums. Oh, and we sat in the rain at the Japanese Grand Prix.

Peter wanted to visit 'ground zero' in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Both are sobering experiences and a visit to either museum will leave you shaken. Hiroshima has decided to let the 'hypocenter' be built over and preservation of anything was a matter of dissension. There is what is left of a steel framed building at 160 meters from the hypocenter which survived because the blast was at 580 meters from the ground so that it did not get the wall-flattening horizontal shock wave.



Nagasaki has a memorial at the spot and while we were there, there were groups of school children visiting. They would line up at the memorial, sing a hymn and say a prayer. Nagasaki was one of the earliest ports open to the West and one of the old trading sites (Dutch) has been preserved. We must have heard 'Un bel di' from Madama Butterfly a dozen times in the day we were there.

Many of the castles we visited were reconstructed on the original foundations after destruction of the originals during the Meiji Restoration. The most impressive ones were at Himeji and Osaka. The most impressive shrine was at Nikko but it was hard work. There are 100 stairs to get to the main courtyard and 200 more to get to the top.

We ate in small 'Mom and Pop' restaurants most of the time, which meant a lot of rice and noodle dishes. Our



chopstick skills improved rapidly.

An enduring impression of Japan is cleanliness. There is no litter, not even at the Grand Prix. By comparison, Montreal needs an army of garbage collectors after a race.

At the end of my stay I represented Canada on the International Council of the English-Speaking Union as one of 28 delegates from 19 countries. The recently returned Japanese Ambassador is now the Executive Director of ESU Japan and we renewed an acquaintance made at an Ottawa Symphony Garden Party.

John Wright

Poetry Corner

The picture on Page 2 shows a plaque on the rock. The words are a poem by **Archibald Lampman** (1861-1899), whose work has appeared in *The Probe* before.

In Beechwood Cemetery

Here the dead sleep--the quiet dead. No sound
Disturbs them ever, and no storm dismays.
Winter mid snow caresses the tired ground,
And the wind roars about the woodland ways.
Springtime and summer and red autumn pass,
With leaf and bloom and pipe of wind and bird,
And the old earth puts forth her tender grass,
By them unfelt, unheeded and unheard.
Our centuries to them are but as strokes
In the dim gamut of some far-off chime.
Unaltering rest their perfect being cloaks--
A thing too vast to hear or feel or see--
Children of Silence and Eternity,
They know no season but the end of time.