



# The Probe

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## 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.

## The Nigerian Princess with \$50,000,000 to share with you

"If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." was one of the messages from **Brock Godfrey**, our April speaker, on *Fraud Protection*.

Brock is a volunteer presenter with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) which started as "Phone Busters". Formed in 1993 in partnership with the RCMP, OPP, and the Competition Bureau of Canada, it was the first organization of its kind and unique for its first 10 years.

The **TOP 5 FRAUDS**, based on the number of **SENIORS** who were victims in 2016, are:

**1. Identity theft – 1272 victims.** The good news is that banks accept the responsibility for losses. The bad news is that it can take years to recover. The information fraudsters gather is: full name, SIN #, address, drivers licence #, bank account #, passport#, user names and passwords. They get information by: stealing wallets, pieces of mail, double swiping credit cards, dumpster diving (yuk), obits and phishing.

*Tips.* Don't share personal information, use safe passwords, don't carry your SIN card, monitor bank and credit card statements.

**2. Service calls – 1093 victims.** Typically the caller will identify himself as a Microsoft technician and say that they have detected a problem on your computer which they can correct. If you follow their instructions you expose everything on your computer to them. One extra thing they like is to record you saying "Yes", so they ask a simple question like, "Can you hear me?"

**3. Extortion – 436 victims.** "You owe money on your taxes and unless you pay immediately the police will be there with handcuffs within the hour."

*Tip.* CRA will never do this no matter how much you owe.

**4. Lottery Prize - 218 victims.** You have won a lottery you did not enter, all you have to do is pay a brokerage/handling fee to collect.

**5. Romance - 203 victims.** This has been the top money maker in the past two years. It is a longer term scam with no mention of money until a strong relationship has been established through the internet.

Other frauds include charity, inheritance, investments, timeshares, jobs, etc. etc. and phishing. There are over 150 million phishing messages every day purporting to be from banks, utilities, CRA and others saying, "Click here to verify your account." or some such. Another worry, which has been in the news recently is **Ransomware**. In this scheme your computer is infected by a virus which encodes everything. The only way to decode is to buy their software. They have locked up files in hospitals, law enforcement and other institutions as well as individuals.

Brock had some advice on anti-virus programs which can be summarised as his choice - **Bit Defender**.

"When in doubt - don't click."

We have asked Brock to come back next year with a presentation on "Passwords and beyond".

## Public Broadcasting and Food Security - Doug Ward, O.C.

If you thought you were going to hear two unrelated topics in one talk, you were not alone. Doug Ward bridged the gap with an intriguing story.

Doug had a 30-year career with the CBC with his final assignment as the Director of CBC Northern Service. His experience in dealing with remote communities and their needs led him to *Farm Radio* and a second career in Africa.

He started with an example of a government sponsored program in Sierra Leone which explained how to adjust the gap in spark plugs for tractors. Question. How many farmers might listen? - 800,000. How many have tractors? - 10.

The challenge is to get the information farmers want and can use, when they want it and in their own language. TV is less effective because not everyone has TV and it is in either English or Swahili but everyone has radio and it can be focussed in a comparatively small area with the right language. It still leaves the need to remove the disconnect between what the broadcaster thinks the farmer wants and what he really wants. The solution arrived with the cell phone.

With the cell phone a real time dialog was possible. The farmer could ask for specific information and, with a bit of research, radio could provide the answer. Advice covered not only fundamentals of husbandry but specific details. If a farmer had a choice of two markets, one 10 km to the east and another 10km to the west, which one had the greater demand for his produce, and therefore a better price?

The cell phone was the man's and would go with him, leaving the radio at home which meant that broadcasts could be directed at women. If her kitchen garden could be more productive she could make a little money and if a woman makes a buck there is a greater chance of it helping the family than if the man makes an extra buck or two.

*Farm Radio* holds meetings in the villages to get information first hand. They found that only men would talk in a mixed meeting but in a 'women only' meeting the women were pleased to talk and gave a totally different perspective.

The arrangement between *Farm Radio* and broadcasters is that *FM* provides the information and the local broadcaster disseminates it. Basic information is published on a web site in English and French and the broadcaster takes what is relevant today and translates it.

They have a neat way of doing surveys. Ask a "Yes/No" question. Yes - call this number. No - call that number. When it rings, disconnect. They can get 1500 responses in 3 minutes and no-one gets charged.

Doug was peppered with questions.

Use of satellites? Looking at it but overtaken by the internet. 90% of broadcasters have internet.

What questions do women ask? How do I get my husband to ...

UN agencies? We work with them but they can be ponderous.

Crop choices? Mono-crops can be efficient but risky, Should have 3 or 4 on the go.

Canada needs *FM* when can you open a branch office here? (That one was unanswerable.)

## 15 years ago in *The Probe*

The two speakers reported were **Walter Robinson** of the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation, and **Ian Efford** of the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society.

Walter concentrated on health Care and advocated: Quality, Accountability, Choice, Sustainability and Accessibility as the aims of the Health System, in place of Universality, Public Administration, Comprehensiveness, Portability and Accessibility.

Ian outlined plans for the renewal of the Botanical Garden - the original faded out in 1918 - as a Millennium Project.

Health Care goals remain unchanged. We still do not have a Botanical Garden.

There was also an odd piece headed *Editorial Policy*.

"With the angst being displayed in the media of late, we thought that this would be a good time to review our editorial policy.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to find it. We are fairly sure that there is one and that it is around here somewhere, probably in one of these piles of paper.

Anyway, if and when we do find it, we will review it most carefully so that you can be sure that *The Probe* will fearlessly continue to provide news, comment and opinion to the same standard it has demonstrated throughout its existence, now approaching a year and a bit."

(We are still looking.)

**Ada McEwan** was one of the guests in June 2002.

## The Pontiac, Spruceholme Inn & George Toller

George was one of our early members (2002), served on the Management Committee and was our Program Convenor for several years. His memorial service, last year, was held at the Spruceholme Inn in Fort Coulonge in the Pontiac. The Inn is owned by his niece Jane Toller Pitfield. Over lunch, Jane gave us a short history of Fort Coulonge, her family (where we learned of the George connection), the Inn and her vision for the Pontiac.

These were just some of the many interesting things we saw or learned on a self-drive tour of the Pontiac arranged for the St. Andrews Society of Ottawa.

The day started (breakfast) and ended (tea, dinner) at Mary Campbell's Glendochart Farm in Braeside. The first visit after breakfast was to Roy McLaughlin Clydesdale Stables. It was quite fascinating to see a tiny (5? 6?) girl leading this huge and amiable horse around the yard. They have supplied Clydesdales to the Budweiser Dray Horse Team.

After a buffet lunch at the Inn, we crossed the street to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (average congregation 8 to 10, but packed at Christmas).



A brief visit to the Marchand Bridge (1898), a covered wooden bridge, blocked for safety reasons due to the high water levels, and on to Portage du Fort. Nothing to do with a fort but the strength needed



for the portage. There, we had a walking tour of the town - artists' galleries, churches and stone houses.

At Mary's farm, tea was accompanied by a video of lumbering days which included Clydesdales from earlier generations, complimented by a slide show.

If you think you might like to do something like this, just lean on the organizer, Hugh Reekie.

*J & J Wright*

## July 26th - In-house speakers

Our speaker finder, Colin Galligan is holding back on the topics for our in-house talks. All we have found out so far is that three of the speakers will be Austin Timmins, Lenore Porter and Merle Brown. By the time you read this, a fourth may have been added by suasion (AKA arm-twisting) or by lot from the attendees at the June meeting.

So far, Colin has delivered some interesting speakers, so we can look forward to his in-house finds.

## August 23rd - Danielle McDonald – Ottawa Public Library

Danielle is the CEO of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL). As such she is front and centre on the development of a new Main Library for Ottawa. The media has concentrated on the location of the new building but this will be our opportunity to get the "Inside" story.

Since joining the Library in January 2009 from the City of Ottawa, Danielle has led significant initiatives in library facilities planning and development, including the delivery of \$15.75M in renovations and new construction. An MA (Public Administration) from Carleton complemented her Bachelor of Environmental Studies from Waterloo.

What is "inside" a modern library? We will soon be in the know!

## And the Winner is ...

After carefully reviewing all the entries our panel of Judges declared the winning *Canada 150* Limerick to be:

Watson in Ottawa City?  
For 150 we'll open the kitty  
And spend all the dough  
Left from clearing the snow  
You're not joining in? What a pity!

Topical as well as striking a responsive chord. Congratulations **Michael Davis**.

The second, or plain brown envelope, competition also had a winner declared. However, under the terms of that competition we cannot publish the winning entry nor disclose the name of the poet. Suffice to say, it involved an undergarment of a startling hue.

## 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 money.

## This is the Place

Our April meeting was just days after the Manchester terrorist attack. Hugh Reekie talked about a poem, a paean to Manchester, that had been recited by the author at a rally in Albert Square, Manchester. Here are the opening lines from *This is the Place*

### **This is the place**

In the north-west of England. It's ace, it's the best  
 And the songs that we sing from the stands, from our bands  
 Set the whole planet shaking.  
 Our inventions are legends. There's nowt we can't make, and so we make brilliant music  
 We make brilliant bands  
 We make goals that make souls leap from seats in the stands  
 And we make things from steel  
 And we make things from cotton  
 And we make people laugh, take the mick summat rotten  
 Ed Borza found this reference to a video of the reading:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global/video/2017/may/23/mancunians-forever-tony-walsh-reads-poem-manchester-vigil-video>



*24 hours after the attack, Tony Walsh delivered a powerful rendition of his poem **This is the Place**.*

## Spring Fling 2017

About 240 Probeans, including 20 from Alta Vista, joined Sir John A. and Lady Macdonald for the Spring Fling. Beth Sweetman, shown with the Macdonalds, was our Host from Probus Western Ottawa. Probus North Grenville helped with the arrangements in the North Grenville Municipal Centre.

After lunch, we adjourned to the theatre and listened to Sir John (Brian Porter) give a discourse on events of the day - that is to say, in the 1880's.



## Rideau Woodland Ramble



Twenty-one of us took a chance on the weather - which proved justified - and rambled through the RWR even though it was a little soggy underfoot in places.

The most common comment was on the high quality of the plants available.

Afterwards a leisurely lunch at **Lock 17**.

Our thanks to Allan Higdon, who made the arrangements

