



**THE PROBUS CLUB  
OF PERTH**

P. O. Box 20131,  
Perth, Ontario  
K7H 3M6

[www.probusperth.ca](http://www.probusperth.ca)

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

**President**

Bill Kennedy  
613-207-0037  
[email](#)

**Past President**

Jean Crowley  
613-267-3306  
[email](#)

**Vice President**

Richard Thomson

**Secretary**

David Allcock  
613-706-3562

**Treasurer**

Don Sherwin  
613-264-0759

**Program**

David Farquharson  
613-267-2231  
[email](#)

Gardner Church

613-267-1842

Brian O'Connor

613-264-9187

Derek Cooke

613-279-1217

Valerie Stephenson-Gray

613-326-0757

**Special Events**

Mary Kilgour  
613-264-0024

Gail Read

613-464-3063

**Membership**

Don McDiarmid  
613-264-8590

**Newsletter Editors**

Colin Stephenson

613-264-2609

Max Wood

613-464-1172

**Webmaster**

Colin Stephenson

613-264-2609

[email](#)

## Apropos

The CARR is a moving demonstration of the breadth of incredible talent and the number of compassionate individuals we are blessed with in this community. They have proven what can be done in a very short time starting from nothing but a desire to help those in need. Commendation is in order and much deserved. Yet, equally in order is reflection about our focus, our motivation and our attention span. We have been told what motivated the CARR, thousands of moving images flooding in from half the world away by media hungry for content. Meanwhile largely unreported, unspectacular and perennially ignored are a conservatively estimated 235,000 people who are homeless in Canada today; 800,000 Canadians who currently rely on foodbanks; and 4.9 million Canadians who live below the poverty line. These people do not make the headlines. They are alone, forgotten, and hidden in the fringes of society. Without question most are there through no fault of their own. Some have lost their job because it is now done by a robot, or their company was bought by a multinational and moved to cheap foreign labour. Some never had the opportunity for education or therapy. Many just cannot find work anymore in spite of sterling qualifications. Everyone deserves a home, a decent job, and adequate food on the table. We can help fix those problems even if only a little bit at a time: the CARR has proved that it can be done.

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

## The CARR Drives Refugees To Their New Home

On March 2 a panel of nine dedicated “the CARR” (the Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement) team members presented us with a summary of the founding, operations and accomplishments of the CARR since inception on September 25, 2015.



*(L-R) Gord Munroe (Vice-Chair), Doug Burt (Family Support Team), Krista Hearty-McLean (Communications), Colin Stephenson (Finance, Website, Family Support Team), Jordan Kennie (Family Support Team), Jennifer Dickson (Communications), Ann Munroe (Co-Chair), Elsie Stresman (Secretary, Volunteer Coordinator), John Shideler (Co-Chair)*

As recounted by Anne Munroe, the CARR executive was prompted to take action by media images of the struggles of an estimated four million Syrian refugees attempting to leave their country.

*Continued on Page 2*

## The CARR.....continued

Syrian refugees have been fleeing their country in the wake of a civil war arising from poverty, lack of education, lack of employment, poor infrastructure and sectarian violence between the Sunni Muslim majority and the ruling Alawite (Shiite) Muslim minority. The CARR members felt compelled to work to alleviate the suffering of a few of those refugees.

The CARR's initial objectives were to raise \$100,000 by the end of 2015 and then to use those funds to re-settle three refugee families in Perth. Following the resettlement they are committed to work to integrate the refugee families into Canadian society in hopes that they will lead useful and productive lives here in Perth. Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the CARR has been able to meet their initial financial objective and one family has already arrived and begun to settle in. In addition to supporting this family, their focus has now shifted to finding two other candidate refugee families, welcoming them into the community and helping them restart their lives as well.

Of course, this dedicated team has not accomplished all of this alone. There is a great deal of red tape involved in operating a grass-roots, charitable organization and accepting the responsibility for refugees who do not speak English and have no real knowledge about how to survive here. But the CARR did their homework and established a working relationship with the Anglican Dioceses of Ottawa, which is their sponsorship agreement holder (SAH). A SAH is an organization that has signed a sponsorship agreement with the Government of Canada to help support refugees from abroad when they resettle in Canada. A SAH can sponsor refugees themselves or work with other organizations such as the CARR to sponsor refugees. The CARR also enlisted the assistance of Perth's St. James Anglican Church, which co-sponsors each family and makes payments on behalf of the CARR. Perth's St Paul's United Church has helped out by providing storage space, meeting rooms and coffee, and getting their youth group to lend a helping hand. The CARR even receives legal assistance from Gowlings, an Ottawa law firm, which provides a lawyer pro bono to assist with anything requiring legal advice or review.

The CARR's first sponsored refugee family fled to Lebanon from their home in Raqqa, Syria – the capital of the so-called “caliphate” of ISIS in Syria – when it became such a dangerous place in which to live and ISIS declared that the mom and the little daughters had to wear niqabs. As fate would have it, they arrived from Lebanon at the Ottawa airport on February 16, the very day of our record snowfall of 50+ cm. Although all the preparations necessary for their arrival had been made by CARR volunteers, and Doug Burt, Gord Monroe, Colin Stephenson, and Judy Haddad set off in two vehicles equipped with baby seats and capacity for luggage, the trip to the airport could not be made due to the extremely heavy snowfall. Uncertain about what to do, Ann Munroe called Don Smith, their SAH representative in Ottawa, who assured them that he

would make the trek to the airport to pick up their refugee family and give them a place to stay for the night, and that is what he did. A team from the CARR picked them up the next morning and brought them to their new home in Perth, which had been rented and prepared for them by other volunteers on the CARR Housing Team.

That of course was just the beginning, not only of the real work but also of the real joy of experiencing a family raised in a completely different culture and extremely happy to have such fortune to be able to make a new start in Canada. Jordan Kennie and Doug Burt have spearheaded efforts to attend to all of the myriad duties required to get their first family settled in and off to a good start. Jordan, a busy mother herself, says she feels like she has two families now, and notes that “everything with the new family takes four hours”. Nonetheless, she thoroughly enjoys teaching the family about how to adapt to a Canadian home and participate in our community activities, schools and medical system using Google Translate and a “whole lot of sign language”.

Jennifer Dickson is in charge of receiving lists of refugees scheduled to enter Canada and selecting candidate families for settlement by the CARR in Perth. The lists are distributed by the Federal Government in spreadsheet form sent simultaneously at “erratic times” to all sponsorship groups. Jennifer has only minutes to respond if the CARR is to have the opportunity of being assigned a family from any given list. Jennifer has obviously learned the ropes of how that system works.

Krista Hearty-McLean is in charge of maintaining the CARR FaceBook page, getting information to Colin Stephenson for the CARR website ([www.thecarr.ca](http://www.thecarr.ca)) and coordinating all of the other communications between the CARR executive and more than 100 volunteers, with Jennifer's help. They also keep local and regional political leaders abreast of what is happening with CARR and work with the media to disseminate information about the CARR and their progress.

Elsie Stresman, secretary and volunteer coordinator keeps the minutes and has developed the CARR settlement plan based on all of the many requirements necessary to successfully support and integrate a refugee family into the community, culture and local work environment.

Colin Stephenson in his inimitable style handles finance, designed and maintains the CARR website, and assists the family support team, a prodigious amount of work.

The Perth and District Community Foundation made a major contribution by setting up the CARR Refugee Fund, offering charitable receipts to all donors and managing the funds professionally. You may donate by clicking on the Donate Now button on the CARR website (<http://thecarr.ca/donate.htm>) or by sending your cheque as indicated on that page.

---

## Lunch After April Meeting

To be held at East Meets West Restaurant,  
40 Foster Street, Perth



---

## Quote for the Month

“May you be uncomfortable with easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart. May you revile at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May you shed tears for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy. And may you be foolish enough to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.” - *Anonymous*

---

## Management Team Notes

- We are still searching for someone who would be willing to coordinate transportation for those members who would appreciate a ride to Probus meetings. Please contact any Management Team member if you are willing to take on this role.
- Max Wood has stepped forward to write and edit the Probian by himself, starting with the April edition.
- David Batchelor will take over as the audio-visual resource person starting in May.
- We now have 149 members with an application from another potential member.



---

## Speakers' Corner

The speaker on April 6<sup>th</sup> will be Probus Perth member Gary Dickson. His presentation will be: “Welcome to the Brave New World of Electronic Health Records.” What rights does an Ontario patient have with respect to their own health information? Are there adequate safeguards to protect your most sensitive records? Do we need to choose between privacy protection and privacy paralysis? The former Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner, Gary Dickson, will discuss privacy, confidentiality, access to and correction of health records. You may read more about Gary in the [October 2015 Probian \(Personal Profile section\)](#).



---

## Special Events

- **March 31** – Dinner at [Maximillian's](#), 99 Gore St. E, Perth, at 5:30pm followed by “[Self Help](#)” at the Studio Theatre at 8pm. Self Help is described as a “sensational rollicking farce” by Norm Foster and directed by David Parry. Theatre tickets are \$17 each. If you are not already signed up, please call Mary by March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- **April 22** – A tour of the Perth Campus of Algonquin College has been organized starting at 10.00 am. We should meet in the College front foyer, and the tour will last between 1 and 1 ½ hours. Please sign up at the April meeting.
- **May 25** – Our popular annual trip to the 1000 Island Playhouse in Gananoque, this year to see “[A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline](#)”. Tickets are \$28 each payable in advance. Gail Read has advised that she has made lunch arrangements at the [Riva Italian Restaurant](#), 45 King Street West Gananoque, at 12 noon. [Map](#). Participants will be able to order any item from the menu if our group is under 30ish in number. They do have a set gratuity of 18% which will be added to each bill and individual/couple bills are fine. She stresses that a 12 noon arrival time is important if we are to be at the theatre at 2 p.m. Please sign up at the April meeting.
- **June 1** – Help celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at a special meeting and luncheon at [Timber Run in Lanark](#). As Dan Murphy mentioned at recent meetings, there will be a speaker, entertainment, a great lunch and a round of golf is possible for those interested, in the afternoon. Tickets are \$25 each for lunch and coffee during the meeting. Please sign up at the April or May meetings. We think you will not want to miss this special anniversary celebration. Thanks to the Anniversary Committee for all of their work on this event.
- **Fall** – A fall coach trip is being organized. Ideas are welcome.
- **December 2** – Save the date for the annual Christmas Party to be held at Lion's Hall. Details to come.



## When Insults Had Class

- "I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain
- "He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." - Oscar Wilde

## New Members Welcomed



President Bill Kennedy (L) and Don McDiarmid (R) welcoming John Byers, Leo Lee and Tony Thompson



Dan Murphy talks about the 20th Anniversary Celebration



Norma McFarlane's joke of the day



### GONE FISHIN'

Thanks to Probus for the opportunity to edit and co-edit the Probian over the years. Many thanks to Max Wood for agreeing to take over all of the writing, editing and production of the Probian next month. I have enjoyed our collaboration in recent years and I couldn't leave it in better hands. And thanks to Probus members for reading the Probian on a monthly basis. Keep on reading. I am sure you will continue to be informed, amused and entertained.....Colin