



**THE PROBUS CLUB
 OF PERTH**
 P. O. Box 20131,
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 Probuss meets the first
 Wednesday of each month,
 Sept. to June.

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Apropos

The new year began in Beirut on 2 January with Al Qaeda car bombs exploding amid the elegance of a high-end shopping area. Underneath the picture in a weekend paper was the headline “*Militants Fill Power Vacuum*”. We can’t be smug and don’t have to look too far to see “militants” in our own country making extreme statements to “energize their base”, be it of the left, the right, or a religious / social / economic group. In a world where, because of population movements and instant communication, we are becoming more diverse. It seems we have two choices: learn to compromise or be captured by the extremes everywhere, even here at home. In 2014, as Probians expressing our opinions, let’s be examples of informed and careful citizens.

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

Jean & Derek Cooke on “Our 11 Years in Saudi Arabia”



Derek and Jean gave us a wonderful gift of understanding. With Derek giving us both historical and present political / economic background and Jean telling stories of their own experiences, it was as though we were there with them. As Head of Orthopaedics at the King's Hospital (King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre) in the largest city, Riyadh, he was in a position to deal with ordinary Saudis with very severe orthopaedic problems and as well as members of the royal family. He explained to us how the Muslim credo, tribe, family, and Sharia Law combined to explain their culture and how very important 'the family' is.

Both Jean and Derek dispelled many misunderstandings about the role of women and we learned that women controlled their own wealth and in fact not only ran the household but often “ran” the men as well. What we in the West think of as “women’s’ liberation” may actually offend most well-educated Saudi women.

Through the eyes and experiences of the our speakers we were watched by the Matawah (moral police), played golf in the desert, celebrated an illegal Christmas (Santa arriving on a camel), learned how to drive in the desert (and how not to!) and understood that bargaining while shopping expresses respect for the merchant paying the stated price is a put-down and not respected by the merchant . The way Saudi Arabia is governed is quite different than what we are used to, yet it is a fully modern state, coming about within a short 50 year period, with many top people from all over the world (including many hundreds of Canadians) involved in government as upper range management, in education, engineering, communications, social and medical services, and of course business.

Thank you Derek and Jean for opening our eyes.

Special Future Events

- **January 25** - Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance, at the Perth Legion. Cocktails 6pm, dinner 7pm, music by The Champagnes, all for \$22.
- **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. Please sign up at the February 5th meeting. [Details.](#)



Management Team Notes

- 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](#).
- Thanks to Ernie Trischuk for pictures in this issue.



Speakers' Corner – Alexis Troubetsky



Alexis is the son of Russian immigrants and grew up in Montreal. While attending university at Concordia he joined the RCN(R) and served as a Lt. After graduate studies he became a teacher and then headmaster of two private schools. Presently he travels the world as International Liaison Officer for the IOCC. (International Orthodox Christian

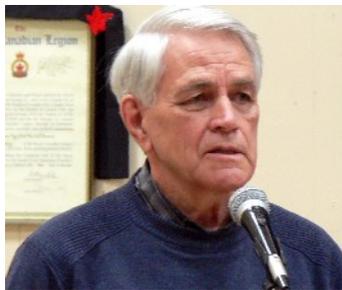
Charities) He has a passion for Canada's arctic and his acclaimed book “Arctic Obsession” was published by MacMillan. Alexis will be our February speaker.

New Member Welcomed



Jean Crowley welcomes new member Mary Tysick

Personal Profile ~ Murray Morison



The youngest of five children and of Huguenot background Murray, born in Fredericton, NB, started out as a kid living close to the military base in Petawawa, ON. He made friends with the Italians and Germans in the concentration camp close

by. His dad was in forestry and Murray followed studying in the field and initially working for the Dept. of Lands and Forests (now Ministry of Natural Resources) ending up in the North West Territories in senior executive positions. Then on to Dome Petroleum as Project Manager and back to government in Manitoba as Director General overseeing some 300 million of social programs and moving again into the Department of Indian Affairs as Director General of Audit. In all these years he married, has three kids and he and his wife Carole have happily retired here in Perth.

Honouring Our “Senior-Seniors”

Hale and hearty at 90+. This describes Jim Sands, Gus Quattrocchi, and Eric Devlin who were honoured with life memberships at our January meeting. They were introduced by David Crowley, a founding member of Probus Perth. David outlined a biography of each of them highlighting their long and varied lives. As Probians, they all shared one characteristic, a life-long interest in community affairs and volunteer service. We hope that they will continue for many more years of active participation in Probus.



L-R Gus Quattrocchi, Jim Sands, Eric Devlin

Quote for the Month

“COMPROMISE IS NOT A FOUR-LETTER WORD”

Thomas L. Friedman, N.Y. Times 12 January, 2014

Lunch After February 5th Meeting

@ The Masonry – 8 Wilson Street