



# The PROBIAN ~ February 2012 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.....** Our membership is down by about 20% from 5 years ago. This may be just a statistical waggle in an area that is growing and especially growing in numbers of retired people. The beginning of the retirement of the “boomer” generation should help our cause during the next 10 years. We enjoy such a good time together and almost always have dynamic speakers, so we want to share these good times with our neighbours.

To help us explain ourselves to a prospective member, this month we have printed up 75 colour copies of this four page newsletter. They have been folded and each inserted in an envelope — all to make it easy for you to take one home after the next meeting and give it to a friend. Who knows, all the colour, interesting pictures, and description of Diana’s wonderful presentation will motivate some people to join. Let’s hope so.

## Diana Beresford-Kroeger on the Arboretum Borealis



It is not very often that the phrase “riveting” can be used to describe a speaker. Over the years we have been very fortunate in having many excellent speakers, but Diana Beresford-Kroeger’s talk did have us riveted in our seats. She explained that her whole life has been devoted to both understanding and preserving our global forests. She made it very clear to us that if we do care about our planet and what we will leave our grandchildren, then we had better find ways to make sure that those in authority believe that we care and help us make changes.

By taking us through a pictorial tour of her own garden in Merrickville, she educated us: We learned that Perth has the best garlic plants in Canada, that we have much to learn from our 1<sup>st</sup> Nations people, that growing a black walnut tree can not only produce investment income for our retirement or funds for our grandchildren’s education, but the fatty acids produced can cure a number of illnesses. She pointed out that knowledge is power and that it is almost pointless to wait for our politicians to make the changes that will save our forests and the many species of plants necessary for a balanced ecology — her talk was almost a call to arms! We are taking too much out of our planet and not living responsibly.

Only some of our members have grown up knowing the value of various plants and species of trees, so for many of us her presentation was an eye-opener. Her talk left us with an unfinished task — we can begin by increasing our knowledge of what can be grown right here in the Perth area. Then grow it. By changing our own habitat here, we can encourage others to do the same. We were left with a challenge. Let’s hope we can respond.

*Continued.....Page 2*

*Arboretum Borealis.....continued*

A number of our members have contacted your editor and asked about the books Diana has written. Here are some below ([and click here for more](#)):

Arboretum America: A Philosophy of The Forest  
A Garden for Life  
Arboretum Borealis: A Lifeline of the Planet  
The Global Forest

*TREES AND A SUSTAINABLE ECOLOGY ARE IMPORTANT, AND SO IS OUR WORLD-WIDE ECONOMY.* Maybe we're making the same mistakes with it as we are with our planet — Many of our members are worried and want to identify some economic solutions. Here is a quote from a recent (2011) book by Satyajit Das who, in his own way, offers another call to arms.

“There is no simple, painless solution. The world has to reduce debt, shrink the financial part of the economy, and change the destructive incentive structures in finance. Individuals in developed countries have to save more and spend less. Companies have to go back to real engineering. Governments have to balance their books better. Banking must become a mechanism for matching savers and borrowers, financing real things. Banks cannot be larger than nations, countries in themselves. Countries cannot rely on debt and speculation for prosperity. The world must live within its means.” (“EXTREME MONEY” – page 377)

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## Special Future Events



**March 22** - Probus dinner & theatre evening ~ dinner at 6:00 pm at the Stone Cellar Restaurant followed by "Steel Magnolias" at the Studio Theatre. Ticket price \$17. The dinner must be pre-ordered @ the 7 March Probus meeting and varies in price from approximately \$19 - \$30 all taxes & gratuities incl. ([More details.](#))

**April 19** – “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Wolf” – Full Circle Theatre + dinner

**May 30** – [Nunsense II at the Gananoque Playhouse](#) --- cost \$25 per person for the play. A group reservation for lunch at the Gananoque Inn will be made.

## Speakers' Corner



**March 7** – Dr. David Turner, a Perthite (his father was Managing Editor of the Perth Courier) who is a recently retired anthropologist from the U of T ---- will talk on his experiences with aboriginals in Australia. This is timely, as our aboriginal communities in Canada are on the front burner again — even in Ontario. Caledonia anyone!

**April 4** – Nancy Wildgoose on the Renaissance of the Perth & District Food Bank

**May 2** – Ron Alquist, Assistant Chief Economic Analysis at the Bank of Canada, on economic research and the determinants of oil prices.

**June 6** – John McKenty on his soon to be released book on Christie Lake

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## Management Team Notes



### OFFICERS' TERMS:

At our February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting the proposal increasing the terms of the President, Vice-President, and Past-Presidents to two years from one, was not adopted. The reason for suggesting the change was to give the incumbent president longer to learn the ropes. This, of course, would mean that each person becoming president would accept that the whole process from accepting office as Vice-President to leaving as Past-President would involve a six year commitment.

There was a lively discussion, with interesting input from many Past-Presidents. By a wide margin of those present, the proposal was not adopted.

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## Lunch after the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

Will be @ MICHAEL'S TABLE on Gore St.

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**SPECIAL NOTE:** At our 7 March meeting KAREN RENNIE, Heritage Manager for Perth, will give a brief presentation about the 200<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF PERTH. It seems like a long time away, 2016, but we should know what is planned and many of us will want to take part.

## SPRING FLING:

Our President spoke at the last meeting and brought us up to date on plans for this year's Spring Fling. Because the venue, i.e., Codes Mill, can only accommodate 200 people, places for each Probus club will have to be rationed. This has caused concern in some clubs. The committee responsible is doing everything possible to be fair and our own members are asked to be generous and understand that most of us will not be able to attend. Details can be found on our [Spring Fling website](#).

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## The President's New Gavel



## ...and the Traditional Gift



*Past President Mike Else receives gift from Dan Murphy*

## QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

*"Failure is generally not fatal, but failure to change can be."* Satyajit Das.

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## Pictures from Robbie Burns Dinner Dance





PROBUS CLUB OF PERTH

**Mid-year Financial Report**

(Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements from Aug. 1, 2011 to January 31, 2012)

<b>Bank balance @ Aug. 1, 2011</b>	<b>\$2,596.26</b>
<b>Plus income:</b>	
Memberships	2,207.00
Uncashed honorarium cheque from previous year	50.00
Surplus, Christmas party	<u>153.30</u>
<b>Total income:</b>	<b><u>\$2,410.30</u></b>
<b>Equals:</b>	<b>\$5,006.56</b>
<b>Less expenses:</b>	
Hall rental	520.00
Projector and accessories	756.83
Probus Centre-Canada insurance	282.50
Wreath for Cenotaph, Nov.11	49.00
Legion donation for exec. coffee and storage of box	100.00
Copying	153.26
Speakers' gifts/lunches	277.30
Name tags & pins	181.33
Postage	133.34
Past Pres. Gift	75.00
Bank charges	<u>31.00</u>
<b>Total expenses:</b>	<b><u>\$2,559.56</u></b>
<b>Bank balance @ January 31, 2012</b>	<b>\$2,447.00</b>
Forecast of additional expenses to July 31, 2012	<u>700.00</u>
<b>Forecast of bank balance @ July 31, 2012</b>	<b><u>\$1,747.00</u></b>

D. Sherwin, Treasurer,  
Jan. 31, 2012