



# The Probe

Est. September 1999

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

June 2008, #44



*Some of the 360 Probeans at the Spring Luncheon hosted by the Brockville Probus Clubs on May 27.*

## Spring Luncheon -2008

About 20 members of our Club took the pleasant sunny-day drive to Brockville Country Club. Also among the gathering were members from clubs as far as the western edge of our District - Ontario District #1.

Our hosts and hostesses were dressed in period costume and **Sir John A. Macdonald** (Brian Porter) welcomed the guests and the clubs represented. **Stone Avery**, acting as our District #1 Representative after the resignation of **Tom Huitsmaa**, introduced **Peter Doyle** of the Kanata Club as the new Representative.

The host clubs put a great deal of effort into making the event a success and certainly succeeded. The walls were decorated with scrolls giving the name of each club present. The table decorations included a potted scarlet geranium which one of the people at the table got to take home. Each place setting had a twist of jelly-beans and a small scroll which had a saying or a few words of wisdom. These were passed around and made good conversation starters. Each table had one or two members from the host clubs.

A booth was set up to sell Probus items - jackets, hats, golf balls and much more - which did some brisk business.

The food? Excellent!

Congratulations Brockville!!

## Free Wednesdays

OC Transpo have announced free travel for Seniors (over 65) on all bus routes and the O-train (but not Para-Transpo) on all Wednesdays in June, July and August.



One word of caution for Probus members. You should be prepared to provide proof of age, as you could be mistaken for being younger than 65.

The OC Transpo website says 'all routes' - there is no restriction from use of express routes nor is there any restriction by time of day.

## **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.**

## Dr Robert Cushman

Our speaker for April, Dr. Robert Cushman, served the City of Ottawa from 1996 to 2005 as its Medical Officer of Health, during which he championed the initiative that in 2001 created smoke-free environments for public indoor areas and enclosed workplaces. "Prevention is the key," said Dr. Cushman. "I think that clean air and the smoke-free bylaws are as important as clean water." It was certainly a great accomplishment for the city and was a big catalyst for Ontario. In 2003 he received the United Way of Ottawa's Volunteer of the Year Award, and in September 2005, the Life Service Award from the City of Ottawa.



Dr Cushman graduated from McMaster University Medical School, earned a degree in epidemiology and received his MBA from the University of Ottawa. Early in his career, he worked at a

large African mission hospital for three years, and, prior to becoming Ottawa's Medical Officer of Health, was Director of Public Health in Western Québec serving the Cree and Inuit in the James/Hudson Bay area. He has had a wide range of experiences as a public health consultant, university instructor and author of numerous articles in medical journals. And since August 2005 he has been the CEO of the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

Dr Cushman went on to explain that the LHINs were created by the Ontario government in March 2006. Health Minister Smitherman had been doing his best but the province is just too big for him to coordinate everything so he divided the province into 14 regional not-for-profit corporations that work with local health providers and community members to plan, integrate and fund local health services, including: Hospitals, Community Care Access Centres, Community Support Services, Long-term Care, Mental Health and Addictions Services, and Community Health Centres. The LHINs do not directly provide services but they oversee nearly two-thirds of the health care budget in Ontario - \$37.9 billion. Prior to the formation of LHINs, health care services in Ontario were fragmented and many health care providers delivered care in isolation. Patients and their families were forced to make their own way through a very complex health system as they moved from one health service provider to another.

Dr. Cushman spoke about the many problems facing the Champlain LHIN: Drugs, Needle Exchange, Crack Pipes, Affordable Housing, and Intensive Care

(shortages are causing people to go outside the province). He noted that the die is cast by the time a child reaches school so the most serious need is for supportive housing and the Federal Government should be doing more even though housing is a provincial responsibility. He also noted that 36% of what is needed in the Champlain LHIN is provided in the LHIN – it serves a varied population and living circumstances and is a microcosm that can hold people accountable. In particular, paramedics and public health should be the responsibility of the municipalities. He regretted the consolidation of hospitals in the Ottawa area that has resulted in the loss of the community hospitals, but at the same time he recognizes the need for better communication and cooperation amongst the hospitals – especially utilizing the technological aids that are available today to provide standardized care no matter which hospital has the patient. And more money should be moved into the community to free up hospital beds. He mentioned Six Strategic Directions for the Champlain LHIN: access; chronic disease prevention and management; mental health problems and addictions; e-health (electronic records); primary health services (meals on wheels, recreation, etc.); how to take care of folks in their last 10 years – need to focus on “care” rather than “cure”. He noted that how you eat is often how you die.

When Dr. Cushman had finished his introductory remarks, there was a flood of questions and some personal experiences which kept discussions going for another 40 minutes or so. As you can imagine, the meeting was very well-attended and Dr. Cushman's presentation was very much appreciated! Sorry if you missed it, but perhaps we could arrange for an annual updating!

*Robert Atchison*



Rendezvous 2008 is getting closer. If a trip to the Maritimes is on your summer calendar, think about spending a few days in the company of Probeans from across Canada and as far away as Australia.

## Dr Lilly Koltun

### Canada's Portrait Gallery

The Portrait Gallery has been in the news recently not for its collection but as something of a political football with the goal being to give it a permanent home. As there is a danger that Ottawa may not be the chosen city it seemed that we should take the opportunity to hear more about the gallery and its collection.

Lilly brought 40 or 50 slides to illustrate the range of the collection - portraits, miniatures, photographs, medals, stamps and coins. What made the talk so interesting was not so much the portraits as the stories which went with every slide that she showed.



A formal portrait of Sir John A. Macdonald as a young man (unknown artist) was Lilly's choice to start her 'conversation' with us. This was followed by a portrait of two young girls (c1840) whose names are known but nothing else - an enigma. A youth in a cloak

carrying a club is the earliest surviving portrait of a North American native. The pose - hand on hip, along with the club and the cloak - indicate that the subject might be a 'king'.

From there, she ranged over Inuit art and portraits of Indians, from Regency (1833) and Victorian models in stilted poses to an impressionistic self-portrait by Rudolf Nureyev, in mid leap.

A caricature of Roy Thompson (1987) looked innocuous enough but was 'hated' by the family - not because of the way his features were portrayed but because it showed him with his hands in his pockets!

One of the oddest was an egg wearing glasses (1933).

Lilly's talk clearly touched a responsive chord and the questions afterwards quickly moved into the political arena. Dr. Koltun was non-committal in her responses on the future location of the gallery but most members put two and two together and concluded that if we want it to be in Ottawa we have to work at it.

## "The Occupied Garden"

With Patrick McGahern as our speaker it seems appropriate to continue the book theme. Here then, in a departure from our usual articles, we have a book review.

The story of why the Dutch respect Canada, and Canadians, is widely known. The liberation of Holland by Canadian soldiers is forever remembered. The sanctuary in Ottawa of the future Queen Juliana and the birth of her daughter Margriet at the Civic Hospital is often told. Large-scale migration of Dutch residents to Canada after the war has an impact on our landscape to this day. Think tulips, but not exclusively. Now a book has been published that ties these factors together in cohesive fashion.

"The Occupied Garden - Recovering the Story of a Family in the War-torn Netherlands" is written by sisters Kristen den Hartog and Tracy Kasaboski, Canadian granddaughters of Dutch origin. The authors traveled back in time to uncover the character of their grandparents before the war, the grim determination to survive the atrocities inflicted on them during the war, and conditions leading to the fateful decision to move to Canada after the war. The story is lovingly told. While centered on family history, the story is infused with the impact that national, and international, events had on the family.

From a purely personal perspective, the story closely parallels that of my family, including family configuration, area of origin, profession, mode of travel (same year, same ship, and same original destination). Readers, with other perspectives such as war service, war brides, etc., or no connection, are bound to form an even clearer appreciation of why things are the way they are between the Dutch and Canadians now, and for generations to come.

*John Kruthof*

## Today's Insert

Inside this issue of *The Probe* there is a half sheet with names of people who have been suggested as speakers. Some of these have been in our files for a year or two, some have been added recently.

If you were planning the speakers program for 2009 which 10 would you select?

Please mark your choices and return the slip to the membership table at the July or August meetings.

We can't guarantee acceptance by everyone selected, but we will invite the ones with most votes.



## Summer Special!

Our July meeting is going to be Special!

The Treasurer opened the purse strings and after the moths flew out he found enough money to cater our Annual Indoor Picnic. **Ada McEwan**, our Special Events Coordinator, has arranged for **Mooney's Bay Bistro** to do the catering and, with her team of helpers, will set up the hall 'picnic style'.

### In-House Speakers

Following-up on our successful experiment of last year, and recognizing that every member has a story to tell, we will have five 10-minute talks by club members.

Leading off will be **Mike Charrier** who has named his talk "What a Small World" or "Boer War Graves". Over 7,000 Canadians served in South Africa, including 12 nurses. The Canadian's biggest battles were at Paaderberg and Leliefontein. Ottawa has its own memorial in Pretoria Bridge.



**Joyce Wright** will give an illustrated travelogue, "April in Tallinn". Estonia's capital is a walled city with the world's oldest continuously open apothecary (1422) and where the very cobblestones exude history - and there's more to be said about cobblestones.

**Paul Stumes** will take an different slant on a talk on history with, "When does an event become history?" He has not given us any more clues so which events he has chosen remains a history mystery.

**Allen Taylor** has picked "Law of the Sea" as his topic and will take us a bit beyond, "Green to green and red to red, all's OK - go ahead." Knowing Allen, we expect that there will be a little "Lore of the Sea" in his talk.

That leaves one more. At press time we do not know who it will be or what will be the subject. Another 130 members have stories to tell so it could be anyone and the possibilities for subjects is as wide as the range we have covered in our time as a Probus Club.

## Treasurer

We need a Treasurer to take over from Ed Borza. Ed is currently our Vice-president (read 'President-elect') and is leading our organization efforts for the Eastern Ontario Spring Luncheon 2009, so we have to reduce his workload.

If you are interested, please talk to Ed and he will give you a run down on what is involved. Our accounts are not complicated, but they do need a little attention, so please consider it.

## Presidents' Meeting

The Presidents of the Probus Clubs get together before each spring social to decide on the next host(s) and discuss any matters of common interest. As the host of next year's event we were represented by both Wib Neal and Ed Borza.

The meeting started at 10:30 and was chaired by Audrey Higgins, co-host of the Spring Luncheon. Clubs were represented from Belleville east to Cornwall and north to Perth and the Ottawa area. In all about 12 clubs. All clubs were introduced and the outgoing Director of District #1, Stone Avery, addressed the group and introduced the new Director, Peter Doyle. Peter in turn discussed his role and how improved communication could benefit all.

The meeting Agenda proceeded with consideration of the frequency of the spring social. After lengthy discussion a vote was taken and the decision to continue on an annual basis was approved. The President of the Cornwall club Katalin Kennedy offered to host the 2010 event.

Other discussion covered the possibility of establishing a semi-formal rotation of hosting as well as ways to increase membership and improve programs.

## E-Mail

When we tried to contact members by e-mail we found that many of the addresses were out of date or wrongly spelt. Please send an e-mail to [jcwright@sympatico.ca](mailto:jcwright@sympatico.ca) with the word 'Probus' in the title.

## How to find us

We meet 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.

Our meetings begin at 10 but members start arriving soon after 9:30 for coffee and chat. Try it - you'll like it!