



Merry Christmas!
... and a Happy New Year



Newsletter of the PROBUS Club of Ottawa Alta Vista

The Probe

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Management Committee, 2008

At the AGM the members elected **Wib Neal** as President and **Ed Borza** as Vice-president and Treasurer as well as members of the Management Committee:

Merle Brown	Claude Hannan
Ada McEwan	Dorothy MacIntosh
Bayne Pearen	Audrey Reekie
Pat Richardson	Paul Stumes
Gordon Taylor	George Toller

In addition there are four ex-officio committee members:

Russ Hammond (President Emeritus)
Eva Hammond (Rotary Liaison)
Dan Kelley (Rotary Liaison)
John Wright (Past-president)

The Committee's first tasks are to appoint a Secretary and assign duties to the Committee members. There is also a need for an Assistant Treasurer to take over in 2009 but this is less urgent.

Congratulations and thanks to all for taking on the work of management of the Club.

Our thanks are also due to **Allen Taylor**, who leaves the Committee after serving terms as Secretary, Vice-president and President. **Jim Kingston** has relinquished the task of liaison between the Club and Tim Horton's. Alternate arrangements have been made to ensure continuity.

Dorothy's team of telephone callers are not members of the Management Committee but are an essential part of our Club's operations. We propose to recognize them in a future issue of *The Probe*.



Speakers - 2007

Congratulations to our Program Committee, **Joyce Wright** and **Tony Goldsmith**, led by **George Toller**, on an excellent roster of speakers.

January - **Charlotte Gray** (Author) on Alexander Graham Bell.

February - **Spruce Riordan** (Carleton U) - Inside the Ivory Tower.

March - **Chris Lackner** (Ottawa Citizen) - The Underground Railway.

April - **Lesley Sibthorpe** - *Cougar Annie* and her Garden - Pioneer life in Clayquot Sound

May - **Walter Prystawski** - Life of a Concertmaster.

June - Impromptu talks by members and guests on an aviation theme.

July - **10-minute Talks** - Five members spoke on their interests, hobbies, careers and travels.

August - **Robert Martin** (Architect) - The National Memorial Centre and Overseas Monuments.

September - **Reg Evans & David Chaplin** - Foreign Aid by Foreign Countries.

October - **Rev. Lyman Coleman** - "The Chaplain's Role in War and Peace".

November - **The Hon. Ed Broadbent** - Democratic Development.

December - **Christmas Party**

After 3 years, **George** has decided to step down from the Program Committee. His work is much appreciated.

The Hon. John Edward Broadbent, CC

Dan Kelley introduced Ed Broadbent, reminding us that he was at one time the most popular party leader in Canada; that he had taken the NDP to its largest presence in the House in its history, 43 seats in the 1988 election; that he had served as Vice-president of the Socialist International from 1979 to 1990; and leader of the NDP from 1975 to 1989.

Mr. Broadbent took as his theme, *Democratic Development Abroad* and started with the challenging question, "What went wrong in Iraq?" He took us back to Roosevelt and Churchill and Churchill's successor, Clement Attlee, who had all shared thoughts on social conditions and what had led to the rise of Nazism. Their thoughts centred on peace, democracy and human rights and the institutions needed to develop them. The U.N. was established to assure peace, the Bretton Woods conference promoted a stable economy and the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights was intended to cover rights on a worldwide scale. Sixty years later, there is some progress. Post-war, the North Atlantic nations rejected the extremes of communism and fascism and promoted tolerance and a peaceful society as a base for democracy.

There have been societies with human rights but without parliamentary democracy - the UK in the past is an example - but never the reverse. This has led to a simplistic approach of attempting to install parliamentary democracy in the expectation that human rights will be a direct consequence. This fails to take account of cultural differences. Markets may be a force for democracy but markets can flourish even where human rights are secondary (China and Russia are two examples).

Canada should follow a multi-faceted approach:

- Democratic development should remain a leading objective of foreign policy.
- Canadians should take a personal role in democratic development by writing letters of support to government officials.
- Canada should financially support non-government organizations working for human rights. In 1970 there were only 55 such organizations. Now there are over 2000.
- Priorities must be set within countries and we have to accept that their priorities may not be ours.

He went on to note that the Third World sees the developed nations as more interested in exploitation than development and that the World Bank seems more

concerned with the growing prosperity in developed countries than the abject poverty in the Third World. Part of the exploitation occurs when property rights of (western) corporations supersede the human rights of workers.

Mr. Broadbent concluded by returning to his original question - Iraq. Using military force to enforce democracy is morally wrong. Many people have been killed, much of the country's infrastructure has been destroyed and terrorism has expanded. It is seen as a war where white, Christian soldiers are waging an anti-Muslim 'holy war'. The situation in Afghanistan was different but is now heading the same way.

It is up to human rights activists to take the lead in their own countries, setting priorities appropriate to their own social conditions.

John Wright thanked Mr. Broadbent noting that this was the biggest audience we have ever had and a good indication of the great respect Canadians have for him.

Probus Spring Social Brockville, Tuesday, May 27th



The two Probus clubs in Brockville are hosting the 2008 Probus "Spring Social", at the Brockville Country Club on **Tuesday, May 27th, 2008**.

Final information will be available in mid-January, but in the meantime please mark this date on your calendar. The theme will be "*An Old Time Social on the St. Lawrence*" (a buffet lunch will be served) with a number of Brockville members dressed in period costume. Some great entertainment is planned, including a visit by Sir John A. Macdonald! The ticket cost will be under \$30.

It is sure to be an enjoyable event, giving all Probus members who attend a great opportunity to mix and mingle. Brockville looks forward to welcoming you.



Curling in Brockville Wednesday, February 20th

We have been invited to send a team to the Annual Probus 'Spiel at the Brockville Country Club (just west of town on highway 2).

Cost \$60.00 for a team of 4, plus \$16.00 lunch. Coffee is available at 9 am and the game starts at 9:30. The 'spiel is always full with teams from Kingston, Gananoque, Kemptville etc. etc.

If anyone wants to organize a team, please contact John Wright (613-731-8521) for full details - by Jan. 15th.

Annual General Meeting November 28, 2007

The AGM was convened at 9:30 with sufficient members to form a quorum, John Wright (President) in the chair.

President's Report

John gave a quick review of the year's activities and thanked the members for their work to keep the club running smoothly. These included Ada McEwan, Audrey Reekie and their several helpers in the kitchen; Morley Craig for putting out chairs; Jim Kingston for bringing Tim-bits; George Toller with Joyce Wright and Tony Goldsmith for the excellent program; Dorothy MacIntosh and her team of telephone callers; Ed Borza for keeping track of our finances; Allen Taylor, our Secretary; Bayne Pearen, who sends out cards to members who are not well; Claude Hannan, Gordon Taylor, Jean Lupton and Wib Neal who helped out in many ways with the odd jobs that crop up.

Financial Business

Ed Borza noted that the financial statements for the last complete year (2006) were printed in *The Probe* and that the 2007 report will be in the February *Probe*. The interim position is that there are no unusual expenses or income in the current year and that we are solvent.

Elections

The elections are covered on the front page.

No other business was raised and the meeting concluded in time for a few minutes of socializing before the regular meeting.

Guest - October

Eric Kangas



Guests - November

Walter Terentiuk	Al Saldanah
Vaughan Johnstone	Joan Evans
Orval & Isabel Bennett	
Lorraine Dickinson	Peggy Wightman
Ute & Michael Davis	
Mary Breig	M. I. Richardson

We look forward to meeting them again.

How to find us

We meet at 9:30 for 10 on the 4th Wednesday of each month except December (2nd Wednesday) in the Hall of Pleasant Park Baptist Church, 414 Pleasant Park Road in Alta Vista.

The Chaplain's Role

Lt. Col. (Retd.) The Rev. Lyman Coleman, our guest speaker on October 24th, replied to my written invitation, "I have a talk/lecture that I prepared for the launch of my book *In This Sign* that covers the role of the Military Chaplain in war. My own experience, 1958-85, was based on the role of those Veteran Padres, including your father, who served in WW II."

In his talk to us, Lyman Coleman repeated from his author's notes in his novel: "During WW II, 465 Protestant Chaplains served in the Canadian Armed Forces." He then told us that the essence of their role is that the Chaplain - of whatever denomination or faith group - is present with the troops as a symbol of hope: "Where the troops are, you are there with them."

To illustrate the import of the Padre's presence as a symbol of hope, he gave the example of a critically wounded soldier on the battlefield, asking the Chaplain, "Am I going to make it, Padre?", and the response, "Hang in there, lad, you're going to be alright."

Lyman Coleman practiced what he preached about being with the troops. While serving with the 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment he made 93 parachute jumps. His ambition to reach 100 jumps was thwarted by injuries to his knees. He served with 1 RCR on joining the Chaplain Service in Kingston in 1958 and went overseas with them to Germany and on their peace-keeping mission in Cyprus.

Allen Taylor

The Rev. Coleman was introduced by Allen and thanked by **Wib Neal**.

World Views

We are again indebted to **John Kruithof** for information on the free monthly photo evenings, "World Views".

Meetings are held at the Bethany Baptist Church, Centrepointe Drive West, at Baseline Road, at 7:30 pm.

Saturday, January 26 – Iguasu Falls, Patagonia & Antarctica - Lands of water, ice and rock - by Caroline Cheng

Saturday, February 23 – Cuba si! - Castro's Island – by Barbara Eade & Colin McGregor

Saturday, March 29 – Impact in the High Arctic - The story of Haughton crater on Devon Island – by Tom Frisch

For more information, call **Colin McGregor** at 613-820-0598.



It's Our Turn

In 2009 Ottawa Alta Vista Probus Club will be the host of the Eastern Ontario Annual Spring Luncheon.

We will need to set up a committee to look at all aspects of hosting - venue, meal, entertainment, registration, meet and greet, communications, displays, etc. etc.

We last hosted in 2001 jointly with the Kanata Club at the Tudor Hall. Kanata hosted the 2007 event, so it is our turn. We have a year to learn from Brockville and set up our organization so that this time next year we will be ready to send out the invitations.

Can you help? Will you help?



The Veteran on Our \$10 Bill

On the back of a \$10 bill you will find an elderly veteran standing at attention near the War Memorial. His name is Robert Metcalfe and he died this year at the age of 90.

He was part of the BEF and was hit in the legs by shrapnel while treating a wounded comrade; the ambulance taking him to hospital came under fire; and while he was being evacuated from Dunkirk, two sister ships of his rescuer vessel were sunk.

Recovered, he was posted to North Africa. En route his ship was chased by the Bismarck. He served under General Montgomery in North Africa and then took part in the Italian campaign. In Italy he met and married (twice) his wife, a lieutenant and physiotherapist in a Canadian hospital. They were married in the morning by the Mayor and in the afternoon by a British padre.

On his retirement, they moved to Ottawa where 'out of the blue' he received a call from a government official to go downtown for a photo-op. He was not told why, or how he had been chosen and had no idea that he would be on the \$10 bill.

100 Years Ago

The Globe and Mail has daily snippets from the past. One such was: U.S. humorist Mark Twain attended King Edward's great garden party at Windsor Castle, where the king appreciated his humour - particularly Twain's sporting offer to buy the estate - and gave him a royal warrant to improve on history whenever he felt like it.

Unfortunately, today, we seem to be plagued by revisionists who have taken Twain's warrant as a public license to rewrite history.

January 23rd - Kathleen Petty

In making the announcement that Kathleen Petty would be hosting CBC Morning, Rob Renaud, regional director of CBC's English programming in Ottawa, said, "We are thrilled to have Kathleen join us in Ottawa. Her depth and breadth of journalistic experience, her 20-years hosting experience, combined with her warmth, political savvy and genuine curiosity about the world around her, will contribute greatly to our already highly reputable radio shows in the capital."

We are thrilled that she will be our January speaker and we are sure that she will contribute greatly to our already highly reputable roster of past speakers.

February 27th - Michael Potter

Michael was featured in the November issue of the magazine *Fifty-five Plus*. The article starts: On August 4th, 2003, Michael Potter flew his Second World War Spitfire in a special ceremony at the Canadian Aviation Museum. The response to the war-bird - the only existing airworthy example painted with the Canadian markings of the war years - was the catalyst for turning the high-tech multimillionaire's retirement hobby into a major contribution to the history of aviation.

Michael was to be our speaker last June but was pre-empted at the last moment. We look forward to hearing the story of how his hobby became *Vintage Wings of Canada*, a foundation housed at the Ottawa/Gatineau airport. Currently the foundation has 14 aircraft including the 1945 Supermarine Spitfire mentioned in *Fifty-Five Plus*.

Stepping Down

I asked the Editor to give me at least a page to cover in complete detail my year as President. All he offered was this little space, so all I can say is, "Thank you. It was fun."



John Wright

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.