

# The BIAN

Monthly Newsletter of the Probust Club of Cobourg and District



*The Bickersons  
j & J Domine*

## *Presidential Decree*

What fun we had on Jan. 21st!!! Elaine Elliott outdid herself in arranging an "Olympic" party; the timing was perfect with the games starting in less than three weeks. Our appetites have been whetted! Having snowboarding gold medalist Matt Morrison's mother participate was a bonus. We're sure you'll see a separate write up further in the newsletter; however, Elaine deserves a "whole bunch of kudos"! Thank you Elaine and also to the rest of our Program Committee: Audrey

Levtov, Russ Donaldson, Mary Thomson, Bert MacMillan and Ross McKie. They are keeping us entertained with a varied selection of topics, we never know what to expect! How do you feel? I'm sure they'd be pleased to hear from YOU!

It was great to see some old faces back! The Bigwins were there; Al was feeling much better. Mary Buckley and her daughter Mary Jane were in the audience; keep on truckin' Mary!! We do miss some members, Bill Richards is now in Cobourg Extencicare; (if you are out and about, consider dropping in) and Louise Burnham's husband Dick had a stroke 2 weeks ago; he's now in rehab. Louise will be back for the "Breakfast", she's having her second cataract done today.

Outside snow is gently falling, a pretty picture; maybe we will have a winter after all. We've been worried that winter will still be here when we return April 20th from Australia! Let it snow NOW!!! We leave on the 20<sup>th</sup>, two days after our "Breakfast" Meeting. You will be in good hands with Kathy Cole and Marie Chisholm. They'll probably turn out to be another wonderful act; let's call them "The Golden Girls"!

We are fortunate to live in a country where we don't usually have to worry about earthquakes and/or other natural disasters which put lives and property at risk. Not knowing about family and friends, not having a roof over your head and insufficient food and water to sustain yourself; coping with this disaster are our Haitian brethren. Let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers and remember to be thankful for all that we enjoy and have.

May you all have a great March & April, we Bickersons will try to remember to send you a note!!! See you at the first meeting in May.

*February 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting Special Event*

*"Breakfast with the Bickersons"*

*At the Best Western Inn & Convention Centre*

*Doors open 8:00 a.m. – Full Breakfast Buffet at 8:30 a.m.*

*Special Movie Presentation – Broadway Melodies of 1940  
Last Chance for Tickets - \$10 each – February 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Don't miss this one!!!*

*February, 2010  
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Editor Bill Johnson  
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## **Car Tire Tips for Seniors.**

*What you need to know about tires:*  
Whether you get snow where you live or not you need winter tires.

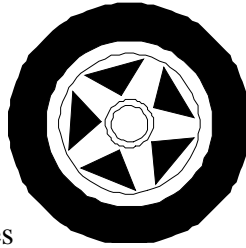
All-season tires are a complete misnomer as they are intended for all the seasons of Florida or San Diego, not Toronto and Montreal. And it's not just a matter of traction in deep snow or on ice, for which M+S and specific ice traction tires (like Bridgestone's Blizzak tire) are ideal.

The simple fact that it's below freezing means you need winter tires as all-seasons and high-performance tires actually freeze up (their Glass Point) and lose most their traction even on dry surfaces.

It's also important to note that you need winter tires even if you have an AWD or 4WD vehicle. Getting going is only part of the equation. In order to be able to stop safely and turn confidently you need winter tires  
*Continued on page 2*

**Tire tips – continued from page one**

for their low temperature compound and enhanced winter driving characteristics.



By the same token it's very important to get your winter tires off your car as soon as temperatures increase. The soft compound of a winter tire won't last long in warmer temperatures, not to mention they offer significantly reduced traction and handling in warmer weather.

**What the numbers mean:**

With the exception of Michelin's PAX tires (which you're not likely to ever run into unless you buy a Bugatti or live in Europe) the sizing of tires is universal. If you get down on your hands and knees you'll see a series of numbers like this 195/65R16 89T on your average family sedan or maybe 295/35R19 98Y on your sexy two-seat mid-life-crisis-mobile.

In either case the first three digits are the width of the tire. In the example above the tires are 195 and 295 mm wide, respectively. The next number is a bit more abstract. It's the ratio of tread width (195 and 295 in this example) to sidewall height. The lower the number, the shorter the sidewall but it's relative to width. Shorter sidewalls not only look cool but increase maximum grip and transitional response...that's why high-performance cars typically run the shortest sidewalls they can without completely obliterating ride quality.

The last two digits are the wheel size. Sixteen and

nineteen inches here. The "R" refers to radial construction. The next two digits refer to load rating and the final letter is a speed rating. "S" is up to 180 km/h, "V" 240 km/h, "Y" is 300km/h and so on. Most snow tires are speed rated "T" or "Q" (160 km/h and 190km/h) which is plenty for inclement weather.

All the sizing information applies to winter tires just as it does for all-seasons and summer tires. When switching to winter tires, however, many manufacturers recommend that you go one size narrower and, therefore, increase the sidewall ratio in order to maintain the overall tire diameter. Follow?

So, if you have 195/65R16 all-seasons on your car you would be well advised to select 185/70R16s for winter use. The narrower tread will dig into snow better and there's the added bonus of narrower sizes with higher aspect ratios being less expensive as well.

You can mount winter tires on steel wheels or alloys but open designs with thin spokes aren't ideal as snow can build up inside the wheel rim and cause high-speed vibration due to imbalance.

**Winter tire identifiers:**

In your quest for winter rubber you'll come across the M+S designation. This is for tires that are designed to perform especially well in the snow, perhaps sacrificing more dry performance than some other winter tires. An icon of a mountain with a snowflake set into means a tire is designed for maximum winter traction.

*Submitted by Russ Donaldson*

**New Words for the New Language**



The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words. And the winners are:

1. Coffee, n. The person upon whom one coughs.
2. Flabbergasted, adj. Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.
3. Abdicate, v. To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach. - Ah men!!!!!!!!!!!!
4. Esplanade, v. To attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. Willy-nilly, adj. Impotent.
6. Negligent, adj. Absentmindedly answering the door when wearing only a nightgown.
7. Lymph, v. To walk with a lisp.

8. Gargoyle, n. Olive-flavored mouthwash.

9. Flatulence, n. Emergency vehicle that picks up someone who has been run over by a steamroller.

10. Balderdash, n. A rapidly receding hairline.

11. Testicle, n. A humorous question on an exam.

12. Rectitude, n. The formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.

13. Pokemon, n.. A Rastafarian proctologist.

14. Oyster, n. A person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.

15. Frisbeetarianism, n. The belief that, after death, the soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

16. Circumvent, . An opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.



## Speakers Corner



### January 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victoria Hall Momentum is building for the Hall's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations! A full week of community-focused events will mark the occasion!

Our speaker on January 7, **Alistair Commins**, Chair of the 2010 Committee, informed us of **Alistair Commins** the wonderful and interesting events which will take place over Victoria Hall Week, from May 25 until May 29.

His enthusiasm towards these events was evident in his articulate presentation. Alistair, a mechanical engineer and Patricia, his wife, a retired educator have lived in Cobourg in a Victorian home since 2007. During that time they have embraced the community and been active in many areas.

Included amongst the many events happening that week are a concert, 'Victoria – Music for a Queen and her Empire' presented by Northumberland Orchestra and Choir, a student art exhibit, hosted by the Art Gallery, store window displays, walking tours, and a Victorian Picnic in Victoria Park, of course!

Many other events will also occur. A complete handout was given to all members in regard to these.

Ceremonial events filled with 'Pomp and Circumstance' will occur on Saturday, May 29 with a parade led by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, a military honour guard, and legion and cadet members. The

Lieutenant – Governor of Ontario will inspect and review these units.

The day will culminate with the "Grand Ball" at eight o'clock in the Concert Hall, organized by the Victoria Hall Volunteers. The committee's hopes to present events that show Cobourg's community spirit and high level of civic pride and enthusiasm in their town!

**Submitted by Bert MacMillan**

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*I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.*

**Submitted by Joe Howeson**



## The 2010 Olympics comes to Probus

What an eventful and exciting meeting January 21st when the Olympics came to Probus on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

From the moment you stepped through the doorway and were greeted by Chris and Al Rose sporting their Olympic sweater and torch run uniform, handing out medals to each every attendee, you just knew this meeting would be something to remember for a long time.



The meeting kicked-off with an impressive presentation my Brian Read that was packed with interesting facts and trivia concerning Canada's past performances at the

Winter Games. Backed by powerful visual **Brian Read** images prepared by Kym Read, you could feel the Canadian pride building as the momentum grew and the audience responded most positively.

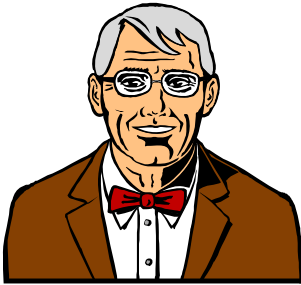
This meeting was arranged by Elaine Elliott with the support of her son Brian and his wife Kym along with friends Chris and Al Rose and all will agree they did an outstanding job.

Also taking part, was Kathy Morrison, mother of Olympic medal hopeful Matt Morrison, Canada's hope for gold in the Alpine Snowboarding event in Vancouver in 2010. She provided a compelling and informative look at just what it takes to produce an internationally recognized champion athlete.

The meeting concluded with a generous series of bonus lucky draws for Olympic hats, sweaters and jackets. Binty Robertson won the 50/50 draw again. It is become habit forming.

**See more Russ Donaldson photos on page 5**

## **OLD CODGER PRIDE**



I'm passing this on as I did not want to be the only "old codger" receiving it.

Actually, it's not a bad thing to be called, as you will see. **Old Codgers** are easy to spot at sporting events; during the playing of the O

Canada. **Old Codgers** remove their caps and stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.

**Old Codgers** remember World War II, Dieppe, Juno Beach, Normandy, Ortona, the Hong Kong vets and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing. They remember the each and every Peacekeeping Mission, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into an **Old Codger** on the sidewalk he will apologize. If you pass an **Old Codger** on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. **Old Codgers** trust strangers and are courtly to women. **Old Codgers** hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.

**Old Codgers** get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like any filth or dirty language on TV or in movies. **Old Codgers** have moral courage and personal integrity. They seldom brag unless it's about their children or grandchildren.

It's the **Old Codgers** who know our great country is protected, not by politicians, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country. This country needs **Old Codgers** with their work ethic, sense of responsibility, pride in their country and decent values. We need them now more than ever. Thank God for **Old Codgers**!

Pass this on to all the Old Codgers you know. I was taught to respect my elders. It's just getting harder to find them.

### ***Another English Church Sign***

**"As you pass this little church,  
be sure to plan a visit,  
so when at last you're carried in,  
God won't ask "who is it?"**

## **The Probus Scene**



Maybe it's something in the water, but George Chisholm seems to win more than his fair share of 50/50 prizes. At the left, George displays his last "triumph" at the January 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Some guys just seem to have all the luck. I wonder if he shares his winnings with Marie? Maybe we should ask!

Do we have any volunteers?



Above, at the January 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting, **Emma Sandham**, **Marie Chisholm** and **Doreen West** were all smiles and giggles until they saw the camera. Then for some reason, they turned stone faced and serious. The camera never lies.



On the other hand, these four charming gentlemen (?) were in an animated discussion when your scribe appeared with the camera. From the left, **Don McCurdy**, **Warren Harvey**, **Don Morrison** and **Jim Domine** are listening intently as Don makes a point.

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### ***Great Truths about aging***

**"Growing old is mandatory ...  
growing up is optional!"**



*Co-President Jim was all smiles when he won the beautiful Olympic sweater during the bonus draw but look at the photo on the right taken moments later and see who wound up wearing it home. Want to bet Joanne is still wearing it?*



*Above, Mary Buckley poses for the camera with daughters and Kathy Morrison and the Torch.*



*Right, Elizabeth and Ken Ledgard were thrilled to hold the Olympic Torch.*



*Left, the folks who made this day a very special one for Cobourg Probus, the presenters, from the left, Olympic Torch bearer, Al Rose, Olympian mother Kathy Morrison, Kym Read, Chris Rose and Brian Read. The amount of work and effort these folks put in to today's meeting was simply and truly outstanding.*



## *The Zen of Sarcasm*

1. Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me either.

Just pretty much leave me alone.

2. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and leaky tire.
3. It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
4. Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
5. Always remember that you're unique. Just like everyone else.
6. Never test the depth of the water with both feet.
7. If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.
8. Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
9. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is probably not for you.
10. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.
11. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably a wise investment.
12. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
13. Some days you're the bug; some days you're the windshield.
14. Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
15. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.
16. A closed mouth gathers no foot.
17. Duct tape is like 'The Force'. It has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.

18. There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.

19. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.

20. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

21. Never miss a good chance to shut up.

AND



22. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

## *Coming Events*

### ***Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – Probus Inter-Club Bowling Tournament***

The tournament is scheduled for Northumberland Lanes at Northumberland Mall 9:30 a.m. You are invited to come out and cheer on your team of master bowlers.

### ***Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – Special Meeting “Breakfast with the Bickersons” at the Best Western Inn & Convention Centre.***

Your last chance to purchase tickets will be at the February 4<sup>th</sup> regular club meeting. Tickets \$10 each includes full buffet breakfast and special movie presentation of *Broadway Melodies* of 1940 starring *Fred Astaire* and *Eleanor Powell*. Coffee break after the movie, followed by a brief business meeting. See *Russ Donaldson* for tickets.

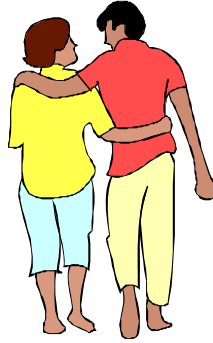
### ***Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – Regular Meeting at The Cobourg Lions Centre – Elgin St., E. 9:00 a.m. “Smart Meters and You”***

Lakefront Utilities spokesperson will explain the phasing in of “Smart Meters”.

### ***Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – “Spring Fling”***

Meeting hosted by the Probus Clubs of Belleville/Quinte. We have been allotted only 50 tickets. Watch for more information on availability.

## **The Keepers in our lives!**



Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat, working on the lawn mower, and Mom in a housedress, dish-towel in her hand. It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep.

It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, eating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more. But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more.

Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away ... never to return. So... While we have it.... it's best we love it... And care for it.... And fix it when it's broken..... And heal it when it's sick.

This is true ... For marriage .... And old cars.... And children with bad report cards..... Dogs and cats with bad hips..... And aging parents.... And grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep. Like a best friend that moved away or a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special... And so, we keep them close!

I received this from someone who thinks I am a 'keeper', so I've sent it to the people I think of in the same way... Now it's your turn to send this to those people that are 'keepers' in your life.

Good friends are like stars.... You don't always see them, but you know they are there

**SERENITY – or**

**Joe Howieson's  
Howlers**



Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, 'How old was your husband?'

'98,' she replied, 'Two years older than me'

'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented.

She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'

Reporter interviewing a 104-year-old woman:

'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked.

She simply replied, 'No peer pressure.'

The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, Can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine,

Take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts.

Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; Hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 89 or 98. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, "For fast relief"

### **THE SENILITY PRAYER:**

"Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference."

Now, I think you're supposed to share this with 5 or 6, maybe 10 others. Oh heck, give it to a bunch of your friends if you can remember who they are!

Always Remember This: You don't stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop laughing!!!

Thanks to *Probian Joe Howieson* for these words.

## **A LITTLE GUN HISTORY**

**Editor's Note:** I found the following to be an interesting read. I present it here only as one point of view.

Most importantly note the difference between Australia and Switzerland at the bottom of this. In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control. From 1929 to 1953, about 20 million dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

In 1911, Turkey established gun control. From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Germany established gun control in 1938. From 1939 to 1945, a total of 13 million Jews and others who were unable to defend themselves were rounded up and exterminated.

China established gun control in 1935. From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Guatemala established gun control in 1964. From 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Uganda established gun control in 1970. From 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Cambodia established gun control in 1956. From 1975 to 1977, one million educated people, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Defenseless people rounded up and exterminated in the 20th Century because of gun control: 56 million.

It has now been 12 months since gun owners in Australia were forced by new law to surrender 640,381 personal firearms to be destroyed by their own Government, a program costing Australia taxpayers more than \$500 million dollars. The first year results are now in:

1. Australia-wide, homicides are up 3.2 percent.
2. Australia-wide, assaults are up 8.6 percent..
3. Australia-wide, armed robberies are up 44 percent (yes, 44 percent)

In the state of Victoria alone, homicides with firearms are now up 300 percent. Note that while the law-abiding citizens turned them in,

the criminals did not, and criminals still possess their guns! While figures over the previous 25 years showed a steady decrease in armed robbery with firearms, this has changed drastically upward in the past 12 months, since criminals now are guaranteed that their prey is unarmed.

There has also been a dramatic increase in break-ins and assaults of the ELDERLY. Australian politicians are at a loss to explain how public safety has decreased, after such monumental effort, and expense was expended in successfully ridding Australian society of guns.

The Australian experience and the other historical facts above prove it. You won't see this data on the US evening news, or hear politicians disseminating this information. Guns in the hands of honest citizens save lives and property and, yes, gun-control laws adversely affect only the law-abiding citizens. Take note my fellow Americans, before it's too late! The next time someone talks in favor of gun control, please remind them of this history lesson. With guns, we are 'citizens'. Without them, we're 'subjects'..

During WWII the Japanese decided not to invade America because they knew most Americans were ARMED! If you value your freedom, please spread this anti-gun control message to all of your friends. The purpose of fighting is to win. There is no possible victory in defense. The sword is more important than the shield, and skill is more important than either. The final weapon is the brain. All else is supplemental.

SWITZERLAND ISSUES EVERY HOUSEHOLD A GUN and SWITZERLAND 'S GOVERNMENT TRAINS EVERY ADULT THEY ISSUE A RIFLE HOW TO USE IT.

SWITZERLAND HAS THE LOWEST GUN RELATED CRIME RATE OF ANY CIVILIZED COUNTRY IN THE WORLD!!! IT'S A NO BRAINER! SHOULD OUR GOVERNMENT WASTE MILLIONS OF OUR TAX DOLLARS IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE ALL LAW ABIDING CITIZENS AN EASY TARGET?

### ***Watch those Bar Codes.***

Those bar codes on the products you buy can tell you where the product came from or is made.

**The first numbers are the indicators. Numbers 690 to 692 are China; 00 to 09 the USA and Canada; 30 to 37 are France; 40 to 44 Germany' 47 is Taiwan; 49 is Japan and 50 is the UK.**

Thanks to Probian *Ross Adams* for this information.