



The Probe

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Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

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Party Time



'Twas the night before Christmas at Rock-Away Rest,
And all of us seniors were looking our best.
Our glasses, how sparkly, our wrinkles, how merry;
Our punch bowl held prune juice plus three drops of sherry.

Rod Clipperton added to the fun provided by that Master Entertainer, **Garth Hampson**. Garth gave us a varied program from Music Hall to Christmas Carols with everyone joining in, although 'Silent Night' in the original German proved a little tricky. **Joy Simper** provided the piano accompaniment.

Thanks go to pastor **Denise Allen-McCarthy** who welcomed us to the gathering, which, by the way, completed our first 10 years at Gloucester Presbyterian. **Marie-Neige Atchison** and **Bonnie Barber** cheerfully undertook kitchen duty and presented a fine selection of Christmas goodies.

We would be remiss if we failed to mention the contribution of **John Kruithof** who did a masterful job (most of the time) of holding up the audience prompt boards.



Avro Arrow

If this had been a Flyer month we would have featured the Avro Canada CF-105 Arrow. On February 20th, 60 years ago, the development was abruptly cancelled and 2 months later the destruction of all components started.

The Arrow would have been capable of Mach 2 at heights up to 15,000m.

Theatre Life

Matthew Behrens started his talk with a quote from Joan Didion (*The White Album*), “We tell ourselves stories in order to live ...” - and then told us the stories that have shaped his life, a life of and in the theatre.

Matthew’s parents were Bernard “Bunny” Behrens and Deborah Cass.



Bunny Behrens in Swashbuckler with Genevieve Bujold and Robert Shaw

Bunny appeared in over 30 movies from *Swashbuckler* in 1976 to *Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning* in 2009. This meant that Matthew spent a decade in Hollywood while his father made movies and filled in the gaps with appearances in a dozen TV series including *Colombo*, *Kojak* and *Little House on the Prairie*. Bunny and Deborah were, at heart, stage actors and performed many times at the Shaw Festival and Stratford.



Deborah Cass
from
Fey
to
Imperious



Matthew illustrated the importance of culture, not just acting but in a wider sense. He took examples from Mexico, where the Teatro Popular has its origins in the days when Mexico was a colony, and Brazil, which issues *culture coupons*, exchangeable for books, etc.; and Radio Dodo in Montreal which serves the Syrian community. (Editor’s note; He also mentioned that Farley Mowat fired at American B52’s, but I am not sure how that fitted the theme.)

For the past 10 years, Matthew and his wife, **Laurel Smith**, have run the *Perth Classic Theatre Festival*,

which started as the *Burning Passions Theatre* in 1999 in Toronto. Their energies are spread to community projects such as the St. Luke’s Drop-in Centre where they have put on performances with free seating for those who cannot afford a ticket, and especially PAL Ottawa. PAL (Performing Arts Lodge) was incorporated in 2012 as the 8th Canadian PAL. The organization helps retired actors and artists in their retirement. Even successful actors often find themselves “resting” at times which does lend itself to financial security and pensions.

Especial thanks to Matthew for anticipating the bad weather and driving in from Perth the night before.

Spring Fling - May 15th - Kemptville

Anna Van Adrichem-Rochon and her team at North Grenville have invited us to celebrate their Club’s 20th anniversary at the Spring Fling.

Venue: North Glengarry Municipal Centre, 285 County 44, Kemptville, ON.

Times: 10:45 a.m. - Registration

11:00 a.m. - Bar Opens

11:45 a.m. - Take your seats for Lunch

2:00 p.m. After Lunch Entertainment, featuring

Tony Davy - Songs of the Great Crooners

Lunch Choices:

1 - Stuffed chicken breast with feta cheese, yellow peppers & basil.

2- Baked filet of salmon with maple glaze and roasted vegetables.

Cost: \$28 per person.

Sign-up: At our **March 27th** meeting. Please pay by cheque made out to “Probus Club of Ottawa Alta Vista” (cash is the 2nd choice).

www.probus.org

The newly designed Probus Canada web-site is getting some attention. Both October and November had over 5,000 visits with an average visit time of 5 minutes.

Club to Club

The 11 clubs in Ontario District #1 (East) keep in touch by sharing newsletters (that’s how we got the car key alarm tip) and by having a President’s meeting in the fall. Usually the Presidents are joined by 2 or 3 members.

On Tuesday, October 1st, we will be the host club and we have arranged to meet at KS on the Keys restaurant. As host we can have as many members as we want. The cost is \$25, including room, coffee service, lunch, parking, taxes and gratuities.

Next Speakers

March 27th - David Rain - *Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova*



Lotte Hitschmann (1909-1990) was born in Prague, moved to Paris in 1932 to study journalism at the Sorbonne, returning to Prague in 1935 to work as a journalist while gaining her PhD.

The war years took her to Paris, Brussels (adding the Slavic 'ova' to her name) and Marseilles, where she made her first contact with the

Unitarian Service Committee (USC) before escaping Europe on a banana boat from Lisbon to New York and making her way to Canada. In 1945, she formed the Canadian branch of the USC and dedicated her life to raising funds for relief work in many countries. Between 1945 and 1984 the USC raised 130 million dollars through her efforts. In 1968 she was made an Officer of the Order of Canada and promoted to Companion in 1979.

David Rain worked with USC Canada from 1992 to 2015, the last 7 years as a fundraiser. In November 2016, David established a blog in honour of Dr Lotta and in March 2018 he started a petition to put Lotta on a Canadian stamp.

April 24: Shirley-Ann Pyefinch - *Genealogy Update*

It's 18 years since we had a speaker on genealogy, so it is time for an update! **Shirley-Ann Pyefinch** is a records manager for Justice Canada but more interestingly for us, she is the Director, Ottawa Stake Family History Centre, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Prince of Wales Drive. Her expertise is not only in research but in preservation and conservation of records, both electronic and physical.



May 22: Pamela Holm - *Music Therapy*

June 26: Helen Cooper - *Oasis Seniors Support Living Program*

July 24: In-house

August 28: TBA (Working on a biggie)

Finances

Our financial situation is not comfortable but the new fee structure (\$30 single, \$50 couples) will have a positive effect. Clearly we need more members.

Item	2018	2017
Opening Balance	1,513.16	1,392.03
Current Year	1,050.00	1,180.00
Following Year	615.00	730.00
Loonie Bin	460.15	481.90
Summer theatre 2018	448.00	0.00
Spring Fling 2017	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	34.52
Total Receipts	2,573.15	2,426.42
Probus Centre Fees	225.00	212.50
Pins,Pens & Name Badges	389.85	0.00
Guest Spkr Costs	0.00	0.00
Glouc. Pres. Church	1,050.00	1,050.00
Equip, Furn	0.00	0.00
Commun.(copying,etc)	113.00	56.50
Off. Supplies + Equip.	0.00	225.83
Bank Charges	65.49	48.00
New Cheques	0.00	0.00
Hospitality	0.00	202.50
Summer theatre 2018	448.00	0.00
Sunshine Com.	0.00	0.00
Membership Com.	0.00	0.00
2018 Indoor Picnic	28.30	301.49
Xmas Donation	0.00	0.00
Xmas Party (includes pianist)	757.42	40.45
Misc. Admin.(coffee supplies)	245.26	43.17
Total Expenditures	3,322.32	2,180.44
Closing Balance	763.99	1,638.01

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.

Joyce Walker

Joyce passed away peacefully on February 14 at the age of 89. She and husband Keith joined our Probus Chapter in 2002 and for many years Joyce served the club on the telephone committee. Many members will remember her cheery voice and love of conversation as she informed them of the club's monthly meetings.

Joyce trained as a registered nurse and her love of children found her working at the Montreal Children's Hospital for many years. After several moves, she and Keith finally settled in Ottawa in 1967 where Joyce continued to nurse and, later, became a dedicated volunteer at the Ottawa Hospital Cancer Clinic, a Sunday school teacher and an Elder at the Riverside United Church. Joyce will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all those whose lives she touched.

Rest In Peace, dear one.

Barbara Wilson

Hello! Our next speaker is

Those are the words you hear every month from our dedicated band of telephone callers:

Ada McEwen,	Allen Taylor
Judy Foreman	Gerri Doherty
Lorraine Balderson	Marlene Brennan
Jean Saldanha	

Barbara Wilson is the coordinator. She makes sure the callers are primed and fills in if one is away.

New Clubs

Probus continues to expand. Four new clubs have been chartered recently:

- Probus Club of Owen Sound
- Kamloops Desert Hills Probus Club
- Probus Club of Pickering Lakeside
- Probus Club of Saskatoon Riverside

There are now 250 clubs with 36,500+ individual members.

July In-house speakers

Picking-up from **Matthew Behrens** opening quotation, "We tell ourselves stories in order to live ...", this is a chance to live large and share some of those stories.

Bob Mady only has one speaker lined up for our 'traditional' July '10-minute talks' so there are three or four slots available for YOU!

The field is wide open. Past talks have included personal history, travel, hobbies, language (including teaching English overseas at a summer school) and, the biggest category - other.

If you need a little help, we can turn your photographs into images on the big screen.

An Alarming Matter

Take your car key to bed at night! If there is any emergency – from burglars to medical – press the alarm button on your car key. The horn will sound and keep sounding until you turn it off (or the battery dies). If that doesn't scare off burglars, having your neighbours appearing on their front steps to find out what is going on, surely will.

Walking across a lonely parking lot? Have your finger on the key button. Out shovelling snow? Take your key with you, just in case. Walking down a dark alley at 3 am? Well, you get the idea.

Spread the word!

Thanks to Neighbourhood Watch via Susan Swackhammer and the Probus Kingston Frontenac Newsletter.

Dues 2019

Please check the sign-in sheet and make sure it says "Paid 19" against your name. If not, Jane or Bob will be pleased to take your dues. (\$30 for singles, \$50 for family)

Summer Theatre

Perth Classic Theatre is offering three comedies this summer - despite its title *Death Trap* is a comedy. In order of the posters, June 21 to July 14, July 19 to August 11 and August 11 and August 16 to September 8.

Which one should we book for our outing? Let Jane or Bob on the check-in desk know your preference.

