



PROBUS Club of Central Edmonton

Newsletter

October 2024

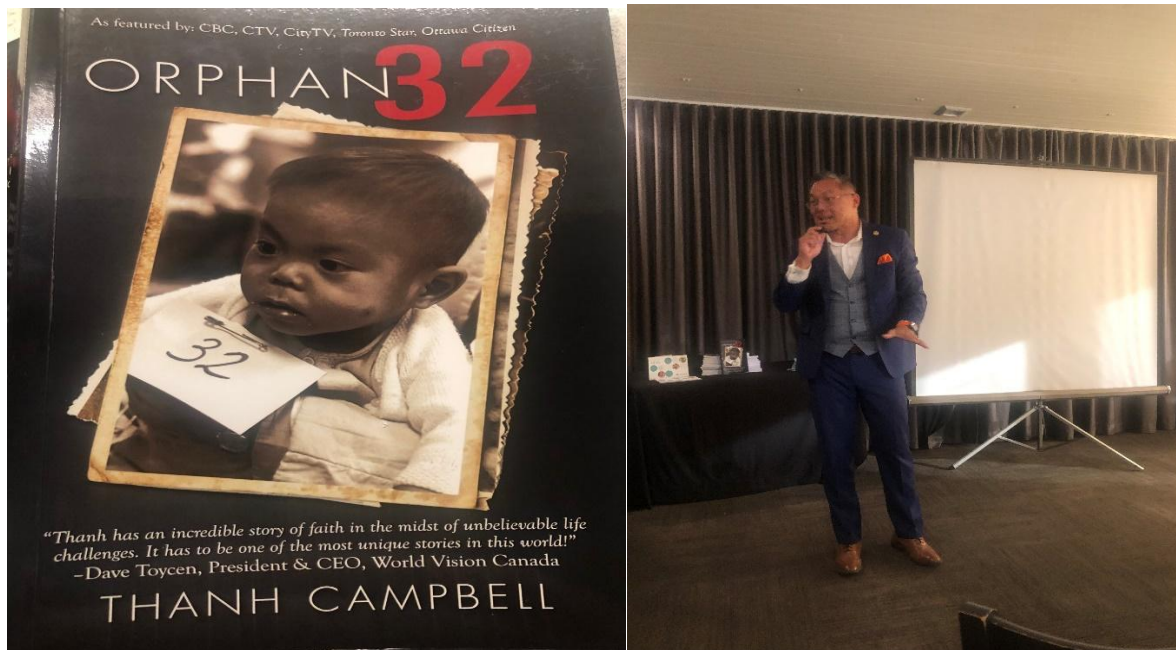
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Website: www.probus-central-edmonton.com

Trust everyone is enjoying the beauty sunny skies and cooler weather.

October 15 – Presentation

Thanh Campbell, Partners Worldwide Canada



Thanh was born in Vietnam and came to Canada as part of the last flight out of Saigon in 1975 with 56 other orphan children. Thanh is a professional speaker, best selling author. He has toured across Canada and shared his life story many times in person, on TV and Radio. Thanh is a licensed minister and recently appointed Canadian Director in Partners Worldwide Canada.

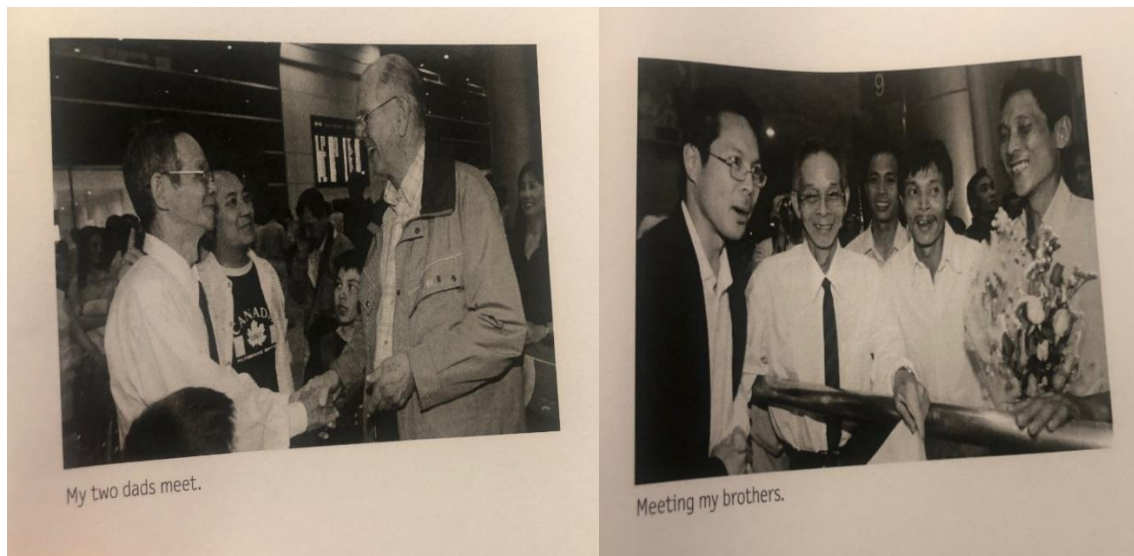
Orphan 32 is Thanh's memoir about his journey from an orphanage in Vietnam, being sent to Canada in 1975 and eventually finding his bio family. He was raised by a loving Christian Family with brothers and sister.

Thanh's picture appeared in an article in the Toronto Star in 2006, about the orphans coming to Canada. This caught local and global attention. Reunions were held with other orphans from the same flight and the ball started to roll. A website had been started for folks globally to communicate and query.

His family in Vietnam recognized the little boy and communications started. Through DNA verification Thanh's biological father had been found. It turned out that the papers Thanh had come to Canada on were made up as children could only escape if their parents were victims of war. Thanh's first communication with his biological father took place in 2006 with the help of interpreters.

It took 3 more years before funds could be raised to take his family to Vietnam to meet his Biological Family. The first message his father dictated through the translator was as follows:

- 1. You were never abandoned,*
- 2. We loved you very much,*
- 3. We never gave up hope that one day you would be found*



October 22, 2024: John Walter Museum

Notes by Leo Walter

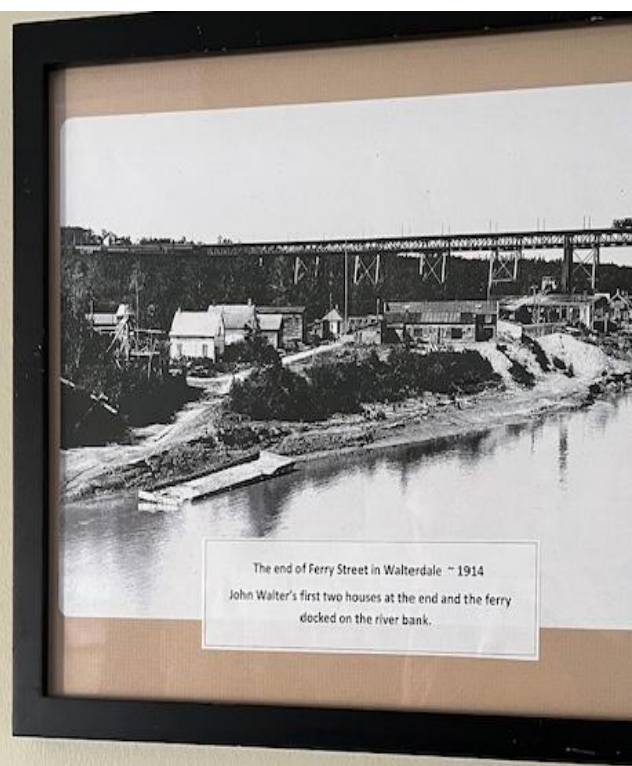
Thank you, Leo!

The museum is located on the south bank of the N. Sask. opposite the site of the original (HBC) Fort Edmonton. The museum consists of a small visitor center and three homes built and occupied by Walter and later by himself and family.

Walter emigrated from the Orkney Islands in Northern Scotland in 1869, and at the age of 20 signed a 5-year contract with the HBC. At the end of the contract, he moved across the river & obtained a small lot with river frontage (river lot), surrounded by Metis settlers with similar river lots. One of those neighbors was Laurent Garneau.

Walter is best known for being a ferry owner, but he had many business interests including farming, transportation, lumbering and coal mining.

It is interesting to note that Walter's last & most modern home was built almost directly under what would be the High-Level bridge. Walter's surviving widow, Annie, lived there till she passed away in the 1940s, often commenting that the trains overhead would make her dishes rattle in her cupboards. After her death, that third home was moved away from the bridge and nearer to the older two homes.





Presidents Message

Leaves raked, winter-tires on, furnace-filter changed. Many of us are working through our seasonal checklist getting ready for Edmonton's next beautiful season! This time of year, I volunteer to teach children about financial literacy. I recently spent the morning with a class of grade 4's and 5's in central-Edmonton.

According to a study by the JumpStart Coalition for Financial Literacy, only 26% of 13-21-year-olds said their parents taught them how to manage money. This gap is not being addressed by schools, as many don't have the resources to offer classes in financial literacy. Some of this gap is filled by volunteers with *Junior Achievement of Northern Alberta (JA)*.

Using a curriculum developed by JA, I review with the kids how money is earned and spent in our neighbourhood, by people, businesses, and financial institutions. Students learn about deposit accounts and how to balance a cheque book; it's now called a money diary!

We learn about "entrepreneurs" and what sort of businesses the students may want to have someday. Income versus expenses, and profit versus loss is covered. They learn what a business plan is and how it supports success. Lastly, is how financial institutions go about deciding whether to lend someone money to start or expand a business. Even though the children are aged 9-11, most of them pick up the concepts easily; even when it comes to earning or paying interest.

Some of the learning is accomplished by role-playing and playing games, which the children love! A highlight (for me anyway) usually occurs toward the end of class when the kids pull several concepts together. I pretend to be a business owner applying for a loan. The class plays the part of banker and weighs the pros / cons of my loan application. "Your last employer says you were dependable – this is good" says one student. "You were slow paying back your last loan – this is bad", says another. The class goes on to debate whether me getting caught stealing a sweater when I was younger, is a deal killer. I'm finished; the kids know it and I know it.

Spending the morning with a class of elementary school children isn't everyone's idea of fun, but I'd like to think I removed a bit of mystery around financial literacy that might help 26 kids make better money decisions in years to come.

JA is always looking for volunteers for this and other courses. If you're interested in helping, get in touch with me or JA directly.

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, November 19th at 10:00AM.

SW