



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

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NEWSLETTER

JULY 2009

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This newsletter can be found each month
online at: <http://www.probus.org/9brocknw.pdf>

Next Regular Meeting
Monday, July 20th
Brockville Country Club,
10 am

Guest Speaker:
DAVE CYBULSKI
Chairman of the Advisory Committee for
the **Maritime Discovery Centre**

LAST MEETING REPORT

- Raul Cirne

June 15, 2009

Our last meeting was held at the Brockville Country Club with 51 members attending.

Evert Van Bolhuis gave his regular financial report. The bank balance stood at \$13,051 with \$11,081 in the Special Events account leaving an operating balance of \$1,970. \$119.84 was collected from 58 in attendance at the May meeting, a surplus of \$3.94, which almost offset the shortage at the April meeting.

Evert also explained that he received two donated wooden nickels at the May meeting, and asked that, in future, the donor just put in good Canadian coin.

Pres. **Earl Nielsen** announced that 3 membership applications were approved at the last Management meeting. **John Klassen**, the only one of the three in attendance, was given a warm welcome by the membership.

Bob Burns announced he had sent a "thinking of you" card to **John McLellan**, who is undergoing cancer treatment in Kingston.

Roy Millier asked for confirmation that those going to Orillia had received their itinerary package. There were still 4 seats available on the Stratford trip in September.

The August meeting will be replaced with a one-hour boat cruise on the Rockport Boat Lines, followed by a buffet lunch at the Dockside Restaurant. Cost is \$22.50 per person and tickets will be available at the July meeting.

Our "Who am I" speaker was retired major **Bob Burns**. He told us a few stories from his years of service in the Black Watch regiment, part of the Canadian military.

Our guest, **Sandra Lawn**, the board chair of the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, introduced **Ian Farthing**, the artistic director, who spoke eloquently about this season's productions, **The Taming of the Shrew** and **Measure For Measure**, being performed this season at the waterfront theatre in Prescott.

Doug Grant introduced our guest speaker **Amy Whitehorne**, the educator of the Brockville Museum. She had displayed a keen interest in history as a youngster before she was in his Grade 9 drafting class at South Grenville DHS. Later she went on to graduate from Queen's University in 2005.

She gave a lively and entertaining summary of the events and circumstances that lead to the official incorporation of the police village of Brockville in 1832.

In the earliest days, the inhabitants and visitors of this area were the First Nations People, and there is evidence of large villages in Roebuck (St. Lawrence Iroquois) and at Maynard. Arrowheads, made from a type of stone only found in the London area, have been found locally, proving that the First Nations people had complex trade networks, long before European contact.

Early European visitors to this area were the French fur traders, who used the St. Lawrence River to transport their merchandise in huge canoes, capable of holding 12 men and over 1000 lbs. of goods. They used to make overnight stops at a point of land, the location of today's Hardy Park, called "Oak Point". Oak Point was an ideal rest stop, as it was located halfway between the Galops rapids to the east and the Thousand Islands to the west.

Captain Justus Sherwood, when performing a survey of the area in the 1780s, reported that Brockville and the surrounding area, was "*a constant succession of stony ledges and sunken swamps, altogether unfit for cultivation*".

The United Empire Loyalists were the first group of people to settle here in Leeds & Grenville, the earliest ones landing in the summer of 1784. The earliest settlers had already taken most of the good farmland to the east along that



portion of the river, so the newcomers moved westwards to the Thousand Islands.

William Buell settled near Oak Point in 1785. It later was known as "Buell's Bay". Slowly, more settlers moved to the area, drawn by the general store of Charles Jones, located on the King's Highway (King St. W.) near the Perth Road (Perth St.) met. Their numbers grew so that, by the early 1800s, they outnumbered the inhabitants of the village of Johnstown, which was then the official seat of the district.

One official symbol of authority was the Royal Coat of Arms, then displayed in the Johnstown Court House. Although Elizabethtown (Brockville) had successfully petitioned the Crown to move the courts from Johnstown and built a new court house in Elizabethtown, it was claimed that all hearings must be held before the Coat of Arms. One account tells of a group of Brockville men partaking in a brawl in Johnstown, during which the Coat of Arms was snatched and taken back here.

Another story remains how the fledgling town got its present name. One story tells of the political disagreements between the supporters of two prominent men in the community: William Buell and Charles Jones. William Buell owned the central portion of land and Charles Jones owned the eastern part. One unproven story claims that one faction wanted the town named "Williamstown", the other, "Charleston". This led to the sarcastical name of "Snarlingtown" being applied by outsiders.

Charles Jones may have written to Major General Sir Isaac Brock asking if he would lend his name to the town. This was common practice to gain political leverage in the early 1800s. Although Brock never replied to the request, the name of Brockville was already being used unofficially by some locals in the summer of 1812. Gen. Brock was killed in October 1812, and thereafter the name was made official by the government.

Twenty years later the provincial parliament debated the "Brockville Bill", and when it finally passed, the village of Brockville became the first incorporated "Police Village" in Upper Canada.

Amy showed numerous drawings and old photographs in her presentation.

Gerald Hunter thanked Amy for her talk, and presented her with a Probus pen and a Certificate of Appreciation



UPCOMING PROBUS EVENTS

BOAT CRUISE & LUNCHEON

Mon. August 17th - Rockport Docks - 10:30 am

Our August meeting will be replaced with a cruise & Lunch. Details: one-hour Boat Cruise from **Rockport**, departing by 11 am, followed by a buffet luncheon at the **Ship's Galley Restaurant in Rockport**. Cost per person will be **\$22.50**, all incl. Spouses and friends, of course, are welcome to join us. Tickets will be available at the July meetings. Be sure to carry the tickets for presentation at the dock.

STRATFORD

Wed. Sept. 9th to Fri. Sept. 11th

There are **six places** still available for this trip. The total cost per person is \$398. The payment balance of **\$323 per person** is now due no later than **August 3rd**. No refunds after this date, unless seats are resold. Those members who requested assisted-hearing receivers must add **\$2 per person per show** to their balance.

MEMBERSHIP

-Bob Clarke



It is always sad to report the passing away of any of our members. In the last month we heard of the deaths of both **Jack Shanks** and **Bob Burns** (June 26) since our last meeting. Our sympathies go out to their families.

However, we are pleased to announce the joining of three new members, **Hugh Campbell**, **John Klassen**, and **Clare Vaughan**.

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:	Doug Grant 613-345-0891
Newsletter:	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, August 5**, at **9:00 am**.