

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

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

# Newsletter

## October 2009

Vol. 17 - No. 10

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

Next Regular Meeting  
**Monday, October 19th**  
Brockville Country Club,  
10 am

Guest Speaker:  
**BOB SLACK**  
**Canadian Snowbirds Association**

### Annual Meeting Report - Raul Cirne

September 21, 2009

Our annual meeting was held at the Brockville Country Club on September 21, 2009 at 10:00 am.

President **Earl Nielsen** asked for a moment's silence, in memory of **Cliff Wing** and John Green's wife, **Marge Green**.

There were 47 members attending, and no guests.

In **Evert Van Bolhuis'** financial report, he said the bank balance stood at \$7,160, with \$4,961 in the Special Events account leaving an operating balance of \$2,199. \$125.88 was collected from the 61 people in attendance at the July meeting, leaving a surplus of \$3.88 plus a 250 Guilder note, which Evert says has been out of circulation for 10 years.

Evert gave a detailed explanation of the **2009 Financial Report**, and the projected 2009-10 budget, in which he predicted there would be a reduction in our bank balance. Evert thanked **Bob Paul**, who has again verified our financial records.

**Bob Clarke** noted that membership renewals are coming in nicely. He pointed out that there are very few charter members that are still active. Bob named them and asked them to stand and be recognized.

**Bob Hersey** reported that he had sent out three sympathy cards and one get well card, since he took over the fellowship position.

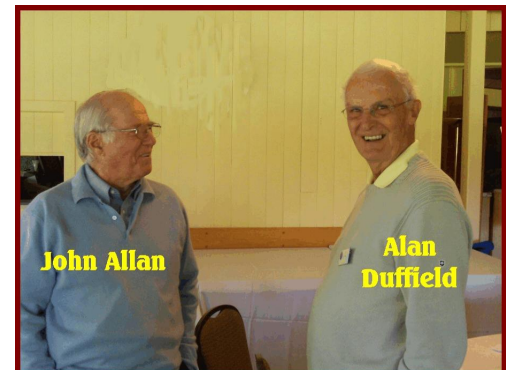
**Tom Low**, our new program convenor, advised that October's speaker will **Robert Slack**, on the CANADIAN SNOWBIRD ASSOCIATION. This should be of particular interest to those who go south for the winter months.

**Doug Grant** advised that mailed copies of our monthly newsletter are printed, folded, stuffed and mailed by the UPS store, in the Ormond St. plaza. Doug has also set up his own

personal web site: [doug-grant.weebly.com](http://doug-grant.weebly.com) which will make copies of our recent Probus newsletters available for the general public.

Due to lack of interest and support, and largely due to the death of **Jim Elks**, the Computer Discussion group has decided to disband.

In the absence of our past-president, **Bob Hemmings**, **Earl Nielsen** read out the proposed slate for next year's Management team. We were pleased to hear that **Bob Hersey** has agreed to continue handling the Fellowship position. The proposed slate of nominees were elected by a show of hands.



**Hugh McKellar** introduced **Dave MacKenzie**, who was actually a member of our club about 15 years ago. Dave is a 7th generation descendant of United Empire Loyalists, who settled in this area around 1784.

He's a former president of the ONTARIO GENEALOGY SOCIETY and is deeply involved in the local LEEDS-GRENVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, whose archives are located at the Brockville Museum.

Dave started by making the surprising statement that genealogy can be quite dull, if this is merely tracing one's ancestors. The real fun is in finding out the details about one's family history: where your ancestors lived, and what they worked at.

In this area of Canada, most people are interested in tracing Loyalist ancestors and Dave gave a fairly detailed chronological summary of the timing of the various waves of immigrants, and what caused them to relocate.

During the American Revolt (1776-1783), large numbers of British Loyalists settled in Quebec, which was the nearest and easiest British territory to access from the northern States, where most immigrants fled from.

In 1784, after the peace settlement, **Gen. Frederick Haldimand**, the Governor of Canada, directed loyalists to settle further west, which resulted in about 10,000 people moving to eastern Ontario, where the first townships were named after King George III's children.

The next major population wave occurred in the 1790s when Governor **John G. Simcoe** offered 200 acres to any other new immigrants from south of the border or other places. This led to a population growth in many unsettled parts of Ontario.

Disbanded British troops came following the various wars; then the Irish potato famine of the 1840s drove further waves of immigrants. Later, with the westward opening of the CPR in 1880, many settlers made the move to western Canada.

Dave estimated that about 8 million people, in the western half of North America, have roots which can be traced back to the Leeds and Grenville area. Many of them visit the Brockville Museum each year, looking for information about their ancestors.

Dave gave us numerous sources of information. Old Census records, which started in 1851 and have been conducted every 10 years since, are available after a set period of time. Other examples are: tax rolls; County maps, showing the names of landowners; land transfer records, and church records of baptisms, marriages and burials.

In 1837, a national registry of births, marriages and deaths was started in England, but not until 1869 in Canada.

Family history books, often devoted to a single family tree or to a geographic area, often contain data that has been verbally passed down.

The Internet has seen a tremendous growth in the interest in, and the ability to trace one's ancestors, and there are numerous web sites, some of which are completely free. These contain programs to help in the building of a family tree and also in the creation of different lines of relationship. On *Google's* search engine, one can translate documents in a foreign language into English.

An enormous quantity of data has been compiled by THE CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, and this can be freely accessed via their website, or at LDS information centres situated throughout



North America and selected countries in Europe. In eastern Ontario, there are LDS centres in Kingston and Ottawa, where staff and volunteers will help you search their archives.

Back copies of THE RECORDER AND TIMES, as well as newspapers for Athens, Gananoque and Prescott, are all on microfilm at the Brockville library and the Genealogical library. Of particular value, when tracing ones family history, are obituaries, because they usually contain much personal data, seldom found elsewhere.

Ralph Jago, who had helped our guest speaker re-settle in this area by helping him find a new home, thanked him for his address and presented him with a Probus pen and a Certificate of Appreciation.

## Upcoming Probus Events

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

*(a joint event with the Probuss Club of Leeds & Grenville)*

**Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

\$ 22 per person

### Membership -Bob Clarke

We have now received 71 membership renewals from our 106 members. Please keep them coming.

## Executive Team Members

President:	Bob King 613-345-5493
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-president:	George Smith 613-342-3677
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-president:	Doug Burns 613-498-3376
Secretary:	Raul Cirne 613-342-3181
Treasurer:	Evert Van Bolhuis 613-342-2687
Past-president:	Earl Nielsen 613-345-3079
Program:	Tom Low 613-498-0229
Membership:	Bob Clarke 613-925-1369
Fellowship:	Bob Hersey 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, November 4, at 9:00 am.

