

The **PROBIAN**

Monthly Newsletter of the Probus Club of Cobourg and District

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*The Bickersons
j & J Domine*

Presidential Decree

Here we are in glorious fall colours. As we look out our window, the maple trees are still full, yellow, gold, orange, red and a little green. Northumberland is truly a beautiful part of our country. We are constantly reminded of our fortunes and how blessed we truly are! Marie and George Chisholm helped us to enjoy our rich area at the Car Tour on October 8th. 84 of us wended our way to Elmhirst Lodge for a lovely lunch.

As we begin our 2009-2010 year of activities, we are looking for **YOU** to help organize some of our events.

Participation means making new friends, getting to know others better and a delight as you plan together. Someone mentioned that when they went on one of the Bus Tours, an added pleasure was sitting on the bus and getting to know a member! This was also true with the Car Tour. As you work on a committee you benefit in the same way and can have a lot of fun as you meet and plan the event. Our VPs, Kathy Cole and Marie Chisholm, (Marie pops up everywhere, helping and enjoying Probus!), are looking for your help with the coming year's events: Golf, Car Tour, Christmas Party and Summer Sizzler, (which Jo Morra is chairing). Who knows what other events may be dreamed up during the year.

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*Capitol Theatre
Port Hope*

Important Notice of Venue Change The December meeting will be held on FRIDAY

the 4TH OF DECEMBER.

We will meet at the Capitol Theatre in Port Hope. Doors open at 9:30a.m. The meeting will start at our regular ten o'clock time. Please eat breakfast before you come as coffee will NOT be available before the meeting. We will have our coffee break **AFTER** the meeting and before we view the trees. This meeting is a not to be missed morning out to really get you into the true spirit of the Christmas season!

Audrey Levto

We look forward to seeing you there!

Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Safety Tip for Seniors.

I wonder how many people know this ~ A 36 year old female had an accident several weeks ago and totaled her car. A resident of Kilgore, Texas she was traveling between Gladewater & Kilgore. It was raining, though not excessively, when her car suddenly began to hydro-plane and literally flew through the air. She was not seriously injured but very stunned at the sudden occurrence!

When she explained to the highway patrolman what had happened he told her something that every driver should know - **NEVER DRIVE IN THE RAIN WITH YOUR CRUISE CONTROL ON.** She thought she was being cautious by setting the cruise control and maintaining a safe consistent speed in the rain.

But the highway patrolman told her that if the cruise control is

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- See Cruise Control*

Continued from page 1 – Cruise Control



on when your car begins to hydroplane and your tires lose contact with the pavement, your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed making you take off like an airplane. She told the patrolman that was exactly what had occurred.

The patrolman said this warning should be listed, on the driver's seat sun-visor - **NEVER USE THE CRUISE CONTROL WHEN THE PAVEMENT IS WET OR ICY.** along with the airbag warning. We tell our teenagers to set the cruise control and drive a safe speed - but we don't tell them to use the cruise control only when the pavement is dry.

The only person the accident victim found, who knew this (besides the patrolman), was a man who had had a similar accident, totaled his car and sustained severe injuries.

If you tell 15 people and only one of them doesn't know about it, you might just save a life.

Note: Some vehicles (such as the Toyota Sienna Ltd. XLE) – will not allow you to set the cruise control when the windshield wipers are on.

**Cell Phone Law –
Effective last month.**



Here is some useful information and Q&A's we received regarding the new cell phone legislation for Ontario which takes effect October 1.

Ontario Legislation Countering Distracted Driving and Promoting Green Transportation Act, 2009

Q1. What devices are not allowed to be used while driving?

A1. Drivers cannot use handheld wireless communications devices while driving. This includes cell phones, Blackberrys, iPods or other portable MP3 devices, PlayStation portables or Gameboys. Drivers also cannot view display screens on devices that are

unrelated to driving such as a laptop or DVD player.

Q2. Does that mean I cannot text message or respond to emails while driving?

A2. Text messaging and emailing are not permitted while driving.

Q3. If I have a hands-free function, such as Bluetooth, can I use my phone while driving?

A3. Yes, using a hands-free wireless communications device, for example a Bluetooth, will be permitted.

Q4. My hands-free device requires me to press a button to accept a call. Will this be allowed?

A4. Yes, pressing a button of a hand-held device that is secured in an accessible place to activate the hands-free mode for an incoming or outbound call is permitted under the legislation.

Q5. Can I use the key pad on my phone to dial a phone number?

A5. No. You can only press a button to accept (or end) a call, or to initiate a voice activated dialing feature.

Q6. What about calls to 911?

A6. All calls to 911 are permitted while driving. However, before placing a call it is advisable stop safely at the side of the road.

Q7. Will I be able to use a GPS device while driving?

A7. Yes, GPS devices that are mounted on a dashboard or windshield are permitted to be used. You are not permitted to use GPS if it requires you to hold the device in your hand. For example using Google maps while holding your Blackberry in your hand would not be permitted. You are also required to pull over to the side of the road to input addresses into your GPS, you cannot type while driving.

Q8. What are the penalties for using a cell phone while driving?

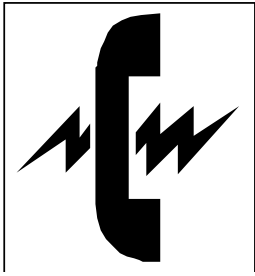
A8. Fines range from \$60 to \$500.

Submitted by Russ Donaldson

Words of Wisdom

“The best cosmetic in the world is an active mind!”
Mary Atkinson

Cell Phone Numbers are going public!



This is easy to do and is worth passing on to your family and friends. All cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sales calls. **YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS!**

To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222. It is the National DO NOT CALL LIST. It will take only a minute of your time. It blocks your number for five (5) years. You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked... You cannot call from a different phone number.

HELP OTHERS BY PASSING THIS ON TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS.

You can also register by going to the following website: <http://www.lnncte-dncl.gc/insnum-en>-----

What is aging?

Defining the field

How exactly does one define aging research? It turns out that finding agreement on a single definition is not as easy as it seems. If you do an Internet search for the terms “aging research” you’ll get a feel for just how confusing it can get. Your search should turn up close to 9.5 million results—including organizations, articles, speeches, blog posts, and experts. You will find that many of these sources have a different idea of what exactly aging research is—although very few will bother to define it themselves. This isn’t that surprising if you consider how young this field of research is and how much public perception plays a role in the way it’s defined. It understandably proves difficult to define it and put it in a neat box.



Just remember –

you’re only as old as you feel!

This Professor is a Genius

An economics professor at a local college made a statement that he had never failed a single student before, but had once failed an entire class.



That class had insisted that

Obama's socialism worked and that no one would be poor and no one would be rich, a great equalizer. The professor then said, "OK, we will have an experiment in this class on Obama's plan".

All grades would be averaged and everyone would receive the same grade so no one would fail and no one would receive an A. After the first test, the grades were averaged and everyone got a B. The students who studied hard were upset and the students who studied little were happy.

As the second test rolled around, the students who studied little had studied even less and the ones who studied hard decided they wanted a free ride too so they studied little. The second test average was a D! No one was happy.

When the 3rd test rolled around, the average was an F.

The scores never increased as bickering, blame and name-calling all resulted in hard feelings and no one would study for the benefit of anyone else.

All failed, to their great surprise, and the professor told them that socialism would also ultimately fail because when the reward is great, the effort to succeed is great, but when government takes all the reward away, no one will try or want to succeed.

Could it be any simpler than that?



Christmas Luncheon

Thursday, Dec. 17th

Lions Centre

Tickets on sale now!

Tickets \$30 per person ...

Get yours today!

Fall Car Tourific



Ross McKie and his passengers enjoy a fall sunshine coffee break at the tours halfway point.



The President's Table at Tim Hortons, Campbellford, where our bowlered co-president, Jim "Bickerson", demonstrated the meaning of sartorial excellence.



John Simpson held forth as his Elmhirst's luncheon table prepared to enjoy a fabulous meal after the tour.



Car Tour Committee Chairs Marie and George led a group of dedicated committee members who created a most interesting and enjoyable day.

It takes a hardworking committee to create a successful event!

No doubt about it, working on a committee can be the most fulfilling experience to be enjoyed as a Probian. Full marks to Marie and George Chisholm for putting together the Probians who, as the 2009 Car Tour Committee, delivered a most memorable day for our Club members and guests. Events such as this don't just happen. They take planning, co-operation and dedication to be successful. We owe a sincere vote of thanks to this year's committee.

Car Tour Committee

Co-Chairs: Marie and George Chisholm

Committee members: Bert & Tom MacMillan; John and Alma Draper; Marlene Stothart; Edna Head; Doreen Irwin; Julia Ford; Bill Johnson, and Joanne and Jim Domine. If you enjoyed the day, and I am sure you did, take a minute to say "thank you" to the folks who not only made it possible, but proved once again that working on a committee can be fun



And then the fight Started!

My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping channels.



She asked, 'What's on TV?'

I said, 'Dust ! And then the fight started...'

My wife and I are watching "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" while we were in bed.. I turned to her and said, "Do you want to have sex?" "No," she answered. I then said, "Is that your final answer?" She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, "Yes." So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend."

And then the fight started...

Saturday morning I got up early, quietly dressed, made my lunch, grabbed the dog, and slipped quietly into the garage. I hooked up the boat up to the truck, and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50 mph, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad all day.

I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back, now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible.."

My loving wife of 10 years replied, "Can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that?"

And that's how the fight started....

I rear-ended a car this morning. So, there we were alongside the road and slowly the other driver got out of his car. You know how sometimes you just get soooo stressed and little things just seem funny? Yeah, well I couldn't believe it.... He was a DWARF!!! He stormed over to my car, looked up at me, and shouted, "I AM NOT HAPPY!!!" So, I looked down at him and said, "Well, then which one are you?"

And then the fight started!

Coming Events



Wed., November 11th –

Remembrance Day

A day to remember those who gave their lives in defense of our freedom. Wear a poppy!

Thursday, November 19th – Regular Meeting

The Class Act - a quartet from the local chapter of the Sweet Adelines. They are very keen and enthusiastic about performing for Probus.. They will sing a few numbers and teach us a song or two. They promise to send the words of the songs so that they can be printed out and given to the tables. Of course they will be singing in four part harmony so the men singing the tenor part might have to go down an octave! But it should be fun.

Mary Thomson

FRIDAY, December 4th – Regular Meeting

Visit to the Capitol Theatre – a very special visit to Port Hope's *Capitol Theatre*. Regular meeting in the theatre followed by a viewing of the wonderful, fully decorated Christmas Trees. A great change of pace for our Club and introduction to the coming Christmas season. **Doors open at 9:30 a.m.**

Thursday, December 17th – Special Event –

Christmas Luncheon at the Lions Centre, Cobourg. Cash bar, great meal and entertainment.

Thursday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

Get your shopping done early and remember the Giving Tree and the Salvation Army.

Friday, December 25th, Christmas Day

Saturday, December 26th, Boxing Day

Great Canadian Sayings

On stinginess:

"He'd give you the sleeves off his vest!"

"She's so cheap when she opens her purse the Queen squints!"

Speaker's Corner



Ross McKie welcomed Frances Gage and Alan Butcher to the October 1st Probus Club Meeting.

Alan Butcher, author of his most recent book, ***“Unlikely Paradise - The Life of Frances Gage”*** and Francis Gage herself, well known sculptor were the featured speakers at the October 1st meeting. Alan and Frances were introduced by Malcolm Wardman.

Now both local residents of Cobourg, Alan started with reading a few excerpts from his book. Although interesting, they only touched on the unique and varied life that Frances Gage led. Now 85 years young, Frances followed well the adage ***“Listen and learn and do what is right for you”*** throughout her life. Born in Windsor, Ont., Frances joined the Navy in 1944. In 1947 she studied at OCA (Ontario College of Art) and in 1952 she stepped out into the art world. Making a living as a sculptor in Toronto at this time was difficult, so in 1953 Frances, with aid from a friend moved to New York City to study at the Art Students League.

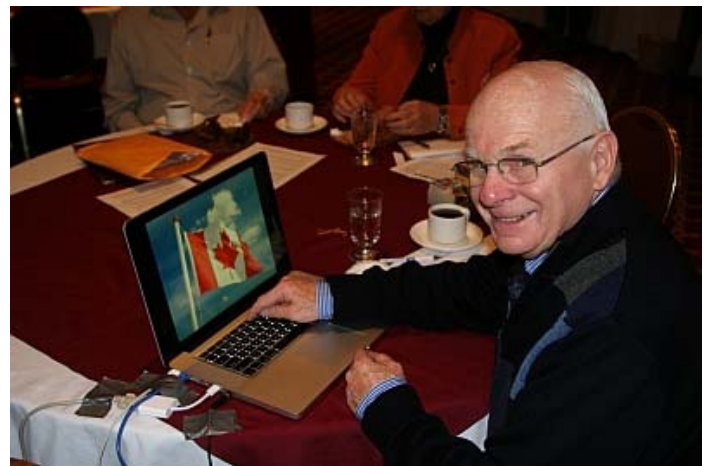
In 1955 at the age of 31 she received a scholarship to study in Paris at the Beaux Arts where she remained for over an year. Upon returning to Toronto, she developed a studio in the tool shack next to the now famous Studio Building on Severn Street in Toronto where she remained for over three years. The problem of money, of some form of income, continued to oppress Frances for a large part of her life. Frances supplemented her income from sculpturing with money from conducting workshops, private lessons and classes. She bought a wee house in central Toronto and added a studio to the back where she had many prolific years sculpting. Moving

from Toronto to rural properties in two locations, she came to Cobourg ten years ago.

Frances prevailed with sculpting and made a name for herself through out Canada with installations at Womens College Hospital, Toronto, WREN memorial, Galt, many private homes throughout the country and even right here in Cobourg in Victoria Park. She is still working hard, stop in for a visit, she lives on Balls Lane.

Yvonne Green thanked our speakers and Wendy Sharko sold copies of the book.

submitted by Lori Bernstein



Our Own Russ Donaldson presented a most entertaining “Me and My Computer” presentation at the October 15th meeting.

It was a case of ***“something for everyone”*** as Russ Donaldson delivered what has to be one of the most interesting and entertaining presentations Cobourg Probus has seen in a long, long time. Using his laptop computer as a projector feed, he displayed 12 video vignettes captured from the internet. Great old movie dancing by Fred Astaire and Eleanor Powell, travel images of Scotland that brought a tear to John Simpson’s eye, and humour from a television era sadly no longer with us.

Spontaneous applause from a most appreciative audience evidenced their enjoyment of this great presentation. The hours of work sourcing, storing and then assembling these vignettes and adding music were certainly not wasted on the over 100 members and guests in attendance. We owe a debt of gratitude to Russ, for his commitment to Probus over the years and a remarkable presentation, for a long, long time. Russ was introduced by ***Elaine Elliott*** and thanked by ***Don Morrison***!.

Welcome our New Members



From the left, *Helen Trimmer, Jane Raille, Shirley Duncan* and *John Egberts* were welcomed into the Probus Club of Cobourg and District at the October 1st meeting.



Bob McMurdy and Dagny Snow have joined the Cobourg Club coming to us from Brighton.

Do you have your 2009-2010 Probus Club Membership Card?

*Membership Chairman Ken Ledgard reports
that some members have yet to pick-up their
2009-2010 Probus Club of Cobourg &*

District

Membership cards.

See Ken for your card, today!

Presidential Decree continued from page 1

While we talk about participation, we'd like to thank, by name, an important group of people, who work behind the scenes to keep our members without email informed. Our Calling Committee contacts these folk, to advise them of happenings that occur "between meetings". They are, in no particular order: Louise Burnham, Irene Flood, Elaine Elliott, Doreen Hardaker, Lil Graham, Fran Markland, Audrey Levto, Marilyn Adams and Maureen West. Thank you ladies all!!! Within the same topic, many of you are excellent at keeping Marilyn Macklin and ourselves informed of members who are ill, in hospital or who have passed away. We thank you and also ask that each of you continues to do this. It's most unfortunate when we miss someone. With a current total of 180 members, it's hard to keep track of everyone! It is our aim to send cards and a copy of the Probian to those who will be away for periods of time. Please help us to keep us up to date.

We hope you are enjoying some of the ideas and changes that our Program Committee have organized. Didn't we enjoy Russ Donaldson's "web tour"! Now we know what "You Tube" is!! Be prepared for anything!!

J & j

The Bickersons.

Great Truths of life!

No matter how hard you try ... it is impossible to baptize cats!

When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair!

You can't trust dogs to watch your food!

You cannot hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk!

Families are like fudge ... mostly sweet but with a few nuts!

Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre and not the toy!

Have a great day!

Something to think about with our new electronic technology.

If you own a GPS -

A couple of weeks ago a friend told me that someone she knew had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard.

When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents.

Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

If you own a Mobile Phone -

I never thought of this.....This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her mobile phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet... Etc.

20 minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says 'I received your text ask about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago.'

When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text "Hubby" in the contact list and got hold of the pin.

Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

Moral of the lesson: Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc....

And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, **CONFIRM** by calling back. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet 'family and friends' who text you.

Submitted by Angie Porier

The Last Word

Cobourg Probiants Host Photo Expo



John Draper, President, and Russ Donaldson, Vice-President of the Photography Club of Northumberland welcomed visitors to the Club's first photo expo.

Two well-known Cobourg Probiants, John Draper and Russ Donaldson, who are very active members of the Photographic Club of Northumberland, hosted a Photo expo of 50 club members work in The Gallery at 66 King East, open until Nov. 7th. The two week exhibition drew enthusiastic crowds, capped by a special invitational showing for local Probus Club members October 31. This, showing once again, the tremendous amount of creative talent here in the area.

Bill Johnson