



The Probe

Est. September 1999

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

October 2008, #43

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of Ottawa/Alta Vista will be held on Wednesday, November 26th, 2008 at 10:00 am in the Church Hall of Pleasant Park Baptist Church.

The agenda will include:

- Minutes of the 2007 AGM and matters arising from the minutes.
- Treasurer's Report and Financial Business including a proposal to increase the dues.
- Reports from Officers and Committees
- Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers and Management Committee members for 2009
- New location and schedule
- Spring Fling 2009
- Such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.

Notes to the AGM Notice

The AGM will be at 10:00 and Jackie Holzman has agreed to start her talk at 10:30. This will allow us to keep to our normal timing for 'Coffee and Chat' (or Tea and Tim-bits). The Nominating Committee is looking for candidates 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 Program sub-committee.

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

*Even if you do not wish to be on the Committee, please consider doing introductions, thanks or write-ups.

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.

Transportation for Ottawa - David Jeanes

David Jeanes is recognized as an expert in transportation issues. He is sought after by the media for his well expressed views on the use of light rail as a solution to Ottawa's increasing transportation woes.

He is not quite sure how he became interested in transportation – perhaps it stems from being able to watch the passing trains from his grandfather's back yard while he was a youngster. His interest extends to ships – three transatlantic crossings – but not cars (he has only owned three).

His romance(?) with OTranspo started with a job at BNR (Bell-Northern Research, now Nortel), a home and no car. A study of the OTranspo route map yielded the best route but, to his annoyance, they chopped and changed the routes and so he became an activist. The result was a cooperative plan between BNR and the City which became regarded as the best in Canada for the use of transit. This was the start of a second career which had to wait until his retirement from BNR.

David soon became the President of Transport 2000, an advocacy group not solely concerned with Ottawa. However, when OTranspo 'discovered' that Albert and Slater did not have the capacity to handle the bus traffic needed to move the rush hour passenger load, David had already been advocating light rail for some years. This made him well placed to advise the city on the possibilities – advice which the city has not always taken.

The O-train

David regards the O-Train as a big success story. It is always on time, even in weather conditions that buses can not cope with, and passengers get to their destination more comfortably and quicker than by bus. The cost per kilometre is about one-tenth of the cost of building transitway. The drawback, in the minds of City planners, is that it is diesel, which rules out long tunnels.

Other Cities

Calgary has had a surface light rail system through the heart of the city for 25 years. Montreal, Toronto and

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The display model David brought with him. An O-Train in the foreground and a GO-Train in the middle - being pulled by Thomas the Tank Engine!

Vancouver (2010) have projects to provide rail service to their airports. Toronto's GO-Trains have 180 trips per day and carry 170,000 passengers every weekday. Ottawa is looking at GO-Train type service from Pembroke via Dunrobin and Kanata and from Alexandria using existing rolling stock.

David answered many questions ranging from schedules to the cancellation of the North-South route (and the Baird/Chiarelli feud) and possible routes for light rail. Why a bus route connecting with the O-train is on a 20-minute schedule while the train is on a 15-minute schedule is a case of 'buses first' thinking. The N-S plans had serious problems - not enough ridership - does not solve the downtown problem - does not resolve the growth situation for Orleans - skirts the airport - shuts down the O-Train for 3 years.

David was delighted to see his Principal from his Lisgar school days in the audience.

Paul Stumes introduced David and noted that they shared a love for the old Ottawa station. **John Wright** proffered our thanks.

Special Edition

The first of a series of special editions of *The Probe* has been sent to each of the clubs in the Eastern part of Ontario District #1. These one-page flyers will be our invitation for them to visit Ottawa for the annual Probus luncheon on May 26th, 2009.

Ed Borza is heading the organizing committee which has already started making arrangements. The venue will be the newly refurbished Hellenic Centre on Prince of Wales Drive and entertainment will be by the "World Voices Choir".

Britannia

The Royal Yacht *Britannia* is now a tourist attraction at Leith, Edinburgh. Leith won a competition for the privilege of hosting the yacht by presenting the most appropriate plan.

John & Joyce Wright spent a fascinating couple of hours on board and saw everything from the royal apartments and bridge to the kitchens, the laundry, the crew's quarters and messes, and the engine room. The living room was cosy and comfortable with deep armchairs and couches. Books and board games were clearly popular items. The colour scheme was quite subdued with beiges and pale greens. Her Majesty had requested a real fireplace but was persuaded that it would not be wise.

The Queen's bedroom and office were closed off but could be seen through a window - presumably a recent addition. Her multi-line telephone system was surprisingly low-tech - a wooden box about 10" by 10" by 20" with switches and a dial telephone, probably state of the art when *Britannia* was commissioned. The dining room was set for a formal dinner with everything exactly in its place, measured carefully.

The crew quarters were, to say the least, cramped and the officers' not much bigger. The bridge also seemed to be low-tech with voice tubes and an engine room telegraph. The modern electronics were probably tucked away somewhere.

One of the popular spots for a photo-op was on the open deck by the binnacle and the ship's bell.



It was somehow odd to look across the harbour and see the cruise ship *Deutschland*. An earlier *Deutschland* was a World War II sister ship to the pocket-battleship *Graf Spee*.

Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Montone

Our speaker in September was Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Montone of the Ottawa Fire Service, the result of merging nine former fire services covering eleven municipalities into one with the amalgamation of 2001.

The original Ottawa Fire Service was established in 1838 but now covers an area of 2757 sq km, employs 859 career firemen, assisted by 425 volunteers, with 20 administrative support personnel, and serves a population of 879,000 (projected to increase to 1,100,000 by 2015). It is the third largest fire service in Canada, handling about 25,000 major emergency response calls per year. There are 43 stations and its budget is \$110,000,000.

Chief Montone has been actively employed in fire service for 32 years, first serving as a Volunteer Fire Fighter, then as a Career Fire Fighter in a Composite Department, and later as Chief Fire Prevention Officer and a Fire Chief in Northern Ontario. He joined the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) in 1987 serving in the field as a Fire Services Advisor, and later Manager of the Northern Fire Protection Program and was also the Operations Manager in Southern Ontario. In 2002 he left the OFM and was appointed Deputy Fire Chief for the City of Ottawa, where he is responsible for Education and Prevention Services. These comprise the Divisions of Fire Prevention; Training; Communications; Special Operations including Haz-Mat/CBRNE*; All Rescue activities including Water & Ice, Auto-Extraction, High Angle, Confined Space, Collapse, and Riot Control. Incident Safety and Maintenance complete his portfolio.

Chief Montone is the Chairman of the Transportation Emergency Rescue Committee of Canada and the Canadian representative and a Director for the World Rescue Organization. Recently the governments and emergency services of Israel, Australia, Singapore and the Czech Republic along with agencies like the US Secret Service, US Military and the British Intelligence Agency have looked to the Ottawa Fire Service and its programs regarding Human Resources, Counter Terrorism, Haz-Mat/CBRNE and Public Order Protection Programs, and Medical Assistance calls for input, guidance and idea sharing.

Using slides, Chief Montone peppered us with many



interesting facts and figures. For instance, in addition to the \$110,000,000 operating budget, there is a capital budget of \$4,000,000. This works out to \$1.23/ \$1000 of assessment. For Toronto the figure is \$1.09, for Sudbury \$1.90, for London \$1.61, for Hamilton \$1.39, and for Windsor \$2.09.

Other points he made: Ottawa is comprised of 85% rural area and 15% urban area; there is at least 2 hours of on-the-job training everyday; there are 73 female firefighters and 20% ethnics; volunteers undergo one year of training before any action; \$100,000 per year is provided by

Ontario as a retainer to assist other local communities dealing with hazardous material situations; they have a Labrador “Fiesta” who can sniff out accelerants down to parts per billion; preventative maintenance of equipment includes checking out 32 miles of fire hose; the Communications Division on Randall Avenue uses computer-aided dispatch to handle 1.77 million calls from around the city each year.

To drive home the point of the necessity of having working smoke alarms on every floor of a house, Chief Montone showed videos of how fast a fire can develop within two minutes of an alarm sounding and before any fire trucks can arrive – also the importance of planning beforehand how you will escape! Before any trucks leave the fire station 8 seconds will have been lost on the 911 call, and another 32 seconds lost on the fire department call processing. CTV has provided \$600,000 worth of production and air time free to produce and show these videos – especially focussing on the leading cause of fires in Ottawa – kitchen fires – and they were most IMPRESSIVE!

The talk, with many questions, lasted about 90 minutes and could have gone on much longer. While we had a fair turnout for it, it should have been a full house. Perhaps we can arrange for an encore next year. . . .

Robert Atchison

*CBRNE = Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive.

The fattest knight at King Arthur’s round table was Sir Cumference - a case of too much pi.

Dan Kelley

Dan has been our Rotary Liaison since our Club was founded, a role he shares with Eva Hammond. He has been a consistent attendee at Management Committee meetings over our first 9 years and has been the voice of wisdom and experience. His contributions will be missed.

Dan has decided to step down to give himself a little more personal time but he promises to be at the regular Club meetings whenever he can.

Robin Rousham, a recent new member, is also a member of our sponsoring Rotary Club and will take on the liaison duties.

Guests - September

Ed Booth Ellen & Eric Henry
Jim Finlay Gerry & Elvira Matthews
Maureen Dawson

Ellen and Eric must have enjoyed their visit because they are now our newest members.

Peter Doyle - Director, Ontario D#1

Our newly elected representative on the Probus Canada Board is Peter Doyle of Kanata. District #1 stretches from Cornwall to Peterborough which gives Peter a lot of territory to cover. Peter will complete the term started by Tim Haitsma.

Tim was our representative but he was badly injured in an attack by a savage dog. This has curtailed his activities and left him unable to complete his term.

We welcome Peter and wish Tim a full recovery.

World Views

John Kruithof has provided us with the fall program for *World Views* - free monthly photo evenings. All are welcome!

Saturday, October 25 – Crete – Minoan to Modern. Scenery, history and music of this most diverse Greek island. By Ed Overstreet.

Saturday, November 29 – Discovering Croatia. Views from land and sea. By Sholto Cole.

Bethany Baptist Church
Centrepointe Drive West, at Baseline Road

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m.

More information? Call Colin McGregor, 613-820-0598

November 26th - Jackie Holzman

Since retiring from Municipal politics on completion of her second term as Mayor of the real Ottawa, **Jackie Holzman** has served as Chairman of the Congress Centre and is now on the Board of the NCC.

As this is being written, lane closures on Colonel By Drive presage the start of work on the new Congress Centre - a testimony to the effort and dedication she brought to her task - typical of the Jackie Holzman known for her public service.

A web search turned up 600 articles - many of them on her work for local charities.

Jackie is part of Ottawa's story - one she will share with us.

Dues '09

At our October meeting we open the books for the payment of membership fees for 2009, which are due by January 1st. Although the new fee structure will not be official at that time, we will be using the new amounts (\$20 & \$30). In the event that the new levels are not approved, refunds will be made.

Fees for new members

Any new members joining after October 1st 2008, will have their membership extended to December 31, 2009.

December 10th - 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 include 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 appetizers, dips, veggie bites, cheese, crackers.

- H to M, please bring sandwiches

- N to Z, please bring Christmas goodies, cake and pies

The first printing had the wrong date - Dec. 10 is right.

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!