

P.O. Box 1941, Brockville, ON K6V 6N4

Founded on October 21, 1992 as Probus Club No. 27

Newsletter

April 2009

Vol. 17 - No. 4

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This newsletter can be found each month
online at: <http://www.probus.org/8brocknw.pdf>

Next Regular Meeting
Monday, April 20th
 Brockville Country Club,
 Downstairs in the Members Lounge.
 10 am

Guest Speakers:
Catherine Cottrell
& Brad Moore
 Atomic Energy Canada Ltd.

Last Meeting Report - Raul Cirne

March 16, 2009

Our last meeting was held downstairs at the Brockville Golf and Country Club with 62 members in attendance. In the group were three guests. **George A. Smith** came with **Roy Millier**, and **Mac Bulen & Mike Keeper**, who came to hear **Laurie Illingworth**, our guest speaker.

President Earl Nielsen extended a warm welcome to **James Peter Jones**, who was making his first visit after serious health problems.

Evert Van Bolhuis presented his financial report. The bank balance stands at \$5,205 with \$2,741 in the Special Events account leaving an operating balance of \$2,464.

\$110.74 was collected from 52 attending last month, creating a surplus of \$6.74. Also collected were 4 foreign coins, which, in total, were worth 5 cents.

Bob Clarke strongly promoted the annual inter-club **Probus Spring Luncheon** on **Tues., May 26th**, at a cost of \$28 per person. Reservations and cheques for that amount are now being collected. Let Bob know if you are planning to go.

There was no fellowship report, as **Bob Burns** was away in Florida.

Roy Millier, on behalf of 2nd VP **George Smith**, reminded those going on the "Parliament" trip that \$15 was now due, to pay for the school bus cost, and that lunch reservations have been made at Nate's Deli.

The **Orillia** trip in June is almost sold out, with only 6 seats left, as is the **Stratford** trip in September, which has 10 seats available.

John Green came forward, and humourously gave his version of what really happened at the **Battle of the Plains of Abraham**.

Doug Grant mentioned that a membership list brochure was included with the Newsletter, and additional copies were available at the "reception" desk. He apologized for incorrectly listing the phone number for **Dave Mitchell**. His correct number is 613-498-4030.

After the break, **Doug Burns** introduced our guest speaker, **Laurie Illingworth**. Laurie joined the Royal Canadian Air Force as a young man, graduating as a Pilot Officer in 1964. Later, he flew with the Canadian Snowbirds from 1971 to 1973.

He reminded us that 2010 is the 100th anniversary of the first manned-flight in the Commonwealth, and that it was almost totally due to the interest and financial backing of **Alexander Graham Bell**.

The RCAF was formed in 1924, and was the 4th largest allied air-force during WWII, training 131,000 air-crew during that time period.

The *Meteor* was the first jet used in an air show, in 1945 at Rockcliffe, but it wasn't until 1959 that Canada's *Golden Hawks* were formed. Their acrobatic shows lasted until 1964, when they were disbanded due to financial restraints.

A new team of 9 planes was formed in 1967, to help celebrate Canada's centennial, and they performed over 100 shows that year, all across Canada.

In 1971, yet another new 7-plane team was created, called the *Snowbirds*, initially only performing in Western Canada, but in 1972 the group was increased to 9 planes and their shows were extended to cover Canada and the USA.

The members of the team wear bright red flight suits and even have red mess or evening jackets to help create and enforce their image.



JOHN GREEN
 RE-ENACTING GEN. MONTCALM

They still fly the Tutor jet, many of which are older than the pilots, having been built in the early 1960s. These are maintained by Air Force personnel who travel to each show, complete with a few spare parts in the co-pilots seat. This differs from the American acrobatic teams, which travel to each engagement in a jumbo plane. The Americans also have all kinds of support and spares, for aircraft that are much newer than the Tutors.

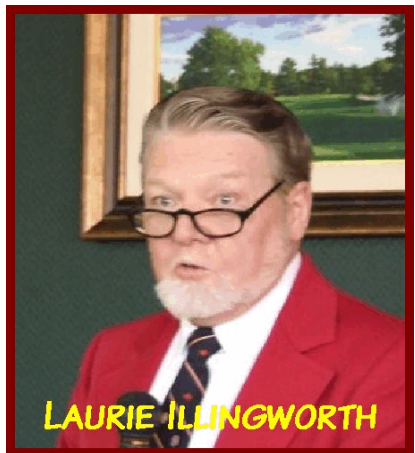


Photo by Geoff Chittenden

The Snowbirds' season runs from May to October, during which time, they put on about seventy 30-minute shows. Based in Moose Jaw, Sask., they undergo continuous and extensive training, for both current members of the team and those who will replace them, after their posting is over.

The content of their program is vetted and subject to approval by military brass, the FAA and the Canadian Air Safety Board. Yet, despite all the training and safety procedures, it is regrettable that seven pilots have been killed over the years.

Laurie showed a film of the Snowbirds in training and in action, which clearly showed just how much precision is required to put on each show, with planes passing within a few feet of each other at speeds approaching 500 mph.

After the film, he answered numerous questions from our members, which elicited several interesting facts. This included the following: The smoke trail we see is created by injecting diesel oil into the exhaust of the jet engine, where the high temperature emissions cause the oil to vaporize. The costs associated with each air-show are shared, the Canadian government provides the planes, fuel, pilots and crew, and the show sponsor provides accommodation, food, advertising and all safety needs.

There is a size limitation on being a pilot, which is based mainly on the size of the ejection seat and the available space within the cockpit. Big, tall applicants can be turned down.

Rod McLennan, himself an ex-pilot, thanked Laurie and presented him with a Probus pen and a certificate of appreciation.

Upcoming Probus Events

Our day trip to the **House of Commons** in Ottawa is set for Tuesday, **April 28**.

We are taking a yellow bus for this trip, and the cost per person has been set at \$15.

The bus will depart From the Food Basics parking lot at 9.30 am. The morning will include lunch at Nate's Deli on Rideau St. in Ottawa, at your expense, prior to arriving at the Parliament buildings. There will be the usual security check at the front entrance, and then we will be welcomed by MP Gord Brown, and

proceed to the public gallery for "Question Period" in the Commons chamber.

Coming home, the bus will arrive back in Brockville about 4:30 pm.

We have 22 people signed up who have given a deposit of \$15. There is room for about 26 more, if you are interested. Any questions, call George Smith at 613-342-3677.

EASTERN ONTARIO PROBUS INTER-CLUB

SPRING FLING SOCIAL LUNCHEON

Tuesday, May 26th

at the **Hellenic Centre**,
1315 Prince of Wales Dr., Ottawa
\$28 each

We are now looking for your commitment to attend this yearly event. It is being hosted and organized by our Probus colleagues at the PROBUS CLUB OF OTTAWA ALTA VISTA.

Bob Clarke is collecting names and checks for \$28.

1. **ORILLIA** Wed. June 17th & Thurs. June 18th

SOLD OUT

2. **STRATFORD** Wed. Sept. 9th to Fri. Sept. 11th

Only 4 places available.



Executive Team Members

President:	Earl Nielsen 613-345-3079
1 st Vice-president:	Bob King 613-345-5493
2 nd Vice-president:	George Smith 613-342-3677
Secretary:	Raul Cirne 613-342-3181
Treasurer:	Evert Van Bolhuis 613-342-2687
Past-president:	Bob Hemmings 613-342-3193
Program:	Roy Millier 613-345-5052, Doug Burns , John Green , and Norm Kearney
Membership:	Bob Clarke 613-925-1369
Fellowship:	Bob Burns 613-342-7856
Newsletter:	Doug Grant 613-345-0891
	Geoff Chittenden 613-342-9393
Archivist:	Doug Cook 613-342-9777



The next **Management Team Meeting** will be held at the **First Baptist Church** on **Wednesday, April 1, at 9:00 am.**