



The Probe

Est. September 1999

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

October 2017, #100

Management Committee 2017

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ROTARY LIAISON

Eva Hammond

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.

This is the 100th edition of *The Probe*

I had just retired from Bell and Joyce, who has a habit of getting me into things, said you must come to Probus, the speaker (**Susan Menzies** - Heart Institute) will be interesting. I found that I was quite at home, surrounded by Bell retirees, **Jim Rader, Russ Hammond, Jack Harvey, Bob Haughton, Jack Troughton, Frank Sorenson** and, of course, Joyce. Jim Rader was the President and in his announcements he said that we need a newsletter and was anyone interested in working on one?

I dropped in on the next Management Committee meeting with what became Issue 1 and said, "Is this the kind of thing you were thinking of?" Apparently it was.

The Probe was my second (and probably wiser) choice of name. The first was *The Proboscis* to be illustrated by a sketch of Jimmy 'Schnozzle' Durante. Fortunately I could not find a sketch I liked. This, by the way, is news to everyone, including Joyce.

Not being confident of the reception it would get, I hid behind a note, "This issue of Probe was cobbled together by John Wright. This may cause confusion as there are two of us in the Alta Vista club. If you have enjoyed reading this first edition, it was me. If not, it was very likely the other one." Sadly, John E. Wright is no longer with us.

So, here we are, 187 speakers (plus In-house speakers for the past 11 years) later.

I must admit to having indulged my peculiar sense of humour on occasion - luckily no-one noticed. *(continued on page 2)*

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of Ottawa/Alta Vista will be held on **Wednesday, November 22nd, 2017** in the Church Hall of Gloucester Presbyterian Church after the regular club meeting.

The agenda will include:

- Minutes of the 2016 AGM and matters arising from the minutes.
- Treasurer's Report and Financial Business.
- President's Report and Review.
- Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers and Management Committee members for 2018.
- Such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.

Bonnie Barber - Secretary

The annual general meeting will elect the Officers and Management Committee members for 2018. All positions are open including Committee Members at Large. Management meetings last about 1 hour on the 2nd Wednesday, not a major investment - but very valuable.

Please stay for the meeting.

(See page 6 for a post-meeting lunch)

(editorial musings - continued)

I was once asked how I approached the task. My reply: "Open Microsoft Word, place tongue firmly in cheek, type" There is more than a smidgen of truth to that. It is axiomatic that when all the useful stuff has been covered, there are bits and pieces of white space here and there. The first task is to consolidate them by moving items around. Then, when you are faced with one block as blank as your state of mind, it's time to scramble. Is there anything on the Probus Canada web site? How about something from another club's newsletter (we exchange Newsletters with other clubs in Eastern Ontario). A poem? Something in the news which connects with Probus or a recent speaker? (Danielle McDonald was on TV talking about new rules to curtail porn watching on OPL computers). An additional photo or making an existing photo bigger? Somehow it gets done.

The draft goes to the Editorial Board and when Joyce has finished with it the red ink gets translated into better wording, correct grammar and spelling. By this time it is Tuesday afternoon and too late for the President to have a say. On more than one occasion it has been a Wednesday morning stop at the UPS Store on the way to the meeting.

Looking over the list of speakers, we have been very fortunate to have had so many really good ones. The two who drew the greatest attendance were **Ed Broadbent** and **H.E. Declan Kelly**, the Irish Ambassador. We have had several "Hon"s of whom **Mitchell Sharp** seemed genuinely puzzled that any group would want him to speak to them.

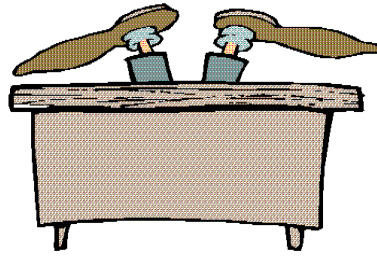
Poetry Corner is a personal anomaly. I inherited my mother's love of poetry. When asked, in school, to write an appreciation of Matthew Arnold's poetry, her essay was "I cannot write an appreciation of Matthew Arnold's poetry because I do not appreciate it." Doggerel is another matter and often something I enjoy. I have to admit, albeit reluctantly, that a poem sometimes seems appropriate to the time or occasion.

We took a big step forward in 2004 when we bought the podium. It is not ideal but we have since tried several other things with little if any improvement. The letter 'P' is a problem. "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers." would sound like a machine gun. Watches or rings tapping the desk come through loud and clear.

Three years later we bought the projector. After 10 years the green part of the bulb failed so Danielle McDonald's slides with a white background, looked magenta..

The other change was from Pleasant Park Baptist to our

current home at Gloucester Presbyterian. We had lost a few members who had difficulty with the stairs at PPB. That was January 2009.



Presidents come and go. I have worked with 17, the only one I did not work with was **Russ Hammond**, our founding President, "before my time". **Jim Rader's** "From the President's Desk" was accompanied by an appropriate drawing. **Michael Davis**, an opera lover, had his President's Notes graced with the start of a Wagnerian leitmotif.



Letters to the Editor are a rarity. I did get a note from my counterpart in Cornwall praising the August issue - an issue in which most of the input was by **Ute Davis**. There is a message there.

As well as Ute, several members have taken on the task of writing up a talk, **Ken Kitching**, **Phyllis Kingston**, **Judy and Derry Foreman** come to mind but there have been others who took over when I had to miss a meeting. Why the write-ups? Well, they are more of an *aide memoire* than a newspaper report of an event which the reader has not attended. When my GP sent me to the Lipid Clinic, I went back to the December 2006 issue to find out what Dr. Macpherson had said. No change.

Art, Botanical Garden, Canoe Building, Dispute Resolution, Economics, Fire Service, Genealogy, History, Information Technology, a J.P.'s life, Kilimanjaro, L'Hermitage, Medical Matters - an alphabet of topics as far as Y for Yachting, then we have to go to the speakers' list for Z - Ilse Zandstra - *The Amber Coast*.

Next month will see our 100th *Flyer*. It was a trade off - whether to go with a 2-page *Probe* every month or alternate between a 4-page *Probe* and a single sheet *Flyer*. It has been an interesting challenge to find a flyer-of-the-month (or bi-month to be precise). They have ranged from "The Flying Scotsman" to a CF 18 Hornet.

I feel a little guilty for having hogged the Editor position on the Management Committee for so long. A Probus club is "of the members, by the members, for the members" so everyone should have chance to be part of managing the club. "Full many a flower is born to blush unseen" - don't let it be you!

Cheers,

Ottawa Central Library - An Iconic Destination in the Nation's Capital

Danielle McDonald, CEO of the Ottawa Public Library, (OPL) started by asking how many of us have a library card. Encouraged by the response her next question was, "How many have used it in the last 6 months?" Most hands remained up. "How many have been inside a library in the last 3 months?" Still a good number.

Danielle's roots are in Alta Vista,. Her early education was at Alta Vista Public School and then Ridgemont High. She left Ottawa to obtain a Bachelor of Environmental Studies, Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Waterloo and returned to earn a Master of Arts, Public Administration from Carleton. Joining the Library in 2009 she was appointed CEO in 2012. Danielle pointed out that she is not a Librarian and is the first head of the Library not to be one!

Despite rearrangements and changes, the current building is no longer adequate. The results of an *IMAGINE* Campaign in 2013 indicated that the public response overwhelmingly wanted libraries to be community hubs - another reason for expansion.

An important feature of the new library is the collaboration with Libraries and Archives Canada. The joint venture between the City and the Federal Government is only possible in Ottawa and may be unique. The funding will be \$99 million from the City and \$69 million from L&A Canada. OPL operating costs are about \$2 million. An OPL study has shown that \$1 spent on a library creates \$5.17 in economic benefit.

The site is on Albert Street about 50m from Bronson between the Pimisi and Lyon transit stops. Studies confirmed that is the **BEST** site not just because the City owns 557 Wellington.. It is accessible by foot, bike, wheel, transit and car.



A major building is necessarily a long term project.

Request for proposals (RFP) - Fall 2017

Public engagement on building design - May 2018

Ground-breaking - April 2019

Start construction - 2020

Official opening 2023.

Danielle enthusiastically expanded on the community hub concept. Apart from being spacious, light and welcoming, libraries should be much more than books. A modern library will offer programs from story times to cooking, demonstrations, computer and conversation classes, book clubs, knitting circles, author readings and concerts. Services will include research, business, newcomers, food literacy and (a new term to many) makerspace. "We know that individuals learn in different styles – and so over the years, libraries – much like schools – have continued to adapt in order to cater to these different learning styles. We offer opportunities for hands on learning on a variety of subjects, our most recent one is the introduction of our makerspace – or creative spaces – which features a 3D printer,

Q What have you learned from the Chateau Laurier business?
A We have learned that the public wants to be involved, and not just a choice between A and B, but in detail.

Q What happens to donated books?
A They are sold. Over \$350,000 was raised last year.

Q Albert & Bronson is a bad intersection. Why choose it?
A We rely on the City for traffic flow control. They have work planned for improving that intersection.

Editors Note - Another Service

I ran out of reading matter while on vacation and was able to download an e-book from the library onto my smartphone through the hotel wifi system. Even at 4,000 miles distance there was no cost.

It was a bit complicated but if I had made notes I would be able to do it more easily next year.

Tay Valley Settlements - Kay Rogers

The first European settlers began to arrive in the Tay Valley area around 1816. This area was known as the Perth Military Settlement and included veterans of the War of 1812.

They came from Britain, particularly Ireland and Scotland, to promote immigration to Upper Canada but in reality it was 'Canada or starve'.

The first Scottish settlers arrived at Quebec City then travelled to Brockville where they spent the winter. When the weather improved they walked to Perth. Roads went only about halfway. The government issued each group of four families a grindstone, a crosscut saw and whipsaw. Each family received an adze, a handsaw, a drawing knife, a shell auger, two gimlets, door lock and hinges, a scythe and two hoes, a hay fork, a skillet, and a camp kettle, plus a blanket for each member of the family as well as provisions.

1816 was the 'Year of No Summer' with snow in July! There were many challenges; mosquitoes, the felling of trees, clearing land, building temporary shelters and planting crops. They were helped by the local Algonquin who provided food and showed them how to build bark houses. They also showed them how to get maple syrup from the many maple trees in the area and provided them with medicinal herbs. The area now has the reputation of being the 'Maple Syrup Capital of Canada'.

The first few years were difficult as they tried to establish the community. Neighbours built pathways so they could travel to each other and had "building bees" where the men would gather to put up barns or schools or whatever was needed. Gradually, the pathways or trails expanded to become wagon tracks. These roads meandered through the countryside through large stone outcroppings and streams. From 1917 the government demanded time to be spent by every man over 17 on roads and bridges.

While the men worked at establishing the buildings, the women worked on providing the clothing and blankets needed by the settlers. They had a strong background from the Irish and Scottish group who had been taught weaving and knitting from an early age and had even brought the basic tools to build looms and spinning wheels with them. Quilting, at first a necessity became an outlet for artistic skills.

As the communities grew and prospered, crops were planted and cows were bought for milk and meat. Eventually, the milk was made into cheese and a great cheese-making business was created – Balderson Cheese. Wheat was grown in enough quantity to be sold, bringing cash into the community.

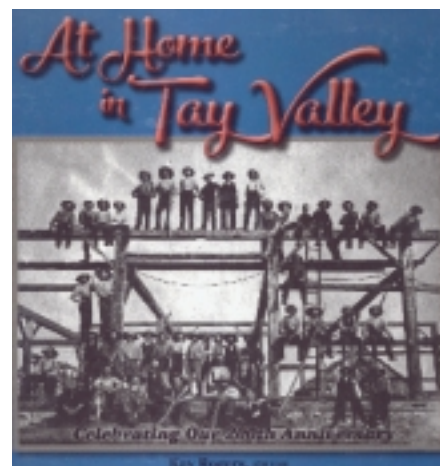
Over time, conditions improved. Houses were made more comfortable, with brick and plaster replacing crude logs, candles were replaced by kerosene lamps, open fireplaces were replaced by wood stoves – which made cooking easier and used far less wood. The concept of a summer kitchen developed and developed further into BBQ's. Electricity did not make its appearance until the 1960's.



Community organizations were formed – the Women's Institute with their monthly meetings allowing the women to gather and exchange views and information and the Orange Lodge for men, one of the chief social institutions in Upper Canada, organizing many communities and benevolent activities and helping immigrants to settle.

Saturday night was the biggest night of the week. Gatherings, at first in people's homes for card games and fiddle music, and later in community halls for dances and other social activities.

Originally, there were three main areas for immigrants to settle in what became known as the municipalities of Sherbrooke, Bathurst and Burgess. In 2002, they were renamed Tay Valley, in recognition of the primary watershed in the Region.



The story of Tay Valley was told by Kay Rogers who was editor of "AT HOME IN THE TAY VALLEY to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding and growth of the original settlements into the prosperous area of Canada that we see today.

Shoes meant for walkin'

Horace Greeley's advice, "Go west, young man.", seemed a little inappropriate for several members of the Management Committee who chose to go east.

Hugh Reekie picked Scotland and Wales, **John Wright** managed to fit in two trips between meetings - the first to Eastern Europe and the second to the south of France and **Barbara Wilson** took a walk along the Welsh Coast. Barbara called her journey:-

"A Walk on the Wild Side".

In September 2017, I completed the 186 mile/299 km Pembrokeshire Coastal Path situated in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. Even with the assistance of a booking company that moved my bag and found me accommodation, this was no easy feat. The company also supplied me with a very useful guide book with sketch maps pointing out the terrain and interesting things along the way, but mostly I followed the acorn trail markers.



I started at the south end in Amroth and 18 days later, I ended in St. Dogmaels. My accommodation was in lovely B&Bs mostly in small villages or towns close to the path. My walking distances ranged from 12 km to a very arduous 28 km., averaging 20 km/day. The weather was changeable but always there was a wind sometimes so strong it stopped me in my tracks or blew me around.

Luckily it was blowing inland, and thank goodness for hiking poles to steady me.

This long distance walk took me across the treeless cliff tops through some incredibly wild, rugged and beautiful coastal scenery with the most amazing sweeps of golden sandy beaches, some isolated and only visible from the path; others accessible from well used car parks. Being an island nation, the Brits love the seaside and will brave all kinds of weather to enjoy it.

With every turn the cliffs surprised me with rocky offshore islands, blowholes, sea caves and natural arches like the Green Bridge of Wales, this after a very rainy day walking through Castlemartin Firing Range. Closed the Sunday I walked through, but the following day it sounded like a mini war zone!.

All the way along were ancient standing stones, prehistoric stone burial chambers, one in Newport surrounded by a housing development, remnants of lime kilns, remains of the once-flourishing slate industry, and, if I looked closely, seals basking in the sun with their pups.

The scenery wasn't always beautiful, however, as there was one stretch on either side of the Milford Haven estuary with its power stations and oil refineries that, it was suggested, one could avoid by taking a bus. But I wasn't there to take short cuts. As it turned out, the path designers have done a good job in keeping the wind turbines, chimneys and towers mostly out of sight. Actually, I quite enjoyed my walk through industrial Wales.

With a day off in Pembroke, I was able to take a tour of the 900 year old Norman castle, birthplace of Henry Tudor in 1457. Exiled to France only to return years later, march across Wales into England to defeat Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field, and become Henry VII.

I enjoyed a second day off in St. David's, the smallest city in Britain sporting a beautiful cathedral and Bishop's Palace. It is said to be the birthplace of David, patron saint of Wales, his mother being Saint Non. It was here that I met up with a long time friend from Nottingham who was cycle touring in SW Wales.

Barbara Wilson

**Beware
of the
Dragon**



Also on November 22nd

Rick Baker - Seniors' Issues

Rick is the Ottawa Chapter Chair of CARP (Canadian Association of Retired Persons). His career included positions as CEO/General Manager Ottawa RA Centre, and the Recreation Director for the Royal Ottawa Rehab and Psychiatric Hospital. Rick presently serves on the Board of the Canadian Paralympic Committee.

He will be talking about CARP and its efforts on behalf of seniors at a national and local level as well as activities available to local members. CARP advocates for better healthcare, financial security and freedom from ageism. It works closely with all levels of government and collaborates with other organizations.

Lunch

After the AGM, make your way to the **Colonnade Restaurant, 1520 Bank Street**, to toast the newly elected Management Committee members.

Take Hunt Club to Bank, head north on Bank past Heron and when the big, brick, Bell building looms up on the right, turn left into the Blue Heron Mall. (If you find yourself at Billings Bridge, go back and start over.)

Dues 2018

At our October meeting, we normally open the books for the payment of membership fees for the following year. (Due by January 1st.)

Just as a reminder, the fees are \$25 single and \$40 family.

Any new members joining after October 1st 2017 will have their membership extended to December 31, 2018. That's like a 25% coupon - what a bargain!

Talk to the friendly folk on the Membership Desk.



How to find us

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

Meetings are at 10, but members start to arrive from 9:30 for a half-hour of coffee, cookies and chat (or tea, Tim-bits and talk).

Come as a guest - join if you like what you see.



Christmas Party December 13th



Continuing our recent custom, we have brought our Annual Christmas Party forward by two weeks.

This year we will have a piano player and soloist to accompany the Probus Alta Vista Massed Choir (this means you).

We ask that you provide the Christmas fare. Trying to divide our membership list into three equal halves, we came up with:

... if your last name starts with:

- **A to H**, please bring sandwiches.
- **I to R**, please bring Christmas goodies, cake and squares (i.e. finger food - no pies).
- **S to Z**, please bring appetizers, cheese, crackers, dips, veggie bites.



See the November *Flyer* for details



Other Clubs

We are in Ontario District #1, as defined by Probus Centre-Canada. This covers 11 clubs from this side of Peterborough to the Quebec Border. Our closest clubs are:

- Western Ottawa (Kanata), 3rd Tuesday, 10 am
- Ottawa Rideau Valley (Manotick), 1st Wednesday, 9:30
- North Grenville (Kemptonville), 3rd Wednesday, 9:30
- Cornwall, 4th Thursday, 10 am
- Leeds & Grenville (Brockville), 4th Monday, 10 am
- Brockville (Men), 3rd Monday, 10 am

Most clubs welcome visitors. If you want to make a visit, details are on the PCC web site (www.probus.org/canada.htm), but give the club a call to make sure that they are not at capacity.

Horace Greeley

The quotation, often paraphrased as "Go West young man" was in reality, "If any young man is about to commence the world, we say to him, publicly and privately, Go to the West." *New Yorker*, 25 August 1838.

www.probusaltavista.ca

Our web site continues to be a hive of activity. If you can't find your *Probe* to check out the next speaker, check the web site. Back issues of *Probe* are available and a map to help you find Pike St.

