



# The ProBuzz

*Newsletter of the PROBUS Club of Northumberland – July 2015*

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## JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING



**Journalist Gina Gillespie presented her experiences of living and writing in Afghanistan** for seven and a half years after retiring from the Canadian military. She was part of group of international journalists who were hired by NATO to report on the different geographical areas of Afghanistan. The journalists worked in 14 groups, each of which included an international journalist and two Afghanistan journalists. Gina's was the only all-female group of journalists and they promoted women's rights, and visited the Afghanistan population in their homes and schools. The NATO group had their own news magazine and TV and the teams reported to Kabul from different parts of the country. The team lived at military bases and could accompany soldiers on missions. Gina lived on an American and an Italian base in West Afghanistan.

**In Afghanistan, men and women have equal rights on paper**, but the reality is very different. In a court of law, two women must testify to equal the testimony of one man. By law women do not marry until the age of 16 but child brides are very common. They can be bought and sold to settle family debts. A woman can't leave her house without being accompanied by a male relative, and it is hard for her to function without a husband or male relative. Rape is considered to be consensual and a woman can be jailed for adultery for rape. Women's shelters are considered to shelter "bad women". Women wear burqas and see it mainly as protection from men's attentions. Health care is very limited for women because a woman cannot see a male doctor and there are very few female doctors.

**Women will sometimes try to commit suicide** by pouring oil on themselves and setting themselves on fire

to escape the stress in their lives, and there is an International Burn Unit which takes care of these women. While it is important for girls to receive an education, there is also a risk of girls being burned with acid for attending school, and teachers can be killed as well. The average age of survival in Afghanistan is 45 years. Literacy rate is 43% for men and 13% for women. The only religion allowed is Islam and in villages local elders carry out the law as it has been for thousands of years. Now with international military forces leaving the country, there is even more concern about health, education, and women's rights.

**Gina stressed the importance of the international community to support the building and protection of girls' schools.** She spoke of a school that was built by an individual woman, Massuma, with great difficulty due to lack of support and government graft. However the school has now become a community centre where embroidery and other hand skills are taught to allow women to earn money for their families.

This was a most enlightening presentation which vividly portrayed conditions that are hard to grasp when we live in a free and democratic country such as ours.

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## BILLS' TRAVELS

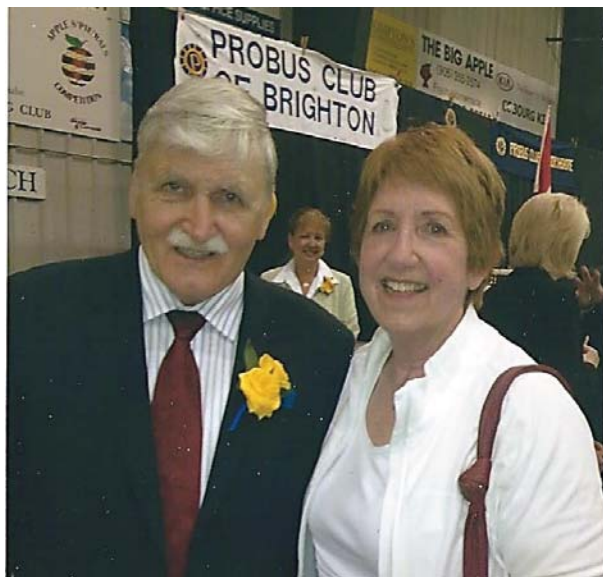


Prior to Gina's presentation, we were treated to a mini-travelog by Bill Aills as he recounted various aspects of a recent trip to New Zealand. There he attended a local Probus Club meeting which he found well attended but more spartan than any of ours (in terms of goodies anyway). However he was very impressed by the friendliness and hospitality of the New Zealanders with whom they met and became acquainted.

# Big turnout for 'Extravagaza 2015'

- by Lynn Ramsay

**Sixty-eight Northumberland Probusians joined nearly 500 members from nine clubs at the annual Spring get-together at the Keeler Centre in Colbourne on June 2, 2015**



*Romeo Dallaire, shown here with our own Trish Morgan, delivered a dynamic presentation.*

Keynote speaker was former Senator and retired General Romeo Dallaire who held the crowd enrapt while recounting his experiences as head of the United Nations mission in Rwanda. As frightening as some of them were, his stories were thrilling, daring and downright heroic.

The General appeared kind, warm hearted and selfless, and you could hear that in his voice as he spoke about the child-soldiers used in the wars in Africa. The stories of rape, dismemberment, and destruction of villages were horrifying. Most of the world sits back and does nothing, and this apathy is what he is trying to change, especially where the children are concerned. We were left with terrifying images and much food for thought by this wonderful speaker.

For those newer members, and as a refresher for others, a word about Extravaganza itself. It started out as a Spring Fling involving the clubs in Kawartha and Northumberland Counties. The last meeting held in Peterborough attracted about 2000 people. It was getting too big and a little out of hand, so the Northumberland County Clubs broke away and started the Extravaganza (we weren't allowed to use the name Spring Fling).

Planning for Extravaganza 2015 began at our first meeting in March 2014. The meeting was conducted by two members of the Extravaganza 2013 committee who offered us pointers for when we took over the 2015 event. At that time the committee was comprised of the VPs of all the Northumberland Clubs and we had six of eight clubs participating in the planning. Eventually Trent Hills and Presqu'ile took part as well. Meetings were held every month in 2014 until winter, and resumed in April 2015. By June 2015 everything came together, and by all measures this year's meeting was a huge success. A big thank you to all those involved in making this happen.

Ian Douglas is a personal friend of Romeo Dallaire which is why we were lucky to get the General to speak to us. May he continue to do his work and someday succeed in eliminating the dreadful situations that exist.

## APPIES & DRINKS

*by Carol Petter*



On June 16<sup>th</sup> twenty-nine of our members were treated to a delightful 'Appies & Drinks' outing hosted by Diana and Joe Flynn.

With sunny skies, a delicious variety of hors d'oeuvres and a spacious back yard with several comfortable seating areas available, guests enjoyed a pleasant afternoon of laughter and lively discussion. Some of our more competitive members participated in a rousing game of beanbag toss, where it seemed that rules were created and changed as the game went along.

Many thanks to Diana and Joe. Your beautiful home in its country setting was an ideal location to enjoy a perfect spring day among Probus friends.



## PICNIC IN THE PARK

*by Nancy Logan*

Probus members arrived at the Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club on June 25<sup>th</sup> bearing a wonderful array of food, both savoury and sweet, which was enjoyed by all. 43 members and 3 guests attended. Also, about 10 people took advantage of the location and enjoyed some lawn bowling to stimulate their appetites. The "Kitchen Crew" are to be commended for seeing to all our needs and keeping the coffee, tea, etc. flowing. The picnic started under overcast skies, but the sun arrived before the lunch was over to warm everyone up. Particularly pleased were Marjorie Mayer, Marilyn McMillan and Marian Wakely who all went home as winners of the "Share the Wealth". Hats off to the Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club for allowing us to have our picnic on their lovely porch. Many thanks from all who attended



## CANADA DAY PARADE

*by Bill Alls*

Once again Probus Northumberland prove we are THE Club in Cobourg as we entered the Canada Day Parade with aplomb. Wilson Dow and Stan Maggs carried our banner in front of Don Jones driving his pickup with the large Probus sign in the back. Flags were carried by Brian Scott, Frank Crowley, Gord Catton, Roslynn Cooke, and Doug Lloyd. Following were walkers Marjorie Jones, Jean Crowley, Lynn Wallace, Gladys Maggs, Marg Curtis and Susan Vivian. President Lynn Ramsay was chauffeured by Bill Alls in a 1951 Mercury Sport sedan. Special thanks go to Don Jones for picking up the banner and delivering the flags for storage to Shirley Erskine.



## MEMBER NEWS

~ by Dianne & Gord Graham



**Gord Hewson** has let us know that he recently moved. His new address is 255-313 Densmore Road, Cobourg K9A 0E5. Phone remains the same 905-372-8430.

Welcome to **Linda Syrota**, our newest member, address 258 Rollins Street, Cobourg K9A 0G8. Tel: 289-252-1742. Linda enjoys theatre, dining, walking, art galleries and film. Once established in the club, she is interested in being involved with the Singles Club, organizing special luncheons or events, and contributing articles to ProBuzz.

Welcome Linda!

*Remember your annual membership fee of \$30 is due. Year end is July 31<sup>st</sup> but we will accept your post-dated cheque anytime.*

## MEMO FROM THE TREASURER



Our books will close for the current fiscal year on July 31<sup>st</sup>. It is important that we receive all revenues that are due and pay all outstanding bills by that date so that they don't get left for next year and distort our financial statements.

Would all officers, committee chairs, and other cash handlers please ensure that I receive any cheques, invoices, petty cash replenishment requests, etc. by the end of July so that I can record them in time?

Thanks for your help.

*Ron Coleman, Treasurer, 289-252-2173*

## SINGLES CLUB

~ by Louise Barraclough



**Friday brunch at Chemong Lodge** was the location for our group to meet on June 19. The selection and offerings gave everyone an opportunity to enjoy their individual taste selections. The staff was amiable and helpful and always had our empty dishes cleared by the time we had returned from the buffet tables – again. It was well into the afternoon before we were talked out enough to leave. A very enjoyable day.

Last year we enjoyed our lunch at Tomasso's in Trenton so much that we agreed we'd return. And we will, because we have a reservation for Saturday, July 11 at 12:30. (*I Googled Pan Am Games Venues: think we're safe on Highway #2 this far east of TO!*)

And then the August Civic Holiday is upon us (well, it is!) and it's the busiest weekend of summer, but for those of us who want to do something different in the middle of Festival Weekend, we have a reservation for High Tea at Stillwater B&B on Sunday, August 2 from 2-4 pm. (*See e-mail "High Tea at Stillwater B&B" June 12.*) Sorry, I forgot to inquire about dress code.

Perhaps that will be when we finalize a new name for our group. "Singles" doesn't precisely define us, so I put out a call for a more appropriate moniker (*see my email "4 items", June 15*). We discussed some excellent suggestions at Chemong Lodge but will entertain other bright ideas, so bring them out on August 2 or send them to me before then.

Remind me to wear my name tag because I know you will all be wearing yours. Our newer members want to know us better.

And if you know of someone who would like to join our group, please let me know ... we cannot have too many friends.



## YOU CAN GET PROBUZZ ONLINE



If ever you are away and miss a meeting or even two (heaven forbid), you can easily access current and past issues of ProBuzz online to print out at home, or simply read on screen at your leisure. Go to [www.probusnorthumberland.com/news](http://www.probusnorthumberland.com/news) and follow the prompts from there.

On the menu you will see a listing for news from your club, and in fact all the PROBUS clubs in the area. If you click on the Home tab, you will find access to a lot of material on PROBUS in general, individual clubs in particular, and interesting links to other PROBUS related sites. The archives for our newsletter, The ProBuzz, date back to 2002.

Log on and enjoy.

## HOW THE INTERNET BEGAN



In ancient Israel it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy. As Dot Com was a comely woman, large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg, indeed, she was often called *Amazon Dot Com*. And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?" And Abraham asked, "How, my dear?"

And Dot replied, "Place drums in all the towns, and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by *Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)*." Abraham decided he would let Dot have her way, and the drums rang out across the land and were an immediate success. He sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called *Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Damascan Sybarites*, or *NERDS*. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to one enterprising drum dealer, Baal Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Baal Gates' drumheads and drumsticks. (Eve had an *Apple* but that's another story).

And then Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others and there is much confusion." And Abraham looked out over the *Bay of Ezekiel*, (or *eBay* as it came to be known) and he said, "We need a name that reflects who and what we are." And Dot replied, "*Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators*." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it *YAHOO Dot Com*.

Soon Abraham's cousin Joshua started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. It soon became known as *God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE)*. Soon everyone was using Google. And the rest is history. Honest.

## Study: More senior citizens using pot...



## CONSPIRACY ISSUES

Have you noticed that stairs are getting steeper? Groceries are heavier. And everything is further away! Yesterday I walked to the corner and I was dumbfounded to find how long our street had become. And you know, people are much less considerate now, especially the young ones. They speak in whispers all the time. And if you ask them to speak up they just keep repeating themselves, mouthing the same silent message until they are red in the face! What do they think I am, a lip reader?

I also think they are much younger than I was at the same age. On the other hand, people my age are so much older than I am. I ran into an old friend the other day and she has aged so much she didn't even recognize me. I got to thinking about her while I was combing my hair this morning, and in doing so I glanced at my own reflection. Well REALLY! Even mirrors are not made the way they used to be.

Another thing, everyone drives so fast these days! You're risking life and limb if you happen to pull out onto the street in front of them. All I can say is their brakes must wear out awfully fast, the way I see them screech and swerve in my rear-view mirror.

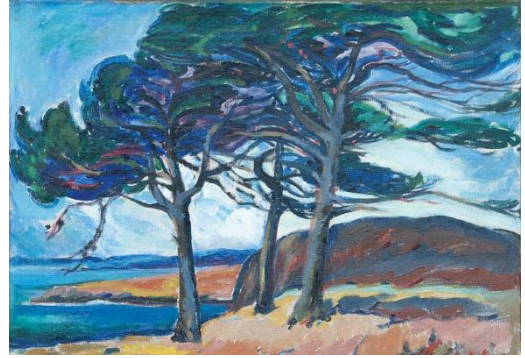
And you know, clothing manufacturers are less civilized these days. Why else would they start labeling a size 10 or 12 as an 18 or 20? Do they really think no one notices?

The people who make bathroom scales are pulling the same prank. Do they think I actually believe the number I see on that dial? Ha! I would never let myself weigh that much! Just who do these people think they're fooling? I'd like to call up someone in authority to report what's going on – but the telephone company is in on the conspiracy too. They've printed the phone books in such small type that no one could EVER find a number there!

All I can do is pass on this warning: **WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!** Unless something drastic happens, soon everyone will suffer these awful indignities. This conspiracy must be stopped!

I'm writing this last part in larger text because all of a sudden something funny happened to all my computer fonts --- they are suddenly much smaller than they once were!

## EMILY CARR WORLD EXHIBITION



This article is being written in some haste because of the ProBuzz deadline as forty- three Probian and friends return home from their trip to the Art Gallery of Ontario on June 30<sup>th</sup>. And what a trip it was! The rain abated as our Coach Line approached Toronto. The travel time was less than ninety minutes both ways largely due to the HOV lanes that had been set-up for the Pan Am Games.

Upon arrival at the Group entrance of the AGO, our very kind and thoughtful organizer, Marlynne Warling, split the various Probus members into three groups to accommodate the three Education Officers who had been hired to give us a guided tour of this highly-lauded art exhibition. We had talked a fair bit at our Probus meetings about Emily Carr and her works, but you know, I can't believe how informative this visit was and how much more there was to learn about this Canadian Icon.

Accompanying us on this trip was a handsome eight year old named Logan, the Porter grandchild. Do you know that he was able to point out a 3-D facet of a Carr painting and discuss his observation with the Tour Guide. Grandma was very proud and we were very pleased that he was able to participate in his first visit to an Art Gallery.

After departing the AGO the bus did a brief spin around the southern portion of Toronto and we then arrived at our dinner destination the Hot House Cafe at Church and Front Street. What an enjoyable time we had there. You couldn't ask for a better ambiance, good food and excellent service. We returned to Cobourg after eight o'clock tired, but happy that we had spent the day making new friends, talking art and sharing a laugh with fellow Probians.

Marlynne, your caring and compassionate nature benefited us so much today and I truly believe God has a special place in heaven for you.

~ Roslynne Cooke, Social Convenor

## SOCIAL CALENDAR

~ Roslynn Cooke

**Kingston Outlet Stores: Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>.** We depart Northumberland Mall near Staples at 9:15 am and head to the King's Crossing Outlet Centre in Kingston. It contains 22 name-brand stores as well as a coffee shop and washrooms. We have booked lunch at Swiss Chalet. However, other options you might prefer are Boston Pizza, Denny's or several other well known franchises which are in walking distance of the shops. Or you can eat your brown bag lunch on the bus parked nearby.

After lunch we head for Marshland, another outlet store and then on to the Crawford Dock at the bottom of Brock Street. This is the historic section of town as well as the waterfront. You can take a gander around the farmer's market or have an ice cream or coffee in one of the local cafes. Cost of transportation is \$35 per person payable by cheque to Probus Northumberland.

**World Heritage Sunset Ceremonies: Fort Henry Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.** Every Wednesday the famous award-winning World Heritage Sunset Ceremonies feature the Fort Henry Guards' Drum, Drill Squad and Artillery Detachment presenting an interpretive story of the 1860's military music, precision drill and big-bang manoeuvres including a mock battle with state-of-the art projection elements. On Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Marine Corp will be visiting and beginning at 7 pm not only will the Fort Henry Guards be performing, but they will be joined by the U.S. Marines as well. The trip will include supper at the Fort and a tour for those who wish it. It would be a great opportunity to bring your family with you. The \$90 cost includes bus, supper, tour, and ceremony. Cheques are payable to Probus Northshore.

### Dates to Remember:

**Sound of Music** (Stratford Festival) – July 22<sup>nd</sup> Departure time is 8:30 am at Staples in the Northumberland Mall.

**Probus Northumberland BBQ**  
(Roseneath) – August 13th from 2 pm to 6 pm

**Sweet Charity** (Shaw Festival) – August 27<sup>th</sup>. Departure time is 8:30 am at Staples in the Northumberland Mall.

**Agawa Canyon/Mackinac Island** – September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup>. *All inquiries and payments should be directed to Lakeshore Tours and Travel in Bowmanville.*

**Ideas for Trips and Events:** *Please let me know if you have any ideas for trips or events. My e-mail address is [roslynn211@gmail.com](mailto:roslynn211@gmail.com). I would be very interested in hearing from you. More activities and fun events will be announced in July.*

## SPEAKERS' CORNER

~ Harry Nash

**July 9th: Rory Quigley**  
Town of Cobourg Arborist

**July 23rd: Krista Skutovitch,**  
Northumberland Health Centre

**August 13th: Annual BBQ**

**August 27th: TBA**

**Sept 10th: TBA**

**Sept 24th: John Geale,**  
Northumberland Land Trust

## LUNCH BUNCH

~ Marion Boys

**July 23rd**  
The Oasis (on-the-patio)  
31 King Street East

**August 13**  
Annual BBQ in Roseneath

## SINGLES CLUB

~ Louise Baraclough

**July 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Tomasso's in Trenton

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Stillwater's B&B  
Peterborough

## NEED A RIDE?



If you need a ride to a meeting or event, please call Brian or Doreen Scott at (905) 377-0103 and they will arrange to have you picked up and returned home.

## Notes

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### Random musings from Billy Buzzbee



"The biggest lie I tell myself is that I don't need to write it down, I'll remember it"

"Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes and come out wrinkle free and two sizes smaller?"

"I don't trip over things, I do random gravity checks"

"I don't have gray hair, I have wisdom highlights. I am very, very wise."

"If God had wanted me to touch my toes He would have put them on my knees."

"The kids text me 'PLZ' which is shorter than please. I text back 'NO' which is shorter than yes."

"I'm going to retire and live off my savings. Don't know what I'll do the second week"

"Why do I have to press one for English when they're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?"

"At my age 'getting lucky' means walking into a room and remembering what I came for"

"Of course I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice."

"About six months ago I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet."

"Even duct tape can't fix stupidity. But it can muffle the sound."

"I don't need anger management. I need people to stop pressing my nerve!!"

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I can. And friends to post bail when I finally snap!"

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE  
AUGUST ISSUE IS JULY 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:  
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**Note: Past issues of Pro-Buzz are available at  
[www.probusnorthumberland.com](http://www.probusnorthumberland.com)**