



The **PROBIAN** ~ *October 2009 Edition*

~ Contributing Editor Peter Craske ~



THE PROBUS CLUB OF PERTH

P. O. Box 2164,
Perth, Ontario
K7H 3M9

www.probusperth.ca

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

President

Bruce Gourley
613-283-5967

brucegourley@sympatico.ca

Past President

Ernie Trischuk
613-283-8112

Vice President

Mike Else
613-267-2302

Secretary

Sheila Clark
613-267-4939

Treasurer

Don Sherwin
613-264-0759

Program

Ian Doig
613-264-2707
and Glen Pettinger
613-267-9747

Special Events

Glen Pettinger
613-267-9747
and Mary Kilgour
613-264-0024

Membership

Jean Crowley
613-267-3306
and Rod Woolham

Member at Large

Keith Brown
613-264-0206

Facilities

Bill & Kathleen Lea
613-264-0972

Webmaster

Colin Stephenson
613-264-2609
info@probusperth.ca

Pro-bites

In November, General Clive Addy will talk about "Today's Soldier". An intriguing subject for everybody, but even more so for the number of "Yesterday's Soldiers" among our members! Clive Addy served for 35 years in the Canadian Forces. Among his many posts, he was Commander of the Canadian Brigade in Germany, the Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations) at Central Army Group in Heidelberg, Chief of Staff of Mobile Command, and Commander of Land Forces in Western Canada. Retiring in 1996, he helped draft an audit of Emergency Preparedness for the Province of British Columbia. He then became the National Executive Secretary of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires – the largest security guard provider in Canada. He is the past National Vice Chair of the CDA, and the past National Chair of the Federation of Military and United Services Institutes of Canada. He is the founding Chair of the National Security Group which has been following and monitoring Canadian Security policy since 2003.



Dennis Dwyer ~ Will there be a church.....

Vignettes from the October Meeting ~ Will there be a Church for our Great-Grandchildren?

At our October meeting, Rev. Denis Dwyer gave us a most stimulating, thought provoking, and, at times, humorous talk examining what is considered by many to be a major drift – the continued divergence of direction taking place over the last half century, between the Christian Church and modern society - the Church steadfastly continuing to adhere to age-old teachings and structure while society is rapidly evolving in many different directions that make those factors less relevant.

Rev. Dwyer looked first at the kind of life Canadians lived fifty years ago and the role of the Church at that time; following up with a comparison of to-day's lifestyles. This was followed by the key question of whether the actual comparison really matters – that society was dynamic and moving rapidly while the Church was still operating with the ancient organizational concepts of the 1950's and before.

During this period Canadian lifestyles, attitudes and mores have changed radically in many ways: the evolution of a single wage earners and stay-at-home mother to that of two wage earners in the family; the expansion of the participation of women in all aspects of society from secretarial and domestic to career and executive roles; attitudes to divorce, personal responsibility, abortion, patriotism, sex before marriage, Sunday as a day of rest, television, the internet and so many others. While these enormous changes were going on, the Christian Church has made little adjustment to what was going on around it – focusing inwards rather than outwards. Fifty years ago, the Church was the centre and focus of a town or village, mirroring the community, to-day it has been marginalized to the extent that, for instance, attendance at the United Church as dropped by 73%.

In modern day marketing parlance, the Church has lost contact with its customers. Just as General Motors kept making large cars its customers didn't want; went bankrupt, and is now trying to rebuild itself, so the Church must realign its thinking and reposition itself, not in terms of its own bureaucratic needs and desires, but in terms of what its community needs and wants it to be.

The spiritual needs of the people themselves, despite their outward signs of disinterest in religion, are still the same – people are crying out for some meaning to their lives, some feeling of direction and belonging. People can still live a Christian life without going to Sunday service.

The need is there - and will be there when our Great-Grand children become adults. There can still be a Church, if the Church will recognize the part that it must play.

Unlike the General Motors case, there can be no government bail-out for the Church -the change must come from within!

More Vignettes from the October Meeting

Thirteen members took the Wakefield Steam Train on October 5th – and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Ernie Trischuk for organizing another successful Probus outing.

We welcomed a number of visitors to our October meeting, among them were Allen Churchill, Richard Thomson, (a prospective new member), Bruce and Irene Waller, and John and Janet Gardiner who, some members may recall, are former members of Probus Perth.

Altho' our Treasurer was unable to be present, Bruce Gourlay informed us that we had a healthy balance of some \$3500 in the bank – and more memberships still to come.

Special Events

- **October 31, 2009** ~ [Mississippi Mudds Mystery Theatre](#) 6 p.m. at the Heritage Inn, 7 Bridge Street in Carleton Place. After a full course dinner (starting at 6:30pm) we will see the Mississippi Mudds feature presentation of a murder mystery entitled "Spirits of Suspicion" by David Landau. Join our own Hallowe'en Party at a cost of \$40 a person for the package. So far about 25 have signed up. By the time you receive this newsletter the great day will almost have arrived so move quickly (like now!) if you want to get in on the fun. Cost is \$40 each for the package and car pooling is being arranged. Call Glen Pettinger at 267-9747 – there may still be time to join the party.
- **December 10, 2009** ~ Our Annual Christmas Dinner will be held at the Perth Links O'Tay Golf Club with live music by the "Saints and Sinners" and, of course, the usual great food from Chef Don at the Club. Tickets are \$35 each and you can get yours at the December meeting – or call Glen at 264-0024.
- **May 2010** ~ play TBD at Gananoque Playhouse
- **May 18, 2010** ~ Spring Fling will be held at the NavCan Training & Conference Centre, 1950 Montreal Road, Cornwall, ON. The meal will be served in the Marc Garneau Room. Wow. Out of this world !

Guests and members of other Probus Clubs are welcome to join our special events. If you have an idea for an activity you think other Probus members might enjoy, please talk to Mary Kilgour or Glen Pettinger, or one of the other members of the Management Team. We are always looking for new and creative ideas, as well as people to take the lead in organizing events.



Speakers' Corner

- **November** ~ General Clive Addy, whose topic will be "Today's Soldier".
- **December** ~ Elaine Turner, the Community Outreach Coordinator of the [Perth and District Community Foundation](#) will tell us how this Foundation works behind the scenes and how it aims to enrich the quality of life for the citizens of this area.

Self-introduction ~ John Hauraney



As another in our series of personal profiles, John Hauraney humorously filled us in on his eclectic life highlights – from grocery store clerk to steam train engineer to Central Wire, before settling down to a long and rewarding career in insurance and investments with

Mutual Life of Canada. What a wealth of diversity we have in our club!



Management Team Notes

- Just a reminder that Probus Perth membership fees of \$20 per member for the year 2009-10 are now due. There was a renewal form attached to the Summer edition, or [click here if online](#). Please fill out this form and send it together with your cheque to Probus Box 2164, Perth, Ont., K7H 3M9, or take it in to the next meeting.
- The Personal Profile for October is scheduled to be given by John Gibb-Carsley.
- Many thanks to Peter Craske for his contributions to this edition. The contributing editor for the November Bulletin will be Ian Doig.
- A reminder that the presentation of Peter Craske (Recollections of the Longest Day) is available for viewing on DVD. Please contact contact Colin Stephenson if you would like to borrow it.