



# The Probe

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Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

October 2015, #88

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of Ottawa/Alta Vista will be held on Wednesday, November 25th, 2015 in the Church Hall of Gloucester Presbyterian Church after the regular club meeting.

The agenda will include:

- Minutes of the 2014 AGM and matters arising from the minutes.
- Treasurer's Report and Financial Business.
- President's Report and Review.
- Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers and Management Committee members for 2016.
- Such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.

**Bonnie Barber - Secretary**

The annual general meeting will elect the Officers and Management Committee members for 2016. The open positions include: Vice President, Editor, Hospitality, Program, Audio/Visual and Committee Members at Large. Meetings last about 1 hour on the 2nd Wednesday, not a major investment - but very valuable.

**Please stay for the meeting.**

## 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.

Meetings are at 10, but members start to arrive from 9:30 for a half-hour of coffee, cookies and chat (or tea, Timbits and talk).

Come as a guest - join if you like what you see.

### **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.**

## Rosemary Bender - Statistics

Anyone who thought that a talk on statistics would be a dull way of spending a morning would be quickly disabused by a speaker with the enthusiasm of Rosemary Bender.

Rosemary retired from Statistics Canada last year after a 30 year career. Starting as a Term Employee, she rose to the position of Deputy Chief Statistician responsible for Analytical Studies, Methodology and Statistical Infrastructure.

She gave us a broad overview of Statistics Canada from the starting point of two, sometimes conflicting objectives, getting information out and confidentiality, and the question, "What use is the information".

Under the *Statistics Act*, Statistics Canada is required to collect, compile, analyse, abstract and publish statistical information relating to the commercial, industrial, financial, social, economic and general activities and conditions of the people of Canada. The act also gives quite wide ranging powers to ask, more or less, anything. With the law behind them, Statistics Canada can compel answers and apply sanctions for refusal.

The attitude of businesses can be ambivalent. On the one hand, completing surveys is a burden. On the other, the results can be a guide to doing better. With over 100 different business surveys, a business may get some with repetition, which can cause frustration.

Statistics Canada produces important economic and social indicators - *Population Estimate, CPI Annual Inflation, Unemployment Rates and Monthly GDP Growth*. There are a dozen key monthly data releases from *Building Permits* to *Wholesale Trade Numbers*.

Their numbers can be used to draw electoral boundaries, shape international trade negotiations - they have a major role in the current Pan-Pacific free trade negotiations - and determine who gets what in the "Have", Have not" provincial allocations.

Some of the less obvious areas include monitoring the justice system's effectiveness and efficiency; selecting sites for schools and public transportation; and

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supporting tourism strategies and programs.

Statistics Canada is constantly trying to reduce the burden of completing surveys while maintaining the accuracy of the information issued. Some of the means are the use of information gathered elsewhere. As an example, instead of asking a business to provide information about imports, they can go to Customs records for the information.

There is an international element to their work. As a world leader in the field, Statistics Canada is called upon to help other countries. (Note: One of our members made several visits to China during her career at Statistics Canada)

The long form census was one of the questions put to Rosemary. From a data perspective, not much was lost. But there may be a bias problem if large groups do not respond to the Voluntary form.

Bias also came up with a question on volunteered information. On health questions there is a difference between telephone responses and face-to-face responses.

Rosemary emphasised the need for balance between delivering data and confidentiality, and, from her perspective as a methodologist, the balance between consistent methodology and changing circumstances.

Our thanks are particularly due to Rosemary for stepping in at short notice when the election precluded our scheduled speaker, Wayne Smith, the Chief Statistician, from making public appearances.



## December 9th Christmas Party



Continuing our recent custom, we have brought our Annual Christmas Party forward by two weeks.

Entertainment will be by the singing group "Lost for Words" who impressed our members at the Spring Fling, not forgetting the massed voices of the Alta Vista Probus Club Choir.

We ask that you provide the Christmas fare. Trying to divide our membership list into three equal halves, we came up with:

... if your last name starts with:

- **A to F**, please bring Christmas goodies, cake and squares (i.e. finger food - no pies).
- **G to R**, please bring appetizers, cheese, crackers, dips, veggie bites.



- **S to Z**, please bring sandwiches.



See the November Flyer for details

## Irena Makaryk Shakespeare in Canada

2016 will give everyone the opportunity to celebrate Shakespeare's life from the perspective of 400 years on.

Dr. Irena Makaryk is Professor of English, cross-appointed to Theatre, at the University of Ottawa. She is the author and or editor of 14 books, as well as numerous articles and lectures. She is also the Project Coordinator of Shakespeare 400, an unprecedented four-month celebration of Shakespeare that will take place in 2016. This follows the University's 2009 conference *Wartime Shakespeare in a Global Context* more popularly known as *Shakespeare at War*, a prelude to which was the unveiling of a 1603 portrait of Shakespeare at the War Museum, probably the only surviving likeness of Shakespeare.

Dr. Makaryk's presentation was pictorial proof that Canada and Shakespeare have a long and enduring relationship. From a photograph of the "Sanders" portrait to Paul Gross as Hamlet and from the 1759 engraving of *The Great Pontack (aka The Pontiac Inn)*, a Halifax building with an inner courtyard where plays were performed, to the theatre at Stratford, we were shown actors and theatres forming part of Shakespeare's Canadian footprint.

To give us a taste of the diversity of her presentation, the first slide was from Akira Kurosawa's *Ran (King Lear)* and the second was of *The Lion King* (influenced by *Hamlet*).

The theatres included an engraving of the *Theatre Royal*, Winnipeg, a black and white of the original tent at Stratford, *Le Capitole* in Quebec City, the pretentiously named *Grand Opera House and Majestic Theatre* in Toronto, as well as *Shakespeare in the Park* (Toronto), *Bard on the Beach* (Vancouver), *Shakespeare in the Ruins* (Winnipeg) and *The St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival* (Prescott).

The actors and actresses displayed made a "Who's Who" of Canadian theatre - with a few imports - Kenneth Branagh, Mel Gibson and Sir Alec Guinness. The most favoured role seemed to be *Hamlet*, portrayed by Henry Irving (1838-1905), Charles Fechter (1824-1879), Sarah Bernhardt! (1844-1923), Tommaso Salvini (1821-1915) and Edwin Booth (1833-1893). In this century Paul Gross, Kenneth Branagh, Mel Gibson and Colm Feore.

As well as Sarah Bernhardt, we saw Ellen Terry (1847-1928) as Lady Macbeth, Helen Modjeska (1840-1909) as Ophelia, Martha Henry as Paulina in 1973 and Margaret Anglin (1876-1958) in a non-Shakespeare role.

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*Irena Makaryk (Cont.)*

William Hutt and Christopher Plummer made their appearances but eschewing *Hamlet*.

Wayne and Schuster were mentioned in a diversion into parodies, and *Hamlet, Prince du Quebec* was classified as 'Distinct Shakespeare'.

Irena invited us to attend and take part in the Shakespeare 400 events. Full details are on the web site:

[artsites.uottawa.ca/shakespeare-celebrations/en/](http://artsites.uottawa.ca/shakespeare-celebrations/en/)

## What is Probus?

The word "Probus" is derived from the words "PROfessional" and "BUSiness". The first Probus Club in the world was formed in England in 1965 by retirees who wanted to maintain their Rotary Club contacts and fellowship. Probus has since spread throughout the world, with Probus Clubs located in the UK, Canada (first club in 1987), United States, The Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium, South Africa, India, Bermuda, Germany, Chile, Cyprus, Portugal, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Trinidad and Zimbabwe.

There are over 4,000 clubs worldwide, with a total membership in excess of 400,000. In Canada, as of July 2015 there were 236 Probus Clubs with 32,735 members. Of interest, there are only thirteen Probus Clubs in the entire United States. March each year is National Probus Month. Probus Clubs are not fund-raising or service organizations, and are non-sectarian and non-political. The majority of the clubs are mixed, but there are a few men only, and women only clubs.

Each Probus club is autonomous, and the clubs in Canada are overseen by Probus Centre-Canada which consists of 13 representative members (one from each district) who see that Probus Clubs are well served and enjoy standards of conformity, and who promote the expansion of Probus Clubs throughout Canada.

A portion (\$2.50 per person) of your annual Membership Dues is paid to Probus Centre-Canada each year (in December), which helps to cover their overhead costs, and is broken down as follows: \$1.00 for membership, \$0.25 for website support, \$0.65 for administration, and \$0.60 for club liability insurance that covers all members (\$5,000,00 for General Liability, and \$5,000 for medical expenses for any one person as a result of an accident that occurred during a Probus function).

Probus Centre-Canada has worked with Johnson Inc., a national benefits provider, to develop a voluntary benefit plan available to all Probus members, that includes Extended Health Care, Travel, Dental and more. To

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obtain a quote for any aspect of the insurance offered, please contact Johnson Inc., toll free, at: 1-877-989-2600 or 1-866-606-3362 or 1-800-663-9995.

Our Club is in Ontario District #1, and our current representative as Director with Probus Centre-Canada is Mr. Harold Miller from Landsdowne, ON, who is a member of the Probus Club of Gananoque. There are 32 clubs in Ontario District #1, so it is broken down further, and our Ontario East section includes 11 clubs. A joint event is the biannual Spring Fling which each club takes it in turn to host. The Spring Fling is an opportunity for all Ontario East Probus members to get together for fellowship, lunch and entertainment. The next one will be held in 2017.

The Probus Club of Ottawa Alta Vista was chartered in 1999 as Club Number 101, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa. Our first talk was in September 1999 on *Coinage. History learned through Coin Collecting* by the late Frank Fesco, a charter member.

Our 'Vital Purpose' is to stimulate thought, interest and participation in activities at a time in life when it is easy to become complacent and self-centered.

## Dues 2016

At our October meeting, we normally open the books for the payment of membership fees for the following year (due by January 1st.)

Just as a reminder, the fees are \$20 (single) and \$30 (family).

Any new members joining after October 1st 2015 will have their membership extended to December 31, 2016.

## Other Clubs

We are in Ontario District #1, as defined by Probus Centre-Canada. This covers 11 clubs from Gananoque to the Quebec Border. Our closest clubs are:

Western Ottawa (Kanata), 3rd Tuesday, 10 am

Ottawa Rideau Valley (Manotick), 1st Wednesday, 9:30

North Grenville (Kemptonville), 3rd Wednesday, 9:30

Cornwall, 4th Thursday, 10 am

Leeds & Grenville (Brockville), 4th Monday, 10 am

Brockville (Men), 3rd Monday, 10 am

Most clubs welcome visitors. If you want to make a visit, details are on the PCC web site ([www.probus.org/canada.htm](http://www.probus.org/canada.htm)), but give the club a call to make sure that they are not at capacity.

## Hamlets through the Years



## November 25th - Hassan Eltaher Queen Nefertiti - The Eternal Mystery

Nefertiti, the star of this presentation, will host the audience in her capacity as Queen of Egypt, wife of the most intriguing Pharaoh Akhenaten, mother, woman and universal symbol of fashion and beauty. A pictorial visit to Nefertiti's celebrated bust at the Neues Museum in Berlin will serve as an introduction to the presentation before we sail through history to find out more about her.

Mr. Eltaher is currently an Adjunct Lecturer with the Canadian Foreign Service Institute. He is a former university lecturer in Ottawa, Calgary and the USA, as well as a former diplomat and aviation specialist.

## Poetry Corner

### Remember

Remember all the men who died  
 Everyone was filled with sorrow  
 Everyday filled with bombs and guns  
 Waiting for something easier for  
 Tomorrow  
 Fighting to make a better place  
 Facing dangers we would never face

Remember all the soldiers  
 Who hoped for our land to be free  
 They fought for you  
 And they fought for me  
 They gave their lives, they were so brave  
 For the freedom we desperately crave

Remember then with poppy flowers  
 On the 11th day, on the 11th hour  
 This great gift they gave to us  
 Our freedom we forever trust

Veronica Duffern  
 Midhurst, Ontario  
 Age 10

To my Uncle, Arthur Mills, M.B.E.  
 of 15 Sqn, S.A.A.F. (World War II) and 120 Sqn. R.A.F.

This poem, illustrated with a poppy and the flags of Ontario and Canada, is on the Air Force Memorial in York Minster. It is undated. Google searches for Veronica and her uncle yielded no results.

## Photo Key

Left: Henry Irving, Tommaso Salvini, Kenneth Branagh and Colm Feore

Right: Sarah Bernhart, Edwin Booth, Paul Gross and Mel Gibson