



The Probe

Est. September 1999

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

August 2010, #57

Raising Cain . . .

. . . was the title of **Claudette Cain**'s radio show in the brief period between being the Mayor of Gloucester and becoming a Justice of the Peace. **Bob Atchison**, introducing Claudette, reminded us that she had served as an Alderman from 1986 to 1991 before being elected Mayor and was re-elected until amalgamation.

Which of the following statements are true?

- On being elected, Mayor Cain had all the podiums cut in half.
- A JP's main job is to conduct weddings.
- Parking offences are easy to deal with.

Claudette started with the comment that she never thought that she had led a sheltered life but being a JP opened her eyes. She opened our eyes with her description of the range and depth of the job. First is the need to be familiar with the *Criminal Code*, the *Charter* and, in particular, the *Youth Justice Act*. Then there is the diversity of hearings - bail and remand hearings, traffic offences, search warrants, child custody hearings and Provincial offences. Add to this the need to keep abreast of case law and advisories from the Attorney General's office and being a JP is clearly no sinecure.

There are 345 JP's in Ontario and as of June there were several vacancies, 4 in Ottawa. Anyone can apply and enter the screening process. In addition Ontario is served by 32 Presiding Judges. The Judges are lawyers with a suitable educational and work background and handle criminal offences trials. JP's have some restrictions on their personal lives. They must be apolitical and are not allowed to sit on corporate or charity boards, nor allow their names to be part of fund raisers.

In Ottawa there are two bail courts open 5 days a week. A hearing can last from about an hour to well over a week with most taking 1 to 2 hours. Applications for any crime in the book (except murder - reserved to Judges) may be heard. The JP's decision is based on three criteria, flight risk; severity of the charge and safety to the public; will release bring the administration into disrepute. Some 95% of decisions are verbal.

The remand process is somewhat different although the

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Ten-minute Talks

The 5 good talks at our July meeting raise the question, "Should we fire the Program Committee and just rotate alphabetically through our membership list for speakers?" Our quintet covered a wide range of topics - spirituality, current affairs, history, an inside look at the Olympics and the work Rotary does for young people.

Bob Haughton started us off with the question, "Where is God". One answer he gave is taken from Psalm 39, "Wherever I go you are there." He went on to quote Pope John Paul II and other religious thinkers.



Bob left us with several things to ponder, including, "Nature uses only the longest threads to weave her pattern." and a quotation from St Augustine, "The ultimate cosmic mystery is closer to reality than reality is to itself."

Next up was **Robin Rousham** our Rotary Liaison who used a backdrop of over 100 photographs of participants in the *Adventures in Citizenship* program which is now in its 60th year.

The formal description of the program is, "An annual, unique opportunity for 220 young Canadians across Canada to explore Canadian identity, shared values and the implications of the freedoms we enjoy as Canadians."

The participants are *Adventurers*. They are exposed to many aspects of government and citizenship as well as having the opportunity to learn from each other.

The photographic collection showed the participation of

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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-centered.

immediate freedom of the accused is also at stake. Remands may be requested up to 7 times and each time a meaningful decision must be made - a JP cannot just put a decision off until the next hearing. One of the difficulties is that the JP must not judge guilt at this stage in the criminal prosecution process.

Applications for search warrants can be a source of conflict with the police. The JP must be sure that there is evidence to justify the warrant and should not authorize 'fishing expeditions'.

Some of the most difficult decisions involve children and youth. In the case of young offenders, the atmosphere is intimidating and it may be possible to frighten them enough to set them on the straight and narrow, but children caught in the middle are often very vulnerable. In the case of the *Mental Health Act*, when a child care worker says that the mother is unsuitable the question of custody of the children is fraught with difficulty and emotion. When relatives feel that a family member is in danger of harming themselves or the community, a decision has to be made on whether to call for an assessment, which, if granted, gives the police the authority to remove the subject by force if necessary.

Although the content of the talk was serious, Claudette delivered it with a light touch - particularly when it came to the unbelievable excuses she has heard from people choosing to fight parking tickets. As for the marriage thing, it is not a regular part of the job but can be done with permission from the Chief Justice of Ontario. Usually it is done only for family or close friends but one of the powers a JP retains on retirement from court is to perform civil marriages.

Ms Cain had spent the previous two days in court in Perth and when reporters heard that she was giving a speech today they assumed that it was to be an announcement that she would be running for Mayor of Ottawa. In thanking Claudette, John Wright claimed that he had arranged things so that she could do just that.

A Postponement

Today's speaker was to have been Don Head, Commissioner of Corrections Canada. Unfortunately he was pre-empted and asked for a postponement. We can look forward to hearing him in January when the dust (and other matter) has settled on the prison farm issue.

This will not be the main thrust of his talk and we expect him to give us an inside view of the corrections system and, at the same time, correct some of the misapprehensions fed to us by the media.

Indoor Picnic

Our thanks go to **Ada McEwan** for once again organizing our annual "Indoor Picnic". Catering was by *The Country Grocer* who provided everything on the tables except the cake, which was a **Morley Craig** special. Thanks too to Marie-Neige Atchison who looked after the punch and all the "kitchen staff".

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many politicians, from Louis St Laurent to Justin Trudeau. There were murmurs of recognition as familiar faces appeared in the photographs - Lester Pearson, Judy LaMarsh, Brian Mulroney, several Governors General and, of course, Dan Kelley and Robin Rousham. Somewhere in one of the group photographs is a young Joe Clark who was inspired by the program to enter politics.



Robin noted that the host families are an essential part of the program and over 100 families open their homes to the visitors - a ground-rule is that two Adventurers of the same sex must be accommodated. The benefits to hosts include learning about youth from across the country and the leadership

potential of young Canadians.

Robin gave us two quotes from Adventurers, "The Adventure in Citizenship program reminds Canada's youth of how fortunate they are to live in a country that respects all cultures and guarantees equality for each citizen instead of racial discrimination between citizens." and "Do not be afraid. The world is full of magical experiences, if only you let yourself experience them."

Allen Taylor gave us a view of the *Somali Pirate* situation which took us behind the sensationalist headlines. Piracy has a history as long as ships have carried trade goods and has flourished at different times in different parts of the world. The Somali crisis started in 1991 when the government collapsed. Fishermen from around the world saw an opportunity to harvest tuna in the Gulf of Aden as there was no governmental control and therefore no regulations. Over 200 vessels from as far away as Taiwan and Sri Lanka as well as Saudi Arabia and Yemen indulged in uncontrolled fishing. This took away the livelihood of the local fishermen and was



the rationale for them to become pirates. In fact it was the Warlords who exploited their own people by sending them out as pirates.

In 2007 there were 263 piracy incidents and shipping companies appealed to the International Chamber of Commerce - headquartered at Wapping next to *Execution Dock* (where Captain Kidd was hanged). The ICC

controls the International Maritime Bureau which, in turn, has a piracy reporting centre. The centre has been effective in warning vessels away from the more dangerous routes.

The United Nations Security Council resolved (August 2007) that "Member States ... should take action to protect merchant shipping", with the caveat "under relevant international law..." This has led to Canada and other countries deploying naval ships to the gulf.

The current situation is that there are over 100 pirates awaiting trial in Kenya in a special court set up with the help of a UN Agency.



Joan Evans checked out the picnic table after finishing her talk.

Joan Evans provided a change of pace with her personal reminiscence of the Vancouver Olympics. Joan chose as her title, *With Glowing Hearts* and her enthusiasm for her task as a volunteer gave meaning to the phrase.

As a *Customer Service Host*, Joan's job was to answer questions - "Where is ...?" "What time ...?" "How do I get to ...?", of which the most frequent was, "Where is the washroom?". To get the job she applied in February 2008 and after interviews and 44 pieces of mail she learned in December 2009 that she had been accepted.

As part of a team of 14, Joan's job was to man an intersection opposite a Skytrain station and near the Russian Pavilion. Vodka was available in the pavilion in the evenings and the Russians would gather outside to sing.

Some random snippets from her talk - the athletes were friendly; the police were pleasant; Steven Colbert interviewed Michael Bubl  close by; hockey games were popular; scalping was rife; and the Salvation Army dispensed hot chocolate to everyone.

Joan told us that it was a dream come true and the memories will live a long time.

Lenore Porter at the start of her talk on *Aboriginal Schools* asked us to imagine if your child goes missing and all you get is "Sorry" years later. Lenore traced the life of Melanie, an Ojibway, who was taken to the

Heavenly Glow School at age 6, supposedly to learn English and to learn how to work.



The learning process started with a shower where cleanliness was assured by the nuns using a wire brush. The next step was to have her head shaved and then she was taken to a dormitory with 20 other bewildered girls. Although her elder sister was in the same school, she rebuffed Melanie out of fear of punishment.

Melanie was in the school for 8 years. She was beaten, underfed and malnourished. Her mother died the year before she left school, not having seen her daughter for 7 years. After leaving *Heavenly Glow*, Melanie could not cope. She tried to work but could not. She married and had children but started to drink and if she could not afford liquor then the alternative was gasoline sniffing.

The law under which Melanie was separated from her parents and sent to the school was passed in 1920. The last school closed in 1996. The mortality rate was 50 to 60% because the children were beaten (broken bones, not just the strap) and starved. In 2006 the 80,000 survivors took the Federal Government to court in the largest class action suit in Canadian history. The awards are up to \$275,000.

(Sur)Real Headlines

Include Your Children When Baking Cookies
War Dims Hope for Peace
Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

September 22nd - James Bissett

Mr. Bissett spoke to us in May 2004 on the topic *Is Canada's Immigration Policy Working?* When we asked him to make a return visit the MV Sun Sea was not on Canada's radar, but there had been talk about a population of 100 million. The question that that brings up is, "Where will they come from?"

As a former Executive Director of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, Mr. Bissett can speak with authority on immigration practice and policy.

October 27th - Col. Sean Friday

As is our custom, the meeting before Remembrance Day will have a military topic. Our speaker this year will be Col. Sean Friday, currently Operational Planning Officer, Canada Command. Col. Friday's 25 year career has included flying operational missions in the Gulf War, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kuwait. A recent tour in Afghanistan was as Commanding Officer of the Theatre Support Element at Camp Mirage, Canada's forward logistics base in the Persian Gulf.

Col. Friday will draw on his experiences and will give us the Air Force view of the new fighter jets.

Membership Fees

The Management Committee discussed two issues regarding fees at their July meeting. The first was the differential between singles and couples and the other was the question of reduced fees at mid year.

After discussion of 'no differential', 'a smaller differential' or the 'status quo', the decision was to maintain the \$10 differential. When inflation catches up with our fee structure we can revisit the issue.

Being a fairly relaxed organization, we can accommodate potential new members as guests for August and September and ask them to join in October when we open the books for 2011 memberships.

Threat Levels

The British are feeling the pinch in relation to recent threats from the Middle East and have raised their security level from "Miffed" to "Peeved." Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross". Brits have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies all but ran out. Terrorists have been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to a "Bloody Nuisance". The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was during the great fire of 1666.

Management Committee - 2011

Management of the members, by the members, for the members is the Probus approach, with the implication that everyone should share the load at some time. Luckily the load is not very heavy - the Management Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (except August and December) for about an hour.

At our November Club meeting we will be looking for a Secretary, a Vice-president (normally considered President-elect for the following year), a Program Committee member, a Newsletter Editor to take over when John Wright completes a decade as editor next June, and one or two members at large to help out and stand in.

If a member of the Nominating Committee taps you on the shoulder and says, "Your Club needs YOU!", please don't head for the hills. Better yet, don't wait to be tapped, talk to Lenore Porter first.

World Views - Winter 2010

This monthly series of free photo-evenings continues at Bethany Baptist Church, Centrepointe Drive at Baseline. Programs begin at 7:30 pm.

Saturday, Sept. 25 Travels in Africa: A lifetime of Adventures on Safari. By Laura Nel

Saturday, Oct. 30 Switzerland: Country of Mountains and Lakes. By Bodo Stavric

Saturday, Nov. 27 Arctic Canada: Land, People, Spiritual Connections. By David Pelly

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

ALL ARE WELCOME

(Program information courtesy of **John Kruithof**)

Steven Slater . . .

. . . made headlines with his rant over the PA system of his plane and his dramatic exit but train controllers on the London Underground have made some noticeable announcements in the past.

"Let the passengers off the train FIRST!" (Pause .) "Oh go on then, stuff yourselves in like sardines, see if I care - I'm going home...."

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I do apologize for the delay to your service. I know you're all dying to get home, unless, of course, you happen to be married to my ex-wife, in which case you'll want to cross over to the Westbound and go in the opposite direction."