



Ganaraska Currents

GANARASKA VALLEY PROBUS CLUB

Our Newsletter

January 2010

Volume 4 Number 1



50-50 winners!

10 Dec – Anthony Skinner
won \$42.50
Donated to Salvation Army

14 Jan – Roger Ingram
won \$39.00

February Crew

Caterers

Captain:.....Yvonne O'Neill
11 FebSandra Wells
Lynne McGarrigle
Anita Cotter
25 Feb...Betsy & John Wright
Lyn & Dave Bradshaw
Ken O'Neill

If unavailable please find a
substitute or call
905-885-4872

Greeters

Captain:.....Muriel Cornelius
11 Feb.....Dorothy & Cliff
Donohue
25 Feb... Dorothy & Leo
Spicer

If unavailable please find a
substitute or call
905-885-5530

**GANARASKA
CURRENTS web site at:**

http://www.probusnorthumberland.com/ganaraska_news.htm

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Happy New Year!



President's New Year Message

On behalf of the Executive, it is my pleasure to extend our sincere wish that you have thoroughly enjoyed the Holiday Season and are looking forward to opportunities for fun and fellowship as members of the Ganaraska Valley Probus Club.

Our club is entering its third year and it is continuing to grow and develop. The inaugural meeting was held September 2007 with an excess of 150 individuals attending. Our first President, **Hugh Parker** in 2007-08,



laid a strong foundation for the new Club. The building continued under the leadership of President **Ken O'Neill** in 2008-09.



As a member of the Ganaraska Valley Probus Club I am certain you know the strong quality of the individuals, including yourself, who make up the Club's membership. With Probus Clubs being as successful as their membership the Ganaraska Valley Probus Club is indeed very fortunate and successful.

Probus Club is neither demanding nor full of commitments. Involvement in your Club has many rewards. Opportunities within the club for fun and fellowship are many. The variety of events and the high quality of programs continue to be offered according to the response of the membership by a very dedicated Executive, all of whom immensely enjoy the fellowship of Probus.

I would like to personally thank the Ganaraska Valley Executive, and their Committees, for the manner in which they support, and respond to the membership. Thanks and much gratitude to **Wilson Gaudion, Frank Griffin, Vern Meadows**, who are indefatigable in their mission to get all those plugs into the right sockets. To all, your loyalty and support has been wonderful and for that I am grateful and thank you.

Wishing you and your family a Happy and Healthy 2010.

President **Eileen Mountain**.



ALLIGATOR BITES GRANNY

Many of our Probus members spend some time each winter heading for southern climes, ranging from one week to 6 months, to get away from the cold and snow.



We are currently enjoying our 6th winter in Punta Gorda, Florida, which is located on Florida's west coast north of Fort Myers. We spend close to 6 months every winter enjoying the Florida sunshine, our community lifestyle and golf. There are a number of Canadians in the community and many other 'snowbirds' from the northern USA. Approximately 50% of the golf course community lives here year 'round.



There are many similarities to life in Port Hope and then again, many differences. The Florida sunshine is one of the main attractions, but we also enjoy the different species of birds and other animals such as "Allie", one of the alligators within our community. Allie can usually be found along the banks of the pond located behind our home, so we must be attentive when trimming the plants, or spending any time in the backyard

But Allie has created many interesting stories for us and our guests since purchasing here in 2004. One of those stories made the U.S. national news a couple of years ago and involved one of our neighbors who was watering her garden. She felt something biting her leg. It turned out to be one of our neighborhood alligators who had ventured into her yard and attempted to attack her! The 74 year old grandmother beat off the alligator with her hose, attended to the bite on her leg, then went back to finish her watering. The alligator was located and removed from the community.



One year ago, the golf course was damaged on several mornings by a family of wild pigs. The golf course management was able over several days to eventually trap the boar, the sow and three piglets. They were transferred to a local farmer in the area. There have also been panther sightings, as well as the odd snake or two, most of which are harmless.

Christmas in Florida is fairly similar to that in Port Hope, other than snow and cold. Most residents decorate their homes, their golf carts and some even decorate their cars. It does seem funny for us however, to see people golfing and swimming in the community pool on Christmas Day.



One of the concerns of owning property in Florida is the threat of hurricanes. We saw this firsthand after purchasing in 2004. Before spending even one night in our new home, Hurricane Charlie, with winds up to 185 miles per hour, struck Punta Gorda with a direct hit—the first hurricane to hit that area in over 45 years. Damage to the entire area was massive but we were lucky, suffering only minor damage to our home. Large areas of Punta Gorda were destroyed including all the schools. These have all been rebuilt and Punta Gorda is thriving again.

We would like to say hi to our Probus friends and wish them all a happy and healthy 2010.

Apps 'n' Drinks

Many thanks to **Marilyn Dunne** and **Dave Strong** for hosting another Apps 'n' Drinks on 17 January. Due to the lack of snow, this event was held indoors around their cozy fireplace rather than on the trails of their large wooded property as was originally planned.



There were lots of great appetizers...



...and plenty to drink as usual.

Casino Rama trip

John and Betsy Wright planned an activity-packed day for our bus trip to Casino Rama. For the individual price of \$5.00 we got a bus ride to Casino Rama, a wonderful lunch in the casino restaurant, an hour-and-a-half show and an afternoon of gambling. It is only fitting that **John** won \$275.00 as reward for his great planning. **Lacey Ingram** won \$56.00 and your impecunious editor won \$7.50, paying for his drink at lunch! Everybody had a great time.



Probus Bowling Action

Our bowling team has been practicing faithfully for the big inter-club Tournament on 15th February. The team would like to remind all of you to come out Monday, 1st February for our last bowling practice and get-together before the tournament. Come and help your club avoid winning the uncovered "Toilet Seat" booby prize!
Editor's Note: See notice on back page.



Love the earrings Marshall!

EUCHRE CHRISTMAS PARTY

On 15th December, the Euchre players held their Christmas party at Reg and Maggie Colborne's home. There were 27 players who attended and enjoyed their potluck lunch. Later on, they watched the Olympic torch parade go by. This was followed by more euchre into the wee small hours of the night...!



GIVING A HAND UP, NOT A HANDOUT

Kim Lauder is the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity-Northumberland. She was our 14th January speaker.



Habitat's mission is *'to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting homeownership as a means to breaking the cycle of poverty.'* It seems there is a great need for affordable housing in our county. As a matter of fact, only 50 affordable houses were built in the last 25 years. At least 2,500 households are in need and many are at risk of homelessness.

Habitat for Humanity builds affordable housing with the help of volunteers. For example, the Port Hope Carpenters' Union donates carpenters to help with the building of these houses. The houses are by no means free to "Partner Families". If a family qualifies for the program, they must be able to demonstrate their need, be able to carry an interest-free mortgage and contribute a minimum of 500 hours of 'sweat equity' into building their own home, or providing other assistance to Habitat, such as working in 'ReStore' located on Ewart St. in Cobourg. ReStore sells a wide variety of building and renovation materials at between 25% and 75% savings. All the proceeds go towards building homes.

Habitat for Humanity-Northumberland first saw the light of day in 1998 and now boasts 1,400 volunteers. Kim Lauder says, *"We build twice as many houses in Ontario. The people of Northumberland County—75,000 of them—are the most generous."*

If you are interested in seeing one of the houses being built here in Port Hope, take a drive along King Street and look for an Ontario cottage-style house on the ravine side near Peter street.

Want to volunteer? Call Kim at **905-373-4663, ext. 23.**

CONTACT INFORMATION Ganaraska Valley Probus Club Executive 2009 – 2010

President **Eileen Mountain**

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Vice President **Garry Curtis**

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Secretary **Linda Goldie**

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Treasurer **Leo Spicer**

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Assistant Treasurer **Hugh Parker**

First Past President
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Second Past President
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Assistant Special Events **Stephen Snell**

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Communications **George Grimes**

905-885-1594 georgegrimes@kos.net

Assistant Communications **Michele Duval Lane**

905-885 2969 mdlane@cogeco.ca



NEW MEMBERS

JOHN BOUGHEN



I was born in Port Hope, attending Dale Public School, Dr. Power's School, Port Hope High School and then the Ontario Agricultural College, graduating in 1962 with an Associate Diploma.

I began farming full time in April 1962 with my brother Dwayne on our 755 acre dairy, beef and cash crop farm.

From 2000 to 2002, I was the President of the Northumberland Federation of Agriculture (NFA) and still serve as the Hope Township Director on the NFA Board.

I am interested in History, especially local history, and I am recording the history of the Boughen family farm and the farming history of this area.

Editor's Note: John's wife is Meredith Boughen, whose photo and profile appeared in the November issue of the newsletter.

SHARON RATHBONE



I was born in Calgary and raised in Windsor and Toronto, graduating from the University Of Toronto in 1969 and the Ontario College of Education in 1970. My teaching career began in Scarborough at Woburn C.I.

In 1974, my husband and I moved to Hamilton Township where we built a house on fifty acres of land. I then taught at Courtice S.S. and later at Cobourg East C.I.

From 1978 to 1985, I was a stay-at-home Mom with my two sons. I resumed my teaching career in 1986 at Port Hope H.S. I retired in 2004.

I have two sons, two stepdaughters and five grandchildren. I have resided in Port Hope since 1985.

Keeping busy is no problem for me with involvement in theatre, choir, golf and bowling. I also enjoy reading, sewing, crocheting and traveling.

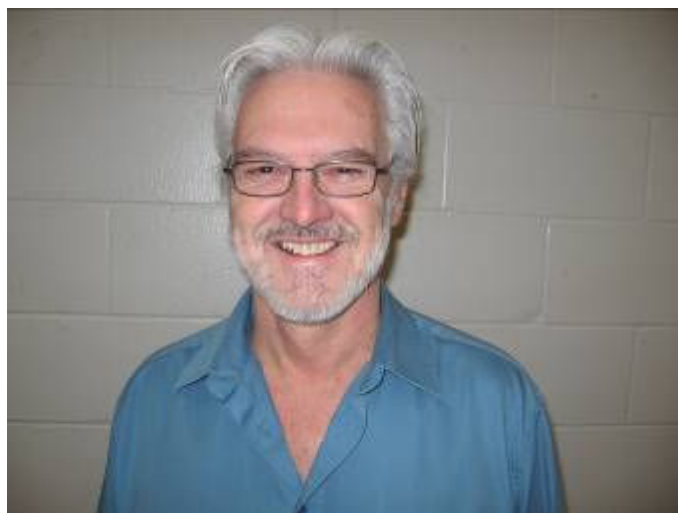
ROGER & LACEY INGRAM



Lacey worked at a variety of jobs in business - banking, tax audit/enquiry, household relocations and employment resource assistance - while a Girl Guide leader for over twenty years. She loves working on crafts and weeding.

Roger came to Canada in 1967 and worked in a variety of financial institutions until retiring last year, the last thirteen years as a financial planner with Investors Group. For relaxation he loves to cook and work in the garden. Both look forward to spending more time with family and friends and traveling.

BRUCE BRITTON



I retired in December from the banking profession. My wife and I recently moved full time to Rice Lake after using our house there as a cottage for the past seven years. I enjoy golf and photography. I look forward to meeting many new people at Probus club meetings and activities.

Editor's Note: Bruce's wife is Lynda Britton, whose photo and profile appeared in the October issue of the newsletter.

60th ANNIVERSARY Leo & Dorothy Spicer



Imagine – our 60th wedding anniversary! We were married January 27th, 1950 at St. Paul's Presbyterian church in Port Hope.

We had one son, Allan, who passed away last June. We have 3 grandchildren: Kellie, Erin and Kevin; 2 great-grandchildren, Hollie and Owen. None live in the area.

We have enjoyed golf for many years, first at the original Port Hope Golf Club, and then, at Dalewood Golf and Country Club. We also enjoy traveling having been to Europe several times, as well as North America. We also enjoyed skiing for many years.

52nd ANNIVERSARY Joan & Donald Bebee



Don and I were both born in Port Hope, but when he was 2 years old, his parents moved to Englehart, returning when he was 17 years old. We were married on January 17th 1958. I stayed home to raise our 5 children – 3 girls and 2 boys. We are blessed with 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Don worked at General Motors, Oshawa from 1956 to 1988. He enjoyed farming and for a number of years we had a hobby farm consisting of pigs, chickens, ducks, sheep, goats, cattle and our favourite, a donkey named Jenny. We sold the property 15 years ago and moved to town. We enjoyed traveling until cancer took Don's life in 2003.

Two years ago, I joined Probus and enjoy it very much.

NEW MEMBERS GAYL & LARRY SQUIRE



We were raised in London, Ontario and attended the same public and high schools. We were married in 1961 and in 1962 moved to the town of Durham, Ontario and then back to London. Next came Guelph, Scarborough and finally beautiful Port Hope in 2005.

We are blessed with three children and seven awesome grandkids, all located in Solana and Belle River, Ontario and Lillie, B.C.

Gayl is involved in aquafit, bridge and Red Hats. Larry enjoys playing in the dirt (gardening), following the Raptors and Jays and playing cards. We look forward to participating in many Probus activities.

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN PORT HOPE



For our Christmas meeting on 10th December author **Pat Bryan** read his book, *A Child's Christmas In Port Hope* which is a delightful historical description of his personal childhood Christmas. It is styled after Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas In Wales*.

Pat's heartfelt writing and reading brought back many fond memories of Christmases past to our members.

Membership Information

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u>
<u>Changes</u>			
Georgina & Bryan Rose Dave Strong			bgrosecwood@gmail.com dbstrong@sos.net
<u>New Members</u>			
Bruce Britton	Box 414, Bewdley, K0L 1E0	905-342-9508	brucebritton99@yahoo.ca
Dianne Frazer	15 St. Andrews Rd, Port Hope, L1A 3V2	905-885-6950	None
Lacey Ingram	21 Fraser St. Port Hope, L1A 1Z9	905-885-5724	dlaceygram@yahoo.ca
Roger Ingram	21 Fraser St. Port Hope, L1A 1Z9	905-885-5724	r.lingram@bell.net

January Birthdays

Jan Blaikie
Garry Curtis
Bruce Britton
Dorothy Donohue
Marjorie Martin
Eileen Mountain



FEBRUARY SPEAKERS

11 Feb – **Rob Winslow** is the Artistic Director of the 4th Line Theatre. He is also an actor and a playwright.

25 Feb – **John Boughen**, one of our new members, will talk about his career as a farmer.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Among the five Cobourg & Port Hope Clubs
15 February at Northumberland Lanes
Northumberland Mall, Cobourg
Lunch at the Cobourg Legion Hall
Play or watch and come for lunch
OUR CLUB IS HOSTING THIS EVENT
Marshall Johnstone 905-885-8477

SPRING FLING IS COMING

“The Spirit Of Quinte”

26 May 2010
Maranatha Church
100 College St. W., Belleville
Doors open at 8:15 AM
Program begins at 9:30 AM
Door prizes & 50/50 draws
Buffet Luncheon with a cash bar
Live entertainment
Tickets will be \$35.00 per person
Garry Curtis 905-885-5304

ANOTHER HOBBY DAY IS PLANNED!

The Hobby Day we had last year was a big success. We will need everyone's participation for the next one on 22nd April. Details will be available at our next meeting.

ONGOING EVENTS...

PUB NITE

Join us for dinner, conversation, drinks
and a very nice door prize
Last Tuesday of the month
6:00 PM at the Beamish House
Eileen Mountain 905-885-4816

APPS & DRINKS

Bring an appetizer and your own drinks
Steve Snell 905-885-9929

EUCHRE

1st & 3rd Tuesday from 2 to 4 PM
Ruth Clarke Senior Centre 81 Mill Street
Reg Colborne 905-885-1722

BOWLING

1st Monday of the month at 1:30 PM
Northshore Bowling Lanes
Marshall Johnstone 905-885-8477

LUNCH BUNCH

After the last meeting of the month at 12:30 PM
Betty Curtis 905-885-5304

CHESS

1st and 3rd Thursday from 7 to 9 PM
31 College Street
Dave Broughton 905-885-1870