



**THE PROBUS CLUB
OF PERTH**

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

www.probusperth.ca

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

President

Jean Crowley
613-267-3306

fcrowley21@gmail.com

Past President

Jim Gilmour
613-259-2592

Vice President

Bill Kennedy
613-207-0037

Secretary

David Allcock
613-706-3562

Treasurer

Don Sherwin
613-264-0759

Program

David Farquharson
613-267-2231
Gardner Church
613-267-1842
Brian O'Connor
613-264-9187
Derek Cooke
613-279-1217

Special Events

Mary Kilgour
613-264-0024
Ted Glugosh
613-267-1698

Membership

Don McDiarmid
613-264-8590

Newsletter Editors

Colin Stephenson
613-264-2609
Max Wood
613-464-1172

Webmaster

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

Facilities

Geoffrey Newman
613-264-1290

Apropos

If you follow technology news you will know that “big data” is the fastest growing field in technology. These days, nearly every one of our actions contributes to the enormous data pools that are being collected, sold, bartered, traded and stolen to be analyzed for every imaginable purpose and, no doubt, many purposes unknown to us. Although you may not be aware of it, every action you take with your credit card, debit card, telephone or internet and even your movements about town, is watched and recorded by many interested parties who are gleaning and storing data of one kind or another. Most of that data is purported to be impersonal, but lots of it is not. Rest assured that all major online retailers know who you are and what your interests are and tailor their offerings accordingly. Governments are also involved in collecting and analyzing big data, though it is impossible to know the extent of their operations. Defence Minister Peter MacKay approved a secret electronic eavesdropping program that scours global telephone records and Internet data trails – including those of Canadians – for patterns of suspicious activity. However, most of what is done in the name of governance is undisclosed and undiscoverable.

1984 was a long time ago, but it is just around the corner! Nonetheless, no one yet has direct access to the space between your ears, and that is the only real estate that really matters. Besides, direct association with those you hold dear is the most important and precious “data” you can accumulate. And, to date, it remains your own.

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

E. Paola de Rose on Understanding Canada from Space

– 40+ Years of Satellite Remote Sensing

A good turnout at the Probus October meeting was entertained and informed by Paola de Rose who presented a brief history of “remote sensing” with the ease and skill of a talented presenter who offered enough depth of information to keep the interest of the technically astute without leaving those without knowledge in that discipline languishing in technical jargon.

Canada’s Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) was created by an act of Cabinet in 1971. In the 1980’s, CCRS became the first in the world to do research and development on Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR). In 1995 RADARSAT-1 was launched, which had the advantage of being able to perform remote sensing regardless of light and weather conditions, which optical satellites cannot do. Canada has remained the world leader in SAR technology and has developed many important applications for the use of the data accumulated by RADARSAT-1 and RADARSAT-2, launched in 2008. Some of the important uses of Canada’s SAR sensing include: emergency flood mapping; ocean oil seep detection, including intentional bilge dumps by ocean vessels; geohazard detection to predict landslides; oilsands infrastructure monitoring; surface water level monitoring; permafrost condition monitoring; glacier extent monitoring; river ice characteristics monitoring; wetland classification; forest scar mapping; arctic ice monitoring; and, long term vegetation trends across the country.



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Remote Sensing.....continued

All of these applications are important contributions to our knowledge about the impact of human activity on our fragile ecosystem. However, the analysis of the massive amounts of data generated by the RADARSAT satellites requires a great deal of expertise and analysis. Ms. De Rose believes that investment in remote sensing infrastructure far outpaces the funding for the research and development required for interpreting and utilizing that remote sensing data. Hopefully, more funding will begin to flow to those responsible of making sense of the raw data that flows continuously from our satellites.

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 at the November meeting. The price is \$35/ person, with cheques payable to Probus Perth.
- **January 24** - Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance Perth Legion. Tickets available in December.



Speakers' Corner



Our speaker on November 5th will be General Paul Manson, former Chief of Defence Staff and volunteer chair of the Canadian War Museum's "Passing the Torch" fundraising campaign, which raised \$16.5 million in support of the new museum. General Manson has written numerous articles on defence and national security, and has been a frequent commentator on defence issues on television and radio.

Management Team Notes

- Fees for 2014-15 are now past due. Please fill out [the renewal form](#) attached to the last 2 editions and take it to the next meeting or send it together with your cheque to Probus Box 20131, Perth, Ont., K7H 3M6.
- Pictures of the Fall Probus Trip ~ Ottawa River Cruise & Rideau Hall are [available on our website](#).



Personal Profile ~ Max Wood



Max Wood was born in Northern Indiana, the oldest of 6 children. His father was a protestant minister and they were very poor. He decided before leaving high school that he did not want to live in Indiana, so he put himself through Perdue University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1967. He met Janette in September of that year and they were married in January of 1968.

Max applied for conscientious objector status on graduation, but was denied because his draft board was behind on their quota. After appealing unsuccessfully, they decided to try to immigrate to Canada. On August 1 of 1968 they crossed the border at Sarnia and applied for landed immigrant status, which to their great relief was granted on the spot.

With the help of Newfoundland artist Gerald Squires, they settled in Exploits Island, in Notre Dame Bay for 4 years, without power or running water, and their two children were born there. Their son was the last person to be born on Exploits.

Max and family moved to Quebec in 1973 and he trained himself to become a computer programmer. A three year contract with a patent and trademark agency in Ottawa eventually morphed into training as a Canadian patent agent. In 1997 he became managing partner of the IP section of Swabey Ogilvy Renault. He worked in that capacity until 2006 when he retired from the partnership and incorporated Wood Hunt Consulting Inc. and has worked part time from home since then. They initially built a retirement home in the Gatineau and, after two years of searching they found an old farm on Bathurst 7th Concession near Perth where they built their second retirement home.

Max closed by saying "In 1976 with full knowledge that the US did not permit dual citizenship, we proudly became Canadian citizens and gave up our US citizenship. We are proud Canadians and extremely grateful for the opportunities afforded us in this great country".

Lunch After October Meeting

To be held at the Golden Arrow Pub and Eatery
71 Foster Street, Perth

Quote for the Month

Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.
- Albert Einstein, Physicist