



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

Alice Munro's Nobel Prize delighted all Canada. While Probians, as Canadians, can all bask in her glory, we might take a moment to examine the significance of her life-long devotion to stories of so-called "ordinary" people in small-town Ontario. The same week that Ms. Munro received her honour, Pope Francis was giving hope to millions of Roman Catholics by his humility and courage in insisting that the Curia must be reformed. In our celebrity-obsessed world the cult of self-esteem in social media is governed by a look-at-me ethos, fortunes are made from little that is tangible (see George Addy's explanation of the role of patent "Trolls" below) and algorithms have outstripped financial ethics.



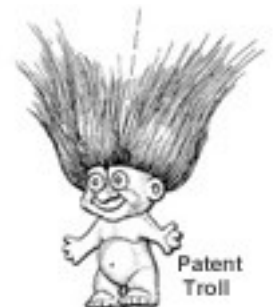
The genius of Alice Munro's writing and the Pope's behaviour remind us of great truths: small communities, ordinary people, and our own struggles for meaning and happiness matter. What we learn in community activities in groups like Probus, matters. How we treat our neighbours matters. How leaders who speak in our name behave matters.

George Addy On Competition, Patent Law and the Canadian Digital Economy



To say that George Addy went beyond "Competition Patent Law & The Canadian Digital Economy", a seemingly bland, almost bureaucratic topic, is to confirm how astonished, even at times angry our audience was in learning about Patent Assertion Entities or PAE's — for short, Patent Trolls. Since most of us depend on grandchildren to demonstrate how pervasive the internet universe is, George took the time to alert us to how much e-commerce has grown in just 5 years and that the average Canadian teenager spends 20 hours per week on a smart 'phone almost 4 times the world-wide average. Facebook, U-Tube, Twitter, and internet shopping are now ubiquitous. Billions, tens of billions, and soon hundreds of billions of dollars are funnelled through the internet, so much so, that many retailers complain that stores are becoming only showrooms for products that will ultimately be bought through the internet.

Given this reality, we were carefully led through the role of patents in protecting the results of investment in research and development and early marketing. Having set the stage, George then showed how big pools of investment funds like hedge funds now specialize in buying up thousands of patents then using them to extort large sums for manufacturers. These are the PAE's --- the Trolls. Many of these Trolls have huge bankrolls well into the billions of dollars, but very few employees — just a few very high-priced patent lawyers and speciality engineers. For the lawyers on all sides this provides a carnival of billable hours. In a world where innovation and R & D are the future of our economic security in Canada, the unregulated and virtually unenforced anti-trust -type law, presents a very real threat to the creation of good future jobs for our grandchildren.



Competition (continued)

We came away from this arresting presentation with at least the background knowledge to alert our politicians to this threat. The media is full of coverage of “issues” on the nightly news most of them just flashy sound bites designed to increase ratings. On the other hand, the exposure of the threats provided by patent trolls is an important long term battle that will not be easily won. This will require persistent attention. Our members and people like us have a role to play. George Addy has given us the information we need to confront our policy makers, and there is a link to his presentation on [our web site News page](#). Many thanks George.

Special Future Events

- o **December 6** – 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"'. This is a repeat performance by popular request. Price remains at \$30/ person ~ cheques payable to Probus Perth. Please sign up with payment at the November 6th meeting.



Management Team Notes

- o The Management Team would like to try setting up a transportation assistance program for members who may be finding it difficult to drive to Probus each month. So if you need assistance on a regular basis, why don't you let us know and we will try to team you up with another Probus member who may be coming your way or who would be happy to make a detour to pick you up. If you would like assistance or are willing to offer transportation to others please call Colin at 613-264-2609 or info@probusperth.ca.
- o Fees for 2013-14 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.



Lunch After November 6th Meeting

@ Fiddleheads in Codes Mill – 53 Herriott Street

Quote for the Month

"The most daunting part of being a parent is the realization that everything you do matters. Everything teaches something, whether you intend it or not."

Rabbi Steven Carr Reuben - from "The Power of Character" Jossey-Bass p.128

Personal Profile ~ Patricia Bertrim



It's always a pleasure to share in a personal profile where there is no need to explain, "why did you choose Perth to retire to?" Pat Bertrim not only came from McDonald's Corners (born in the Perth Hospital) in the early years of WWII (she did give us the date but out of traditional

politeness it is not included here) brought up in the home of her grandparents while Dad was away in the war, went to a one room school house SS #6, then Sharbot Lake High School in the days before school buses, so boarded there — and — met her eventual husband Paul. Then off to teacher's college in Ottawa, teaching in elementary schools, bringing up two children and eventually teaching French on contract with the local RC board. During all these years Pat kept up with changes in teaching and received her B.A. from Queen's in 1986. Apart from teaching French, Pat also supported music in schools and still firmly believes that "kids haven't time to misbehave when they are singing" — an idea that today's parents might investigate.

She retired in 1998 and thus was able to devote more time to her main passion, gardening. Although their property is slightly less than an acre, one friend exclaimed about their garden, "Pat doesn't have a garden, she has a park!" Pat is active in the Perth University Women's Club and has been part of its growth from under 20 to over 100 members. At the same time she has been a stalwart member and volunteer at St. Paul's United Church and used her garden and camera to send out her annual Christmas picture album. Probus is once again blessed with a new member active in her community. Welcome Pat.

Speakers' Corner

Our Speaker on November 6, just 5 days before Remembrance Day, will tell us the fascinating story of how radar helped to win not only the Battle of Britain, but the war at sea and on land. As a specialist in electronics in the RCAF, F/O Jim Sands, "Sandy" to all who know him and served with him, will lead us through this great story. He knows his stuff and he tells it with sparkle. This gentleman built his first three tube radio when he was only ten!

