



in TOUCH



Probus Club of Colborne Newsletter

February 2006

Editor Nancy Ellis

FOUNDED 2003

Box 865, Colborne Ontario K0K 1S0

PROBUS CANADA WEBSITE www.probus.org

tuner@eagle.ca (905-355-2051)

Keeping in Touch -----

February 8th, 2006 Meeting

CANDLEMAS

If Candlemas Day be dry and fair
The hauf o'winter's to come and mair
If Candlemas Day be wet and foul
The hauf o'winter's gaun the Yule.

Old Scottish prediction.

In Canada we allow a furry little varmint to prognosticate the advent of our springtime, though its prognostications follow the same basis as the Scottish Forecast.

Native Indian belief and Christian custom were interwoven when German settlers brought the tradition of Candlemas to North America. To the Natives, the emergence of the groundhog signaled the coming of spring, late or early. Candlemas, occurring halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Vernal Equinox, was a time of the blessing and lighting of candles to be distributed among the people in order to provide light in the darkness of the winter. So, fair weather, there's more winter to come; foul, it's half gone.

Our guest speaker for the springlike morning of Feb. 1st was Pat Arato, retired from, but still connected to, the Aphasia Institute she has helped to develop. As Pat explained, Aphasia is, fundamentally an acquired disorder, caused by injury to the brain which affects a person's ability to communicate. Pat's message was one of hope for those suffering with the disorder and also for the caregivers who struggle to help them. An informative and inspirational message.

Ken Bushell was prevailed upon to reveal his very first job; which was in Birmingham, England in 1941, war time with air raids every night, with men away to war and women in war-work so that when he was needed in the warehouse of a foot wear society co-op, he went eagerly. Such was his enthusiasm he was disposed to repair every neglected item in sight, even the time clock, to the consternation of some of the employees! Ken was called up, to the R.A.F., in 1945. He had begun his first job on Oct. 8th, 1941; his 14th birthday.

The Club welcomed two guests that morning; Ruth Chapman and Thelma Oulette. Pleased to have you with us.

Congratulations to our Cicely, presented with a life membership by the Colborne Horticultural Society.

Doug Galt reported for our eager beaver bowlers. On this, the second outing, January 25th, everyone broke 100! Folks are just hitting their stride! Five people broke 150! Eric, Diane D., Cicely, Muriel T. and Doug. Eric was awesome! His overall score was....633! Muriel had 570; Cicely, 525; Diane, 437; Doug, 424. Others are still getting into form...

Cathy gave us a task; to select a common phrase or saying and be prepared to explain its meaning and derivation AFTER you have stumped your listeners, e.g. "Honeymoon", "pulling my strings", etc.

Cathy likes to test our brainpower; she handed out Word Search sheets with a hidden message for us to complete. How did you do?

"The world is like a mirror reflecting what you do, so if you are smiling, it will smile right back at you."
Cathy.

February 15th, 2006 Meeting

President Cathy welcomed everyone to the meeting with a brief account of one of the several theories re: the inception of St. Valentine's Day. This version was set in the reign of Claudius II who had outlawed marriage for his young men, and of a young man who rebelled and was subsequently imprisoned. He fell in love with the jailer's daughter, and wrote her a letter. *The first Valentine...*

Ken Ellis led in the singing of "O Canada". Cathy expressed the sympathy of the Club for two of its members, Bonnie Hilliard and to Shirley Desrocher in the sad loss of a dear husband and brother, respectively.

Doreen Clark introduced guest speaker Dorothy Hampson, retired teacher, who taught in Cobourg, the Czech Republic and China; and nurse, who practiced in England, Australia and Canada. Dorothy became interested in Dragon Boat racing when in China and became instigator of the development of the sport in Cobourg; which has now become synonymous with the unceasing battle against breast cancer. "It won't cure you", Dorothy cautioned, "but it will provide a better quality of life". A token of appreciation was presented to Dorothy by Diane Dycke.

Rick Hoffman, president of Colborne Rotary, addressed the Club as liaison officer in the absence, due to illness, of Graham Norcutt. He spoke of Rotary projects and its many services; eg. minor hockey, figure skating, breakfast club, Christmas hampers, to name only a few. Because of Rotary's commitment to the children's new playground the nearby street has been renamed "Rotary Way". The Club's major fundraiser is Apple Harvest Auction which will be held this year on September 17th, 2006. Mark your calendars. As modesty forbade Rick to reveal some significant facts re the Club, Paul Ross informed the assembly that, with only 18 members, the Colborne Rotary is among the top percentile in service in North America and is rated number one in all Canada. Now that polio has been all but eradicated worldwide, Rotary will focus on the annihilation of the scourge that is AIDS.

George Gray suggested that Rotary provide a list of activities and projects so that those who wished to do so may attend and/or support those of their choice.

Business

Members are encouraged to approach friends and neighbours with an invitation to join the Club. For fellowship and fun, interest and stimulation.

Clare reported on the district meeting scheduled as a Spring Mixer for May 17th, 2006...A reply from Madame Jean's office had been promised for either February 16th or 17th, 2006.

Gayle Jones reported that the much-anticipated computer course will have to be put on hold for a time, due to lack of venue...with computers.

George Gray spoke on behalf of Canadian Blood Services and the need for donors.

III

Al and Dorothy McKinney have offered their farm once again as a venue for our annual summer celebration.

Diane Gibson reported for coming events. Please check the "Board" for information. The Port Hope Capitol Arts Centre has a host of delightful events listed; Men of the Deeps, a Lightfoot Tribute, the Irish Descendents and more.

Doug G. reported the bowling lanes are ready for March, 8th, 2006, same time, same place. Lunch at the Café on Meade St.?

Official nametags were presented to Jackie Oliver and to Cecil and Diane Dycke. A hearty welcome!

Several responses were heard from Cathy's request for common sayings and adages: "Mind your P's and Q's", "Raining Cats and Dogs", etc. etc.

Barbara Reid was a most welcome guest that morning.

Coming Up

March 1st, 2006

Sheila Burns

Savings Donkeys

March 15th, 2006

Jim Benham

Halifax Restoration

April 5, 2006

Richard Honey

Bird Flu'

Cathy closed with this thought: "Never test the depth of the water with both feet."

P.S. If not receiving mail please inform Paul or Ken E.

Cheers,

Nancy.