

PROBUS NORTHSHORE

NEWSLETTER



Volume 7, Issue 7
April 2010

President's Message

Spring has Sprung

Following our last meeting I was putting our dog out one morning to do her morning rituals when I saw and then heard the sound of several robins. This may not be news to most of you but Karen and I had just returned from our holiday and these were my first indicators that the season was in the midst of changing in Southern Ontario.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining about our past winter. It was likely the best we have experienced in years, unless of course, you spent it in Florida (sorry I couldn't resist).

Following the robin episode Karen came in to say that the tulips she and fellow Probian Cobie had planted last autumn were up and showing signs of good health for a beautiful summer ahead. I now had to give serious thought to the realization that Spring was indeed upon us!

I must be honest and admit that Spring is not my favourite time of year, but it does act as a harbinger of better times to come. Golf, barbeques, a traditional early end to the Leafs' season, long leisurely outdoor walks at the beach, and did I mention golf, are not long in coming. It also brings tire changing, lawn cutting, window cleaning, trimming bushes, mosquitoes and painting our fading garage doors and that helps to neutralize its glory. But given the pluses and the minuses it is welcome each year whenever it arrives.

There is now a change in our air, a warmer breath of Mother Nature as she returns the sun, the

warmth, the longer days, our outdoor time and of course the memories we have collected over the years. I can still remember my mother, and now Karen, getting that look in their eyes. When it appears it's time to get out of the house quickly because it means "Spring Fever" and its ensuing commitment to house cleaning. This affliction seems to be a female thing. Males are impervious to its implications but suffer dreadfully from its consequences. We fall prey to it every year. I try annually to no avail to speak clearly and concisely to point out that Spring Cleaning isn't really necessary, we have a cleaning lady! To date, this tactic has failed miserably and merely results in more soap and water being added to my wash pail to keep me occupied for longer stretches of the day.

At this time I also perceive a change in the Probust Club of Northshore – Cobourg. The number of available social activities increase at each meeting and it is now becoming more difficult to select the ones we would like to participate in. The variety and quality are very impressive and I encourage everyone to participate in as many ventures as possible. May, as an example, brings two regular meetings, the always popular Spring Fling (this year in Belleville) and the inaugural Cobourg socializer hosted and sponsored by the Cobourg and District Probust Club. All events have a deadline so it is important to check the side notice board at each meeting to avoid missing an activity of interest to you. Have a great Spring and remember to wear a hat and sunscreen when outside.

Bruce



Social Activities and Events



Bridge Club 2 will meet on April 15th and 29th. Locations to be advised.

Best Western Dinner Theatre: "The Long Weekend" A 15 year friendship is tested when two couples retreat to a remote weekend cottage. As hilarious truths and deceptions are revealed, the sparks begin to fly. Friday April 30, 2010. Tickets at \$33.75 will be available in April. Signup sheet on side table

Drinks and Appies, will be hosted by Howard and Bernice Sheppard on April 15th at 7 pm at their home at 1021 Eddystone Rd. Grafton. Please let them know if you plan to attend. Maps will be provided.

Committees are needed for the Anniversary BBQ in August and for the Car Rally in October. Please let Diane Morrison know if you are interested in helping out.

Diane Morrison - Coordinator

Speakers and Entertainment

- April 7 Gord Ley - New community centre facilities.
- April 20 Judi Smith Torrie - Go Green Together
- May 5 Robert Winslow - 4th Line Theatre
- May 19 Richard Atkinson - Don't Just Retire
- June 2 Scottish Dancers - - -to be confirmed
- June 16 John Winkworth - Travelogue



John Fazekas : Convenor

Speaker's Corner



Our scribe
Julius Varga

Wit, Wisdom and Wonder

Obviously Aristotle's lofty pronouncement of law as "an edict of reason" hardly prevented an American senator from blustering, "The law, sir, is an ass!" Still for those whose task it is to mete out the law's measure, it could well be, without making light of its process, funny if not strange. So retired judge, John Bark, still fondly remembered as the colourful curmudgeon of the Cobourg courts, recalled as he held court once again with his memories and musings.

"The courts are not a place of entertainment but a place of tension" said the lawyer Roger Cooper once at a Rotary luncheon. Judge Bark commented, "I never listen to lawyers much". But then he hardly took himself seriously either defining a judge as "...a lawyer with an I.Q. of 50 you call `Your Honour`...all are appointed but some feel they are anointed."

His stories his case in point:

- There was a disturbance at a mall, a big fight actually, a woman involved making a ruckus because her boyfriend was arrested. At trial she shows up wearing a T-shirt with *I Am An Easy Lay* stenciled on it. He read, her comment, "It's not much but that's what I am." "It's hard to hide it when you wear it. He remained silent, "What could I say." his explanation
- He had sentenced this guy to six months in jail. "I can do that standing on my head" the accused announced. Judges reply, "Then how about 2 more months, to get back on your feet."

- The judge had a dog that ordinarily remained in chambers while he was in court. One day he called a short recess to heed nature's call. A comment heard, "Are you going to ask the dog what you are going to do?"
- "Spousal assault remains a tremendous problem, 78% never make it to court." But the judge lamented. "This one came and probably should not have." A couple had been separated for four or five months. The man invited her out for dinner then up to his room. She complied. "He had designs on her.", the judge noted. She kept saying, "I'm leaving", but she didn't go. He had enough, went to put her out the door leaving a bruise on her arm. The cops came, cuffed him, put him in jail for the weekend.



On his final day in court, he got a message from a court officer that there was someone outside the back door who wanted to wish him a happy retirement. The judge decided to see this fellow, but was concerned enough "to walk with his kids in front of him". There outside waiting was a man with whom he had several dealings in court. The guy did wish him a "happy retirement" then asked if he was moving. Perplexed the judge queried, "No, why?" The explanation simple enough, "Many times while in court I heard you say `I am from Missouri` and I was wondering if you were moving back."

Life is real of course. It comes with obligations. But then surely taking oneself too seriously is not one of them. For amid the clutter that defines a well lived life there has to be room for a chuckle or two especially if they are at one's own expense.

Julius

A set of jumper cables walk into a bar.
The bartender says, 'I'll serve you, but don't start anything.'

From The Astrology Department : What Are You?

ARIES - The Daredevil (Mar 21 - April 19)

Energetic. Adventurous and spontaneous. Confident and enthusiastic. Fun. Loves a challenge. EXTREMELY impatient.. Sometimes selfish. Short fuse. (Easily angered.) Lively, passionate, and sharp wit. Outgoing. Lose interest quickly - easily bored. Egotistical. Courageous and assertive. Tends to be physical and athletic.

Florida Retirees

Four old retired guys are walking down a street in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. They turned a corner and see a sign that says, 'Old Timers Bar - all drinks 10 cents'.

They look at each other, and then go in, thinking this is too good to be true. The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room, 'Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, gentlemen?'

There seemed to be a fully-stocked bar, so each of the men ordered a martini. In short order, the bartender serves up four iced martinis...shaken, not stirred, and says, 'That'll be 10 cents each, please.' The four men stare at the bartender for a moment. Then look at each other...They can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis, and order another round.

Again, four excellent martinis are produced with the bartender again saying, 'That's 40 cents, please.' They pay the 40 cents, but their curiosity is more than they can stand. They have each had two martinis and so far they have spent less than a dollar. Finally one of the men says, 'How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a dime a piece?'

'I'm a retired tailor from Boston,' the bartender said, and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the lottery for \$125 million and decided to open this place. Every drink costs a dime.....wine, liquor, beer, it's all the same.'

Wow!!!! That's quite a story, says one of the men.

The four of them sipped at their martinis and couldn't help but notice seven other people at the end of the bar who didn't have drinks in front of them, and hadn't ordered anything the whole time they were there. One man gestures at the seven at the end of the bar without drinks and asks the bartender, 'What's with them?'

The bartender says, 'Oh, they're the Probus Northshore gang from Canada, they're waiting for happy hour when drinks are half price.'

Speaker's Corner



Our scribe
Julius Varga

An Odyssey's Legacy

Travel broadens the mind is more than a cliché. It's the truth. Of course any newness of place stirs the spirit, excites the senses yet it is the intellect that benefits

the most forced to learn, make sense of it all. There is an organization whose mission is to make sure the travel experience includes both, *Routes to Learning*, and Bob Pearson, one of its volunteers, came to Probus to explain how.

Routes to Learning, he explained, is the former Elderhostel. "The need to attract a new group prompted the name change." The old name prompted an unfortunate association of that organization operated particularly for seniors. Yet the mission of the organization remains the same, "to promote life long learning for those over 55 through combining travel...stimulating lectures from experts in their field ...with people who want to learn into an eclectic blend." For Bob the best part is, "The groups are small. You travel with people who have the same interests...fascinating people"

There is a large catalogue of tours to attract the broadest interest. "Today there are over 12, 0000 programs all over Canada, the United States and the world" Then too

they are arranged to suit a wide range of physical abilities: Level I requiring some assistance, Level III "The most popular... able to walk on uneven surfaces .up to two miles a day..."and, of course, Level VI, "For those able to climb Mount Kilimanjaro." And his job is, "to interact as a participant, to insure that everyone enjoys the program with a minimum of bother" and most importantly "that no one's luggage gets lost."

As an example Bob described one of these trips in which he has participated, a trip by train from Montreal to Vancouver lasting 13 days, 14 nights. Of course each stop includes free time to wander on your own and the mandatory tourist stops, St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, Toronto's ethnic enclaves, a stop at Jasper "rather than the over commercialized Banff", a walking tour of Vancouver "including the all too well known Eastside". The important aspect, of course, are the lectures that add texture to the experience, the British-French conflict, ethnic communication, urban landscape all delivered in places where their impact may be best understood.

Thus then there is that other cliché - the one about life being a journey, its implications now better understood as its meaning is defined by the stops along the way.

Julius



A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm, and says:
'A beer please, and one for the road.'

This Month Puzzles

Y E N O O L C D R T E B A R D E M
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WORD SEARCH

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| BACON, Kevin | DUNCAN, Michael Clarke | MCKELLEN, Ian |
| BARDEM, Javier | FORD, Harrison | NEESON, Liam |
| BLACK, Jack | FOXX, Jamie | PESCI, Joe |
| BRIDGES, Jeff | GIBSON, Mel | PHOENIX, Joaquin |
| CAINE, Michael | GOLDBLUM, Jeff | REEVES, Keanu |
| CARREY, Jim | GRANT, Hugh | RUSH, Geoffrey |
| CHAN, Jackie | GYLLENHAAL, Jake | RUSSELL, Kurt |
| CLOONEY, George | HACKMAN, Gene | SPACEY, Kevin |
| COSTNER, Kevin | HARTNETT, Josh | STATHAM, Jason |
| CUSACK, John | IRONS, Jeremy | TRAVOLTA, John |
| DAMON, Matt | JACKMAN, Hugh | VOIGHT, Jon |
| DANIELS, Jeff | JONES, James Earl | WAHLBERG, Mark |
| DEPP, Johnny | LAW, Jude | WEAVING, Hugo |
| DICAPRIO, Leonardo | MCCONAUHGEY, Matthew | WOOD, Elijah |
| DOUGLAS, Michael | | |



Every digit from 1 to 9 must appear:

- In each of the columns,
- in each of the rows,
- and in each of the nine boxes.

Crossword

Down

1. Trap for catching lobsters (7,3)
2. Republic in the Caribbean (4)
3. Hit (5)
4. A hand tool (5)
5. Sewing instrument (6)
7. Retailer (10)
11. Blood vessel (6)
13. Whiter (5)
14. Brush a horse (5)
17. Bites (4)

Across

1. Shoe ties (5)
6. Proletarians (7)
8. Surgical knife (7)
9. Pair (3)
10. Examination (4)
12. Seven days (4)
15. Container used for cooking (3)
16. Place in order (7)
18. Underwater missile (7)
19. Skinflint (5)

1		2		3		4		5	
				6					7
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10		11				12			
				13		14			
15				16				17	
18									
						19			

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Paul Bird

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