



The PROBIAN ~ October 2011 Edition

~ Editor: Dennis Dwyer ~



THE PROBUS CLUB OF PERTH

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Probus meets the first
Wednesday of each month,
Sept. to June.

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Apropos.....

By the time you receive this, the Probus Fall Colours Tour will have taken place. This kind of opportunity does not just happen. It takes a lot of hard work in planning and almost endless follow-ups, e-mails and telephone calls. Mary Kilgour deserves great thanks from Probians for seeing this through even though not enough of our members finally signed up and so she had to recruit others in order for the trip to be held. We owe it to Mary, or anyone else planning special events to let them know at the beginning if we intend to participate ---- and then --- follow through.

There is no doubt that the demographics of our membership are changing and with that, the needs and interests of our members. So, when special events or other opportunities outside our normal monthly meetings are presented to our members, let's be sure we accurately indicate our level on interest. Your management team needs to know how members feel so we can produce good programs and other events.

Elizabeth Goldman, CEO of the Perth & District Union Library



Almost all Probians are book lovers. One of the great things about being retired is that at least theoretically we all have more time to read. Oh, I know that we often get so involved in our own families, community volunteering, etc that we can't read as much as we would like. That being said, we were blown away by our guest, the new CEO of our library.

She started off by saying that for her, the position at the library was the ideal job for her --- a dream come true. Coming to us after guiding the Chelsea District library in Michigan to the award of the "Best Small Library in America" it certainly gives us a sense of excitement about her appointment. She did not disappoint us. After briefly sketching out the history of the Perth & District Union Library, she laid out some past successes involving a literacy program for 125 kids this year, better customer service and on-line resources. Our library also faces challenges involving the changing role of libraries world-wide, local funding, and its image among citizens in the area.

But it was her outline of the future that really grabbed the attention of our members. She explained how the library will become more community focused with a vision articulated by community, staff, and users. Both bringing people to the library and the library to the people in order to connect to the community will be a hall-mark of the next few years. It became obvious that Elizabeth is not only comfortable with the new technologies but wants our library to be able to offer these to us ---- just as important, she understands the teaching role that must accompany any new method of reading, storing, sharing, and researching.

So, after her presentation there were many questions about e-readers, the use of the internet, special availability of books for the visually handicapped, and how to handle donated books. More people are using talking books and our library will increase their availability. She recognized the need to teach or offer discernment about health care information readily available on the internet.

This was a fascinating hour ---- it just flew by.

Special Events

December 9, 2011 ~ Annual Christmas dinner at the Lion's Club (in Fairgrounds). Good friends, good drink, good food, good music and dancing ~ what could be more festive! Cocktails @ 6pm, Dinner @ 7 followed by dancing to Tim Murray and his jazz combo. Cost \$30. (Details revised after initial issue.)



Management Team Notes

The 2012 SPRING FLING will be upon us before we know it. The Probian will keep you informed as planning moves forward.



New Members

Our membership now stands @ 130.

New members welcomed at our 3 October meeting were:



Dawn Best, John & Elizabeth Kerr-Wilson, Wayne Hammond, Gardener Church, Bill McKenzie, welcomed by Dan Murphy and David Crowley

Personal Profile ~ Gardner Church



Imagine, being born and raised in Perth and Otty Lake, studying with social democratic thinkers like Pauline Jewett, taking a graduate seminar given by Lester Pearson, meeting his wife Linda in politics, and all the while being a small “c” conservative. As a Deputy Minister of Housing, then later Deputy Minister for the GTA under both Premier Peterson and later two years serving Premier Rae ---- finally finding a measure of tranquility teaching at York and as a visiting professor at Waterloo University.

Imagine, then returning to Queen’s Park during the beginning of the common sense revolution as a private sector advisor on local government reform, then putting this into practice in 1998 as CAO of Kingston to implement its major amalgamation. Now retired with Linda and completing their new home at Otty Lake, Gardner is active in the mental health field, operating a research and therapeutic clinic at the Royal Ottawa Hospital. So far, a full life. Welcome Gardner.

Speakers' Corner



November 3 ~ Our guest will be Major-General(Ret'd) Clive Addy who will present a documentary entitled “If I Should Fall”. In large part this video presentation was put together by a soldier from General Addy’s regiment and who was killed in Afghanistan. There will be a question-time after the presentation.



Your Opinions Matter

Send us your ideas to: Probus Perth, P. O. Box 20131, Perth, Ontario, K7H 3M6 or info@probusperth.ca , or call Dennis at 613-264-5536

I would like to hear _____ speak on _____ at Probus.

My principal reason I am a member of Probus is: _____

I suggest the following activity and will attend it: _____

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____