



The Probe

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“Heard. Respected. Victims First.”

“ST JOHN'S, August 14, 2012 — The Honourable Rob Nicholson, P.C., Q.C., M.P. for Niagara Falls, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and the Honourable Felix Collins, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Newfoundland and Labrador, today announced that victims of crime in Newfoundland and Labrador will benefit from a number of projects designed to help them as they work through the healing process.

‘Our Government is committed to standing up for victims of crime by holding perpetrators accountable while supporting victims in the criminal justice and corrections systems,’ said Minister Nicholson.”

The person behind that announcement was **Sue O’Sullivan**, the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime (OFOVC) and our June speaker. As she approached her 30th year in the Ottawa Police Service she found that her focus and her passion had changed, directing her towards the needs of victims of crime. In 2010, when she was approached by the Government she had to think long and hard about a change of career. She accepted the appointment and the passion and enthusiasm she has brought to the job were apparent throughout her talk.

Sue set the stage by pointing out some of the things victims suffer beyond the crime itself and then described some of the initiatives her office is taking to ease those burdens.

Victims do not have automatic access to information on things such as when a felon is being considered for a move to a lower security penitentiary. There is a lack of federal rights for victims. Provincial plans are not consistent across the country. Victims may have to pay to attend parole hearings - which may be rescheduled almost at the whim of the felon.

To address these issues, the OFOVC released its special report – *Shifting the Conversation* – on February 2, 2012. The recommendations focus on three main areas:

- information for victims:



- meaningful participation:
- tangible support for victims:

For example: After 3 years in a maximum security penitentiary a felon is assessed for suitability for a move to medium or minimum security - victims are not told. A parole Board meets in a small room so the victim and perpetrator are almost face-to-face, which can be very difficult to endure, so victims should have options. Victims should not have to pay for crimes committed against them.

Restitution is a difficult issue. Restitution may be imposed by the court and paid to the victim by the offender. To enforce a restitution order, victims must take the offender to court, which is costly and emotionally draining. Saskatchewan has a better system. Two people there are working on enforcement and in one case ensured that an order for \$1 million was paid.

Sue emphasized that the recommendations from her office are reasonable and do-able.

She concluded with three thoughts: it is a privilege and honour to work with victims of crime; the Office exists because Canadians asked for it; and there is an ongoing need to fight for more rights for victims.

Jim Rader asked about police crime and the prominence it is given. Sue quoted Chief Bevan, “When police crime is reported on page 9, it is time to worry”. Lynne Bond asked about consideration for Aboriginals. Sue noted that there is an Aboriginal interlocutor to help. Mike Charrier asked about Conrad Black and Nortel. These cases are open but restitution is a Provincial matter.

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.

A Mixed Bag

Our five “In-house” speakers in July covered a wide range of topics: wartime Holland, the Titanic, Travel, Perley Rideau and Australia.

John Kruithof was born in 1940 in a small town south of Rotterdam. His war started when 12 citizens, including John’s father were rounded up to be shot. Fortunately an intervention by the Mayor gained their release. John spent some of his childhood in a bunker - every time there were aircraft or military vehicles close by, he was moved into safety. Allied aircraft would shoot at trains on the nearby railway while the Dutch waved white towels to stop bombing and strafing attacks on their homes. John remembers ‘Buzz Bombs’ going over and his Dad taking him to the top of a dyke to watch planes shooting up a rocket launcher.

The last year of the war was particularly difficult and the winter of ‘45 became the ‘Hunger Winter’. Starving people from Rotterdam - walking skeletons - would come looking for food. Even the German Army was reduced to eating mouldy bread. To eke out the cheese in a cheese sandwich, you moved the cheese back after every bite!

When asked about eating tulip bulbs, John discounted it - some varieties are poisonous.

Next up was **Allen Taylor** talking about the crew members involved and the actions which resulted in the sinking of the Titanic. The times are a crucial issue. The ship was travelling at 22 knots (33 feet/second). It should have been possible to see the iceberg a mile away, which is about 2½ minutes travel time. Tests with a sister ship showed that the Titanic could have turned 22½ degrees in 37 seconds. So, what went wrong?

The lookout, Fred Fleet, a 25-year old, had been in the crow’s nest for an hour and 40 minutes. The temperature was just above freezing giving a wind-chill in the



Model of the Titanic at the Science Museum. Fred Fleet’s crow’s nest is the dot on the foremast level with the base of the funnel.

crow’s nest of -20°C. Did he keep staring into the wind all the time or did he keep his head down and look up at intervals? When he saw the iceberg he rang the alarm bell and telephoned the bridge. Sixth Officer Moody in the wheelhouse, asked him, “What did you see?”, Fleet replied, “Iceberg right ahead, sir”.

So, did Fred Fleet see the iceberg at a mile or was his head down for a while? Did First Officer Murdoch act immediately his subordinate said, “Iceberg right ahead”, or did he wait a while.

Allen suggested that mariners know from experience that it must have been a full minute between sighting the iceberg and the wheel order being given.

A British inquiry found the cause of the collision to be: “excessive (but not negligent) speed and failure to keep a proper lookout”; in other words, placing the blame on Captain Edward Smith and Fred Fleet.

If the Titanic had hit the iceberg head-on it would have damaged the bow but remained afloat.

Lynne Bond had a lighter story to tell. Lynne is a Corporate Travel Agent who handles emergency travel situations. Her team is available on a 24/7 basis and Lynne works the midnight shift on weekdays from the office or from home.

Airlines rarely have time to update their web sites when something goes awry and it’s hard to convince a traveller that what he sees on his computer terminal may not be the latest situation - which can lead to heated discussion.

Some of the weird enquiries she has been called upon to handle include a customer who wanted a seat on the side of the aisle which gets served first. Another wanted an aisle seat because if she next to a window, the wind might muss her hair.

One night when Chicago O’Hare was under a blizzard - O’Hare is on a thunder-storm path - and some airlines closed down, a client wanted to be booked on another airline. Lynne’s question: “If one airline would not take-off, would you really want to travel on an airline which would?”

Ken Dye gave us what was in some ways a follow-up to **John Lupton’s** 2005 talk on the Perley Rideau. John talked about the design and the move from the old premises. Ken talked about a new round of construction and illustrated it with photographs of construction progress from the first hole in the ground in December, 2011, to Dalton McGuinty’s visit just a week before Ken’s talk.

The project will provide apartments for seniors which are intended for independent or assisted living. A serious



'Shovels in the ground' December 2011



Building "B" - July 12, 2012

problem for health care in the Ottawa region is the number of beds in hospitals occupied by people whose need for care is at a lesser level but they have nowhere to go. The design of the apartments has the requirements of an elderly clientele built in - wide doorways, easy access, etc.

The apartments will be available to veterans and non-veterans who may apply through the Community Care Access Centre (Tel: 310-CCAC).

Ken is part of the \$5-million fund-raising drive (www.buildingchoices.ca) which is chaired by Grete Hale (our September speaker) and Gen. Rick Hillier, and is supplemented by \$2-million from the Provincial Government. The first phase (40 units) will open in January 2013 and the second phase (94) units, in October 2013.

Although we are enjoying an exceptional summer it was easy to be a little envious of **Michael & Ute Davis'** time in Australia. Michael took us from Bondi Beach and Sydney to tropical Cairns, with stops to look at the flora and fauna along the way. In Sydney they visited the original settlement by a "distinguished population hand selected by the very best of British Judges." This area is just below the Sydney Harbour Bridge (1932) which leads the eye to the Opera House. Among the photos was one taken in a reception area with a purple carpet. When Luciano Pavarotti visited there was a reception for him in this room. He took one look, said, "Purple means

death", and ran out. The reception was hastily move to the next floor. Like the NAC, the Opera House has several auditoria, rehearsal rooms, restaurants, etc. Its sweeping external design has been uncharitably likened to a bunch of French Nuns playing football.



A bunch of French Nuns playing football

The exotic (by Ottawa standards) fauna shown included a Tasmanian Devil, kangaroos, koalas, macaws and a vicious-looking crocodile.

Definitely a trip for the bucket list.



Ute Davis and friend

September 26th - Grete Hale

Grete Hale already has a mention in this issue (a little to the left and a few lines up) and will make her second appearance at our Club, the first being in 2005.

Her talk will be based on her recent book, *The Baker's Daughter*, a next generation sequel to her father's book, *The Happy Baker*. The bakery was Morrison-Lamothe and her father was Arthur Morrison. The Morrison home where Grete grew up (and still lives) with her sisters Jean Piggott and Gay Cook, was the oldest house in Ottawa - until amalgamation.

Since her retirement from the family business, Grete has become more involved in philanthropy. Proceeds from her book go to CANHAVE Children's Centre.

Poetry Corner

"On Wenlock Edge the wood's in trouble..."

On Wenlock Edge the wood's in trouble
His forest fleece the Wrekin heaves;
The gale, it plies the saplings double,
And thick on Severn snow the leaves.

'Twould blow like this through holt and hanger
When Uricon the city stood:
'Tis the old wind in the old anger,
But then it threshed another wood.

Then, 'twas before my time, the Roman
At yonder heaving hill would stare:
The blood that warms an English yeoman,
The thoughts that hurt him, they were there.

There, like the wind through woods in riot,
Through him the gale of life blew high;
The tree of man was never quiet:
Then 'twas the Roman, now 'tis I.

The gale, it plies the saplings double,
It blows so hard, 'twill soon be gone:
To-day the Roman and his trouble
Are ashes under Uricon.

A. E. Houseman (1859 - 1936)

Number XXXI from *A Shropshire Lad*

Why this poem promising winter storms while we are enjoying the last of summer? Well, it's topical!



Wenlock was the mascot of the London Olympic Games. Why they chose a mascot that looked like an ambassador from Alpha Centauri is not explained, but he (she? it?) is named after the Shropshire town of Much Wenlock which has a strong Olympic connection.

In 1850, Much Wenlock held the first Wenlock Olympian Games. In 1860 the Wenlock Olympian Society was

formed by Dr William Penny Brookes, "to promote the moral, physical and intellectual improvement of the inhabitants of the Town and neighbourhood of Wenlock". The multi-sport games continue to this day and were instrumental in inspiring Pierre de Coubertin to launch the modern Olympics.

Uricon is the Roman city of Virconium, a few km from Much Wenlock. Houseman changed it to fit the metre.

Indoor Picnic

Our thanks go to **Marie-Neige Atchison** for organizing our annual, catered "Indoor Picnic". The cake was a **Morley Craig** special.

Thanks, also to all the "kitchen staff".

October 24th - Lois Hope

Following our tradition of a wartime/military theme for our October meeting, Lois Hope will recount her husband's service in the Merchant Marine.

This is a story of hardship and danger - which proved to be only too real. A story you will not want to miss.

Management Committee - 2013

At our November Club meeting we will be looking for some new members for the Management Committee. The first requirement is for a Vice-president (normally considered President-elect for the following year) but there are other positions to be filled. If you have any interest in a particular job, but want a closer look, join the Committee and back-up the incumbent.

The Management Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (except August and December) for about an hour.

Interested? Talk to Michael Davis or Joan Evans or anyone you see doing something for the club.

World Views - Fall 2012

John Kruthof has again provided us with the program of free monthly photo meetings held at Bethany Baptist Church, Centrepointe Drive at Baseline.

Saturday, Sept. 29

"Paris & the South of France" by Janice Street

Saturday, Oct. 27

"Exploring Thailand" by Dinh Ly

Saturday, Nov. 24

"Discovering India" by Bob Young

Programs begin at 7.30pm. All are welcome

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

Membership Fees

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.