



The Probe

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October 2009, #50

“Because We Believe”



Michael Chambers gave us a strong and upbeat presentation on the Olympic Movement in Canada. The focus was on next February's Vancouver Winter Olympics but Michael offered a taste of the history and background which has led to the “Own the Podium” attitude going into these games. We also had a brief look at Toronto's bid to hold the 2015 Pan/Parapan-American Games in the *Greater Golden Horseshoe*.

Michael's involvement with the Canadian Olympic Committee started in 1984 when he joined the Board as the member for Canoeing and Kayaking. He rose to the position of President of the COC during a period which covered a major shift in Canada's approach to the Games. By demanding higher selection standards the COC has forced would-be Olympians to be competitive at world levels.

The Montreal Amateur Athletic Association (1881) was the forerunner of the COC. Several changes in the early years saw the formation of the Canadian Olympic Association which was the Olympic Governing Body for Canada from 1909 to 2002. The first Canadian competed in Paris in 1904, the first official Canadian team went to London in 1908 and our first Gold Medal was for hockey in 1920, Antwerp. There were 295 athletes from 13 countries in Athens in 1896. In 1976 Montreal hosted 6,189 athletes from 88 countries and in Beijing the numbers were 11,196 and 204!

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Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of Ottawa/Alta Vista will be held on Wednesday, November 25th, 2009 in the Church Hall of Gloucester Presbyterian Church after the regular club meeting.

The agenda will include:

- Minutes of the 2008 AGM and matters arising from the minutes.
- Treasurer's Report and Financial Business.
- President's Report and Review.
- Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers and Management Committee members for 2010.
- Such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.

Bob Atchison - Secretary

Notes to the AGM Notice

Please stay on for the meeting - we need 20% of the membership to constitute a quorum.

The Nominating Committee is looking for candidates for the Management Committee*. None of the jobs is very onerous and part of the Probus ethos is that there should be a regular turnover and that everyone should have the opportunity to take part in the management of the club. Two Committee jobs we particularly need to fill are a position on the Program Sub-committee, and a Secretary for the club.

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

Dues 2010

At our October meeting we open the books for the payment of membership fees for 2010, which are due by January 1st. Just as a reminder, the fees are \$20 (single) and \$30 (family).

Fees for new members

Any new members joining after October 1st 2009, will have their membership extended to December 31, 2010.

“I’m loving it!”

That has nothing to do with Macdonald’s advertising but everything to do with the way the **Rev. Denise Allen-Macartney** feels about being the Minister at Gloucester Presbyterian. Probe caught up with her in her office.

Probe: We would like to follow-up on the introduction you made at our September meeting. Can we start with the basics, upbringing, early career, etc.?

Denise: I grew up in Montreal and came to Ottawa to study journalism at Carleton. After that I worked for the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, with high-school students in the Ottawa Valley, for 5 years. Then, after several years as an at-home mom, I worked as a Communications Consultant. For about 15 years I provided writing workshops for corporate and government clients, and recently I was Director of Communications for a technology company.

Probe: Family?

Denise: My husband, Allen, and I have two adult children, a boy and a girl. Our daughter and son-in-law live in Barrie. Our son, newly married, lives here in town.

Probe: Was there a turning point in your life that brought you into the ministry?

Denise: Just over 5 years ago, I was asking what the Lord wanted me to do when, out of the blue, the Interim Moderator called and said, “I have work for you”. The work was to lead services at this church.

Probe: Was that as a lay preacher?

Denise: Yes. It was only for Sunday services not to take on all the duties of a Minister. I preached here frequently for about a year-and-a-half before returning to school 4 years ago.

Probe: Was that to a theological college?

Denise: It was the Presbyterian College in Montreal. I started as a part-time student and then full-time for two years, graduating this spring.

Probe: Is that when you were ordained?

Denise: No. In the Presbyterian Church ordination takes place when you come to a church. This happened on September 1st.

Probe: When we moved to Gloucester Presbyterian we were welcomed by the Rev. Cedric Pettigrew who retired a few months later.

Denise: Cedric was here as an interim Minister. He came out of retirement to serve here for two-and-a-half years. Before that the church had been without a full-time

Minister for several years

Probe: From what you have said it would seem to be a natural step to return to Gloucester Presbyterian when Cedric retired?

Denise: In practice it was a little more complicated. In the Presbyterian Church, the congregation prepares a profile of their community and their priorities for ministry. Candidates also prepare their profiles which are reviewed by the church’s search committee.

After a lot of prayer and several interviews, we all agreed that God was calling Allen and me to this congregation.

Probe: When we spoke to Cedric about having our meetings here, he mentioned that the congregation is quite diverse. Have you found it so?

Denise: It’s exciting! We have people from eight or nine countries: young adults, families, and older folks too. Such rich diversity makes us a stronger community.

Probe: Are you enjoying your work?

Denise: I’m loving it!

November 25th - H.E. Declan M. Kelly

In 1937, Ireland changed its constitution to become more independent of the U.K. At that time the diplomats exchanged were High Commissioners. In 1948, the Taoiseach (P.M.), **while in Canada**, made the announcement that Ireland would declare itself a Republic. One of the effects was that future representatives would carry the rank of Ambassador. The current Irish Ambassador, H.E. Declan M. Kelly was appointed in August, 2007. He will speak to us on *Ireland and Canada - 70 years of Diplomatic Relations*.

December 9th - 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.

There will be a trio to lead the entertainment but the Alta Vista Probus Club Choir will take a major role (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 Christmas goodies, cake and squares (i.e. finger food - no pies).
- H to M, please bring appetizers, cheese, crackers, dips, veggie bites.
- N to Z, please bring sandwiches.

More details in the November *Flyer*.

Michael Chambers

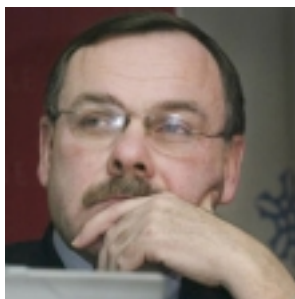
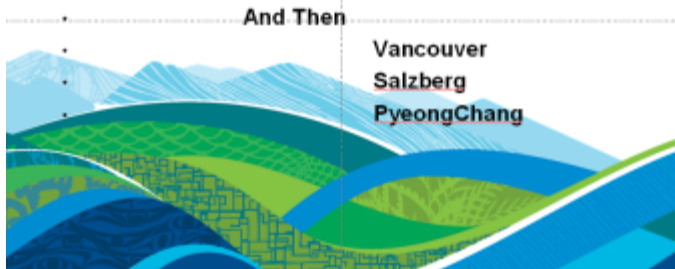
wondering ...

How Did We Ever Do It

- Vancouver
- Calgary
- Quebec City

And Then

Vancouver
Salzberg
PyeongChang



The road to Vancouver was not smooth. After losing to Calgary in its bid for the 1988 Games, Vancouver found itself up against Calgary again for the 2010 Canadian nomination, with Quebec City also in the running. Once the Canadian nomination was secure, Vancouver was then in competition with Salzberg and PyeongChang.

Michael reviewed the sites for the various activities - Cypress Mountain for freestyle and snowboard, the Whistler, Blackcombe and Callaghan Valley area for downhill, jumping and cross country, and the Vancouver area for the Olympic Village, opening and closing ceremonies and indoor events - curling, hockey, speed skating and figure skating. All the construction is complete and the sites have been or are being tested.

Next on the calendar is the 2015 Pan/Parapan-American Games. Michael and Premier Dalton McGuinty met with key Pan-American officials during the Beijing Olympics and the Bid Committee was launched last October with David Peterson as the Chairman.

Questions for Michael included one on participation to which he re-emphasized there should be no excuse for athletes not trying their utmost, and one on the amateur/professional divide. Michael's response was that since the '90's, amateur status is no longer required.

Michael was introduced by John Wright - an erstwhile colleague on the COA Board.

How to find us

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month except December (2nd Wednesday) in the Hall of Gloucester Presbyterian Church, 91 Pike Street.

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

The Fenians

Allen Taylor has provided a personal postscript to **Dr. David Shanahan's** talk on, *D'Arcy McGee and the Fenians*.

My great-grandfather, **John Barton Taylor**, came to Canada with the 9th Regiment of Foot at the end of the Crimean War, early in 1856. He was stationed with his regiment in Kingston from June 1856 to September 1857. When the regiment was posted back to England he transferred to the Royal Canadian Rifles, a unit of the Canadian Militia that was made up of regulars of the British Army whose units were returning to Great Britain. He remained in the Canadian Militia until his death in Winnipeg in May 1891, when he was Commandant of the School of Mounted Infantry.

He was involved in the Fenian Raids in the 1860s, principally by founding and then commanding the 7th Fusiliers Regiment of London in 1866, and he served as Deputy Adjutant General in No. 1 Military District at London, and then in Saint John, New Brunswick and Halifax, Nova Scotia before becoming commandant of the Royal School of Mounted Infantry in Winnipeg in 1885. His rank, throughout this period, was Lieutenant Colonel, the rank he held at the time of his death in 1891.

Allen Taylor

Bridge on the River Kwai

Bill Cosway spoke to us in October 2006 about his book, "Earthquake McGoon - A Memoir of The Forgotten War in SouthEast Asia". The Managing Director of the Museum in Kanchanaburi, Thailand, was looking (after all this time) for the real facts on who actually destroyed the bridge. A Canadian Army visitor to the museum (on R&R from Afghanistan) knew from a friend in Alberta who knew from reading Bill's book (pages 111, 112) that it was RCAF Flight Lieutenant Roy Borthwick in Bill's squadron who destroyed the steel bridge, and RNZAF Flying Officer Haycock who destroyed the wooden back-up bridge. This stopped 3000 tons per day of Japanese war materiel entering Burma.

As a result, the Museum has requested copies of Bill's book and will put them on display.

The river is really the Mae Khlong although the Thai Government, with an eye on the tourist dollar, has designated a stretch either side of the bridge as the River Kwai.

Pierre Boule's book is fiction even to the name 'River Kwai'.

Ottawa Museum Network

It was a happy coincidence that two consecutive e-mail messages were from the Ottawa Museum Network offering to speak to us - which was mentally put aside for future consideration - and an apology from our August speaker asking to be rescheduled. The future arrived suddenly and **Andrea Miller** became our August speaker.

Andrea is the Executive Director of the Network which coordinates the marketing, fundraising and advocacy efforts for the 11 community museums in Ottawa. Her presentation included a slide for each museum. Some of them, for example, the Billings Estate, are very familiar to us but little known outside the region, others, such as the Diefenbunker, have more widespread fame. The Workers Heritage Centre will open in 2010 in the Gamman family home, the oldest house in Vanier. It will focus on working class heritage and stories - the people who really built Ottawa!

The full list is:

- Billings Estate National Historic Site
- Bytown Museum
- Cumberland Heritage Village Museum
- Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum
- Goulbourn Museum
- Nepean Museum
- Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum
- Pinhey's Point Historic Site
- Vanier Museopark
- Watson's Mill
- Workers' Heritage Centre Museum

Andrea was accompanied by **Meg Hamilton**, Executive Director of the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa (CHOO). Meg gave us a very brief overview of her mandate which covers 64 organizations from *Action Sandy Hill* to the *Workers' Heritage Centre Museum*. As well as the 11 museums, CHOO lists archives, historical societies, genealogical research groups, educators, and protectors of built heritage.

More information of the Ottawa Museum is available on their web site, www.ottawamuseumnetwork.com and www.choocopo.ca provides a full list of the Council of Heritage Organizations' members. It also offers a weekly e-newsletter, *This Week in Heritage*.

Both organizations are on the lookout for volunteer help.

A quick show of hands indicated that most members had visited one or two of the museums and some had visited nearly all of them.

CHOO, strangely, does not include any railroad locomotive preservation activities.

10th Anniversary Celebration



Eva Hammond prepares to cut our 'Birthday Cake' after our September meeting. The inscription reads, "Probus Alta-Vista Happy 10th Anniversary."

Edition 50

What has more Probes than a Human Rights Commission on a bad day for Ezra Levant? Well, Alta-Vista Probus Club now has 50.

The first issue was dated Spring 2001. **Jim Rader** was President and we had 92 members. The first headline was, "Affairs of the Heart" and the article started "**Susan Menzies**, our March speaker, had a topic dear to the heart of many members, the first twenty-five years of the Ottawa Heart Institute. Susan gave us the good news - the average age for a heart attack is rising - and the bad news - one in three Ottawans will have recourse to the Institute at some time." There was a review of **Noreen Wolfe's** talk on Genealogy and we were looking forward to a talk by Counc. **Peter Hume**, in May.

This year has been unusual in that we have had two 'special editions'. The first was in May for the Eastern Ontario Spring Luncheon (at 250 copies it was by far our largest print-run) and in September we had a special edition for the Club's 10th Anniversary.

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.