



The PROBIAN ~ October 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

In great cities and small towns across our nation on Sunday, November 11th, the mournful sound of the trumpet will carry across silent crowds paying tribute to those who died serving in our armed forces. In recent years we have come to understand that we should also hold all veterans who served in our hearts on this day. In fact many veterans alive today believe that for some, being killed would have been a blessing.

Speak to those active today in the regular and reserve armed forces and they will tell you that it is also those who return wounded in body and spirit who deserve our special concern and affection. They and their families and close friends suffer, often alone and in silence, the effects of being in harm's way on behalf of their country. This is the result of the "unlimited liability" that General Hillier talks about in the quote for the month on page 2. We sadly forget that families and friends did not sign up. They are often traumatized by the death or wounding of their loved one.

This November, thank someone you know who served or is serving on the ground, in the air, or at sea. Seek out his or her family or good friends and thank them too.

Lt. Col. The Rev. (Ret'd) Dennis Dwyer, CD

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

John McKenty on Christie Lake



Far too often we're mesmerized by the comings and goings of so-called "celebrities". The genius of John McKenty is to help us see how our own local citizens make our lives not just interesting but more meaningful.

His latest book on the Christie Lake community, "Arden Blackburn's Mail Route" is a hymn to the power of one person acting as both communicator and servant to help give neighbours a sense of place and each other.

In today's internet and globalized world the magical blend of permanent residents and summer vacationers that was Christie Lake is something we are envious of. Unlike today's CEOs, whose lives are most often lived in total separation from "ordinary people", the president of the CPR and many of his top executives were members of the lake community. As they gathered to work, play, and celebrate the beauty that was around them, the neighbours came to transcend politics, religion and sometimes even family. All was not always tranquil at the lake as the history of Christie Lake Mines Limited and the tragic death of Arden's own son Lindsay attest.

John McKenty ~ continued

At the very end of the book, this sentence says it all: " For over the years the residents of Rural Route No.4 had found in their mailman a kindness and generosity of spirit that they held dear as a reflection of what their community was all about." Perhaps the best result of John McKenty's presentation to us is the determination in many of our hearts to keep on trying to ensure that in our own way and time, we can still create in the Perth area a community with the values, friendship, compassion, and humour we can read about in " *Arden Blackburn's Mail Route*".

Probians should also note that another book about local lore is "*Square Deal Garage*" published in 2000. John's book on CCM published in 2011 is also a fascinating story of an early Canadian business legend. Thanks John for your visit. We're fortunate to have a local author who captivates us by telling the stories of our community.

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 sign up and pay at the November 7th meeting.
- **Jan. 26** – Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance, at the Perth Legion. Reserve & pay at the Jan 2nd meeting.
- **Feb. 2013** – possible dinner theatre event.



Management Team Notes

- The minor revisions to our Bylaws, mentioned in our last edition, were approved at the October 3rd meeting. The revised Bylaws can be seen on our website at www.probusperth.ca/constitution.htm.
- Fees for 2012-13 are now due. Please fill out the renewal form attached to the Summer edition and send it together with your cheque to Probus Box 20131, Perth, Ont., K7H 3M6. The renewal form is also available on our website at www.probusperth.ca/membership.htm.



Speakers' Corner

Nov. 7 – Glenn Tunnock on the War of 1812. Glenn is an accredited land use planner, with over 30 years of experience. He has an MA (History) and an MPA from Queen's University and a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from Waterloo University ([read full bio](#)).



Self Introduction – Bill Kennedy

For a guy who started off with a B.Comm. from UBC and got his first job @ B.C. Hydro, you might have expected a long history of rising through the ranks to running the whole show. His engaging personality and humour about being a "bureaucrat", however prepared us to learn about his varied life in Dawson Creek and Prince George. Beginning as a junior assistant court treasurer he ended up developing a whole new level of government for Prince George where its population grew from 25,000 to 75,000 in just ten years. All was not fun when the employment picture in northern B.C. collapsed so his determination and humour were tested. He took early retirement after 20 years and with his wife and an interest in professional development did some teaching at UBC. Then, happily for us, they decided to come to Perth.



Quote for the Month :

" We are soldiers. This is our profession: the management of violence on the behalf of a legally elected government, in pursuit of legal missions around the world to help others. We face unlimited liability from the moment we sign on the dotted line." Gen.(Ret'd) Rick Hillier, CDS 2005-8

Lunch After November 5th Meeting

@ Stone Cellar Restaurant

New Members

One of the traditions of Probus is to officially welcome new members to the club. New members are given name tags and a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws (also available on-line at www.probusperth.ca/constitution.htm). New members are encouraged to give a 5 minute talk on what they have done in their lives at some future meeting, as Bill Kennedy did so captivatingly at the October meeting. They are also subjected to the obligatory picture-taking for this publication.



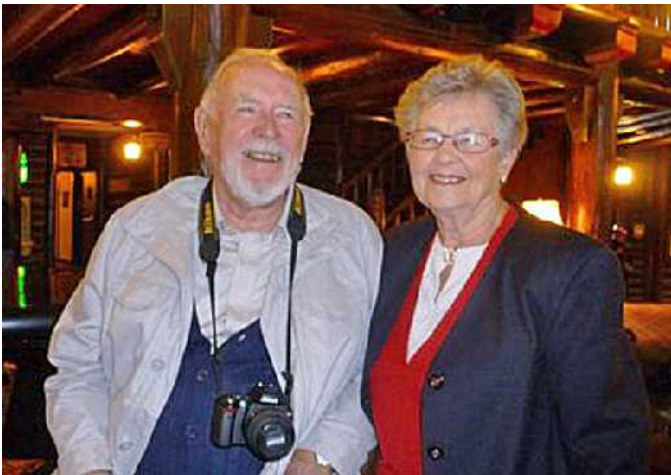
New members Ted Glugosh, Nancy Vardon-Gordon and Brian O'Connor, welcomed by Richard Thomson and David Crowley



Probus Fall Trip 2012 A Day at Chateau Montebello

We are so fortunate to have an energetic Director of Special Events, in the person of Mary Kilgour. Mary always seems to come up with new and creative ideas to share with club members. The most recent event, A day at Chateau Montebello, is no exception. We would like to thank Mary for her dedication to the cause and to invite members to take part in the events Mary dreams up in the future. We know you will be richer for the experience, as the following pictures may suggest.





The Group

*Probus Fall Trip 2012
A Day at Montebello*