



The PROBIAN ~ May 2013 Edition

~ Editors: Dennis Dwyer & Colin Stephenson ~



THE PROBUS CLUB OF PERTH

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Probus meets the first
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Sept. to June.

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Apropos

We have been extremely fortunate at Probus Perth to have had such a broad range of speakers on a diverse range of subjects in recent years. We have, by turns, been inspired, amused, informed and challenged. Many have made us think and re-examine our beliefs and assumptions to see whether they hold up given new information brought to the table. The May speaker, James Bissett, is a very good example as he put forward strongly held views on immigration. Whether or not one shares his conclusions, the examination of the issues he put forward is an invaluable exercise. It encourages one to read further to learn what other well informed commentators have to say. One such authority is the late Dr. Allan Green an economics professor at Queen's University, who devoted much of his career to research on immigration policy. He had a somewhat more nuanced view of immigration. While agreeing that immigration no longer meets the stated policy objectives, he did not share Mr. Bissett's conclusions that immigration rates are too high, nor that specific ethnic concentrations were worrisome. Rather, he suggested that objectives for admitting immigrants in the future will be more social and humanitarian than economic. He felt that "the question we should be asking ourselves is: What type of society do we wish to build in Canada? One of the great gifts brought to us by the new immigrants is diversity in our way of life. We need to address the question as to the extent of diversity we desire and the speed with which we wish to achieve this goal." All of this to say that we may need a new way of thinking about complex issues such as immigration policy, as prompted by this month's quote on page 2 from Albert Einstein.

Dennis Dwyer & Colin Stephenson

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

James Bissett on Immigration



It was abundantly clear from Wayne Hammond's introduction of our May speaker that James Bissett, or Joe to his friends and former colleagues in the room, was eminently well qualified to talk to us about immigration in Canada. In addition to 36 years of public service with the Departments of Manpower and Immigration, Employment and Immigration and External Affairs, his résumé includes diplomatic postings as Canadian Ambassador to Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania. He currently serves as a member of the Advisory Board for the [Centre for Immigration Policy Reform](#).

Mr. Bissett launched into his address by stating categorically that Canada is following the wrong immigration policy and that "it went off the rails in the 1990's when federal politicians recognized that they could manipulate the ethnic vote". He stated that Canada has the highest per capita immigration rate of any country and he expressed concern that current rate and pattern of immigration is changing the country rapidly.

(Continued on page 2)

Immigration (continued)

Mr. Bissett noted the tendency for immigrants to locate in the major cities and the fact that the foreign born population of Toronto and Vancouver is approaching 50%, while that of New York is less than 25%. He worried that both Canadian cities were becoming Asian centres.

Mr. Bissett stated that there are currently no security checks being undertaken for immigrants coming into the country and noted that security officials in the US are worried about our common border. He believes strongly in the need for a public policy debate on immigration as the basis for shaping future policy objectives.

Special Events



- **May 29** – Thousand Island Playhouse, 690 Charles Street, Gananoque ~ “[Suds ~ the Rocking 60's Musical Soap Opera](#)”. Lunch reservations have been made for the [Watermark Restaurant](#) in the Gananoque Inn 550 Stone Street. [Map](#).
- **June 5th** – Closing Probus luncheon at the Perth Legion after the meeting. Choice of Wraps and Sandwiches or Lasagna and Caesar Salad. Both include dessert/tea/coffee for \$10 (no tax or gratuity). Contact Mary Kilgour (613-264-0024) by May 29th.
- **September 27** – Peterborough Lift Lock Lunch Cruise. Tour the world's highest hydraulic lift lock and part of the Trent-Severn Waterway. Price is \$96.50 including transportation, morning coffee break, Lift Lock Cruise, lunch, admission to the museum, all taxes. Sign up at the June meeting. [Details](#).

In Memoriam

Probus member Peter Richardson passed away unexpectedly at the Great War Memorial Hospital in Perth on Monday, April 15th, 2013. Our condolences go out to Jennifer and all of the Richardson family. [Obituary](#).

Moving On

Our best wishes to Probus member Sam Kingdon and his wife Pat as they pull up stakes and move to a new destination.

Quote for the Month :

“We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them”

- Albert Einstein.

Speakers' Corner

In today's world North American women are often doing work that used to be done only by men. Our **June 5th guest speaker, Willa Dwyer**, a sixth generation Montrealer grew up in Quebec's Eastern Townships, graduated from Mount Allison University in Science & Math, then obtained a baccalauréat en design industriel de l'Université de Montréal. Following a series of executive positions in retailing, marketing and manufacturing, she decided to become a long-haul trucker and obtained her Class 1 license. Today she is a driver for Normandin Transit in Napierville, QC and lives in West Brome, Québec. She'll tell us what it's like to be a woman in a man's world.



[More...](#)

Self Introduction ~ Brian O'Connor



Brian O'Connor was born in Kingston towards the end of the war, while his father served in Italy and Northwest Europe. Following his father's return, he was presented with 5 sisters. He

attended Regiopolis College in Kingston and went on to St. Patrick's College, University of Ottawa to study History and Political Science. This turned out to be good educational background for a career spanning 36 years with Citizenship and Immigration and the Canadian Foreign Service. He was posted to 7 missions overseas, including England, Germany, Colombia, Chile, France, the Philippines and his last posting in Jamaica, which lasted 5 years. His wife did not accompany him on his last mission, but she insisted that he take the family parrot, with which she did not get along. Brian retired for the first time in 2002, but joined CSIS after 9-11 and worked there until 2009. He and his wife Helene moved to Burgess Wood in 2010 after she retired as a research librarian. Brian enjoys numerous pursuits, including fishing, scuba diving, blue water sailing, cooking, target shooting and singing with the Men if the Tay. Brian and his wife have 3 children, but alas no parrot, as the latter remained in Jamaica.