



**THE PROBUS CLUB  
OF PERTH**

P. O. Box 20131,  
Perth, Ontario  
K7H 3M6

[www.probusperth.ca](http://www.probusperth.ca)

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

**President**

Bill Kennedy  
613-207-0037  
[email](mailto:bill.kennedy@probusperth.ca)

**Past President**

Jean Crowley  
613-267-3306  
[email](mailto:jean.crowley@probusperth.ca)

**Vice President**

Mike Selig  
613-264-0945  
[email](mailto:mike.selig@probusperth.ca)

**Secretary**

David Allcock  
613-706-3562

**Treasurer**

Don Sherwin  
613-264-0759

**Program**

David Farquharson  
613-267-2231

[email](mailto:david.farquharson@probusperth.ca)

Gardner Church

613-267-1842

Brian O'Connor

613-264-9187

Derek Cooke

613-279-1217

Valerie Stephenson-Gray

613-326-0757

**Special Events**

Mary Kilgour

613-264-0024

Gail Read

613- 464-3063

**Membership**

Don McDiarmid

613-264-8590

**Newsletter Editors**

Colin Stephenson

613-264-2609

Max Wood

613-464-1172

**Webmaster**

Colin Stephenson

613-264-2609

[email](mailto:colin.stephenson@probusperth.ca)

**Apropos ....**

The 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month brought the customary rain and gloom. Mother Earth once more sent her somber tears to remind us how deeply she mourns the wanton destruction of all that nourishes and sustains life. Those who risked their lives in the great wars are mostly gone now. Still it is altogether appropriate that they be remembered. Yet those great wars fought, we were told, to end all wars have accomplished no such thing. Although no enemy has stood at our door since U-boats sank ships in the St. Lawrence, we continue to send our young men to war. We have forgotten, it seems, that violence begets violence. Mother Earth has not forgotten.

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

**Barrie Crampton on the Perth Military Settlement  
Historical Mapping Project**



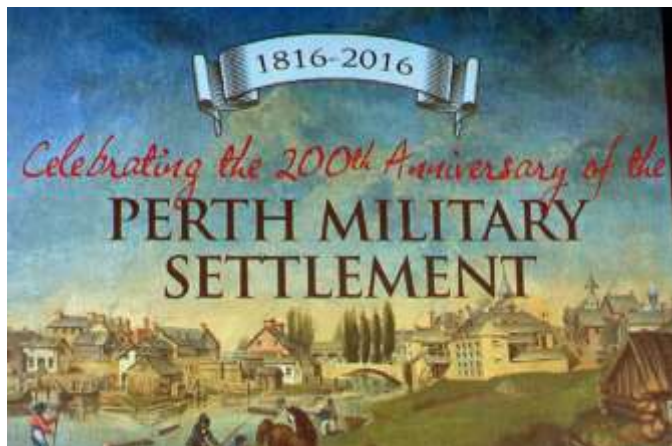
Inspired by the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the military settlement of Perth, a handful of dedicated volunteers coordinated by Barrie Crampton are bringing the convenience of internet access to the historical records associated with the survey and grant of “unoccupied lands” in the former townships of Bathurst, Drummond, Beckwith and the Town of Perth. Any land not occupied by His Majesty’s subjects was obviously considered to be “unoccupied”, and in December 1814 royal assent was granted to a plan proposed by Henry, Lord Bathurst, Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, to grant part of those “unoccupied lands” to soldiers discharged after the War of 1812 and other resolved conflicts. Evidently His Majesty was not comfortable with the thought of too many unemployed soldiers milling about on British soil.

In February 1815 the plan was extended to include civilians, and all settlers were provided with boat passage and offered “liberal encouragement” to make the move.

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## Historical Mapping Project .....continued

Ruben Sherwood of the Surveyor Generals Office in Brockville was given orders to survey the three townships and the town of Perth in February 1816. Meticulous records of the survey and the subsequent land grants were created. Those records were preserved and have been available since their creation, but finding any information in them was a laborious process that involved searching paper records in the land registry offices. Those paper records were later preserved on microfiche, available from the land data records of Ontario Archives. The microfiche images are much less bulky, but equally tedious to search. Fortunately for us, the information from those microfiche images has now been manually transcribed into an Excel® spreadsheet by Ann McPhail, librarian of Algonquin College, Perth Campus.



The spreadsheet data is being incorporated into a digital map of the original township surveys created by CGIS Spatial Solutions as part of a voluntary contribution to the mapping project initiated by Barrie. The digital map will be made available to the public on January 8, 2016 following the first event of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, to be held at the Civitan Club on Highway 43 at 2:00 PM.

Once the digital map becomes available on the internet, the original grantee of any lot in the former townships of Bathurst, Drummond, Beckwith and the Town of Perth can be determined by a mouse click on that lot. A pop-up box will display the grantee's name, date of grant, type of grant, and status of the grantee (e.g. military or civilian emigrant).

After the digital map is fully implemented, the public will also be able to link various digital objects to a lot record, including: a sound recording, photograph or a typed note. The mapping project's legacy is to promote family

research, historical research, and genealogical tourism.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Barrie for conceiving and coordinating this project, to Ann McPhail for her transcriptions, and to CGIS for implementing and hosting the digital map. Other contributors include: John Goltz, Jeff Dean, Ken Watson, Darren Cope, Shawn Warner, Irene Spence, Elixia Neumann, Karen Pyrtula, Ariel Kay, Janet Conlin, Selena Barre and Amanda Fraser. Thank you to all, we look forward to using this new window to the past.

## Lunch After December Meeting

To be held at Maximillian's Restaurant, 99 Gore Street East, Perth



## Quote for the Month

**The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral; returning violence with violence only multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars.**

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

## Speakers' Corner

Our speaker on December 2nd will be Jennifer Dickson with a presentation on planning for the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the Perth Military Settlement, which encompasses the current Town of Perth, Tay Valley Township, Drummond North Elmsley Township and Beckwith Township. The member municipalities have established a 200th Anniversary Joint Committee



to plan the celebration. Jennifer is a Councillor of Tay Valley Townships and chairs their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee as well as sitting on the joint committee for the whole area. She also plans to talk about why the military were assigned here, why settlers came here rather than elsewhere, what they faced and who established the four municipalities.

## When Insults Had Class

- A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease." Replied Disraeli "That depends, Sir, whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."
- "He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

## Personal Profile ~ Duncan Meikoe



Most of us are proud of our successes and relegate our failures to lessons learned but otherwise best forgotten. Duncan Meikoe prefers to recall and recount his failures, and those are the sum of what he imparted to us on an unseasonably warm and sunny November 4th morning that beckoned from without.

Eschewing the microphone, Duncan recounted in his inimitable style how he failed to make it clear why at age 3 he screamed and refused to eat one of his favorite dishes. Indeed, he still did not offer us an explanation of that behavior. He also recounted how he failed to learn to make friends at age 6-8 because he was forced to change school and classes six times between kindergarten and grade 3. He reported that at age 13 he lost a lot of friends (so his failure at age 6-8 must have been overcome) when he got in a fight and somehow avoided the strap (another success by most accounts) while the other participant got it. At age 15 he failed to report a football injury and continued to play with the injury for another 11 months until he suffered a further injury that never healed properly. At age 17 he failed to respond appropriately to a high school teacher who bullied him into presenting an introduction at a high school assembly by railing against the teacher during the introduction. From 15 to 19 he spent too much time with the Air Cadets, at the YMCA, trying out for sports teams and going to school dances (which sounds a lot like a very socially engaged young man) and failed grade 13, requiring another year to graduate high school.

Also during high school, he failed to extract a maximum retribution from his high school principal whom he intensely disliked after the principal had taken a copy of Mad magazine from another student. Duncan found an article in Mad that he knew the principal would like and showed him the article without disclosing the source until the

principal acknowledged amusement with the article.

In 1970-77 Duncan failed to complete research on this dissertation quickly enough to get a teaching position before the job market collapsed. And in 1982-86 he held two consecutive terms as a school trustee and was beginning to think he understood the system when he lost two consecutive elections and did not run again.

Congratulations Duncan, you succeeded in keeping us all mystified about yourself, your careers and how you ended up in Perth.

## Special Events

- **December 4** – Christmas Dinner/Dance. Lion's Club Hall Perth, catered by the Lionesses. 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 let Mary know if you are able to take a "re-gift" to the party as a prize.
- **January 6** – Lunch at the Legion after the meeting to start 2016 off right. Lunch will be Lasagna OR Wraps with Caesar salad, dessert tea & coffee. Cost is \$10 per person. Please sign up at the December meeting.
- **January 23** - Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance Perth Legion. Tickets available in January.
- **May 25** – Save the date for "[A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline](#)" at the 1000 Island Playhouse".
- **June 1** – Help celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at a special meeting and luncheon at Timber Run. Stay tuned for details.




## New Members Welcomed



Bob and Allanah Langeland welcomed by President Bill Kennedy (L) and Don McDiarmid (R)

## Management Team Notes

- Mike Selig has unfortunately had to tender his resignation as vice-president due to health issues.   
The nominating committee is now looking for a replacement for this position
- Thanks to Ernie Trischuk who stepped up with his camera at the last meeting and whose pictures are included with this edition. Thanks as well to David Zimmerly who assisted with the audio-visual equipment.
- Please let us know if you will be 90 or over on December 31<sup>st</sup> and would like to be added to our distinguished group of life members at the January meeting.
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting at the latest. 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 September edition paper copy, and send it together with your cheque to Probus Box 20131, Perth, Ont., K7H 3M6.

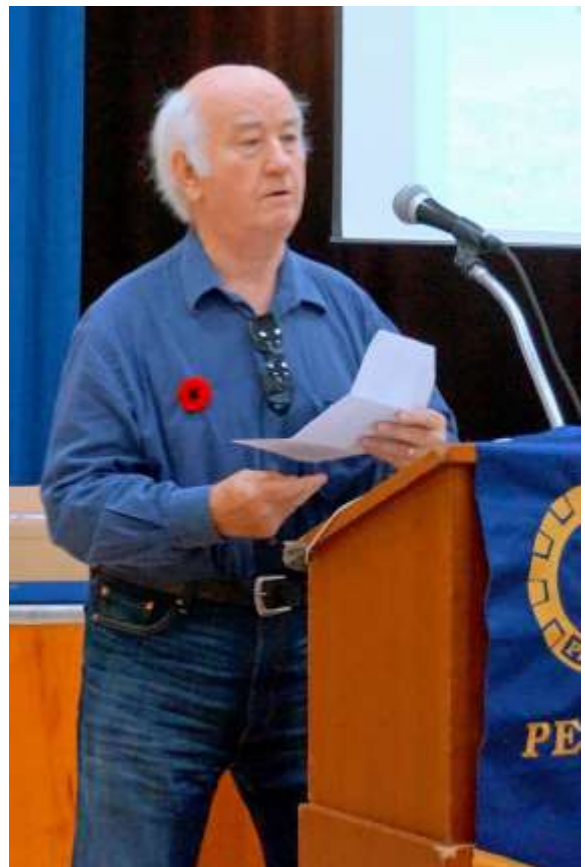


Past-President Jean Crowley receiving an honorarium from President Bill Kennedy for her stellar job over the past year. In a typically generous move, Jean returned the honorarium back to the club to be applied to the Commemorative Bench Project. Thank you Jean for all of your hard work and good guidance. It was fun working with you.

## The Commemorative Bench Project

# We did it!

Thanks to the generous donations of our members we have raised more than \$1,600 to purchase and install the Commemorative bench. As you know, we are donating the bench to the Town to recognize both the 20th anniversary of the Perth Probus Club and the 200th anniversary of the Perth Military Settlement. A great location has been secured for the bench ~ [see poster](#). Thanks as well to the behind the scenes work of Dan Murphy and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team for proposing this project and seeing it through.



Mike's Bon Mots