



The Probe

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It's Magic



Chris Pilsworth added a magical touch to the 2013 Spring Fling. Keep your eye on the top hat!

On Tuesday May 7 the Annual Probus Spring Fling was held at Tudor Hall off Uplands Drive in Ottawa. This year's event was hosted by Probus Western Ottawa [formerly Kanata] for all 12 clubs within Eastern Ontario District One, an area stretching from Kingston to Cornwall.

Registration began at 10:15 am and continued until seating for the luncheon began at 11:45. Before lunch was served the winners' names of the door prizes, three large gift baskets filled with many delightful items, were announced. Welcoming remarks were made by MC **Pat Thompson** and President **Peter Van Boeschoten** as well as by past national President **Peter Doyle**.

A delicious lunch of grilled chicken, oven roast salmon or vegetable stir fry was served to approximately 200

people, accompanied by a glass of wine from the cash bar. A representative or two from the host club sat at each table of eight, easily identifiable by the green scarf that he/she was wearing.

Immediately after lunch an invitation to the 2014 Spring Fling in Manotick was issued by **Allan Haan** from the Ottawa Rideau Valley club which will be hosting the event. A fridge magnet was set at each place to be taken home as a reminder.

Following this invitation the entertainment began. Unlike the musical entertainment of other years this was something quite different. Illusionist **Chris Pilsworth** kept us captivated with magic tricks for the next forty-five minutes, often involving audience members, and left us wondering "how did he do that?".

At 2:30 pm the closing remarks were made and everyone looked under their saucers to see who had won the lovely centrepiece of potted tulips at each table.

Plans were made to meet again next year in Manotick for another enjoyable Spring Fling.

Judy Foreman

www.probusaltavista.ca

We have had a web site for about 2 years now. It is a handy reference for upcoming meetings and is updated quickly if there are any unexpected changes.

Pages include a complete list of speakers from the first - **Frank Fesco**, "Coinage: History learned through coin collecting" - in September 1999, to the most recent - **Bob Young** of CSIS. As well there is access to all issues of *The Probe* from April 2001 which featured **Susan Menzies'** talk on the Heart Institute and **Noreen Wolfe's** talk on genealogy. Did you know that there was some thought of calling the newsletter *The Proboscis* before settling on *The Probe*?

The Management Committee and the Constitution have their own pages and the bus schedules from Tunney's Pasture, downtown and South Keys are covered.

If you don't have Internet access, pop into any Branch of the Ottawa Public Library and check us out on one of their computers..

Home Grown Terrorism

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) is Canada's primary national intelligence service. It is responsible for collecting, analyzing, reporting and disseminating intelligence on threats to Canada's national security, and conducting operations, covert and overt, within Canada and abroad.

Bob Young, the Executive Director General for Counter-Terrorism, put some flesh on the bare bones public face of CSIS. It is one of five agencies reporting to the Minister of Public Safety (Vic Toews), the others being the RCMP, Correctional Services, Parole Board and Border Services. Unlike, for example, the UK (MI5 and MI6) and the US (FBI and CIA) CSIS mandate covers both foreign and domestic activities. Its staff of over 3000 includes linguists, engineers, psychologists and analysts, as well as staff assigned to surveillance, security screening and human resources. The HQ building is on Ogilvy Road and there are regional offices across Canada. Some officers work overseas as threats and emergencies are identified.

About 40% of their work is counter-terrorism, mainly directed at Al Qaeda. Another major activity is screening - over 300,000 checks on citizenship applications and refugee claimants and another 300,000 accreditation checks for government secure site access, which includes everyone working at any of the government sites around Ottawa. The Vancouver Olympics required 200,000 accreditation checks - probably including our President.

The good news about Al Qaeda is that it has fundamentally failed. With the death of Osama Bin Laden, the core has been almost eliminated and there has been no effective leadership. The bad news is that Al Qaeda thinks in terms of centuries and that the biggest current threat is home grown terrorists who are more likely inspired by Al Qaeda than connected to it.

Bob talked about some of the high profile cases where CSIS has had a role. Momin Khawaja was the first person arrested and convicted under the Canadian Anti-terrorism Act. He was Canadian born, middle class, well educated, held a Federal Government job and had no previous criminal record. Somehow he self-radicalized and worked with the UK terrorists who planted bombs in London. The Toronto 18 were born in Canada of 1st or 2nd generation immigrants. Their plan was to make killing zones at King & Bay and Front & Spadina using three times the amount of explosive used in the Oklahoma bombing. Sher, Alizadeh and Ahmed were arrested in 2010, Sher was born in Canada and the other two are Canadian citizens. The case has yet to come to

court.

Q. "Where do terrorists get funds to travel?"
A. "Steal. Savings. Borrow. No central supply"

Q. Future threats?

A. "Cyber threats may be the 'new Al Qaeda'"

Q. "Profiling?"

A. "Investigations are of individuals with no stereotypical descriptions."

Much food for thought!

President's Notes

As is the custom, a Presidents meeting was held prior to the general meeting of the annual Spring Fling on May 7th, with 18 representatives in attendance. The welcome and opening remarks were given by Peter van Boeschoten, President & Host of the Probus Club of Western Ottawa, and by Peter Doyle, Past President, Probus Canada and former District 1 Director. Harold Miller, Probus Club Gananoque was introduced and welcomed as the new District 1 Director.

Discussions centered around Club Insurance, the Probus Canada website, Memberships (there are no clubs in Quebec) and various activities by each of the clubs, i.e. book exchanges, luncheon outings, and theatre trips.

There is the possibility of a Regional meeting for Presidents in the fall.



**Told you to keep
your eye on the
top hat!**

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 Northwest Passage

Hugh Reekie presented a fascinating tale of bravery, hardship, dogged determination and death in recounting the search for the Northwest passage.

Before the Suez Canal (started 1859, opened 1869) the way from Europe to the East was to go around southern Africa or around South America. The possibility of a short-cut through the Arctic was enticing.



In 1845, **Sir John Franklin**, with the sturdy little ships *Terror*, 331 tons, and *Erebus*, 378 tons, crews totalling 128, 1000 books and 3-year's rations, set off to achieve what several previous expeditions had failed to do. In 1848, the ships were abandoned after 19 months trapped in the ice. None of the men returned to England.

Franklin's expedition docked in Greenland and then continued to Beechey Island (off the south-west tip of Devon Island) where they over-wintered. In 1846 they sailed down Peel Sound towards King William Island. In September the ships were trapped in the ice off King William Island where they spent the winter. There was no thaw in 1847, Franklin died in June and the remaining crew had to stay another winter. Three year's rations would not be enough to risk another over-winter stay so the ships were abandoned and the men tried to make their way south.

Traces of the expedition were found in 1851 by search vessels, in 1854 by **John Rae**, in 1859 by **Frances McClintock**. The 1851 find was a cairn on Beechey Island marking three graves. The bodies were examined in 1981 by **Dr. Owen Beattie**, a forensic anthropologist who gave the probable causes of death as lung disease and lead poisoning. McClintock found an Admiralty form with "All's well" in one place and "Major distress" in another but no indication of where Franklin was headed.

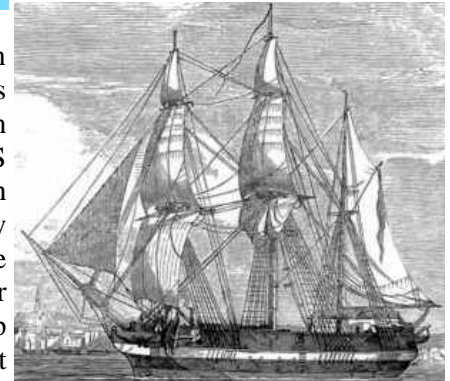
Hugh then went into more detail on John Rae's story. Rae

was an Orcadian doctor and surgeon employed by the Hudson's Bay Company at Moose Factory. His initial assignment was for one summer but stayed for 10. He learned the Inuit culture and language, designed and made his own snow-shoes and learned how to live off the land. In the winter of 1844/5, he travelled by dog-sled from the Red River Colony to Sault Ste. Marie, 1200 miles, to find an instructor to teach him about surveying. The Inuit gave him the name Aglooka - he who takes long strides.

In 1854, near Pelly Bay he met some Inuit, one of whom had a gold cap-band. Asked where he got it, he replied that it came from a place 10-12 days away where 35 or so Kabloonas (white men) had starved to death. His report to the British Admiralty carried shocking and unwelcome evidence that cannibalism had been a last resort for some of the survivors.

The third part of Hugh's story was

more modern. In 1993, Joe MacInnes was successful in finding HMS *Breadalbane* which sank off Beechey Island in 1853 while searching for Franklin. The ship was largely intact with its rigging still in place.



HMS Erebus - built to fire mortars

Accompanying MacInnes was one Hugh Reekie to look after an underwater TV camera to televise the expedition for CBC and Telesat.

The aftermath of the attempt to find the Northwest passage was not without interest. Sir John Franklin was credited with finding the route - which he did not. Dr. Rae was castigated for daring to suggest that British tars could possibly have indulged in cannibalism. The charge was led by Franklin's widow with Charles Dickens adding his literary talents. Rae was never given the credit he was due for his explorations. Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer, was the first to traverse the passage. It took him and his crew of 6 in a boat of 45 tons, three years. Part of his route was through Rae Strait, but, while his ship did get through, parts of the route were too shallow to be commercially viable.

July 24th "In-house" & Picnic

A quick chorus of "Tradition" from *Fiddler on the Roof* will get us in the mood for our annual 10-minute talkfest. This year, Hugh Reekie, our newest member will pose the question, "Should our official languages be Breton French and Scots Gaelic?"; Jim Rader spent a week in Spain in conversation with Spanish students - the conversations being in English; Walter Terentiuk will tell us about transition from house to home; and John Wright will take us to the Orkneys, visiting The Ring of Brodgar, (older than Stonehenge), The Italian Chapel, Skara Brae, Scapa Flow and the Churchill Barriers.

The Treasurer has loosened the purse strings and Marie-Neige has the picnic ordered and organized.

Spring Fling 2014

Make a note of **May 27th, 2014**. The 2014 Spring Fling is being hosted by the **Ottawa-Rideau Valley Probus Club** at the **Orchard View Conference Centre**.

Spring Fling 2014 will mark and celebrate Rideau Valley Probus' 20th Anniversary.

More is Less (more or less)

In the April issue we mentioned **Kenneth More** who took the title role in the TV series *Father Brown Mysteries* some years ago. Our eagle-eyed Secretary pointed out that More had gained weight and become Moore. So, apologies to Ken and kudos to Bruce.

By coincidence, a new version of the series has recently started on local TV. After half a show, I gave up, concluding that More had more and the new man is much less.

This started a new train of thought. Perhaps each issue of *Probe* should contain a deliberate mistake with a prize for the first person to identify it. That raises the question of what would be a suitable prize? Perhaps a guest column in *Probe*?

Then there is the question of how to distinguish between the deliberate mistake and all the others.

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 (corner of Lorry Greenberg). Our meetings begin at 10 but members start arriving soon after 9:30 for coffee and chat.

Guests and potential new members are always welcome.

August 28th - JF Sauriol - *Phirelight*

As a follow-up to the concerns expressed by Bob Young on *Cyber Terrorism*, 'JF' Sauriol will tell us what is being done about it.

Phirelight is a leading e-Business Security Solutions Provider with real-time e-security essentials and information protection solutions, providing IT security services and solutions to both government and the private sector. 'JF' heads a team of IT security professionals offering consulting services in all aspects of network and security consulting and training. He has given over 100 lectures to elementary and high-school students as well as parents and teaching staff on cyber-security and the prevention of cyber-bullying.

Chairs and Tables

We need some help setting out chairs on an ongoing basis for our regular meetings and especially for our July meeting when we have tables to set up as well.

If you are willing to 'sign up' for chair duty for a three month spell (or longer, or forever), please let Wib Neal (on the membership desk) know.

His back will give thanks!

Probus Centre Canada

Each **Probus Club** is autonomous. There are 12 representative members in Probus Centre - Canada, Inc. who see that Probus Clubs are well served and enjoy standards of conformity, and who promote the expansion of Probus clubs throughout Rotary in Canada.

The President, 2013-2014, is **Steve Campbell**, Grand Barachois, N.B. The Vice-president is **Maureen Irving**, Kitchener. The Treasurer is **John Howarth**, Qualicum Beach, B.C. The Secretary is **Muriel Dodge**, Salmon Arm, B.C., and the Past-president is **Peter Doyle**. Peter has served in the past as President of the Western Ottawa Club and as the Eastern Ontario District Director.

"Every Community in Canada needs a Probus Club"

There he goes!

