

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

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

# Newsletter

August 2009

Vol. 17 - No. 8

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This newsletter can be found each month online at:

<http://www.probus.org/9brocknw.pdf>

## *Boat Cruise & Luncheon*

**Mon. August 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Rockport Docks - 10:30 am**

Our August meeting will be replaced with a one-hour Boat Cruise from **Rockport**, departing by 11 am, followed by a buffet luncheon at the **Ship's Galley Restaurant** in **Rockport**.

Be sure to **bring your tickets** for presentation at the dock. Your Probus tickets must be exchanged for Rockport Boat Lines **boarding tags**, which you wear to embark on the ship. These tags will also be necessary for the 12:00 noon buffet.

## *Last Meeting Report* - Raul Cirne

June 15, 2009

Our last meeting was held at the Brockville Country Club with 59 members and 2 guests attending.

President Earl Nielsen asked for a moment's silence, in memory of our three members who had recently died, **Bob Burns**, **Tom Montgomery** and **Jack Shanks**.

Our meeting guests were **Bob Brown** (with Doug Troop) and **Dr. Pieter Trip** (introduced by Bob Clarke). Peter has since become our latest new member.

**Evert Van Bolhuis**, in his treasurer's report, gave the bank balance at \$7,513, with \$5,779 in the Special Events account, leaving an operating balance of \$1,734. \$102.35 was collected from 53 in attendance at the June meeting, a shortage of \$3.65. Evert expressed amazement that we never seem to get an even dollar amount – as should be expected at \$2 per head.

Our membership is now down to 107. **Bob Clarke** reminded everyone that 2009-10 dues of \$25 can now be paid. (Please fill out completely, the renewal application, found with this newsletter.)

President Earl announced that **Bob Hersey** has agreed to complete Bob Burns term on the Management team.

Roy Millier said there were still 6 seats available on the Stratford trip in September. Roy pointed out that Aug 6th is the deadline for him to confirm the number of tickets and hotel rooms and so final payments were due.

Bob Hemmings had tickets for the August boat cruise and buffet lunch at the Dockside Restaurant at a cost of \$22.50 per person. He also told us about a 4-hour cruise and luncheon, in September, being sponsored by the residents of the Executive Condominium.

As our "Who Am I" speaker, **John Klassen**, a new member, gave a summary of his employment history as a chemical engineer with DuPont. Part of the time was spent working out of Kingston and part at the Maitland works, in both locations he was involved in the design of new processes and plants, including the one in Sarnia and expansions at the Maitland site. After retirement, at the tender age of 61, he spent 5 years lecturing to chemical engineering students, at Queens University.

**Earl Nielsen** summarized the contents of material, received from Probus Canada, which is intended as a guide in the operation of Probus clubs, and then read a short extract from the history of Probus.

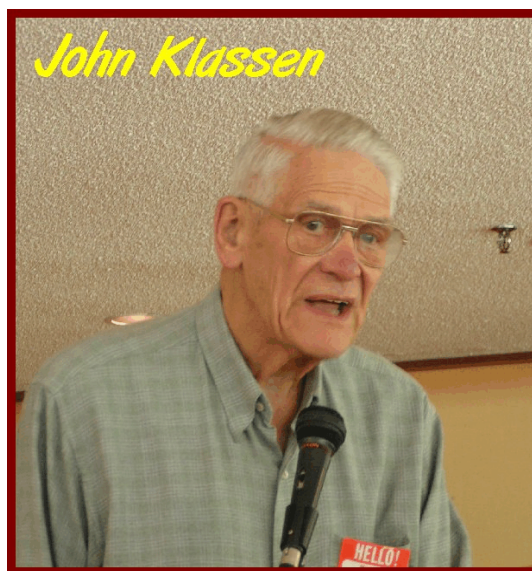
**Ross Butler** introduced **David Cybulski**, the volunteer chair of the Steering Committee for the MARITIME DISCOVERY CENTRE OF THE THOUSAND ISLANDS, which is to be built on the site, formally occupied by the ST. LAWRENCE ENGINE COMPANY.

He referred to two recent studies – the 2004 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION STUDY and the 2006 ANCHOR ATTRACTION REPORT, which both highlighted the need for approximately 2000 more permanent residents in the downtown core area.

These are expected from the completion of the four residential projects presently planned for the downtown.

He then enumerated the many and well-known attractions and features, that already exist within the City and the surrounding area. He also stressed our ideal location viz a viz bridges to the U.S. and the excellent and easy access for visitors and tourists who want visit this planned attraction.

He outlined, in glowing and optimistic terms, how the MDC will incorporate the best features and exhibits, such as can be found in similar venues in Lake Placid and Burlington, Vermont, and emphasized that the planned annual attendance of 46,000, is significantly lower than the number of visitors to the two other venues.



Some of the planned exhibits are: a dive tank, which will enable visitors to see how scuba divers function underwater; hopefully an otter tank; a domed aquarium, which will allow people to walk 'through' it by means of a tunnel; and a simulated 'ships-bridge' from which visitors will be able to talk to the captains of ocean-going vessels as they proceed along the seaway. Ongoing dialogue with Queens University indicates the possibility of their operating an on-site experimental laboratory.

He stressed that most of the exhibits will be inter-active and/or touch-sensitive, providing meaningful experiences. The MDC will also include a 250-person banquet facility, and an area which will permit on-site certification for scuba divers.

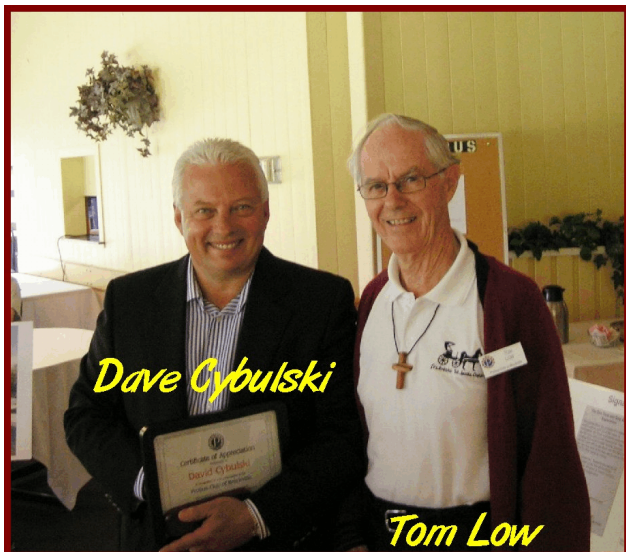
David normally gives his presentation with the aid of a slide-show, but instead, he passed round numerous drawings and sketches, which showed the floor-layouts for this 26,000 sq. ft. facility.

It is hoped that environmental clean-up, of this brownfield site, at an anticipated cost of \$1.5 million, will commence this fall with construction of the MDC to start in the summer of 2010. However, there is one major hurdle to be overcome and that is that the adjacent condominium development, the TALL SHIPS LANDING, needs to sell 60% of the units first. In the present economic climate, that could be a problem.

Funding, for this \$18 million facility, has already received approx. \$6 million from both the Federal and Provincial governments, with a deadline for completion of the project of 2016.

Dave answered numerous questions from the floor concerning various aspects and the viability of the project and readily acknowledged that there will be a parking problem. A sub-committee of the Steering Committee, is actively working on this and he said that it's quite possible that one or two parking garages will need to be built, although he didn't specify at whose expense. In answer to a question, about the size of the annual financial shortfall, he only referred to the \$150,000 annual subsidy by the City of Brockville, but omitted to mention the City's additional in-kind contribution (for insurance and water) or the need for approx. \$300,000 to be raised, each year, from a public-appeal. He pointed out that the City's contribution is nominal when compared to the \$600,000 subsidy to the Brockville public library.

**Tom Low** thanked him for his address and presented him with a Probus pen, in a nice presentation case, and a Certificate of Appreciation.



## Upcoming Probus Events

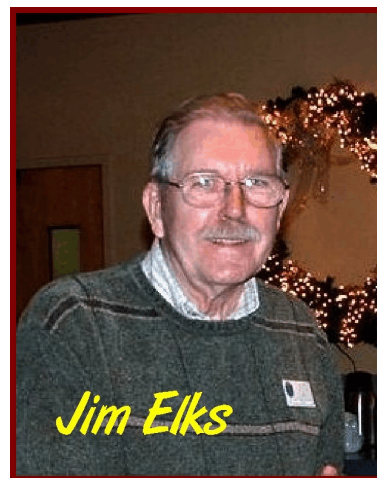
### STRATFORD

Wed. Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> to Fri. Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

Tickets and itineraries are now available. Since there is no meeting this month, Roy will call all participants and make arrangements for picking them up at his home - 141 James St. E. Please call first: 613-345-5052.

### Membership -Bob Clarke

Most of us were shocked to hear of the short serious illness and death of **Jim Elks** from cancer on July 24th. He will be missed by his many friends and associates. He was of assistance to many people in the community since he retired and moved here with his wife Isabel about 15 years ago. His funeral was attended by many people that knew him, including Probus members.



### Executive Team Members

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

The next **Management Team Meeting** will be held at the **First Baptist Church** on **Wednesday, September 2, at 9:00 am.**

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

You will find a membership renewal form with this newsletter. The best time to fill this out is now, if it is convenient.

### NEW EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Bob Hemmings has been busy assembling a proposed slate of executive members for the new membership year. Please review this before our annual meeting in September.