

ProBUZZ

Don Blain - Editor

24 February Meeting

**COMING
EVENTS
IN 2015**

March 31

[Cardio
Centre](#)

[Dr. John
Schaman](#)

Lunch Bunch

Cora's

April 28

[Architecture –
who cares?”](#)

[Rick
Holdenby](#)

Lunch
Bunch

Kennedy's

The Jazz Room



Dr. Stephen Preece, Associate Professor, holder of four academic degrees including a PhD from Ohio State University has taught Strategic Management and International Strategy at Laurier since 1993. One keen area of interest has always been cultural industries, in particular the management of performing arts organizations.

In 2011, he took advantage of a sabbatical year to spearhead the formation of the Grand River Jazz Society, the group that a few months later opened The Jazz Room. A lot of thought went into the project, but Preece admits, “I would never have guessed that it would be this successful,” he says. The Jazz Room has become the centre of attention for music lovers in Waterloo Region and beyond, and has sparked a lot of interest much farther afield, from groups recognizing the Preece and company have found an answer to many of the life-threatening issues facing arts entities.

Typically, a venue is a for-profit venture, where the owner of a bar or another performance place is responsible for the entire operation: facility management, food and beverage, booking the acts, and so on. In contrast, the Grand River Jazz Society is an incorporated not for profit, dependent on unpaid volunteers, including Preece.

They have found the ideal partner in the Huether Hotel. The hotel does not charge the society for use of the facility, but the hotel handles all the food and beverage business, and keeps the profit from that business. All of this means that the Jazz Society can operate a year-round jazz club on a relatively miniscule budget – the annual figure is \$140,000. Almost all of that goes to pay musicians and technical support.

The Jazz Room supplies employment opportunities for a lot of jazz musicians. The Jazz Room operates 10 months a year (not in the summer), open every Friday and Saturday evening, with very rare exceptions. Fridays, the players are likely to be local jazz musicians; on Saturdays, there are often national and international stars on the stage. Young local jazz musicians have an opportunity to perform as opening acts for established stars.

CONTINUED- PAGE 2

Our Speaker continued

Preece points out that he teaches social entrepreneurship at Laurier. One current trend, he says, is that “entrepreneurs are re-examining the traditional models....And that’s what we’ve done here.”

Key to making it work, he says, is the not-for-profit model. Volunteers provide the foundation and framework in which the venue owner – the Huether – can profit, and musicians and support people can get paid. And where jazz lovers have a place to slake their artistic thirst.

This would not work, of course, without committed volunteers, and a venue like the Huether willing to dedicate the space as a venue used exclusively for the Jazz Society. “The Huether,” says Preece, “is a great partner.”

He also praises the board members of the Society. He’s President, but he points out that this is a genuine “working board”, with everyone contributing sweat equity to the project. “Everybody’s a volunteer,” says Preece. The Board includes John Lord, Ruth Harris, Tom Nagy, Colin Read, Ashok Thirumurthi, Geraldine Bradshaw and Steven Montgomery. Another key member of the team is musician Ted Warren, who has been named artistic director for the Saturday shows.

The Jazz Room is now well into its third year, and is clearly a success. But the Grand River Jazz Society is not resting on its laurels. Says Preece, “we have moved into educational things, workshops, talks, jazz appreciation kinds of things.” Preece and his colleagues are continually striving for improvement. Attendance is good, but they want better than good, and “we’re continually trying to get the word out.”

It’s all about trust, he says. That is one key to longevity of a venue like the Jazz Room – while the audience may be attracted by some well-known names, they will also come back for a lesser known talent, simply because they have come to trust the organizers of the show.



Club NEWS

Membership

We currently have 125 members, 4 honorary members with room for 15 more.

We will induct 4 new members at the next meeting.

-Mike Campbell

Sponsored by Don Grant.

-Marc Verhoeve

Sponsored by Doug Sullivan

-Kerry Long

Sponsored by Brian Hendley

-Ted Wakeling

Sponsored by Jim Bowman

Feb... 50/50 Draw

1. Don Blain
2. John Ready

February Attendance

61 Members 3 Guests

Duty Roster

March 31, 2015

Intro: Ray Millard

Thank: Chuck Thompson

Who Am I?

March – Tony Cullen

Lunch Bunch

March – Cora's

Wellness Report

If you know of a member who is ill, please advise **Paul Kett** (Health and Wellness Chair) so he can follow up . 519-725-4994 or exuxrev@rogers.com

A man was telling his neighbour, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art.. It's perfect.'
'Really,' answered the neighbour . 'What kind is it?'
' Twelve thirty..'

If you know someone who has not been attending, contact them to see if they need transportation to the meeting.

Car Rally is October 22, 2015

Don't forget your books for the Book Exchange Table

Who Am I

My name is Ed Moskal. Much that is useful in describing me can be put into three categories, each needing one word. As I tell my story I will introduce these three words in reverse order of importance. I was born in 1938 in Timmins, Ontario. When I was three years old the family moved to Kitchener where my folks built a house and I went out to play. The only problem was that the other kids on the street spoke English while I only spoke Ukrainian. As my father later explained, in Timmins in the 30s the bosses spoke English (my dad wasn't a boss) while everyone else spoke French or Ukrainian or Finnish. At that point I started my education by quickly learning English on the street.

That introduces the first category of my story. **Education** is the first important word describing my life. My schooling involved Suddaby Public School in Kitchener, Riverside Public School in Elmira, Alexandra Public School in Waterloo, Kitchener Collegiate Institute, and Victoria College in the University of Toronto and, finally, the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana where I received a Doctorate of Philosophy degree in Mathematics.

With my formal education finished I then became an educator. This was at a time right after Sputnik when universities in Canada and the US were rapidly expanding in the fields of the physical sciences and mathematics so jobs were plentiful. I was offered a position at the very young but rapidly growing University of Waterloo, happily accepted and came home. During my tenure there I recognized that I was a middling researcher but a very good teacher. I eventually taught many thousands of mathematics, science and engineering students the basics of higher mathematics and much more beyond the basics.

Eventually I retired and later finally stopped teaching completely after my wife also retired. Since then I no longer call myself a mathematician because I don't try to keep up with advances in the field in which I specialized. In fact my life is much different today and for that I must go back in time. One of my earliest memories (4 years old?) is of standing in front of the band stand in Victoria Park, listening to the Kitchener City Band playing while I vigorously conducted to keep everyone together. And there begins the second important category in my story described by the word **Music**. At the age of seven I started piano lessons. Before I finished high school I had earned the Western Conservatory of Music equivalent of the ARCT diploma in piano. Somewhere around grade 5 or 6, the Kitchener City Band director, George Ziegler, who was also my piano teacher, decided that the band needed another alto sax player so asked my dad, who played clarinet in the band, if I would consider learning to play the saxophone. I liked the idea, learned this instrument from my dad and very soon was the little kid in the band playing saxophone.

At KCI I picked up the clarinet and gradually became very proficient, all the while being pushed by my favourite teacher among all my teachers at all levels of my education, Fred Roy. Eventually Fred decided that I should play the Artie Shaw Jazz Clarinet Concerto with the school orchestra which, at that time, had other very talented and even jazz capable musicians. One person in the audience at the performance was Glenn Kruspe, then the conductor of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. He asked me to repeat the performance with the symphony. In order to make that happen, the symphony had to import some musicians from KCI because, at that time (unlike today's orchestra), the K-W Symphony didn't exactly swing.

Who Am I cont'd

After that performance, I became a full member of the symphony in grade 13 for the one year before I went off to university. While in high school I also played for an ice show, some circuses, and stand-in big bands for shows at the Aud and regularly with small dance bands around the community and as far away as Sauble Beach.

At Victoria College I continued with modest musical activities. Modest except for one show in my last year when I produced, wrote the music and music directed a Broadway styled show based on the Upper Canada rebellion of 1837 and called "37". Interestingly, another show opened in Toronto the same evening. The Toronto Star reviewed both shows, calling "1837" a hit (although they couldn't remember the correct name) while the other show, "My Fair Lady", was apparently disappointing.

My music career stopped in graduate school and I no longer can play any of the instruments at which I once excelled due to a disease that affects my hands. However, in retirement I am very active in promoting music as a busy member of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Volunteer Committee. How I got started there is a story for which I must go back into the past again.

During the summer after my first year at the University of Illinois there was planned a major conference in California at which the world's leading physicists studying Relativity and mathematicians studying Differential Geometry were meeting to exchange ideas. My advisor said that I should attend and my fees and boarding costs would be covered. Unfortunately I had to get to Santa Barbara on my own. As a graduate student I had almost no money so chose the cheapest way to the west coast: Greyhound Bus with no stops between.

I boarded a bus in Chicago and waited to depart. Gradually the bus filled and eventually 2 fellows came on, wishing to sit together but with no open pairs of seats. I was asked if I would consider sharing a seat with the person behind me. I was OK with that. I sat beside a lovely young lady named Sue for 2½ days and nights as far as Salt Lake City. Two years later I married Sue and a few months ago we celebrated our 50th anniversary.

Sue is the most important part of the third and most important category in my life described by the word **Family**. Getting back to volunteering with the symphony, it is Sue who got me doing this since she first started as a volunteer while still working but, needing help with some project, soon had me involved. We are both continuing as very active volunteers in support of this region's most important cultural organization. Currently I serve as treasurer of the Volunteer Committee.

My family has grown over the years as we have raised two daughters who have had successful marriages giving us a total of five grandsons and one favourite granddaughter spread between Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

There are other things important to Sue and me. We love to travel, we both read extensively and we enjoy meeting new friends. Joining this Probus group is an important part of this activity for me. Here I have many former colleagues, former and current neighbours, people whom I have met in other contexts in the past, at least one person with whom I have travelled several times and, most importantly, new people who are varied and interesting.

Thank you for letting me join you. I look forward to these monthly get-togethers with old and new friends.

Meeting Pictures

Thanks – Dolf Bogad



The best thing about a picture is that it never changes, even when the people in it do.”

— Andy Warhol

Back PAGE

John Gertridge wrote a very amusing article in the Globe & Mail that was published the day of our last meeting. Read it here:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/facts-and-arguments/i-am-a-self-sufficient-widower-so-why-cant-i-figure-out-a-fitted-sheet/article23153513/>



QUOTES

George Burns:

- You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there.
- Sex at age 90 is like trying to shoot pool with a rope.
- When I was a boy the Dead Sea was only sick.

George Carlin:

- Standing ovations have become far too commonplace. What we need are ovations where the audience members all punch and kick one another.
- Just cause you got the monkey off your back doesn't mean the circus has left town.
- The very existence of flame-throwers proves that some time, somewhere, someone said to themselves, You know, I want to set those people over there on fire, but I'm just not close enough to get the job done.