



Merry Christmas!
... and a Happy New Year



Newsletter of the PROBUS Club of Ottawa Alta Vista

The Probe

Est. September 1999

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

December 2013, #77

10,000 Villages - Cathy Neufeld

It was a little over 10 years ago that we first heard about 10,000 Villages, so, with many new members and Christmas fast approaching, it was time to re-visit.

Cathy told us a little about the beginnings - The organization was founded in 1946 by **Edna Ruth Byler** in Pennsylvania after a trip to Puerto Rico where she saw beautiful needlework. She bought as much as



Cathy Neufeld. The faint figures on the screen behind Cathy are some of the workers on 10,000 Villages' projects.

possible, sold it at home and went back for more. She visited other countries and found that they too had much to offer the North American market. The common factor was that the producers were paid a pittance and the middle-men and retailers made a handsome profit. Ms Byler decided to set up a fair-trading organization to pay the artisan a reasonable price for the goods and to cut out the middlemen.

Today there are 36 stores across Canada and some in the US. Here in Ottawa there is the original store in Westboro and a store in Ottawa South (Bank, just north of Billings Bridge) which opened in 2007. As well as the stores there are mobile sales which visit government buildings in October and November. There are 4 paid staff and about 200 volunteers in Ottawa.

Reasons to support Fair Trade

Fair trade means fair pay - 50% up front to allow purchase of materials, 50% on delivery - no delays.

FT is trade that suppliers can count on - no suddenly dropping them.

FT empowers women - 70% of workers are women.

FT protects the environment - for example, wood used is what is available without felling more trees.

FT supports the community - more money to spend in the community.

Sources

10,000 Villages buys from 30 countries including India, SE Asia, Africa and South & Central America. While none change swords into ploughshares, in Cambodia they turn shell casings into jewellery and in Haiti, oil drums into ornaments. India is a source for embroidery and Vietnam is known for basketwork. Cathy had samples of all to show us.

One question was on the payments to the artisans. Their 'fair trade' payments are based on local wages not on the Canadian minimum wage. This leaves enough margin to cover importation, distribution and sales costs, including paid staff. Overall the organization is 'non-profit'.

"A visit to the store may solve some of your Christmas gift problems."

CWGC - Canadian Agency BGen (Retd) D C Kettle CMM, CD, DD

As a Presbyterian Minister, **David Kettle**, felt right at home in our meeting hall. As Secretary-General of the Canadian Agency of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission he was able to pass on a feeling of pride in the way we remember the fallen in wartime.

Some of the numbers he reminded us of, are harrowing. In WW I, 619,000 Canadian served - this from a population of 8 million - and 66,655 died - about the current population of North Bay. In WW II, 1.1 million served from a population of 12 million. 46, 998 died.

The Imperial War Graves Commission was founded by Royal Charter in 1917 as the brainchild of (MajG Sir) **Fabian Ware**. Too old to join the army in 1914 he was given command of a Red Cross ambulance unit, and started his work on marking and recording graves. In 1915 he, and his unit, were transferred into the army and later, under the patronage of the **Prince of Wales**, he set up the IWGC, now the Commonwealth WGC.

The CWGC has a staff of about 1,200 - mostly stonemasons and gardeners. The Canadian Agency, with no cemeteries to look after, has a staff of only 6 but has the responsibility for all the Americas. This covers 19,400 dead within 3,300 cemeteries and on 5 memorials. Each grave is visited every 6 years to check for maintenance needs. Cemeteries with 5,000 war graves have a Stone of Remembrance. The only location in Canada is Winnipeg's Brookside Cemetery. The stone was designed by **Sir Edwin Lutyens**, one of the original architects of the IWGC.

The architects also designed the Cross of Sacrifice, of which there are 28 in Canada, including the one at Beechwood, and the headstones. The headstones have 4 inscriptions:

- National emblem
- Name , rank, unit, date and age
- Religious symbol
- Personal inscription

The inscription on the Cross is by **Rudyard Kipling**, "Their Name Liveth for Evermore".

Canadian War graves in the US, the Carribean and South America are the result of training accidents, illness while in one of those countries, some deaths at sea and, in Jamaica, deaths in Ferry Command. The policy, which was made law, is that bodies will not be repatriated. This



A headstone in France. The inscription is Serjeant E.S. Whittick, 38th Bn. Canadian Inf. 21st February 1917 Age 23, and the 'Personal Inscription' is "Ever in our memories. Dad, Mother & Family"

has been ignored a few times, but very rarely

David talked about the conditions in the trenches in WW I, and what the troops faced. The illnesses included trench foot, trench fever, typhus and influenza. The lethal killing machines were artillery, machine guns, snipers and, a terror weapon, gas; and then there was the wire. The enemy could be bombarded but the wire survived.

Kipling was 'the poet-laureate of war'. His son, John, was not really militaristic and lasted 20 minutes on the battlefield. His body was found in 1999. One of the great problems facing the commission was to locate the dead in ground that had been re-fought over, possibly several times. They were aided by rats.

David mentioned some of the Victoria Cross awards and some of the high ranking officers killed. Two LtCols (one by friendly fire) and **BGen. Eric Leslie Booth**.

Robin Rousham introduced Gen. Kettle and Joan Evans thanked him on our behalf.





Villers Station Cemetery, 1916 - 1918. The Cross can be seen through the archway. This is typical of the many cemeteries in the WW I battlegrounds.

A well maintained enclave in the middle of a farm.



Some of the items from 10,000 Villages. The metalwork bird in the top picture used to be part of an oil drum

Photos in Colour

The b & w printed version of *The Probe* does not do justice to the photographs. The web site has the coloured versions. You will need Adobe Reader (free - via our web site) to see the newsletters.

Annual General Meeting November 27, 2013

The AGM was convened following our Club Meeting with sufficient members to form a quorum, **Joan Evans** (President) in the chair.

President's Report

Joan gave a short review of the year's activities, including the visit to Cornwall for the *Spring Fling*. She thanked each of the Management Committee members for "making the job a whole lot easier"; and our telephone callers.

Treasurer's Report

Allan Porter presented a snapshot of the financial situation of which the key item is that we have \$2680 in the bank. Our club is in sound shape financially and can meet its expenses in the coming year. His full report for 2013 will be published in the February *Probe*.

Elections ... are covered on page 4.

Formal minutes will be available from the Secretary.

Speakers 2013

Just a reminder of our 2013 speakers: as well as **Cathy Neufeld** and **David Kettle**, featured in this issue, we heard **Terry Green** (*Property Rights*), **Robert Beriault** (*Sailor without a Boat or Pirates of the Carribean*), **Trudy Stephen** (*Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro*), **Hugh Reekie** (*Sir John Franklin and Dr. John Rae*), **Robert Young** (*CSIS Mandate*), **Robert Kaszanits** (*L'Hermitage*), **JF Sauriol** (*Phirelight - Computer Security*), **Claude Bennett**, (*Charlotte Whitton, Bill Davis et Al*), and, of course, our five "In-house" speakers - **Mike Charrier** (*A Norad exercise*), **Walter Terentiuk** (*Transitioning into the Manor*), **Hugh Reekie** (*Canada's Languages*), **Jim Rader** (*More than English - a talking vacation in Spain*) and **John Wright** (*Orkney*).

Did they really say that?

Strange things are said on TV! Last Wednesday, December 4th, **Carole-Ann Meighan** on the CTV 6 o'clock news presented an item on a dog that had had its head stuck in a pipe. She ended with the words, "They sedated the dog and safely removed its head."

Michael Hainsworth, on BNN, the following day, said, "Tomorrow is Friday. The first Friday of the week."

Then, on Friday, flipping channels, a prisoner in the dock was asked the date of an event. "September 30th or 31st."



Management Committee 2014



At the AGM in November, the members elected **Robin Rousham** as President, **Lynne Bond** as Vice-president and **Bonnie Barber** as Secretary.. **Allan Porter** was re-elected as Treasurer. **Elizabeth Gluckstal** joins the Management Committee and will take on the responsibility of 'Hospitality'.

Re-elected Management Committee members are:

Marie-Neige Atchison ("Sunshine")
Kawsar Kruithof (Telephone)
Wib Neal (Membership)
Bob Atchison (Audio/Visual)
John Wright (Program & Editor)

In addition there are two ex-officio committee members:

Eva Hammond (Rotary Liaison)
Joan Evans (Past-president)

Probus Calling!

An essential part of our Club's operations is our team of telephone callers.

Ada McEwan	Lorraine Balderson
Bob Haughton	Judy & Derry Foreman
Elizabeth de Bretigny	Elvira & Gerald Matthews
Peggy Kitching	Kawsar Kruithof
Evelyn Clue	Allen & Ruth Taylor
Dorothy MacIntosh	

- are the friendly voices who call every month to make sure everyone knows about our upcoming meetings. We owe them all a big vote of thanks.

By the way, if you do not get called it may be that we have incorrectly copied your telephone number from your membership form. Give **Kawsar Kruithof** a call (613-739-1335) and it will get corrected quickly.

Let's Hear from You

It's your turn to give a talk at our July meeting - travel, hobby, vocation, interests - the field is wide open.

How to find us

We meet at 9:30 for 10 on the 4th Wednesday of each month except December (2nd Wednesday), at Gloucester Presbyterian Church, **91 Pike Street**.

www.probusaltavista.ca

Check our website for future and past talks.



January 22nd, Helen Forsey

Helen Forsey, like her father, **Eugene**, is a social activist and writer. She studied agriculture at McGill University, then worked in international co-operation and public education in Canada and overseas. Her writing and activism focus on feminist, environmental, political, and constitutional issues. As well as a new book on her father, *Canada's Maverick Sage*, her work includes many articles and two other books: *Circles of Strength: Community Alternatives to Alienation* and *The Caboose at the Cape: A Story of Coming Home*. A mother and grandmother, she divides her time between the Ottawa Valley and her father's homeland of Newfoundland.

Helen speaks passionately on the Senate and brings to life the significance of her Father's expert status on that body at a time when it is under intense scrutiny. Helen has memorabilia of those bygone times and illustrates the history of a great Canadian, Eugene Forsey.

February 26th, 'Jeep' Jefferies Opera Lyra

Opera Lyra was founded in 1984 following the cancellation of the National Arts Centre's annual opera festival. After two seasons at smaller locations the company moved into the NAC. They ran successful programs until 2011 when financial difficulties caused the cancellation of two productions. In 2012 they hired John Peter (Jeep) Jefferies, an experienced opera manager, to turn the Company around.

Jeep will talk about his career in opera, the challenges he faced on taking up his appointment at Opera Lyra and the prognosis for the Company.

World Views - Winter 2014 Program Free Monthly Photo Evenings Bethany Baptist Church

382 Centrepointe Drive West at Baseline Road
 Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. - All welcome

Saturday, Jan. 25 – "A Taste of Old England & A Greek Island Wedding"; Sholto Cole

Saturday, Feb. 22 – "The Way of St. James – Walking the El Camino"; Dave Sangster

Saturday, Mar. 29 – "Tenderness & Power – Tanzania & the Victoria Falls"; Presented by Mollie MacCormac

Saturday, Apr. 26 – "Imperial Waterways of Russia & Tuscan Countryside"; Barbara Adams

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

Information courtesy of **John Kruithof**



