



**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

Who hasn't noticed that things just don't last anymore? Stuff wears out, breaks or needs repair way too quickly. It is not that things cannot be made well, we certainly have the technology to make anything last a lifetime, or more. The problem is that almost everything is engineered to fail, and complexity has been engineered into consumer products to ensure that repair is no longer economical. This is exemplified by our computing and telecommunications devices, which are designed to last a couple of years at most. We accept this as perfectly normal. Ever wonder why? The problem is there are just too many of us now to sustain this rush from the mine, the oil well or the forest, through our hands to the land fill. Our entire planet is visibly suffering from the strain and it is common knowledge that our situation is not sustainable. What can we do about it? We can make a concerted effort to buy what we need from local sources as much as we possibly can. Local artisans make furniture, pottery, clothing, art and other useful items from natural materials that are beautiful, lasting and have heirloom potential. Local producers make maple syrup, honey, and organic food, all of which are better for us than processed, packaged or fast food. Seek them out and buy from them, resist the urge to upgrade your computer, phone and appliances; and, every chance you get make it known that planned obsolescence is suicidal and we just cannot take it any longer.

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

Habitat for Humanity – from local impact to international scope

On October 4 Chris Hahn, Sandra Oey and Rick Tait presented a review of the goals, aspirations and achievements of Habitat for Humanity in Perth, Canada and abroad.

Sandra Oey and Chris Hahn led off the presentation. Sandra Oey is the Project Manager, Builds and Chapters for Habitat for Humanity Greater Ottawa (Habitat GO). Chris is Dean for the Perth Campus of Algonquin College. Algonquin College's Construction Carpentry – Advanced Housing program in Perth actively participates in the Habitat for Humanity Perth Chapter's build on Arthur Street, which started in September.



After a brief introduction by Chris about the Perth Chapter of Habitat for Humanity Greater Ottawa (Habitat GO), Sandra explained HabitatGO's mission, vision and values. Their mission is to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting homeownership as a means of breaking the cycle of poverty in our communities. Their vision is to build simple, decent homes for lower income, hard-working families. The value statement is that all people should have access to safe, decent and affordable housing. Families that receive HabitatGO homes are selected in accordance with 3 principles: a need for housing; the ability to pay back the cost of constructing their home; and, their willingness to partner

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Habitat Continued

with HabitatGO. Each interested family completes an online homeownership information session, fills out an application, and ensures they can meet and maintain eligibility. HabitatGO helps families who earn a combined annual income of \$39,950-\$59,200 from steady employment; are willing to volunteer 500 hours of sweat equity; and are unable to qualify for a regular mortgage. Habitat assistance is a "hand up, not a hand out". Sandra's report of feedback from Habitat-assisted families is impressive: 58% report an improved financial situation after they acquire a Habitat-built home; 89% report that their family life improved; 86% report that they are happier; 70% report they are healthier and suffer less illness; and, 65% report that their children's confidence improved.



Sandra passed the presentation back to Chris, who then explained the Algonquin College partnership with HabitatGO. Algonquin's Construction Carpentry – Advanced Housing Diploma Program lets students put their theory into practice while helping families in the community. Students build each Wednesday throughout the school year. Normally it takes about 300-400 volunteers to build a home

during a 5 month build schedule. The volunteers do everything from swinging hammers to serving meals. However the involvement of the students and the Leeds Lanark Home Builders Association means that the volunteers are needed less for the build and more for things like fundraising and family support, etc."

The budget for the Perth build is \$238,000 (includes all land, legal fees, material, labour, equipment, etc), and must be raised in cash or kind in order to complete the project. The build is at 50 Arthur Street if you want to keep tabs on progress.

Habitat Perth is seeking more community involvement, so if you wish to help you can: join the Perth Chapter (perth@habitatgo.com); give an in-kind donation of equipment or building materials (email Julie Trewartha at mmjtrewartha@habitatgo.com); organize a fund raising event; become a sponsor; or donate to the Arthur Street build. To date, sponsors include the Town of Perth; Lanark County; Lanark-Leeds Home Builders Association; the Canadian Stone Carving Festival; Laser Electric and Nedco (providing electrical and labour); Hems Sand and Gravel and Arnott (providing excavation); Embers

(providing fireplace and labour); Amvic (providing ICF foundation at cost); Alexandria (providing interior doors and trim); Simpson Strong Tie (providing engineered flooring hardware); and Alloy Foundry Co. Ltd.



Past Director of Habitat for Humanity Canada's Global Village program, Rick Tait completed the presentation with information about the Global Village program. As Director, Rick worked with a group of staff and team leaders to send over 15,000 volunteers to over 40 countries around the world, helping to fulfill Habitat's mission of a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live.

Rick told us that 1.6 billion people are currently in need of adequate shelter. Habitat responds by building affordable homes in communities across Canada; mobilizing volunteers to build homes around the world; and creating partnerships to provide financial support to global partners.

The Global Village program allows volunteers to take part in diverse home building projects working alongside Habitat for Humanity families around the world. These volunteers are responsible for raising or donating the funds needed to support the team. Global Village teams may be pre-arranged teams organized by church groups, schools and universities; or, individuals may sign up for a trip organized by a Habitat-trained team leader whose details are posted on the Global Village Canada website. Each trip involves 12-15 volunteers and 1-2 team leaders. The trip lasts 9-15 days, depending on the location, and includes a minimum of 5 build days and 2 days of recreational and/or cultural activities. Trip costs are approximately \$1500 - \$2500 (not including airfare) depending on the destination and length. Airfare cancellation insurance and baggage fees are not included in the cost. Charitable donation receipts are issued for all eligible trip contributions.

In 2015, Global Village sent out 139 teams to 6 regions: 6% to the United States; 7% to the Middle East; 8% to Europe and Central Asia; 17% to Asia Pacific; 17% to Canada; and 45% to Latin America and the Caribbean. The Global Village host country receives financial support through donations (from volunteer teams), physical support through volunteer building efforts, energy and hope infused into the community by volunteers, local economy support by the volunteer's in-country spending. The volunteers receive cross-cultural experience, a sense

Habitat . . . Continued

of accomplishment, a better understanding of global aid and development issues, potentially lasting bonds with Habitat-assisted families, the local community and other team members, and the opportunity for international travel.

The Global Village program in Canada was started in 2005. In ten years they have sent over 15,000 volunteers in over 1,000 teams to 47 countries. In 2015 alone, 1,600 Canadian volunteers joined the 139 teams that were sent to the 6 regions detailed above. Worldwide, Global Village has sent over 100,000 volunteers, 12,880 of whom participated in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. You may get involved by visiting habitatglobalvillage.ca.

Thank you Sandra, Chris and Rick for this interesting information about Habitat for Humanity.



Personal Profile ~ Graeme Rutledge



Graeme Rutledge, born in Montreal in 1941, traces his lineage to a paternal great grandfather who immigrated to Canada from Ireland in 1840 and a maternal grandfather and choirmaster who immigrated from Whales.

Graeme attended public school in Montreal until his family moved to Rosemere, a small community north of Montreal where he attended public school. Since there there was no high school in Rosemere,

he had to travel by bus to Montreal High. Graeme's father unexpectedly passed away when Graeme was in the 10th grade. After his father's death, Graeme's mother suggested that he become a chartered accountant because he was always good at mathematics. A family friend introduced Graeme to PS Ross & Sons, one of the largest firms of chartered accountants in Montreal. They accepted Graeme as an articling student and he articulated for five years while attending night classes at McGill. It was a

difficult five years. He commuted by bus which meant long walks to the bus stop, a long commute into Montreal and a full day of work, often involving unpaid overtime, followed by night classes and study every weekend. Nonetheless, he persevered and achieved his C.A. exams with honours in 1963.

He and his mother later moved back to Montreal and Graeme bought a VW Beetle, his first car. Life was good and PS Ross & Sons served as auditors for Royal Bank of Canada and Montreal Trust. Consequently, Graeme spent several days a year working nights and weekends in 8 hour shifts with his colleagues in those bank's underground vaults counting millions of dollars of bonds and treasury bills. After one of those shifts while travelling home by commuter train he re-met a former girlfriend, Helen, from Rosemere who had been his date at his high school graduation. Following that meeting they began to date again and were married in August 1969 – the same year Graeme became a partner of the firm, which had by then become Touche Ross.

Graeme enjoyed a very good 43 year career with the firm, now Deloitte, and retired in 2002 having been a senior partner and a member of the Board of Directors of the firm. He also served on the Auditing Standards Board of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the body that sets the professional standards for chartered accountants in Canada; and was Canada's representative on the International Auditing Practices Committee, which involved very interesting travel and stimulating discussions.

As a young family, Graeme and Helen lived in the lakeshore area of Montreal before moving to New Jersey where Graeme worked for 3 years (1983-86) in the firm's New York office located in the World Trade Center. They moved back to Montreal in 1986 and then to Toronto in 1996. On his retirement in 2002, Graeme and Helen decided to live halfway between Toronto and Montreal, which led them to Perth. Initially they came only on weekends until they were convinced that Perth would be a great community in which to retire. They now live on Otty Lake and have since sold their "country house" in the Laurentians.

Graeme and Helen have been blessed with three sons, each married with a family. The eldest works for IBM and has lived in various places in the U.S.A. and Central America, and is now living with his family in Tokyo. Their second son is a banker who worked for many years in Toronto before he and his family were transferred to Jersey, Channel Islands. Their youngest son is in private equity and lives with his family in the San Francisco Bay area.

Personal Profile . . . Continued

Helen also has two sisters on Vancouver Island. They like to visit each family once or twice a year, so their travel schedule is very busy.

They are enjoying retirement in Perth, and Probus is very pleased to welcome Graeme as our newly elected Treasurer. Thank you, Graeme, for this most interesting account of your journey to Perth.

Lunch After November Meeting

To be held at The Stone Cellar Restaurant,
71 Gore St. East, Perth.



Quote for the Month

“Armaments, universal debt, and planned obsolescence - those are the three pillars of Western prosperity. If war, waste, and moneylenders were abolished, you'd collapse. And while you people are overconsuming the rest of the world sinks more and more deeply into chronic disaster.”

- **Aldous Huxley**

Special Events

- **November. 4th** - For those who have signed up Dinner at 5: at East Meets West and Theatre at 7:30 at P&DCI Mason Theatre.
- **December 2** – This year's Christmas Dinner/Dance will be held at the Lion's Club Hall, Perth. A roast beef dinner will be catered by the Lionesses. Social time starts at 6 pm, followed by dinner, gifts and dancing. Music is again 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 by the November 2nd meeting or contact Gail Read by November 23rd at the latest by email at read2read@outlook.com or by phone at 613-464-3063. The price is \$36/ person, with cheques payable to Probus Perth. **PLEASE PAY BY CHEQUE ONLY!** There will be a seating plan available. Please let Gail Read know if you are able to take part in this year's 20th anniversary gift exchange. (Just parcel 20 of an item e.g. 20 candy canes; 20 chocolates; 20 Christmas tags; 20 bows. Your imagination will make this a fun diversion!)

Special Events . . . Continued

- **January 4** – Lunch at the Legion after the meeting to start 2017. 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 21** - Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance Perth Legion. Tickets \$35 will be available in January.
 - **May 31** – Save the date for “BOOM” at the 1000 Island Playhouse”.
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Speakers Corner



Our speaker on November 2 will be Beverly McFarlane President & CEO of the Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital, who will speak about “**The Challenges of Building and Maintaining a Strong Community Hospital**”. Beverly has a has a Critical Care and Emergency Nursing background with 25 years

of health care leadership experience. She is a graduate of the baccalaureate nursing program Laurentian University and has a Master's Degree in Leadership Studies from the University of Guelph. She has also studied Quality Management at McMaster University and completed the Rotman School of Management Advanced Health Leadership program.

New Members Welcomed



New members (left to right): Pamela Hardy, Jocelyn Gordon, Pat Jones, Yvonne Kennedy; Diane Kirkwood, Alma Morris and Leslie Todd are welcomed by David Crowley and President Richard Thomson.