



**THE PROBUS CLUB
OF PERTH**

P. O. Box 2164,
Perth, Ontario
K7H 3M9

<http://www.probus.org>

Meets first Wednesday of month

Management Team

2005/2006

President

Ian Doig
264-2707

Vice President

Keith Brown
264-0206

Treasurer

Margaret Brady
267-5193

Secretary

Chris McGuire-Sherwin
264-0759

Past President

Dale Nugent
613-267-4026

Program

John Gibb-Carsley
267-4812
Clark Theobald
267-6332

Special Events

Denise Mullins
267-3479

Membership

Rod Woolham
267-1300

Facilities

Ella Thomson
264-8454

Web Advisor

Colin Stephenson
264-2609

Newsletter

Carol Trischuk
283-8112

The **P**ROBIAN

May 2006

The whole community benefits from YAK's success

Darinka Morelli was born in Belgrade, in the former Yugoslavia. She lived briefly in Germany and settled in Canada in 1969, first in Toronto then Ottawa and, over the last seven years in the Rideau Lakes and Lanark area. She currently resides in Perth, and holds the position of Executive Director of YAK, the Youth Action Committee of Perth & District. When Ms. Morelli applied for her current job YAK's budget was \$20,000 annually. It was obvious that her time was expected to be voluntary. She was told, "If you can raise the money, we can pay you." Today YAK's budget is \$250,000, and its success is priceless.

YAK is a community charitable organization working to provide opportunities, support and resources for the youth of Perth and District. The effectiveness of this service stems from the fact that youth come to the centre voluntarily, drawn by the presence of young staff members and the freedom provided for them to be themselves within the framework of simple rules they can understand. This creates stellar opportunities for early intervention, prevention and educational initiatives, and from the ability to provide high-risk youth with alternative sources of skills development and experience. With 400 young people registered, last year YAK logged 6000 visits, mainly in the 14-18 year age range.

Over the past decade, YAK has made a remarkable impact on the well being of local youth and the community. Programs and services offered at YAK include community partnerships/work opportunities, sports, food support, homeless youth support, cooking facilities and lessons, crisis resolution, work orientation –to mention just a few of the many that were covered during the discussion. As a result, life skills and employment readiness have increased and substance use and abuse has decreased among those who spend time at YAK. There has been a reduction of delinquent behaviours in the community, and school attendance has increased. YAK partners with various youth service providers to offer a comprehensive network of support for local youth. In this community we are very fortunate to have the support of our local government and many organizations and individuals interested in promoting the well-being of young people.

Ms. Morelli gave us a wealth of interesting information on the many success stories that have resulted from YAK's activities.

It was an eye-opening presentation for those who had imagined YAK to be no more than a place for young people to hang out. Intense interest was evident from the wide ranging questions raised by Probus members at the conclusion of the talk.



John Gibb-Carsley, Ian Doig, Darinka Morelli and Clark Theobald hold an equation relating risk and protective factors to behavior.

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

Self introduction: Mavis Pomfret

Mavis was born in Bolton, Lancashire. She met her future husband when he was studying for his B.Sc., but he made it quite clear that he intended to get a Ph.D. She patiently waited five years and they were married a week before he received his doctorate in Chemistry. A few weeks before the wedding, they saw a slide show of Canada and within a month they had everything arranged and their flights booked. They arrived in Montreal on July 6th, 1952 - without a job, knowing no one, and without money! Fortunately, the job search only took three days.

Their first home was in Magog, Quebec, and their daughter was born there. Then it was on to CIL in Kingston for twelve years, with a son arriving during that time. Mavis' husband Ron joined the Federal government and they moved to Ottawa, living first in Kanata for six years and then, for 22 years, on 14 acres in Dunrobin where, Mavis says, 'You name it, we grew it!'

When Ron retired in 1984 they began to look around for a place to downsize. After lunch in Perth one day they found themselves standing on Rogers Road where a new condominium was planned. Ron said "This is it!" They had eight happy years here before Ron died in 2001, but Mavis feels that Perth is still the place to be, especially if you play bridge. She has enjoyed passing on her bridge expertise at McMartin House for the past 11 years.

❧ SPECIAL EVENTS ❧

May 31: The wine tour of Prince Edward County. Please remember that the bus leaves from the **Legion parking lot** at 8 a.m. sharp. Don't sleep in or you'll miss it!

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. Tee off time is 3:00 p.m. with dinner following at 6:00. Green fees for those who are not members of the golf club are \$15.00 and dinner (chicken supreme, salad, dessert) is \$22 including tax and tip which must be paid at the June meeting or to Margie by June 15. All, even duffers, are welcome for golf and dinner, or just dinner.

October 4: Probus Perth 10th Anniversary celebration. Meeting and lunch at the Links O'Tay. Mark your calendar for this special event. Those who may miss the September meeting should reserve their place - and pay - in June. Choice of chicken/asparagus/mushroom crepe for \$17.00 or grilled chicken caesar salad for \$16. Both include soup and dessert.

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

Notes from the May meetings

President Ian gave us an overview of the many rites of spring associated with the month of May, dating back to pagan times. We learned that, if April showers bring May flowers, May shenanigans often brought June weddings!

At the Management Team meeting the following Monday, we learned that three of our Team members will be retiring this summer. John Gibb-Carsley has been Program Coordinator for four years, Carol Trischuk has put together the Newsletter for four, and Margie Brady took over the Treasurer's duties last year. Being a member of the Management Team is stimulating and enriching, and a wonderful way to make new contacts if you are new to the Club. There are really no rules associated with the positions - you bring your skills to bear as you see fit, and you receive lots of help and encouragement from the other members of the team and the Club at large. We are a large Club brimming with talent. We know there are members who can pitch in for a year or two and keep it all running smoothly. Please let Past President Dale Nugent (267-4026) know what you are willing to do to help.

A Few Things I Owe My Mother - courtesy of John Gittens

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.
"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
4. My mother taught me LOGIC.
"Because I said so, that's why."
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.
"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA.
"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
16. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.
"Just wait until we get home."
19. My mother taught me ESP.
"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you're cold?"

- for the full list, speak to John!

Speaker's Corner

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

Todd will tell us how the expansion of the Smiths Falls branch is progressing, and how it will affect service there and in Perth.

Our Program Coordinators, to be determined for next year, 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.