



Merry Christmas!
... and a Happy New Year



Newsletter of the PROBUS Club of Ottawa Alta Vista

The Probe

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Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

December 2008, #47

Management Committee, 2009

At the AGM in November, the members elected **Ed Borza** as President and **Lenore Porter** as Vice-president. **Allan Porter**, Treasurer, and **Bob Atchison**, Secretary, were elected for the first time having served in those positions recently on appointment by the Management Committee.

Members elected to the Management Committee were:

Merle Brown (Membership)
Claude Hannan (Membership)
Ada McEwan (Hospitality & Special Events)
Dorothy MacIntosh (Telephone)
Bayne Pearen (Communications - 'Sunshine')
Audrey Reekie (Hospitality & Special Events)
Paul Stumes (Membership)
John Wright (Program & Editor)

In addition there are four ex-officio committee members:

Russ Hammond (President Emeritus)
Eva Hammond (Rotary Liaison)
Robin Rousham (Rotary Liaison)
Wib Neal (Past-president)

In addition to his duties as President, Ed will chair the **Spring Luncheon Committee**.

We would welcome additional members on the Management Committee, particularly a second person on Program and someone to back-up Bayne. We are always on the lookout for people to introduce and thank speakers and to do the write-ups for *The Probe*.

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



Speakers 2008

Thanks are due to our Program Committee for engaging a wide range of excellent speakers.

January - **Kathleen Petty** - CBO Morning

February - **Michael Potter** - *Vintage Wings*

March - **Barry Turner** - Wetlands Conservancy

April - **Dr. Robert Cushman** - Champlain Health Council

May - **Dr. Lilly Koltun** - Canada's Portrait Gallery

June - **Patrick McGahern** - Antiquarian & Rare Books

July - 10 Minute Talks by members. **Mike Charrier** on *Boer War Graves*; **Allen Taylor** on *Artic Sovereignty*; **Paul Stumes** on *Building the Panama Canal*; and **Joyce Wright**, *April in Tallinn*.

August - **David Jeanes** - Transportation in Ottawa

September - Deputy Chief **Bruce Montone** - Ottawa Fire Service

October - LCol **Bob Chamberlain** - The Mission in Afghanistan

November - **Jackie Holzman** - The New NCC

December - Christmas Party

The Program Committee works from a list of speakers suggested by members as well as looking for speakers on 'hot issues'. If you have a suggestion, please let us know.

The '10 Minute Talks' at our past two July meetings have been popular so we will be looking for 4 or 5 speakers for July 2009. Everyone has a story to tell - why not tell yours?

... and the Telephone Committee

Dorothy MacIntosh's team of telephone callers are not members of the Management Committee but are an essential part of our Club's operations.

Marguerite Burns
 Pat McClenahan
 Elizabeth Haggerty
 Dorothy Hubbard
 Peggy Kitching
 Bob Haughton
 Joan Monette
 Anne Prichard
 Norah Joyce
 Allen Taylor
 Judy Foreman



are the friendly voices who call every month to make sure everyone knows about our upcoming meetings. They will be joined in January by Helen McKenzie.

We owe them all a big vote of thanks.

By the way, if you do not get called it may be that we have incorrectly copied your telephone number from your membership form. Give Dorothy a call (613-731-9590) and it will get corrected quickly.

Presidents' Meeting

The Presidents of the Probus Clubs in our area-Gananoque and east - met with Ontario District #1 representative, Peter Doyle, in Kanata on November 8th. This was a new initiative by Peter and gave the Presidents the opportunity to compare notes.

Apart from the obvious differences in that the group has 'Men Only', 'Women Only' and 'Combined' Clubs, there are differences in activities. Some clubs, like ours, have just the monthly meetings. Others have more social activities - theatre trips, out of town visits, etc. - and others have special interest groups - bridge, philately, book clubs, etc. These are areas we can explore.

One of the main items on the agenda was the Spring Luncheon, which we are hosting in 2009, and the plan for future years, which starts with Cornwall in 2010.

Wib Neal and Ed Borza represented Alta Vista.

How to find us

We meet at 9:30 for 10 on the 4th Wednesday of each month except December (2nd Wednesday). Starting in January we will meet at Gloucester Presbyterian Church, **91 Pike Street** at the corner of Lorry Greenberg Drive.

Making a Difference - Afghanistan

Mike Cherrier introduced out October 'Remembrance' speaker, LCol Bob Chamberlain to over 100 members and guests.

LCol Chamberlain is a Gunner in the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. He served an extended tour in Afghanistan and his pride in the people he worked with and served with was apparent throughout his talk. As commander of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team, he led 350 people of which the majority were infantry and the rest included operations, other Government Departments and Engineers/Designers. His environment was partly war fighting and partly reconstruction. He had the toughest Province in the country - the Taliban definitely do not want Canadians there.

Bob regards some of the successes as: development of the Afghan National Army (ANA); improvements in education and health; infrastructure work and increased security. The ANA work alongside Canadians on patrols and do well but building up a national army is not an overnight task. Afghans are involved in many of the infrastructure projects which may range from clearing canals and wells to building bridges. This provides jobs, teaches skills and gives a sense of 'ownership' of the end product.

Almost daily interaction with the Provincial Governor and his Chief of Staff ensures that there is an integrated and coherent approach to every project. Mentoring the Kandahar police and prison guards improves their capabilities. Working with women's groups and international and Afghan non-government organizations gives a positive contrast to the actions of the Taliban.

During his term there were 32 fallen. 570 patrols - almost 5 a day at times - took his people into harm's way.

Bob responded to many questions:

- the influence of Al Qaida is minimal - financial support only;
 - of his 350 people, half-a-dozen speak the local language, the climate established is more important than language, they rely on local interpreters (with checks);
 - police are attacked and killed because they represent progress and present targets of opportunity;
 - the poppy crop could be burned down but it represents the farmers' (and their villages') livelihood;
 - when the insurgents are driven out prosperity increases.
- As an example, Kandahar airport now handles international traffic.

The overall impression left by LCol Chamberlain was that Canada is doing something very worthwhile.



Joan Evans talking with Bob Chamberlain about her nephew, Col Richard Dickson, who deployed to Afghanistan on October 16th.

Annual General Meeting November 26, 2008

The AGM was convened at 10:00 with sufficient members to form a quorum, Wib Neal (President) in the chair.

President's Report

Wib gave a quick review of the year's activities and thanked the Management Committee members for their work to keep the club running smoothly. These included Ada McEwan, Audrey Reekie and their several helpers in the kitchen; John Wright for the program and for *The Probe*; Dorothy MacIntosh and her team of telephone callers; Ed Borza and Allan Porter our two Treasurers; Bob Atchison, our Secretary; Bayne Pearen, who sends out cards to members who are not well; Paul Stumes, Merle Brown and Claude Hannan on membership and others who helped out in many ways with the odd jobs that crop up.

Financial Business

Allan Porter noted that the financial statements for the last complete year (2007) were printed in *The Probe* and that the 2008 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 well inside the allotted 30 minutes.

Making a Difference - Ottawa

Jackie Holzman went into politics to make a difference. In 1982 she felt that Ottawa was a great city but that she could help to make it better so she ran in Richmond Ward and was elected to Council. After three terms as Alderman and two as Mayor, Jackie moved on and has been Chairman of the Congress Centre, Chair of the Ottawa Health Research Institute and, for the last year, has served on the board of the NCC as well as devoting her 'spare time' to charitable causes in the city.

Alderman Holzman immediately recognized the pervasive influence of the NCC - they 'own' 470 square km - 10% of the land area of the National Capital Region (NCR) - as well as 130 buildings. Had they been a commercial operation they would have paid the going rate in municipal taxes but instead they paid 'Grants in lieu' - which the city never considered adequate. With so much of the NCR under their control the NCC added an extra layer to any major planning. Jackie gave 8 reasons why she had suggested that the NCC be disbanded. They ranged from its secrecy and dissatisfaction with the plans for the Daly building site and Lebreton Flats, to the production of a beautiful film about Ottawa which never mentioned 'Ottawa'.

Today's NCC is very different. It is much more open. There will be a public meeting on December 3rd* at the Hilton, Lac Leamy where many members of the public will want to address the Board.

Some of the issues on the future NCC agenda include:

- the possibility of developing some of the Greenbelt,
- a botanical garden in the experimental farm,
- the location of another bridge to Gatineau,
- facilitating the coordination of the Gatineau and Ottawa transit systems.

The NCC is the natural body to undertake interprovincial studies as it is the only organization that has planning authority on both sides of the Ottawa River. A fascinating twist to the approval process is that these decisions will ultimately be made by the Board despite more than half of the members being from across Canada and not NCR residents!

Jackie concluded by saying that her goal is to make Ottawa a capital that becomes the 2nd home town of all Canadians, so that families and school groups want to visit their nation's treasures. "I would like all people who live and work here to take pride in a city that is clean, green and safe."

Joyce Wright introduced Jackie and **Lenore Porter** thanked her on our behalf.

* The meeting took place and was reported in the local press

Pleasant Park Baptist Church

The first contact with PPBC was quite casual. Russ Hammond and a few friends had decided that there should be a Probus club somewhere in Ottawa and an encounter with Allan Mac Lellan brought it to PPBC. Allan was the new Pastor at that time and became an enthusiastic member of the club throughout his tenure. He, with Rev. Joe Burke, spoke at our first December meeting, which was the fourth meeting of the club.

The first meeting, September 1999, with about 20 members, was a talk on *Numismatics* by Frank Fesco. Of that original group, the Kingstons, the Hammonds, Frank Muldoon, Dan Kelley, Robert McMichael and Jim Rader are still members.

Our administrative contact at PPBC has been Peter Burns (Marguerite Burns is a Probean). The church has always been most co-operative and helpful, allowing us the use of their kitchen and equipment and has never asked for a raise in the rent - although we have increased our payments from time-to-time.

In many ways and for many reasons we will be sorry to leave but the stairs have become an increasing difficulty for some members so we are moving on.

Thank you, Pleasant Park Baptist Church.

Bus Service to GPC

Gloucester Presbyterian Church is served by bus routes 98, 114 and 143.



Route 143 is a short haul local service. If you need to use it, you probably know it.

Route 98 starts at Tunney's Pasture (9:04), goes through 'Downtown' and then on the South Transitway through Hurdman (9:21), Billings Bridge and Greenboro (9:32) and finishes on local roads to the church (9:45). This is the first bus in the morning from Tunney's Pasture. Before this, the route starts at Greenboro. The interval is 18 minutes.

Route 114 starts at Hurdman (9:15) takes the East Transitway to St Laurent (9:19) then follows St Laurent southwards - with a slight detour at Elmvale Acres Shopping Centre (9:28) - to Conroy (9:35). It heads east from Conroy before heading west and crossing Conroy on Lorry Greenberg and arriving at about 9:45. The intervals are weird and the previous and next busses quit at St Laurent and Conroy (about 1km away).

The bus stop numbers are 4326 (98) and 4322 (114) so you can call OCTranspo (560-1000) any morning (M-F) about 11 and find out the times of the return busses.

January 28th - John Young

We don't know if John's "heart's in the Highlands a chasing the deer" but from his first words you will recognize that he can speak on things Scottish with authenticity. One of his favourite subjects is Robbie Burns. As January 25th is the 250th anniversary of Burns' birth this is an excellent time for us to become more closely acquainted - or reacquainted - with Scotland's cherished poet.

Burns was, to say the least, a bit of a lad. Poet, farmer (unsuccessful), lover (several illegitimate children, at least two by serving girls), composer and lyricist, patriot and much more packed into a mere 37 years ... but I'll leave some things for John to talk about.

February 25th - Jim Watson

Jim will be the first speaker to be offered a return engagement at our Club. When we originally invited him he was *Captain Canada* - head of the Canadian Tourism Commission. By the time he arrived to speak he was a broadcaster on the A-channel. Soon after that he became an MPP and Minister of Consumer and Business Services in Dalton McGuinty's cabinet. Since then he has changed ministries a couple of times and is currently Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Going back a little further, Jim was the last elected Mayor of the real City of Ottawa.

Jim will talk to us about life at Queen's Park

World Views

The next of these free photo-evenings is at 7:30pm on Saturday, January 31st at Bethany Baptist Church. The topic is *Memories of Japan: castles, cities, parks and people*; by John and Lenore Nilson. On February 28th - *Explorations in the Andes: jungles and high places of Bolivia and Peru*; by Robert James. Details - Colin McGregor, 613-820-0598.

