



The Probe

Est. September 1999

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

February 2008 #42

Party Time!

Ada McEwan throws a great party! Not only did she make all the arrangements but was there an hour and a half before and a good hour afterwards making sure everything was ready and restored to the way the Church wanted it.



Ada at work preparing one of the dishes

Entertainment was by **Dominic D'Arcy** - the Singing Policeman - a wonderful blend of humour, carols, Christmas songs and advice. His pre-recorded



Dominic D'Arcy in full swing

accompaniments provided music to fill the room. Whether or not the idea of having one of his CDs on top of your dashboard as a panacea for avoiding traffic tickets would actually work, is left for us to try out.

Dominic was joined in some of his songs by **Phyllis Reading**, a recent member of our Club who is also a member of the Police Choir.

Christmas fare was plentiful - sandwiches, cakes, veggies and other nibbles - thanks to the efforts of all members. There was some food remaining and this was taken (by Ada and Morley) to The Mission where it was well received. The contents of the 'Loonie Bin' went to charity.

All-in-all a very happy morning. Our thanks to Ada and her 'staff', **Morley Craig** and his team who set-up the tables and chairs, and everyone who contributed, whether it was food, work or just raising their voices to add to the joyful noise.

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.

To grow old gracefully ...

... was the reason our January guest, **Kathleen Petty**, gave for her career shift from television to radio. For anyone who has listened to *As it Happens*, *Cross-Country Checkup* or, more recently *Ottawa Morning*, and *The House* hearing her talk at Probus was a comfortably familiar experience. For *Newsworld* viewers it was like a visit from an 'old' friend.



After a few brief introductory remarks, Kathleen turned the tables on herself by allowing us to interview her. She started her career in Medicine Hat where she had to 'do anything and everything' - this included hosting a cooking show based on the new, in 1986, cooking device, the microwave oven. Her next stop was in Regina, but in 1989 *Newsworld* started and, again, it was a 'do everything' situation. Kathleen noted that, "You quickly learn what you do well and what you don't do well."

Q - On cooking shows

"I produced cooking shows but I am not a cook. Usually we did four shows in a row so it was a case of eat the food, wash-up and start over. Mr. Dressup was on one show where we did microwave food for children."

Q - On staff

"The crew are amazing - professional and dedicated. They get the right stories and the right guests. The producer's job is to look at the whole show and the assistant producers look at their individual segments. It's a 'forest and trees' thing.

Q - On a typical day

"I arrive at 5am, go on air at 8:37, at 10 we start work on the next day's show, at 1 we have a review. I watch a lot of news TV - Don Newman at 5 and the Mike Duffy

repeat at 8, and CNN. The Harper government likes to announce things late, so Friday is a working evening, often to 11:30. In between I read, read, read. Being unmarried and no kids (just a dog) I can spend the time. It's not a job, it's a lifestyle."

Q - On "no shows"

"This is very rare. We do have some taped stories 'just in case' but even yesterday when two guests were stuck in traffic due to the weather, we still managed to do the interviews - one by cellphone and one from a payphone. Taped interviews have a different feel. They are not as much fun. Although *The House* is all taped, *Ottawa Morning* is 90% live. The longer I've been here the less we use tape."

Q - On politicians

"Politicians only come on if they think they have something to gain. They are well protected by their communications people. Dalton McGuinty called us to say he would be willing to appear. George Smitherman tried to deliver a prepared speech and resented being interrupted by my questions. After I explained our respective roles there was a silence. The callers after that show, and we do get a lot of calls, were almost unanimously against Smitherman. All politicians spin. You know when you've asked the right question if the guest does not answer right away. They have a script. You have to unbalance them."

Q - On interviews

"We need to establish a goal for an interview. By the time we go on air, the Associate Producers have already had a pre-interview, so I have a few specific questions prepared. Beyond that I prefer discussion to interviews. If you have fully prepared script, you tend to be reading the next question instead of listening to the guest. This can lead to difficulties."

Q - On the Ottawa audience

"I was surprised how quickly I was accepted. On my first ratings we were close to the best the show had ever had. The next one was a little better. The third blew past it and the fourth was even better. The similar shows in Toronto and Calgary get 9-10% and 7-8% audience share. In Ottawa we get 30% which is a little scary. The Ottawa audience has some firm opinions and they are happy to share them with you.

Elizabeth Bowen thanked Kathleen and commented, "Now we understand why your audience share is going up."

Kathleen mentioned her visit on her Thursday show and was very complimentary to Probus.

Probus Finances

Our club's revenues are comparable to those of previous years. Revenues are recorded in the month they are received and Expenditures are recorded in the month paid.

Probus Centre fees for 2005 were paid in 2006 which explains the higher figure in 2006 when compared to fees paid in 2007. However, the lower 2007 fee shows lower paid membership than in the previous year.

The only unusual expenditure was \$912 to purchase a digital projector which is expected to receive increased use in the future.

	2006	2007
Opening Balance	\$1,723	\$1,975
Receipts		
Memberships		
- Current Year	1,420	655
- Following Year	1,145	1,060
Loonie Bin	620	659
President's Lunch	928	630
Spring Luncheon	--	725
Other	--	14
Total Receipts	\$4,113	\$3,743
Expenditures		
Probus Centre Fees	878	330
Pins & Name Badges	--	24
Pleasant Park Church	800	800
Communications	92	46
Office Supplies	62	13
Refreshments	254	238
Bank Charges	15	29
Speaker Gifts	197	135
Sunshine Committee	8	29
Membership Committee	48	--
President's Luncheon	980	720
Spring Luncheon	--	725
Picnic	333	356
Christmas Entertainment	120	200
Christmas Donation	75	65
Digital Projector	--	912
Other	--	25
Total Expenditures	\$3,862	4,647
Closing Balance	\$1,974	\$1,071

Ed Borza, Treasurer

Riddle

Q. What did the 2 and the 3 say to the unruly 6?

A. You are a product of our times!

Jim Kingston

Jim is a founder member of our club and served on the Management Committee in several roles including: the three year sequence of Vice-president, President and Past-president.

Since completing his term as immediate Past-president in 2003, he has continued to serve on the Committee in an advisory role, until 'retiring' at the end of last year.

When someone has been as active in the Club as Jim has, it is clear that 'complacent and self-centred' part of Probus' vital purpose, does not apply.

Thanks, Jim!

Organizing team wanted

We will be hosting the **Eastern Ontario Spring Luncheon in 2009**, so we will need a team to make the plans and run the show.

Organizational tasks include:

- Venue, menu and table decoration
- Invitations, club contact, publicity
- Registration
- Entertainment
- Displays
- Volunteer management

On-the-day volunteers will be needed for check-in, as ushers, and for many other tasks which will be set out in detail later.

Please talk to Wib Neal or to any member of the Management Committee if you are willing to take part.

A Life in Shreds!

With all the talk about identity theft and the need to keep personal information private, the options are: burning, shredding or hoarding.

We looked into having a mobile shredder van coming on one of our meeting days but they would charge \$15 per box and it might cause a traffic jam in the parking lot. We looked a bit further and found the Loeb Centre. The Centre is a non-profit business providing work for persons with developmental disabilities. Their operation is at 161 Donald Street, just east of the Vanier Parkway. As you drive in, their building is to the left and material for shredding is accepted at the far door.

Hours of operation are 9 to 12 and 1 to 3:30, Monday through Friday. The cost is 30¢ per pound (minimum \$5) and shredded material is recycled.

The Probus Club of Leeds & Grenville
and the Probus Club of Brockville
invite you to attend the

EASTERN ONTARIO PROBUS INTER-CLUB SPRING SOCIAL

TUESDAY, MAY 27TH, 2008
11:30 AM

Brockville Country Club
#1548 County Rd. #2
West of Brockville
\$28 each

Hot & Cold Buffet with Live Entertainment
Free parking and cash bar

"AN OLD-TIME SOCIAL BY THE ST. LAWRENCE"

A visit by Brockville's "Sir John A. MacDonald"

We have been asked to take reservations and send in our list of attendees (and the money) by April 18th. This means that we now have only our March 26th meeting to accept reservations in person. After that, reservations may be made through Wib Neal (613-731-2739) or Ed Borza (613-523-6077).

Wanted - 5 Speakers

July 23rd is Picnic Day. Last year's approach was a success we will try to repeat. The picnic will again be indoors and catered. As for the speakers we are looking for 5 members who have a story to tell - hobby, travel, career, volunteering, fine dining, single malts, or whatever. As long as it is interesting and can be compressed into 10 minutes we want to hear about it. Please talk to George Toller or John Wright.

Arts & Crafts

It is two years since our last Arts and Crafts show so there must be a whole lot of new artifacts out there. Your chance to take part in our *Vernisage* will be on Picnic Day in July.

The range is wide open - woodwork, pottery, painting, stained glass, macramé - anything goes!

March 26th - Barry Turner

Sandwiched between his careers as a game warden in Africa and his current position as Director of Government Relations for Ducks Unlimited Canada, Barry Turner served as the Member of Parliament for Ottawa South. Within the next 25 years, DUC envisions Canada as a prosperous nation that can sustain use by people and wildlife without endangering the amount or functions of its natural lands.

April 23rd - Dr. Robert Cushman

Dr. Cushman served the City of Ottawa from 1996 to 2005 as its Medical Officer of Health. He championed the initiative that in 2001 created smoke-free environments for public indoor areas and enclosed workplaces. He also made news as the champion of helmets for cyclists; during an anthrax scare on Parliament Hill; and on the use of cosmetic pesticides.

Since August 2005 he has been the CEO of the Champlain Local Health Integration Network.

Good morning, Mr. Secretary

The Management Committee welcomed **Bob Atchison** to their ranks at their February meeting. Bob has taken on the position of Secretary succeeding **Allen Taylor**.

All positions on the Committee are now filled but we are looking for a **Treasurer** to take over from **Ed Borza** who is doing double duty as Treasurer and Vice-president (which in our club is almost synonymous with President-elect).



The brochures for *Rendezvous 2008* have been posted on our notice board since the December meeting. There is still plenty of time to make your plans to attend, but the best hotel rooms will go first so book as early as you can.

The reports of the 2006 gathering indicate that this will be a great social event as well as a chance to visit or revisit the Atlantic Provinces.