



The PROBIAN ~ February 2013 Edition

~ Editors: Dennis Dwyer & Colin Stephenson ~



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 Last month we proposed that the very existence of Probus, and clubs like it, is important because democracy is served best by an informed electorate. What we learned below from our speaker underlines how important it is to keep up with our rapidly changing world. Our quote of the month points to another crucial characteristic of responsible democratic government — the electors' avoidance of being part of a herd mentality. So often when we say "politics" we mean partisan political engagement. Politics though, of whatever form, is how we make decisions and set priorities. Most commentators with a sense of history agree that what is happening in Greece ([see link](#)) and in embryo in many parts of the world, is the result of bad political choices. These choices have been made over a generation by citizens who have jumped on the bandwagon of prosperity produced by borrowing in order to consume products and government services. In Canada, some of our best governments have been run by farmers who knew that you should work hard, not spend what you don't have, borrow if you must -- but to invest, and save for a rainy day. Maybe we need more farmers in government?

Dennis Dwyer & Colin Stephenson

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

Amanda Groshinski.....All about Plasco



In a lifetime, the average North American will throw away **800 times** his or her **adult weight** in garbage. Imagine, using garbage to make electricity. Sound's too "space-age" or impossible? Amanda led us through Plasco's unique Canadian technology that does just that.

What was so impressive about her presentation was that she was able to explain the highly technical process in a way that our audience understood it. We're mostly retired people with only a few engineers and scientists among us, so her talk was a triumph of good communication;

we enjoyed it.

The most important fact we absorbed was that the Plasco plant outside Ottawa was NOT an incinerator or even a form of incineration, but an entirely different process that results in electrical energy! To use a more accurate and technical description, this kind of processing of organic waste allows production of combustible syngas which can be used in various applications, e.g. electric power and thermal energy generation. It is called *plasma gasification*. It prevents hazardous waste from reaching landfills, there are no harmful emissions or toxic waste, and it produces a clean alloyed slag which can be used as construction material.

The market for this patented Canadian technology is world-wide. Plasco has been in the press this last year because some of their deadlines have passed without going into production. This is the result of the company's preoccupation with "making sure it is right the first time". It is presently a private company whose international partners have already invested over \$300 million in research and development resulting in the operating plant in Ottawa.

Plasco ~ continued

The City of Ottawa has now signed off on one complete closed system which will come into production in 2015, with construction on the new facility starting later this year. Perhaps the feature that almost ensures a large market in municipalities around the world is that the actual plants are built in modular form. This way both small regional governments and the largest cities can use this method of disposing of 90% of the waste that would have gone to landfills. Undoubtedly a large future market. Thanks Amanda for bringing us an exciting story.

Special Future Events



- **Feb. 22** – Dinner / Theatre Event ~ Dinner 6:00pm at the Stone Cellar Restaurant and 8:00pm at the Studio Theatre to see the play “*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*”. [More information.](#)
- **March 23** ~ Senators hockey game vs. Tampa Bay Lightning ~ 2:00 pm at Scotiabank Place ~ \$37.50 including tickets, \$8.50 hot dog & drink voucher and bus transportation. The bus will leave the LCBO back door (time TBD) Trip organised by Sherle Perkins, assisted by Mary. [More information](#)
- **April 18** – Dinner / Theatre Event ~ Dinner 6:00pm at Michael’s Table and 8:00pm at the Full Circle Theatre to see the musical “Jacques Brel is alive and well and living in Paris”. Sign-up at March meeting ~ \$17 for the play, cheques payable to Probus Perth; pay for dinner on the night ~ the always delicious roast beef special or one of the other three specials to be announced later.
- **May 7** – Spring Fling, Tudor Hall 3750 North Bowesville Road, Ottawa ON. Sign-up sheet available at February and March meetings. [More information.](#)
- **May 29** – Gananoque Theatre ~ “*Suds ~ the Rocking 60’s Musical Soap Opera*” ~ [More information](#)

Management Team Notes



- The **Probus Book Exchange trial** will be repeated at the March 6th meeting. Please consider bringing a maximum of 4 used books and take away any of interest. It is completely flexible, so you do not have to bring books to take books away.
- Our treasurer, Don Sherwin gave a mid-year financial report at our February 6th meeting and his report is attached.

Lunch After March 6th Meeting

@ the refurbished Skye Dragon Restaurant 70 Foster Street ~ [check out the reviews.](#)

Speakers' Corner- Cheri Barton on Organ Donation:

March. 6 ~ Representing the Ontario Trillium Gift of Life Foundation, Cheri is a dairy farmer’s wife from Vankleek Hill, ON who herself will need a liver & kidney transplant. Organ donation is an important facet of state-of-the-art medicine. After many presentations to various clubs, schools, and associations, we are glad that Cheri is bringing this message to us.

Self Introduction ~ Yolande Drumm



“An ordinary life, but a happy one”. These were the words that Yolande used to begin her profile. Her working life began with Air Canada and she sought travel and adventure. But then getting married in Kingston and becoming a stay at home mum, later morphed into going back to U of Ottawa, working in business, getting separated, back to Air Canada, finding a new partner, more travel, even to the Third World. Then on to Government departments and finally “retiring” to their waterfront cottage in Portland. But of course she couldn’t really retire and after an enjoyable but hardly profitable boat tour business, became a happy and successful real estate agent. When her partner John’s Alzheimer’s progressed she gave up real estate and was his full time care giver until his death last year. Today Yolande is grateful for having a wonderful family, good friends and like many Probusians is active in our community. A good life, but hardly ordinary.

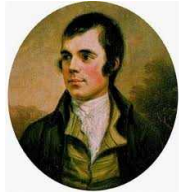
Seniors’ Information Corner – New initiatives in Perth.

Over the last few weeks a growing number of Perthites have been discussing the need for a physical venue for seniors to use as a gathering place for them and a source for information about services available in our town. This group has approached the town’s Recreational Advisory Panel to see how the town may facilitate the provision of such a place. Initially the focus has been on both easy parking and full accessibility. If you’re interested in helping, or for further information call: Carol Husband 613-267-6872 or send email to Carol.Husband@sympatico.ca.

Quote for the Month :

“THERE’S NO ROOM ON THE BANDWAGON FOR COMMON SENSE.” Greg Guenther, Agora Financial Ltd. Baltimore, MD, USA

Robbie Burns Dinner Dance



Another successful event, according to participant comments. Perhaps the pictures speak for themselves?





PROBUS CLUB OF PERTH

Mid-year Financial Report

(Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements from Aug. 1, 2012 to January 31, 2013)

Bank balance @ Aug. 1, 2012	\$2,348.84
Plus income:	
Memberships	2,370.00
Donations	330.00
Surplus, Christmas party	<u>211.06</u>
Total income:	<u>\$2,911.06</u>
Equals:	\$5,259.90
Less expenses:	
Spring Fling expense	149.19
Hall rental	650.00
Audio equipment (microphone)	158.19
Probus Centre-Canada insurance	310.00
Directors and Officers' insurance and fees	324.00
Wreath for Cenotaph, Nov.11	49.00
Legion donation for exec. coffee and storage of box	100.00
Copying	90.36
Office supplies	3.06
Speakers' gifts/lunches	243.88
Name tags & pins	165.17
Postage	68.93
Past Pres. gift	75.00
Bank charges	<u>76.57</u>
Total expenses:	<u>\$2,463.35</u>
Bank balance @ January 31, 2013	\$2,796.55
Forecast of net additional expenses to July 31, 2013	<u>500.00</u>
Forecast of bank balance @ July 31, 2013	\$2,296.55

**D. Sherwin, Treasurer,
Jan. 31, 2013**