



Newsletter of the PROBUS Club of Ottawa Alta Vista

The Probe

Est. September 1999

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

February 2010, #54



Three's Company - Brian Wigmore, Chris Eberts and Ray Chalmers.

If they were dreaming of a White Christmas, a quick look over the shoulder would reassure them.

Party Time at GPC



*Christmas Goodies were not in short supply. **Ada McEwan** (in the Santa hat), **Audrey Reekie** (right, moving away from the camera) and their helpers kept the tables stocked.*

Our first Christmas Party at Gloucester Presbyterian capped the first year in our new home. The music was provided by *Three's Company*, ably assisted at times by the massed choir of the Probus Club of Ottawa/Alta Vista.

The alphabetic guide to catering ensured that we had a good mix of appetizers, sandwiches and desserts and the way we all tucked in ensured that nothing went to waste.

All-in-all a very happy morning. Our thanks to **Ada McEwan**, **Audrey Reekie** and the kitchen helpers, **Morley Craig** and his team who set-up the room, and everyone who contributed, whether it was food, work or just raising their voices to add to the joyful noise.

Free Bus Rides to Probus

OC Transpo is continuing its "Free Wednesdays" program for seniors. Gloucester Presbyterian is served by bus routes 98 (Tunney's Pasture), 114 (St. Laurent Shopping Centre) and 143 (local).

Ottawa AV Probus at the Olympics

Two years ago, Joan Evans applied to VANOC (VANcouver Organizing Committee) for a volunteer assignment at the Winter Olympics. After an interview (locally) and a long wait, she heard just 2 months ago that her application had been accepted.

Today, Joan is in Vancouver (on her own dime, staying with friends). We do not know exactly what she is doing but judging from the crowd scenes, unless she has had an encounter with the black balaclava hooligans, the odds are that she is having a great time.

Maybe she will tell us about it when she gets back.

April 21st - Prof. David Gordon

The NCC recently ran a seminar on urban planning. Having an 'in' at the NCC through Jackie Holzman we asked if she could suggest one of the speakers as being particularly suited to Probus. Her recommendation was David Gordon. Prof. Gordon's illustrated talk will be, "Planning Twentieth Century Capital Cities" with the sub-title, "Fifteen capital cities compared, with lessons for Ottawa."

Perhaps we should invite the City Council.

Meet the Prez - Lenore Porter.

As is our custom, we sent our team of investigative reporters to find out more about our President. Past-presidents have been known to say that once this ordeal was over the rest of the year was a breeze.

Probe: Congratulations on becoming President.

LP: Thank you. I have not been a Probus member very long but Allan and I quickly realized that it was an organization we would enjoy so we decided to take a full role from the start.

Probe: Let's go back a bit and cover the basics - where do you call home?

LP: Lynn Lake in Northern Manitoba was where I was raised. My father, Willet Farley, was a geologist and discovered mineral deposits there. The mine shaft is named after him.



Probe: From there?

LP: The next step was to Winnipeg. I graduated from the University of Manitoba in psychology and after a distinguished record as a cheerleader and then moved to Ontario and the Ontario College of Education. Teaching gym at a High School occupied me for a couple of years.

Probe: Where did Allan make overtures?

LP: We met at a party at Hart House in the U of T. We measure the stations of our married life in kids. Deep River (2), Winnipeg (1 more) and finally Ottawa (the last 3).

Probe: What about your own career?

LP: In between looking after a husband, six kids, dogs and seven hamsters (6 of which arrived concealed in a chubby one), I studied nursing and worked as a nurse at the Glebe Centre and then as a nurse and Professional Practice Coordinator at the Royal Ottawa Hospital. Since retiring, I do some research work for a consulting company on aboriginal health issues.

Probe: Apart from Probus, what are your interests now?

LP: After the last child was dumped off at Queen's we bought a smaller house that no one could move back to. It worked. Four years ago we bought a 150-year-old former church manse in Athens for weekend use. The floors are crooked and there is no T.V. or dishwasher. In the summer we visit the bears at our cottage on the east side of Lake Winnipeg where I make piles of blueberry pies.

Probe: There must be some grand-children somewhere in the mix?

LP: I try to be a decent grandparent to our 10 grandchildren, none of whom suffer any perceived injustice in silence. I got a B+ on a Cuba project for one of them. During the annual 3-day drive back from Manitoba with 2 grandsons (the DVD player had broken -how's that for torture?), I developed, or couldn't avoid developing, a taste for rap and country and western music.

Probe: And in quieter moments?

LP: I love doing calculus problems and reading philosophy. My ideal form of exercise is probably shopping but due to recent ankle surgery I'm limited to swimming and biking - both unsatisfactory substitutes, let me tell you!

Probe: Earlier you mentioned bungee jumping in the Sahara. Could you expand on that?

(Editor's note. Unfortunately we ran out of space and could not include the answer.)

Spring Fling - 2010

Cornwall Probus will be 'mine host' for Spring Fling this year. Mark May 18th, a Tuesday, in your calendar. The timing is 10:30 for noon.

May 18th may sound a long way off but, in reality, the timing is quite tight. Reservations must be made by April 16th and the only time we meet before that is the March meeting. So, please come on March 24th with your cheque-book open and ready to make a firm booking. Cornwall have indicated that they will be happy to have guests (i.e. non-Probeans) attending.

Inflation does not seem to be an issue as they are holding the line at \$28 (which is what we charged last year), for a choice of chicken, salmon, or veggie stir-fry.

The venue is the Best Western Parkway Inn and they recommend taking 417 to Casselman then south on 138. About 3km south of 401 (138 is now Brookdale Avenue) turn right on 14th and the hotel is a block away at 1515 Vincent Massey Drive.



The Best Western Parkway Inn - you can't miss the tower

Ed Borza is looking after the arrangements for our Club so please make your booking through him. If you would like a drive or if you can offer a drive, please check with Ed. No guarantees, but he will see what he can do.

In past years we have usually had between a dozen and twenty of our members taking part and it has always been an enjoyable outing - often with a few surprises thrown in!

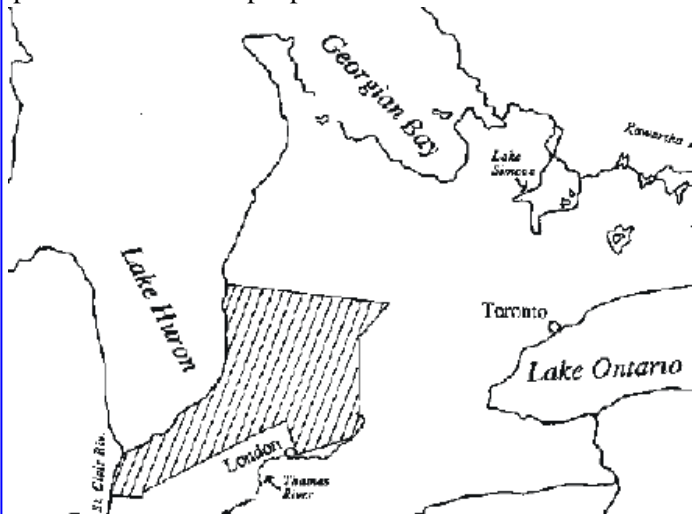
How to find us

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month except December (2nd Wednesday) in the Hall of Gloucester Presbyterian Church, 91 Pike Street. Pike runs north from Hunt Club and the nearest major intersection is Hunt Club and Conroy.

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

The Huron Tract

One of the great things about Probus is finding out that there are so many interesting subjects to hear about that may have otherwise escaped our attention. One of these is, "The Canada Company and the Huron Tract" brought to us by Robert C. Lee through the personalities and predilections of the people involved.



The Huron Tract is the shaded area

One of the main characters was John Galt, a Scottish novelist, who, with other businessmen decided to form the Canada Company. They purchased about 2.5 million acres in Upper Canada for 341,000 pounds, just under half of which became known as the Huron Tract.

Galt was the Company's first Canadian Superintendent charged with the task of developing this enormous area so that settlers would be attracted and purchase land from the Company. Galt founded Guelph, which he made the Company's Canadian headquarters, and Goderich. The omens were auspicious. Britain was short of money after financing the Napoleonic Wars and there was huge unemployment partly due to the return of soldiers. Upper Canada was also short of money after the war of 1812 so the prospect of emigrants paying for land appealed to both governments.

The financial footing of the Company was never sound. The shareholders were looking for a return well before the sales had started to be comparable to the outlay. Shares dropped from 12 pounds to 1 pound when revenues were less than 50% of expenses. Galt was fired for 'managerial ineptitude' and was clearly a better novelist than a manager. On the one hand he failed as a businessman. On the other, he wrote over 100 books and tracts.

Jim Rader, who was born and brought up in the Huron Tract, introduced Robert and Lenore Porter thanked him for his talk.

Probus Finances in 2009

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 also reflected increased Probus Centre fees.

In 2009 we hosted the Spring Fling for Eastern Ontario. This resulted in receipts for the tickets we sold of \$6,834 and an expense of \$5,656 (including \$520 spent during 2008). In January 2009 we had moved our meeting space from Pleasant Park Baptist to Gloucester Presbyterian Church and this resulted in a larger rental. However, we also had raised the membership rates.

	2008	2009
Opening Balance	1,071	904
Receipts		
Memberships		
-Current Year	1,075	840
-Following Year	1,620	1,740
Loonie Bin	653	589
Spring Fling 2008	784	--
Spring Fling 2009 (all clubs incl Alta Vista)	--	6,834
Total Receipts	4,132	10,003
+ Opening Balance		
Expenditures		
Probus Centre Fees	385	368
Pins and Name Badges	203	113
Pleasant Park Church	925	--
Gloucester Church + Facilities	--	1,130
Communications	163	226
Office Supplies	2	203
Refreshments	473	286
Bank Charges	28	48
Speaker Gifts	135	137
Sunshine Committee	17	--
Membership Committee	27	--
President's Luncheon	--	--
Spring Luncheon 2008	784	--
Picnic	391	273
Christmas Entertainment	200	213
Christmas Donation	45	60
Other	--	--
Spring Fling 2009	520	5,136
Total Expenditures	4,299	8,192
Closing Balance	904	2,715

Allan Porter
Treasurer



Poetry Corner

John Galt (1779 - 1839) was a poet as well as a novelist. After being dismissed from the Canada Company in 1829 and being recalled to England, he did time in a debtors prison. When this poem was written, May 1837, his health was failing and he had less than two years to live.

CANADIAN RECOLLECTIONS

At pensive eve, what time the sun
Peep'd through the trees, his journey done,
I lov'd to walk the greenwood still,-
Where gloom seems silence visible,-
And note the fading hues of light,
My heart partaking, too, of night.

When flowers, that in the noonbeam shone
With colours like my hopes, were gone,
Oft in the twilight of the wood,
I own'd that aw'd prophetic mood,
Which sees the future as a dream,
And life a shadow'd woodland stream.

Till through the boughs I chanced to see
The heavenly orb's bright revelry,
And felt assured, however late,
That time would be my advocate,
And make my aims, despite my fear,
As starts from darkness, come, appear.

Dues 2010

Our By-laws state: "The Management Committee may terminate the membership of any member who fails to pay the annual membership fee by March 31 and shall terminate the membership as of June 30."

No-one on the Committee wants any part of enforcing this so please check the sign-in sheet and make sure it says "Pd 10" against your name.

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.