**Doug Vincent**

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| Doug Vincent presented a very interesting Who Am I segment at our August meeting. His talk focused on three main areas of his life: family member, community member and businessman. Doug was born in Ayr in 1947, and educated at the University of Guelph. His connection with Woodstock began in 1977 when the family firm, Vincent Farm Machinery, opened a branch just outside of Woodstock on Highway 2. In 1984  | E:\2013 12 Probus booklet Photos\Vincent, Doug.tif |

Doug and his family moved to Tollgate Road, near Woodstock, where he and his wife raised a son, Rob, and a daughter, Tracy.

In addition to working in the farm business Doug has developed a rather unique career as a consultant to other family owned businesses. Doug described himself as a “third generation graduate” of a family business and this reinforces the fact that Vincent Farm Machinery has prospered through two generational changes in leadership. As we know from the stories we hear concerning such well-known dynasties as the Billes family at Canadian Tire and the McCain family food empire achieving a smooth generational change in a family enterprise is no mean accomplishment. Based on his own experience Doug has carved out a very successful career by acting as a consultant to other family-based business as they face this unique challenge. His consulting work has taken him to all continents except Antarctica.

Doug’s involvement in the community is also very important to him, although in his case the community extends to the four corners of the globe. Doug was one of the charter members of the Woodstock Oxford Rotary club and through his involvement with Rotary he has traveled the world. In fact he is now a roving ambassador for Rotary International. He has been involved in any number of important projects. One that is very important to him is Soul of Africa a cooperative venture between Rotary International and a leading South African shoe company. Soul of Africa is more than an initiative to raise funds for South African orphans; it also fosters sustainable development in a region stricken by AIDS and poverty. The Soul of Africa initiative raises money to assist organizations that house, feed and educate AIDS orphans through the sale of moccasin shoes. These shoes are hand stitched by village women from KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, who are not only earning a living but also learning valuable new skills.

Doug is also a Rotary International representative to the United Nations. In this role he has attended conferences all over the world, most recently in Los Angeles. Doug attended sessions of the United Nations on a regular basis and part of his mandate is to encourage Canadians to take a more active part in the UN activities. Doug will be at the UN in November and is planning to take a group of Canadians there on an informational tour. Any member of Probus would be welcome to join him on this excursion.