



The PROBIAN ~ January 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 ... Probus is very important to Perth! John Ralston Saul has expressed the same idea that Cicero did over 2000 years ago. "We are more than one. We are more than a family. We are more than several families. We are tens of millions. We exist, therefore, in societies." ("The Unconscious Civilization" 1995)

In our community life today we are at the convergence of two very dangerous forces: 1) The imbalance between individualism and the concept of the public good, and 2) the media world of 24 hour news cycles infected with "sound-bites" and "Tweets". There is both rampant dis-information and mis-information. As a consequence, public policy is too often based on current emotion, stereotypes, and concern for the next quarter's results. Thus a forum like Probus where speakers and presentations thoughtfully inform our members about a wide variety of subjects is crucial to the life of the Perth Community. Democracy is served best by an informed electorate.

Dennis Dwyer & Colin Stephenson

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

Chris McGuire Sherwin & Friends on Community Home Support – Lanark County



Chris and "actors" Bonnie Waugh, Terry Roach & Susan Samila

We enjoyed an almost unique presentation by Chris, Bonnie Waugh, Terry Roach, and Susan Samila from Community Home Support Lanark County. Unique, because in lieu of a power point presentation of the variety and scope of the services offered by this local not-for-profit organization, we were treated to Bonnie, Terry, and Susan convincingly acting out stories of three clients of the agency. During their stories, at times emotionally difficult, you could hear a pin drop. Chris did an excellent job of both introducing the purpose of CHSLC and wrapping up the presentation with impressive facts.

We learned that there are hundreds of people in and around Perth who do not enjoy a support network of family, friends, and neighbours. Thus, when either physical or health problems confront seniors and adults in our community, some people "fall between the cracks". When loneliness is an issue, just facilitating transportation and providing meals-on-wheels can make a very important difference in that person's life.

Community Home Support ~ continued

Losing a loved one is traumatic and without support many of us will wilt under the pressure of grief, so CHSLC has more than one way of helping adults, teens, and children in this situation. In all programs last year over 800 volunteers provided 55,000 hours to the clients of the agency. It's funding comes from our local LHIN as well as the United Way and fundraising. Thanks to Chris, Bonnie, Terry, and Susan for explaining how your work makes the Perth area a more compassionate community.

Special Future Events



- **Jan. 26** – Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance, at the Perth Legion. Cocktails 6pm, dinner 7pm, music by The Champagnes, all for \$22.
- **Feb. 22** – Dinner / Theatre Event ~ Stone Cellar Restaurant & Studio Theatre play “*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*”. Sign-up at February meeting ~ \$17 for the play, cheques payable to Probus Perth; dinner payable at the Stone Cellar, but must pre-order meal choice weinderschnitzel, filet, chicken or fish. [More information.](#)
- **April 18** – Dinner / Theatre Event ~ Full Circle Theatre ~ details to come.
- **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 Nominating Committee would like to receive expressions of interest from anyone willing to act as the club Vice-President for the year 2013-14.
- The **Probus Book Exchange** will have its first trial at the February 6th meeting. Please consider bringing a maximum of 4 used books and take away any of interest.
- Our treasurer, Don Sherwin will give a mid-year financial report at our February 6th meeting.

Lunch After February 6th Meeting

@ the Red Fox Restaurant

Quote for the Month :

“NON NOBIS NATI SUMUS” – Macus Tullius Cicero
(*Not for ourselves alone are we born*)

Speakers' Corner

Feb. 6 ~ Amanda Groshinski will talk about Plasko Energy ~ [more information on Plasko](#). We all know that the disposal of our waste is becoming a major problem. This is just as true of areas like ours as it is of urban or suburban living. Ms. Groshinski will explain one of the most recent responses to this challenge — a technology where our garbage can be converted into useful energy reducing the need for landfills while generating electricity.

Self Introduction ~ Gordon McCallum



Growing up in London, Ontario, then heading off to get an Engineering degree from Queens and beginning work with AECL in the 50s, you'd think that Gordon's career would follow a relatively predictable pattern. You would be wrong! Teaching at various universities, including Laval in Quebec, working in industry, then returning to Queens to study Law and working in fisheries & oceans --- all this plus marrying Anne in 1991 and then moving to Perth in 2008. The almost bewildering series of changes in Gordon's life and his sense of humour and curiosity are examples to Probians of how to stay young. He continues in retirement to be a passionate photographer, musician, and seeker in understanding the earth.

New Members Welcomed



New members Murray Morison, Gail Read, Yolanda Drumm, Judith Jones & David Jones welcomed by Richard Thomson (L) and Don McDiarmid (R)

Membership List:

A membership list is made available on an annual basis to help members stay in touch with one another. The latest list is now available in a secure area of our website and attached to the paper version. The username and password which you will need to access the list are contained in the email notification for this edition. Please note that the Membership List is protected by our [Privacy Policy](#).