



The Probe

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The Renaissance of Traditional Chinese Culture

The obvious question is, "Why does Chinese culture need a renaissance?" Lucy Zhou, our June speaker, had the answer. Mao's *Cultural Revolution* discarded millennia of tradition in the arts. **Shen Yun** is reviving that lost culture in music and dance.

Lucy started by asking us what comes to mind when China is mentioned. The answers included - food, acupuncture, Tianamen Square, Terracotta Warriors and the Great Wall. Culture was not in the list.

In describing Chinese culture, Lucy took us as far back as The Great Yellow Emperor (2697 - 2599 BC) who is credited with inventing the calendar, astronomy and mathematics, but also with teaching the people how to live. His philosophy was generally Taoist which focuses on returning to one's original nature and following the course of heaven or "the way". Culture is also tied to Confucianism with its five cardinal values - benevolence, righteousness, propriety, wisdom and faithfulness.

The second part of her presentation dealt with the loss or denial of culture. Tradition was demonized as superstition in the 'Cultural Revolution'.

The modern renaissance is in the hands of Chinese ex-pats like Lucy. Their chosen vehicle is the Shen Yun series of concerts where the traditional story is told in dance and legend. Five companies do world tours with differing programs each year. Ottawa is on their list and they make an annual appearance at the NAC, usually around New Year. As well they play Montreal, Toronto, Boston, New York, Washington and many other cities around the world.

100,000 Arrows - Chinese legend from the 3rd Century

Rival generals, Zhuge Liang and Zhou Yu faced a common enemy across the Yangtze. They needed to attack with bow and arrows but they did not have enough arrows. Liang offered to provide 100,000 arrows in three days with death as the punishment for failure.

The first day he spent thinking. The second day he had 20 small boats equipped with straw figures on each side of the boats. On the morning of the third day, in thick fog he moored his boats near the far shore and taunted the enemy. Not being able to see what was happening, the enemy ordered a barrage of arrows, which stuck in the straw figures. When the boats returned there were over 100,000 arrows to be retrieved from the straw.

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.



In-House Talent

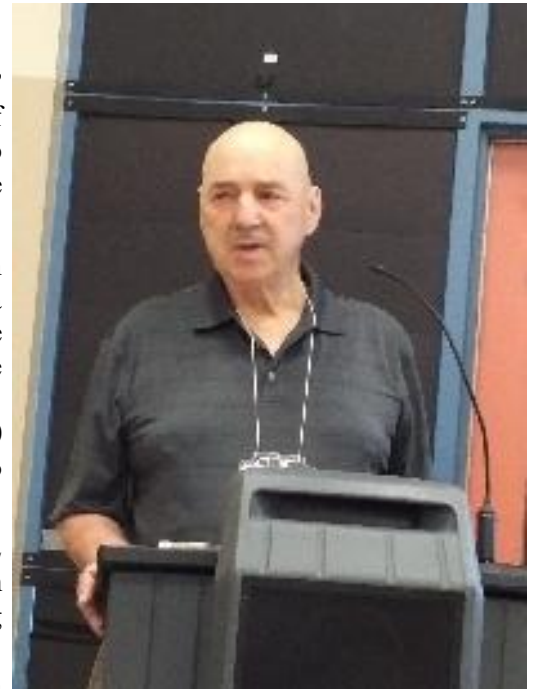
Our 26 July meeting consisted of four presentations by “In house” speakers, followed by a “picnic” lunch. The range of subjects, styles of presentation and opinions showed the diversity and talent within our club membership. Colin Galigan chaired the session in his usual amicable style.

Austin Timmins opened with a description of the Korean Airlift. North Korea invaded without any warning in June 1950, rapidly occupying a large area of South Korea. The UN Security Council condemned the action and requested military support for South Korea. Thus a massive trans-Pacific airlift was required and Canada contributed 426 Squadron, flying North Star aircraft, to this program. During 1950 and 1951, 27,000 Canadian personnel were flown into the theatre of operations but 426 also transported large numbers of American troops and material.

West-bound aircraft generally flew from Tacoma WA to Anchorage AL to Shemya (Aleutian Islands) to Tokyo. East-bound aircraft flew from Japan to Wake Island, then to Honolulu and on to Sacramento, carrying numbers of Med-Evac patients, many post-op cases.

Aircrew fatigue was a major problem, as was the frequency of bad weather, especially in the Aleutians, making operations hazardous.

Austin demonstrated appropriate pride in the 426 record of 599 flights with 34,000 hours in the air, all with no loss of life or cargo.



Merle Brown followed this with a discussion of the progress of legislation covering the rights of women in Canada from 1867 to date. Initially a British court determined that a woman was to be considered an individual on a level with a man only in marriage but not otherwise. Following agitation by Nellie McClung, in 1916 women resident in Manitoba achieved the right to vote in provincial elections. Only slowly did other provinces and the federal government follow suit.

McClung was joined by Henrietta Edwards, Louise McKinney, Emily Murphy and Irene Parlby in a presentation to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1927. The core issue was that a Canadian woman should be legally considered “a person” under the BNA Act. The court unanimously ruled against them. However an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of Great Britain overruled this with a landmark decision which opened the door to subsequent legislation affecting voting rights, marriage rights as well as the ability to become a Senator or a Judge.

The serial successes of women in obtaining and enforcing legal rights in Canada led to the 1999 Supreme Court ruling establishing the empowerment of a individual or group with vast resultant benefit to multiple minority groups.

Dues 2017

We are just about getting ready to accept dues for 2018 (Same great rate, \$25 single, \$40 couple) so please make sure you are up to date with your 2017 contribution - we are not too proud to accept 2016 dues as well.

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.



Our thanks to Ute Davis for the photography and text.

Lenore Porter spoke with the incisive wit which we have come to expect from her. Whether she is referring to the dress habits of the average Canadian male or the question of his abilities as a home handyman, many in her audience are thinking “oops, that is me”. Lenore also homed in on the “white lies” frequently used by many of us as concealed excuses to husband and wife. There were chuckles, often rueful, throughout her talk as we found ourselves the butt of her insights. However our guilt was gently tempered, by her ability to identify with us and admit to some of our shortcomings. Indeed, Lenore’s material is better than much on offer from professional stand-up entertainers.

Marianne Scott then delivered “a little background on Library and Archives Canada”. Drawing on the knowledge and experience of a long career in library services which included fifteen years as **National Librarian of Canada**, she gave us a fascinating tour of the history and achievements of her department. Despite the verbal support of Sir John A. Macdonald in 1883 “...the Dominion of Canada really ought to have a National Library containing every book worthy of being kept on the shelves of a library”, the library was only established in 1952.

However, clear guidelines and good leadership produced a national bibliography and a national union catalogue of the contents of the major libraries across the country. A glimpse of the enormity of the tasks: in 1973 there were 6500 new publications being added per day. Radical change occurred with computerization and digitized storage. Library and archival functions are fully integrated under one administrative head, Library Services remaining on Wellington Street, Archives at its highly sophisticated facility in Gatineau.

In retirement, Marianne serves as President of the Friends of Library and Archives Canada where she continues to contribute her time, vast knowledge and talents.



... and the Picnic

We have been doing this long enough to call it a Tradition. In keeping with the tradition the Picnic was catered - the food coming from the **Country Grocer** and the carrot cake from the **Superstore**.

Thanks to all involved, including **Ed and Cathy Borza** (set-up), **Bonnie Barber** and **Barbara Duggan** (food service) and **Marie-Neige Atchison** who looks after all our special events.

The reviews were invariably good!

Carrot Cake

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour a 9x13 inch pan. Sift together 2 cups of flour, 2 tsp baking powder, 2 tsp baking soda, ½ tsp salt and 2 tsp ground cinnamon. Mix together 2 cups white sugar and 4 eggs.. Stir in 1+1/3 cups vegetable oil, then gradually mix in 4 cups grated carrots and ¾ cup chopped walnuts. Fold in the carrots and nuts. Spread evenly into the pan. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean. When cool, frost with your favourite Cream Cheese Frosting.

Probus Members & Johnson Inc. Insurance

PROBUS Canada has arranged with Johnson Insurance [www.johnson.ca/probus] to allow any Probus Club member a chance to enrol for their Prestige Travel Plan under the Extended Health Care programme. This can be done without providing evidence of good health.

Contact them toll free at 1-877-989-2600 or by e-mail pbservevest@johnson.ca

15 Years Ago in Probe

Our speakers were **Dr. Ed Napke** and **Robert Knuckle**. Dr. Napke had been President of the Non-smokers Association (Ottawa) and was instrumental in bringing in the first cigarette smoking ban in public places. It is so commonplace now that we don't even think about it. His topic was *Adverse Drug Reactions*. Bob Knuckle, an ex-High School teacher (Latin and English) became a full-time author and playwright after success with *I am not a Legend* - the Vince Lombardi story. He wrote about Dorothy Mallette and Bruce Archer, Canada's Bonnie and Clyde but his publisher wanted it to be about the Mounties - one was killed and two injured in the final shoot-out, so he was forced into a major re-write.

Jim Kingston penned his last thoughts as President (our year was October to September back then) and noted that the shift from 'No December meeting and two in January' to a party in December and just the regular meeting in January, had been well accepted. (So well, in fact, that it has been the norm ever since.)

Eva Hammond was the only Canadian and one of only 66 Rotary Club Presidents worldwide to receive the Presidential Citation Award at the meeting of Rotary International in Barcelona. Eva and Russ spent an exhausting but exhilarating five days at the convention. The keynote speaker was **Michael Gorbachev**.

Ada McEwan must have like what she saw as a guest in June because she is listed as a new member - and has been a member ever since.

Swanning Around

Two regulars were missing in July. **Hugh Reekie** was driving around Scotland and Wales in his camper and **John Wright** was collecting material for a "Great Train Journeys" episode. Vienna to Berlin via Budapest, Bratislava, Ceske Budejovice, Prague, Krakow and Warsaw.

We can almost hear the wheels turning in Colin's head - "That's two for next July".

September 27th - Kay Rogers – Tay Valley Settlement History

In modern terms the Tay Valley is either side of the Highway 7 between Perth and Sharbot Lake. To 300 Scottish settlers who had spent their first Canadian winter -1815/1816 - in Brockville, it was a new home in the wilderness. Each group of four families received the necessary tools and implements with which to start 'life in the bush' - a grindstone, a crosscut and a whip saw. Each family received an adze, handsaw, drawing knife, one shell augur, two gimlets, door-lock and hinges, scythe and snath, reaping-hook, two hoes, hay fork, skillet camp kettle, and a blanket for each of its members.

The greater number of these Scottish immigrants settled on what is still known today as the Scotch Line (County Road 10) in the geographic township of Bathurst, now part of Tay Valley Township

Kay Rogers is the editor and co-author of *At Home in Tay Valley*. With more than 60 contributors, *At Home in Tay Valley* captures the voices, stories, images, circumstances, and events that have defined the lives of those who have called Tay Valley home - from members of the Algonquin First Nation who helped the early settlers survive and adapt to a new land, to the "back-to-the-landers" of the 1970s.

October 25th - Vimy Dr. Melanie Morin-Pelletier

Dr. Morin-Pelletier is the Historian, War and Society at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. She is the author of *Briser les ailes de l'ange: Les infirmieres militaires canadiennes (1914-1918)* and has published multiple articles on Canadian military nursing and on the impact of the war on the Canadian homefront.

Since joining the Canadian War Museum in 2012, she has curated the major exhibitions: *Fighting in Flanders. Gas. Mud. Memory*(2014), and *Vimy: Beyond the Battle* (2017). Her current research interests focus on human experiences of the war, whether on the battlefield, in military hospitals or on the homefront.

Apropos of Nothing

Paddy & Mick find three grenades, so they go to take them to a police station.

Mick: "What if one explodes before we get there?"

Paddy: "We'll lie and say we only found two."