



# The Probe

Est. September 1999

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

April 2017, #97

## Management Committee 2017

### PRESIDENT

Hugh Reekie  
h.reekie@ieec.org

### VICE-PRESIDENT & SPECIAL EVENTS

Marie-Neige de C.  
Atchison

### PAST-PRESIDENT

Ute Davis

### A/TREASURER

Robin Rousham

### SECRETARY

Bonnie Barber  
tandbbarber@rogers.com

### PROGRAM

Colin Galigan

### MEMBERSHIP

Bob Atchison  
Wib Neal

### EDITOR & WEB MASTER

John Wright

### HOSPITALITY

Barbara Duggan

### TELEPHONE

Barbara Wilson

### MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Allan Higdon

### ROTARY LIAISON

Eva Hammond

## Karyn Steer - Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)

### Mission :

OCISO supports immigrants through the journey of making Canada their home by providing creative and responsive programs that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, by building community through mutual respect and partnerships, and by fostering healthy and inclusive spaces for open dialogue and healing.

**Karyn Steer**, OCISO's Economic Development Officer, was our February speaker and she brought with her **Basel Alzoubi Daraa**, an immigrant who has 'been through the system' and is now helping new immigrants. Karyn's talk was on the 'system' and how it has coped with the influx of refugees in late 2015.

Her first slide was "Month 15" and made it clear that the system is not in crisis and is well organized and coping with the demands put upon it. Their programs have been replicated across Canada.

Karyn told us that OCISO was formed in the late 1970's and its first big task was to sponsor 4000 Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian refugees in 1979. **Marion Dewar** led the effort and the program, *Project 4000*, was recognized by the United Nations. Over the years the organization has helped 5,000 to 8,000 immigrants per year, but the 2000 Middle Eastern refugees who came to Ottawa in a few short weeks at the end of 2015 required an extraordinary effort. The approach was to form a series of task forces.

The first priorities for the refugees were housing, health and for translation service. Many refugees were put up in hotels (with Government support) and a Housing Task Force started to find more permanent accommodation. Doctors and Pharmacists were needed to deal with illnesses and inoculations as well as mental health issues brought on by the disruption of lives and the strangeness of new surroundings, as well as cases of PTSD. Health Cards (a translation problem) were the next issue.

February 2017 was "Month 15" so Karyn's talk was right up-to-date. Many of the refugees can now speak English or French, and many have jobs. The Employment Task Force matched skills to jobs and worked with employers to arrange a system of mentoring by an experienced staff member. This helped the refugees and paid off for the employers. The many single mothers with 3 or more children and others who are still finding it hard to adjust, need continued support. One of the ongoing problems is family reunification. The settlers may know where their family members are and may have accommodation for them but there are barriers in the way of bringing them to Canada

**Basel** is an engaging young man and one of the Syrian refugees who arrived in 2015. His English – which he started in OCISO - is fluent and he works with new immigrants and refugees and in two years he will be a qualified social worker. One of his first concerns on arrival in Canada was the strangeness of the food!



## 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.

## Louise Profeit-LeBlanc “Tse Duna “ Master Storyteller

Our Storyteller gave us an insight into the tradition of story telling in Canada’s First Nations. Part legend, part myth and part history and totally fascinating, Louise’ stories, enhanced by her movements, gestures and, in some cases, vocal sound effects, captivated her audience.

We asked Louise to allow us to print one of her stories and were gently reminded that they are part of oral tradition and are not written down.



*Louise talking to Ed Borza. Sometimes her hands were as expressive as her voice.*

Louise is from the Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation in northeastern Yukon. She has come from a long line of storytellers and is now the keeper of many of these stories of the ancient and not so distant past. She was taught the craft of storytelling by her aunt, Angela Sidney, who emphasized the need to be cognizant of the needs of the audience, preface the telling with a prayer, and to seek forgiveness before offense is taken.

For 15 years Louise worked with her people all over the Yukon to ensure that the oral histories and stories of the First Nations people were recorded and transcribed for posterity. Co-founder of the Yukon International Storytelling Festival, and the Society of Yukon Artists of Native Ancestry, Louise has attempted to ensure the voice of her people is heard and will be protected for the future generations. She regards this voice and information as a gift that First Nations must share for the betterment of the world.

Ed was by no means the only member who wanted to talk to Louise after her presentation, and she was kept in conversation as the chairs disappeared around her.

## AERO 150

It’s 9 years since Michael Potter talked to us about *Vintage Wings*. If you have been thinking about following-up with a visit, April 30th would be a good day to do it.

Aero 150 is their contribution to Canada’s 150th Birthday. The event will feature Canada’s *Snowbirds* and *La Patrouille de France* - the longest established aerobatic team in the world. Be assured that they have moved beyond their original aircraft, 1931 Stampe biplanes.



*Vintage Wings Rolls Royce Merlin-equipped Mk XVI Spitfire, painted in the markings of the Royal Canadian Air Force’s legendary 421 Squadron.*

As well as the aerobatic teams, *Vintage Wings* will be flying fighters and training aircraft from its historic collection and the Royal Canadian Air Force will be displaying several of its state-of-the-art aircraft.

The show lasts from 9 am to 4pm at the Gatineau Ottawa Executive Airport, 1699 Rue Arthur Fecteau. For more information check [www.aero150.com](http://www.aero150.com) and [www.vintagewings.ca](http://www.vintagewings.ca) or talk to Wib Neal.

## Web site visits

This is a puzzle. A counter on visits shows 14,400 since April 27th last year. This is 1200 a month or 40 a day. Most of the visits do not go beyond the first page but the *Newsletter* page is visited 100 times a month. The *Management Committee*, *Joining*, *What is Probus?* and (of all things) *Constitution* pages each have about 20 visits a month.

It’s nice to be popular, but it is passing strange.

The site is - [www.probusaltavista.ca](http://www.probusaltavista.ca)

**April** brings the sweet spring showers  
Down and down for hours and hours

*Flanders & Swan*

## Ontario District #1 Meeting

Last week **Hugh Reekie** and **Joyce & John Wright** were our representatives at a meeting of Probus Clubs from across Eastern Ontario. About 40 people were in attendance, the most westerly being from Belleville. The meeting was hosted by the Kingston Clubs and chaired by **Jamie Doolittle**, the Probus Canada director for Ontario District 1. A special guest was **Richard Furlong** who was then (but is no longer!) President of Probus Canada.

Jamie has compiled a book of “scams” - telephone scams, email scams and door-to-door scams which we will cover in Probe over the next few issues. They range from the Nigerian Princess with \$50 million to give away to the fake “grandchild in trouble”. The over-riding message is that if it does not ring true, it isn't.

Clubs vary widely in size and surprisingly widely in the costs of their meetings. Some clubs get a free location but one club has decided to look for new premises at less than the current \$700 per meeting! Most clubs have interest groups - bridge, dinners, hobbies, and more. Some run outings to local theatre or as far afield as Stratford and New York. **Probus Month** (March) was celebrated - somewhat. When asked if a different month would be better, opinion was divided between changing to May and staying with March - the anniversary of the first Canadian club's first meeting.

The meeting broke out into three groups. **The Presidents** considered reasons for growth. Two were “good speakers” and “ancillary groups”. Their second task was to list the good and the bad. Top of the good list was “good speakers” and top of the bad list was the reluctance of folks over 80 to take on administrative tasks. By coincidence, the **Past-presidents** were asked to suggest ways to involve 70- and 80-year olds in running the club (someone asked “What about the 90-year-olds?”). Suggestions ranged from enticement to pressure (asking several times).

The **Vice-presidents** looked at inter-club communications. Suggestions included sharing speaker information (with some reluctance on rating them), circulating newsletters and joint events (No. Not the about-to-be-legalized joints!)

**Richard Furlong** gave a PowerPoint presentation on Probus in general. World-wide there are about 4,000 clubs each with about 100 members on average. The growth rate in Canada is declining. It used to be 8 to 10% per year but is now 2%. The Probus Canada AGM will be held in Cambridge and about 80 clubs have signed up to attend (**Hugh Reekie** from our club).

## District #1 Meeting - continued

Richard warned about having too much money in the bank. As a “not-for-profit” organization, having more than one year's operating costs in reserve may be frowned upon by the Canadian Revenue Agency. Not a problem for us!

## 15 Years Ago in Probe

The April 2002 issue had reports on talks by **Christina Lubbock**, Executive Director of WaterCan/Eau Vive, and **Jack Mackenzie**. Jack told us about his skiing adventure to the North Pole (at age 78) and Christina described WaterCan's mission - “To help citizens of developing countries build sustainable water supply and sanitation services”.

It seems that we were more formal in 2002. What is now called **Spring Fling** was then called **Regional Spring Luncheon**. By coincidence it was held in Kemptonville, where we will return next month.

A feature we have been spared recently was an Editorial. In it the Editor said “In the next year I would like to see 11 different by-lines on the reviews of our 11 speakers so please don't be backward in coming forward. It's your newsletter – it should have your name in it.” (Hmm, not a bad idea.)

**Allen Taylor** presented some research on the origins of “**probus**”.

**probus**, -a, -um adj. Good, honest, upright, virtuous, decent, (coll.) real, proper, downright. (New College Latin and English Dictionary, ed. By John G. Taupman, New York: Bantam Books, 1966.)

**Probus et legalis homo**. Latin. A good and lawful man. A phrase particularly applied to a juror or witness who was ... competent in point of law to serve on juries ... In the plural form: **probi et legales homines**. (Black's Law Dictionary, 3rd edition, 1933. Black refers to legal texts in both English and American law.)

An early example of the word probus being used in a title was the Roman Emperor Probus (Marcus Aurelius/Aurelianus), A.D. 276-282, one of four Roman Emperors named Marcus Aurelius. His only notable achievement in his brief reign was to defend Sicily against Frankish pirates.

## Dues 2017

Please check the sign-in sheet and make sure it says “Paid 17” against your name. If not, **Wib** or **Bob** will be pleased to take your dues. (\$25 for singles, \$40 for family)

### May 24th Doug Ward - *Public Broadcasting & Food Security*

A former regional director of the **CBC Northern Service**, Doug has been honoured with the Order of Canada for his contribution to radio broadcasting and food security in developing countries.

After a 30 year career with the CBC, Doug was recruited to join the board of directors of **Farm Radio International (FRI)**, [www.farmradio.org](http://www.farmradio.org), a not-for-profit organization established to help the world's poorest farmers gain access to much-needed agricultural information. Ward joined FRI's board in 2000 and soon became its chair, a position that he has held ever since.

### July 26th In-house

It's your turn. How about a *Show and Tell*?

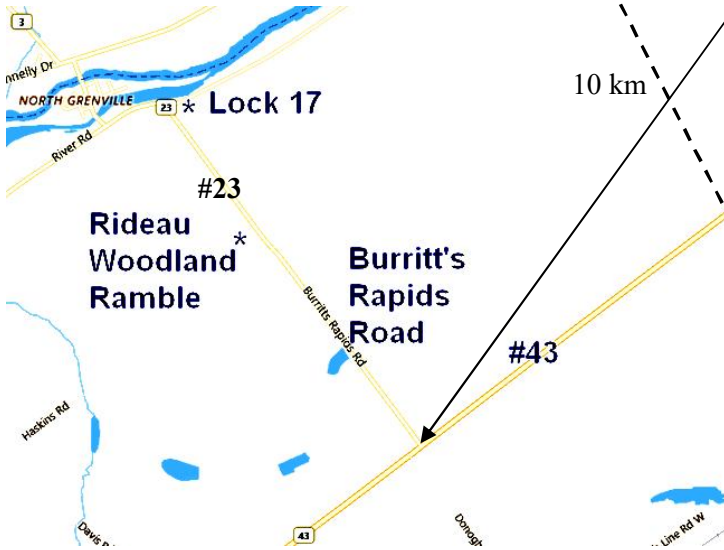
### June 28th Lucy Zhou - *The Renaissance of Traditional Chinese Culture*

Join us for an enriching and entertaining talk as Lucy examines the authentic traditional Chinese culture and how this ancient heritage is being revived around the world through the universal language of dance and music. She will look at how you can draw inspiration and wisdom from the 5,000-year-old civilization through the depth and flair of its beauty and grace, its gentle calmness underpinning its majestic glory.

Lucy Zhou, MSc. (UBC), has worked in high tech companies, including IBM and Nortel, as a software engineer and now works for New Tang Dynasty TV Network She has also been a member of Shen Yun Organizing Committee in Ottawa for the past 11 years.

**May 9th - Spring Fling** is at the North Grenville Municipal Centre (\*), 285 County Road #44.

Driving time is about 50 minutes from Gloucester Presbyterian.



**May 31st - Rideau Woodland Ramble (\*)** is at 7210 Burritt's Rapids Road (County Road 23).

Driving time is about 55 minutes from the church

Lunch is at **Lock 17 (\*)**, 646 River Road

Return via River Road or cross the river to Donnelly Drive.

In both cases the most direct route is **Highway 416 to Kemptville**. Take **Exit 34 to County Road #43** heading west. Negotiate 2 roundabouts and stay on #43.

For **Spring Fling** turn right about 2km from Hwy 416 onto **County Road #44**.

For **Rideau Woodland Ramble**, continue on #43 and turn right, 12km from the highway, onto **County Road 23**.