



# The Probe

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Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

February 2009 #48

## Welcome to Gloucester Presbyterian

The warm welcome by **Rev. Cedric Pettigrew** of Gloucester Presbyterian Church made us feel quite at home in our new venue. The warmth made a nice contrast to the cold and snow outside.

**Audrey Reekie** and her helpers in the kitchen liked their surroundings and our new 100-cup urn produced coffee that was up to the usual high standard. One thing which did not work was our check-in procedure. If the sheets are to be believed we had only 33 people in the audience but we started out with 50 chairs and added many more.

By the way, if you are at all interested in joining the church, remember that an anagram of Presbyterian is 'Best in Prayer'!

## Ed MacBorza???

Outgoing President Wib Neal entered into the spirit of our Scottish day by introducing the new President as Ed MacBorza. Ed responded by thanking Wib for his work as President and presenting him with the Past-president's pin. We took advantage of the situation to learn more about Ed.

*Probe: Congratulations on becoming President.*

Ed: Thanks, I'm looking forward to a good year, with the added bonus that we will be the host club for the Eastern Ontario Spring Luncheon.

*Probe: Something to look forward to, but let's step back into your family history.*

Ed: I was born and raised in Hamilton but my name comes from what is now Slovakia. I am a '57 Queen's grad in Electrical Engineering and started my career at Canadian Westinghouse as a manufacturing engineer of heavy rotating machinery.

*Probe: Somewhere along the way you met Cathy?*

Ed: Way back in High School. If you remember Sadie Hawkins - enough said. We were married in '57 and we have three children.

*Probe: When did you move to Ottawa?*

Ed: This was a Centennial Project for Cathy and me and the children. I had been given training in Value Engineering and I was hired into the Federal Dept of

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## Party Time at PPBC

Our farewell to Pleasant Park Baptist Church was the annual Christmas Party. As usual the AV Probus Club Choir was in fine voice and the 'goodies' were plentiful in quantity and variety.

**Ada** and **Morley Craig** made all the arrangements of which the centerpiece was the **Mike Fahey Trio**. Mike and his sidemen entertained us with a selection of 'oldies' and Christmas songs and carols.



*Mike Fahey and possibly the Andrews Sisters but there seems to be one too many.*

"The weather outside is frightful", was a very apt line from one Christmas song. The bus strike, the heavy traffic and the driving conditions reduced our numbers and caused delays. **John Wright** helped to fill a gap by reciting *Albert and the Lion*. We were able to make a significant donation to the Christmas Exchange and the Men's Mission appreciated our goodies.

Our thanks to **Ada, Morley** and the members who helped out in the kitchen, the AV Choir and everyone for turning out despite the inclement weather.

## Mais non!

No meeting in May - it's Spring Social month.

## **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.**

(... from page 1)

## Ed Borza

President

Probus Club of  
Ottawa-Alta Vista  
2009



Supply & Services to introduce the concepts. Three years later I was loaned to the Post Office for three months and retired from Canada Post 21 years later!

*Probe: The early days there must have covered the time when the Post Office was converted to a Crown Corporation and mechanized sorting using postal codes came into effect?*

Ed: Yes. I joined as Manager of Mechanical Engineering and later held senior positions in Ottawa, Toronto and London.

*Probe: And when we read in the press about anything going wrong with the sorting machines, you were probably in the thick of it?*

Ed: Definitely. As well as technical problems this was a difficult time to have to deal with the Unions who saw mechanization as a threat to their members.

*Probe: That covers your career. We know you are going to tell us about 'Habitat for Humanities' in July, but tell us about other activities, starting with the trombone.*

Ed: I took one year of trombone while in high school and, when I retired, my brother-in-law gave me a beat up 'bone as a joke. I took lessons and joined the Gloucester Community Concert Band in 1992. The conductor said, "Play second 'bone", and while it took a lot of practice, I lasted (was tolerated) for 16 enjoyable years, retiring at the end of 2008.

*Probe: We know about your cottage on Christie Lake because we featured the Management Committee hard at work there in the July 2008 edition. Is it your summer home from home?*

Ed: It balances condo living in town. We are lucky to have all three children in Ottawa so it is a real family summer home with up to 5 grandchildren, from 14 to 19, there at times so the cottage and the boats are well used.

*Probe: Anything else to add?*

Ed: We love traveling and have visited 6 of the 7 continents - Antarctica being the holdout. Another hobby is building and refinishing furniture and I play golf and curl - two activities which keep me humble year 'round.

*Probe: Thanks, Ed. We look forward to another good year for the Club with Captain Ed at the helm.*

## 250 Years Young

Robbie Burns captured the heart and soul of a country. **John Young** went a long way towards capturing the soul of Robbie Burns.

Burns wrote about everything you can imagine and almost every aspect of Scottish life. He lived his life to the full through several careers and several lovers who he treated with varying degrees of discretion. His first child was with his mother's maidservant and his last was born the day he was buried. He was quite casual in the transfer of his affections and one mistress would have been quite hurt to receive a letter which said he was writing to her because he had nothing better to do! John suggested that Burns wife, Jean Armour, would have to have been more angelic and forgiving than any of the ladies in the audience could be.

Burns was, at times, a farm labourer, farm owner, excise man, book-keeper and, for a few weeks, a flax dresser, until a fire in the flax shop curtailed that enterprise. Although labouring made him fit in his early years, his body did not carry him through to old age and he died at 37. Possibly his love of the drinking houses in Edinburgh did not help.



Many of his poems were inspired by his loves and lovers, the best known example is, *My Love is like a Red, Red Rose*. Burns wrote his music with the aid of a Scottish (2-stringed) fiddle and sometimes used the full range of the instrument to craft his vocal line. One result is that *Red, Red Rose* is very difficult to sing. Of all Burns' works the one which most captures the imagination is *Tam O'Shanter*.

John gave us some contemporary references. When Ambassador Wilkins disclaimed any knowledge of Burns he was asked if he sang *Auld Lang Syne*! In his inauguration speech, President Obama referred to *A Man's a Man for A' That*. On the other hand, John was quite scathing in his view of the Ottawa Public Library's Burns 'collection' - one book, and a mediocre one at that!

At his death Burns said, 'I have had a good life and I'll be better known a hundred years from now than I am now.' He could have said 200 or 300 or ...

John was introduced by **Robin Rousham**, our new Rotary liaison, and thanked by **John Wright** A case of two Englishmen as the bread of a Haggis sandwich.

## Claude Hannan (1924-2009)

### Lloyd Larson (1930-2009)

We regret to announce the passing this month of **Claude Hannan** and **Lloyd Larson**.

Claude and Ann joined our club in 2002. At the April 2005 meeting, Claude presented an 11½ foot sash and other family heirlooms to David Anderson, curator of the Thompson-Bethune Heritage House in Williamstown, Ontario. (David was our November 2004 speaker). Claude was a member of the Management Committee in 2008 and helped out on the Membership Desk.

Lloyd and Margery also joined our club in 2002. A civil engineer, Lloyd had a great love of music and was a member of the Parkdale Symphony Orchestra and played the violin at several of our Christmas Parties. Members will recall that the Larsons were ousted from their home in Elmvale Acres by a fire, which, incidentally, melted the glue of his violin without damaging the wood.

They will both be missed.

## That's Kenney with two E's

In our January Flyer we inadvertently dropped the second 'e' from Gerard (Gerry) Kenney's name. Apologies to Gerry.

## Free Bus Ride to Probus

The OTranspo web-site confirms that "Free Wednesdays for Seniors" applies to the whole of 2009. There are no time-of-day restrictions.

The church (GPC) is served by bus routes 98, 114 and 143.

Route 143 is a short haul local service.

Route 98: First departure from Tunney's Pasture at 9:04, then Hurdman (9:21), Greenboro (9:32), GPC (9:45). Interval - 18 minutes.

Route 114: Hurdman (9:15), St Laurent (9:19), Elmvale Acres Shopping Centre (9:28), Conroy (9:35), GPC (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 OTranspo (560-1000) any morning (M-F) about 11 and find out the times of the return busses.

David Jeanes (August 2008) commented on the maintenance of LRT. He was right - the O-Train was back in service far more quickly than the busses.

## Probus Finances

Our club's revenues in 2008 were higher than in 2007 mainly due to an increase in membership fees for 2009 and an increase in number of memberships sold. This was also reflected in some increase in participation at the Spring Luncheon. Increased membership is also reflected in increased Probus Centre fees.

In 2009 we decided to move our meeting space from Pleasant Park Baptist to Gloucester Presbyterian Church. The increased expenditure in accommodation for 2008 was due to a parting donation to Pleasant Park Baptist and a key deposit for the new space. Refreshments expenditures were higher since we bought a coffee maker for the new space. Note \$520 for the Spring Fling 2009, which we are hosting, has been already spent during 2008.

	2007	2008
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>\$1,975</b>	<b>\$1,071</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Memberships		
- Current Year	655	1,075
- Following Year	1,060	1,620
Loonie Bin	659	653
President's Lunch	630	--
Spring Luncheon	725	784
Other	14	--
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$3,743</b>	<b>\$4,132</b>

### Expenditures

Probus Centre Fees	330	385
Pins and Name Badges	24	203
Pleasant Park Church	800	925
Communications	46	163
Office Supplies	13	2
Refreshments	238	473
Bank Charges	29	28
Speaker Gifts	135	135
Sunshine Committee	29	17
Membership Committee	--	27
President's Luncheon	720	--
Spring Luncheon 2008	725	784
Picnic	356	391
Christmas Entertainment	200	200
Christmas Donation	65	45
Digital Projector	912	--
Other	25	--
Hosting Spring Lunch 09	--	520
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,647</b>	<b>4,299</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$1,071</b>	<b>\$904</b>

*Allan Porter, Treasurer*

**Beware the Ides of March**

EASTERN ONTARIO PROBUS INTER-CLUB  
**SPRING SOCIAL**

**Tuesday May 26th**

We are the host club for 2009 and arrangements are well under way. The luncheon will be at the Hellenic Centre on Prince of Wales Drive. We expect about 200 visitors from Gananoque to Cornwall.

Lenore Porter is the person to see to make a booking (\$28) and we hope everyone will be there to welcome our fellow Probeans.

**Full details will be in the March Flyer.**

**March 25th - Jeff Stellick**

For the past 20 years, **Jeff Stellick** has been the Director of the Ottawa School of Art. This is an exciting time for the school as they have just opened a new campus in Orleans. Jeff will talk about the school, his own career as an artist and about some of the talented people at the school

**April 22nd - Gerry Maffre**

“Canada’s Infrastructure” was a hot topic before the current financial crisis and stimulus spending brought it front and centre. Gerry is the Director-General, Communications, for Infrastructure Canada and in the best position to give us the inside view of all the activity. This is a ‘first’ for us as Jim and Gerry will be the first father and son speakers.

**Wanted - 5 2 Speakers**

July 22nd 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 2 more 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 **Ed Borza** or **John Wright**. So far **Mike Charrier**, **Ken Dye** and **Ed Borza** are on the roster.

**Don’t be disappointed ...**

... if you suggest a speaker and nothing happens. Each year we are given more suggestions than there are months in the year. That is not to say that we do not want suggestions. A good speaker on a timely topic will always be welcome. We will be around for a long time to come so we should have time to work through the backlog. (Maybe we should open another club.)

**Poetry Corner**

We asked **John Young** to select one of Robbie Burns’ poems for this issue of *The Probe*.

**A Man’s a Man for A’That**

Is there for honest Poverty  
 That hings his head, an' a' that;  
 The coward slave-we pass him by,  
 We dare be poor for a' that!  
 For a' that, an' a' that.  
 Our toils obscure an' a' that,  
 The rank is but the guinea's stamp,  
 The Man's the gowd for a' that.

What though on hamely fare we dine,  
 Wear hoddin grey, an' a' that;  
 Gie fools their silks, and knaves their wine;  
 A Man's a Man for a' that:  
 For a' that, and a' that,  
 Their tinsel show, an' a' that;  
 The honest man, tho' e'er sae poor,  
 Is king o' men for a' that.

Ye see **yon** birkie, ca'd a lord,  
**Wha** struts, an' stares, an' a' that;  
 Tho' hundreds worship at his word,  
 He's but a **coof** for a' that:  
 For a' that, an' a' that,  
 His ribband, star, an' a' that:  
 The man o' independent **mind**  
 He looks an' laughs at a' that.

A prince can **mak** a belted knight,  
 A marquis, duke, an' a' that;  
**But an** honest man's abon his might,  
**Gude** faith, he **maunna fa'** that!  
 For a' that, an' a' that,  
 Their dignities an' a' that;  
 The pith o' sense, an' pride o' worth,  
 Are higher rank than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may,  
 (As come it will for a' that,)
 That Sense and Worth, o'er a' the earth,  
 Shall **bear** the gree, an' a' that.  
 For a' that, **an'** a' that,  
 It's coming yet for a' that,  
 That Man to Man, the world o'er,  
 Shall brothers be for a' that.



The poem, with translations of some of the more obscure dialect, can be found at:  
<http://www.robertburns.org/works/496.shtml>