

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

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

Newsletter

February 2009

Vol. 17 - No. 2

Editor - **Doug Grant** - 613 • 345 • 0891

dmgrant@storm.ca

Photography - **Geoff Chittenden**

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

Next Regular Meeting
Monday, February 16th
 Brockville Country Club,
Downstairs in the Members Lounge.
 10 am

Guest Speaker:
Bob Pearson
Routes To Learning Canada
 An organization dedicated to providing adults with
 combined learning and travel trips.

"TRANS-CANADA BY RAIL"

Last Meeting Report - Raul Cirne

January 19, 2009

Our last meeting was held at the Brockville Golf and Country Club with 62 members in attendance. In the group were three guests, **Laurie Illingworth** (with **Earl Nielsen**), **Walter Meatcher** (with **Bob Clarke**), and **Ann Lushby** and **Bonnie Irwin** were sitting with **Dave and Lynda Cavanagh**, our guest speakers for the meeting.

Treasurer **Evert Van Bolhuis** gave his report. The bank balance stands at \$3,192, with \$298 in the Special Events account, leaving an operating balance of \$2,892. The very successful Christmas luncheon was subsidized \$190 by the club. **Ron Brannen** kindly donated a large magnet to sort out any iron-based coins from the collection baskets. This will probably not work because Canada has been altering its coinage of late. But the idea works with gold and silver, which are acceptable to Evert. We earned 32 cents in interest on our Bank Account this year, which is double that earned last year.

Bob Burns sent out the following cards: a *Thinking of You* to **Clarence Marshall**, **Ron Browne** and **George Smith**, and *Condolences* to the families of **John MacKenzie** and **Harry Miller**.

Roy Millier is now accepting booking deposits for the trips to Orillia and Stratford. **George Smith** laid out plans for the upcoming trip to the House of Commons in Ottawa on April 28th. He advised that MPP **Gord Brown**, our host, believes that the security checks will take too long, and there won't be time to eat in the Parliamentary Cafeteria. Other earlier lunch plans will be made. He asked for a show of hands from those interested in

going, and said that he had extended an invitation to our sister club to join us.

Roy reported that February's speaker will be **Bob Pearson** from "ROUTES TO LEARNING", a company that arranges educational trips for adults. He will be talking about their cross-Canada train trip.

Peter Sampson gave an interesting third-person talk about his personal alter ego and his lifetime experiences in the education field. Since retirement, he has often been involved with several local health-related organizations.

Doug Grant apologized to members who might have experienced trouble opening their recent e-mailed newsletter. He had "double-compressed" it to reduce download time, and a few members had difficulty getting it to open on their computers. Others had no trouble. He also remarked on the slow delivery of the paper copies sent via Canada Post, some of which took 5 days to be delivered.

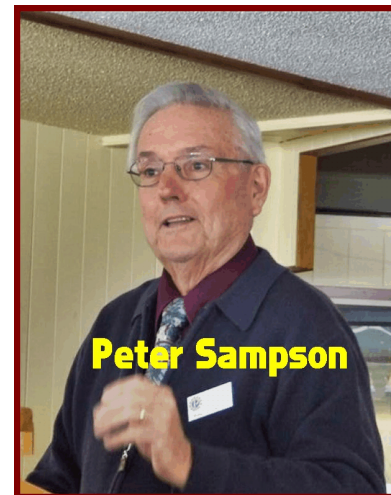


Photo by Geoff Chittenden

After the break, **Bob Clarke** introduced the husband and wife team of **Dave and Lynda Cavanagh** who jointly gave an audio-visual presentation on their recent 35-day trip across Eurasia.

Due to the many different requirements and restrictions imposed by the various countries, all arrangements, including: visas, tickets, transportation, accommodation and guides, were handled by an London, U.K.- based adventure-travel company, that specializes in these trips.

Their travel companions included several others from the Brockville area, two of whom were at our meeting to give moral support and to relive their adventures.



Lynda Cavanagh, Doug Cook & Dave Cavanagh
Photo by Geoff Chittenden

The Trans-Siberian railway extends from Moscow to Vladivostock, with an extension terminating at Beijing, and in total, it crosses five time zones. They travelled second class, and each coach had it's own designated attendant and hot water system although there was a common dining coach. Accommodations varied, from hotels of different size and quality, to tents in the Mongolian desert, which is a very sparsely populated area of 3 million inhabitants.

When the train reached Vladivostock, the running gear was removed from each carriage and replaced with units having axles to suit the different gauge on the railway line leading to Beijing.

Language was not a problem, thanks to the guides chosen for them, and ATMs were readily available throughout their 9,000 km trip.

Doug Cook extended our thanks and presented them with a Probus pen and our certificate of appreciation.

Upcoming Probus Events

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

The day will include lunch, 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 MPP Gord Brown, and proceed to the public gallery for "Question Period" in the Commons chamber.

If we rent a bus, that expense will be shared by those going. Sign up soon with **George Smith.**

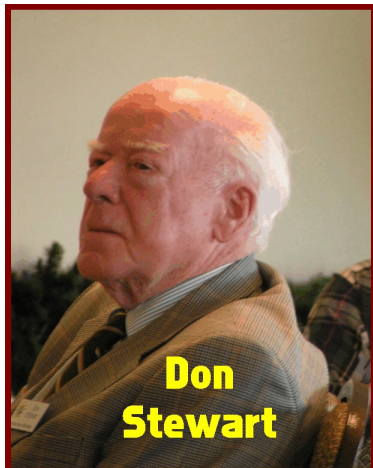


Photo by Doug Grant

Two out-of-town Excursions have been organized and registrations and deposits are now coming in:

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

Evening performance at the **Orillia Opera House** of "**Knickers**". Dinner at the **Ossawippi Express**. Staying one night at the Stonegate Inn. Thurs. Morning exploring Orillia, lunch at the King's Buffet, 2-hour afternoon cruise on Lake Couchiching on board the "**Princess**".

Cost: **\$189** per person, double, \$239 single, \$175 triple, includes all taxes and gratuities. *Thirty-six people have deposited their \$50 registration fees.*

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

Two-night stay at the Shakespeare Inn. Theatre performances of "**West Side Story**" and "**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**". Dinner in Stratford and Lunch at the Mandarin restaurant on the way home.

Cost: **\$398** per person, double, includes all taxes and gratuities. *Twenty-four deposits of \$75 have been received.*

Members may invite non-members on these trips. An application form for the last two trips is enclosed with this newsletter. Fill it out and present it with your deposit to **Roy Millier** at the next meeting.



Earl Nielsen, Norm Kearney, and Raul Cirne

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
	Doug Cook 613-342-9777
Archivist:	



The next **Management Team Meeting** will be held at the **First Baptist Church** on **Wednesday, March 4**, at 9:00 am.