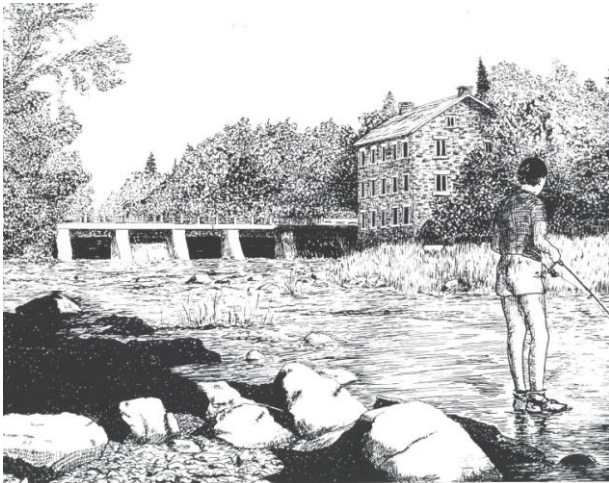




Rewarding Retirement

The Probus Club of Ottawa - Rideau Valley

**The First Ten Years
1994-2004**



Watson's Mill and Dam

Hugh Best

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PREFACE

This booklet has been prepared to celebrate the first ten years of the Probus Club of Ottawa - Rideau Valley and to chronicle the activities and special personalities that have given it an extraordinarily vital life over this period of time.

We aim to record how a small group of far-seeing Founders recognized and seized the opportunity to establish in Manotick a club that would bring together retired professional and business people for good fellowship, intellectual stimulation and group activities. The result has been ten remarkable years of sound leadership and management, a speakers' program of outstanding calibre, and a variety of interesting special events. Measures of our club's success have been the steady increase in membership from year to year, and the development of a warm-hearted caring community with a special identity and esprit.

Soon after becoming a member I noted that we were within a couple of years from this important anniversary and subsequently brought together a group of members to plan this booklet and other celebrations. The members of this Anniversary Committee have been Eldon Brownlee, Nan Buchanan, Burritt Collins, Michael Conway, Pat de St. Croix, Dennis Osmond, Stu Rogers and Spruce Riordon. On behalf of all club members, I would like to acknowledge the dedicated work of the Committee, meeting monthly for more than a year. A very special vote of thanks goes to Nan Buchanan. She has painstakingly examined the Club Archives, systematically distilling all the available information about our first ten years, and meticulously preparing the first section of the booklet in which she summarizes the Probus concept and the life of our club in an engaging

fashion. She passed her texts before the other committee members for their input. This has been truly a labour of love.

Since the historical text is based on the written club records, any particular emphasis given to events or speakers reflects the way in which they were reported at the time in Minutes and other documents. The biographical sketches of Founders and Presidents are based on personal interviews with Anniversary Committee members. The photographs accompanying the sketches were either supplied by the interviewee or taken by Spruce Riordon. We are indebted to artist Dr. Hugh Best, who has kindly allowed us to use his charming print on the cover.

The Management Committee authorized the use of our Club funds to defray the costs of production.

The Anniversary Committee hopes the booklet will be enjoyed by our Club members and also appreciated by others who may be interested in community history and affairs.

We have much to celebrate! Happy Tenth Anniversary!

Dennis Osmond
Chair, Anniversary Committee

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THE ORIGIN, CONCEPT AND GROWTH OF PROBUS CLUBS

This souvenir booklet has been assembled to record the origin and development of Probus, worldwide, and the beginnings of our own club and its evolution over its first ten years.

The Origin of Probus

The name Probus was used by two clubs in the early 1920s, one in Saskatchewan, Canada, and the other in Connecticut, U.S.A. However, due to their different membership rules and objectives, they are not associated with the Probus Clubs worldwide.

It was a Rotarian, Fred Carnill, of Welwyn Garden City, England who established the first club for retired professional and business persons in 1965. The following year another Rotarian, Harold Blanchard, under the sponsorship of the Caterham Rotary Club, England, formed a similar club. They adopted the name Probus, an amalgam of the words “professional and business”, as it reflected the nature of the retirees’ membership. Also, it was noted at the time of its selection that Probus was the Latin word meaning, ‘honest and virtuous’, from which the English word ‘probity’ is derived.

The Probus Concept

Probus is designed to bring friendship, fellowship and intellectual challenge to those retirees who wish to maintain a social network with others who have similar interests and backgrounds. Its simple philosophy underscores three major features: that the clubs are non-political, non-sectarian and do not engage in fund raising. Probus clubs are in essence autonomous and, as such,

have no central governing body but Probus Centres have been established internationally by country for information and assistance purposes.

Monthly meetings provide the opportunity to hear invited speakers talk on diverse topics that promote questions and discussion. Within this format, meetings may be held with either morning coffee preceding the talk or a lunch followed by the speaker's presentation. Also, social events, day trips and group activity may be organized if and when appropriate.

Growth of Probus

Today, Probus is a world-wide movement of 4,500 clubs with a membership of approximately 325,000 in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, U.S.A., Germany, Belgium, India, Holland, South Africa, Japan and many other smaller countries. Originally, the movement spread through the support of local Rotary clubs and, later by the efforts of existing Probus Clubs.

During the '80s and '90s, under the leadership of John Morris in Ontario, over 90 clubs were formed across Canada from Saint John, New Brunswick, to Victoria, British Columbia, with an average membership of over two hundred. Since then, the number of Probus clubs across Canada has almost doubled.

Ontario has over 90 active Probus Clubs, four of them being in the Ottawa region in Alta-Vista, Rideau Valley, Kanata and Kemptville.

THE PROBUS CLUB OF OTTAWA - RIDEAU VALLEY

The following account of the history of the origin and evolution of our club reflects the information provided by the archives and the Minutes, of both the General and Executive meetings, from October 1994 to September 2004.

The Origin

We owe a debt of gratitude to Eva and Russ Hammond for their combined efforts in getting our Club “up and running”.

While living in Moncton, New Brunswick, Russ was persuaded to serve as Vice-President, and then as President, to the Probus Club which the Rotary had recently sponsored. He was impressed with the aims and impact of Probus and, when he returned to live in Manotick, he wanted to share that experience with others in the community.

Eva, having been a Rotarian for over fourteen years and Past President of the Rotary Club of Ottawa, talked to friends in the Ottawa West Rotary Club about the benefits of Probus. The late Doug Doran-Veevers also became interested and the Hammonds credited him with putting them in touch with many potential Probus members.

Then, one day, when Russ Hammond was in the Millers Oven, talking enthusiastically with friends about Probus, he noticed a couple of retired folk on the next table. He invited them to join the discussion, which they did, and that’s how it all began!

The First Ten Years

1994-1995

On October 26, 1994, Russ arranged a meeting in the Manotick Public Library where Doug Charter, Jim Cameron, Dr. Peter Abear, Dr. Burritt Collins, and Dr. Julius Frank all examined the need for a Probus Club in the area. Eventually, these founder members would form the nucleus of The Probus Club of Valley.

After much discussion, each attendee agreed to compile a list of prospective members and by November, 1994 George Vigas, Jack Troughton, Doug Doran-Veevers, and Russ Warawruk became involved.

By this time, the Rotary Club of Ottawa West had agreed to sponsor our Club, appointing Dr. Julius Frank and Dr. Burritt Collins to act as its liaison. In addition, the Rotary made a donation towards the Club's start-up procedures.

The inaugural meeting was held on January 1995 at 10 a.m. in the Manotick Public Library with 31 persons attending. There was a high level of interest and Doug Charter was kept busy, signing up the new members.



On February 15th a committee, comprising the founder members, agreed that the membership dues would be \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a couple. Also, all the speakers would receive a gift of an appropriate book as a token of appreciation.

On April 5, 1995 the Charter for the Ottawa - Rideau Valley Probus Club was presented by Jack

Troughton, the Rotary District Governor, to the Club President, RUSS HAMMOND.



There were thirty persons present to hear Roger Erhardt, Director of Strategic Planning, C.I.D.A, speak on Canada's new Development Assistance Policy.

At the May 1995 meeting

Charter members of the Club (all the paid-up members) received their Charter Membership certificates, Probus lapel pins and copies of the Constitution of the Probus Club.

At that time, the following slate of officers was approved:

President	Russ Hammond
Vice-President	Jim Coombs
Secretary	Peter Abear
Treasurer	Jim Cameron
Membership	Doug Charter
Rotary Liaison	Burritt Collins, Julius Frank
Bulletin & Publicity	Sandy and Bob Clark

The Ottawa - Rideau Valley Probud Club was now well on its way to success, due mainly to the enthusiasm of this Executive. Therefore, it has seemed appropriate to provide some details of the available founder members

whose positive involvement proved so influential (see Page 45).

1995-1996

Through 1995 the membership increased steadily, due in great part to the calibre of the speakers and the successful handling of the Bulletin and Publicity by Sandy and Bob Clark. Bob also agreed to be the Club photographer to ensure a pictorial record of events.

The July monthly meeting took the form of a tour of the Classic Automobile Restoration Shop of John Pritchard, in Hallville, Ont. Afterwards, the members gathered in the Coach House to hear Dr. George Fisher speak on his recent visit to the Ukraine. Lunch was then made available in the Coach House.

In late October 1995, many of our Probus members attended the Regional Inter-Club Luncheon at the Brockville Golf and Country Club. They made new friends and enjoyed the speakers and entertainment provided.

Completing the events of the year was a tour of the recently completed Air Control Centre at the Ottawa International Airport. This was followed by lunch at the Swan On The Rideau.

In addition to field trips, the members heard speakers' topics ranging from coin collecting, antique cars and boat restoration to salmon farming – something for everyone!

By January 1996, with a membership approaching 60, it was apparent that larger quarters were needed. So, in February the venue of the meetings was changed to Tomkins Hall, Saint James' Anglican Church, Manotick. Later in the year, due to the extra amenities provided, routine kitchen duties were established and a coffee fund introduced to defray some of the hall expenses.

In August, Ralph Trafford arranged a field trip to the large Domtar Brick Plant, on Rideau Road, Ottawa. Members were received by the Management and staff and groups of ten were taken through the plant 'from stem to stern'. After the tour, refreshments were served.

One of the highlights of the year was the Regional Inter-Club luncheon held on October 24th at the Carleton Golf and Yacht Club. Our Ottawa - Rideau Valley Probus Club hosted the Cornwall, Perth, Kingston, Belleville and Brockville Probus Clubs with 129 members attending. It was a highly successful event, due mainly to the efforts of the Past President, Russ Hammond, his Executive and many club members.



Speakers' talks, this year, ranged from Native Rights, the Internet, and Journalism, to the 1992 Mount Logan Climb, and the Salvage of the WWII Halifax Bomber, to mention just a few of the remarkable lectures. In the picture to the left, Mary Cook is being thanked by Sandy Clark.

1996-1997

At the Annual Meeting, September 1996, JIM COOMBS, a charter member, was elected as the new President. Five of the charter members formed part of the Executive, giving a sense of continuity.



At the October Management Committee meeting it was noted that, at all meetings, as soon as the speaker was thanked, everyone was ready to leave. It was suggested that members be asked to congregate at 9.30 a.m. in order to use the half hour before the meeting to socialize. This innovation was to prove most helpful in promoting the concept of fellowship, one of the main aims of Probus. This custom became so popular with the members that it has since remained part of the monthly routine.

The November meeting generated exceptional interest with many war veterans and press present. They had come to hear the author and soldier, George Blackburn, M.C., talk about “Memories of World War II”. This was the very first meeting with over a hundred present.

After Carl Kjarsgaard's exciting account in November of the recovery of the only Mark 7 Halifax Bomber in existence today, there was great interest in a visit to the Trenton RCAF Memorial Museum.

So, on May 14th, fifty enthusiastic members set off by bus. The bus broke down on the way and as a result the scheduled tour was much delayed. However, the general enthusiasm was renewed by the lunch and a viewing of the reconstruction of the "Hally". A tour of the Museum and the Air Force base followed.



This year, the speakers had talked about Journalism, Mental Health Services, Diagnosis of Aircraft Disasters, Importing Vehicles into Canada and many other topics of great current interest.

1997-1998

At the Annual Meeting, September 1997, PAUL CHURCH was elected the new President, heading up a slate of familiar faces but with a few changes.

Ramsay Brown took over the post of Treasurer from Larry Ellis, who in his turn became the official historian.

As Paul did not live locally he instituted monthly early morning breakfast Management Committee meetings at the Miller's Oven.

In November, the Management Committee directed that the President, at his discretion, invite the guest speaker to lunch in Manotick, after the meeting, and that the lunch be paid for by the Club. Below, we see, from left to right, Peter Abear, Hugh Halliday (speaker), President Paul Church and Peter Partner.



During this year, certain measures were taken to meet the needs of the members. The Executive agreed to the installation of a good sound system. This was arranged largely through the efforts of Bill McCarthy, a keen 'behind the scenes' man, who has served the Club in various capacities since 1995. Later, Bill also built a folding lectern for the speakers' use.

As a further service to the members, the telephone network was re-organized by Wilburn Cowan. In this way, due to the personal reminders of the monthly meetings, Probus could be alerted to a member's sickness, etc.

A tradition was also established to welcome the new members by presenting them with a Certificate and a Probus pin at the beginning of the meeting.

So that the general public could be made aware of the presence of the Ottawa - Rideau Valley Probus Club, Probus signs were erected along the entrance roads to Manotick, as demonstrated below by Russ Hammond.



In February 1998, some of our members participated in the curling Bonspiel, hosted by the Brockville Probus Club. Yet another friendly Probus contact was made in May when many of the members attended a Regional Spring luncheon hosted by the Perth Probus Club.

On June 17th a field trip flotilla with 45 on board and others by car enjoyed a visit to the S.Y. 'Canada' Restoration project at the Ludlow Boatworks at Beckett's Landing. The members had lunch there before making it back to Manotick before the rain.

Some of the speakers featured this year were the Rideau Township Mayor, Glenn Brooks, the Bishop Elect of the Anglican Ottawa Diocese, Peter Coffin, and the

renowned Judge J. Matheson O.C., while Dr. George Hobson, a Probus member, was back again by popular request to tell us more of his experiences in the Arctic.

1998-1999

At the Annual Meeting, September 1998, Paul Church reported on the past year's events. The membership extended a vote of thanks to him for his excellent leadership. PETER ABEAR, a founder member, was elected President with Stuart Rogers as Vice-President.

The new Executive included three new faces, Kathy Haslegrave as Historian, Joan Valdstyn as Program Coordinator and Judy McGillivary as the Bulletin and Publicity Convenor. Terry Rummery had resigned from the latter position which he had occupied with great success for over two years.

Also, Eric Bennet took over the Membership post from founder member, Doug Charter, who had resigned after working enthusiastically in this area since our charter was granted.

It was announced that the Inaugural Meeting of the newly formed Kanata Probus Club would be held on September 15th. Consequently, a contingent from our club attended in support.



On April 21st, as pictured on the previous page, a full busload of Probus members headed for Montreal to visit the Biodome, Insectarium, the Botanical Garden and lunch, too! It made for a very happy day.

Before the April monthly meeting got underway, a sing-along was held with Ralph Trafford at the piano. Song sheets were provided by our 'Golden Tonsils' Choir to encourage the audience to participate, which they did! Yet another tradition was established and has since stood the test of time.

It was suggested in May that the Speakers' talks be taped and be made available to the members. This idea has been adopted, too, with great success. That same month a committee was set up to arrange for appropriate cards to be sent in the event of a member's sickness etc.

Later that month, many of our members took part and enjoyed the Regional Club Luncheon hosted by the Cornwall Probus Club.

President Peter announced, in June, that several of our members had participated in information sessions held in Kemptonville in May as a first step to forming the Probus Club of North Grenville.

By July, the Membership Secretary, Eric Bennet, announced that there were now 121 members.



The last visit of the fiscal year was the Gananoque Boat Trip and Boldt Castle on August 10th (see previous page). Members headed out by car to Gananoque and were met by Joan Valdstyn, bearing a large Canadian Flag.

This year, the speakers spanned local history, medical, military and ecology issues to the areas of music and journalism. Accounts of nation builders stirred the collective imagination, too. It was another good year!

1999-2000

At the Annual Meeting September 1999, STUART ROGERS was elected President with Dr. Orville Wilson as Vice-President. Kathy Pitcher was elected Secretary, following Eldon Brownlee's resignation after dedicating almost three years in that area.



Bill Fullerton took over the computer-oriented duties due to Doug Doran-Veevers' illness. The

Management Committee, on behalf of the members, expressed their gratitude to Doug Doran-Veevers for his enormous contribution to our club. From its origin, he 'typeset' the bulletin, printed the mailing labels, membership lists and certificates.

Over a dozen Probus members accepted the Legion's invitation to their September 19th Sunday night banquet. In addition, some brochures promoting Probus were made available to the gathering.

A number of our members also visited the Rockcliffe Air Station Museum on September 20th, while others supported the Alta Vista Probus by attending their 'start-up' meeting on September 22nd.

Certain practicalities were also addressed during September. A hanging projection screen, loudspeaker swivel stands, window shades, all designed to enhance the speakers' presentations, resulted from the efforts of Bill McCarthy, Eric Bennet and President Stu.

At the October general meeting it was noted that most of the members have renewed their membership. To make renewal easier, Eric Bennet designed a new form.

George Barden, who has worked on Inter-club exchanges, has now been appointed to the Advisory Committee along with Eldon Brownlee. The Executive agreed to have one member of the Advisory Committee attend the monthly Management Meeting with the proviso that any suggestion from the Committee be presented in writing, one week before the scheduled meeting.

On November 1st 1999, our Probus Club mourned the death of Doug Victor Doran-Veevers. He was a charter member and was involved in the production of the bulletin since the club's formation. Active in volunteer work at the National Aviation Museum and in many other community efforts, he will be greatly missed.

As in previous years, the November meeting was very well attended. The recitation of John McCrae's poem, 'In Flanders Fields', and the speaker's talk on the Cemeteries and Memorials of W.W.1 on the Western Front seemed to set the scene for Remembrance Day. In addition, Audrey Renton organized the display of wartime memorabilia from the Archives.

The December meeting was a festive one with assigned welcomers greeting the members. Our own "Golden Tonsils" guided the gathering through selected Xmas carols before listening to artist Ben Babelowsky's talk. Influenced by his war-time contact in Holland with the Canadian Military, he became a Canadian by choice and constantly dedicates much of his art proceeds to a variety of local causes.

On December 14th six of our members attended the Kanata Probus Club's Xmas meeting where Alta Vista, Kemptville and Perth Probus clubs were also represented.

Dr. Jack Granatstein was the scheduled speaker for the January meeting but was unable to attend due to illness. Probus members were very impressed when Dr. George Hobson, at very short notice, gave an in-depth account of the experiences of Dr. John Rae, surgeon, Arctic explorer and surveyor of the North.

With the support of the Management Committee our President prepared a letter to be sent to Mr. Reg Whynott, President of Probus Centre Canada nominating Jim Coombs for the position of Director. The March meeting incorporated Saint David's and Saint Patrick's themes. Good fellowship was provided, this month, with members going to Wheeler's Sugar Bush in Lanark and to the War Art display at the Museum of Civilization.

All members were saddened to hear of the death of Carl Everson on March 3rd, 2000. He will be missed.

Our condolences were sent to his wife, Barbara, and family.

The Management Committee has now made minor revisions to its by-laws that include a ruling that new members pay an initiation fee of \$10 commencing October 2000. This fee will cover the cost of name badges and certificates etc.

Easter was the theme for the April meeting. The new portable Audio Storage cupboard was on view, thanks to Eric Bennet and the recycle program.

At the May meeting, Past President Jim Coombs was introduced as a new Director of Probus Centre Canada. He clarified its Communication system, run mostly by computer, (e-mail and website), phone and occasional meetings.

The big event of this month was the May 17th Regional Luncheon hosted by the Probus Clubs of Brockville, Leeds and Grenville. The 387 attending included many of our members who enjoyed themselves immensely, judging from the Probus Photo Album.

In June, Probus members attended a Pot-Luck Garden Party at the Rogers'. The river, beautiful garden and the music of Jon Joosten contributed greatly to the evening's success.

On August 1st, Probus mourned the death of Ralph Eames, another esteemed member. Our condolences were conveyed to Hilda, his wife and family. Several members attended his memorial service on August 20th at the Quaker Meeting House in Ottawa.

Probus now had 127 paid up members. The Program Coordinator, Joan Valdstyn, invited everyone to a pot-luck picnic on August 2nd at her Kemptville home. The good food, congenial company and entertainment provided, made the day one to remember.

Once again, the year's speakers provided a good balance between local and national topics. We heard not only about Parliament Hill Renovations, the Building of the Rideau Canal, Winter Roads and Manotick over 150 years, but also about the experiences of a Northern Explorer, a Federal Judge, a Canadian Olympic skater, and a well renowned artist.

The bad news is that some of our members may have missed some of the speakers. The good news is that tapes of the talks are available thanks to Mike Tyler and Wilburn Cowan, our recording experts, and also to John Jakes who maintains our P.A. system so diligently.

2000-2001

At the Annual Meeting, September 2000, Stu Rogers reported on the year's activities and thanked the Executive and members for all their support. The September bulletin gave credit to those involved including Iris Brazier who kept the coffee area both welcoming and festive. Dr. ORVILLE B. WILSON was elected President with Commodore Peter Partner as Vice-President.

Bonnie Shaver took over the Bulletin & Publicity from Judy McGillivray, who had served with such dedication for the past two years.

To date, the Events' Program had been well coordinated by Bill McCarthy, (September 1996-1998) and by Joan Valdystyn. (September 1998-2000) However, due to the evolving needs of the program, it has now been divided into two categories, 'Events' and 'Speakers.' As a result, the slate of officers included:

Speakers Program - George Hobson and Al Barden

Events Program.- Peter Ide and Doug Watson

Dr. O. B's first act as President was to award Stu Rogers his Past President pin. Then, Probus member Eleanor Field gave a special remembrance talk on the late Ralph Eames, the Chief Conservator of Wood Objects for the National Museums of Canada.

At the October Management Committee meeting, the duties of officers were reviewed and fine-tuned. Also, a record of the speakers and events to date, together with suggestions regarding their further selection, has been compiled

The October steam train trip to Wakefield, hosted by the Alta Vista Probus Club was well attended and a great success.

The November Meeting had a Remembrance Day theme. Ninety five members became engrossed in the World War II experiences related by four Probus veterans, Ramsay Brown, Ken Smith, Peter Camp and Dr. O.B Wilson. All four had served under the South East Asia Command.

On January 17th, some of our members attended the North Grenville Probus Club meeting. It was an enjoyable and informative occasion.

The next day, fifteen of our members attended a tour at the National Art Gallery. Pat de St. Croix described it as, "A very interesting demonstration and talk about the delicate work of conservation and restoration of Canada's art treasures."

At the March Meeting, it was announced that Dick de St. Croix would be taking over the computer duties from Bill Fullerton and both were thanked for their help.

May was a busy month. On May 7th a busload of Probus members was taken around the Trail Road Landfill site following a short lecture there on waste management and recycling. Everyone was receptive since

Stu Rogers' talk, (on the three R's - Reduce, Re-use, Recycle) at the general meeting on May 2nd, had managed to make even 'garbage' interesting!

The East Ontario Probus Clubs' Spring Luncheon was hosted by the Alta Vista and Kanata Probus Clubs on May 15th at the Tudor Hall, Ottawa. It was a huge success with 35 of our members mingling with the large crowd attending. The ten members from the Bracebridge Probus Club, who joined us for the event, were billeted locally. Later in the year, a dozen of our members paid a return visit to "that dynamic Bracebridge Club!" as one member put it.

On June 6th Nurse Doris Carter was introduced to the meeting, "As a very special person for a very special day." As a nursing sister in WWII she served in the U.K., Sicily, Italy and Africa and gave a vivid account of her experiences. The meeting ended with observing one minute's silence in memory of D-Day.

July had two very different happenings for Probus. The first was a visit to the Pickard Water Treatment Plant on July 12th and the other, two weeks later, was a lunch at Bonnie and Don Shaver's home on the river. It seems that nothing can beat a pot-luck, served by friends and in beautiful surroundings.

At the August meeting, Kathy Haslegrave gave a brief eulogy on Probus member Jean Potter, who died in July as a result of a motor accident. She had been very active in the community and will be sorely missed.

In addition to the year's talks already mentioned, we enjoyed accounts of Dr Bull's First 'Supergun', Special Education, Trekking in Nepal, local Pioneer Families, the First Chinese Mining Mission to Canada, and The Last Airship to visit the Arctic. Then, the talk on Public Transportation in Rural Areas offered a stark contrast to the one on New Developments at Ottawa

International Airport. With such a diversity of subject matter, there was certainly something for everybody!

2001-2002

The Annual Meeting, September 2001, saw the usual changing of the guard with Commodore PETER PARTNER elected as the new President and Pat de St. Croix as the Vice-President.

Hazel and Tom Fry were appointed the official historians, taking over from Kathy Haslegrave who had spent three busy years in that position.

At the beginning of the October meeting, the President called for one minute's silence for the victims of September 11th in the U.S.

Due to the fine performance of the composer-playwright, Gord Carruth at our September meeting, many Probus members attended his musical, "Joey", at the Centrepointe Theatre that month.

In order to learn the preferences of Probus members, an Events survey was circulated and assessed. One of the findings indicated that, when taking trips, members preferred bus travel over car-pools and that a high percentage would be prepared to pay a moderate fee for this.

The Remembrance Day theme at the November Meeting was defined musically with the singing of 'The White Cliffs of Dover' and 'Lili Marlene', followed by a talk by Colonel John Gardam (ret'd) on, "Canadians at War and Peacekeeping."

This month, Probus members took advantage of trying out the new 'light rail' mode of transportation, called the 'O' Train. This was arranged by Peter Ide, the Events Coordinator.

At the January Management Committee meeting, the Executive extended their sympathy to Eric Bennet,

Probus membership secretary, on the death of his wife Vivien.

After the singing of the National Anthem at the February meeting, "God Save the Queen" was sung to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's 50 year reign.

Later, Dr. O. B. Wilson commented on the Official City plan and urged members to be aware of the available services and to attend the relevant meetings so as to provide input and to voice any concerns.

"Scams on Seniors" was a special presentation in March with three Rotary members attending. The two guest speakers presented the Scotiabank Fraud Awareness Program. Various skits and a video were used to illustrate how the scams operate.

Between April 29th and May 1st, eight Probus members from Barrie came on an exchange visit to see the tulips, etc. When they attended the May Meeting, they expressed their thanks for the warm welcome. A small group of our members paid a return visit to the Barrie Club in August.

It was announced that there were now 133 paid up members, 110 of whom were now in attendance at the meeting to hear Dr. Roland Miller talk on the history of the Islamic Religion.

The big social event of the year was the June trip to Gananoque as this incorporated a stay at the Blinkbonnie Hotel, the Thousand Islands Tour and a night at the Thousand Island Theatre. In all, 49 members got to know each other a little more and, from all accounts, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

It was announced that Tom Fry is recuperating but will not be able to continue as our historian.

The Valdstyns were thanked for their gift of a projector and stand.

In August, the members had a special treat, touring the Rideau Hall Gardens under the guidance of the head gardener. Afterwards, members toured Rideau Hall where the period furnishings and historic paintings were on display.



During the August Management Committee Meeting, Julius Frank, our sponsoring Rotary Club's liaison, conveyed their amazement at the rapid growth of our Club. This growth could be attributed, in part, to the enthusiastic appreciation of the speakers' excellent and diverse presentations.

For instance, this year's topics dealt with Music, Medical issues, Earthquakes, and Travel Adventures on Seven Continents. We also mentally inhabited Afghanistan and the Norse Settlements in Canada but finally had to come back to earth for the talk, 'The New City of Ottawa and Rideau Ward!'

2002-2003

At the Annual Meeting, September 2002, PAT de St. CROIX earned a place in the annals of the Ottawa - Rideau Valley Probus club by being the first woman to be elected its President.

Dr. Dennis Osmond was elected Vice-President. In accordance with the members' vote, the rest of the Executive remained the same except for Anne Osmond who took over the position of official historian, due to Tom Fry's ill-health.

Special mention was made of the following non-elected but vital assistants.

John Jakes	Microphones, loudspeakers and related equipment.
Michael Tyler	Tape recording of guest speakers
Wilburn Cowan	Photos of guest speakers
Dick de St. Croix	Address lists, mailing lists and membership certificates, monthly bulletin
John Kersley	Name badges and Probus products
Iris Brazier	Kitchen duties, Refreshments and Theme ideas

On October 16th, members, via car-pool, visited Wakefield, Quebec. The trip included a visit to the historic "Red Bridge" over the Gatineau River and a visit to the small cemetery where Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson was buried. Afterwards, the members enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Alpengruss restaurant.

At the Management Committee Meeting, Vice-President Dennis Osmond reported that he had gone through the Archives during the summer to get information on the origin and growth of our club. He

proposed that a plan be made for celebrating our 10th anniversary, together with a memorial pamphlet. Meanwhile, the Secretary of Probus Centre - Canada, Jim Coombs, spoke about the development and reasons for new Clubs. The position of a New Development Officer was discussed.

Probus was happy to hear that on October 28th Peter and Margitha Partner, together with Kathy Pitcher were awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal for their unstinting volunteer service to the community.

In accordance with the Remembrance theme, the November guest speaker was Dr. Bernard Pelletier, research scientist, who talked about his personal recollections of WWII in Italy, Northwest Europe and the liberation of Holland in the Spring of 1945.

On November 25th, 24 members took advantage of the tour of the N.A.C. followed by lunch at Le Café, overlooking the Rideau Canal.

Probus news included the announcements that Eric Bennet will be the New Probus Club Development Officer and that Brian Sawyer will coordinate the Cross Country Ski Group Program, which President Pat initiated. This will take place on every third Wednesday through the winter months.

In December, Probus members were saddened to hear of the death of Tom Fry and of Chuck Forrester's wife, Barbara. Condolences from Probus were conveyed to the families.

At the December Management Committee meeting, our Vice-President, Dr. Dennis Osmond, agreed to be Chair of the Anniversary Committee and welcomed suggestions and anecdotal contributions.

Due to the sudden illness of our January guest speaker, William Orban, Brian Sawyer suggested a different format for the meeting. Consequently, we heard

five members tell of the impact of their most memorable experiences in Canada and abroad, and they were all well received.

Earl Kemp, a life long resident of Manotick, and a member of Probus, died on January 24th. Our sympathy was conveyed to family and friends.

At the February meeting, Probus unanimously nominated Jim Coombs for a second term as Director of Probus Centre Canada.

At this time, we also learned that our Past President, Peter Partner, was recently made an Honorary Member of the Hereford Probus Club, while visiting the U.K. It was mentioned that if any of our members were to visit that club they would be given a warm welcome.

Our 'Golden Tonsils' set a happy note to the March meeting by opening with a couple of Irish songs. In the same happy vein, Dr. O.B. announced that members Judy McGillivray and John Jakes had married two weeks earlier so, 'Happy Anniversary' was sung!

Further good news was that we then had 140 paid-up members, 80 of whom come from Manotick, and that there were 96 Probus Clubs in Ontario. What's more, two more members had been awarded the Jubilee medal - Coral Lindsay and Ramsay Brown - for their outstanding service to the community.

On March 10th, a few carloads of members drove to Carp to tour the Diefenbunker Museum. Incorporated in the viewing was the 'Cost of Peace,' an impressive exhibition on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Most members stopped for lunch on the drive home.

Fitness was the theme for the April general meeting in the form of an eminent specialist in that area, Dr. William Orban, who had a message for seniors. It was, "motivation is the key and any exercise is better than none." Our own fitness promoter, Brian Sawyer,

announced that the skiing was now being replaced with hiking. He outlined the plans for the coming months for, what Dick de St. Croix so aptly named, the ‘Striders and Gliders’.

On April 17th, many Probus members went on the trip to Smiths Falls for the tour of the Rideau Canal Museum followed by lunch at the Roslyn restaurant. Afterwards, some of the members visited the Hershey plant.

The May monthly meeting was alive with gardening hats, some of them hilarious, to welcome the Spring’s seeding and weeding. Our Guest Speaker, a past Probus President, Dr. O.B. Wilson, although not ‘home grown’, biologically speaking, has been well rooted in Manotick since 1955. His rural practice and years of traveling the area in all kinds of weather provided him with every type of medical experience. He saw the need for a Medical Centre and, largely through his efforts, the Manotick Medical Centre was built in 1970.

Over 30 members signed up for the St. Lawrence River field trip and on May 28th they headed to Cardinal, Ontario for the tour of the Canadian Starch Company. Following the tour, after a picnic lunch at the Grenville Campground, it was off to the Port of Prescott to tour the Prescott Grain Elevators, even to the very top! It was a busy and fun day, thanks to Stu Rogers’ organization.

The month of June kept Probus hopping. First, on June 10th there was the two-day trip to Gananoque where members enjoyed evening theatre at the Thousand Island Playhouse, followed on the next day with a boat tour of the Thousand Islands.

Then, on June 18th the energetic Striders and Gliders went on an adventure walk and a picnic lunch at the McKenzie King Estate.

A week later, Marguerite and Stu Rogers opened their home on the Rideau to all Probus members for an afternoon's activities followed by an evening's superb pot-luck picnic.

July was a relatively quiet month for members except for those adventurous Striders who hiked in the Gatineau Park on the 16th under the capable direction of Brian Sawyer.

The Vice-President, Dennis Osmond, informed the Management Committee that the newly formed Anniversary Committee had had its first meeting.

The Guest Speaker at the monthly meeting was Mr. Frank Ronald Cleminson who spoke on "Containment as an Alternative to War." He had been a Commissioner to the U.N. Special Commission relating to Iraq and his analysis of the current issues was both informative and revealing.

At the August Meeting, President Pat stated that she will be looking into the business of Probus ties for the men and scarves for the women, as discussed at the prior meeting.

The Vice-President, Dennis Osmond, gave a talk on 'One Final Gift: the role of body donation in medical research and education.' Having outlined the history of the origin of anatomy, he explained the difference between organ and full body donations. With conviction, he emphasized that, 'the whole body' donation was a "vital contribution to medical science and the future health care of fellow citizens."

During the past year, the speakers have represented a good cross-section of various professions - teachers, doctors, musicians, journalists, authors, etc. As a result, Probus members were exposed to a great deal of interesting information.

2003-2004

At the Annual Meeting, September 2003, the outgoing President, Pat de St. Croix gave a concise report of her year in office. The Executive and the Vital Assistants were thanked and a group photo was taken.

Dr. DENNIS OSMOND was elected President and Spruce Riordon became his second in command as Vice-President.

Jeff Cronin took over the responsibility of the Public Address System as John Jakes felt compelled to resign, due to declining vision.

The morning talk dealt with the joys of 'Orienteering'. Pat and Dick de St. Croix explained the fundamentals and why, "it is a sport for a life-time!" Members were invited to an Orienteering Competition on Sept. 17th at 'Streambend', Pat and Dick's property.

The Hull-Wakefield steam train trip on Oct 6th, with the background of the fall colours, together with lunch, made for a great day!

In late October, Probus was saddened to hear of the death, at age 81, of Dr. William (Bill) Orban, scientist, athlete, and author of the 5BX Fitness plan. His inspiring talk at our May meeting will be long remembered.

Twelve guests joined Probus members at the November meeting to hear the Guest Speaker, George Offley, the Service Officer of the Manotick Legion. He was a WWII pilot with the Fleet Air Arm, (Fairey Swordfish aircraft) on convoy escort flights to Murmansk. A graphic video accompanied his moving account of personal experiences, including his involvement in the attack on the elusive German battleship, the Bismarck.

The Probus Striders continued to be active with a three hour hike in Marlborough Forest in late October and

two short walks, one in Beryl Gaffney Park and the other in Chapman Mills in November.

Behind the scenes, members of the Management Committee were busy, recording e-mail and postal addresses and examining the Constitution of Probus Canada. A complete list of material assets, and where they can be located, is also on file. The audio system has been in demand and lent to those organizations who guarantee safe handling.

At the December meeting, President Dennis encouraged members' input, asking them to complete a questionnaire regarding the plans for our 10th Anniversary Celebration.

It was with great regret that Probus announced the death of Jean Lamb on December 23rd, 2003 and extended sincere sympathy to her husband John, a long time member of our club.

Despite the extreme cold, 72 hardy souls braved the elements and attended the January 7th meeting. They were rewarded by speaker, historian David Gray, who gave an in-depth lecture, with slides, of the Canadian Arctic Expedition led by Stefansson (1913-1918) and details of the Southern Arctic exploration.

Many members became involved in the February activities promoted by Probus. Jack McGee and his team went to the Brockville Curling Bonspiel and others took advantage of the Orchard View Valentine Dinner Dance.

At the February Management Committee meeting, Jim Coombs reported on the Probus Centre - Canada activities, stating that Eastern Ontario will now be a separate region with an elected representative. He also described the qualifications needed for the position of Director with Probus Centre - Canada.

Probus continued to grow, as the latest figures indicated. There were 156 active clubs across the country with 19,400 members.

At the March general meeting, Peter Partner's nomination for Director of Probus Centre - Canada was announced, 'with the enthusiastic and unanimous support of the Executive.'

On March 17th, the Striders walked 8.7 km through the City of Ottawa viewing monuments of historic importance.

At the Management Committee Meeting, the Membership Chairman, Eric Bennet, distributed the new name and address list and announced that, to date, our membership stood at 150.

April generated a great deal of member participation. First, for the general meeting, members helped transport and set-up the audio system, large screen etc. in the Manotick Legion Hall, as Holy Week Services were being held in our usual venue.

At the meeting, the guest speaker, Colin McGregor, talked on "Monuments of Mankind" showing impressive slides of monumental structures, built through the centuries, on five continents. A vote of thanks went to Probus member, Walter Mingie, for donating the large screen as it had greatly enhanced the morning's slide presentation.

Then, on April 10th, several Probus friends attended the wedding of Hilda Eames and Eric Bennet, members of long standing. Best wishes and congratulations were extended to them both.

On April 21st, the Probus Striders savoured the rural setting of the Jack Pine Trails on Moodie Drive in contrast to their City of Ottawa walk in March.

The member participation continued when, on April 27th, many of them went to hear General Romeo

D'Allaire give a talk at Southminster United Church. He spoke about, "The Impact of War on Children." Although his personal account of genocide in Rwanda was truly horrific, he managed to convey a sense of hope for future generations.

The following morning, a group of members wound up April's Probus activities by attending the Science and Technology Museum for a 'behind the scenes' visit. Through the many warehouses it was a walk into the past, viewing well-preserved relics of every aspect of life. The visit concluded with an inspection of the Iron Lung Exhibit.

On the way home, most of the group stopped for lunch and fellowship at the Rideau Carleton Raceway's restaurant.

On May 5th, the monthly meeting resumed at Tomkins Hall with 92 members attending. The Spring theme was reinforced by tulips, refreshments and animated conversation. Our "'Golden Tonsils'" provided a smooth transition from socializing to the business of the day.

Members learned that Stone Avery from Cobourg had been appointed Ontario Director to Probus Canada. Our own nominee, Peter Partner, gave a gracious and humorous response to the news.

At this time, the Nominating Committee welcomed suggestions, from the membership, for potential candidates for election to the Management Committee for the year 2004-2005.

The guest speaker, Mary Wiggins, executive director of the Ottawa-Carleton Coalition for Literacy, gave a well-prepared presentation on why literacy skills are a necessity in today's world and provided particulars of the literary services available.

On May 14th, 20 Probus members took part in a local history field trip at the Cedric McEwen Family Heritage Museum. Cedric, a Probus member, was on hand to answer questions about the unique display of historical artifacts collected on the farmstead, which was established in 1824.

The group then drove on to the site where an RCAF B-25 Mitchell Bomber had crashed, just outside Manotick, in 1957. While discussing the tragedy, Probus member, Jim Riddell, mentioned that he had flown a similar plane during WWII.

Despite the weather report of showers on May 18th, some hardy Striders and Gliders started their walk at the Ottawa Arboretum and enjoyed the thousands of beautiful tulips on display in the gardens beside Dow's Lake.

Farther afield, on May 19th, 19 of our members mingled with 170 Probus members from Eastern Ontario Probus Clubs at the Spring Luncheon in Cornwall. Afterwards, 20 members from the other clubs attended a get-together to exchange information on subjects of mutual interest – speakers, future events etc. Our President, Dr. Osmond, chaired this meeting. Our club then undertook the hosting of the Area lunch for 2006 following an earlier suggestion to do so from our Rotary liaison, Dr. Julius Frank.

At the May Management Committee meeting, it was announced that, to date, we have 151 members; an updated name and address list was distributed.

Three main events governed the June activities. First, at the June 2nd monthly meeting, John Kruithof, Past President of the Alta Vista Probus Club, spoke about “The 1997 Handover of Hong Kong to China”. At that time, he was serving in Hong Kong as a Communicator for the

Department of Foreign Affairs and so was able to give a personal historical perspective of the event.

Then, June 11th marked the occasion of a trip to Kenney's Hotel at Jones Falls where thirty-two of our Probus members enjoyed what was described as "good comradeship" at the Friday night dinner. On the following morning, our Treasurer, Ramsay Brown, conducted a walking tour of the dam, operating locks and historic buildings. Afterwards, an "Open House" at Anne and Dennis Osmond's cottage guaranteed some special memories, with games of Bocce, water activities and fine refreshments.

In mid-June Brian Sawyer led a group of Striders on a tour of the Mer Bleu area where they saw a good selection of plants, birds and animals. Then, a smaller group walked in the Anderson area, where cross-country skiing and hiking has proved popular.

Probus members were saddened to learn of the death of Doug Graham's wife, Geraldine, on June 16th and our condolences were conveyed to him and his family.

At the June 9th Management Committee meeting, Eric Bennet resigned from the position of membership chairman. He had served in that capacity since 1998 and he was given a vote of thanks for his years of dedication.

On July 7th, the monthly meeting was held in the Manotick Royal Canadian Legion Hall and several guests were in attendance to hear the speaker, Coral Lindsay, an amateur but renowned local historian. In her own special story form, she brought to life the trials and delays encountered by Captain C. Theodore De Poncier, when he was surveying Marlborough Township in 1791.

It was announced that the Nominating Committee has completed the slate for the September election except for the 'trainee' back-up position to the secretary, Kathy

Pitcher. Jeff Cronin has volunteered as Membership Chair until the September election.

On July 21st, the Striders took off for Marlborough Forest. They chose a good time as, after the previous day's heavy rain, there were lots of frogs and even a few snakes in evidence, along with an abundance of wild flowers.

The August monthly meeting got off to a good start hearing about member Hazel Fry's determination to be there! By O.C. Transpo, she traveled from Montreal Road and Bathgate, Ottawa, to Manotick with 'just two changes' she observed!!

Any member who anticipated a boring talk on Genealogy and Family History from the Speaker, Norine Tinney Wolfe, was in for a surprise. Norinne introduced the golden rules for research via projector, handouts and some inspirational personal experiences.

At the August Management Committee meeting, it was announced that the membership had now reached 154 and there would be a new list of names and addresses available. There was some discussion on possible videotaping future speakers. A special vote of thanks was given to Dennis Osmond for his chairing of the Anniversary Committee.

On August 13th, a great number of our members attended the Legion dinner and enjoyed a very pleasant evening. In addition, this month's activities encompass the Guide Dogs' garden party and the Mill's 'wine tasting' event. The president urged the members to support these very worthwhile community events. He also reminded the membership of our November 10th Anniversary Lunch at Orchard View.

On the August 18th trip, the Striders reverted to being the Probus Gliders, not on skis but in canoes, starting from the residence of Brian Sawyer. Enjoying the

wildlife along the way, ten intrepid members paddled over five kilometers to the park area of the Long Island Lock, where they lunched and rested before tackling the return trip.

At the Annual General Meeting on September 1st, Dr. Dennis Osmond reported on the past year's activities. He thanked the Executive for their great teamwork. He introduced them, together with all the 'vital assistants,' and photos were taken.

The Treasurer, Ramsay Brown, presented the financial statement, audited by David Adlam, who was then nominated for the next year's audit.

Due to the increased membership, the President presented various options to the members. The choice was whether to limit numbers and stay at the present venue or allow unlimited growth and be prepared to move. The members voted overwhelmingly for the latter option.

The 10th Anniversary Luncheon sign-up sheets were then circulated and the President mentioned that the booklet, "Rewarding Retirement," a record of our club to date, would be given to the members attending the lunch.

The Vice-President Spruce Riordon then presented the Nominating Committee's report on the proposed Executive for the coming year, and the President called for nominations from the floor. As there were none forthcoming, the following slate of officers was elected by acclamation.

President	Spruce Riordon
Past President	Dennis Osmond
Vice-President	Peter Ide
Secretary	Kathy Pitcher
Treasurer	Ramsay Brown
Membership	Jeff Cronin

Events	Doug Watson
	Merrill Stalker
Speakers	Brian Sawyer
	Rory McIntyre
	Brian Haworth
Bulletin & Publicity	Dick de St. Croix
Historian & Archivist	Anne Osmond
Rotary Liaison	Burritt Collins

At this point, the President remarked on the impressive background of the President elect, Spruce Riordon, and his ability quietly to step in and do whatever was necessary. The incoming President responded by saying that Dr. Dennis had been able to make his job look easy because of his great administrative ability.

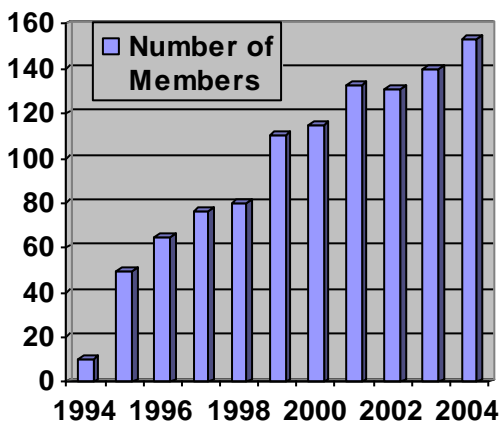
A variety of activities were then announced for September. The Striders will head for the west side of Ottawa River on September 15th, followed by a Rotary barbecue and golf on the 17th. A visit to the Aeronautical Museum is planned for the September 22nd, with the Legion dinner scheduled for September 24th.

George Hobson then introduced the speaker, James St. John, from Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. He, in turn, introduced his dog, Jack, who had been waiting patiently throughout the meeting. Despite being visually impaired, James remains an active member of the Barrhaven community. He explained the training process involved before he was allowed to graduate from the Guide Dogs program and his experiences since then. He stressed how Jack had enhanced his mobility and enjoyment of life.

In addition to the speakers already mentioned this year, we have heard from the Ottawa City's top planner, a

professional calligrapher, the former General Manager of Ottawa Hydro, and the Ottawa Medical Officer of Health since 1996, and all thanks to Dr. George Hobson and his committee! George was then relinquishing his position as Speaker Coordinator which he had occupied since September 2000. His enthusiastic involvement has been very much appreciated.

In attempting to cover the salient points of the first ten years of our Club, the one of membership seems to provide the true measure of its success for, during those years, it has grown from a mere handful to over 150 members. Yet, there is still that personal touch evident in all aspects of the Club. May it always be so!



Acknowledgements

From an historical point of view the Ottawa - Rideau Valley Probus Club was indeed fortunate to have had founder members with the vision and energy to spark the community's interest in the goals of Probus. To quote a member, "Without them the club would never have got off the ground!"

Also, the support of our sponsors, the Ottawa West Rotary Club with their liaison representatives, Dr. Burt Collins and Dr. Julius Frank, was essential to the growth of our Club. Then, too, the diverse Speakers' Program, always entertaining and informative, was a great drawing card! The members' interest and questions following the talks seemed to illustrate the true thrust of Probus, that of stimulation of thought.

As for the Management Committee, the Vital Assistants and those working behind the scenes, all managed to create an atmosphere that made the meetings, events and trips so much fun along the way.

While telling the tale of the progress of our Club, the opportunity was created to thank many members by name. But careful scrutiny of the slates of officers will indicate the dedication of many others. For example, Ramsay Brown has been balancing the books since September 1997!

Then there are the un-named. Throughout the past ten years our club spirit has been manifested by the willingness of a great many of our members to set up the hall and to help with refreshments from month to month, and then to clear everything away, contributing in no small measure to the smooth running and enjoyment of each meeting.

Also, without the dedication of the Probus 'keepers of the word', the secretaries, historians, and those who prepare the monthly bulletin, there would have been no viable base for this record of events.

In particular, the club is indebted to our very special secretary, Kathy Pitcher, who has kept the most meticulous minutes of the general and the Management Committee meetings since September 1999. Although active in many other community organizations, she

continues to meet the many needs of Probus, both promptly and cheerfully.

Finally, the records show that the idea of a 10th Anniversary celebration was conceived by Dr. Dennis Osmond in October 2002, while serving as Vice-President. He agreed to chair an Anniversary Committee and welcomed suggestions and anecdotal contributions. These would be incorporated in an Anniversary Booklet to be distributed to all our club members attending the 10th Anniversary lunch on November 10th, 2004.

Dr. Osmond's forethought and guidance and the great participation of his Anniversary Committee ensured that, in the future, all members of Probus would be able to share in the memories of these first exciting ten years of The Probus Club of Ottawa – Rideau Valley.

FOUNDERS

All the available founder members agreed to be interviewed and provided the following information and photos. This cooperation has allowed our members to gain more insight into the character and the exceptional life experiences of our ‘founding fathers’.

Russell (Russ) Hammond



The Ottawa - Rideau Valley Probus Club owes a special debt to the founder President, Russ Hammond. He was born in 1931 in Montreal where he received his early education. After graduating from High School, Russ started to work for Bell Canada where he became enrolled in their training program which led to a very successful career

with the company.

In 1954, he married Eva Mills. They have three sons, a daughter and two grandchildren.

In 1987, Russ retired from a senior position with Bell Canada, where he had worked for 37 years.

His first experience with Probus was in Moncton. The Rotary Association had just sponsored a Probus Club and he became its first Vice-President and later served his term as President.

Having discovered the great benefits of Probus to the community, he was determined to generate similar enthusiasm when he returned to live in Manotick. He

approached a couple of interested friends and was further encouraged when the late Doug Doran-Veevers put him in touch with other retirees. They appreciated his policy of promoting and implementing ideas by consensus rather than by a formal vote and all actively supported his attempts to form a local Probus Club.

Because he was always on the alert for communities where Probus could be helpful, he initiated the establishment of the Alta Vista Probus Club, with great support from Rotary.

One of his colleagues noted that he had a remarkable talent for, “seeking out leaders who could help organize and run the show”. When hearing this, he said that he found it very humbling when individuals offered their unique talents so readily.

Russ continues to make time for Probus activities and, so, still provides a great deal of inspiration to everyone involved.

Dr. Peter Abear



Dr. Peter Abear was born in 1925 in Kamloops, B.C. where he spent his early years. He moved west and graduated from U.B.C in 1947 with a degree in Bacteriology and Immunology. He won a scholarship to study medicine but as the award only covered his fees, he joined the Merchant Navy as a galley boy. After a lot

of hard physical work and crossing the Atlantic eight

times he finally disembarked in London. There, he resumed his original goal by starting his medical studies at the University of London and in 1954 he obtained his degree.

Dr. Abear returned to Canada to intern at the Vancouver General Hospital and went on to practice in Salmon Arm and Sicamous B.C. Then, he joined the Federal Department of Health, and practiced medicine in the U.K., Europe, the Middle East, and the Philippines. He was based in all the Canadian Embassies concerned, attending to their needs as well as being responsible for the medical examination of immigrants. In addition, Dr Abear was required to record the country's health statistics, including a report on the condition of the food, water etc.

His appointment to Cologne proved to be an especially memorable one as here he married Marga Klier in 1960. They have a son and a daughter and six grandchildren.

He returned to Canada periodically, and in 1965 he earned his D.P.H from the University of Toronto.

After thirty years of service abroad, Dr Abear returned to Canada to live in Manotick. While working for the Department of Public Health in Ottawa, one of his peers, Dr. Burritt ('Burt') Collins, interested him in the concept of Probus. As a result, Dr. Abear, like Dr. Burt, became a founder member of the Ottawa – Rideau Valley Probus Club and served as its first Secretary in 1995 and its President in 1998.

Part of the appeal of Probus for Dr. Peter is "a certain meeting of the minds" achieved through interacting with members of similar interests. He felt too that, through Probus, practical and social contacts were made which made life more pleasurable.

At the age of 70, Dr. Abear suffered a stroke and, in his words, “has been a semi invalid since”. It is difficult to accept his own diagnosis in view of what he still accomplishes. He takes part in the walking sessions at the Manotick arena three times weekly, socializes with family and friends and can recall and relate intriguing accounts of his medical globe-trotting.

All in all, it was a lucky day when Dr. Burt introduced Dr. Peter to Probus!

Dr. Burritt (Burt) Collins



“I was born on 28th May 1923. I was told I was born at home because I wished to be near my mother.” This Burt Collins ‘quote’ illustrates his humorous approach to things in general. Yet his life record indicates that, along with the humour, he shows an abiding interest in his fellow man and community. Perhaps this dedication stems from the

fact that Burt Collins is a sixth generation Canadian.

Dr. Burt received his education in the Ottawa Public School system, Lisgar Collegiate, and graduated from Queen’s University Medical School in 1949. The following year he married Eleanor Thompson of North Bay and in 1957 their twins were born, a boy and a girl.

He went to Rochester, New York, 1952-1953 to undertake post-graduate work in Surgery. From 1954 to 1965 he practiced Medicine in Ottawa and, due to a

shortage of doctors, had a very heavy workload, which included being on call most nights.

Dr. Burt Collins joined the Federal Department of Health in 1965 and was posted to Trinidad and Tobago 1969-1971 to do Immigration Medical work. In addition, he looked after the needs of the Canadian Embassies in the five countries nearby. When he returned to Canada in 1971 he continued to work for Health and Welfare in Ottawa.

In 1973, he returned to his roots in Manotick and became involved in community activities. He joined the Horticultural Society and, as a committed environmentalist, takes great pleasure in his rowboat and antique canoe.

Dr. Burt had joined the Ottawa West-End Rotary Club in 1958 and served as Secretary in 1967-68. When this club presented the Charter for the Ottawa Rideau Valley Probus, in April 1995, they appointed Dr. Julius Frank and Dr. Burt Collins as their liaison representatives. As a founder member of our club, Burt stressed its fellowship aspect and the quality of the diverse topics presented by the many talented guests. He particularly recommended events entailing bus trips - "They bring people together!" The record shows that, on one such occasion, Dr. Burt's medical skills were needed.

Ottawa - Rideau Valley Probus Club is indeed fortunate to have this doctor in the house.

Dr. Julius Frank

Dr. Julius Frank is a native of Montreal where he received his early education. In 1938, at the age of 17, he worked on a poultry farm for two years before attending the Ontario Agricultural College and the Ontario Veterinary College where he graduated in 1945 with a D.V.M. degree.

In 1947, he received his M.Sc. degree in Parasitology from McGill University and then worked as a research scientist at the Animal Diseases Research Institute, Hull Quebec from 1947-'48.

In August 1948 Dr. Frank married Evelyn Walker from Prince Edward Island. They had a son and three daughters and now have six grandchildren.



In September 1948, as officer-in-charge, he established the Atlantic Area Laboratory, Animal Pathology Division, Agriculture Canada. In 1958, he became the Assistant Director, Animal Pathology Division and Director of the Animal

Diseases Research Institute, Hull, P.Q., where until 1965 his workload included recruiting and training professional and technical staff. During this period he also helped plan the new large laboratory complex in Ottawa.

By 1966, Dr. Frank was the Director General of the Federal Laboratories across Canada. During 1970-71, he undertook language training. This stood him in good stead when later in 1985, as a consultant in Rwanda, he took part in a study conducted entirely in French.

Between 1966 and 1976, he was responsible for the research and the diagnostic work performed for the National Disease Control Program. During 1976-77 he occupied the position of Acting Deputy Minister.

Dr. Frank served as the first Canadian President of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory

Diagnosticians. Finally, after 32 years with the Federal Government, he retired in 1978.

From 1984-1990, he acted as Executive Secretary and later as Vice-President of the Canadian Animal Health Institute.

Meanwhile, as a consultant from 1982-1996 his work took him all over the world, while at home his honours included the Canada Confederation Medal, 1967, and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, 1977.

Somehow, Dr. Frank still found time for numerous activities in Manotick, He has always been an active member of the Rotary and was appointed its liaison with our own Probus Club when it received its Charter in April 1995. The appeal of Probus, he feels, is the "lack of stress at the meetings-just coffee, chat and a good lecture that offers some intellectual challenge and with no fund raising involved!"

PRESIDENTS

The Anniversary Committee thought it worthwhile to record the growth of our club from the perspective of its presidents.

The following accounts of the successive presidents illustrate the qualities and strengths which have nurtured the positive development of The Probus Club of Ottawa - Rideau Valley.

Russell Hammond (President, January 1995-September 1996)

See Founders.

Jim Coombs (President, 1996-1997)



In September 1996, Jim Coombs became the second president of The Probus Club of Ottawa - Rideau Valley. A colleague describes him as an outstanding organizer. His academic and career record bears witness to this.

Following graduation in 1952 from the University of Western Ontario, London, in Honours Economics and Political Science, he was hired by Bell Canada in London as a lineman and learned various craft jobs during his first year. In 1953, he was promoted to management and transferred to Toronto. This was a special year as he married Margaret Gilberta Howes (known as Bertie).

During the next 20 years, Bell Canada promoted him to a variety of Senior Supervisory positions. After the formation of CRTC, the company appointed him as their representative to the CRTC Cost Enquiry.

In 1976, Jim retired from Bell Canada to become the Vice-President (Finance) of the New Brunswick Telephone Co. and then its Vice-President (Operations). Also, at this time he served on the Board of St. Joseph's Hospital and on the Economic Council of Canada.

Ten years later, Jim retired from NBTel and became the President of Saskatchewan Telecommunications. While in Regina he served on the Board of the Regina Symphony Orchestra.

In 1991, Jim retired from Sasktel and moved to Manotick. He worked in Ottawa as a Consultant in Telecommunications. By chairing the Council for an

Ontario Information Infrastructure, he was able to bring some of the advantages of the Internet to Ontario schools, libraries and Industrial projects. In 2000, he decided to retire and resign from all Board positions.

Between 2000 and 2003, he served as a Director and Secretary of the Executive Committee of Probus Canada.

In 2001, the Coombs' moved to Amberwood and joined the Kanata Probus Club while still remaining actively connected with the Ottawa - Rideau Valley Probus Club.

Despite the demands of his career and family, (Bertie and Jim have three children and four grandchildren) Jim Coombs has been a powerful supporter of The Probus Club of Ottawa - Rideau Valley since 1994. For that and his many years of service, its members and Executive are most appreciative.

Paul Church (President 1997-1998)



Paul was born and educated in Toronto and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1952 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. During the summer vacations, Paul worked at AVRO Canada on the design of the CF-100 fighter. He was awarded an Athlone Fellowship and spent over two years in England on a graduate apprenticeship at the Fairey Aviation Company and attending the London School of Economics. Most importantly, he met and later married Ann.

After returning to Canada, Paul joined the deHavilland Aircraft Company as an aerodynamicist and helped to design and flight-test the Caribou, Buffalo and Twin Otter aircraft. After a stint as a Patent Officer and Corporate Planner at deHavilland, Paul, with Ann and their two children, moved to Ottawa in 1967, when he joined the Aerospace Branch of the then Department of Industry - now Industry Canada. There, he worked on a variety of financial and marketing projects in support of Canada's Aerospace Industry. He was a senior member of the teams which recommended selecting the Aurora and CF-18 aircraft for the Canadian Armed Forces. Paul retired from Industry Canada in 1991 as Director of Aerospace Defence Projects.

Following his retirement, Paul spent several years caring for Ann who succumbed to a Parkinson-like disease. Since then he has pursued several passions - chiefly his fiancée Beverley. He also is a volunteer guide at the Canada Aviation Museum, enjoys model railroading and helps organize the annual RAILFAIR each October at Algonquin College. Paul is a member of the Professional Engineers of Ontario and of two model train clubs, a member and past Chair of the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute, and he has served on and chaired aerodynamics-related committees of the National Research Council and NATO. Paul joined Probus in 1996 and is privileged to have been President of The Probus Club of Ottawa – Rideau Valley in 1997-1998.

Dr. Peter Abear (President, 1998-1999)

See Founders.

Stuart Rogers (President, 1999-2000)



Stuart grew up in semi-rural Willowdale and early-on whistled and danced to his own tune, with a fishing line ready in his back pocket. He was inspired by his various teachers (many returned veterans) to become an educator. For ten years, starting as a teenager, he conducted a nature program at Camp Ahmek in Algonquin Park, while Marguerite, his high school sweetheart, did the same at Wapomeo. They both graduated with distinction from Toronto Teacher's College in 1954 and married in 1955.

He has had a lifetime concern for the future of Canada and the World's environment. He focused on these issues during his career, which included all levels (elementary through high school to college). During his 37 years as resident of Manotick, (and earlier in Orillia), he initiated numerous community environmental and educational programs in the hope of raising the consciousness level of students and residents, thus reminding us of our responsibilities.

President Stu managed to streamline the Executive meetings with the help and encouragement of a very active Executive team. They were able to bring several

innovations to our Club, (some of which are still being maintained). This team, and the Club members, felt empowered, for which he was most gratified.

A long time member of *Ploughshares*, *The Experiment in International Living* and of *Servas*, he has had the opportunity to share ideas with many persons within Canada and abroad. Throughout, he has tried, in a modest way, to counter hype and hubris.

In his youth, Stu sang in many venues in Toronto. Today, he enjoys participating in three local choirs (as well as our own renowned '*Golden Tonsils*'). He recently served as President of the *Valleymen Chorus*, a group of gentlemen who tour a part of Canada each fall to raise money for charities in smaller communities.

A believer in lifelong learning, Stu was a natural for Probus. He often has probing questions for our speakers. The Speakers Program has stimulated extensive further reading on a wide range of topics and for that alone, he is greatly indebted to the Club.

Dr. Orville B. Wilson (President, 2000-2001)

In the midst of the depression, after the bankruptcy



of the family owned grocery store in Antrim, Orville Wilson delighted his mother, but dismayed his father, with the news that he had decided to become a medical doctor. Could this be possible? O.B. proceeded to excel in school and upon graduation he enlisted in the RCAF, eventually

serving as far away as India.

In 1945, the excellent opportunity offered to veterans allowed O.B. to enter Queens University medical school where his tuition and a small stipend were paid with the proviso that he obtain above 70 percent. Highly motivated, Dr. O.B. obtained the coveted MD degree.

He first practiced medicine in Kemptville assisting Dr. O. F. Beamish but soon moved his wife Kay, his growing family and his talents to Manotick to begin his own practice. Eventually he created the Manotick Medical Centre as the answer to the great demand on his time (day and night seven days a week). The community is fortunate that Dr. Wilson had the energy and foresight to create what is now an efficient medical institution, a clinic that meets the needs of so many area residents.

Shortly after retiring, he received a call from Dr. Burritt Collins inviting him to attend the new Probus Club. The idea of something for seniors in the form of interesting lectures, or talks, sounded appealing. A few years later he accepted the position of Vice-President.

He supports the choral program started by Stuart Rogers and served as pianist for several years. He claims to play in only one key so that sometimes the songs were sung too high or too low, but he persevered until Ralph Trafford was coerced into becoming accompanist for the 'Golden Tonsils'. While President, Dr. O.B. believed the general meetings should be fun, plus he wanted to see the group taking interesting trips beyond Manotick. He recruited Dr. Peter Ide to head up a special events committee. This idea of planning several different trips per year continues.

Dr. Wilson conducted the Management Committee meetings in his usual efficient manner having previously revised the constitution together with Stu Rogers. At any meeting he sets a high standard.

Note that, when club presidents or committee members no longer hold office, they depart the management meetings in the upper room at The Miller's Oven amidst true feelings of shared sadness.

Commodore Peter Richard Partner (Ret.) (President, 2001-2002)



Peter Partner is our only second generation Probian, having been introduced to Probus by his father in England, where Peter holds an honorary life membership in the Hereford #3 Probus Club. He is respected here no less, having been nominated to an executive position with Probus Centre - Canada.

After a distinguished career in both the Canadian Armed Services and later the United Nations, Peter retired to Kars where he and his wife Margitha are active in many aspects of community life, and where their skills rescued the Manotick Branch of the Canadian Legion. They both received the Queen's Golden Jubilee medals for their community service.

Peter was born in England but spent his formative years in Newfoundland. He studied at Memorial University then accepted a scholarship at Dalhousie University where he studied law. He is a member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society.

While still a student Peter entered service in the Royal Canadian Navy. His distinguished career of 37 years included all aspects of the legal activities of the

Canadian Department of National Defence. While serving in Winnipeg he was responsible for legal work throughout the Prairies and Northwest Territories. He served, as well, in Germany, Rome, Italy, and Tanzania training and advising. By Order in Council, Peter was appointed Judge Advocate General for Canada's Armed Services. He retired with the rank of Commodore.

Leaving the Forces, Peter accepted an appointment as Chief of the General Legal Division and subsequently Senior Officer Human Resources of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees. This organization is responsible for all services being provided for 3 million refugees in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, The West Bank and Gaza. Peter describes this appointment as "an eye opening experience."

Being club president was a highlight for him, as it was for his Management Committee, not only because of his leadership skills but, also, his very keen sense of humour.

Patricia Jane (Brown) de St. Croix (President, 2002-2003)



Patricia Brown de St. Croix recently had the experience of having to prove to the Canadian Government that she had been born, and that the event had taken place in Montreal. Her formal education took place there, too, but much of her early life was spent beyond city limits where her parents introduced her to rural living and outdoor

sports.

After graduating with a B.Sc.(P.E.) degree from McGill University, Pat pursued a career in teaching and coaching in Quebec, Michigan and Ontario. Her career spanned 35 years but the teaching was interrupted for almost 10 years while she coached 4 sons through early childhood, in a rural setting in the Niagara peninsula.

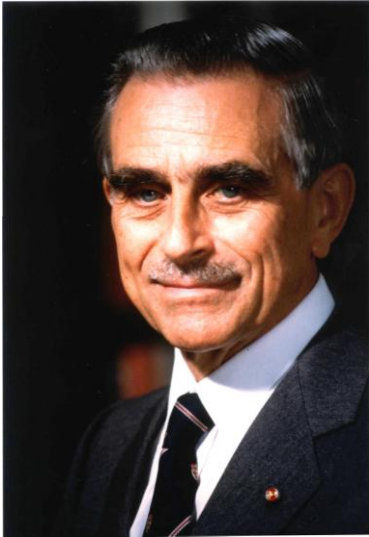
Pat received a National Achievement Award for her contribution to promoting Sport for Women in Ontario and later a Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for helping with the development of the sport of Orienteering in Canada. She is a Fellow of the Canadian Association of Physical and Health Education, Recreation and Dance.

Together with her husband, Dick, she has helped to produce many orienteering maps in Canada, one of which won an award at an International Cartographic Exhibition in 1999.

For their retirement, Pat and Dick chose 5 acres of farmland in rural Rideau Township where they have planted hundreds of trees, their small effort to improve the outdoor environment. Pat believes that the City of Ottawa so appreciated their efforts that Rideau has been included in Ottawa's boundaries. Consequently, she now lives in a city!

Probus, with its excellent speakers and opportunities for great sociability, attracted Pat. Even in retirement Pat thinks about physical fitness and good health, so she introduced orange juice during the social hour plus monthly ramblings and ski jaunts for Striders and Gliders, appointing Brian Sawyer as coordinator. She thanks Ramsay Brown for introducing her and Dick to this stimulating group and also for his suggestion that the speakers always be invited to lunch.

Dr. Dennis Osmond (President, 2003-2004)



When Dennis retired to live in Manotick after a career in medical research and education at McGill University, Montreal, he found Probus to be a wonderful way for him and his wife, Anne, to settle into their new community.

Born in New York, Dennis grew up in England, attending medical school at The University of Bristol. After hospital internships, service as an army medical officer, a staff appointment at Bristol University, and a Fulbright scholarship at the University of Washington, Seattle, he joined the Department of Anatomy, McGill University, becoming full Professor and Chairman. Dennis' research team at McGill studied the bone marrow and cells of the immune system responsible for normal body defences and also diseases such as leukemia. The work led to global travel and living with Anne and their three sons, in Australia, Switzerland, England and U.S.A. For his work he was awarded a DSc degree by Bristol University and was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He taught generations of medical students, creating a program of Anatomy for Surgeons and inaugurating an annual Commemorative Service for body donors and families. He retired from McGill after 35 year's service in 2000.

Knowing no one in Manotick on arrival, Dennis and Anne heard about Probus from members of the Historical Society. They attended their first Probus meeting in November 2001 and were instantly attracted by the club's esprit, interesting members and speakers. In the course of monthly meetings and other Probus events, they made a wide range of good friends in a remarkably short time. Our Probus club fully lived up to its aims of fostering fellowship and intellectual stimulation. Then, in response to a surprise call from Dr. O.B. Wilson - not to be taken lightly! - Dennis was pleased and honoured to become Vice-President. He noted the approach of the club's tenth anniversary and formed the Anniversary Committee, which he continued to chair as President, to organize the Anniversary Luncheon and historical Booklet.

Dr. Spruce Riordon (President, 2004-2005)



Spruce attended high school in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, and went on to study Electrical Engineering at McGill University. While at McGill, he joined the Reserve Navy, obtaining a commission prior to graduation. After working for the National Research Council in Ottawa for several years, he met and

married Marsha, and the two of them set off for England, where he did postgraduate work and she taught school. When Spruce finished, the couple just kept on moving

east, traveling through the Mediterranean and then to Asia on cargo ships. They finally landed in Vancouver, broke but happy.

Back in Ottawa, Spruce joined the Faculty of Engineering at Carleton University, where he became Chairman of the Department of Systems and Computer Engineering, and subsequently Dean of Engineering. During this period he was part of the growing high tech community in Ottawa, serving as a founding director of OCRI, the Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation. On sabbatical, he helped launch a start-up firm in the field of information security – back in the days when ‘virus’ was a purely biomedical term! He completed his career at Carleton University as Vice-President (Finance and Administration).

Having lived in the vicinity of Manotick for the past dozen years, Spruce and Marsha enjoy the village and its surroundings immensely. Spruce is a member of the choir at Saint James’ Anglican Church, and has been active in the Rideau Township Historical Society. From his very first Probus meeting as a new member, he has felt a warm welcome and a spirit of camaraderie and fun. He feels honoured indeed to serve as a member of the Executive in this 10th anniversary year.

**THE PROBUS CLUB OF OTTAWA - RIDEAU
VALLEY: OFFICERS, 1995-2005**

	1995-1996	1996-1997
President	Russ Hammond	Jim Coombs
Past President		Russ Hammond
Vice President		Ralph Trafford
		George Hobson
Secretary	Peter Abear	Eldon Brownlee
Treasurer	Jim Cameron	Larry Ellis
Membership	Doug Charter	Doug Charter
Events		Bill McCarthy
Bulletin/Publicity	Sandy & Bob Clark	Terry Rummery
Rotary Liaison	Burritt Collins	Burritt Collins
Advisory Committee		Jim Cameron
		Jack McGee
		Peter Abear
	1997-1998	1998-1999
President	Paul Church	Peter Abear
Past President	Jim Coombs	Paul Church
Vice President	Ralph Trafford	Stu Rogers
Secretary	Eldon Brownlee	Eldon Brownlee
Treasurer	Ramsay Brown	Ramsay Brown
Membership	Doug Charter	Eric Bennet
Events	Bill McCarthy	Joan Valdstyn
Bulletin/Publicity	Terry Rummery	Judy McGillivray
Historian	Larry Ellis	Kathy Haslegrave
Rotary Liaison	Burritt Collins	Burritt Collins
Advisory Committee	Jim Cameron	Jim Cameron
	Jack McGee	Russ Hammond
	Peter Abear	Jim Coombs
		Julius Frank
		Bill McCarthy

	1999-2000	2000-2001
President	Stu Rogers	Orville Wilson
Past President	Peter Abear	Stu Rogers
Vice President	Orville Wilson	Peter Partner
Secretary	Kathy Pitcher	Kathy Pitcher
Treasurer	Ramsay Brown	Ramsay Brown
Membership	Eric Bennet	Eric Bennet
Events	Joan Valdstyn	Peter Ide
		Doug Watson
Bulletin/Publicity	Judy McGillivary	Bonnie Shaver
	Kathy Haslegrave	
Speakers		George Hobson
		Al Barden
Historian	Burritt Collins	Kathy Haslegrave
Telephone	Wilburn Cowan	
Rotary Liaison		Julius Frank

	2001-2002	2002-2003
President	Peter Partner	Pat de St. Croix
Past President	Orville Wilson	Peter Partner
Vice President	Pat de St. Croix	Dennis Osmond
Secretary	Kathy Pitcher	Kathy Pitcher
Treasurer	Ramsay Brown	Ramsay Brown
Membership	Eric Bennet	Eric Bennet
Events	Peter Ide	Peter Ide
	Doug Watson	Doug Watson
Speakers	George Hobson	George Hobson
	Al Barden	Brian Sawyer
Bulletin/publicity	Bonnie Shaver	Dick de St. Croix
Historian	Hazel & Tom Fry	Anne Osmond
Rotary Liaison	Julius Frank	Julius Frank

	2003-2004	2004-2005
President	Dennis Osmond	Spruce Riordon
Past President	Pat de St. Croix	Dennis Osmond
Vice President	Spruce Riordon	Peter Ide
Secretary	Kathy Pitcher	Kathy Pitcher
Treasurer	Ramsay Brown	Ramsay Brown
Membership	Eric Bennet	Jeff Cronin
Events	Peter Ide	Doug Watson
	Doug Watson	Merrill Stalker
Speakers	George Hobson	Brian Sawyer
	Brian Sawyer	Rory McIntyre
		Brian Haworth
Bulletin/publicity	Dick de St. Croix	Dick de St. Croix
Historian	Anne Osmond	Anne Osmond
Rotary Liaison	Julius Frank	

SPEAKERS

1995

January-----Frank Fesco: Numismatist, Editor, Ottawa
Coin Club Journal:

Coin Collection

February-----Nancy Graham, Chartered Accountant.

Capital Gains

Deborah Belanger, Barrister.

How to avoid Probate

March---Rev. Dr. Ottwell McKennitt, Commissioner.

Time for Good News

April-----Roger Erhardt, Director of Strategic
Planning, Canadian International Development Agency.

Canada's New Development Assistance Policy

May-----The Hon. Maurice McTigue, High
Commissioner for New Zealand

New Zealand's Economic Recovery Program

June-----J. McCammon, Ontario Ministry of
Transportation:

Highway 416

July-----Dr. George Fisher: *Visit to the Ukraine*

August-----Robert Armstrong, Executive Director,
Salmon Health Consortium, Ottawa.

The Salmon Farming Industry

September---William Conrod, Vice President,
Continuing Education, Algonquin College.

Continuing Education in the 90's

October-----Jim Potter, Miller and Potter Restoration
Ltd., Manotick.

Historic Boats in the Rideau Canal System

November---Bruce Hiney, Antique car owner.

The Ottawa-to-Mexico Antique Car Rally

December---Visit.

1996

January-----Desmond Cunningham, Co-founder & Chairman, Gandalf Technology Inc.

The Technological Lead up to the Internet

February----Alfred Linklater, Director of Education of the Canadian First Nations

March-----Mary Cook, Ottawa Valley writer and raconteur.

Memories of the Area

April-----Rev. Pierre Allard, Chaplain-General, Correctional Service of Canada.

Canada's Prisons in the 90's

May-----George Hobson, Director (retired), Polar Continental Shelf Project, Natural Resources, Canada.

The 1992 Climb of Mount Logan

June-----Al Bowers, Vice-Chair, Police Services Board, Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton. Former Mayor, Township of Osgoode

Plans for Regional Policing

July-----Ron Martelle, Mayor of Cornwall.

Law and Order in the Justice System

August-----Russell Mills, Publisher, President of the Ottawa Citizen. *Recent Developments in Journalism*

September---Lloyd Francis, Former Member of Parliament and Speaker of the House of Commons.

The Changing Face of Parliament

October-----Dr. Douglas Bland, Chair of Defence Management Studies, Queen's University, Kingston.

Commanding Canadian Forces in Future Operations

November---Carl Kjarsgaard, Pilot, Canadian Airlines. Vice-President, The Halifax Aircraft Association

Salvage and Reconstruction of 'Hally', a WW II Halifax Bomber, now in RCAF Memorial Museum, Trenton

December--- **Leanne Kane**, Biologist, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Baxter
Community Involvement in Stewardship of Natural Areas

1997

January-----**Brian Ford**, Chief, Ottawa Carleton Regional Police Service.

Alex Mackie, Deputy Chief, Ottawa Carleton Regional Police Service.

Policing in Rideau

February-----**Dave Hunter**, Administrator of Brockville Psychiatric Hospital.

Administering Mental Health Services

March-----**Dr. Frank Slingerland**, President, Vibacon Ltd., Ottawa, and former Head, Aeroacoustics Laboratory, National Research Council

Spectrogram Diagnosis of Aircraft Disasters

April-----**Frank Finley**, Public Information Specialist, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

Energy Challenges of the 90's, or 'Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Radiation, but Were Afraid to Ask'

May-----**Eric Lister**, Senior Policy Advisor & Chief Engineer, Registrar of Imported Vehicles.

Importing Vehicles into Canada

June-----**Jim Walker**, Chief Superintendent (retired), Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Can the World Famous RCMP Musical Ride Survive in this Era of Government Cutbacks?

July-----**Bernie Shaw**, Author on history of Ottawa Valley and Algonquin Park, Business Consultant, formerly with Federal Dept. of Industry.

Canoe Lake: Tom Thomson and Other Mysteries

August-----**William Fox**, Principal, Jack Pine Multi-Media Inc. and School of Policy Studies, Queen's University, Kingston: Former Press Secretary in Prime

Minister's Office.

*Junk News: How Today's Market Driven Journalism
Effects Politics and Public Policy*

September---Joe Banks, Publisher, Manotick
Messenger and the Barrhaven Independent
Small Papers in Modern Times

October-----Dave Kay and Kay Lorente, Heritage
Renfrew Home Children (Canada) Committee (retired
teachers).

*The Home Children in Canada, From the 1890's to the
1930's*

November---George G. Blackburn, Author, journalist,
and former Director of Information, Ministry of Labour
Memories of World War II

December----Gordon Lovelace, Director of
Communications, EntreSys Consulting Services
*On Her Majesty's Secret Service: The Gord Lovelace
Files*

1998

January-----George D. Hobson, Director of the Polar
Continental Shelf Project (retired).

*From Siberia to Greenland Through the Northwest
Passage*

February-----Richard Walker, Engineering Test Pilot,
Transport Canada: *Aircraft Certification/Flight Testing:
How We Do it in Canada*

March-----Val Lister, Teacher (retired) and Local
Historian.

The Village of Long Island: Gone but not Forgotten

April-----Glenn Brooks, Mayor, Rideau Township.
*Governance and Restructuring across the Ottawa-
Carleton Region*

May-----Very Rev. Peter Coffin, Dean
(subsequently Bishop), Christ Church Cathedral.

Living What You Believe

June-----**Judge John Matheson O.C.**, Former justice of the Ontario Court of Justice, M.P. for Leeds, and Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Lester Pearson.

The Promise, Unfulfilled but Fillable: Canada's Past, Present and Future

July-----**Coral Lindsay**, Local Historian.

Steamboat Days on the Rideau Canal: Commercial Navigation 1832-1936

August-----**John Cutler and Mary Ellen Morris**, Chartered Accountants:

The Saint Lawrence Seaway from Nine Stories High

September----**Dr. Tony Clarke**, Director of the Polaris Institute in Canada:

The Multilateral Agreement on Investments: The Threat to Canadian Sovereignty

October-----**Commodore Peter Partner**, Judge Advocate General of Canadian Forces (retired), Senior Officer Human Resources, UNRA.

Reminiscences of a Former Judge Advocate General of the Canadian Forces

November---**Hugh A. Halliday**, Military Historian and Author. Curator, Canadian War Museum.

VC or not VC: The Awarding of a Battlefield Icon

December----**Eric R. Adams**, Chartered Accountant, Treasury Board of Parliament of Canada, Business Consultant, Community Service.

Unearthing Ottawa History

1999

January-----**Dr. Tofy Mussivand**, Medical Engineer, President, World Heart Corporation.

Canadian Artificial Heart for Patients with Heart Failure: Challenges and Prospects

February-----Dave Brown, Journalist and columnist,
Ottawa Citizen.

Forty Years in Journalism

March-----John Ross Trinnell, Forest Research
Technician, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Life and Times of J.R.Booth

April-----Dr. Peter Paul Koprowski, Professor of
Composition, University of Western Ontario.

The Life and Music of Peter Paul Koprowski

May-----Dr. J. Keith Fraser, former Executive
Director of Royal Canadian Geographic Society &
publisher of the Canadian Geographic.

Inuvik

**June-----The Disipio Children (Christine, age 14,
Andre, 13, and Jessica, 10)**

Cross-Canada Odyssey

July-----Charles Billington, Forest Ecologist, Author
of, 'Our River, The Rideau'.

Rideau Waterway as a Heritage River

August-----Gordon E. Priest, Statistician, Director,
Integration and Development of Social Statistics,
Statistics Canada.

*Rivalry between J.J.Hill and Cornelius Van Horne: The
Clash between Two Strong-Willed Men for Railway
Development in the Pacific North West*

September---Rejean Plamondon, Parliament Precinct
Director, Public Works, Government Services Canada.

Parliament Hill Renovations

October-----Mark Andrews, Environmental Engineer,
Director, Canadian Society for Civil Engineering.

Looking for John By: Builder of the Rideau Canal

November---Norm Christie, Administrative Officer,
Commonwealth War Graves Commission, & Publisher of
CEF Books.

All That Remains: The Cemeteries and Memorials of the

First World War on the Western Front

December----**Ben Babelowski**, Artist.

How I Succeeded in Becoming a Starving Artist

2000

January-----**George Hobson**

Explorer John Rae

February----**William (Bill) S. Beveridge, P. Eng.,**

Director, Infrastructure Maintenance, Ottawa-Carleton Region.

Winter Roads

March-----**David W. Bartlett**, M.Sc. (econ), London School of Economics, Former Mayor of Rideau Township; Canada Council; UNESCO.

Manotick Over 150 Years

April-----**Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka, Ph. D.,** Author, TV host ('In Our Hands') and Radio call-in host.

Contemplating Our Responsibilities

May-----**Don Jackson**, World Champion Ice Skater, Executive Director, Minto Skating Club, Ottawa.

The World of Skating

June-----**The Hon. Justice Francis C. Muldoon**, Judge of the Federal Court of Canada.

Dispute Resolution: Canadian Style

July-----**The Hon. Lloyd Francis, P.C., M.A., Ph.D.,** Former Member of Parliament and Speaker of the House of Commons. Director, Canadian Medical Discoveries Fund.

Making Parliament Work

August-----Picnic at the Valdstyn's, Kemptville.

September---**Dr. Geza Kardos, Ph.D.,** Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Carleton University (retired). Former Site Manager, High Altitude Research Project (HARP), Barbados.

Dr. Bull's First Supergun

October-----Margaret Demers, Teacher.

Special Education: Now and the Way it is Changing

November---Four Veterans and Members: Ramsay Brown (pilot RCAF), Ken Smith (RAF), Peter Camp (Royal Engineers), and Dr. O.B. Wilson (RCAF).

Experiences in Far East (Burma) in World War II

December----Jane Beall, Teacher (retired).

Trekking the Annapurna Range in Nepal

2001

January-----Coral Lindsay, Teacher (retired), Local historian.

The Pioneer Families who Cleared the Wilderness and Established the Settlements which became Canada's Capital

February-----W. Keith Buck,

The First Chinese Mining and Metallurgical Mission to Canada, 1972

March-----David Shanahan, Ph.D., Historian,

Untold Stories of Canadian History: D'Arcy McGee and the Fenians

April-----Brig. Gen. Keith Greenway, Ret'd, Arctic Navigator.

The Flight of the Snow Goose: The Last or Just the Latest Airship to Visit the Arctic in 1958

May-----Stu Rogers,

Local Waste Management and Recycling

June-----Doris Carter, Long-serving Canadian Armed Forces Nurse.

Never Leave Your Head Uncovered

July-----Laurent Benoit, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Ottawa International Airport.

New Developments at Ottawa International Airport

August-----Pat Scrimgeour, Program Manager,

Service Planning, OC Transpo.

Public Transportation in Villages and Rural Areas

September----**Gord Carruth**, ACTRA award-winning Playwright and Composer.

Writing & Production of a New Canadian Musical

October-----**Jim Lyons**, Head, National Seismology Data Centre, National Earthquake Hazards Program, Natural Resources, Canada.

Earthquakes

November----**Colonel John Gardam (ret'd)**, Canadian Armed Forces, Peacekeeper.

Canadians at War and Peacekeeping

December-----**Dr. O. B. Wilson**, Physician.

Autoimmune Deficiency Syndrome

2002

January-----**George Hobson**, Former CIDA worker.

Personal recollections of Afghanistan

February----**Patricia Sutherland**, Curator, Archeological Survey of Canada, and Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Norse Settlements in Canada

March-----**Mr. Buchanan & Mr. Steven Blondeau**

Scotiabank Fraud Awareness Program

April-----**Jack MacKenzie**, 'Oldest person to ski to the North Pole'

Travel Adventures on Seven Continents

May-----**Dr. Roland Miller**, Former Lutheran Missionary and Professor of Theology, University of Saskatchewan.

The Islamic Religion

June-----No meeting (Gananoque, Blinkbonnie Hotel and Thousand Islands Playhouse visit).

July-----**Dr. Brian Peart**, Veterinarian/Researcher.

Chronic Wasting Disease of Elk: Prion Diseases.

August-----Glen Brooks, Ottawa City Councillor.

The New City of Ottawa and Rideau Ward

September--Gord Carruth, Playwright and Composer.

Writing and Production of a New Canadian Musical

October -----Gordon Atkinson, Radio Journalist.

Reminiscences of a Journalist: Some Notable Personalities

November - Bernard Pelletier, Emeritus Research Scientist, Geological Survey of Canada.

Recollections of World War II in Italy and the Liberation of Holland

December - Hans Tammemagi, Environmental Consultant and Author.

Exploring the Hill

2003

January ---- Club members (in absence of Dr. William A.R. Orban, fitness expert, due to illness)

What has been the impact of travel on my life?

February --- Julius Parkes, High School Teacher.

The Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, and its Collections

March ----- John Townsend, Criminologist, Departments of Solicitor General and Justice.

Retirement Homes and You

April ----- William A.R. Orban, PhD, Professor, Kinesiology, University of Ottawa.

Fitness for Seniors

May -----Dr. Orville B. Wilson, Physician.

Early Medical Experiences in Manotick

June -----Lloyd Hardy, Economist

Microfinance as a Tool for Economic Development

July ----- Frank Ronald Cleminson, Head, Canada's Verification Research Program.

Containment as an Alternative to War: Analyzing the

Search for Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq

August ---- **Dr. Dennis G. Osmond**, Robert Reford Emeritus Professor of Anatomy, McGill University.

One Final Gift: the Role of Body Donation in Medical Research and Education

September- **Patricia de St. Croix**, High School Teacher (Physical Education), **Richard de St. Croix**, Engineer.

Orienteering with Pat and Dick, or Orienteering the Sport for Life

October --- **Ned Lathrop**, General Manager, Development Services, City of Ottawa.

The Development Plan for the City of Ottawa

November - **George Offley**, Service Officer, Royal Canadian Legion, Manotick Branch No. 314.

Experiences as a World War II Pilot: Bismark and Murmansk Convoys

December - **Judith Bainbridge**, Calligraphic Artist.

Calligraphic and Heraldic Art: Some Interesting State Commissions

2004

January --- **David Gray**, Naturalist and Historian.

Politics and Arctic History: Commemorating Vilhjalmur Stefansson and The Canadian Arctic Expedition 1913-1918

February - **Carl Kropp**, Electrical Engineer; Former General Manager and Chief Engineer, Ottawa Hydro.

What Happened to That Good Old Fashioned Electricity?

March ---- **Dr. Robert Cushman**, Medical Officer of Health, City of Ottawa.

New Millenium Challenges to the Public Health

April ----- **Colin McGregor**, Paleontologist, & Geological Survey of Canada (retired).

Monuments of Mankind

May ----- **Mary Wiggins**, Executive Director, Ottawa-

Carleton Coalition for Literacy.

Literacy Matters

June ----- **John Kruithof**, Department of Foreign Affairs (retired)

The 1997 Handover of Hong Kong to China

July ----- **Coral Lindsay**, Local Historian and Teacher (retired)

Captain C. Theodore De Pencier, PLS and the 1791 Survey of Marlborough Township

August – **Norah Tinney Wolfe**, Director, Region VIII, Ontario Genealogical Society, and Nurse (retired).

Introduction to Geneology and Family History

September – **James St. John**, on behalf of Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

Training with a Guide Dog: a Personal Account

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

1995

July 5-----Visit to Classic Automobile Restoration Shop of John Pritchard, Hallville.

October----- Area Probus Lunch, Brockville Golf and Country Club

December 6---Visit to new Air Traffic Control Centre, Ottawa International Airport.

1996

August 26-----Visit to Domtar Brick Plant, Rideau Road

October 24-----Regional Inter-Club Luncheon, Carleton Golf and Yacht Club

1997

May 14-----Visit to RCAF Memorial Museum, Trenton.

1998

February-----Curling bonspiel hosted by the Brockville
Probus Club.

May-----Luncheon hosted by the Perth Probus Club.

June 17-----Visit to the restoration of S.Y. Canada,
Ludlow Boat Works.

1999

April 21-----Visit to Montreal Biodome, Insectarium
and Botanical Gardens.

May 20-----Spring Luncheon at the Probus Club of
Cornwall

August 10-----Gananoque Boat Trip and Boldt Castle

2000

March 22-----Visit to Wheeler's Sugar Shack in Lanark
with Brockville Clubs.

May 17-----Spring Luncheon, hosted by the Probus
Club of Brockville, together with the
Probus Club of Leeds and Grenville.

June 14-----Pot-Luck Supper at Stu and Marguerite
Roger's home on the Rideau.

August 2-----Pot-Luck Picnic at the Valdstyn's,
Kemptville.

October 5-----Steam train trip to Wakefield, hosted by
Alta Vista Probus.

2001

March-----Maple Sugar bush trip.

May 15-----Spring Luncheon of Probus Clubs of
Eastern Ontario, Ottawa.

2002

May-----Visit to Trail Road Refuse Reclamation
and Renewal Site.

- May 15-----Annual Probus Luncheon, at Kingston Days Inn.
- June 4-6-----Blinkbonnie Hotel, Gananoque: Boat cruise and Thousand Island Playhouse.
- August 21-----Rideau Hall Garden Tour.
- October 16---- Trip to Wakefield, Quebec, for lunch and local visits.
- November 25 - Guided tour of the National Arts Centre and lunch at Le Café.

2003

- March 10-----Tour of Diefenbunker Museum and “Cost of Peace” exhibition, Carp.
- April 17-----Trip to the Rideau Canal Museum, Smiths Falls.
- May 28----- St. Lawrence River field trip with Stu Rogers, visiting the Canadian Starch Company plant at Cardinal, the Grenville picnic grounds for lunch and the Port of Prescott grain elevators.
- June 10/11---- Blinkbonnie Hotel, Gananoque: Thousand Islands Playhouse and boat cruise.
- June 26----- Pot luck Picnic hosted by Stu and Marguerite Rogers at their home on the Rideau.
- October 20---- Steam train trip to Wakefield: Fall colours and lunch.
- September 17- Orienteering at “Streambend”, Kars, the residence of Pat and Dick de St. Croix.

2004

- February 14 --- St. Valentine’s Dinner and Dance, Orchard View Conference Centre.
- April 28 ----- Visit and ‘behind-the-scenes’ tour of Museum of Science and Technology.

May 19 ----- Spring Luncheon hosted by the Probus Club of Cornwall and Area at the Best Western Conference Inn, Cornwall.

June 11 ----- Overnight at Kenny's Hotel, Jones Falls, and visit Osmond Cottage, Troy Lake.

November 10 - **Tenth Anniversary Luncheon**, Orchard View Conference Centre.

PHOTO GALLERY



Anniversary Committee



George Hobson



O. B. Wilson



Picnic at Bonnie Shaver's



Golden Tonsils 2002



Wheelers' Sugar Bush



Eric Celebrates Spring 2003