



Our December speaker was...

David Jacklin,
Barndoor Productions
~by Don MacNaughton

David came to Perth some 25 years ago and related how he was immediately impressed with the invigorating atmosphere and with the wealth of talented people involved in many activities. Certainly our speaker has played a major part in making the entertainment scene even more vibrant. As Ian Doig said in his introduction, "David Jacklin has been the person mainly responsible for bringing good theatre to Perth."

David covered a brief history of the Studio Theatre, of which Barndoor Productions is the resident dramatic company. With its tenth anniversary coming up, the Theatre is serving the community well, holding about 60 performances per year with an annual attendance of 4000. Barndoor itself puts on six to eight productions each year.

David showed us a documentary he had made titled "Meet the Marks Brothers,

Canadian Kings of Repertoire." This excellent video covers the story of the famous Marks family from Christie Lake and how they provided "really good entertainment" nation-wide and internationally in the latter half of the 19th century and into the 20th. It is a great story with a local flavour that should be more widely known and celebrated. David is doing his part with the video and his Marks Brothers Melodramas; clips of several are included in the video.

Our speaker was obviously excited about putting the Marks Brothers and Perth/Christie Lake into prominence again, saying that it could be great for tourism. Barndoor is also examining and recovering Marks memorabilia held by the Perth Museum,

a painstaking and time-consuming task that will pay dividends in the future.

An extremely interesting presentation by this impresario, producer, director, actor and very talented man whose theatrical efforts have given great enjoyment to our community.



David Jacklin with the Marks Brothers.
Back row: Joseph, Thomas, Robert (RW), Alex, and Ernest.
Front: John and McIntyre



THE PROBUS CLUB OF PERTH

Meets first Wednesday of each month, September to June

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Notes from the Management Team

The Team is still looking for a few energetic members to join in the fun! We need an historian to keep our records in order and provide some continuity between successive Management groups. Bob Black has offered to help with this, but would like someone else to take the reins.

We would also like some Members-at-large, perhaps among the newest Probus members (we've had 22 new

members this year) who might like to learn the ropes and take on a 'real' task next year.

And speaking of **new members**, five received pins and were welcomed to Probus in December. They are (left to right) Mary Watters, Michael Watters, Bev Nasi, Peter Mindzak, and Toni Lyons-Mindzak, with President Keith Brown.



Personal Profile—Patrick Lee

Patrick introduced himself as Patrick (Irish) Vaughan (United Empire Loyalist) Lee (more Irish, originally O'Lee). He spent his first few years on a farm until his father lost his crop to drought, his cattle to starvation and 28 horses to swamp fever – all in one year. After that, it was small Prairie towns until he attended U. of Manitoba and St. John's College in Winnipeg.

Patrick taught briefly in a two-teacher high school, then returned to St. John's College for three years of theological studies. He

was ordained as a Deacon 50 years ago this year. (Congratulations on this important anniversary, Patrick!)

His first parish comprised 14 churches and three Indian reserves. He has also helped build a vibrant suburban parish, and served an old established parish in Portage la Prairie. With his wife Mary and their four daughters, Patrick later moved on to Kamloops as Dean of the Cathedral and Diocese of Cariboo.

A further calling took Patrick and Mary to Uganda for six years to work in training and the supervision of 400 schools. Their experiences there were the subject of a talk Patrick gave us at Probus in January of this year.

Returning to Winnipeg expecting to retire, Patrick found himself appointed Bishop of Rupert's Land, his retirement delayed another six years to 1999. The Lees moved to Perth last year and are thoroughly enjoying their new home.

SPECIAL EVENTS



December 14: See you at the Annual Probus Christmas Dinner at Links o'Tay.

January 20, 2007: Annual Robbie Burns night at the Legion. The Probus table always has the most fun! Get your tickets from your favourite Legionnaire.

May 2007: In place of the cancelled trip to Magog, a trip to **Estrimont Suites and Spa** in Orford, Quebec is being proposed. This 4 day/3 night vacation includes meals, pre-dinner drinks, late night snacks, entertainment and dancing, indoor and outdoor pools and hot tub, as well as a boat cruise, a tour of St. Benoit Abby and a tour

and tasting at a local winery. What's the catch? Well, it will cost more than the previously scheduled trip because we have to provide our own transportation. Cost will be about \$600/person. A decision on whether this trip is a go will be made at the January meeting, based on the level of interest shown.

June 18, 2007: The Annual Probus Golf Tournament, organized this year by Dale Nugent. Golfers, mark your calendars!

If you have ideas for new events or trips, talk to Denise Mullins (613-267-3479).

Speaker's Corner

In **January**, our speaker will be **Bob Sneyd**, a member of the Rideau Canal Advisory Committee, speaking on "The Real Miracle of the Rideau Canal". 2007 is the Canal's 175th anniversary.

In **February**, we will hear from **Lyn Ball**, former news photographer for the Ottawa Citizen.

Our Program Coordinator, Ian Doig, (613-264-2707) welcomes your suggestions for future topics and speakers.