



# The PROBIAN ~ November 2012 Edition

~ Editors: Dennis Dwyer & Colin Stephenson ~



## THE PROBUS CLUB OF PERTH

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

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## Apropos ....

One of the highlights for many of us is the self-introduction of a new member. Les Brown's was no exception. In particular, it was his community involvement beginning at high school, and continuing to this day, that illustrated the best of a Probian. Because we all care deeply about our community and it's myriad of volunteer organizations, Mark Steyn's words on the next page should be a wake-up call. *Canada is no different*, and as we read articles in our press about the debt carried by Canadians we should be worried. Unfortunately Seniors are not as debt-free as they have been in previous generations. Innumerable studies show that our group may not have the amount of disposable income 10 years from now, that we've enjoyed in the past.

From, service clubs, to lodges, to churches, hostels, foundations, sports teams, and other clubs, all of these local institutions have become the very fabric of our community. They are in danger. Seniors have traditionally been bedrock volunteer and *financial* supporters and all the data indicates that our ability to generously fund these organizations will seriously decline during the next ten years. The generation coming up behind us is already "maxed-out". All members of community organizations, especially finance committees, should be most careful when making estimates of future income. The happy days of deficits and "kicking-the-can-down-the-road" are over.

*Dennis Dwyer & Colin Stephenson*

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

## Glenn Tunnock on the War of 1812



A friend and former resident of Perth, and an urban planner, also has a history degree from Queen's University. This combination of a love of history and understanding of how "the ground" is crucial in battles, combined to give us a most refreshing survey of the War of 1812.

Using members of the audience as troops, Glenn made visible both the difficulties experienced by and often incompetence of many senior commanders. Like most wars it never went according to plan. Our American cousins who were told "it was only a matter of marching" in to conquer what was then British North America. They would discover it was not that easy and ultimately would never succeed. A combination of British regular troops, local French & English-speaking militias, and the crucial fighting by friendly aboriginal tribes succeeded in thwarting American designs on land. At sea the story was different with some notable American successes. The Americans did capture New Orleans easily

defeating the British force, but by then the war was already over and in the Treaty of Ghent all went back to where it was before the war began.

Glenn unearthed some new Canadian heroes, celebrated good leadership, and illustrated incompetence — and all this almost entirely without notes and an obvious passionate command of the material. It was a fascinating presentation and most of us wished we had had a history teacher like Glenn.

## Glenn Tunnock ~ continued



"US Militia" stopping at the border.

## Special Future Events



- **Dec. 7** – Christmas Party at Lion's Hall, with appetizers and drinks from 6-7, dinner 7-8, and dancing 8-10. Music 6-7 and 8-10 is by "Touch of Class" which is described as 'A self-contained tribute to the 50/60/70's featuring multi-instrumentalist Simon Clark, ex-"Freddie and the Dreamers"'. Please contact Mary ASAP if you wish to attend and have not yet signed up. Check out Simon's playlist at [www.simon-clarke.weebly.com](http://www.simon-clarke.weebly.com). If you have any requests from the playlist please let Mary ASAP, no later than the 3rd.
- **Jan. 26** – Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance, at the Perth Legion. Reservations can be made at the Dec 5th and Jan 9th meetings.
- **Feb. 2013** – possible dinner theatre event.

## Management Team Notes



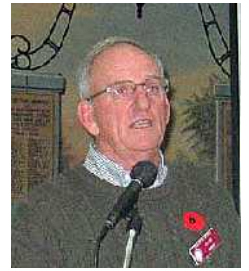
- Jean and David Crowley have stepped down as co-membership directors and have transferred their duties to Don McDiarmid. Many thanks to Jean and David for their yeoman service.
- Thanks to Jim Sands for creating the DVD of the Montebello trip, shown at the last meeting.
- The January meeting will be moved to January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Fees for 2012-13 are now past due and the names of those who have not paid will be removed from our membership list if we have not received payment in the next month. Please fill out the renewal form available on our website at [www.probusperth.ca/membership.htm](http://www.probusperth.ca/membership.htm) or attached to the Summer edition paper copy, and send it together with your cheque to Probus Box 20131, Perth, Ont., K7H 3M6.

## Lunch After December 5th Meeting

@ Around the Corner Restaurant ~ 40 Foster St.

## Speakers' Corner

**Dec.5** Major-General (Ret'd) Clive Addy will head up a team including our Chief of Police, Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Preparedness. Their subject — *SECURITY & OUR CONTINUED SAFETY*. Gen.



Addy will describe the concerns at the international, national, and provincial levels while the rest of the team will cover Perth. This will be a Christmas present of crucial awareness for everyone who attends. Important information along with debunking myths (who does choose the PM's vehicles?) will be in this enjoyable presentation. ([read bio](#)).

## Self Introduction – Les Brown



Imagine, a native of Smiths Falls who came from a family of 14, walked 2 ½ miles to school, had a long career in administration, retired, rebuilt a 100 acre farm, raised Morgan horses and produced the "best honey and maple syrup in Lanark county" — and still had time to become a Queen's Scout, sing in a band, command an Air Cadet Squadron, serve 8 other organizations, and today still entertains at nursing and retirement homes. Bravo, Les, you're a motivator for all of us.

## New Member



New member Frank McGlynn  
welcomed by Richard Thomson and Don McDiarmid

**Quote for the Month :** "Americans as a whole have joined the rest of the western world in voting themselves a lifestyle they are not willing to earn" MARK STEYN