



# The Probe

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Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

June 2016, #92

## Canada's Gardens

Margaret Dailey-Plouffe clearly loves gardens. Her talk started with a review of some of her favourites - US and Canada and finished with some useful travel tips. The main part of her presentation was on Les Quatre-Vents at La Malbaie, Quebec.



*One of the many 'statues' at Quatre-Vents*

One of the areas she covered was the Brandywine Valley (near Philadelphia), which boasts several display gardens. The Nemours Mansion and Gardens (Alfred I. du Pont) boasts one of the finest examples of French-style gardens in the US. As well, there are nearby, the Longwood Gardens (Pierre S. du Pont, a world-class arboretum); Chanticleer (a 'pleasure' garden concentrating on bulbs in the spring and perennials in the summer); and Winterthur (Henry-Francis du Pont, 982 acres). The du Ponts had chosen the Brandywine river as an ideal site for manufacturing gunpowder.

Another historical figure who created a garden, was Samuel F.B. Morse. His estate, Locust Grove, in Poughkeepsie, NY, is now a National Historic landmark.

Quatre-Vents is a private garden open to the public on only 4 Saturdays a year. It is at La Malbaie, on the north shore of the St Lawrence, about 200 km NE of Quebec City. The second of two gardens created by Francis (Frank) Cabot, O.C., the first being Stonecrop in NY

State, Quatre-Vents is now regarded as one of the premier gardens in the world.

Cabot, an American and Harvard graduate was the Chairman of the New York Botanical Garden (1973 to 1976) and a 'Distinguished Advisor' to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. He inherited Quatre-Vents in 1965 but remained at Stonecrop until 1976.



*Pigeonnier from the reflection pool*

Margaret showed many pictures taken while walking through the garden. A good indication of the variety of scenery and plantings is available at <http://ridingthebuses.com/2011/07/gardens-of-the-world-les-quatre-vents/>.

Cabot published a book in 2001, *The Greater Perfection: The Story of the Gardens at Les Quatre Vents*

## Marjory LeBreton - The Senate

Marjory started with the statement that she is proudly partisan conservative, but during the Q&A session distinguished between the conservative approach and (almost) blindly following the party line. Being raised on a farm inculcated a strong work ethic. In High School her career views were nurse or veterinarian. She worked for Nepean Council and then in a law office (Patent Agent).

The step into national politics came in March 1962. In the following years Marjory worked for 3 Prime Ministers (Diefenbaker, Clarke & Mulroney) but the person who had most influence on her was a Conservative Party leader who did not become PM - Robert Stanfield.



*A young Marjory LeBreton looking over shoulders of ladies looking over "The Chief's" shoulder.*

She was appointed to the Senate in 1993, on the advice of Brian Mulroney.

Much of her discussion on the Senate centered around the Mike Duffy situation. She did note that the Senate is sometimes non-partisan and that there has been a conservative majority in the Senate for only 10 years since WW II. This was brought about by the additional 8

senators appointed by Brian Mulroney. In 2006, when the Conservatives formed a government, the party breakdown in the Senate was: 23 Conservatives, 67 Liberals, 6 Independents and 4 ex-Conservatives. As this was a constant block to legislation, Harper decided to add 18 senators. These included Pamela Wallin, who had served as Consul General in New York; Mike Duffy, who had been on Mulroney's short list in 1986; and Patrick Brazeau, who had previously led the AFN. On paper, good candidates.



*Sisters - Marjory LeBreton and Kay Stanley - our February 2010 speaker on The Ottawa Hospital.*

By this time, Marjory was Leader of the Government in the Senate and fretting under some of the in-built procedures. The Clerk of the Senate was one who espoused the old ways until, in 2009, he was replaced by Gary O'Brien. In 2010 the Conservatives finally gained control of the committees.

One of the first acts was to make a new rule on reporting expenses. This caused the media to start watching - something that had never previously been a concern to them. The culmination was Marjory's decision to call in the Auditor General - a decision which made her no friends and the resulting 'scandals'. "We did the right thing and got punished for it."

Marjory said she was very proud of her work in the Senate. It is not a sinecure and she worked hard. She was careful with taxpayers' money and did not do anything that she could not justify to her husband's friends. "My most important focus group." As an aside she mentioned that her husband, Doug, is a 'blue collar' licensed mechanic.

## Marjory LeBreton - Q & A

The first questions were on partisanship leading to the distinction between belief or philosophy and party with the comment that most of the Senate's work is collegial and nowhere near as partisan in the political sense as the House of Commons.

What is it like working for a PM? From Diefenbaker to Harper there were always a wide range of views expressed freely and frankly but once a decision was made everyone had to fall behind that decision. This meant, sometimes, public support for a view against expressed views.

At the close of her talk Sen. LeBreton said that when her name was put at the top of the list to take over should Stephen Harper fall under a bus - "Fear washed over me!"

## Synecdoche

sŷnĕ'cdochĕ (kĭ) *n.* Figure of speech in which part is named but whole is understood, or conversely, (new faces at Probus; Hamilton beat Ottawa in a pre-season game). [Lf. Gk]

Andrew Coyne (National Post) used the word in a column on the change to our National Anthem. We could have used his insights when the politically correct deemed that 'chairman' should be replaced by 'chairperson' or, even, 'chair' – an inanimate object leading a committee! (Come to think of it, I have encountered some wooden chairmen persons, fortunately not at Probus). Then there was foreperson, personkind and a plethora of others, stopping, thank goodness, before they got to Personitoba.

Canada has put other countries on notice. France, for example *Allons enfants de la patrie*. No problem with *enfants* but *patrie* is 'fatherland' – they have an escape with a 'homeland' translation. Germany uses *Vaterland*, which is clearly masculine and also *Bruderlich*, ignoring sisters. Italy also short-changes sisters. *Fratelli d'Italia* is their first line. Can Wales continue to sing *Land of my Fathers*?

Argentina is ahead of the game - they dropped a reference to 'fatherland' in 1924.

## August - In-house

Colin Galigan is putting together a roster of in-house speakers for August. Last time we checked there was room for one more.

Anyone, any topic. Your choice.

## *A loaf of bread a jug of wine and thou beside me singing in the wilderness.*

Not sure about the jug of wine or the wilderness but the thought is what counts.



You have wait an extra month but our Summer Picnic is "all systems go" for August.

Marie-Neige is in charge of the arrangements including the catering - you are off the hook for this one!

## Picnic Time - Eugene Field

One year I jined the Baptists, an' goodness! how it rained!

(But grampa says that that's the way "baptizo" is explained.)

And once I jined the 'Piscopils an' had a heap o' fun -  
But the boss of all the picnics was the Presbyterium!  
They had so many puddin's, sallids, sandwidges, an' pies,  
That a feller wisht his stummick was as hungry as his eyes!

Oh, yes, the eatin' Presbyteriums give yer is so fine  
That when they have a picnic, you bet I'm goin' to jine!

## A Taxing Time

On June 22nd, 1842, Sir Robert Peel's Bill, imposing Income Tax at at the rate of seven pence in the pound (about 3%) received Royal Assent. It was imposed with the thought that it would be for three years only.

It's been a long three years!

## Frustration!

The power failed at about 5 to 6 on Monday. Most of this issue was saved but a paragraph or two disappeared into the ether. I wonder what they said.

## July 27th - Professor Ian Lee - Economic Issues

When not in his daytime job at Carleton University's Sprott School of Business, Prof. Ian Lee can often be seen and/or heard giving lucid and expert views on economic issues of the day. You may have seen him on local TV or heard him as part of the 'Lunch Bunch' on CFRA.

At press time he has agreed to speak about his research with Chancellor Professor Vijay Jog, concerning the question of pension adequacy in Canada. Using charts, graphs and tables sourced from Stats Canada, OECD and similar public sector sources, he will demonstrate with the empirical data that only a small number of Canadians have or will have inadequate resources in retirement.

However if there is a more pressing issue ...

Whatever his subject, you can be sure he will make the data come alive.

## Management Committee

Ute Davis	President
Lynne Bond	Past-president
Hugh Reekie	Vice-president
Bonnie Barber	Secretary
Allan Porter	Treasurer
Marie-Neige Atchison	'Goodwill' & Special Events
Barbara Wilson	Telephone
Colin Galigan	Program
Bonnie Barber	Hospitality
John Wright	Editor
Wib Neal	Membership
Bob Atchison	Membership
Dulce Little	Member at Large

### Help Wanted

The Management Committee could always use a little help. Setting up the room, replacing chairs and tidying, an extra voice for the telephone tree, speaker write-ups or articles for The Probe.

Think about it!

## How to find us

We meet at 10 am on the 4th Wednesday of each month except December (2nd Wednesday) in the Hall of Gloucester Presbyterian Church, 91 Pike Street.

Members start arriving soon after 9:30 for coffee and chat. Guests are welcomed.

## Changes

We are very grateful to today's speaker, Marie-Soleil Bergeron for bringing forward her talk from July. Ian Lee has an early morning engagement today and realized that the travel would mean a late start for us. Fortunately, the two speakers were able to interchange.

### Vernissage

The Arts and Crafts Show planned for August has been postponed to next year. It will be part of our Canada 2017 celebration.

## Goodwill

We have been struggling with the name for this activity and decided on "Goodwill" to replace "Sunshine".

The intent remains - to keep in touch with members who are unwell or for other reasons are unable to come to the meetings.

If you know of any member who has had to miss meetings, please let Marie-Neige Atchison know so that she can contact them on our behalf.

## PrUBERus

If you are willing to bring someone to Probus or, if not having transportation means you can't always come, we will try to do some match-making. Please talk to Bob or Wib at the membership desk.

## Margaret's Travel Tips

Based on her travel experiences ("I spend over 160 nights a year in hotels") Margaret left us with some flyers offering an extensive range of travel tips. Covering hotels, emergencies, air travel, coach travel and general hints. Don't leave home without medical insurance. Let your credit card company know you will be travelling. In case of fire take 8 seconds to dress - including SHOES. Toronto-Pearson is the worst for having to walk 'miles'. Bed-bugs - doesn't mean the hotel is dirty, only the last client. The one printed in red is **Always use a carry-on that has wheels.**

HNA Travels (Margaret is the Managing-Director) is at: [www.hnatravels.com](http://www.hnatravels.com)

### **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.**