



Merry Christmas!
 ... *and a Happy New Year*



Newsletter of the PROBUS Club of Ottawa Alta Vista

The Probe

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Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP)



Colin Galigan chatting with Rick Baker after Rick's presentation

Rick is the Chair of the Ottawa Chapter CARP. He started by asking if we were aware of CARP. Most said "Yes", some indicated that they knew more and there were some members in this audience. At the end of the talk there were several new members!

CARP is a big organization. There are 300,000 members in 26 Chapters across Canada. By comparison, Probus has ten times as many 'chapters' but only a tenth of the membership. We share a common purpose - CARP says "Reprogram, rewire and rejuvenate." Our motto is "To stimulate ... " (page 4). CARP is a national, non-partisan, non-profit organization. Probus is much the same.

The difference is advocacy.



(from page 1)

Three key areas of advocacy are:

- financial security
- improved health care
- freedom from age-discrimination

Rick pointed out that Ottawa, in 2018, will have more people over 55 than under 25 making us an important demographic. People are living longer, staying healthier and staying involved longer.

CARP's top six priorities are:

- restore sanity to electricity rates in Ontario
- surgical wait times
- homecare
- caregivers
- investor protection
- elder abuse

CARP is not only outward looking it provides help to individuals either directly or through workshops on issues which may not be well understood, such as: wills, benefits and scams.

In 2008 there was a major impetus for CARP - Moses Znaimer became President and brought his extensive knowledge of media to the organization. An early initiative was to rebrand the CARP magazine as **ZOOMER Magazine** (available in Loblaws).

Rick referred to the Sears situation where the employee pension plan is underfunded which means that the money is not available to pay the pensions employees are entitled to. Under current legislation, pension plans are at the bottom of the priority list for disposal of funds. CARP is arguing for legislation which will compel businesses to keep pension funds topped-up so that, in the case of bankruptcy, full pensions will be paid.

CARP is also advocating for tax rebates for care-givers. At the moment, care-givers are entitled to a tax credit, which may be miniscule whereas a tax rebate is cash in hand.

Rick recommended a personal fitness program which could be pole (Nordic) walking or something as simple as "walking tall".

Questions ranged from RRIF reform to public toilets (we will not go into that one). A RRIF requires a set percentage as the minimum withdrawal. CARP is looking at sponsoring legislation which will remove the requirement and allow more savings to be kept longer in a RRIF.

After the talk, there was a line-up of potential new members at the desk.

Moses Znaimer

Znaimer is a media icon. He started his career with CBC where he became well-known as the host of "Cross-country Check-up". He left CBC to start his own radio station and later opened the first independent TV station in Toronto, **City-tv**. His Toronto museum has one of the world's largest collections of radio and TV memorabilia. "**Bravo**" and "**Space**" are two of his specialty channels available on cable.

Since 2008 he has put much of his energy into CARP.

15 Years Ago in Probe

December 2002 was a busy issue. The front page featured 4 members - the late **Frank Sorenson**, with a front page spread from the Ottawa Sun with his picture taken at the remembrance Service at the War Memorial; **Joyce Wright** being presented with the Queen's Jubilee Medal by **John Manley** and, a sadder story, **Marge and Lloyd Larson** who were burnt out of their home.

The speakers were **Hal Roberts**, who served from 1941 to 1946 as a radio officer on board ships of the British merchant marine, talking about his wartime experiences, and **Honourable Mr. Justice Francis Muldoon** talking about dispute resolution.

Club President, **John Kruithof**, concluded his column with, "It is encouraging to see an ever-increasing number of Probus members congregate for the excellent line-up of speakers and events. We are blessed to be living in a community of gifted souls who generously bestow their time and talent. As we contemplate the meaning of Christmas, plus the emergence of a new year, let us resolve to play our part in making the world a better place."

And, among the new members, were Ed and Cathy Borza.

How to find us

We meet at 9:30 for 10 on the 4th Wednesday of each month except December (2nd Wednesday), at Gloucester Presbyterian Church, **91 Pike Street**. Pike runs north from Hunt Club about 2.5 km east of Bank.

9:30 is time for coffee and chat, the meetings proper start at 10 with 5 (or less) minutes of announcements, followed by the guest speaker.

Guests and new members are welcome.

VIMY - a tragic victory

Then at 5.30 just the first streak of dawn, the artillery opened up a terrible barrage and shells of all sorts and sizes fell like hail just in front of us. And away we went with a rush into the roar and the flash (just what my feelings were about then would be hard to describe) but we pushed on and on with a determination that nothing on earth could stand up against, over line after line of trenches, right up over the ridge and well down on the other side, just stopping once to get together and a breath of air, and on again.

Lt. John Albert House, 13 April 1917

Dr. Melanie Morin-Pelletier took us through the circumstance surrounding the battle and then on to the Vimy Gallery at the War Museum.

In the Spring of 1917 morale among the troops and at home was at a low ebb. The slaughter at the Somme resulted in 57,000 losses in one day. At Verdun, 300,000 French and 200,000 Germans fell. Gaining the ridge at Vimy was regarded as “excellent news” and “a glimmer of hope”

“Canadians take Vimy Ridge. English people beginning to realize we are some good in this war.”

Major Horace Hubert Dibblee, 9 April 1917

While Vimy holds pride of place in Canada’s history it is virtually non-existent in British and French accounts of the war. But it gave Canada a seat at the Armistice table and a Canadian signature is on the document.

The second part of Dr. Morin-Pelletier’s presentation was on the Vimy Exhibit in the John McCrae gallery at the War Museum. One of the most striking exhibits is the “Wall of Light” a luminescent tile for every soldier who died at Vimy, 3,598 of them. The centrepiece is a model of the Vimy Memorial and copies of some of the details of the Memorial are to be found throughout the exhibit.

Modern touches are added by the inclusion of four of the ceramic poppies which were planted in the moat of the Tower of London last year, and a film of one of the corteges on the “Highway of Heroes” between Trenton Air Force Base and Toronto, showing the crowds which thronged every overpass.

The exhibit, now closed, attracted over 120,000 visitors.



Dr. Morin-Pelletier talking to Wib Neal



School-children in front of the “Wall of Light”. As they move the tiles brighten then dim.



The model of the Vimy Memorial. The insert at the top left is of a full size model of the figures at the bottom left of the Memorial, which can also be seen in the background at the right.

Lest we forget!

Alan Porter

Alan resigned from the Treasury after looking after our finances for more than eight years. Thanks, Alan



Barbara Duggan ...

.. took charge of the coffee pot, averting a looming coffee crisis. Phew!

Hugh Reekie ...

... signed on for a second term as President and should break Allen Taylor's record incumbency of 15 months, in April.



Wib and Bob ...

...are underworked at the membership desk. Bring in more members.

What's My Line?

Using the title of the long-ago TV series is just a 'bait and switch' tactic. We want to know what is, was or will be, YOUR line.

You have a story to tell. Please share it with us at our July meeting. Career, travel, history, geometry, family stories, hobbies, sports, music, how to ... , events (did you go to the Canadian Tire Centre to see Rachel Homan?). The possibilities are (almost) endless. Even a snow story would be welcome in July!

Talk to **Colin Galigan** - soonest.

PROBUS after dark

www.probusaltavista.ca

Our web site features the upcoming speakers as well as Management Committee members, past issues of *The Probe* and, tucked away at the bottom of the "15 Years" page is an up-to-the-minute snapshot of the **Parliament Buildings with the new ice-rink**. If you look at it after dark, the whole area is under coloured lights.

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.



Speakers 2017

As well as **Dr. Morin-Pelletier** and **Rick Baker**, covered in this issue, we heard from 13 other speakers this year. This includes our 4 "In-house" speakers in July, **Austin Timmins** (Korean Air Lift), **Merle Brown** (Women's rights legislation from 1867), **Lenore Porter** (Male Foibles!) and **Marianne Scott** (Library and Archives Canada).

January started with a twofer - **Sue Kennedy** and **Caroline Midgley** on Alzheimer's and Caregiving. They were followed by **Karyn Steer** (Ottawa Community Immigrant Services), **Louise Profeit-Leblanc** ("Tse Duna" - Master Story Teller); **Doug Ward** (Public Broadcasting and Food Security); and **Lucy Zhou** (Traditional Chinese Culture).

The fall line-up started with **Danielle McDonald** (Ottawa's New Public Library) and **Kay Rogers** (Tay Valley Settlement) before concluding with Vimy and CARP.

Colin Galigan deserves to have his picture on the front page for his work in finding such an excellent and diverse group of speakers.

World Views - Winter 2018 Program

Free Monthly Photo Evenings

St Paul's Presbyterian Church

971 Woodroffe (just north of the Queensway)

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. - All welcome

Saturday, Jan. 27 – "The Lower St. Lawrence & Labrador Coast by Ship" - Alex Bissett

Saturday, Feb. 24 – "How to Evaluate a Photograph" - Dan Jones

Saturday, Mar. 31 – "Costa Rica" - Dan Parent

Saturday, Apr. 28 – "Seabirds of Eastern Canada" - Hans Blokpoel

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

www.worldviewsphotography.ca

(Information courtesy of **John Kruithof**)



"God bless us, every one"

January and February Speakers

January 24, 2018 - Paul Marland *Richard III "The Bunchback King"*

Conniver

Richard had the marriage of his brother, King Edward IV, declared bigamous. This made his nephews illegitimate and cleared his path to the throne.

Murderer

After Richard's coronation the young princes were never again seen in public.

Warrior

Richard was killed in the Battle of Bosworth Field, the last battle of the 'War of the Roses'. He is the last English king to die in battle.



King Richard

"A horse, a horse! My kingdom for a horse!"

Catesby

Withdraw, my lord; I'll help you to a horse.

King Richard

Slave! I have set my life upon a cast,
And I will stand the hazard of the die.
I think there be six Richmonds in the field;
Dive have I Slain today instead of him.
A horse, a horse! My kingdom for a horse!

(*Richard III*, Act-V, Scene-IV, Lines 7-13)

First Lines

Paul Marland taught English Literature for 36 years. He believes that the finest opening to any novel is that of *The Gobetween*, by LP Hartley: "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there."

Do you have a favourite? Send it by email to jwright@bell.net. Don't pick "Marley was dead to begin with. Dead as a doornail." or "Omnia Gallia in tres partes divisa est." - my enduring memory of years of school Latin.

February 28, 2018 - Dorothy Phillips *Writing Non-fiction*

Dorothy holds a Ph.D. from the University of Alberta in Experimental Social Psychology.

Inter alia, she worked with the federal Department of Communications where she established a Behavioural Research Group to study the design of new computer communications technologies.

Several years after she retired from government work, Dorothy discovered that the Duke of Devonshire had built a cottage at Blue Sea Lake north of Ottawa when he was Governor General of Canada. Looking for a writing project, this piqued her interest. She began research with a view to writing about his cottage. Instead, she found almost nothing about the cottage and very little about this Governor General. But she soon became immersed in the Canada of the Duke's time at Rideau Hall: 1916-1921.

The talk will use examples from her book: *Victor and Evie: British Aristocrats in Wartime Rideau Hall*, and will refer to other books of non-fiction. Dorothy will focus on how non-fiction writing differs from fiction, and what is meant by creative non-fiction. Then the talk will turn to the research required, methods of research and ways of keeping everything straight."



Sir Victor Christian William Cavendish, 9th Duke of Devonshire

Governor General: 1916 - 1921

Appointed: August 8, 1916

Sworn in: November 11, 1916, Halifax

Born: May 31, 1868, London, England

Died: May 6, 1938