



The **P**ROBIAN ~ May 2012  
"Spring Fling" Edition  
~ Editor: Dennis Dwyer ~



**THE PROBUS CLUB  
OF PERTH**  
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## Spring Fling ---- written by Colin Stephenson

Spring Fling, the annual get-together for Probans from across Eastern Ontario, was held in Perth on May 15<sup>th</sup>.....and it was very successful. Probus Perth organized and carried out this event, attended by a total of 208 people. The event was held in historic Code's Mill, a venue which drew favourable comment from many out-of-town attendees. The organizing committee chose a heritage theme and Perth hosts were dressed in an assortment of vintage clothing, kilts and Men of the Tay vests. The hall was adorned with a historical Town of Perth display and a number of antiques, to set the mood.

The festivities began with the pipers call to lunch and a humorous salvo by the Perth Town Crier, Brent McLaren. Brief pre-lunch addresses were provided by John Fenik, Mayor of Perth, Peter Doyle, President of Probus Canada and Dan Murphy, our own club President. Code's Mill staff provided an excellent lunch to the assembled group. Scattered throughout the program were draws for the wonderful door prize packages assembled by Social Director Mary Kilgour and thanks to the generosity of more than 20 merchants and other donors. It has to be said that Mary worked tirelessly for months to obtain all of the booty, which was given away.



Although everything went off very well, the highlight of the event was undoubtedly the musical entertainment provided by Brent and Shelley McLaren, assisted by pianist Val Leavitt. They received a standing ovation for their performance, which traced the historical roots of the Town in word and song. For good measure the performers threw in some show tunes and Brent's signature piece "If I were a Rich Man" from "Fiddler on the Roof".

Following the event a small but enthusiastic group participated in the optional walking tour of historic Perth, guided by local historian Susan Code. Along the way, they heard lively stories of the last fatal duel, the creation of the Tay Canal and the booming distilling and brewing businesses in Perth prior to Prohibition.

Departing Probans were effusive in their praise of this year's Spring Fling and there were some "best ever" comments heard. Members of the Perth contingent were justifiably proud of "our event".

### *Spring Fling...continued*

A special thank you goes out to the Organizing Committee and to all of the volunteers who acted as greeters, parking lot attendants, table hosts and registrars. The members of the Organizing Committee, who collectively put in hundreds of hours on this event, included: Dan Murphy, Chair; Helen Black, Logistics; Bob Black, Parking Team; Dave Crowley, Welcome Team, Sheila Hurren, Registration; Mary Kilgour, Community Liaison and Donation Solicitation, Chris McGuire, Entertainment; Colin Stephenson, Webmaster and Walk Organizer; Carol Trischuk, Communications and Registration. Photos and video were taken by David Zimmerly and a DVD of the event will be available shortly.



[Click here for Spring Fling Slideshow](#)

### **May Speaker Ron Alquist on economic research and the determinants of oil prices.**

Today's media treat central bankers like rock stars. Editorial writers as well as financial reporters detail the thinking of our own Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of Canada, because the public understands that what our central banks do affects all of us. So we were especially fortunate to have Ron Alquist, Coordinator of International Economic Analysis for the Bank of Canada, as our guest this May.

With a deft touch he led us through the purposes of the Bank, and its use of monetary policy in meeting the inflation target of 2% per annum. He showed how the Bank operates and why our banking system (the "Scottish" banking system, highly regulated with few banks but each with many branches coast-to-coast-to-coast, versus the USA with over 9,000 banks but a few enormous ones, "too big to fail" — all loosely regulated). A feature of his talk was his explanation of how expectations about the future rate of inflation effects our daily consumption and investment decisions. He also dealt with how financial crises can spread internationally because the world, especially the world of financial markets, is now so interconnected.

Finally, he outlined the factors that influence oil prices and the connection between those and the actual price of gasoline at the pump. The large number of questions at the conclusion of his talk demonstrated how much our audience enjoyed his presentation.

### **Personal Profile ~ John Kerr-Wilson**

John led us through his experiences growing-up during the Great Depression, studying in a one-room schoolhouse in Fort Gary, then a life of changes. He got over a stammer, joined the RCN during the Korean War, then switched to the RCAF (he found he got seasick), taught school after that, then became a principal and joined the RCN(R) @ H.M.C.S. Cataraqui, married another Sub-Lieutenant and lived happily-ever-after.

### **Speakers' Corner**



**June 6** – Brian Perkin, V-P & Program Director of "Lake 88" our very own and popular FM station.

**Fall** – John McKenty on his soon to be released book on Christie Lake.

### **Special Future Events**

**May 30** – [Nonsense II at the Gananoque Playhouse](#) --- cost \$25 per person for the play. A group reservation for lunch at the Gananoque Inn will be made.

**June 6** – Year-end luncheon after the meeting at the Legion. To make a reservation for lunch please call or e-mail Mary (613-264-0024 or [mkilgour@superaje.com](mailto:mkilgour@superaje.com)). There is a choice of wraps/sandwiches or lasagne/Caesar salad for \$10.

**Fall** – possible Full Circle Theatre + dinner, possible trip to Montebello

**Dec. 7** – Christmas party ~ location and entertainment are booked.

### **Management Team Notes**

**PLEASE REMEMBER!!  
WE NEED**



*Nominations for: Vice President, Secretary, someone or a team for membership, and a 2 I/C for Mary Kilgour on Special Events.*

### **QUOTE FOR THE MONTH ---**

***"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life" – CONFUCIUS--***