



The PROBIAN ~ April 2014 Edition

~ Editors: Dennis Dwyer & Colin Stephenson ~



**THE PROBUS CLUB
OF PERTH**
P. O. Box 20131,
Perth, Ontario
K7H 3M6
www.probusperth.ca
Probus meets the first
Wednesday of each month,
Sept. to June.

President
Jim Gilmour
613-259-2592
jamesbgilmour@gmail.com

Past President
Richard Thomson
613-466-0557

Vice President
Jean Crowley
613-267-3306

Secretary
David Allcock
613-706-3562

Treasurer
Don Sherwin
613-264-0759

Program
David Farquharson
613-267-2231
Gardner Church
613-267-1842
Fran MacNaughton
613-264-1974

Special Events
Mary Kilgour
613-264-0024
Ted Glugosh
613-267-1698

Membership
Don McDiarmid
613-264-8590

Newsletter Editors
Colin Stephenson
613-264-2609
Dennis Dwyer
613-264-5536

Webmaster
Colin Stephenson
613-264-2609
info@probusperth.ca

Facilities
Geoffrey Newman
613-264-1290

Apropos

It's not just a congregation in a small rural church singing a hymn that invites people to reflect. In the age of Twitter, where instant response is the norm, quiet reflection is not only a lost art, but no longer valued by a majority of our citizens. Canada is a world leader in online consumption; half our population owns a smart 'phone and half of them say they spend 86% of their time staring at one screen or another. In a UK survey 22% of adults texting say they were so distracted that they ran into something. Some London neighbourhoods now are installing pads on their lampposts!

Often we hear our neighbours sigh, "what can one person do?". Like any disease, "unchecked infomania" can kill us. At least it can kill that part that "thinks things through". What can one person do? It is something called self-discipline. Though it is a little late for New Year's resolutions, let's now take control of our time and turn the digital world off for at least a couple of hours each day.

(Apropos reflects the views of the Editors but not necessarily those of the Club.)

George Laidlaw – For the Love of History



To say that our April speaker, George Laidlaw, is a prolific author is a gross understatement. The man has written 91 books, most of them since his retirement. And he writes for adults, both young and old. It is no wonder then to learn that he is on the Board of the Ottawa Independent Writers, an association founded by writers for writers

But he is not just an author, he is a true story-teller with an engaging, earthy manner and self-deprecatory sense of humour. Judging from a quick read of one of his books, his writing closely resembles his oral story telling style.

George carried off his Probus presentation, without audio-visual support and without notes. His sole props were his 91 books laid out on tables behind him. Seemingly at random, he dove into his collection and recounted interesting anecdotes from several of them. His stories ranged from

Ganges Khan, to the Fenian Raids, to the War of 1812-14, to the Avro Arrow. All stories about history, the way we wish it had been taught when we were in school.

Following the presentation there was a book draw, won by Carol Trischuk, and a run on the store of books which George had brought along.

Special Future Events

- **May 27** - Spring Fling 2014 at Orchard View Conference Centre, 6346 Deermeadow Dr., Greely, hosted by the Ottawa-Rideau Valley Probus Club in Manotick. Participation is now limited to members who are already registered. [More details.](#)
- **May 28** – Our annual trip to the Thousand Island Playhouse, 185 South Street in Gananoque, this time to see “[Driving Miss Daisy](#)” ~ a comedy of unlikely friendship. The lunch options are either lunch at [Muskie Jake's](#) in the Gananoque Inn, 550 Stone Street South (you pay at the time); or the Playhouse box lunch and enjoy the [Pre-Show Chat](#) with actors on the deck outside the Playhouse. As a bonus for the adventurous, we suggest an optional 1.5 hour boat cruise for before the play with [Chuckles Discovery Tours](#). The tour starts at 10:30am at the Playhouse dock and will get you back at noon, in time for lunch and the play, which begins at 2:30 pm. All reservations should be made directly with Mary ASAP. The cost per person for the various options, with cheques payable to Probus Perth in advance is:

1. Theatre tickets only	\$26.00
2. Theatre tickets + box lunch	\$40.50
3. Theatre + boat cruise	\$64.62
4. Theatre + box lunch + cruise	\$79.12
- **June 4** – Closing Probus luncheon at the Perth Legion after the meeting. Choice of Wraps and Sandwiches or Lasagna and Caesar Salad. Both include dessert/tea/coffee for \$10 (no tax or gratuity). Please sign up at the May meeting.



Speakers' Corner ~ May 7th

Gail Reid & Ian MacDonald have spent several months this year exploring southern South America and Antarctica. We understand that they have visited Chile, Argentina, Peru and the Falklands. And they have taken pictures everywhere they have gone ~ thousands of them. Gail is apparently whittling their treasure trove of pictures down to display a sampling to us. This is one more meeting we don't think you will want to miss.

Lunch After May 7th Meeting

@ Fiddleheads – 53 Herriott Street

Quote for the Month

“Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead”.

First line of Hymn by Shirley Murray -1989

Natalie Gibb-Carsley



We were all saddened by the loss of fellow Probus member Natalie Gibb-Carsley. She had a gift for inviting people to return her always ready smile. She gave unselfishly to the community and to so many of its members in so many ways. She will be missed by all of us and particularly

by John, her husband of almost 54 years and fellow Probian, as well as her entire family.

Management Team Notes



- The vote at the April 2nd meeting on the proposed addition to our Club's bylaws to accommodate the new practice of honouring our members aged 90+ was passed unanimously by the members present. The revised Bylaws are shown on our website at www.probusperth.ca/constitution.htm.
- Members also ratified the vote on the proposed minor amendment to our Privacy Policy to make it possible to share the members email list among Management Team members to be used for Probus business purposes only. The revised Privacy Policy is displayed on our website at www.probusperth.ca/documents/privacy_policy.htm.
- The suggestion by Derek Cooke to compile a “yearbook” of members, including their pictures and interests, will be considered. Jean Crowley will organize a committee to examine and possibly implement this suggestion in time for the club's 20th Anniversary celebrations.
- The mid-year Financial Statement is available on our website at www.probusperth.ca/financials.htm

Final Words from Mark Twain

- Politicians and diapers must be changed often, and for the same reason.
- Never put off till tomorrow what may be done day after tomorrow just as well.
- Go to heaven for the climate and hell for the company.