



Probus Patter

Port Hope and District Probus Club, since 1998

Regular Meetings

Current Officers

President	Keith Pickett
Past President	Marguerite Doritty
Secretary	Catharine Ramsey
Treasurer	Alan Butler
Membership	Fran Campbell
Program	Jeanne Keiser Lois Hueston
Special Events	Joan McIntosh Shirley Kane
Newsletter Chair	Murray Munro
Audio Visual	John Buchan

Speaker

Feb 6/18.	Taylor Collicot from Home Share
Feb 20/18.	Dennis Snider retired from the Foreign Service

Greeters

Feb. 6	Dorothy & Owen Lent
Feb. 20	Pauline Carrick and Ken Swan

President's Musings



I was disappointed at the reaction from members at our January 2nd meeting, when I asked for a volunteer to take the lead in developing ideas for a celebration of our 20 year anniversary. Not so much because I didn't get any volunteers but rather at the

complete lack of interest on the faces looking back at me. Maybe you don't think we need to celebrate this anniversary?

The tradition of only having one general meeting in July, August and December was established a number of years ago and approved by the membership. However in recent years the picnic in June has taken the place of one general meeting and the Christmas party has displaced the last remaining general meeting in December. These latest changes have never been agreed by the membership and at one of our general meetings in the near future I will put this question to a vote: "Do you agree with dropping one general meeting in June and having no general meeting in December?"

Your management committee are thinking about organising a guest meeting with the expectation of bringing a number of guests to one of our regular meetings perhaps in April. The object, of course, to encourage others to join our club. You may want to start thinking about who you might invite!

Taj Mahal



On the evening of January 1st I was surprised to receive a call to replace the speaker scheduled for the next day. Ken Proos, the scheduled speaker was unable to attend.

I decided to share my experience of visiting the Taj Mahal in India. While my wife and I lived in Kuala Lumpur. We had Canadian friends come to visit. They wanted to experience as much of Asia as possible during their stay. We travelled together to Cambodia, then made a quick trip to India to see the Taj Mahal. We flew to New Delhi on Thursday evening. The next morning we travelled by train to Agra and spent a day there. On Saturday afternoon we travelled by car back to New Delhi. That evening we flew back to

Kuala Lumpur arriving at 6 am Sunday morning. A real flying visit!

Upon arrival late Thursday evening we took a taxi to our hotel, after checking in, I went to buy mix so we could have a drink and the other fellow went to find an ATM. My wife and the other lady enjoyed seats on the hotels front steps and watched the streetscape. The hotel waiter appeared carrying a tray with two large cool glasses of water. Rule #1, don't drink water that is not from a sealed bottle. Our friend wouldn't touch the water, my wife was thirsty and drank both glasses. We were all very lucky, despite all the worrisome stories about having stomach troubles in India, all four of us were just fine!

The Taj was a most impressive structure. While we have all seen pictures of it, not until I stood beside it did I appreciate the magnitude of it.

It was built as a loving tribute to Mumtaz Maha who died in 1631 after giving birth to her 14th child. It was completed in the mid 1600's. Over 20,000 workers and 1000 elephants worked to complete the task. While it is a world renown tourist attraction, it is also a mosque and important to the Muslims of India.

I enjoyed the opportunity, and feel privileged to have seen the amazing Taj Mahal.

Port Hope Police Services



We had a visit of Port Hope chief Bryant Wood and Staff Sergeant Andrews talking about police services in Port Hope. I had no idea that communications is outsourced, with significant cost savings. Those savings allowed for the construction of the new modern station on Fox Road.

Port Hope has had a police force for 184 years and now has 24 officers with three to four on duty at any one time.

The number one issue for police today is mental health. The first responders to mental health issues are generally the police.

Changes to the law regarding cannabis will provide many challenges to Police Services in 2018. The Chief expressed

concern about the lack of a test to determine cannabis intoxication like a roadside test used for alcohol.

A lively discussion ensued with many questions from Probus members

PLEASE WELCOME NEW PROBUS MEMBERS



Peter and Annabelle Thorpe



Don't forget the Valentine's Day luncheon at the Legion after the Probus meeting on February 6th.

Alan Butler Profile



Alan emigrated from the UK in 1969 and lived in Toronto for 35 years before moving to Port Hope in 2003.

He worked in financial institutions for 45 years, latterly as a mortgage specialist with Bank of Montreal before retiring in 1999, and now finds retirement is much busier than his career!

Most of Alan's retirement activities revolve around the arts. He plays clarinet with the Northumberland New Ventures Band and with NorthWinds, a sextet which performs at retirement and nursing homes as well as other senior facilities such as the Victoria Order of Nurses. He is an ardent fan of music, except perhaps modern jazz and rap, and regularly attends opera performances streamed from the Metropolitan Opera and shown at the Capitol.

Otherwise, Alan drives for Community Care, belongs to a book club, is an enthusiastic gardener and genealogist. Alan lives with his partner, Sue Speirs whose son and family live in Ottawa, and Alan's daughter, Tracey, lives in Norwich, UK.

Good Things That Happened In Health Last Year

This year, the World Health Organisation unveiled a new vaccine that's cheap and effective enough to end cholera, one of humanity's greatest ever killers.

Zika all but disappeared in 2017. Cases plummeted in Latin America and the Caribbean, and most people in those places are now immune.

A new report showed that the world's assault on tropical diseases is working. A massive, five year international effort has saved millions of lives, and countries are now signing up for more.

Soft drink sales in the United States dropped for the 12th year in a row, thanks to consumer education and new sugar taxes aimed at stemming obesity and diabetes.

Trachoma, the world's leading infectious cause of blindness, was eliminated as a public health problem in Oman and Morocco, and Mexico became the first country in the Americas to eliminate it.

Premature deaths for the world's four biggest noncommunicable diseases—cardiovascular, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory—have declined by 16% since 2000.

In July, UNAIDS, revealed that for the first time in history, half of all people on the planet with HIV are now getting treatment, and that AIDS deaths have dropped by half since 2005.

There were only 26 cases of Guinea worm in 2017, down from 3.5 million cases in 21 countries in Africa and Asia in 1986.

The United Kingdom announced a 20% fall in the incidence of dementia over the past two decades, meaning 40,000 fewer people are being affected every year.

Thanks to better access to clean water and sanitation, the number of children around the world who are dying from diarrhoea has fallen by a third since 2005.

Leprosy is now easily treatable. The number of worldwide cases has dropped by 97% since 1985, and a new plan has set 2020 as the target for the end of the disease.

In October, new research from the Center for Disease Control revealed that between 2000 and 2016, the measles vaccine saved 20.4 million lives.

And on the 17th November, the WHO said that global deaths from tuberculosis have fallen by 37% since 2000, saving an estimated 53 million lives. These astonishing achievements were of course, reported by every media outlet on the planet.