



Newsletter of the PROBUS Club of Ottawa Alta Vista

# The Probe

Est. September 1999

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

September 2009, #49

## Special Anniversary Edition



1999

The First  
10  
Years

2009





**Dalton McGuinty, MPP**  
Ottawa South

*Congratulations to the Probus Club  
on their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

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**David McGuinty**  
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*Congratulations to the Probus Club  
on its 10th Anniversary! Best wishes  
in all of your future endeavours!*

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*Congratulations to the Probus Club  
on its 10th anniversary!*

*Peter Hume*

PROBUS CENTRE-CANADA, INC.

*R. J. (Reg) Whynott*



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PROBUS CLUB OF OTTAWA – ALTA VISTA

“CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 10TH BIRTHDAY”

Your growth from your original twenty-two Charter Members to your current status is an indication of your success over this past decade. Our wish is that you continue to enjoy this success and the provision of an excellent service to a major segment of your community for many years to come !



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*Congratulations and  
Best wishes for  
another successful  
year.  
Rotary Club of Ottawa*



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PROBUS is an Association of Retired Persons Enjoying Life !!

Congratulations to the Probus Club of Alta Vista on the 10th Anniversary of your dynamic and vibrant Club. I look forward to joining you on Sept. 23 for the celebration

*Peter Doyle*

## President's Notes

This September marks the milestone 10th anniversary of our club's formation. We've made steady growth over these years until now our membership exceeds 150 which seems to be a comfortable number for our new location. Our speakers, interesting people all, continue to surprise, impress, entertain and maintain our collective attention in the subjects they bring to us each month. We've been fortunate to have this variety and it's certainly one of the big reasons for our club's success.

Alta Vista Probus is fortunate to have some of the "founders" still with us. To these people we owe a vote of thanks. They don't know what they've started - or perhaps they do and are staying to see how it all turns out! In any event, I look forward to the journey with all members as we start our second decade. HAPPY 10th BIRTHDAY!

*Ed Borza*

## Absent Friends

One of the saddest duties of an editor is to record the passing of friends made at Probus. Over the years the black border has been used many more times that I would wish.

When you have a quiet moment, please make a mental toast to "Absent Friends".

## Charter Members

Robert Bailey	Dealtry Bell
Marguerite Burns	Dorie Clarmont
Anthony Fanok*	Joyce Fesco*
John & Betty Frail*	Ada Gale
Bob Haughton	Russ & Eva Hammond*
Dorothy Hubbard	Alan & Norah Joyce
Dan Kelley*	Jim & Phyllis Kingston*
Bob Knowles	Jack Lennon
Allan Mac Lellan*	D.E. (El) MacDonald
Judy McGillivray*	Rod & Elsann Macleod*
Peggy McGillivray*	Robert McMichael*
Donald Melick	Jim Mills*
Joan Monette	Francis & Lucille Muldoon*
Theresa Moores	J.B. & Yvette O'Rourke*
Richard Patterson*	Lucia Petraroja
Jim Rader*	John Rooke
John E Wright	

Our charter was presented on January 26th, 2000 and anyone who was a member at that time is entitled to style themselves 'Charter Member'.

The asterisk denotes the attendees at the first meeting, September 22nd, 1999 where Frank Fesco spoke on numismatics and history through coinage.

## The First Decade

1999 - September. The Probus Club of Ottawa Alta Vista held its first meeting, at Pleasant Park Baptist Church.

2000 - January. Charter received from Probus Centre Canada

2001 - April. First issue of *The Probe*.

2001 - May. Alta Vista and Kanata co-host the Spring Luncheon at Tudor Hall.

2001 - November. First *Flyer*.

2001 - August. Kurt & Helen Ekler, members #99 & #100.

2002 - June. First 'Indoor Picnic'.

2003 - Probus Canada hires its first GM, Reg Whyntott.

2004 - August. Allan Mac Lellan, the Pastor who welcomed us to Pleasant Park, 'goes home' to Cape Breton.

2004 - August. "Vernissage" our Art & Craft Show.

2004 - October. Podium and microphone purchase.

2005 - Change of financial year to calendar year.

2005 - June. Marsha Dreyell, member #200

2005 - September. New Constitution and By-laws adopted (we couldn't find the old ones).

2006 - July. Second Arts & Crafts Show.

2007 - April. Purchase of computer projector.

2007 - July. First time for the 5 'in-house' speaker format on picnic day.

2008 - December. Our stay at Pleasant Park Baptist Church ends.

2009 - January. In our new 'home' at Gloucester Presbyterian.

2009 - May. Alta Vista hosts the Spring Luncheon at the Hellenic Centre.

2009 - August. Completes our first ten years.

2009 - September. A special edition of *The Probe*.

With notes from **Allen Taylor**, our archivist from 2003 to 2008, and a look through old *Probes*.

### **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.**



## Club Presidents



## Club Presidents

1999/2000 Russ Hammond

2000/2001 Jim Rader

2001/2002 Jim Kingston

2002/2003 John Kruithof

2003/2004 Joyce Wright

2004/2005 Jean Lupton

2005/2006 Allen Taylor

2007 John Wright

2008 Wib Neal

2009 Ed Borza

Russ was our founding President and President Emeritus. Allen Taylor was the longest serving president (15 months) as he oversaw the change from 'October to October' to calendar year.

## Rotary Liaison

All Probus Clubs have to have a Rotary Club as their Sponsor and ours is the Rotary Club of Ottawa. With **Eva Hammond** being a member of Ottawa Rotary and **Russ Hammond** being a prime mover in getting the Club started, the pieces fell nicely into place.

**Dan Kelley** joined Eva as our 'Rotary Liaison' and both were regular attendees at our Management Committee meetings until Dan handed over the responsibility to **Robin Rousham**, last year.

## Early Memories

We asked some of the people who were part of founding our club to look back to those days. Dan Kelley and Jim Rader wrote pieces for us. Russ Hammond is quoted from an interview in *The Probe*, June 2001.

## Russ Hammond (Probe, June 2001)

Eva and I were invited to Allan Mac Lellan's induction as Pastor at Pleasant Park Baptist Church and found we were in an ideal location for a club. I called a few people and we met for coffee at Denny's, on Bank Street. Dan Kelley of the Rotary Club of Ottawa was our sponsor and we were delighted that Allan joined the coffee group and has become a very active member. Doug Hughes, of the Kemptville Club, said that if we were looking at the Alta Vista area we had to get Jim Rader on board. The rest - as they say - is history.

## Dan Kelley

I knew **Russ Hammond** as the husband of **Eva**, a Rotarian in our Ottawa Rotary Club. Consequently, I was only a little surprised when in the spring of 1999 Russ asked me to join him at a local restaurant for a cup of coffee. He wanted to discuss a proposal to establish a Probus Club in the Alta Vista area.

I agreed and met him and a fellow member from the Manotick Probus Club (Ottawa-Rideau Valley). They spoke so enthusiastically about Probus that I could hardly not go along. It wasn't said at the time but Russ wanted a Rotarian who lived in the area where he was proposing to establish a club. A Rotary Club was needed to sponsor a new club and he and Eva lived near Kars, south of Manotick. I think his choice of location was partly as a result of **Judy McGillivary** and **Dick Patterson**, who were members of the Manotick club. Judy lived in Alta Vista and Dick lived in Orleans. Dick was our first treasurer.

The major difficulty in establishing a new club was to find a suitable meeting place. It wasn't until Eva Hammond met **Rev. Allan Mac Lellan**, the pastor of the Pleasant Park Baptist Church, at a Baptist meeting that our location was found. We met again later in the spring or summer with Allan, **John Frail**, who I think was an elder in the Church, Eva and me and it is quite possible that **Jim Rader** was there, I don't remember. Anyway, it was a go from there and I agreed to approach the Rotary Club for sponsorship and \$200 of seed money.

In September we held our first meeting with **Frank Fesco**, speaking on Coinage, as our speaker. We were away to the races. I recall that we had about 25 attend our first meeting. **Rod MacLeod** was our first secretary. Rod sent a formal request on December 21, 1999 to the Rotary Club for sponsorship and the \$200. At our Planning Meeting at the end of January 2000, Dick reported that we had 30 paid up members.

At the January 26, 2000 meeting our Probus Charter was presented to the club by the Assistant District Governor of Rotary. All members at that time, were to be considered founding or charter members of the Ottawa Alta Vista Probus Club. As most know, Russ Hammond was the president until October 2000 when Jim Rader became our second president.

## Ed Broadbent (November 2007)

The Hon. John Edward Broadbent drew the greatest audience in our first 10 years. His talk, *Democratic Development* was enjoyed by over 110 members and guests.

## Jim Rader

I never heard of PROBUS until **Russ Hammond** (our 1st President) and **Doug Hughes** (Kemptville PROBUS organizer) asked me to help start our club, and I recruited many on my street, Bell retirees and at the Rideau Park Church. As I was typing the 1st flyer, my cousin looked over my shoulder and then told me about his 7 years of PROBUS in Beaconsfield England.

Some notable speakers I recruited were **Jack MacKenzie** (oldest man to Sail the Horn and to Ski to the North Pole at 84), **George Blackburn** (who wrote 3 books on WWII as he liberated France and Holland) and the Dutch Ambassador who praised Canadians like George Blackburn for liberating Holland (and my neighbour **Jules Moderman** who thanked the Dutch Ambassador by describing how he had gone back to his home town in Holland and the parade started at noon was supposed to end in a couple of hours, but was still going in the evening because the 90 year old Dutch women were hugging the 90 year old Canadian veterans for liberating them - sort of says it all doesn't it).

An early PROBUS event we organized was the train from Hull to Wakefield for over 300 PROBUS people (65 from Kemptville alone). Rather than seek a quantity discount, we got extra entertainment and everyone was certainly well entertained as we sang "We've been working on the Railroad", and other such lively tunes.

## The Survey Says ... (Aug 2003)

In 2003 we ran a 20 question survey. Here are some of the findings.

We rise at 7:30 (average), have our main meal at 6 (almost unanimous), watch 12.5 hours of TV per week (range from 1 to 24) and go to the dentist every 7 months (most people go every 6 months but one or two wait a little longer between visits). We are definitely pro-Monarchy. Churchgoers are in a clear majority. Most of us take the Ottawa Citizen with the Globe & Mail a distant second and the Sun hardly shining at all.

Some of the other questions were more difficult to categorize. Our taste in magazines is eclectic, few getting more than a couple of votes (Time, National Geographic). Authors were spread even wider, but if anything could be discerned it was a tendency to mysteries.

Pet hates include phone solicitations, loud music, advertising flyers, cold weather and tailgaters but "dirty shoes on a clean floor" sounds like a long standing issue in one household.

## PROfessional & BUSiness

We know that Probus started in England in 1965, but this was not the first use of the word.

### The Origins of Probus (April 2002)

**Allen Taylor** has done some research on the origins of "probus". **probus, -a, -um** adj. Good, honest, upright, virtuous, decent, (coll.) real, proper, downright. New College Latin and English Dictionary, ed. By John G. Taupman, New York: Bantam Books, 1966.

**Probus et legalis homo.** Latin. A good and lawful man. A phrase particularly applied to a juror or witness who was ... competent in point of law to serve on juries ... In the plural form: **probi et legales homines.** Blacks Law Dictionary, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1933. Black refers to legal texts in both English and American law.

An early example of the word probus being used in a title was the Roman Emperor Probus (Marcus Aurelius/Aurelianus), A.D. 276-282, one of four Roman Emperors named Marcus Aurelius. His only notable achievement in his brief reign was to defend Sicily against Frankish pirates.

Not content with bookish research, Allen's studies took him into the field – to Grinzing and the Altes Presshaus. Their flyer says, "It was Emperor Probus' fault that the first vines were planted on the hills around Grinzing as early as A.D. 276." This is a strange statement for an establishment that has thrived on serving 'new wine' since 1527 (now that gives a certain legitimacy to the use of 'Alte' or 'old' in the name). The original German text does say 'blame' but a better translation may be 'responsible for'. 'New wine' has fermented but has not been clarified. With its cloudy appearance it may look like fresh apple juice but it can have a very different effect and may contradict the 'upright' part of the probus definition. The flyer continues, "This botanical additional activity of the Roman legionaries brought prosperity to the small village at the gates of Vienna and – much, much later – international fame as well."

### PROBUS Club of Melville, Sask. (June 2001)

An active organization in the 1920's, the Probus Club took its name from the Latin, meaning "good, excellent, virtuous". There were four committees: .. Intellectual, Attendance, Athletic, and Social. Guest Speakers were a highlight of the meetings. In 1923/24 the President was Fred Mawer.

This paragraph accompanied a picture of 26 young men. and appeared in a history of the town.

## No Flyer this Month

Although the September *Flyer* has been displaced by this special edition of *The Probe*, there is still a need for the announcements that it would have contained.

### October 28th Captain Serge Bertrand

It is a few years since we turned to matters maritime for our 'Remembrance' speaker and we have yet to have a serving officer.

**Captain (Navy) Serge Bertrand** is a former warship Commanding Officer, a former Chief of Staff to the Admiral and a key author of the Canadian Forces transformation under Gen Rick Hillier. He will speak on 'Canada's Navy in the 21st Century'.

### November 25th H.E. Dermot Kelly

We have been trying to persuade the Irish Ambassador to come and talk to us for over a year but Ambassadors are busy people (especially when they are responsible for the Caribbean as well as Canada), but we have at last found a free 4th Wednesday.

## World Views - Fall 2009 Program

John Kruithof has again provided us with the program for these monthly photo-evenings.

Saturday, Sept. 26 – Travels in China Beijing, Xian, Guelin, Imperial Cities and Shanghai (by Carol Hart)

Saturday, Oct. 31 – Exploring the High Arctic by Ship Resolute, Beechey Island, Baffin Island and Greenland (by Alex Bissett)

Saturday, Nov. 28 – Peeking Behind the Curtain Two visits to North Korea (by Hartmuth Kroll)

The venue is Bethany Baptist Church, Centrepointe Drive West, at Baseline Road. Programs begin at 7:30 and admission is *FREE*.

For more information, please call Colin McGregor at 613-820-0598.

## How to find us

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month except December (2nd Wednesday - our Christmas Party) in the Hall of Gloucester Presbyterian Church, 91 Pike Street (corner of Lorry Greenberg).

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