



**THE PROBUS CLUB
OF PERTH**

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<http://www.probus.org>

Meets first Wednesday of month

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2005/2006

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The **P**ROBIAN

April 2006

Will Turkey be your next tourist destination?

Our guest speaker in April was Mr. Tugrul Biltekin, First Secretary of the Turkish Embassy in Ottawa. Through a slide presentation, photographs and artifacts, he illustrated the many geographical, historical and cultural charms his country has to offer those who venture to its shores. He was introduced by Michael Wondergem who set the stage for Mr. Biltekin's presentation with the following background information (Thank you, Michael, for providing your notes!): "Nearly one thousand years before the Europeans discovered Canada, stock breeding, nomadic communities of horsemen and camel drivers moved across the Eurasian steppe, from Mongolia across Turkestan and beyond. "Among them were a proud and vigorous people, with a civilization of their own who eventually became known as the Turks. In the eighth century they started an expansion program bigger than the world has ever known. Eventually the Turks controlled a territory stretching from the borders of Austria to deep into China, which for the next six centuries was known as the Ottoman Empire.

"From the throne in Constantinople, better known today as Istanbul, this large territory was governed by successive sultans, some warriors, some poets, some builders, some educators and some artists. Collectively they left their stamp on the country and established a culture which even today is the envy of many.

"Today's Turkey is a bit smaller, but still formidable, featuring the largest army in Europe. Its borders stretch from the Black Sea to the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas, from Greece to Syria, Iran and Iraq. Scenically beautiful, packed with history and blessed with gorgeous coastline and beaches, Turkey now has become a major tourist attraction."

Mr. Biltekin was thanked for his presentation by Sheila Clark.



Above, Michael Wondergem with Tugrul Biltekin, and below, detail of the Ishak Pasha Palace at Agri and Istanbul's Blue Mosque.



The current issue of the *Probian* can be viewed on the Web at <http://www.probus.org/6perth.htm>

Welcome:

Delores Duncan received her pin from Membership Coordinator Rod Woolham at the April meeting and we all welcome her aboard.



Spring is for the kid in all of us

No self-introduction this month, so here are a few smiles which may resonate with the grandparents among us:

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. At last she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"



My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandpa, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo while I asked, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.



When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandma," he advised. "Mine says I'm four to six."



A nursery school teacher was delivering a station wagon full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one youngster. "No," said another, "he's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dog", she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrant."

❧ SPECIAL EVENTS ❧

May 31: A wine tour of Prince Edward County. As the result of cancellations, we have a few spots on the bus for this trip. Call Denise a.s.a.p. if you wish to sign on.

June 21: "Wingfield Inferno" at the Thousand Island Playhouse in Gananoque and lunch at the Athlone Inn. Just a few openings left for this trip as well.

June 30: Annual Probus Golf Tournament at Links O'Tay.

October 12-14: Stratford trip. Deposits are now due (May 1 deadline) to be paid at Heritage Travel.

Please note

1. Buses for outings always leave from the Legion Hall parking lot. For overnight parking, the fee is \$5.00/night.
2. For trips organized by a travel agent, Probus deals with Heritage Travel and Tours, 80 Dufferin Street. Your deposits and payments must be made directly to them.

Speaker's Corner

In **May**, John Stewart will tell us about the development of Code's Inn on the Park which is now taking shape across from Code's Mill.

In **June**, our guest will be Todd Stepaniuk, CEO of the Perth and Smiths Falls Hospital.

Our Program Coordinators, John Gibb-Carsley and Clark Theobald are always open to your suggestions for future topics and speakers. They also need names of members who would be willing to introduce and thank speakers. Biographical notes are always provided.