



The Probian

from the **Probus Club of Perth** March 2019

April Speaker:

CNIB Guide Dogs is a program designed to train dogs to help individuals with sight loss. Specifically, a guide dog is a dog raised and trained to live its life helping those who are blind or partially sighted. For example, a guide dog can help by retrieving items and leading an individual places (while avoiding obstacles). The communication between a guide dog and their owner can come from the U-shaped handles attached to the dog's harness which tell the individual what to do. A more thorough explanation can be found at https://cnib.ca/en?region=on_east

Our April speaker, Andrew Hanlon, is a qualified Guide Dog Trainer and Guide Dog Mobility Instructor. He became a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor in the UK, and emigrated to Canada in 2006, and entered the CNIB trained dog initiative at its outset. He is the Director of the Canadian Guide Dog School.

Memberships:

The Probus club is excited to announce three new members: Gloria Davidson, Donald Davidson, and Bob Mount. Our new member total is a fantastic 194!

Don't forget to access the fully protected Membership List to get in touch with other members. Your username and password can be found in the email from the January Probian edition.

Coming Events:

Lunch for the April 3rd meeting will be at Michael's Table; please sign up as you come into the meeting.

Fortune's and Temple's Trip: this maple syrup-filled trip will take place on **April 5th**. Carpooling will take place at **9:40 am** in the parking lot behind Perth Brewing on Hwy 511. **10am** will lead to meeting at Temple's Sugar Bush (1700 Ferguson Falls Rd, Ct Rd 15) for a walk around the bush and log venue. There is a reservation for lunch at **11am** made by Ray Fortune. At **1pm**, we will venture to Fortune Farms Maple Sugar Bush (2492 Wolf Grove Rd) where there will be a guided tour of the art and science behind making maple syrup from pioneer technique to modern technique. There will be maple products available at both locations.

Reserve these dates for Probus Events:

May 15: Spring Fling reservations need to be made by April 19th. Tickets are \$38 (cheque payable to Probus Club of North Grenville). There is the choice of salmon with maple glaze, chicken breast with feta or vegetarian. Sign up and pay at Apr. 3 meeting.

May 30: Dinner/Theatre at the Stone Cellar, followed by "The Ladies Foursome" by Norm Foster. Sign-up will be available in April.

June 5: Probus June Meeting and Lunch at the Cove in Westport. Refreshments upon arrival. Details at the April 3 meeting.

Sept 11: "Ring of Fire" at 1000 Islands Playhouse.

For more information visit the Club's website at www.probusperth.ca

The Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month, at 10:00 am (coffee/social time at 9:30), at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, 26 Beckwith St., Perth, from Sept. to June. Visitors from other Probus Clubs and guests of members are welcome to attend.



Robert Dick, pictured above, is the manager of the Dark Sky Preserves Program and Chair of the Light Pollution Abatement Committee of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. He spoke about “Blinding Light - Bring Back the Night” which gave a thorough analysis and explanation of the effects lights can have on the environment.

Robert also explained the importance and benefits of using amber lights as opposed to white lights and the Attributes of Life: brightness, event, colour, and timing. Robert brought up how the type of light used, and its location can directly influence what path, if any, an animal can take to avoid predators. Moreover, he enunciated how fast environmental change can lead to extinction whereas very slow environmental change can lead to adaptation.

Robert explained the different spectrums of light and what species see what spectrum. He pointed out that the lights we often have outside of our homes are too bright and don't actually help us see any better.

Robert showed and informed us of the fact that starlight can help us see clearly at night and help animals stay hidden while not being blinded by our bright, white lights. He also enjoyed stating that leaving a light on at night really only helps the burglars see where to go.

Along with the thorough explanation and analysis of light, Robert was able to show us a light that he invented. This light is LED but emits amber light instead of white, thus allowing animals to roam without being blinded, or eaten, and allows humans to see the stars at night.

Robert's presentation was very insightful and did a fantastic job of explaining how our actions can not only influence animals but the environment as a whole.

The picture below is of **Doloros Davis** whose **Personal Profile** is featured on the next page.



Contacts: President Craig Greenwood (613-267-4694)
Contact information for other members of the Management Team can be found on the Club's website at www.probusperth.ca/board.htm

Doloros Davis

Doloros prefaced her presentation with the observation that her life has been characterized by one theme:

Free will is often an illusion and random events happen; total understanding at the time is usually impossible, so deal with it the best you can and move on!

Doloros' parents were in the Canadian Air Force. They met in Metz France and when, as a small girl, she enquired as to why she was born in Germany, the reply was "Because a plane crashed into the hospital in France"; her first opportunity to *move on* while not fully understanding!

In elementary school, Doloros had a great deal of difficulty learning to read and write. Her mother spent many hours working with her, eventually developing a clever psychology persuading her that she was the smart one being able to read her letters whether they were backwards or upside down, and that she had to help the not-so-smart people by writing the letters only one way so that they could read what she had to say. It was hard work to develop that skill and the empathy required for the rest of the population.

Doloros considered her younger sister weird and annoying and now believes they both are on the autism spectrum (her sister has recently retired from the Canadian Air Force as a Lt Colonel). Two more instances of situations not fully understood but *move on*.

Being in a military family, the children were raised in a variety of environments: Metz in France, Edmonton Alberta, St. John's Newfoundland, St Hubert Quebec, Somerset Bermuda, Gander Newfoundland, and Perth when Doloros' father was posted to the Diefenbunker (CFS Carp) and then SIU Ottawa, which was the forerunner of CSIS. In several of these locations, political and social

tensions made Doloros reflect that a career in politics may be good in that "there had to be a better way to do things". In grade 10, she had the opportunity to meet and talk with Pierre Trudeau and immediately made the decision NO to politics!

A variety of part-time jobs in high school steered her to a career in the academic realm rather than the physical or manual. Knowing that university would be very expensive, at age 17 Doloros approached her father about signing the parental consent form for her to join the military, thereby having her education paid. "NO! Over my dead body!" was the response!

A simple one page, two column cost analysis of the option of procuring a degree at Western with or without the help of the Military, provided Doloros with her Father's signature without any further discussion! *Moving on*.

After joining the ROTP program, undergoing an IQ test and interview, being told she could select any degree, Doloros was disappointed (and did not fully understand why) when told her first choice, Marine Biology, was impossible "as only men can study fish"! She opted for Economics and *moved on*.

During the next 9 years as a Military Officer she earned degrees in economics, world religions, and psychology, with minors in history and sociology. She also became an accountant (a CGA, which is now known as a CPA).

An administrative error during a summer training course sent her to St Jean Military College a week early. Mike Davis who was at St Jean was sent by another administrative error to Esquimalt a week late! They met during that week and two years later were married; that was 38 years ago!

Doloros' years of service saw her posted to London Ontario, Air Command in Winnipeg, and CFB in Toronto. At age 23, she was promoted to Captain, the youngest age ever for an ROTP officer in peacetime.

She is still not sure if she was an exceptional student or if it was another administrative error, but she *moved on!*

Anxious to have a family, Doloros left the military and took a job with Manulife Financial in Toronto. She and Mike bought a house with a large backyard and hoped! After three long, difficult years of fertility treatments they still had no biological children and no reason why. They *moved on* and decided to adopt. First, a 7-year-old boy and later, a 3-year-old girl. The challenges which followed forced Doloros to assume humility and express that she didn't understand anything about anythingso *moving on!*

Whilst at Manulife, she was exposed to teaching when the company participated in a high school co-op program. Doloros became a mentor/teacher and found that teaching was the most enjoyable part of her job. Even though the student, while expressing his gratitude for her inspiration, declared he had decided to be an Anglican minister, not an accountant, she decided to become a teacher. Brock's Teachers College followed, then posts at Toronto School of Business, Conestoga College, University Heights High School, Employment Canada, and Monsignor Doyle High School to teach business and computer science courses. Doloros also started her M Ed at the U of T in Computer Science Information Management.

Mike was transferred to Slough in England where, soon after the move, Doloros became very sick with acute pancreatitis. She was in a coma and on life support for one and a half months and, when Mike was asked by the Dr, when he wanted to pull the plug, his reply was "my gut says not yet"! Doloros reflects that she does not pretend to understand but loves and respects her husband's gut feelings which have allowed her to *move on!*

When recovery allowed, Doloros and her daughter left England and came back to Perth to live with her parents. The rehabilitation process continued, and she learned to walk, eat, and read again. She and Mike bought a house in Perth and, once her health was restored, she went back to teaching. First at St John Catholic High School in Perth, then St Michael's High School in Kemptville and, finally, back to St John.

After 17 years of teaching business, computer science, math, political science, introduction to social sciences, religion, world religion, and philosophy (her favourite subject) Doloros retired last year! She is very happy in this new situation, enjoying gardening, traveling, reading, and learning new things.

She knows that stuff happens, but she will continue to deal with it the best way she can and *move on*.

Bravo, Doloros!

Report written by Liz Leonard