



Probus Patter

Port Hope and District

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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PROGRAM

SUE SPEIRS

SPECIAL EVENTS

BILL MINION

NEWSLETTER

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LIZ DAVIDSON

Probus Patter

is the Newsletter of the
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LEST WE FORGET

President's Message

I believe one of my jobs as your president is to report on decisions of the Management Committee as they affect you, the members. We meet each month on the second Tuesday.

At the October 14 meeting, Richard Honey and Sel Shields requested a few minutes to discuss the annual financial report. They felt that our surplus should be reduced and there should be less subsidization of club events. The committee will take this under advisement.

Alan Butler provided us with a budget and plans for the Christmas Party. It was decided to lower the price of the tickets to \$35 by not including wine. A full bar will be available at the event.

Barbara Hawthorn reported that we have 148 members and 5 or 6 on the waiting list.

A decision was made to open a separate bank account for Special Events.

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President Terry Bell

THE FLEA CIRCUS AND GENEALOGY

Peter Bolton, local retired teacher and self-taught family researcher, gave us a fascinating talk on genealogy at the October 21st meeting. Responding to a letter about the origins of Louie Bertolotto, Peter began exhaustive research on whether our L. Bertolotto, who is buried in Port Hope, was the same man who became famous for demonstrations of his Flea Circus. In fact, he might have been the "Andrew Lloyd Weber of Flea Circuses." With resources available on the web, Peter concluded that he was the same man.

Peter Goering brought "his father's nuts" (one slightly bigger than the other) to the meeting. Purchased in Mexico in 1934 as curiosities by his father, the nuts contained tiny dioramas of fleas in costumes.

"Real fleas, guaranteed." "The fleas are dead; they will not come to life." "Dressed by hand by a Mexican widow who gets them from her flea-infested dogs." These were some of the claims accompanying the nuts.



Jack Goering with his father's nuts.

(President's Message, cont.)

Treasurer Gary Webb said that the large amounts flowing in and out of the account for special events did not reflect accurately the club's finances.

President Terry Bell requested that we purchase a remote microphone for the purposes of asking questions from the floor. A decision was made to ask Noel Martin to get us a price.

On a different subject, it has occurred to me that we are starting into the bad weather driving season. Because of this, some of our members may miss meetings because they are nervous about driving on poor roads. If this a problem for you, please call me and I will see if I can connect you with someone who could drive you.

Terry Bell

Like to Take Pictures?

I am still looking for a member to look after the yearly photo album and to assist the editor when needed. Interested? Please call or see Pauline Carrick at the meeting. (885-8554)

CATERING

November Captain: Dorothy Gilmer

November 4: Donna Wakely, Margot Agnew, Sheila White

November 18: Mysie Vanhinsberg, Ruby Hunter, Una Norenus

December Captain: Hazel Everdale

December 2: Alan Butler, Bev Mathieson, Kitty Hatch

Please arrived at 8.30 a.m. and find a replacement from the membership list if you cannot help on your day.

NEW PEOPLE NEEDED! *Some of our original members have been helping with snacks for ten years now. If you are a newer member, please get involved with your club by volunteering to help with this easy and fun job. Men welcome too.*

Call Eileen Rose, 905-885-2845.

One meeting in December on the 2nd.

Please welcome Ernie and Marilyn



Say hello to Jeanette and Alan



Both Ernie and Marilyn Johnson were born and raised in Toronto. Ernie's career was with the finance division of Borg Warner Corporation and with The Bank of Nova Scotia. (Do I see a position as Treasurer of our club in the future?). After retiring in 1998, he and Marilyn moved to Brighton, later relocating to Port Hope to be closer to their daughter and her family. Married for 51 years, they have two children. Marilyn kept busy on the home front with crafts and teaching yoga to people with disabilities.

Sandwiched in between Terry and Rita Bell and Bill and Carolyn Minion in Bewdley, it was inevitable that Jeanette and Alan Rutherford would give in to friendly persuasion and join Probus. Jeanette is a former member of the Probus Club of Scarborough. She emigrated to Canada from Guyana, South America in 1966 and then volunteered at the St. Vincent store, Oshawa and Guyana Christian charities in Scarborough. According to her neighbours, she is a fantastic cook. Alan hails from Melbourne, Australia, coming to Canada in 1970, where he worked as a broadcast engineer for Canwest Global.

Pictures from our Corn Roast, September 9, featuring Mysie's Funky Fashion Show



Above: Eileen Picket looked delightful in her "box Jacket."

Below: Pauline Carrick showed off her "flowered dressing gown", Owen Lent was all lit up in his "light jacket", while Barb Loucks was the graduate model.



Carol Payne, Bob Sculthorpe and Terry Bell pose for a picture with a HoedownScarecrow. The corn roast, featuring the fashion show, corn, and grilled hamburgers was held at Bob's country home on Lakeshore Road.

PROBUS DISTRICT I MEETING

Hosted by the Ganaraska Valley Probus Club, District 1 Western Division met on October 28th at the Recreation Centre, Port Hope.

The meeting was presided over by new Director Peter Doyle, who was introduced at our Spring Fling last May. District 1 West consists of 14 Probus Clubs. President Terry Bell and Vice President Catharine Ramsey represented our club.

A discussion took place regarding future Spring Flings. The next one will take place on May 20, 2009 at the Keeler Centre in Colborne. Cobourg Probus Club will host this event. At this early stage, they are planning to issue a set number of tickets to each club based on the size of the membership. By doing this they hope to keep the attendance at a maximum of 600 people. *(NOTE FROM EDITOR: We tried to limit the number to 500 attendees when we hosted Spring Fling in May, but we were still inundated by requests for tickets and ended up with an attendance of 700. People were extremely unhappy with limiting attendance.)*

There was a general discussion on what various clubs pay for hall rentals (we pay \$200 per meeting), annual dues (we charge \$40), meeting fees (we charge \$3) etc. We also discussed what, if any, events we subsidize and whether we pay our speakers. Clubs have different policies on all of the above issues.

Report to club by Terry Bell.

IT DOESN'T HURT TO BE REMINDED

. Please don't arrive early. Our meetings start at 9.00 a.m. for half an hour of social time and coffee. Doors are open between 8.30 and 9.00 only for those setting up the meeting. Find your name, check in with Membership Chair and pay meeting fees.

. Be thoughtful and take a Probus Patter home to a friend who couldn't attend.

. Phone Margot Agnew (885-9146) if you know of a member who would appreciate a Get Well card or a Condolence card.

. Let Terry Bell know if you are celebrating a special day or anniversary (342-3700).

PROBUS CHRISTMAS PARTY



December 9, 2008
Cobourg Best Western Hotel
Great Buffet, Fun, Surprises
Dancing to the Royals
Cost: \$35 members, \$50 guests
Tickets on sale now!

Area Bowling Tournament

February 2, 2009, 9.30am

Northshore Lanes, Northumberland Mall

Cobourg and Port Hope Clubs (5)

Games followed by lunch and prizes

Plan to join our team!

Last practice for Port Hope bowlers to get in shape:
December 1st at 1.30pm, Northshore Lanes. January by
agreement. THE TOILET SEAT IS THE BOOBY PRIZE.

SPECIAL EVENTS

JERSEY BOYS AND DINNER IN NORTH YORK

November 26: Sold out.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

January 21, 2009

The hills are alive once more as Andrew Lloyd Webber and David Ian's smash-hit new London production of *The Sound of Music* makes its North American premiere at the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto.

Elicia MacKenzie, winner of CBC's *How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?* competition, stars in this production. Makes a great Christmas present for that special someone.

Cost; \$110, includes transportation, show and dinner.
Meet at Phillips Road commuter lot at 11.00 p.m.

Special Events Coordinators
Bill and Carolyn Minion, 905-342-3264,

PROGRAMS

Looking Back

October 7

Lorie Davey of the Davey Wellness Clinic in Peterborough provided us with useful information from her own practice in the ancient arts of Chinese medicine and herbs, aromatherapy, acupuncture and reflexology.



Believe it or not! Inside these walnut halves (the slightly bigger ones) are dioramas of dressed fleas. Thanks for bringing these nuts Jack.

October 21

Peter Bolton, local historian, intrigued us with the search for Louie Bertolotto, the acknowledged father of the Flea Circus craze. With a fascinating delve into the wealth of genealogy information available on the worldwide web, Peter took us through the painstaking steps that lead to a satisfying conclusion.

Looking Ahead

November 4

Chris Wallace and Rod Stewart of the Pier Group will explain why they think it is important to study whether the buildings on Port Hope's harbour pier are worth saving before they are precipitously pulled down.

November 18

Linda Thompson, Mayor of Port Hope will talk about Visioning for our town.

December 2

Bruce Cox, paratrooper extraordinaire, will talk about some of his experiences in World War 11. (Due to knee surgery, Bruce was not able to be our Remembrance Day speaker, but we welcome him for this meeting.)

SUE SPEIRS WOULD WELCOME YOUR IDEAS ON PROGRAMS FOR PROBUS MEETINGS. PLEASE CALL HER AT 905-885-8604.