



The Probe

Est. September 1999

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

February 2012, #66

Thanks, Bob!

Our Club year ends in December so leading the Choir at the Christmas Party was **Bob Atchison's** last official act as President.

Probus Alta Vista had a good year under his leadership, so now it is time to thank him for all his work.

Party Time

Selections from *The Mikado* are not traditional Christmas fare but they ranked high on the entertainment score. **John Forster**, who will be our March speaker and who will take the title role in the Savoy Society's April production of *The Mikado*, was accompanied by **Gloria Young**, another Savoyard.

The entertainment then moved in-house with the Alta Vista Probus Choir under the direction of **Bob Atchison**. The choir, accompanied by **Caroline Peska**, kept one eye on the array of Christmas goodies being deployed by **Audrey Reekie**, **Marie-Neige Atchison** and **Lorraine Balderson**, and earned their reward when the laden tables were declared, "Open!"

Continuing the practice of recent years, the contents of the Loonie Bin were rounded up and delivered to a local charity in time for Christmas.

Dues 2012

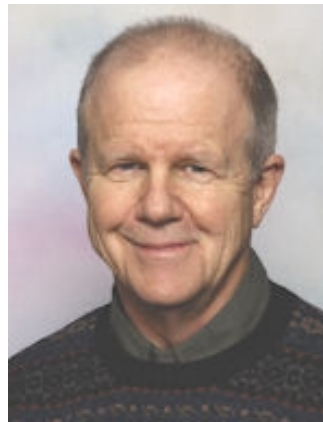
Our By-laws state: "The Management Committee may terminate the membership of any member who fails to pay the annual membership fee by March 31 and shall terminate the membership as of June 30."

No-one on the Committee wants any part of enforcing this, so please check the sign-in sheet and make sure it says "Paid 12" 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.

The War of 1812



In a talk that some members said was 'the best ever', **Vic Suthren** (Hon. Capt. RCN) took us through the campaigns, the blunders and the personalities of the War of 1812. In terms of territory gained it was a futile exercise. In terms of lives wasted it was a disaster. The greatest good that came out of it was establishing Canada as a nation.

The seeds of the war were in the American desire to own the whole continent by destroying the Indian tribes and their supporters – the British, plus lingering animosity from the revolution or 'War of Independence'. Another irritant was the British practice of pressing American



The three invasion points, Detroit, Niagara and Montreal

seamen into service in the British fleet. The British needed timber for their ongoing sea war against Napoleon while their Baltic sources were being denied to them, plus they had an investment in British North America and good trading prospects.

The "War Hawks" carried the day in Washington and President Madison, somewhat reluctantly, declared war. New England declared that they were not interested in Madison's war and the possibility of secession was very real.

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War of 1812 - from page 1

At the outbreak of hostilities, the Royal Navy had 400 ships – mostly tied up blockading Europe – to the Americans' 5. The British had tiny garrisons at Kingston and York and much bigger garrisons in and around Montreal. Most Ontarians were American settlers. The French had been given rights to freedom of religion and language and, while they did not particularly like the British, they liked the prospect of becoming American even less.

General Dearborn made an ineffective attack on Montreal conducting his campaign from his bed in a specially constructed coach. General Huddle, with the Niagara army, sent a letter to the American settlers saying he was coming to liberate them. They decided that they did not want to be liberated and fought. General Brock, one of the few capable generals on either side, by skill and bluff defeated Huddle's far larger army at the battle of Queenstown Heights. An ignominious end to what was expected to be a stroll and a welcome.

The war dragged on in a series of battles with the outcomes more likely to be determined by the ineptitude of the generals than by the fighting ability of the troops. The 'war' on Lake Ontario was more of a competition between the commanders to build the most and biggest ships. Kingston built a man-of-war larger than Nelson's *Victory*. Neither commander would risk his fleet in battle and neither was willing to use his fleet to support their armies so they sailed around Lake Ontario avoiding each other.

Another competent general on the British side was de



Salaberry who had learned his trade under Wellington in Portugal and Spain. He won the battle of Chateauguy against a much larger army. His tactic was to fell trees across the road the Americans needed for supplies and guns and felling more trees as successive barriers through which the Americans had to struggle while under fire.

At the end of the war, the British were thankful that they had peace in Europe and North America. The Americans were bankrupt but they had gained some respect as a nation. De Salaberry's campaigns had seen English, Scots, Irish, French, Germans and Indians fighting together for the first time – a cornerstone of the fledgling Canadian nation.

The final result – status quo, ante bellum!

Lenore Sawatzky and Jean Lupton

We are saddened to report the passing of two members, Lenore Sawatzky and Jean Lupton, in December.

Lenore passed away at her home, surrounded by her family, on December 14th.

Jean, our President in 2005, died on December 24th at the Ottawa Hospital shortly after an adverse diagnosis.

Our condolences to Henry and the Sawatzky family and to John and Lupton family.

March 21st - Dr. John Forster

In a return visit, **John Forster** will (probably) step out of his role as the Mikado and talk to us about the history of the Savoy Operas, the Ottawa Savoy Society and the upcoming production.

John is the President of the Savoy Society of Ottawa and is leading the re-launch of their annual productions after an hiatus in 2011. This year will be their 36th season and the 5th time they have presented *The Mikado*.

April 25th - Our Journey with the Women of Afghanistan

Halley Siddons will be the lead speaker of a team of three. In her words, "We are not experts in the field but the invaluable contacts we have made, lectures we have attended, books we have read, and daily research we do have made us passionate in our need to support the women of Afghanistan on their journey and to raise awareness in our own community. We can share details on the beginning of our journey, and since then what we have learned about women and education, women and justice, the complexities of a system of governance for Afghanistan."

Dear Diary

Our schedule is filling up with **Larry O'Brien, Sue O'Sullivan** and **Grete Hale** booked for later in the year. We still need **4 more speakers for our July 27th meeting**. We can help by making presentations from photographs. For some of our past speakers it was their first time in front of an audience *and all survived!*

Your club needs you!

On February 22nd . . .

. . . in 1810, Frédéric Chopin "the poet of the piano" was born at Zelazowa Wola, about 50 km west of Warsaw.

Probus Finances in 2011

The Probus Club of Ottawa – Alta Vista remained in good shape financially for 2011. However, our club's financial assets at the end of the year were \$2,754.09 versus \$3,823.84 reported for the end of 2010. This lesser amount can be ascribed to prepaying half our 2012 donation to Gloucester Presbyterian Church already, and not selling as many of the next year's memberships near the end of 2011 as in the previous year. This will be reflected in lower costs for accommodation in 2012 and membership sales will catch up in early 2012.

	2010	2011
Opening Balance	2,715	3,814
Receipts		
Memberships		
-Current Year	820	700
-Following Year	1,690	900
Loonie Bin	671	507
Spring Fling '11	812	450
Total Receipts	3,993	2,557
Expenditures		
Probus Centre Fees	368	335
Pins and Name Badges	---	305
G'ster Presbyterian Church + Facilities	846	1,400*
Communications	113	170
Office Supplies + Eqpt.	---	---
Meeting Refreshments	168	195
Bank Charges	48	48
Speaker Gifts	151	151
Sunshine Committee	--	--
Membership Committee	--	--
Indoor Picnic	279	436
Christmas Entertainment	---	90
Christmas Donation	100	50
Other	--	--
Spring Fling 2011	812	450
Total Expenditures	2,884	3,630
Closing Balance	3,824	2,754

Allan Porter

Treasurer

* Donation to Gloucester Presbyterian Church includes the first half of the donation we have decided to make in 2012.

Probe Us – Michael Davis

To help us get to know our new President a little better, our investigative reporters caught up with Michael and Ute at their canal-side home.

Probe: Let's start with the basics, where were you born and brought up?

MD: The first part is easy – London. Where I was brought up is more complex. By the end of the war, at age 12, I had been in 5 different schools due to bombings and school closures. Our house in Bromley, Kent, was destroyed in 1941 and, after several temporary locations, we settled in Hillingdon, Middlesex – fewer bombs.

Probe: When did you come to Canada?

MD: 1961. I was recruited as a Surgeon-Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy and served at several bases in Nova Scotia plus a tour at Camp Borden.

Probe: Whoa! There is a big gap between schoolboy and Surgeon-Lieutenant, RCN. Tell us a little more, please.

MD: From school I went to the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. On graduation I did a spring cruise to the West Indies on HMS Devonshire. A knee injury ended my Navy career and I went into medicine, graduating from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, in 1960. After surgical and medical internships, I had the opportunity to combine both careers in Canada.

Probe: What was your practice specialty?

MD: Radiology. From '67 to '70 I was Resident in Diagnostic Radiology at Kingston General and graduated from Queen's with a Diploma in Medical Radiology. At this point I was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

Probe: When did you retire?

MD: From the navy in 1988 as Surgeon Captain at the NDMC. From civilian practice in 2007. As well as working at the Civic and General, I was Head of Musculoskeletal Radiology at the University of Ottawa.

Probe: Let's go back a bit on the personal side. What was with the knee?

MD: I played rugby at school and captained the Middlesex U-16 county team. I played in the first XV at Dartmouth until I injured my knee. It was a re-evaluation of this injury that led to the end of my career in the Executive Branch of the Navy.

Probe: You did not list anything under 'Interests' on your Probus application. That can't be accurate?

MD: Not really. Ute and I are particular enthusiasts on

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club no. 101 chartered with probus centre canada

Probus Club of Ottawa Alta Vista

sponsored by the rotary club of ottawa

Please keep checking our web site

www.probusaltavista.ca

When we have to make late adjustments to the speaker roster, the web site is the first source of information. Our invaluable Telephone Tree always follows up with the latest news.

If you have missed a couple of meetings or recycled your copy of *The Probe*, the web is the place to check out the next speakers.

A recent addition is full information on the *Spring Fling* in Perth on May 15th.

Meet the Prez - from page 3

opera. We have season tickets for Montréal, Toronto, support local opera in Ottawa and have travelled to enjoy opera in the U.S., Britain, Italy, Austria and Germany.

Probe: Family?

MD: We have two sons and two daughters and enjoy travelling to visit our nine grandchildren who are scattered from Ottawa to Vancouver.

Probe: Why Probus?

MD: I joined Probus on my retirement from work in 2007, largely due to my brother having enthused about the organization. He recently stepped down from the presidency of his branch in Barnstaple, England.

Probe: Thank you Michael. Have a good year.

World Views

Free Monthly Photo Evenings

Winter 2012 Program

Bethany Baptist Church

Centrepointe Drive West at Baseline Road

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. - All welcome

Saturday, Feb. 25 – Antarctica & the Scotia Sea. By Bill Young & Bill Pratt

Saturday, Mar. 31 – Switzerland: Valleys and Villages. By Ed Overstreet

Saturday, Apr. 28 – South Africa: its Natural Beauty. By Sholto Cole

For more information call Sholto Cole at 613-721-3367.

Information courtesy of **John Kruithof**

Spring Fling - May 15th

The largest venue in Perth, Code's Mill, can accommodate only 200 people so they have proposed an allotment scheme based on the number of members each club has registered with Probus Centre Canada.

This calculation gives us 19 places so we will offer them on a 'first come - first served' basis. Our delegation is usually larger than this, so we apologise in advance if you miss out.

New Clubs

Probus continues to grow. The latest chartered clubs are:

#214 The Probus Club of Bastion City, Nanaimo, B.C.

#215 The Credit River Probus Club, Ont.

#216 The Appleby Women's Probus Club of Burlington

The first two are, like ours, combined clubs.

The total Probus membership in Canada is now over 29,000. Another 2,000 potential members are on waiting lists because some clubs are at capacity.

Rendezvous 2011 - Vancouver

The final report of Rendezvous 2011 is not yet available but by all accounts it was very successful. The brief report in the Probus Canada newsletter says that the workshops echoed with comments like, "I didn't know that" ... or ... "Can you give me more details on how you make that work" "What do you do if" "That's fantastic, I hope I can get my Club to try that".

We will have to wait for the details.