



THE COBOURG PROBIAN

Volume 15, Number 7th, April, 2009

The Probus Club of Cobourg and District

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

Next Meeting: April 16th, 2009

Vice Presidents' Report:

Spring is here: the temperature may not be as warm as we'd like and as we write this we sure wish all the snow was gone from OUR yard! You Townies have a much earlier start than us! We'd like to welcome back our Snowbirds; we're sure you will find that we've kept the Probus home fires burning and have Spring Fling under control. Remember to pick up your tickets from Audrey Levtov. (Look for the update further in the Probian).

Our Hat Day, March 19th was a wonderful success and thanks to our Marilyn Macklin the picture of winners, Elma Parker and Larry Flood, was in the Northumberland Today a week ago! We'd also like to thank Margot Donald for arranging the luncheon at The Mill. Twenty-four of us were there and had a great time; let's see if we can gather a few more next time! With spring here we start to look forward to our "warm weather" activities. Soon we'll have Golf Day organized: remember to look at the "Speakers & Events" to see what we have planned and when. Longer days get our spirits up: put a spring in our steps; a smile on our faces. Let us all keep young and active!!!!

The J & j duo, Joanne & Jim

SPEAKERS & EVENTS

APR. 2nd Michael Newnham
Orchestra Leader/ Conductor

APR. 16th Richard Tyssen
Sustainable Growth in Cobourg

APR. 24th Dinner Theatre "The Affections of May" Only if you see this romantic comedy will you find out which way May's affections between her two suitors will go.
See Dorothy soon for tickets if you want your table.

MAY 7th Judge John Bark
Humorous Experiences in Court

MAY 24th Clare Wade
Minister at St. Peter Church
Travel Experiences

MAY 20th Spring Fling
Lots of fun & frolic, lunch, and time to mingle with other club members
Keeler Centre, Colborne

JUNE 4th Terry Stanley OPP
Driving Skill Review

JUNE 18th Sheila Burns
Donkey Farm Update

JULY 2nd Heather Stubbs
Comfort Zone - Keeping Your Cool Under Stress

JULY 10th Our annual "Tree Planting in memory of our members who passed on during the past year. Lunch after at the Legion. Further details will be announced. Mark your calendars.

SPRING FLING 2009 UPDATE

Have you picked up your tickets for May 20th, 2009? Your committee heads have been working hard since September! Everything is in place! There will be 16 Probus Clubs in attendance, including Durham West who received their charter this January. Marie Chisholm has fantastic entertainment booked. The Blue Notes, whose members also play in the Concert Band of Cobourg, will be on stage and travelling amongst the tables playing Dixieland music. In keeping with the upbeat theme, our feature speaker is a well known humourist, William Thomas. He is an author, scriptwriter and a radio and television commentator. He's the senior writer for *Stitches* – Canada's Journal of Medical Humour. Other topics include Guys – Not Real Bright and Damn Proud of it; Curling – Is That Guy Dead or is He the Skip; as well as All Humour Needs a Victim. What will he bring to us ????

Margarete Easton & Doreen Irwin have organized a wonderful feast. They are still looking for a few more host/hostesses. The Adams, Buntins, Elaine Elliott and Pat Gummer are keeping their decorations under wrap; Bill Johnson designed the tickets and table cards (and organized the draw prize); Audrey Levtoov has done a great job of selling tickets to all the clubs; Ron Fraser has Registration in hand; the MacMillan duo have their Greeters & Parking "Valets" chosen; Nancy Foden has her 50/50 people ready and Dennis Goulin has made sure the Keeler Centre is ready and anxious to have us all.

Actually, if you drive by the Keeler Centre, our Probus Club of Cobourg & District and Spring Fling 2009 is on their huge sign!! We're fortunate to have these capable Probians dedicating the time to make things run smoothly; and we must not forget John Draper, our budget chief; Russ Donaldson, our scribe; both key members of our Management Committee.

- *The J & j Duo: Jim & Joanne Domine*

A TASTE OF SCOTLAND

John Winkworth was our speaker March 5th. His topic was highlighted with a slide presentation of interesting Scottish beauty and history. Inverness; 2000 year-old burial sites. *Culloden*, where the last battle was fought; on one side were those who supported Bonnie Prince Charlie against the Duke of Cumberland (the butcher), the battle lasted one hour and those that survived were killed.

The *Castle of Mey* the vacation home of the Queen Mom; *Orkney Isles*, the *Broch of Gurness*, a stone defensive tower dating back to 200 BC, built with inner and outer walls you can walk between. Then there was *Skara Brae* built 5000 years ago, a real village of various homes with adjacent passages that had been covered with earth and recently discovered. The *Ring of Bodgar*, a circle of stone 104 metres in diameter, 36 of the original stones of 2500 years ago remain.

Then there was Maes Howe, older than the pyramids, with tombs built into the inner chamber where Vikings left graffiti on the walls. *Skappa Flow*, one of the best natural harbours in the world where German ships were scuttled; the Churchill Barriers are now a highway to other isles. The very impressive *Italian chapel* built by 500 Italian prisoners of war who wanted a chapel and were given two Nissan huts which they transformed into the most beautiful chapel. Many more interesting castles and points of interest were captured on John's slides. If you want to know more, you'll have to take the trip to Scotland.

FOR THE LOVE OF ANIMALS

March 19th Elizabeth McGuinty, manager of the Shelter of Hope on Theatre Road, supported by the municipalities of Cobourg, Port Hope, Hamilton and Alnwick-Haldimand, responsible for unwanted or stray animals and governs the animal shelter and services. The shelter provides impound services, area patrol and the issuing of dog tags as well as adoption services. The Shelter of Hope has a 4-day holding policy to reclaim your animal.

Male cats should be neutered at about 8 months before they start spraying, otherwise, they may continue the offensive practice, and of course all animals should be spayed or neutered to prevent over populations. An average of 134 dogs and 329 cats were adopted each year and an average of 169 dogs and 15 cats were returned to owners each year since the Shelter opened 6 years ago.

People are welcome to become volunteers at the Shelter to give some loving attention to lost, abused or abandoned animals. Appreciation will be expressed by the sad eyes, enthusiastic welcomes and loving licks.

PROBUS CONTINUES TO GROW

Stone Avery, past director of Zone # 1 which stretches from the Ottawa River to Ajax and includes 28 clubs. Stone personally visited every club and said every meeting was a pleasure.

When Cobourg and District Probus Club was formed in May, 1995, we were # 47. There are now 199 clubs in Canada; 140 in Ontario and there is one in northern Maine, USA.

AMEN

A Minister decided to do something a little different one Sunday morning. He said, "Today, in church, I am going to say a single word and you are going to help me preach. Whatever single word I say, I want you to sing whatever hymn that comes to your mind."

The pastor shouted out "**CROSS.**"

Immediately the congregation started singing in unison, "**THE OLD RUGGED CROSS.**"

The pastor hollered out "**GRACE.**" The congregation began to sing "**AMAZING GRACE,** how sweet the sound.

The pastor said "**POWER.**" The congregation sang "**THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD.**"

The pastor said "**SEX.**" The congregation fell into total silence.

Everyone was in shock. They all nervously began to look around at each other afraid to say anything.

Then all of a sudden, way from the back of the church, a little 87 year old grandmother stood up and began to sing, "**MEMORIES.**"

Send articles for the Probian to Elma Parker at elmapar@eagle.ca