

The **PROBIAN**

Monthly Newsletter of the Probus Club of Cobourg and District



**The Bickersons
j & J Domine**

(the members), organized and ran a spectacular Spring Fling. Following this, the pace didn't slacken.

We had an excellent, well attended tree planting ceremony and then the Summer Sizzler. In between these events we still kept up our regular meetings with lots of interesting entertainment. We had a volunteer restart the monthly "after meeting" lunch program for those interested. We had some great feasts! In September we welcomed some new faces on the Executive and the return of some of the old guard.

The Speakers Committee was renamed the Program Committee to better reflect the job. We are all working hard to provide YOU with interesting and varied activities. Without YOU, we have no club. Having said that, we also need/require/demand? YOUR support to keep things going. YOUR new blood on the various committees and on the executive mean more new ideas – which in turn means better input and a varied program. Without a full executive, YOU will not have a Club. Remember, many hands make light work!

We see an interesting 2010 shaping up. Plans are in the works to make this happen. Kathy and Marie will keep things going after our term is finished. We hope we have kept you entertained as The Bickersons and you'll keep us around for the rest of the Probus year. We are enjoying our time! You are a great bunch of people.

J & j

P.S. Hope you all had a happy and good Christmas and New Years.

**Happy New Year to all
from the Probian!**

May the New Year bring you health, happiness and friendship!

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Editor Bill Johnson
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Financial Tip for Seniors.

Ottawa Moves to Eliminate Funeral Costs for Seniors

Finally, some good news for tax strapped seniors. In a sudden, unexpected display of government generosity Revenue Canada's 3rd Assistant Deputy Minister, Hu Binn Haad, has announced that effective January 1, 2010, Canadians over 65 years of age will no longer be faced with skyrocketing funeral costs.

"This move is long overdue", said Haad, "The government has been gravely concerned for some time about the ever increasing already high cost of dying. This new move, an amendment to the *Old Age Security* program, will mean seniors may now go to their final rest in the knowledge that their families will no longer be faced with excessive funeral expenses, and that the meager funds in their estates will go to their children, not the local funeral directors."

Continued on page 2 -

Continued from page 1 -

Government moves to lower funeral costs for Canada's most deserving seniors

“The Minister would have much preferred to have made this announcement himself,” said Haad, “but unfortunately he is in Iqaluit, attending his mother’s farewell to life celebration. He is pleased and honoured that his mother was one of the first to take advantage of this new program.

“Another aspect of this new program lies in the fact that it will give a much needed boost to the economies of our northernmost communities, thus providing another important plank in the government’s claim to Canadian sovereignty in the north.” The new program, *OAS/GTG* requires only that Canadians over the age of 65 to register in advance for this service to become effective. Once they have become incapacitated, they, or their executor, must advise the *OAS/GTG* of their intention to move on, and the nearest government office will make all of the arrangements. For estate and insurance purposes the cause of death will be shown on all documents as “*Global Warming*”.



Above, the first of many Canadian seniors taking part in the new *OAS/GTG* (*Old And Sick, but Good to Go*) program set sail out into James Bay. Bon Voyage old timers.

Editor’s note: I hope I have not offended anyone, folks, but this story (adapted by the Probian to suit Canadian reader’s interests) was just too good to pass up. You should have been suspicious when the announcement was made by Mr. Hu Binn Haad. Thanks to Probian Don Morrison for the

idea. It is great to be receiving so many great ideas for the Probian and they will be used as space allows. Thank you, and keep them coming. BJ

FYI ~



For Film Lovers -

**Northumberland Film Sundays
Fifth Annual Winter Weekend
Festival at Mall Theatres –
January 29, 30 & 31 - 2010**

Films are:

- **Creation** - Friday 6:30 pm
- **Cairo Time** - Saturday 1:30pm
- **The Young Victoria** - Saturday 6:00pm - followed by a Reception in Victoria Hall at 8:00pm.
- **Broken Embraces** - Sunday 1:00pm
- **Cooking with Stella** - Sunday 4:00pm

Weekend packages can be purchased from Victoria Hall Box Office or The Human Bean \$45 each.

For more information please see Alma Draper.

The Probus Club of Cobourg & District Welcomes New Member Joyce Linton

At the December 4th meeting of the Probus Club of Cobourg & District acting Co-Presidents Kathy Cole and Mary Chisholm welcomed the club’s newest member, Joyce Linton, centre, of Cobourg.



Joyce was introduced to Probus by her friend, club member Marjorie Heaton. Please take a few moments to introduce yourself to Joyce and make certain she feels welcome as a member of our club.

Tips for Handling Telemarketers

Three Little Words That Work!!

**(1) The three little words are:
'Hold On, Please...'**

Saying this, while putting down your phone and walking off (instead of hanging-up immediately) would make each telemarketing call so much more time-consuming that boiler room sales would grind to a halt.

Then when you eventually hear the phone company's 'beep-beep-beep' tone, you know it's time to go back and hang up your handset, which has efficiently completed its task.

These three little words will help eliminate telephone soliciting..

(2) Do you ever get those annoying phone calls with no one on the other end?

This is a telemarketing technique where a machine makes phone calls and records the time of day when a person answers the phone. This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a 'real' sales person to call back and get someone at home.

What you can do after answering, if you notice there is no one there, is to immediately start hitting your # button on the phone, 6 or 7 times as quickly as possible. This confuses the machine that dialed the call, and it kicks your number out of their system. Gosh, what a shame not to have your name in their system any longer!!!

(3) Junk Mail Help: When you get 'ads' enclosed with your phone or utility bill, return these 'ads' with your payment. Let the sending companies throw their own junk mail away.

When you get those 'pre-approved' letters in the mail for everything from credit cards to 2nd mortgages and similar type junk, do not throw away the return envelope. Most of these come with postage-paid return envelopes, right? It costs them more than the regular 41 cents postage, 'IF' and when they receive them back.

It costs them nothing if you throw them away! The postage was around 50 cents before the last increase and it is according to the weight. In that case, why not get rid of some of your other junk mail and put it in these cool little, postage-paid return envelopes.

One of Andy Rooney 's (60 minutes) ideas.

Send an ad for your local chimney cleaner to American Express. Send a pizza coupon to

Citibank. If you didn't get anything else that day, then just send them their blank application back! If you want to remain anonymous, just make sure your name isn't on anything you send them. You can even send the envelope back empty if you want to just to keep them guessing! It still costs them 41cents.

The banks and credit card companies are currently getting a lot of their own junk back in the mail, but folks, we need to **OVERWHELM** them. Let's let them know what it's like to get lots of junk mail, and best of all, they're paying for it...Twice!

Let's help keep our postal service busy since they are saying that e-mail is cutting into their business profits, and that's why they need to increase postage costs again. You get the idea!

If enough people follow these tips, it will work ---- I have been doing this for years, and I get very little junk mail anymore.

Submitted to *The Probian* by **Russ Donaldson**

UN Telephone Survey!



Last month the UN conducted an international telephone survey. The only question asked was -

"Would you please give your honest opinion about a solution to the food shortage in the rest of the world?" The survey was a failure because of the following:

In Eastern Europe, they didn't know what **"honest"** meant.

In Western Europe, they didn't know what **"shortage"** meant.

In Africa, they didn't know what **"food"** meant.

In China, they didn't know what **"opinion"** meant.

In the Middle East, they didn't know what **"solution"** meant.

In South America, they didn't know what **"please"** meant.

In the USA they didn't know what **"the rest of the world"** meant.

Finally, in the Canada, most people just hung up the phone because they couldn't understand the accent of the person at the call centre....

Watch your Language! New Words of Wisdom



The *Washington Post's* Mensa *Invitational* once again asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

Here are the top three 2009 winners:

1. **Cashtration (n.):** The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
2. **Ignoranus:** A person who's both stupid and anal retentive.
3. **Intaxication:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

And the also rans

- 4 **Reintarnation.:** Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
5. **Bozone (n.):** The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
6. **Forepjoy:** Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of sexual arousal..
7. **Giraffiti:** Vandalism spray-painted very, very high
8. **Sarchasm:** The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
9. **Inoculatte:** To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
10. **Osteopornosis:** A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
11. **Karmageddon:** It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bumper.
12. **Decafalon(n.):** The gruelling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
13. **Glibido:** All talk and no action.
14. **Doppler Effect:** The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
15. **Arachnoleptic Fit (n.):** The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

16. **Beelzebug (n.):** Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

17. **Caterpallor (n.):** The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

Coming Events



Thursday,
21st – Regular

January
Meeting

Cobourg CAO Stephen Peacock will speak on the new Recreation Centre. Bring your questions.

Friday, January 29th - Dinner Theatre at the
Best Western Inn & Convention Centre
Steel Magnolias – The story introduces us to a

gaggle of gossiping ladies in a 1980's Louisiana small-town beauty parlour. The characters are familiar, engaging and truly hilarious in their joking as they cut up the local society with their biting, yet honest insights, all the time fussing with their hair.

The play swings between slap-your-sides comedy and dab-your-eyes tender moments. The conclusion is deeply moving: a skillfully crafted and lovingly evoked picture of kookiness and sisterhood.

Please note: Those wishing to reserve tables or seating are requested to have their cheques - \$33.75 **per person** – for the complete seating reservation, in by the January 7th Probus meeting.

* **Monday, February 15th – Probus
Bowling Inter-Club Tournament**

The 2010 Inter Club Bowling Tournament has been scheduled for MONDAY, FEBRUARY, 15th, 2010, at 9:30AM, at Northumberland Mall Bowling. See Russ Donaldson to sign up.

Wednesday, March 3rd –King Tut Exhibit

\$65.00 per person – Bus Transport, Admission and Lunch. See Nancy Foden for details and to register. See article on **page 6** for more information on the Boy King – King Tut.

Limited tickets available. Order now!

Speakers Corner



On *Friday the 4th of December* just over a hundred members of our club and guests visited the Port Hope *Capitol Theatre* during its annual Capitol Christmas Festival. The day was bright & beautiful & everyone arrived smiling & looking very festive.

Jon Ed Co-Ordinator of Theatre Volunteers

The theatre was filled with 55 fully decorated Christmas trees provided by local sponsors & the Capitol's own volunteers. It was magical, decorations of every shape & size, shining & sparkling in their lights.

After a short meeting run by our *V.P's Marie & Kathy* to keep us up to date, *Jon Ed* - co-ordinator of volunteers gave us a short history of the theatre. We then moved out to the reception area for Xmas treats, such as stollen, cranberry, coffee cake, tangerine cupcakes, brownies, chocolates & clementines.



Probian Doreen Guy and Marilyn Macklin paused to take in the wonder fully decorated Christmas trees in the Capitol Theatre lobby, with Bert and Tom MacMillan.

The Capitol provided & served the coffee & hot chocolate. What wonderful support you gave this event. I truly appreciate you all, as your committee tries to bring you different events.

A BIG THANK YOU from the Capitol, we added \$450 by our ticket sales, so a most enjoyable and successful day. Submitted by *Audrey Levto*.

December 17th – Xmas Luncheon

Does it get any better than this?



Co-Presidents Joanne and Jim Domine (a.k.a. the Bickersons) were at the door making sure everyone was warmly greeted for the Christmas Luncheon at the Lions Centre.

Stone Avery handled the Master of Ceremonies task with his usual grace and professionalism.



The Lions Centre was nicely decorated for the occasion giving a festive air to the day which lasted throughout the entire event. Poinsettias served as bright centre pieces which were later to be won by lucky Probians at the conclusion of the luncheon. The committee in charge of the luncheon deserves a very sincere “thank you” for all their hard work.

Please see more photos on page 8.

The Discovery of King Tut's Tomb



Above. Howard Carter examines Tut's remains

On Sunday, November 26th, 1922, Howard Carter discovered the Tomb of Tutankamun. King Tut was an insignificant ruler who died young and was soon forgotten by his people. His lack of renown likely helped protect his tomb from grave robbers. The tomb was finally opened in 1922 by Howard Carter in what was to become one of the most important archaeological events of the 20th Century.

Carter won world-wide acclaim for his discovery, but there are also those who say it cost him his life. The fate of many of those on Carter's team led people to speculate that when the archaeologist opened Tut's tomb, he unleashed an ancient curse.

Carter was born in 1873 in Norfolk. In 1890 he became a member of the staff of the Egyptian Exploration Fund's Archaeological Survey. He served as inspector general of the antiquities department of the Egyptian Government, and on their behalf, discovered the tomb of King Metuhotep.

He was closely associated with Lord Carnarvon in the discovery of King Tut's Tomb in 1922, for which he is probably best remembered to this day.

Great Truths

Growing old is *mandatory*: growing up is *optional*!

Meet the REAL Bickersons – again!



Many of you, I am sure, will remember the original "*Bickersons*". The ones long before Joanne and Jim Domine assumed the roles. *The Bickersons* was a radio comedy sketch that began way back in 1946 on NBC, moving to CBS the following year where it continued until 1951.

The show's married protagonists, portrayed by Don Ameche (John) and Frances Langford, (Blanche) spent nearly all their time together in relentless verbal war. (Sound familiar?).

Typical dialogue from the show would run something like this:

Blanche: You used to be so considerate. Since you married me you haven't got any sympathy at all.

John: I have, too! I've got everybody's sympathy.

Blanche: Believe me, there's better fish in the ocean than the one I caught.

John: There's better bait too!

Blanche: I don't see how you can go to bed without kissing me goodnight.

John: I can do it!

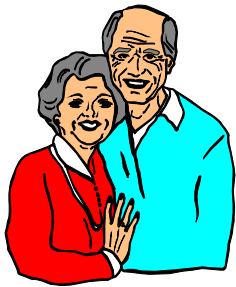
Blanche: You'd better say you're sorry for that, John.

John: Okay, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

Blanche: You are not!

John: I am too! I'm the sorriest man ever born.

So there you have it. A trip down memory lane that bears a certain resemblance to someone we all know.



Shocking Survey Results provide new view of today's Canadian seniors!

**CANADA'S SENIOR
CITIZENS SHOWN TO BE WORLDS LEADING
CARRIERS OF AIDS!**

HEARING AIDS

BAND AIDS

ROLL AIDS

WALKING AIDS

MEDICAL AIDS

GOVERNMENT AIDS

MOST OF ALL,

MONETARY AID TO THEIR KIDS!

And don't forget HIV - (Hair is Vanishing)

Finally - Proof at last ... Men Have Better Friends...

Friendship among Women:

A woman didn't come home one night. The next morning she told her husband that she had slept over at a friend's house. The man called his wife's 10 best friends. None of them knew anything about it.

Friendship among Men:

A man didn't come home one night. The next morning he told his wife that he had slept over at a friend's house. The woman called her husband's 10 best friends. Eight confirmed that he had slept over, and two said he was still there.

A tip of the Probian Hat to Alma Draper for these words of wisdom.

Question of the Weak!

What do you call two Mexicans playing basketball?

Answer: Juan on Juan

Special Meeting Notices

Thursday, February 4th – Regular Meeting

At press time the program for the February 4th meeting had not been finalized. It is hoped that the program for that day will feature an Olympic Theme consistent with the opening of the Vancouver 2010 games. Plan to attend and be prepared to be surprised.

Thursday, February 18th Regular Meeting Featuring

“Breakfast with the Bickerson” aka Joanne and Jim Domine

Another new departure for our Club ... a full **breakfast buffet with coffee** for just **\$10,00** per person, doors open 8:00a.m., breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Tickets will be on sale at the January 7th meeting and must be purchased before **Thursday, February 4th**. A vintage movie (probably a musical) will follow the breakfast. Following the movie, a coffee break, and then a short business meeting/

Plan now to attend and get your tickets early.



The wisdom of wealth!

A one-hour interview on CNBC with Warren Buffet, the world's second richest man who has donated \$31 billion to charity revealed some fascinating things you will find interesting.

Warren Buffet

Buffet bought his first share at the age of 11 and he now regrets that he started too late!

He bought a small farm at age 14 with savings from delivering newspapers. He said, “One can buy many things with few savings. Encourage your children to start some kind of business.”

Buffet still lives in the same small 3-bedroom house in mid-town Omaha that he bought after he got married 50 years ago. “Don't buy more than you really need and tell your children to do the same”.

Wasn't That a Party!!!



Above: Bob Stothart and Ray Hiller wasted no time in toasting the ladies at their table as the afternoon began.



Above: Dorothy De Lisle, Jack Parker, Joyce Parker and Godfrey De Lisle enjoyed a modest libation while chatting prior to the luncheon being served.



*Ho!
HO!
Ho!*



Above: A very happy Binty Robertson was all smiles after winning the mega 50/50 draw after the luncheon. A most deserving winner, all agreed!

Left: The hard working members of this years Christmas event committee took time to pose for the Probian after a most successful and enjoyable luncheon.

Committee members were; from the left; Marlene Stothart; Marilyn Adams; Elen Graham; Doreen Guy; Ross Adams; and Margarete Easton. Take a minute to say "thank you" to this great committee when you see them at a future meeting.