



Probust Patter
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Management
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Probust Patter

The Newsletter of the
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President's Message

Dear Fellow Probustians

Did you miss the snow this winter and its accompanying need to shovel sidewalks and driveways? Are you suffering from Olympic withdrawal and the late nights watching champions declared so by fractions of seconds? Are you looking forward to spring, and cutting grass, gardening and getting re-acquainted with hibernating neighbours? As we transition from one season to the next what remains constant in our lives? Well, Probust of course! No matter what goes on around us, we can count on attending our Probust meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. It's a real pleasure to see our membership at the meetings.

Now, what is coming up that we can get excited about (in addition to our regular meetings)? We have the St. Patrick's celebration on March 16th at The Beamish – all tickets are sold, so if you missed out, I'm afraid you'll have to negotiate with someone who has a ticket. Tulips will be sold outside our meeting room on April 20th in support of Parkinsons awareness. There's nothing like a bouquet of tulips to announce that spring is on its way. And, there's the added benefit of supporting such a worthy cause. Our visit to the Provincial Legislature is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21st. Carolyn will have more to say about that trip when she returns from vacation. And then there's Spring Fling! Spring Fling will be in Belleville this year at the Maranatha Church. The auditorium seats one thousand people! It promises to be an exciting event. If you don't yet have a ticket, we might be able to get one for you. We'll certainly try.

So, we have many activities coming up and much to keep our interest alive. Our programme chair does a wonderful job of presenting a wide variety of speakers for our meetings. We don't expect everyone to be ecstatic about every programme; however, over time I believe you will enjoy a majority of the presentations.

Regards,
Catharine Ramsey

Ken Scott requested your Editor to put this in the Patter to honour our successes in the recent Winter Olympic Games.

We never claimed to be perfect,
That means we've learned to be humble.
We say excuse me and I'm sorry...*as well as* please and thanks,
Even when its not our fault **we** apologize.
Sure one arm of the torch didn't rise,
But when the earthquake struck Haiti, Canadians raised their hands to say... "We'll help."
And yah, for awhile there was a fence around the torch,
But you can walk right up and shake hands with our prime minister and most famous Canadians.
We put Gretzky in the back of a pick-up truck in the rain, not surrounded by police...and he was okay,
And by the way... the Great One is Canadian...and **HE** wasn't complaining!
We do have security at the games, of course, but most people don't even **have** a gun they have to leave at home.
The medals ARE under lock and key, but our doors and our hearts are open to the world.
It has been pointed out that some buses broke down last week...but let's not overlook the fact that our banking system didn't.
We didn't get the "green ice maker" right this time, either...but we will, eventually,
Just like we did when we **invented** the zamboni.
Citius altius fortius
If you don't reach higher how *do* you get faster and stronger?
Was the first quad jump perfect?
Should we not have given snowboarding to the world "in case" it didn't take off?
So big deal...one out of four torch arms didn't rise. Good thing we had three more! It's called contingency planning!
But remember...the Canadarm works every time...in outerspace...and insulin turned out to be okay.
We couldn't change the weather, but maybe we *can* help to stop global warming.
We don't have the tax base of the US or the power of the Chinese but, per capita, we ponied up for some pretty kick-ass venues in the worst global recession ever.
Sure, some folks couldn't afford tickets, but our health care is universal.
We have shown the world that we can raise our voices in celebration and song, but moments later stand in silence to respect a tragic event...together...spontaneously...and unrehearsed.
What's more, we don't need permission from anyone to have a slam poet, fiddlers with piercings and a lesbian singer to tell our story to the world while our multilingual female haitian-born, black head of state shares a box with her first nations equals.
We've shown the world that it doesn't always rain in Vancouver, that you can strive for excellence, but not get hung up on perfection.
And we've learned what it feels like to be picked on by some no-name newspaper guy and we don't have to take it lying down!
So the point is not the snow, or the hydraulics or a couple guys being 5 minutes late to a ceremony,
We know we're lucky that these are the biggest problems we've had to deal with in the last couple of weeks.
So take your cheap shots...Guardian newspaper and cynics of the world,
We're bigger and better than that.
What's more, we're finally starting to believe it!

Do you believe?

Paul Appleton was the speaker on Feb.16. He was an Olympic Torch Runner for the Winter Olympic Games. He applied, and got accepted, out of over 1.3 million applicants. They chose about 12,000 Torch Runners. The applicants came from all walks of life and had to give a reason for why they felt they should bear The Torch. Some were professional runners, others people who had made a difference in their community and many who were disabled; some could run, others walked and some were in wheelchairs, no one was left out, all you had to do was qualify. Paul got accepted by e-mail and then his official package arrived by FedEx with his jogging suit, hat, gloves, and whatever else. The Torch Runners had to attend an information session and go through some training on how to carry the torch and to accept the light from another torch. The training was very thorough and all runners were quick to accept the challenge. The



The joggers in grey track suits were Mounted Police Officers to keep things in check. The Torch was run throughout Canada and it is said that no one was more than 100 Km. from being able to see it being carried. It travelled many ways, by plane, boat, skidoo, dog sled, car/van etc. as well as by the runners. It travelled north to the territories, to the east coast and back through southern Canada ending at Vancouver. The Torch run was extremely well organized and there were no major set-backs. The master flame was in a lantern that accompanied the torches with a back up flame as well so if the Torch went out they just had to relight it from the master flame. They apparently thought of everything to ensure that this was the run of a lifetime. A Torch bearer could purchase their Torch for \$350.00 and the stand to hold it in for \$50.00. I suspect that probably everyone bought their Torch. It certainly has left an imprint on those people who carried the Torch and now they are out in the community telling their stories, you could just feel the pride and awe from their presentations.

Jack Goering was our speaker on March 2nd and he talked about "The West – and Getting There". He showed slides of western Canada and the USA and different places of interest visited on the way while driving there and back, from 1961 to 2000, camping along the way with the family.

Arizona was first visited in 1968 while driving back from a 6 week National Science Foundation Ecology course at California State College at Long Beach. Arizona was again visited in 1971 as part of a TCS driving tour of the west. In 1984 they flew to Tucson, AZ, for March break and explored the surroundings, desert, Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, Missions, Kit Peak Observatory, etc.

In 1986 they stayed at the Cave Creek Ranch in Portal in the SE corner of AZ, for the month of March, and explored the surroundings – animals, birds, climbs of nearby mountains and trails.

From 1987 to 2000, they drove to Cave Creek Ranch via different routes visiting wildlife refuges, museums, and other places of interest, on the way there and on the way back. Usually they stayed the month of March at Cave Creek Ranch and spent 2 weeks driving each way. Some places visited, Lake Louise, Columbia Icefields, Crater Lake, Mount St Helens, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Taos, Yellowstone, Johnston Space Centre, Mesa Verde, Tombstone, Hoover Dam.

Much of the information on the natural places visited was obtained from two books:- "Wild America" by Roger Tory Peterson and James Fisher, 1963; and "Wandering through Winter" by Edwin Way Teale, 1965.

Submitted by Jack Goering, with a few additions by Sue Speirs

Catering News

March Captain Jane McCluskey

March 16 Joann Henderson, Betty Lucas, Maggie Snow, Anne Brown

April Captain Barbara Moorecroft

April 6 Merle Adamson, Shirley Kane, George Watson, Fran Campbell

April 20 Donna Wakely, Harold Wakely, Shirley Robinson, Don Kent

May Captain Judy Johnson

May 4 Verne Johnson, Marion & Doug Gellatly, Jane McCluskey

May 18 Betty Collins, Barb Loucks, Pauline & Jim Graham



Jack Goering and his sister Sheila.

Here are a few "lighter" thoughts to ponder:

Sex is like air. It's not that important unless you aren't getting any.

Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

Always remember you're unique. Just like everyone else.

Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive or dead, try missing a couple of mortgage payments.