



**THE PROBUS CLUB
OF PERTH**

P. O. Box 2164,
Perth, Ontario
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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

January 2006

War and AIDS ravage Uganda but international aid low

At the January meeting, retired Rt. Rev. Patrick Lee spoke about the six years he and his wife Mary spent in Uganda. He mentioned his introduction to the country which occurred as he arrived from Canada to serve as Dean of Training for local clergy. On the runway at Entebbe Airport, the Uganda Airways flight to London was delayed. The aircrew had an engine in pieces on the ground and one man was reading instructions from a book in his hand. The Lees avoided flying Uganda Airways after that.

Uganda is a landlocked, fertile, well-watered country with many lakes and rivers. It has substantial natural resources, including fertile soils, regular rainfall, and sizable mineral deposits of copper and cobalt. Agriculture is the most important sector of the economy, and coffee accounts for the bulk of export revenues. It is, however, home to almost twenty different ethnic groups, and this has led to many wars, particularly in the north of the country. Uganda achieved independence from Britain in 1962, and experienced the dictatorship of Idi Amin from 1971-79. In 1987, a coup established Yoweri Museveni as President and he remains in power today. It was, however, the power vacuum among the defeated peoples which gave rise to the main opposition to the government, Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Though espousing the 10 commandments, the LRA kills, rapes and mutilates their enemies and their own tribesmen who dare to resist them. This struggle has been called the "worst unreported war in the world". To avoid being abducted by the LRA to serve as child soldiers, village children now walk miles to the cities each night to sleep in relative safety.

During their time in Uganda, the Lees experienced the civil war and the government coup which brought Museveni to power. They found that, after the coup, the people trusted the army personnel who had been raised in the bush with very high principles, but war has continued unabated. The death toll through war in Uganda has been appallingly high, and AIDS is exacting a similar price. Assistance from the international community is muted by the cynical view that "they are black and they don't have oil."

Patrick Lee has written an account of their Ugandan years in *Safari in Faith*. It is available at "The Word" on Wilson Street or directly from the author.



John Gibb-Carsley introduced and Ian MacDonald thanked Mary and Patrick Lee for addressing Probus.

Food Bank

The Perth Food Bank always needs help during the winter months. Accordingly, donations will be accepted during the February and March Probus meetings.

Please give generously, making cheques payable directly to "Perth Food Bank", and expect to receive your charitable contribution receipt in February 2007.

The current issue of the *Probian* can be viewed on the Web at <http://www.probus.org/5perth.htm>

Self-introduction: Keith Brown

Keith admitted that he had presented a self-intro before (nine years before), but based on the belief that a life – and our membership– is never static, he felt it was time to do it again... a shining example for those who hesitate to do this even once!

Keith grew up in LeBreton Flats in Ottawa where his father was a fire fighter. His grandfather was Ottawa's first traffic cop, and family legend has it that, when his horse died under him in Wellington Street, Grandpa dragged it around the corner to Bay Street because he couldn't spell "Wellington".

After a year apprenticing at E. B. Eddy in Hull, Keith joined the Air Force and spent a full career in the Service. He worked on Comet and Yukon aircraft, and spent three years in Germany with side trips to Sardinia and Morocco. A later assignment found Keith teaching radar technicians in Clinton, Ontario. Keith also played pipes and trumpet in armed services bands at the Rockcliffe and Trenton stations. After retiring from the Air Force, Keith became a service representative for R. L. Crain, a travelling job yet again which took him across Canada.

Keith and Cathy finally retired to Perth in 1995, their fifteenth move during their married life. They celebrated their fiftieth anniversary a few years ago. While he keeps busy singing with the Men of the Tay, Keith agreed to take on the Vice Presidency of Probus this year which entails lining up those of you who haven't yet done your self-introduction. You'll be hearing from him!



Apologies to new member Archie Hurge whose name was incorrectly reported in last month's **Probian**. This is Archie, and Carol is sorry she goofed!

❧ SPECIAL EVENTS ❧

March 30: Hockey trip to see the Senators play the NY Rangers. Tickets \$30, bus \$22, minimum of 25 fans to make this trip happen. We will decide at the February meeting if there is sufficient interest to make this a "go".

May 24 or 31: A wine tour of Prince Edward County. People are signing up already for this, so indicate your interest if you expect to get on the bus.

June 21: "Wingfield Inferno" at the Thousand Island Play-house in Gananoque.

June 30: The annual golf tournament.

October: Twenty people have already signed up for Stratford, so don't be left behind.

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

January Probus meeting

Wishing all a Happy New Year, President Ian mused a bit about the art of resolution-making, preferring the idea of making them every morning rather than every year.

Guests: Visiting the meeting this month were Janet Osbourne, Dorothy Robertson, and Bob Jackson.

New members: Dan Woods received his pin and was welcomed aboard.

Reports: Treasurer Margie Brady, Special Events Coordinator Denise Mullins and Program Coordinator John Gibb-Carsley all presented reports. Our finances are in good shape, and upcoming speakers and events are listed below.

From the Monday Management Team meeting: Ella Thomson is requesting a backup person to organize the coffee on days she can't be at the meeting. If coffee is important to you, please step up and help out.

Why we love children

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm, a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence was broken by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."

Speaker's Corner

In **February** Lisa Morgan Levine will tell us about the latest techniques in waste disposal.

In **March** Bill Rowe, pharmacist at the Smiths falls site of the GWM Hospital, will present "Heart Talk" on pharmaceutical issues related to heart disease and diabetes.

In **April**, the topic is "The Culture and Politics of Turkey" presented by a former Canadian consul in Ankara.

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.