



The Probe

Est. September 1999

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

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Ottawa 2017

“Ottawa 2017 is tasked with creating 12 full months of big, bold, immersive and moving experiences that will complement national celebrations and annual events and festivals. Big Signature Events will animate the entire city, while community celebrations will enliven our neighbourhoods. At the same time, transformative legacy projects will change the Capital’s urban landscape. The end result: a special year of national pride for all – and significant positive impacts for Ottawa’s tourism sector and the city as whole.”



Marie-Soleil meets Marie-Neige

Marie-Soleil Bergeron is one of the 18 people with the job of turning the official words into reality - with a big “WOW” factor. Her presentation - in slides and movies - covered some of the highlights and some of the practical details. The overall objective is to get Canadians and tourists from around the world to visit our capital and to leave with a vision of a greater future for Canada and Canadians.

On the practical side, the City expects to add nearly 2 million tourists to the normal 7 to 8 million which means a boost in hotel-room nights and a quarter billion dollars

added to the City’s GDP. A key objective is to bring the tourists into town during the winter months. One of the program partners is **Red Bull Crushed Ice** - a downhill ice skating race on a winding track with up-slopes and jumps. This is popular in Europe but Ottawa will be a ‘first’ for North America. There is something planned for every month.

The City is not going it alone. CIBC is the lead sponsor and the list covers sponsors, ‘official’ suppliers (from beer to legal advice or bar to bar), supporters and program partners. The Junos and the Grey Cup are two of many national events coming to Ottawa next year.

The target audiences are: New Canadians, Youth and Leisure Tourists, but residents are not forgotten. In fact, while visitors will have to be selective, Ottawans will have a whole smorgasbord of events to choose from.

The **Museum of Science and Technology** will re-open. The **Confederation Line**, while not open for transportation, will be on display and will host multimedia displays underground. The Ottawa Art Gallery and Arts Court will reopen after a \$110 million refurbishment which will add a 21-storey commercial tower. The **National Arts Centre** will complete its update. There will be a new **Innovation Centre** at Bayview Yards and the old War Museum on Sussex Drive will be converted to a **Pluralism Centre**.

The legacy includes 1 million trees to replace the ravages of Dutch elm disease and the emerald ash borer (volunteers needed to help with planting), 20 new community gardens and a grove of 150 Canadian maples in each ward across the city.

Son et Lumière, fireworks, large scale outdoor video games, **La Machine** - a huge Chinese dragon which will wander through the streets - are some of the other attractions.

In total, a plan to transform Ottawa the old into **OTTAWA the BOLD**.

Volunteer?

Ottawa 2017 will need thousands of volunteers. Planting trees is one job but many more are needed as Ambassadors for the City.

Pensionomics

“Pensioners should not get discounts, they should pay a premium.”

Prof. Ian Lee may have proved it but he sure failed to convince his audience on that point!

Using published statistics from StatsCan and OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development - 30 market democracies, 23 in Europe) as well as public statements by officials, Ian took us through the ins and outs of savings and pensions.



Emphasising a point

People are not saving enough for retirement and if we let this go unchecked, we're going to face a huge economic crisis.

Kathleen Wynne, 2013

Crisis – what crisis? ...there exist many persistent myths about the Canadian retirement situation ... we think of our seniors as living in near poverty when the elder poverty rate is half that of working Canadians.

Bill Morneau, 2012 (now Minister of Finance)

OECD data shows that **the poverty rate among elders in Canada is about 8%, which puts us in the best third of the OECD countries.** By comparison, the US has 20% and Australia 36% poverty rate.

Looking at households, individuals own \$9.5 trillion in assets and have \$1.7 in debts (\$1 is in mortgages) for a net of about \$8 or \$250,000 each. The total is made up of \$1 in RRSP's etc., \$1.9 in employer pensions, \$1 in financial assets outside pensions, \$4.7 in non-financial assets (homes, etc.) and \$0.8 equity in SME's (small and medium enterprises).

The big picture is rosy, so what are the problem areas? **There is a retirement readiness index which shows that (in 2014 numbers) of the 40% earning \$10k to \$50k, 93% can maintain their consumption rate after retirement; of the 60% in the \$50k to \$250k bracket, 79% can maintain their consumption rate after retirement.** The lower income group will have government payments. The 21% in the higher income group are not saving enough possibly because they are working for SME's which neither have pension plans nor pay high wages This gives little margin for savings. All are helped by normal lifestyle changes - costs of dependents declines, commuting costs disappear and entertainment costs tend to reduce dramatically. As well, there are no longer CPP and EI costs and the age tax credit reduces personal taxes.

The answer? **Applying a universal solution (like the enhanced CPP) goes to the 80% who do not need it. The targets should be the 7% of seniors below the poverty line and (maybe) the 20% in the middle class who are not making it.**

The perception is of a widespread retirement readiness crisis in Canada needing a universal solution. **The reality is the 83% of Canadians are on track for retirement, 93% of low-income households are on track due to OAS/GIS/ CPP and 77% of mid to high-income households are on track.**

Now, if you really want something to worry about, think healthcare.

Robin Rousham asked about retirement age. Answer: Harper got it wrong (67) - should have been 70!

September 28th - General (Ret'd) Paul D. Manson, O.C., C.M.M., C.D. *The Changing Face of War*

From the pitched battles of the two world wars to a truck being driven into crowds of revellers, warfare has changed dramatically. Emerging technologies, unconventional warfare and public attitudes towards war are some of the factors which General Manson will explore in his look at the changing face of war.

General Manson served as Canada's Chief of the Defence Staff from 1986 to 1989, culminating a distinguished 38-year military career. Following military service he was president of a large aerospace company, retiring in 1997. For the next seven years he was the full-time volunteer Chairman of the "Passing the Torch" campaign in support of the new Canadian War Museum. He is a frequent commentator on defence issues in Canadian news media.

Three Festivals in Three Days

August 23rd - Vulcanalia. The Romans celebrated the festival of Vulcan on August 23 each year, when the summer heat placed crops and granaries most at risk of burning. During the festival bonfires were created in honour of the god, into which live fish or small animals were thrown as a sacrifice, to be consumed in the place of humans.

August 24th - Probus Picnic. Ours is a moveable feast at which we consume assorted goodies as a tribute to summer. We did the fire thing in 2001 with a barbecue at the Billings Estate but without the fish or small animals.

August 25th - Opiconsivia. This was another ancient Roman festival, held August 25, in honour of Ops ("Plenty"), also known as Opis, a goddess of agricultural resources and wealth. The festival marked the end of harvest, with a mirror festival on December 19 concerned with the storage of the grain.



Augustus Princeps Civitatis ("First Citizen of the State").

August was originally named Sextilis in Latin, because it was the sixth month in the original ten-month Roman calendar when March was the first month of the year. About 700 BC, King Numa Pompilius added January and February before March, moving August to month 8. Julius Caesar added two days to Pompilius' 29 days when he created the Julian calendar in 45 BC, bringing it to its modern length of 31 days. In 8 BC, it was renamed in honor of Augustus. According to a *Senatus consultum* quoted by Macrobius, he chose this month because it was the time of several of his great triumphs, including the conquest of Egypt.

Scholars are divided on whether his bronze statue was indicating his drive onwards and upwards or an early use of the international signal of disapproval.

The International Probus Network

Originally named the Informal Probus Network, the International Probus Network (IPN) was conceived and formed in July 1996 by Wilf Beer of The Woy Woy Probus Club Inc. of Australia. The initial idea was to form a series of Chat Groups whose members had the opportunity of meeting together on the Internet, and discussing any matter among themselves - excluding political or religious topics. A new kind of Probian Fellowship on the Net! IPN A1 was formed in 1996, centred in Australia with a nucleus of 14 Australian, Canadian and New Zealand Probians. This Group did provide a new opportunity for Fellowship on an International scale and it wasn't long before Wilf Beer found himself forming other Groups.

There are now three groups operating, one based in Australia, one in Canada, and one in the UK. By design each Group is international in composition.

We now have about 130 Probians participating who represent over 100 Probus Clubs from twelve countries throughout the world.

Group Structure

Each Group has a coordinator with members from the host country and also from elsewhere in the world

There are three main groups (IPNAUS, IPNCAN & IPNUK) and three special interest groups (Ladies, Photography & TopicalProbe). Joining members are allocated to a particular "home" IPN Group for induction, administration and for fellowship.

For more information, check out:

<http://www.probus.org/IPN/index.htm>

October 26 -David Newland - Adventure Canada

David was our speaker in November 2014, and was so well received that we have invited him back. Last time his talk was on Canada's Wild East - Newfoundland and Labrador. At press time we did not have the subject of his new talk, but we will make sure that it is next month's Flyer.

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 2017 memberships.

Fees, by the way, are \$25 (single) and \$40 (couple).

Dorothy MacIntosh 1919-2016

Dorothy joined our club in October 2000 - probably persuaded by her sister and brother-in law, Phyllis and Jim Kingston.

From 2002 to 2009, Dorothy was our Telephone Convenor. She set-up the system, recruited the callers, made sure that they were briefed each month and found replacements as the original group moved on.

Dorothy is survived by her sister, two daughters, 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Patricia McClenahan 1929-2016

Pat was an early member of our club, joining in March, 2001. She remained a member until 2009.

After a fall, Pat spent time at the Oakpark Retirement Community and later moved to Palermo Village in Oakville.

Pat is survived by her 5 children and many grand-and great-grand-children.

Poetry Corner

August in the City by C.H.Towne

The brooding hours, through the dull afternoon,
Pause, while a torrid sun flames in the sky.
(O heart of mine, dream of a long, cool dune,
Where breezes wander by!)

Hemmed in by granite walls, the very paves
Grow worn and weary with the ceaseless heat.
(O heart, dream of a shore where foam-flecked waves
Surge, crash, and wildly beat!)

The sad hours creep toward the dim light of dusk--
Ah! how each laggard moment slowly goes!
(O heart, dream of a garden filled with musk
And the sweet scent of rose!)

The sun goes down at last, and lo! a breeze
Pours through the mighty cavern of the streets.
(O sleeping heart, dream of unsheltered seas
Where the glad, fresh rains beats!)

Probus Growth

Probus was formed in England in 1966 and found its way to Canada in 1987. By 2006, as reported in the Probus Canada newsletter, the Canadian organization boasted 181 chartered clubs (178 still active) with just over 23,000 members.

The most recent numbers from Probus Canada, are: 238 clubs and 33,561 members.

Tips on Safety

In our August 2006 issue we carried a list of safety tips offered by Constable Len Vaz. They are worth repeating

- Carry a purse like a running back carries a football. Tuck it under your arm and be ready to change sides if there is a potential problem approaching.
 - Don't carry all your worldly goods - just what you need for the day - I.D., a credit card (if necessary), enough money only for what you expect to buy.
 - Make a photocopy of all cards and I.D. on one or two sheets.
 - Know (or keep handy) the number to call to cancel a credit card, and call quickly.
 - Keep PIN's secret and change them every two months.
 - Use a shredder.
 - Check your credit report at least once per year including a check on who else has looked at it.
 - Watch out for 'fly-by-night' operators (anyone who comes to the door is suspect).
 - If someone comes to the door and asks to use the bathroom say NO!
 - A utility man wanting to read the meter should have ID. If you have any suspicions, call the utility using the number in the phone book, not the one on his ID.
- Today, he would probably add warnings on telephone scams ("You will be arrested if ..", "We have detected a problem on your computer.", "Granddad, I'm in trouble..." etc.). Not forgetting email scams (I'm in Spain and I've been robbed. Please send...". "My husband died leaving \$56,000,000 in an offshore account ...". "Your account information needs updating ..." etc.)

World Views - Fall 2016

Free Monthly Photo Evenings

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

971 Woodroffe Avenue (just north of Queensway)

Saturday Sept 24

Mike Giovinazzo... "Touring Nevada and Death Valley"

Saturday Oct 29

Vanessa Dewson... "From Paris to Provence"

Saturday Nov 26

Al Robinson... "Sicily"

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

<http://worldviewsphotography.ca>

Our thanks to **John Kruithof** for this update.