



The Probian

April 2022

Probus Club of Perth

Greetings!

'Moody March' said good-bye in its typical way but there was some good news for those who endured the winter by bidding farewell to more 'spring-like' weather.



April 1st did 'fool' us! To be expected when a month is more often 'Apprehensive' than others. Hope you were prepared! April somewhat shed it's winter coat but not on the 19th! Just when there was a promise of 'greener' views with daffodils beginning to bud and crocuses showing off their purplish colours. Thankfully, there was Easter and all the joy it brings with both festive and spiritual family gatherings.



Now, it's the '**Merry Month of May!**' Its first day is celebrated with **Maypole Dancing** that started some 2000 years ago in Roman Britain and of late, 600 years ago in Britain.



The first of May is considered the '**Rite of Spring**' celebrated worldwide with a Maypole Dance. For 149 years, New Westminster, British Columbia, has been celebrating the first day of May with a Maypole Dance. At one time, the Maypole Dance was considered a '**Fertility Rite**'.

Dancers of all ages perform an intricate choreography set to music intertwining colourful ribbons around a pole then unwinding them. At no time are the ribbons tangled.

I have always wanted to see a Maypole dance.

Have you see one?

Gayda Errett * Newsletter Editor

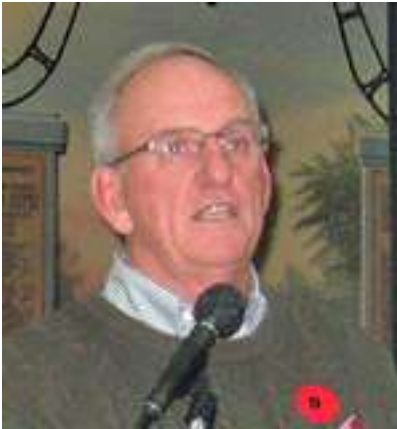


MAY MEETING:

**Our upcoming ZOOM meeting on May 4th begins at 9:40 a.m.
with a social time.**

The Presentation begins at 10:00 a.m.

MAY SPEAKER • CLIVE ADDY



From the beginning of Canada's participation in the post 9/11 operation in Afghanistan, our contingent benefited immensely from the indispensable support of many Afghans knowing that 'their doing so' would make them and their families vulnerable to violent reprisals from Taliban and other sources if 'per chance' we were to fail.

From that time Canada made it clear to our Afghan colleagues that we would facilitate immigration to Canada in such a case. We supported this until 2014 when we left the mission and continued to welcome Afghan members of our team and their families as new immigrants until 2017...with the supposition that the Afghan government in place would survive.

Like the rest of the world, and particularly our allies in Afghanistan, we were shocked by the amazingly rapid collapse of the government and the return to Taliban rule that occurred in 2020 with the departure of US and allied forces. This of course increased the risk and immediacy to our former Afghan allies and their families enormously as other allies immediately began to increase the evacuation of such of their own vulnerable Afghan allies. As described in an open letter, Canada did not respond as quickly as did others. This 'Open Letter' of November 2020 to the Hon. Mendicino, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship by Interpreter charities from Geneva, Paris, Buenos Aires, Vancouver, Melbourne and Brussels was embarrassing. In it they urged Canada to move quickly as have the UK and Australia in significantly easing the 'path to asylum'.

In Canada, members of the Afghan Safety Evacuation Team, composed of former Canadian military leaders of our troops in country and, with the network from Veterans Transition Network, again Canadian vets as well as other charities in Canada and abroad, they began their marvelous work and garnered donations to do so.

Meantime, thwarted by so much bureaucracy and with little regard and understanding of the real threats to our Afghan allies and their families in situ, many families have been awaiting and do so still, yet the hard work of volunteers in these organizations has run out of money and they are hard pressed to continue notwithstanding the oft repeated theatrical pronouncements of our Prime Minister and his departments about extracting

40,000 (while maintaining the slow, bureaucratic and unrealistic conditions before providing necessary funds where needed.)

Recognizing the added challenge in Ukraine, we still owe urgently the promised Honour and Loyalty to the needs of our Afghan allies and their families.

Only 2,031 have arrived since February 22nd and 10,292 are left in hiding awaiting evacuation. Only 700 recently.

My own class of some 200 ex-RMC cadets from the Class of '66 alone have sent an equal number of letters to local MP's many of whom, in turn, have sent these complaints to Ministers. Yet, little has been done.

Your support would be most welcome!

— Honour and loyalty to our Afghan Allies —

Prepared and Submitted by: Clive Addy



— NOMINATION'S COMMITTEE REPORT —

VICE PRESIDENCY:

First, a thank you to those who offered their help on the Nomination Committee.

Cait Maloney will assist in the Committee's process to find a Vice President, I very much appreciate having you and your experience, to call on, Cait!

As I mentioned in the e-mail sent to all members, finding a Vice President for our club is **VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE CLUB'S FUTURE!** Please give it thought and then second thought!

The Vice President's year does not require a great time investment. It is a year of learning the ropes and getting the feel of the Club, attending our Monthly Meetings and the Management Team meetings, which before Covid numbered 5, one every 2 months. Since Covid we have met on ZOOM once a month. We do not meet during the summer.

There are only two tasks consistently assigned to the Vice President.

For more details, and to become part of the competent team which ensures Perth has a thriving Probus Club, contact me at: pastpresident@probusperth.ca

MORE HELP WANTED!

1. **David Batchelor**, as our resident 'Audio Visual Guru', desperately needs a set of helping hands, also an assistant, and a 'back-up'.

We are in the difficult position of not being able to have our accustomed informative and entertaining speakers, should David be on vacation or otherwise suddenly unavailable on the day of a meeting.

Should we have to look beyond the club membership for someone to set-up and tune the AV equipment, it would mean an added expense for the club and could lead to increased membership fees.

Please, if you have even some minimal facility in this area contact David for details of our needs. avprobusperth@gmail.com

2. Help for the The Probian Editor, Gayda Errett

In September, when we hope we are able to meet in person, we need someone to:

- A) During the meeting, photograph the following: Any new members with the President, member presenting a Personal Profile, and the Speaker. (Even an iPhone would be sufficient!) Forward these photographs to Gayda as a JPEG.
- B) Write a synopsis of the Personal Profile from notes supplied by the member. Submit to Gayda.
- C) Write a synopsis of the Speaker's Presentation from notes supplied by the speaker. Submit to Gayda.

This Fall, be a part of the new team approach to producing The Probian, our valued newsletter.

Contact Gayda Errett at probian@probusperth.ca to help with one or more of the above needs.

Submitted by Liz Leonard • Chair • Nominations Committee



MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

We have 201 members leaving room for 4 new members to join our club before we reach the maximum of 205. When we reach the maximum number of members, a "Waiting List" will be compiled.



March New Members:

Victoria Boyd, Graeme Crabb, Don Farrow, Bruce Raby, Mary Rothfels, Rainer and Suzanne Veh.

April New Members:

Liana Gallant, George Willett, Jean-Denis Labelle

Welcoming Returning Members:

Lesley and Tom Todd

Aline McRory • Membership Committee

– SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT –

• Social Events for April & May •

An Evening of Dinner and Theatre in Smiths Falls:

How wonderful that we can start to get together again. Gail has a few seats left for our first event. We will begin on **Thursday, April 28th** with a dinner and theatre in Smiths Falls! Dinner will be at “**The Vault**” at 5:15 p.m., 53 Victoria Street East. “**Halfway There**” by Norm Foster is presented by **Station Theatre**. Curtain time 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 when purchased from Gail at social-gail@probusperth.ca. Maximum 16.

Saturday, April 30th • 9:00–4:00 p.m. • Festival of the Maples:

Downtown Perth, fun for all as we mark the end of our Maple Sap run.



Probian Luncheon at Gather!

Monday, May 16th at 11:15 a.m.

40 Gore St. East. Menu at www.gatherinperth.com

Please make food restrictions known ahead. *Pay for what you order.*

The restaurant will be open to our membership only!! Full vaccination required to participate.

Sign-up with Gail at social-gail@probusperth.ca

and wish Don Sherwin, our newest nonagenarian, a Happy 91st Birthday! Event capacity is 28.

An Evening of Dinner and Theatre in Perth!



Thursday, May 26th — Dinner at Michael's Table at 5:00 p.m.

This event is currently booked for 16. Sign up with Gail at social-gail@probusperth.ca



“**This Year, Next Year**”, by Norah Harding, is presented by **Studio Theatre**. Curtain time 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$19. Purchased at Tickets Please!

– Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Dates –

Tuesday, June 14th:

Lunch on the patio at **The Lockmaster's Taphouse & Patio** overlooking the falls located at 12 Beckwith Street West.

Lunch and Theatre in Gananoque:

Wednesday, June 29th:

Lunch at Muskie Jake's and theatre "**The Perfect Wedding**" by Robin Hawdon at the Thousand Island Playhouse.

50 tickets have been reserved at \$37. Six tickets are handicapped. Please reserve lunch and theatre with Mary at mkilgour121@gmail.com.

Please pay by e-transfer to Probus Club of Perth or send a cheque to Probus Club of Perth, Box 20131 Shoppers Drug Mart, Perth, On K7H 3M6. For e-Transfers go to Probus Club of Perth for Policy Instructions.

Community Update: Events that might be of interest to you!

May 7th:

The Perth Farmers Market launches 'in-person' shopping. Also, there is another event ...



May 12th & 13th:

Kenny Wayne, "**Blues Boss**", from Kelowna, B.C., plays at the Cove Inn, Westport.

May 28th:

Spring Perth Night Market

July 15-17th:

Stewart Park Festival will be in-person this year.

Read **theHumm** for more social ideas and events or visit their website: www.thehumm.com

Editor's Note:

Graphics for the Social Committee's Report for March and this month have been kindly submitted with appreciation by their Convenors:

Mary Kilgour and Gail Read



– APRIL PRESENTATION –

The War in Ukraine

The daily avalanche of horrors emanating from Ukraine has raised a multitude of questions.

- ✚ Why is Putin attacking Ukraine in the first place?
- ✚ Why isn't NATO more involved?
- ✚ What is the impact of all the sanctions being enacted?
- ✚ What action is the United Nations taking?
- ✚ How are the ever-growing numbers of refugees being accommodated?

And, so on...

In a timely effort to bring some clarity to the situation, the Speakers Committee assembled a panel of experts, all with a great deal of experience in their various related fields.

An overview of the situation in Ukraine, plus biographies of the five panel members can be found in the March edition of The Probian and at:

<http://probusperth.ca/documents/MarchSpeakersReport.pdf>

Acting as both Panel Moderator and expert on the geographic region in question, **Gary Smith** presented a detailed review of 1500 years of the history of the Russian and Ukrainian region. Vladimir Putin has played upon that history and the pride of the Russian people to declare that Ukraine does not exist and is actually part of Russia. That belief, plus a fear of NATO expansion in the area led to his declaration of his "Special Military Operation" in Ukraine.

Clive Addy spoke of the equipment and personnel losses being experienced by the Russian forces and of the weaknesses of Russian training, attitude and equipment.

NATO must sustain the existence of Ukraine, and avoid WW3 without destroying Ukraine. Not simple! More equipment for Ukraine being an essential. Canada-Russia relations relative to the arctic are also of concern, with the need for more Canadian action in that area being of great importance.

Addressing the questions of Sanctions, **Len Edwards** explained that while sanctions certainly have an impact, they are never 100% effective and take time to take hold. The degree that Europe is reliant upon Russian Coal, Oil and Gas also undermines the effectiveness of sanctions. Further, despite an initial 40% drop in the value of the Ruble, it has now rebounded to within 5% of its pre-war value.

Inflationary pressures also raise the possibility of a global recession.

Shelagh Stevens explained how a Russian veto of a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine had led to a General Assembly resolution, supported by 141 of 193 members, plus a strong statement from the Secretary General.

Shelagh also spoke of Ukraine having filed suit in the International Court of justice in The Hague accusing Russia of manipulating the concept of Genocide to justify its military aggression.

Elsie Stresman highlighted the plight of the 82.4 million people around the world who have been forced to flee their homes, 26.4 million of whom are considered refugees. In Ukraine over 10 million have fled their homes, 4 million being refugees. A dramatic number have been accommodated in friendly neighbour countries, but many are settling, likely temporarily, in other countries.

With Canada being the home to the third largest Ukrainian community (after Ukraine itself and Russia), we are likely to see the largest immigrant influx in Canadian history.

Locally, communities like Perth, Carleton Place and Merrickville are working through the red tape associated with welcoming migrants.

Lasting over an hour and three quarters and “attended” by a record number of club members, the captivating panel discussion certainly provided many of the answers we sought.

Clarity yes, but sadly an ominous clarity!

Special Note:

To see the discussion in its entirety, Probus Perth club members can access a YouTube video via the link provided in the April 16th email sent to all members by Colin Stephenson, our webmaster.

Prepared by: Robert Leonard



Closing thoughts ...

“Open your arms to change but don’t let go of your values”.

Dalai Lama



The sunflower’s radiant beauty is the National Flower of the Ukraine. It’s true to its name by following the sun.

The bright yellow petals cannot help but be an inspiration of hope for ‘happier, sunnier’ days especially during this catastrophic and devastating time.



Editor's Note:

The beautiful sunflower quilt has recently been made by local quilter, Anita Payne De Gaia, Tay Valley Township, in honour of the Ukrainian National Flower. Anita has kindly granted permission to include her quilt in this month's '*Closing Thoughts*'.



In normal times the Perth Probus Club meets at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, 26 Beckwith Street, Perth, on the first Wednesday of the month, September through June.

President: Lois-Anne Brebner president@probusperth.ca

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Further information on the club and contact details for the other members of the Management Team can be found at: www.probusperth.ca/board.htm