



# THE COBOURG PROBIAN

Volume 11, Number 10, October 2005

The Probus Club of Cobourg and District  
P.O. Box 63, Cobourg, Ontario K9A 4K2

Next Meeting: October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005



## President's Message by Bob Spooner

It is with sincere pleasure that I wish to thank members of Cobourg and District Probus Club, that have confidence in me to allow my acclamation as President. It is my fervent wish to carry out this position in a professional manner

*Bob.*

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## Club Program

- Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> (meeting)**      **Tom MacMillan** – All about Town Criers
- October 13<sup>th</sup>**            **Car Rally** – morning start finishing with Lunch. Tickets \$30 and now on sale. More below.
- Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> (meeting)**    **Dr. Cloud** (Colin Banfield) Weather expert – Colin will talk about the recent unusual weather and why Cobourg's weather is sometimes different.
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
(meeting)                **Remembrance Day program** – special program to commemorate Remembrance day
- November 17<sup>th</sup>**  
(meeting)                **Bob Irvine** – the History of the Cobourg Concert Band
- October 28<sup>th</sup>**            **Arsenic and Old Lace** – Dinner theatre at Best Western – Comedy - \$30.00 includes dinner, show all taxes and services – see below for more.
- November 23<sup>rd</sup>**        **Interclub Bonspiel** – Interclub curling bonspiel at Dalewood more below
- November 24<sup>th</sup>**        **Shaw Festival – Bus Stop.** Lunch at Oban Inn. \$106. More below.

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### *Northumberland Players Presents:*

## **Arsenic and Old Lace**

**Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>** at the Best Western

The Classic of comedies, Arsenic and Old Lace will provide a laugh filled evening.

There is never a dull moment – it is practically mayhem and by the end you are convinced that everyone is at least a little insane.

**\$30.00** including dinner, show, all taxes and service.

## **Shaw Festival November 24<sup>th</sup>**



The shimmering tale of an unlikely group stranded in an all-night diner during a Kansas Snowstorm. Departing at 7:00 am, trip includes luxury coach to Niagara on the Lake, then lunch at the famous Oban Inn followed by the matinee performance of Bus Stop at the Royal George Theatre. Estimated return time to Cobourg is 7:30 pm. **\$106.00 all inclusive.**

## Current Executive

<b>President</b>	Bob Spooner Tel: 372-5165
<b>Past President</b>	Ray Hiller Tel: 373-0978
<b>Vice President</b>	Karin Allan Tel: 377-8098 e-mail: krallan@eagle.ca
<b>Rec. Secretary</b>	Bev Silk Tel: 349-3766 e-mail: sonic@eagle.ca
<b>Treasurer</b>	Madeline Schoeber Tel: 372-2606
<b>Membership</b>	Roger Allan (Chair) Tel: 377-8098 e-mail: krallan@eagle.ca
<b>Probian Editor</b>	John Draper Tel: 372-5839 e-mail: jdraper@eagle.ca
<b>Speaker's Chair</b>	Myrtle Wardman Tel: 377-1930 e-mail: m.wardman@sympatico.ca
<b>House Manager</b>	Larry Flood Tel: 373-0326 e-mail: flood@eagle.ca
<b>Comm. Service</b>	Joanne Domine Tel: 377-8564 e-mail: j.domine@sympatico.ca

A full list of current **committee members** is on our web site. [www.probusnorthumberland.com](http://www.probusnorthumberland.com) then go to *About Us* and select *Cobourg*

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## CAR RALLY

The 2005 Car Rally will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in October which is October 13<sup>th</sup>. It will be a morning rally with lunch at the finish.

No skill required! No timing involved – just a little navigating and questions to test your power of observation – lots of fun.

And based on Leon Silk's mysterious list of "Why you shouldn't go", maybe even this description is off.

**Tickets are \$30** Cheques only please.



## Other Events in Cobourg

**Vintage Film Festival** – A feast of Vintage films from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> through Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> of October. Films are at Victoria Hall on Friday and Capitol Theatre Port Hope on Saturday and Sunday.



**Northumberland Film Sundays** has started their new Fall Season. The next two films are *Darwin's Nightmare* on October 16th and *Turtles can Fly* on November 6th. All films are at the Northumberland Mall Cinemas at 4.00pm.

The **Capitol Theatre** has **John McDermott** performing on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 8pm

**Brad Halls** performs The Songs of Leonard Bernstein and Comden & Green on October 21, 22. 8 pm at Victoria Concert Hall

For more events see note in Editor's corner.

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## Second Annual Mixed Inter-Club Bonspiel

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005**

After last year's successful event, the second annual mixed Inter-Club

**Curling Bonspiel** will take place on **Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005** at **Dalewood Golf & Curling Club**.



Probus clubs ranging from Oshawa to Belleville and north to Peterborough will challenge teams from our three Cobourg clubs.

Games start at 8:45 a.m. and continue through the day.

Spectators are welcome to come and watch the action. Lunch may be ordered from the menu, if desired.

Like last year, it will be a great day of fun, fellowship, exercise (and maybe a bit of skill!)

If you have never watched a curling game this is your chance. See the "old pros in action"!!

*Warren Harvey, Convenor.*

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## **A New Proverb?**

*A closed mouth gathers no foot.*

## **NA 337**

Coincidentally, on the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, Jim Benham told us about the NA 337, serial number of the ONLY restorable Halifax Bomber in the world out of 6,178 manufactured for WW II.

With great enthusiasm and passion, Jim wove an emotionally dramatic tale of the life of this special aircraft and its crew. Born in 1945, in Speke, England under great security, this was no ordinary bomber. It had no upper gun turret, no radome below, and carried one less crew member than normal.

Built to fly fast and low, it was delivered to 644 Squadron in Dorset for SOE,



Special Operations Executive. This plane towed gliders laden with supplies over the Rhine for operations behind enemy lines and dropped supplies to Norwegian Underground Forces.

April 29, 1945, calamity struck after only 57 flying hours! Having successfully dropped supplies to the Norwegians, it was headed home when 20 mm cannon fire hit the fuel cell between the engines and it exploded. Aviation fuel and the wing caught fire. Flight Lieutenant Turnbull was forced to crash-land the plane in Lake Mjosa, 15 km from Lillyhammer. The nose broke off and with no water immersion switch the dingy did not release. All the crew but the tail gunner, Weightman, who was unconscious, evacuated the plane. When Weightman came to, he released the dingy manually and left the aircraft. It was dark and all the others perished from hypothermia. In daylight, the Germans rescued Weightman from the overturned dingy. In time, he returned to England. NA 337 was dead in the water.

In 1994, in Elvington, York, England, there was a dedication ceremony of a Halifax bomber replica. Attending this event, was a Canadian Airlines captain, and a WW II Halifax pilot from Nova Scotia. They knew the story of NA 337 and that a Norwegian businessman, who was sixteen at the time of the war, knew the location of this plane.

Now begins the rebirth of NA 337. the Halifax Association was officially formed to receive the rights to this Halifax bomber. A Norwegian

salvage company raised the plane for a cost of \$326,000.00 of which the Canadian government contributed \$54,000.00. The plane was in 750 feet of water and to remove it from the mud took 28,000 pounds of vertical pull. Damaged from rocks, the plane looked like pieces of junk. Tail gunner Weightman was there to see the plane brought to dry land where it was de-armed, de-fueled and cut up. Weightman's thermos with contents was still in the tail gunner's turret. In September 1995, the plane, in pieces, was brought to Canada. In October 1996, the workshop at the Trenton RCAF Museum was operational and in 1997, restoration began in earnest.

Since then, Jim Benham along with about 49 other volunteers have clocked more than 38,000 volunteer hours. NA 337 is the only restorable Halifax in existence. At a cost of \$1.5 million, all parts and materials are technically correct.

The Halifax Association has supported this endeavour one hundred per cent! The result is priceless. On November 5, 2005, the RCAF Museum will reopen for a dedication ceremony of the completely reconstructed Halifax Bomber. 29,000 out of a total 37,000 WW II Halifax missions were flown by Canadian crews. This plane is significant to Canada. See her from Nov. 6 on and celebrate!  
*By Dorothy De Lisle*

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## **RCAF Memorial Museum**

### **Trenton**

Why not visit the RCAF museum in Trenton to see the Halifax Bomber restoration and lots of other items about Canada's history with the RCAF? For the winter season, the museum is open



Wednesdays to Sundays, from 10.00 till 5.00pm (except 4.00pm for the Halifax Restoration area).

Note that the Halifax Restoration area will re-open November 6<sup>th</sup> after the dedication on November 5<sup>th</sup> (when the whole museum will be closed). To get there, use the 401 to Trenton and take exit 526. Then follow the signs to the RCAF Museum.

For more info, go to their web site at <http://www.rcafmuseum.on.ca/> or phone 1-866-701-7223.

## Christmas Party

This year promises to be yet another fantastic event. The date is Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>; location is the Lion's Centre. Tickets are \$40.00. There will be a complete turkey dinner with all the trimmings, gourmet desserts, tea/coffee and wine. Two types of entertainment are planned for the evening – details to be announced.

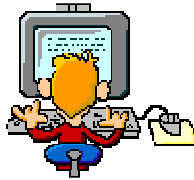
Great door prizes – and a Raffle with one of the prizes being a **1<sup>st</sup> Class tickets on Via Rail** – anywhere to anywhere (and return) in the Windsor to Quebec corridor. Tickets for this raffle are \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00. Tickets are available to everyone, attendance is not necessary to win.



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### Editor's Corner

Many Probians are interested in the Theatre, Arts and other cultural events in Cobourg and even in the whole county.



Well now there is an organization that collects all these events together in one place and publishes the information – including a current calendar - on their web site. It's the **Northumberland Coalition for Culture**. Their web site is: [www.northumberlandculture.ca](http://www.northumberlandculture.ca) I would think they will also disseminate information in other ways. Included are **Theatre, Fine Arts, Heritage, Film, Community, Crafts and Music**.

If you don't have Internet access (or even if you do), for more information, call: 905-372-0333

**John Draper:**

10 Madison Ave.,  
Cobourg, ON K9A 5R2

**Tel:** 905 372-5839. **e-mail:** [jdraper@eagle.ca](mailto:jdraper@eagle.ca)

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### Answers given by 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children

What would it take to make your Mom perfect?

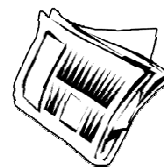
1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

## Cobourg Daily Star

### How a Newspaper is put together

On September 1<sup>st</sup> **Mandy Martin**, Editorial Director of the **Cobourg Daily Star** and many other local Northumberland publications, spoke to us about her newspaper experiences over the years. She is an honors B.A. graduate of Queens University and started her career in Cobourg when Victoria Hall was still a derelict pigeon coup and Igor in the press room basement prepared molten lead for the offset press. Mandy says that she can still read as fast backwards as forwards.

Since then she has traveled the world extensively. Her mission is "to gather and deliver local news to the best of her ability, and be open to change and relevancy to community issues". She stated that surveys have proven that 73% of adults in the local market area read the Osprey newspapers daily. This was



proven with an impromptu show of hands from the audience. Mandy said that due to the proliferation of online headline news flashes they are changing to

"theme" newspapers, investigating in depth, instead of just reporting what happened at Council.

Following her presentation there was an enthusiastic question and answer period.

Mandy was introduced by *Mike Hick* and thanked by *Malcolm Wardman* who are both members of the Cobourg Star Editorial Board.

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### First Class to Quebec City



At last year's Christmas Party, **Hazel and John Lyons** won the Via Rail prize which was a free pass in the Windsor-Quebec City Corridor.

Recently, Hazel and John went to Quebec City – First Class all the way! They thoroughly enjoyed their short stay before returning home to Cobourg's Via station. *By the Probian reporter*