



The PROBIAN ~ January 2012 Edition

~ Editor: Dennis Dwyer ~



**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
Dan Murphy
613-267-8089
ironstoneaks@hotmail.com

Past President
Mike Else
613-267-2302

Vice President
Richard Thomson
rthomson16@cogeco.ca

Secretary
Sharyn Sheffield
613-466-0607

Treasurer
Don Sherwin
613-264-0759

Program
Peggy Moxon
613-267-1299
David Farquharson
613-267-2231

Special Events
Mary Kilgour
613-264-0024

Membership
Jean & Dave Crowley
613-267-3306

Facilities
Geoffrey Newman
613-264-1290

Newsletter Editor
Dennis Dwyer
613-264-5536
ddwyer@cogeco.ca

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

Apropos..... We have room for new members. At our next meeting pick up some cards from Jean Crowley at the Management Team table and carry them in your purse or wallet. We have fun, great speakers, and occasional trips & events. Invite a friend to join — use the card. We are a very diverse group and do not engage in money- raising. If you have some friends who want to meet interesting Perthites, Probus is a great way to do it.

Benny Beattie on the Whales of the Saguenay



Benny Beattie was born in Montreal and has always managed to spend several weeks each year in Tadoussac, where the Saguenay River joins the St. Lawrence. Over these years, through tenacious archival research blended with a combination of childhood memories and friendships developed with both village inhabitants and summer residents, he is uniquely able to produce an exciting and memorable presentation.

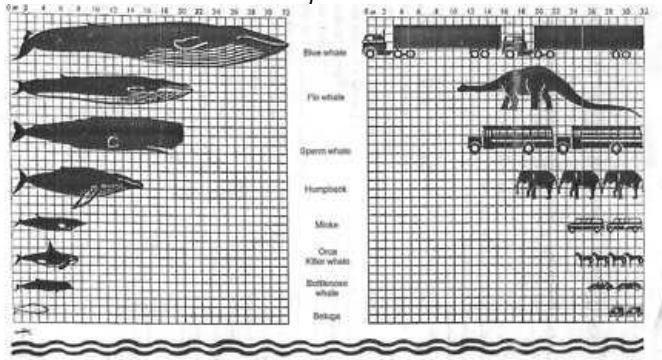
Using a variety of media, including a 35mm carousel projector like many of us still have in our basements, he described the rich history of the area. It began with the Basque & French settlers in the 17th century who came for fish & fur. In the 19th the Royal Navy needed pine trees for the Fleet. And then whale watching as an industry began in the late 1870s, continuing to this day.

His presentation showed how the shape of the river bottom at Tadoussac, at points 1000 feet deep, has created an area that has the largest variety of whales anywhere in the world. The handout pictured below shows how big and small whales can be. A unique aspect of the Tadoussac area is that during the season from May until October, you can see lots of whales *every day*. For those of us who've been disappointed by other whale-watching sites, this is something to remember and pass on. Benny did not forget to warn us that we must be vigilant about protecting the pristine nature of the waters around and leading to the area. This kind of Canadian asset is more than just a tourist attraction, it is a trust we must be good stewards of.

From learning that whales have no sense of smell or vocal chords, to how they swim and eat, to watching beautiful pictures and an excellent video, Benny's visit to Probus was memorable. On top of all this, as the picture above shows, he is a speaker who knows how to use a mike.

Whales continued on Page 2

Whale Comparison Chart



Speakers' Corner



February 1 – Dr. Diana Beresford-Kroeger, medical biochemist, world-traveller and author and well-known, independent academic who describes herself as a “renegade scientist”, will discuss the Arboretum Borealis and its relation to climate change.

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!

Speakers for **April & May** will be announced later.

Management Team Notes

OFFICERS' TERM:



As a result of a suggestion from a PROBUS member in December 2011, the Management Team has considered and is recommending that the term of office for President, as well as Vice-President and Past President, be extended to two years to improve continuity. The current Constitution allows for this possibility. All officers have agreed to take on an extra year of duty, assuming the membership approves at a vote to be held at our regular meeting on 1 February.

GLEN PETTINGER, retires as co-Special Events coordinator. After 10 years of enthusiastic service on our Management Team, Glen is hanging up his spikes.

Many thanks Glen-

If you would like to help Mary with one or more events, please let her know. For example, if there is sufficient interest, we would like to find someone to organize a Gananoque theatre trip in May.

New Members



Sam Kingdon welcomed by David Crowley and Dan Murphy

Lunch after the February 1st meeting will be at THE STONE CELLAR

IN MEMORIAM:



A long-time member of Probus, retired Principal of Algonquin College, Mason & Rotarian, **RONALD WATSON**, died on 27 December, 2011. We want to extend our condolences to Shirley and all the family.

Special Future Events



21 January ~ Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance at the Perth Legion. Cocktails @ 6pm followed by dinner @ 7pm , then dancing to the Champagnes.

Plans are well advanced for the **SPRING FLING in May** and Mary is working on a theatre night in late March at the **Studio Theatre** and another in April at the **Full Circle Theatre.**

MEMBERSHIP LIST:

The membership list is now available on a secure area of our website. The username and password which you will need to access the list are contained in the email notification for this addition.