



**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

The descent of the long nights of autumn seemed to be hastened by the sound of gunfire on Parliament Hill. Our Prime Minister's public reaction to the dreadful events at the national War Memorial and House of Commons was to announce to us that "Canada will never be intimidated".

In the same week that two Canadian soldiers were killed by two Canadian citizens, the Harper government sent a half dozen fighter jets to bomb urban areas in the Middle East. That act is likely to recruit new terrorists among the surviving relatives and friends of those civilians killed in the inevitable collateral damage from our bombs, which seems plenty intimidating. It is also intimidating when mentally disturbed Canadian citizens, whose passports have been revoked to protect the rest of the world, roam here where they wish, their unbalanced judgment twisted by internet propaganda posted by jihadists abroad and goaded by our foreign policy.

Our days of quiet diplomacy have evaporated. Now we leap into every fray with no apparent thought about consequences. Our government no longer sees a future in the Canadian tradition of quiet multilateralism — of engaging as many countries of the world as possible. Instead, it prefers organizations like the G8, an exclusive club of the world's richest nations, or NATO, an equally exclusive military alliance dominated by the U.S. At last month's Probus meeting we were told that the best way to predict the future is to help shape it. Let's keep that in mind.

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

Retired General Paul Manson – The Changing Face of War

With the courage and conviction of a true professional, retired General Paul Manson, despite a serious case of laryngitis, skillfully delivered an insightful presentation about the changing face of war. He began with a recap of the key developments in weapons and tactics which clearly demonstrated that both are now on an accelerated development trajectory due to the rapid evolution of technology in the past 50 years. The weapons of war have evolved from sticks and stones in prehistory to the bow and stone-tipped arrows some 70,000 years ago; followed by metal swords, axes and arrow tips around 3000 BC; gunpowder in China by the 11th century; artillery by the 15th century; firearms by the 17th century; sail to steam by the mid 19th century; radio communications at the turn of the 20th century; airplanes, tanks and submarines by the first world war; and, aircraft carriers, amphibious operations, carpet bombing, chemical and nuclear weapons by the second world war.



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Face of War.....continued

Since 1990 there has been a very rapid emergence of new weapons: “cruise” missiles and “smart” bombs, laser sights, night vision, robots, drone aircraft, and remote sensing using satellites, to name only a few.

General Manson retired from the RCAF in 1989 after 35 years of service without having seen combat. With the collapse of the Soviet Union a new world order was expected, but as General Manson pointed out it has not evolved as he expected due to dramatic changes influenced by technology, ideology and public attitude.

Technology has given the West huge tactical advantages with the development of: Global Positioning Systems to guide missiles, bombs, robots and soldiers with pinpoint accuracy; information gathering and processing satellites and drones backed up by complex data processing systems; advanced radio and data communications systems which provide interpersonal communications between soldiers and commanders; and, cyber warfare, which is still in its infancy. But this technology also has its disadvantages because collateral damage and unforeseen attacks carried out by drones and missiles make the West appear cold and ruthless. Besides, the enemy has access to much of our technology and uses it to their advantage with computers, cell phones, GPS and social media. They also have the advantage of anonymity because they do not wear uniforms, use low-tech reliable weapons, are difficult to identify, often have the support of local populations and are on home territory so time is on their side.

He also points out that public attitudes in the West now contribute to uncertainty. The West has become war weary and its coffers have been drained by endless conflict without resolution, and with no real idea of how or when any resolution can be achieved in conflicts such as those in the Middle East and Africa. As a result, the West is developing an attitude of isolationism and *laissez-faire*. However, refugees still have to be dealt with and we live in a world that is increasingly socially and economically interconnected.

General Manson speculates that in the future a major conventional war is unlikely because there are too many constraining factors, including the global economy. He also speculates that the large scale machines of conventional war, such as aircraft carriers, will be abandoned and small unmanned aerial vehicles and robots will be increasingly used in combat.

General Manson considers the rise of Islamism to be the greatest threat to our security today. Islamic terrorists groups have mastered indoctrination, insurgency and terrorism. They have no ethical restraints and, by their excesses, they exploit the West’s own moral constraints. He believes Islamist terrorism will prevail for several decades before it succumbs to the seeds of its own destruction.

We know from history that warfare will continue to evolve with increasing rapidity. General Manson is uncertain as to how far the trend can take us, and he does not know whether the path will be better or worse. However, General Manson reminds us that peace will not come from technological advances, it must be rooted in ideological evolution away from attitudes that have permitted the unrestrained forms of warfare we see today.

General Manson concluded with these inspiring words: “In our hearts we must believe that ‘the good guys will win’, that freedom and democracy will prevail. These are indeed powerful forces, in which we in the West set a good example. It may take a generation or two, but in the future battle for ‘hearts and minds’, I am confident that we will prevail, because we hold the ethical high ground. If I have a personal concern about all of this, it is that the example our democratic society sets for the rest of the world is not always perfect, and our moral failures are used against us in the battle for hearts and minds. We in the West have work to do in constraining the excesses that freedom allows. But, in the final analysis, the gift of freedom gives us an enormous advantage which is denied to our enemies. Together with our society’s great technological resources and initiatives, these will surely lead to a world that will finally break away from the escalation of warfare that has been the scourge of human civilization from prehistoric times. Next Tuesday, look back and remember the sacrifices. But also look ahead, and hope for a world that is free of the scourge of war.”



A General's Thank You
General Clive Addy thanks General Paul Manson

Special Future Events

- **December 5** ~ Christmas Dinner/ Dance. Lion's Club Hall Perth, catered by Country Kitchen Catering. Social time starts at 6pm, followed by dinner, prizes, gifts and dancing. Music 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"'. This is a repeat performance by popular request. **Please sign up by November 29th** if you have not already done so. The price is \$35/person, with cheques payable to Probus Perth. **Please let Mary know if you plan to take a re-gift to the party.**
- **January 24** - Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance Perth Legion. Dinner is prime rib. Tickets \$25, available in December.



Speakers' Corner



Our speaker on December 3rd will be Alfred Von Mirbach on the El Camino Trail, which has been described as the most famous pilgrimage in the world, tracing the route to the relics of the Apostle James, interred

in the grand old Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Alfred Von Mirbach is well known in Perth for his environmental work with ecoPerth and for his participation in local theatre.

Management Team Notes

- Fees for 2013-14 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 by the end of the month or at the December 3rd meeting at the latest. Please fill out the renewal form available on our website at www.probusperth.ca/membership.htm or attached to the September edition paper copy, and send it together with your cheque to Probus Box 20131, Perth, Ont., K7H 3M6.
- The book exchange will continue to be offered at our monthly meetings. You are invited to bring in up to 4 books and take away as many as you wish, whether or not you have brought any books in.
- Thanks to the talented Jim Sands for creating the video presentation of the Fall Probus trip, which was shown at the November meeting.



Personal Profile ~ David Jones

David Jones held everyone's rapt attention with the brief history of his interesting life. Born in March of 1941 in Bedford Quebec, David was the only child of parents from a long line of empire loyalists who trace their roots back to 1635 in Massachusetts. After high school he commenced an education in agricultural engineering, but it did not appeal to him. His father passed away during his first year of college so he took a job as a lab technician with Gulf Oil at their quarry near Bedford. In the meantime his interest in Judy, a registered nurse whom he had known since high school, was rekindled and they were married in 1963. Their daughter Angela was born two years later and their son Michael was born four years after Angela.



After 10 years with Gulf Oil, a desire for a better job and concern about the future of his Gulf Oil position prompted David to seek a new job with the Albany Felt company in Cowansville, QC, which manufactured fabrics for papermaking machines. David held many positions with the company as it expanded to Albany International and traveled to Sweden, Australia and the USA in the course of his work.

While working full time for Albany, David focused on further education through night courses and earned a C.I.M from McGill and Bachelor of Administration from Concordia University. In 1982 Albany International decided to build a new plant in Perth and David was asked to manage production and administration. He thoroughly enjoyed building that plant from the ground up and it continues to thrive as a major employer in Perth.

In 1989 he was transferred to Albany, NY, where another new plant was going up, but his children stayed behind to pursue their education at Algonquin College in Ottawa where they both obtained degrees and launched successful careers. After two years in Albany he returned to Cowansville, QC, the Canadian headquarters of Albany International, where the company needed a fully bilingual person in human resources to administer their pension and insurance programs.

In 2000 David retired from Albany International and set up his own consulting company which held his interest until 2007 when he fully retired. In 2012 he and Judy sold their home in Cowansville and built a retirement home on four acres severed from a 100 acre farm their son owns north of Perth. David now maintains their property and restores vintage vehicles.



President Jean helps Past-President Jim celebrate his 75th birthday at a recent Management Team meeting.

Lunch After December Meeting

To be held at the Red Fox Restaurant Tavern
80 Foster Street, Perth

Quote for the Month

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. **Dwight D. Eisenhower**



Fred, Mary and Mike
at the Governor General's House

Leacock's Logic

- Advertising: the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it.
- It's called political economy, but it has nothing to do with either politics or economy.
- I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.



New members welcomed at the November meeting
(LtoR) Ray Smidt, David & Janet Osborne, Jean Crowley (President),
Larry Bowen, Gisele Armstrong, Don McDiarmid (Membership Director)