



**THE PROBUS CLUB
OF PERTH**

P. O. Box 20131,
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www.probusperth.ca

Probus meets the first
Wednesday of each month,
Sept. to June.

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Apropos

History reminds us that by using “bread and circuses” ways, governments have diverted citizens’ minds and hearts away from uncomfortable truths existing right under their noses. We are no different in the 21st Century.

“When the Olympic Games close next week let’s not forget that Putin equates homosexuality with pedophilia. Let’s not forget that Russian legislators are currently debating a bill that would remove children from the homes of homosexual parents. Let’s not forget that the country’s nationalistic brutes who routinely entrap gays, beat them to a pulp and pour urine over their faces, genuinely believing they are ridding Mother Russia of a predatory pest. In Germany, the Jews were rats, in Rwanda, the Tutsis were cockroaches, and in Russia the gays are pedophiles, unworthy of basic human rights — even the ones who can skate. Something my grandparents did hear from their ill-fated relations halfway across the world — concert violinists, brilliant mathematicians and champion athletes included? Talent is no match for prejudice.” Emma Teitel in MacLean’s, Feb. 24/14 – page 14

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

Alexis Troubetsky’s “Arctic Obsession”



It seemed appropriate that the day Alexis spoke to us was again unusually cold for Perth and we were having yet another snow storm — a perfect setting for stories about the Arctic. Without notes, and within the 40 minutes usually taken by our speakers, we were regaled with some historical background and then stories, and what stories they were! They began with a fourth-century B.C. astronomer and proceeded quickly through the centuries. Given that these men had only the most rudimentary ways of navigating and keeping time, these stories abounded with courage, determination, passion,

inventiveness, and at times brilliance. One such story blew us away. It was about 14 Pomori hunters from the White Sea who in 1743 left in a small vessel headed for the North Sea. Their little ship became ice-bound in sight of land and so four of the men left the ship to find a cabin that had been built by a previous group. They found the hut, but a storm blew up and when they returned to tell their shipmates the good news, the ice pack had broken and their ship carried away. They returned to the hut (36’ by 18’ with an 18’ ceiling) after living there for five years three of them survived to be rescued.

Arctic Obsession....continued

Having captured our hearts with these true tales, our guest then confronted us with the present facts of what climate change is doing to the Arctic. Most of us were unaware of the fact that unlike the Antarctic whose thick ice layer rests on a land mass, the Arctic is a sea and thus a much more fragile eco-system. On the last page of his book, Alexis left us with this warning: *“Putting value judgements aside, the consequences of global warming in the Arctic will involve both tragedy and success, destruction and innovation, risk an opportunity, and for better or worse, losers and winners. What is certain is that a static vision of the Arctic is unsustainable in an era of rapid change and shifting climate.”* Thanks Alexis for helping us better understand a crucial part of our Canadian heritage.

Special Future Events

- **February 21** – Dinner / Theatre Event ~ Dinner 5:30pm at the Stone Cellar followed at 8:00pm by the Studio Theatre presentation “Leaving Home” by David French, directed by Jeremy Dutton. “Leaving Home” is a tale of a Newfoundland Family far from home and out of their depth. Dinner will be a choice of four entrées: weinerschnitzel, filet of beef, chicken or fresh fish. [Details.](#)
- **May 28** – Our annual trip to the 1000 Island Playhouse in Gananoque, this time to see “[Driving Miss Daisy](#)” ~ a comedy of unlikely friendship.
- **June 4** – Our annual end of the year luncheon immediately after the meeting.



Speakers' Corner – Ted Dyke



Ted is a retired electrical contractor whose hobbies over the year have been wood turning and photography. His passion today is nature and he has recently

been up in Churchill Falls and has some wonderful pictures of wild life in natural settings. Given that another interest is racing cars — he has competed at Watkins Glen, his presentation to us next month of photo studies of plants and animals, highlights again the eclectic nature of our membership. For a taste of Ted's photography see <http://members.photoshouser.com/tdyke/portfolio>.

Personal Profile ~ Frank McGlynn



Born and educated in Ireland Frank graduated as a mechanical engineering from Dublin University in 1971. He met his wife, Christiane, a francophone from Quebec in London, England and they were married that year also. Frank's first job was with BP in South Wales, then in 1973 they decided to move

to Christiane's home city Montreal, where he joined CIL. His main interest was in materials of construction and corrosion while with CIL. In 1993 he moved to the mining industry joining Noranda. They ultimately went to Sudbury with Noranda and Falconbridge in 2000. Frank spent a good part of his career working on materials and corrosion problems on Sulphuric Acid plants. These plants capture the sulphur dioxide emitted by copper and nickel smelters which is key to reducing emissions that cause acid rain. In 2006 Falconbridge was taken over by Xstrata and Frank spent his last five working years responsible for the technology group in Sudbury. He retired in 2012 and he and Christiane discovered Burgesswood and found it perfect for them and Perth as a community welcoming and active. He started our local table tennis club at the Perth Pool. The club meets every Tuesday evening and caters to all age groups. He noted that the game is particularly good for seniors, providing a cognitive challenge along with hand-eye coordination and an overall good physical work out. Welcome Frank and Christiane and thanks for the tip about playing table tennis.

Of Special Interest ~ Testing for Drivers 80+

Over the last few months some of our members who recently turned 80, have shared “horror stories” about their experiences getting their new licences. In some cases, due to the present Ontario government policies where private companies test for the licence bureau, costs of over \$1,000 have been experienced. As well, critics believe that the Ontario Ministry of Transportation INTENDS, despite denials to, implement what amounts to a dementia test. One of our members, Ed Rockburne at erockburne@cogeco.ca is active in preventing this attack on over 80 seniors. As well, our local MPP, Randy Hillier is sponsoring a petition on www.randyhilliermpp.com/seniors_testing?recruiter_id=17605. The Probian urges our membership to become well informed about this issue, then you may want to let your voice be heard.

Management Team Notes



○ The Management Team will be introducing a proposed addition to our Club's bylaws at the March 5th meeting, to be voted on at the April 2nd meeting. The purpose of the amendment is to accommodate the new practice of honouring our members aged 90+. The proposed change would add the following new paragraph to Bylaw 2 – Membership:

“8. Members who reach the age of 90 by December 31 will be made life members in January of the following year. These life members will be exempt from paying membership fees and will be recognized at the January General Meeting. These life members, based on age, are a separate class of life members from those described in Section 7 of By-Law 2.” The current paragraph 8 on Conduct of Members would be renumbered paragraph 9. The current Bylaws are shown on our website at www.probusperth.ca/constitution.htm, with the proposed changes in red letters..

- The Management Team will also be proposing a 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 current policy confines the email list to the membership director and the webmaster. The current Privacy Policy is displayed on our website, with proposed changes in red at www.probusperth.ca/documents/privacy_policy.htm. This proposed amendment will also be introduced at the March 5th meeting and voted on at the April meeting.
- The mid-year financial report will be included with the March Probian.

New Member Welcomed



Bob Pelletier welcomed by Jim Gilmour & Don McDiarmid

Quote for the Month

“Talent is no match for prejudice” --- Emma Teitel, MacLean's ... Feb 24, 2014

Lunch After March 5th Meeting

@ O'Reilly's Pub – 43 Gore Street East

Recent Probus Events in Pictures

Trip to see the Senators play the Rangers on January 18th



**The Robbie Burns Dinner Dance
At the Perth Legion on January 25th**



**The Christmas Party
At the Lion's Club on December 6th**

