



THE COBOURG PROBIAN

Volume 11, Number 12, December 2005

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

Next Meeting: January 5th, 2006



President's Message by Bob Spooner

My congratulations to the Speaker Committee on their Remembrance Day Session at our November 3rd meeting. Many members have been very complimentary on this presentation. Well done Audrey.

Our quote of the month is: *Ambition is the last refuge of Failure* – Oscar Wilde.

Bob.

Club Program

- | | |
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| December 1st
(meeting) | Bells of Christmas. St. Peter's Bell Ringers. Everyone is asked to wear red or green and bring a donation to the food bank. |
| December 16th | Christmas Party – Dinner, Entertainment, prizes. At the Lion's Centre. \$40.00 each. More below. |
| January 5th
(meeting) | Randy Bird – Horse trainer and promoter of "Save the Mustangs" |
| January 19th
(meeting) | Meet fellow members game – Lots of fun. |
| January 27th | Dinner Theatre – "I Oughtta Be in Pictures" Tickets \$30 – includes dinner, show, all taxes and services. More just below. |

Other Club Notices

Meetings

There will **NOT** be a meeting on **December 15th** – the Christmas party is the next day. The next meeting and newsletter will be January 5th.

Committees

There will be Committees for:

- **Summer Sizzler** (nee BBQ)
- **Christmas party** (clip-board already circulated)
- **Picnic in the Park**
- **Car Rally**
- **Golf Tournament**

Karin Allan has clip-boards for all of these (and more) and already has or will be circulating them as required. However, you can also see her anytime to sign up.

Dinner Theatre

"I Oughtta Be in Pictures"

Jan 27, 2006

For lovers of well written comedy...

Screenwriter Herb Tucker's daughter, Libby, shows up on his doorstep in California after 16 years. She's pushy, perky and dying to get into the movies any way she can. But Herb's life is falling apart. He and his girlfriend are on the outs and he hasn't lifted a pen in weeks. Add to this blocked writer's empty life, a daughter he'd forgotten about and you have a formula for fun, disaster, tears and laughs as only Neil Simon can write.

Select your seating when you buy your ticket – see **Dorothy Allen** or **Mary Ryan**.

Tickets \$30 – includes dinner, show, all taxes and services.

Current Executive

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A full list of current **committee members** is on our web site. www.probusnorthumberland.com then go to *About Us* and select *Cobourg*.

Making Music

Accompanied by a video presentation and the sounds of stirring marches, the Probus Club of Cobourg welcomed Bob Irvine from the *Concert Band of Cobourg* and the *Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Association of Ontario* to be the guest speaker for the November 17th meeting.

Bob, a Cobourg native, had been a member of the concert Band for almost forty years when he retired in the early 1980's. After a hiatus lasting until 1999, Bob returned to play his clarinet and has become the band historian. His legacy will be the book he has researched and is now beginning to write.

During his most interesting presentation, Bob

told us that the band had its beginning in Cobourg as far back as 1842 with public appearances in that year. A brass band was formed in 1855 and it came first in the *best band* category for Upper Canada in 1860 – 61.

Over the years, financial assistance has come from the Town of Cobourg starting with \$150 in 1900. The band raised some of its own funds by concerts in various venues around the town over the years.

It also had various names including *Cobourg Amateur Brass*, *The Citizens Band*, *Cobourg Concert Band*, *Cobourg Kiltie Band* and others. Today we know it as the *Concert Band of Cobourg*.



This band has played for royalty, Governor Generals and Lieutenant Governors, Prime Ministers and Premiers.

The creation of a beat retreat and marching routines was introduced by Band Director Rollie White in 1976.

The *Concert Band of Cobourg* is one of Ontario's finest community based, non-profit wind ensembles with complete concert and parade percussion sections. The membership of the Band is made up of unpaid volunteers who have joined based on a desire to enjoy themselves through activities based around the presentation of their musical talents. The Band is supported by the Town of Cobourg and is associated with H.M. Royal Marines Association of Ontario. That association was formed in the 1970's when the *Concert Band of Cobourg* accepted an invitation from the Royal Marines to become the official band of the association.

Submitted by Bert MacMillan

Christmas Party



There are still tickets left to this event that's always been a big success. It's on Friday, December 16th at the Lion's Centre.

Whether you go or not, you can buy a ticket in the **Raffle** which has **two** prizes - a **VIA** First class tickets for 2 anywhere in the Windsor to Quebec City Corridor (like John Lyons described) and a Candlelight dinner for 2 at the **Woodlawn Inn**. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5

For Entertainment, we will have **The Bernard sisters** and

the

Big Easy 7

Band (right).

5:30pm Social

6:00pm Dinner

Tickets are

\$40.00.



Lest we forget - Vignettes of the War Years

A number of our members shared their war time experiences and memories at our Nov 3/05 meeting.

Remembrance Day is a sad and nostalgic time for many people. The hardships endured seem to be fresh although a number of humorous incidents were also related. We should all bear in mind the sacrifices of the many others who did not come home or had their lives changed irrevocably by their experiences.

Audrey Levtov introduced 8 of our members who related their personal memories of this historic time:

Bob Spooner's father was in the Highland Light Infantry. He and his sister were 5 and 10 at the outbreak of war. His mother worked in a munitions factory and took in boarders from the local training schools.

Don Gummer was among 73,000 Canadians trained in the Air Force and ended up the war as a wireless operator.

John Simpson was a member of the Home Guard in Scotland which was composed of teens and seniors. They were provided with any available weapon and wore black arm bands and



Lest We Forget

had tin hats for protection. They trained to the best of their ability in case they were called upon to defend their country

Dorothy Allen's memories of the hard work her Brownie pack performed were vivid – they collected grease and fat for soap making and packed boxes for overseas. Her family built a dormitory on the second floor to house the boys from Trenton.

Bill Johnson was 8 years old when war was declared. He feels that since we are the end of that generation to remember details of that period we should take care to pass this information to our children and grandchildren.

Jim Stirling was a Royal Navy Pilot who sailed for England dressed as a seaman. He exited a Harvard Trainer under emergency conditions and finished the war at aged 20 as a badminton champion.

Malcolm Wardman was 8 years old when war broke out in Britain. He and his father built an air raid shelter at the bottom of the garden. He was cautioned to wear his gas mask at all times. He brought the mask and a clock from the remains of their family car to show us. He remembers watching the results of the blitz of Nottingham with his father who told him to never forget this devastation.

Larry Flood told of the hardships endured by the Merchant Navy both aboard ship and in the North Atlantic. Apparently there has been little acknowledgement of these valiant men.

Alma McKendrick thanked Audrey and our wonderful speakers with great appreciation and a poem.

Joyce Porter.

Editor's Corner

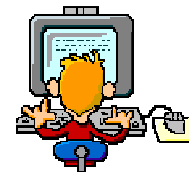
Non-Probus items: If there is room after all Probus related items are included, items likely to be of interest to Probus members will be added. These include other events in Cobourg, short jokes submitted by members or other items.

For an archive of previous newsletters, what's happening in other clubs and photos, don't forget our web site at www.probusnorthumberland.com

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Other Events in Cobourg

Northumberland Film Sundays has a *Film Festival* at Northumberland Mall on January 27, 28, 29. Films include the Toronto Film Festival hit *Water*, as well as *Good Night and Good Luck*, *Crazy*, *Capote* and *A History of Violence*.



Included is a Saturday evening Reception at **Victoria Hall**. The price for the weekend is \$40.00.

More details available on brochures available at ticket outlets - the Human Bean or Victoria Hall Box Office - or on the web at www.northumberlandfilm.ca.



December 2005 - Probus

More at www.probusnorthumberland.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Meeting Bells of Christmas	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Christmas party 5:30pm	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

January 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Meeting Randy Bird – Horse trainer	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Meeting – Meet fellow members game	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Dinner Theatre	28
29	30	31				