



Ganaraska Currents

GANARASKA VALLEY PROBUS CLUB

Our Newsletter

November 2008

Volume 2 Number 11



CONGRATULATIONS 50-50 winners!

23 Oct – Betty Watson

won \$46.00

13 Nov – Marshall Johnstone

won \$37.50

DECEMBER CREW

THERE IS ONLY ONE MEETING
IN DECEMBER ON THE 11TH
AFTER OUR ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS PARTY ON THE
4TH OF DECEMBER

Caterers

Captain..... Joyce Prince
11 Dec..... Louise & Bert
Barraclough
Frank Henderson

If unavailable please find a
substitute or call

905-885-8281

Greeters

Captain..... Muriel Cornelius
11 Dec..... Ruth Newington
Janet Tedford

If unavailable please find a
substitute or call

905-885-5530

GANARASKA CURRENTS

See it on the web at:

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

or receive your own email
copy by contacting the
editor:

George Grimes

905-885-1594

georgegrimes@kos.net

HALLOWEEN MEETING VERY DRESSY



At our 23 October meeting, almost everybody wore orange and black to celebrate Halloween and a few even wore costumes of sorts like **Barb Tiffin** wearing her off-the-shoulder black cat.



Garry and Betty Curtis chose formal wear with orange bowties on a basic black background. But who is that would-be ne'er-do-well hooligan sneaking up behind them? Could it be your intrepid newsletter editor?

Christmas Dinner and Dance



Thursday 4 December
Best Western Cobourg

6pm-7pm Cash Bar

Happy Hour

7pm Roast Beef or Turkey

Dinner & Dessert

Dancing until 11pm

Tickets \$45.00

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

ONGOING EVENTS...

- **Bowling** – 1st Monday of the month at 1:30 PM at Northshore Bowling Lanes in the Northumberland Mall
- **Lunch Bunch** – after 1st meeting of the month at 1:00 PM at various restaurants – Betty Curtis knows where 885-5304
- **Chess** – 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at Dave Broughton's house 885-1870
- **Apps & Drinks** – Pot luck appetizers and drinks at various houses and dates as people volunteer – Steve Snell knows 885-9929

CARING FOR SENIORS

Community Care Northumberland serves all of Northumberland County from six local offices in Cobourg, Colborne, Brighton, Hastings, Campbellford and Port Hope. **Sherry Gibson**, our 23 October speaker, is **Program Coordinator** for **Community Care Port Hope**. She has nine



hundred clients in Port Hope and she briefly outlined some of the programs that are offered such as transportation to appointments and shopping, snow shoveling, diners club where seniors can enjoy a nutritious meal in a social setting and regular telephone contact in order to provide comfort and reassurance and, if necessary, to arrange for assistance.

The centerpiece of her presentation was the **55 Alive Mature Driving** course designed for senior drivers. It is a nation-wide course designed for drivers over the age of 55 developed by the **Canada Safety Council**. It is a six hour course presented over two days in a classroom setting.

The need for such a course is based on the loss of vision, hearing and physical strength in older people. Sherry showed slides of what the road ahead looks like for people with cataracts, glaucoma, astigmatism and macular degeneration. She also showed slides of various driving situations involving right of way and weather conditions and discussed how these situations are often handled and how they should be handled.

More information about this course can be seen at <http://www.safety-council.org/training/55alive/55alive.htm>.

DECEMBER SPEAKER

11 Dec – **Tom Merey** is a local businessman who is now semi-retired. This allows him more time to devote to his passion which is playing and composing on the classical guitar. He played at the Capitol tent for this summer's first Port Hope Estival and more recently was a featured guest artist with Brad Halls and Friends at Victoria Hall. His presentation will include some classical guitar works along with some of the music of Christmas.

The Andrew Lloyd Weber of flea-biz

Our 13 November speaker, **Peter Bolton**, is a genealogical researcher. He guided us through a fascinating search to solve a genealogical problem, namely, was Louis Bertolotto of Port Hope the same person as L. Bertolotto, who was the first person to train and exhibit fleas in a flea circus in London, England?

Peter began by giving an illustrated preface to flea circuses, what they looked like and how they trained fleas to do feats of enormous strength.



Here is Peter showing a flea pulling a large object.

He then showed how he researched both of these names using obituaries, cemetery databases, cemetery lot records, census records, death registrations, wills and articles from the *Port Hope Evening Guide*. Many of these sources are now on line. He traced the families and the locations of these two names through the years and across the globe and, while he was not able to prove it conclusively, he did conclude that the preponderance of the evidence showed that they were the same person. At one point, Peter was able to locate both names two blocks apart in London, England at the same time. People interested in doing their own genealogical research on line can go to <http://www.nhb.com/hunter>. This is Peter's web site and has many genealogical resources for Port Hope.

Jack Goering then showed everybody small walnut shells that had tiny dioramas carved into them with dead fleas wearing miniature costumes as they did in the flea circuses.



RON SMITH COORDINATES GENEALOGICAL DATABASE

One of the many genealogical sources listed on **Peter Bolton's** web site is the **CEMSEARCH** project which started about 14 years ago to accumulate and display cemetery data to aid genealogists in finding their ancestors. The project has grown in size to a point where there are over 800 cemeteries and 366,000 records in the system and growing daily. **Ron Smith**, a Ganaraska Valley member, is the Coordinator of CEMSEARCH.

The areas covered by the project include Northumberland, the original Durham, Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox, Addington, Peterborough, Victoria, Haliburton, and Renfrew Counties. The collection is the work of hundreds of volunteers who have plodded through and recorded the various monuments. In many cases, the information includes far more than just a cemetery transcription with the addition of church archives, township and town records, obituaries, parish registers, and countless records from personal family histories. There are also several histories of cemeteries as well as the people buried therein. The CEMSEARCH database has multi search capabilities and is available in most libraries and genealogical societies including Port Hope, Cobourg, Peterborough, Lindsay, Minden, Campbellford, Colborne, Castleton, Warkworth, Brighton, Trenton, Ameliasburgh, Belleville, Picton, Napanee, Madoc, and Stirling. The project remains open to any areas that wish to join and further information can be obtained from the CEMSEARCH Coordinator - Ron Smith by email <rfrsmith@eagle.ca>

Ken & Eileen host first District 1 West meeting

Our **President Ken O'Neill** and **Vice President Eileen Mountain** hosted the very first meeting of **District 1 West of Probus Canada** on 28 October at the Town Park Recreation Centre in Port Hope. Probus is growing so rapidly that **Director Peter Doyle** is having difficulty getting around to all of the clubs in District 1, so it has been divided into East and West areas. The West area has fifteen Probus clubs in it. Ken and Eileen did a great job of introducing Ganaraska Valley to these other clubs.



APPS & DRINKS VERY CONVIVIAL

Everyone that attended Ganaraska Valley's first Apps & Drinks social evening would like to thank Steve Snell for graciously welcoming his twenty guests into his beautiful home.



Everyone brought pot luck appetizer dishes to share and their own drinks. As a result, there was plenty of delicious food...



...and many exhilarating stories, all of them absolutely true.



The next Apps & Drinks evening will be hosted by Betty and Garry Curtis sometime around the end of January. There will be space for twenty people. Watch for the sign-up sheet.

Will you be the next host?

MEET OUR NEW CLUB MEMBERS

CAROLE STIRLING



Carole is a new resident to the area as of April 2008, coming from Scarborough.

She was an elementary school teacher for thirty-two years, teaching Junior Kindergarten to grade six at various times during her career.

She retired in 1998 and is looking forward to continuing her retirement in beautiful Port Hope.

She enjoys decorating, crafts, reading and new experiences.

RON and LOIS FRIZZELL



After spending forty years in the Toronto area, Lois and Ron are very excited about their move to Penryn Village in Port Hope, which they completed in July 2008, after selling their cottage on Mazinaw Lake.

Ron is retired from State Farm Insurance Company and Lois is retired from the CIBC.

Lois and Ron enjoy being close to their daughter, son-in-law and their two grandsons who live in Newcastle. They also enjoy traveling, reading, golfing and spending time with their friends. They spend their winters enjoying the sunshine in Punta Gorda, Florida.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

CANDLELIGHT WALK

Tomorrow 28 Nov

Let's all walk together and enjoy free hot Chocolate and Tim Bits in the cold
Meet at Pine and Walton Streets at 7:00 PM

WHO WANTS TO PLAY EUCHRE?

Contact Reg Colborne 905-885-1722
Jr.colborne@sympatico.ca

AREA BOWLING ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

2 February 2009 9:30 AM

Northshore Lanes, Northumberland Mall
The five Cobourg and Port Hope Probus Clubs
Come to play or watch
Luncheon and prizes after the tournament

SPRING FLING '09

Wednesday 20 May 2009
Keeler Centre, Colborne
Fellowship Fun Food
Cash Bar - Live Entertainment

WHY SHOULD I ALWAYS BRING MY CHEQUEBOOK TO PROBUS MEETINGS?



Some activities come up quickly and you need to be able to take advantage of them. If an activity only has 30 openings, then you have less of a chance of being disappointed because it filled up too quickly. It also makes book keeping easier. If an activity is cancelled, your cheque can easily be returned to you.

Special Events Committee

Overheard at the LUNCH BUNCH...

A world traveler was hiking across the plains of Africa when he came face to face with a huge lion. He turned and ran for miles and miles. Out of breath, he stopped and looked back, but the lion was still chasing after him. The world traveler just could not run any more. So he knelt down and prayed for deliverance from the terrible jaws of the ferocious beast. Nothing happened. He opened his eyes and saw that the lion was also kneeling down and praying.

"This is amazing," said the world traveler, "I am saved. The lion is copying my civilized human ways."

"No," answered the lion, "I'm saying Grace,"
Frank Henderson tells it much better...