



## Probis Club of Central Edmonton

September 2017

Editor: Brian Johnson

### **Speaker: September 19 – David Goa, Hutterites of Alberta**

David Goa was the Curator of the Royal Alberta Museum from 1973 to 2004

David Goa was born and raised in Alberta, gaining his educational background in Alberta and also in the United States. Perhaps his most important education came from his parents who encouraged discussion about religion and politics. He has written over twenty books and has published many articles. He is a recipient of the Premier's Gold Medal and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal. He is the founder of the Chester Ronning Centre for Religion and Public Life. He has a deep affection for religious life and has pursued the meaning of human life. This led to studying many of the world's religions. His address today, informed by his intimate knowledge of some of the colonies, related to the Hutterite religion and culture in anticipation of our visit to the Pine Haven Colony. His presentation stretched from the Reformation in Europe, the persecution of the Hutterites, and their journey and eventual settlement in Alberta. The communal aspects of living in a colony, the strong belief in the separation of Church and State, the "never harm" philosophy, the tradition of having a scribe in every colony, were just a few of the aspects David Goa touched on. The interest in his presentation was evident from the many questions after the talk. Some interesting facts include:

- Hutterites, along with Amish and Mennonites are Anabaptists (which means members are to be baptized again as an adult)
- Alberta has the largest number of colonies in the world.
- Hutterites came to North America to escape persecution in Europe, where they were nearly wiped out. They initially settled the USA but were persecuted during WW1, because of their refusal to fight. After that they moved to Canada, settling in the west. There are in excess of 160 colonies in Alberta.

### **Tour: September 19, 2017**

On September 25 we visited the Pine Haven Colony, which is outside Wetaskiwin. Our guide, Tim Hofer, started with a brief presentation about the Hutterite community and the Pine Haven Colony in particular. This was followed by an extensive Q and A, then a tour of the Colony. Tim was a tremendous guide who willingly answered a great variety of questions. We were asked not to take any picture of the colony members, but were able to take pictures of the building and equipment. We will share those that are in focus, and share some of what we heard.

The Pine Haven Colony was established in 1994. It is a daughter colony of the Scotford

colony by Fort Saskatchewan. Colonies split when their population becomes too large for the land to support. Each colony's primary financial goal is to save enough for them to create a new colony when it is needed.



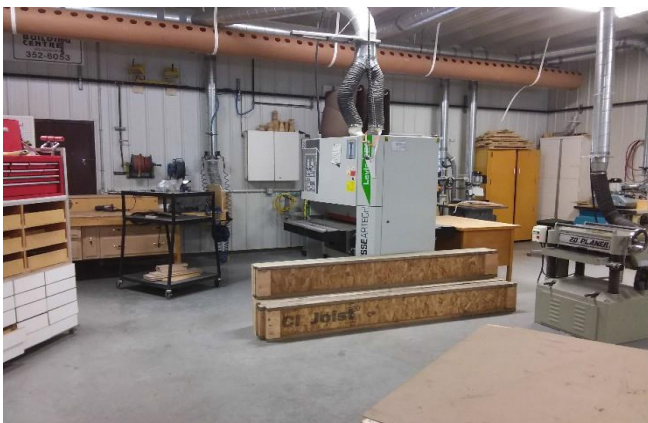
This picture shows the clean well-maintained grounds. In the background are the some of the residents. There are a 109 people in the community.

The members of the community take a vow of poverty. None even has a bank account. The strong sense of community requires a high level of cooperation. The Colony elects members to various positions, referred to as bosses. Persons hold a position until they retire or leave for another reason. Only baptized men vote.

This and the next pictures of a metal lathe show the sophistication of the equipment owned and used by the Colony craftsmen.



The Colony has a wood shop, metal shop, and machine repair shop. All these are present to support the member and the basic business of farming.



This picture shows some of the equipment in the wood working shop.

We learned that the Colony will embrace new technology that will assist them in running their business. They do not use it for pleasure or distraction. Tim has a cell phone, they use the internet, but discourage games or any form of entertainment. Let us remember, the Hutterite Colony is all about farming.



This is a picture of one of the storage facilities and some of the roles of hay.



Here some of the Club members are examining the equipment in the dairy barns.

We took a bus from Edmonton to the Colony. One amusing aside is that some of the children enjoyed taking a bus ride while we were touring. The tour ended with a visit to the meat shop, where many of us purchased some of the colony's meat products. All in all, thanks to our guide, it was one our better tours.