



THE COBOURG PROBIAN

Volume 14, Number 5, March, 2008

The Probud Club of Cobourg and District

P.O. Box 63, Cobourg, Ontario K9A 4K2

Next Meeting: March 20th, 2008

President's Message:

It's hard to believe that I'm half way through the year as President, it's not, believe me, a hard job with all the willing members who take on the various tasks within the club so that we can and do accomplish so much.

I would like to thank our V.P, Mary Ryan for running the last meeting. I hear I missed a good speaker in Kier Barker. I'm sure he gave all a lot of food for thought as I know him to be a very outgoing person.

I had a duty to perform --- I had to go to Mexico to take in a few rays, check out the palm trees, swim wear and cold beer. Believe it or not, they were all still there.

Just a reminder to order your tickets [with a cheque] for the Spring Fling at this meeting as the numbers are limited.

President Larry



SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

MARCH 6th Janet Mathews
Author of Chicken Soup series

MARCH 16th Northumberland Orchestra & Choir presents "Requiem"
Port Hope United Church, 34 South St. 7:30 pm Adults \$22. Seniors \$20.

MARCH 20th Don Missin
K-9 Division Airport Authority

APRIL 3rd Stan Ferguson
Motivational Speaker

APRIL 16th Dirty Dancing, included bus & dinner \$115.00 (Waiting List)

APRIL 17th John deVisser
Local Photographer (one of Canada's finest)

APRIL 25th Dinner Theatre, "My Husband's Wild Desires Almost Drove Me Mad"
On stage answers break laugh records all over the world. Tickets \$30.00

MAY 1st Bernie Shouldice
Shouldice Clinic

MAY 15th Larry Wilson

What happens when your aircraft runs out of fuel.

MAY 28th Spring Fling, \$28.00 make cheques to Probus Club of Cobourg
At Jack Burger complex, Port Hope, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Lunch included

JUNE 4th Northumberland Mystery Car Tour
Cost \$30.00 Cheques only Tickets go on sale March 20th

A CRUISE TO ANTARCTICA

Our speaker on February 7th was Bruce Steel. Bruce and his wife had been on a trip to Antarctica by ship in January, 2007. Antarctica is said to be the coldest, driest, windiest continent on earth. They flew to Ushuaia, Argentina, the most southerly city in South America to join the cruise and Bruce told us this was not a holiday but an expedition. There were two- hour lectures each day before they boarded the Zodiac inflatable boats to go ashore. The lectures included safety regulations, history, the environment, and restrictions about touching the animals and birds or collecting objects.

The day they departed Cape Horn to the coast of Antarctica, the sea was very calm and when they arrived the ship anchored in a bay for the duration of their stay. Their group leader was trained under the Antarctic Treaty and each participant had to sign a form stating they would not take or leave anything. If they did not sign the form they were not allowed to go ashore. The Antarctic Treaty is a document which gives several countries, including Japan, declared sovereignty rights over parts of the continent. The Treaty allows them to run scientific stations and forbids whaling. There are 30-40,000 Humpback whales in the world. The Japanese are now taking 600 plus a year for “scientific study”.

The temperature during this time ranged from 10C to -15C. It is hard to believe that this extremely cold region has so many active volcanoes. It is also hard to imagine that the huge icebergs that we saw were only the top 1/8th of their size as 7/8ths was under the sea. In the audio- visual presentation, Bruce showed us the icebergs, the landscape (part snow, ice and rock) and signs of global warming in the water running down the glaciers and in the volcanic craters.

Many penguin chicks are dying because the water is warming and they become overheated because of the type of feathers the chicks have. There are now only 17 different types of penguins, as 32 types have become extinct. There were pictures of the several types of the very numerous penguins, seals and other birds. Some facts about the penguins that we learned is that they have a life span of 15 to 20 years. They feed on krill (tiny shrimp like creatures). As the oceans warm, there is a danger the krill will disappear and with that the penguins. They are capable of dives to 250 feet but usually only dive to 25 feet. Their main predator is the leopard seal that will even attack the Zodiac inflatable boats.

The return trip to Argentina was extremely different then the crossing to Antarctica. Bruce showed slides of the grand piano ripped out of its secure bolts and lying upside down, also windows broken and other damage. They experienced a really rough rounding of the Horn.

- Myrtle Wardman

OUR FIRST VALENTINES PROGRESSIVE LUNCH

By Audrey Levto

Valentine's Day was kind to us, clear roads and no snow, not too cold, as we all set out to share a hearty lunch together. Everyone was relaxed and in party spirits ready to enjoy our first such event. What a marvellous event it turned out to be. Our hosts, Gwen Care, Margot Donald, Elaine Elliott, Doreen Guy, Pat Gummer, Alberta MacMillan, Eleanor McFarlane, Fran Markland, Cathy Oberholtzer, Joan Rolph, Joanne Stewart and last but not least, Myrtle Wardman each had six to eight guests. We all ate identical food prepared from the same recipes, the menu – Bouffe Bourguignon, garlic mashed potatoes, tomato aspic & salad. Washed down with your choice of red or white wine. Simply scrumptious made even more so with the sparkly banter. Then we were off to all meet up at the Columbus Centre where we were offered every conceivable kind of pie and a choice of cup cakes & coffee or tea. We all tried to eat our desserts with different people to enhance our experience, listened to our entertainment Mary and Friends, no not our darling Mary but a great group from the Concert Band. Their beat was so good that John Simpson Astaire twirled his bride around the floor to everyone's delight and envy. Everyone thought that the luncheon they went to had be the best place because no one could do it better. Wasn't that just great! Then they wanted to know when the next one was going to be, other comments, - couldn't we do this every season to, we must do this often.

Many thanks to Elaine & her committee, it was wonderful to be part of something so enjoyable. Your Entertainment Committee will continue its attempts to engage you in shared fun, food and fellowship.

YOUR COMMITTEE:

Dorothy Allen, Gwen Care, Eleanor Cobbe, Kathy Cole, Margot Donald, Marguerite Easton, Elaine Elliott, Nancy Foden, Doreen Irwin, Audrey Levto, Alberta MacMillan, Eleanor McFarlane, Angeline Poirier & Joanne Stewart.

EARLY EASTER

(Contributed by Cath Oberholtzer)

Easter is early this year. Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 20th). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify passover, which is why it moves around the Roman calendar. Based on the above information, Easter can actually be one day earlier (March 22nd) that is rare.

Here's the interesting information. This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives! And only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old or above). And none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier! Here's the facts:

- 1) The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 (so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that!)
- 2) The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was March 22 was 1818, So no one alive today has or will see it any earlier than this. Interesting!

CONGRATULATIONS DOROTHY

Dorothy Allen received the Mayor's Civic Award of Distinction at the recent Civic Award night in Cobourg. Dorothy has a long history of service to such organizations as the YMCA, Kiwanis Club and Lawn Bowling Club and continues to be a very active volunteer with the NHH hospital auxiliary, Probus Club of Cobourg and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. She has been previously honoured with a number of awards, including a YMCA Peace Award and a Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club of Cobourg.

That's an impressive record, Dorothy. No use saying, "Keep up the Good Work," we know you will.

HE INSPIRED US ALL!

By Malcolm Wardman

Kier Barker, a motivational speaker at our February 21st meeting was introduced by Ann Moring of the Northumberland Probus Club. Kier is a Cobourg resident who has Spina Bifida and also a speech impediment. A simple explanation of Spina Bifida is that it is a birth defect and occurs when the vertebrae does not form properly and allows the spinal cord to protrude onto the external lumbar region. This leads to neurological complications, Kier has no feeling below his belt line. His motto is “live life to its fullest potential,” and have a dream, and he certainly has done this.

At age 4 he began to stutter and was told by doctors that he would be in a wheel chair by the time he was twelve years old. He had a dream to walk, not stutter and have a job. The Rotary Club supplied him with braces for his legs and summer camp. He had to undergo a series of operations at Sick Children’s Hospital when he was 12 to 15 years old. He was told he would have to use crutches for the rest of his life and wear a body brace. His doctors did not believe the surgery would be a success. However, he astounded his doctor by walking into his office and had no need for a body brace. At school, his speech impediment and physical disabilities led to teasing. The Rotary Club arranged for him to be able to attend Variety Village, which at that time taught trades to the disabled. He was unable to find employment after his time at Variety Village and was unemployed for 30 years. He lived on a disability pension.

His sister visited him with information from a television show she had seen. The show was about someone with a speech problem very similar to his. Oprah Winfrey appeared on the show and presented the person with a “Speech Easy.” A device that fits in the ear and that allows the person to speak in a normal manner. He was tested by a speech pathologist with the appliance and his speech has improved 90%. The devices were available from Vancouver but unfortunately cost \$5,000.00. His friends and family got behind him and had garage sales and wrote to service clubs for support to raise the money. On July 1, 2006 the Cobourg Rotary Club wrote saying they would help. On August 1, 2006, he had the device. After receiving the device he attended a speech therapist who told him that from his experiences he should be a motivational speaker.

His goals were to find employment and get out into the community. He joined the Toastmasters Club and last year spoke to about 2,000 people through the club. He still had a dream of employment and had sent out resumes and had a couple of interviews, but at 60 years of age felt no one would employ him. He got a call that he had a job – as a telemarketer! He now speaks to about a thousand people a day. His closing remark was that people hurt themselves not by what they ask for but by what they settle for. Kier certainly didn’t settle for less than he dreamed for. Kier was given a standing ovation and was thanked by Stone Avery and presented with a gift.

P.S. Kier is a telemarketer and phones messages for Prestige Rug Cleaning and has joined Northumberland Toastmasters and become a much sought after speaker.

You know you are living in 2008 when you accidentally enter your password on the microwave.

You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.

Thanks to all the contributors for this newsletter, it’s much appreciated, and isn’t that great? But don’t give up. I’ll still look for more articles next month. Elma Parker 905-372-9143 or elmapar@eagle.ca