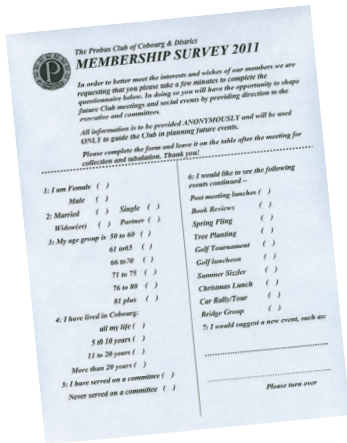


The **PROBIAN**

Monthly Newsletter of the Probus Club of Cobourg and District

December, 2011
Volume 18 –No. 03
Editor Bill Johnson
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Survey says ...

President Harry and Vice-President John were unavailable at press time. In place of the usual **Presidential Decree** the Probian is pleased to present the highlights of the recent Membership Survey.

68 Probians replied to the survey questionnaire. Of these, **58%** were women and **42%** men. **72%** were married; **19%** widowed and **7.3%** with a partner. **35%** of members have lived in the Cobourg Area for more than **20** years. **92.6%** of respondents have served

on a Probus Club committee.

Events which members would like to see continued are, **Tree Planting 85.2%**; the **Car Rally/Tour – 83.8%**; **Christmas Lunch -79.4%**; **Summer Sizzler – 69.1%**; **Spring Fling -50.05%**; and **Post Meeting Lunches – 41.1%**; **Golf Tournament 33.8%**; **Golf Luncheon 33.68%**.

The interests of Probians are many and varied. They include **Theatre day trips 67.6%**; **Local theatre - 64.7%**; **Reading-Book Reviews 50.0%**; **Book Reviews by members-17.6%**; **Bridge – 30.8%**; **Personal Finance – 29.4%**.

The average time of **Membership** in the Club is **8 to 10 years**. Membership satisfaction for the current meeting format and location reported as **Very Satisfied – 61.7%**, while **Somewhat Satisfied was 33.8%**.



As with most surveys, the anecdotal comments proved to be most interesting. The meeting venue preferences are still split between the **Best Western Inn & Convention Centre; The Columbus Centre; and The Lions Centre**. There does not appear to be any change here, but rather a matter of personal preference.

The interests of members include; Euchre; Bowling; Curling; Antiques; Movies and written book reviews. One surprising comments received was for a possible – **Women only event(s) such as an afternoon outing**. Other interests reported included; **Tai Chi; Sailing; Billiards; Genealogy; Travel; Insurance; Kawartha Downs and Day Trips**.

Other comments received included – “**Shorter Breaks**”; “**Vary the Meeting Format**,” and “**Sing O’Canada once a year only**.”

The full survey report runs five pages in length, much too long to publish here in **The Probian**. If you would like to see the full report, give your name to the Editor of The Probian and we will be happy to make a copy available.

Thanks to all who took part in the survey.

How to spot email hoaxes

They're funny, they tug on your heartstrings, they get you all riled up, but ultimately, the joke's on you. So before you hit that forward button, make sure you're not spreading an e-mail hoax.

The History of Email Hoaxes

Email hoaxes have been around almost as long as e-mail itself, and the reason for their existence isn't entirely clear. Rumor suggests these long-running e-mail chains are circulated to collect e-mail addresses, but it turns out this explanation is likely as much a hoax as the hoaxes themselves.

Many e-mail hoaxes are created to spread a political or religious piece of propaganda, but probably the best explanation is that hoaxsters, like pranksters, and other jokesters, just do it for the twisted fun of it. Fortunately, with a little practice, spotting an e-mail hoax is a breeze.

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Continued from page 1 -
Spotting Email Hoaxes

Tip 1: When you get an e-mail that urgently begs you to forward it on, be suspicious. Especially if the e-mail specifies that something will happen if you do or don't forward it.

Trust me, when you get an e-mail that promises you will receive money, fall in love, have good luck, or have bad luck within 7 days if you do nothing, you're dealing with a hoax.

Tip 2: If the e-mail sounds too good to be true, or so horrible as to be beyond belief, be suspicious.

Getting a big check from a company just for forwarding an e-mail, or spreading the word about people selling kittens in jars, just doesn't really make sense, does it? Use your good judgment here, and if you're not sure, take it one step further.

Tip 3: A simple internet search on the e-mail's keywords, or a quick look at a site like Urbanlegends. About.com, should give you an answer in about 30 seconds. Any e-mail that's been widely circulated will be either verified as a hoax, or authenticated with legitimate citations or other credentials.

Never Give Out Personal Information

And remember, never give out personal information in response to any e-mail, always go straight to trusted sources that employ legitimate security measures. So next time you get an e-mail about a free laptop or a shark attacking a helicopter or Mr. Rogers being a marine sniper, you'll be all the wiser.



PIFF*
is coming
February 16th!
Got your
tickets yet?

Better see
Russ Donaldson
December 15th
and get yours
to avoid
disappointment.



Coming Events –
Mark Your Calendars

December 15th Meeting – will be held at
The Capitol Theatre in Port Hope

There will be a regular meeting of the Probus Club of Cobourg & District with a business session which will be held upstairs (there is an elevator) at the theatre, followed by the always popular Christmas Tree tour at the theatre. Meeting will commence at the regular time, with the display of trees visit to follow.

January 5th Meeting – Regular Meeting

to be held at the Best Western Inn & Convention Centre at the regular time. Speaker will be retired **Brigadier General Jeffrey Brace** who enjoyed a distinguished military career during which he piloted aircraft carrying members of the Royal family; Pope John Paul II; and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. During his 35 year career in the military he flew a number of different aircraft including C130 Hercules and Boeing 707. He also spent two years serving in Germany and has many interesting tales to tell of his adventures. Don't miss this meeting.

January 19th Meeting – Regular Meeting at the Best Western Inn & Convention Centre.

Programme to be announced.

January 27th – Dinner Theatre at the Best Western Inn & Convention Centre.

Northumberland Players present – **“Here on the flight Path”** by Norm Foster. What is life truly like being on the flight path. Meet John Cummings, a lonely divorced man who shares the stories of his relationships with three very different women who have all lived next door. This typically macho guy's experiences with Fay, the aspiring singer-actor; Angel, the sex-worker; and Gwen, a driving inspector who has recently separated from her husband. The hilarious encounters that ensue would alter any man's perceptions of love and women. Directed by Helen Matthew. Tickets \$40.00 are available from **Nancy Foden**.

Have a Merry Christmas and a
Prosperous Safe and Healthy New Year

Speakers Corner – November 4th meeting



“In Shackleton’s Footsteps” was the title of this year’s presentation by adventure photographer **Brenda Nutter** who returned for a third time to our Club to amaze us once again with her breathtaking photos.

Brenda spoke of the journey of Sir Ernest Shackleton, (1847-1922) the Irish explorer of the Antarctic.

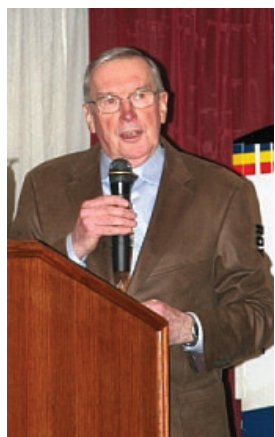
Brenda Nutter

Once again, she demonstrated her truly amazing skills behind the lens with her dramatic and compelling photos taken as she retraced Shackleton’s 30,000 mile journey in the South Atlantic and Antarctic.

Her presentation included an enjoyable musical accompaniment which made viewing her photos even more enjoyable. It is to be hope that she will accept our invitation to return again in the future to show us where her latest adventures have led her.

Probian **Russ Donaldson** introduced and thanked Brenda on behalf of the most appreciative audience.

November 17th Meeting



Alistair Commins was the featured speaker at the second November meeting, speaking on the subject of building, maintaining and flying power model airplanes.

The days of the old rubber-banned power balsa and tissue-paper models most of us knew as children are certainly long gone.

Alistair Commins Today’s model planes are most highly sophisticated, controlled from the ground by radio frequency transmitters which **Mr. Commins** demonstrated to the audience using a small model plane.

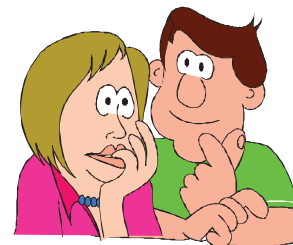
Today’s models often have wingspans in excess of six feet and the speaker explained the hazards of flight faced by most “pilots.” He was introduced to the Club by **John De Visser** and thanked by **Ken Ledgard**.

And now for a little nostalgia!

From Jim and Joanne Domine

Remember when ...

All the girls had ugly gym uniforms and wore tennis shoes not \$200 Nike's?



It took three minutes for the TV to warm up?

Nobody owned a purebred dog?

When a quarter was a decent allowance?

You'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny?

Your Mom wore nylons that came in two pieces?

You got your windshield cleaned, oil checked, and gas pumped, without asking, all for free, every time? And you didn't pay for air? And, you got trading stamps to boot?

Laundry detergent had free glasses, dishes or towels hidden inside the box?

It was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents?

They threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed. . and they did it?

When a 57 Chevy was everyone's dream car...to cruise, peel out, lay rubber or watch submarine races, and people went steady?

No one ever asked where the car keys were because they were always in the car, in the ignition, and the doors were never locked?

Lying on your back in the grass with your friends and saying things like, "That cloud looks like a... "?

Playing baseball with no adults to help kids with the rules of the game?

Stuff from the store came without safety caps and hermetic seals because no one had yet tried to poison a perfect stranger?

And with all our progress, don't you just wish, just once, you could slip back in time and savour the slower pace, and share it with the children of today?

*Watch for more nostalgia next issue of **The Probian**.*

Around the Room – a candid look at the Probus Meeting Break!



Elma Parker checks out the Probus wear on display and for sale at the November 17th meeting, while *Mim Hadden* tries her best sales pitch on *Fran Morrison*.



Joyce Linton and *Marjorie Heaton* were quick to pose for the camera.



Jim and *Marie* seem to be enjoying having their conversation interrupted by your intrepid camera clown, but *Dorothy De Lisle* doesn't seem to think much of the idea.

With the Inter-Club Bowling Championship returning on Monday, February 13th, *Russ Donaldson* was busy hustling Probian to join his team. Above left, Russ displayed the beautiful newly designed additions to the infamous *Toilet Seat Trophy* – a very fancy seat back and rim cover with matching tissue covers and a wonderful hat (?). The only requirement of Probian wishing to join the team remains “*a pulse*”.



Good news from Cambridge University

If you can read the following paragraph, pass it along to your friends. Only great minds can read this. This is weird, but interesting!

If you can read this, you have a strange mind, too. Can you read this? Only 55 people out of 100 can. I don't believe that I could accurately understand what I was reading. The phenomenal power of the human mind, according to a research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be in the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.

Azanzig huh? Yeah and I always thought spelling was important! If you can read this, pass it along to a friend.

***If you have trouble with metric measures ...
... read this.***

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope
4. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananosecond
5. Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
6. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = Knotfurlong
7. 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Serling
8. Half of a large intestine = 1 semicolon
9. 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahertz
10. Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 horsepower
11. Shortest distance between two jokes = A straight line
12. 453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake
13. 1 million-million microphones = 1 megaphone

14. 2 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
15. 365.25 days = 1 unicycle
16. 2000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds
17. 52 cards = 1 decacards
18. 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 FigNewton
19. 1000 milliliters of wet socks = 1 literhosen
20. 1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche
21. 1 trillion pins = 1 terrapin
22. 10 rations = 1 decoration
23. 100 rations = 1 C-ration
24. 2 monograms = 1 diagram
25. 4 nickels = 2 paradigms
26. 2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University Hospital = 1 IV League

Editor's Note: I don't make these things up ... I just pass them along!

Want a great night out?

Then join us* for



***At the new Cobourg Community Centre
Monday nights at 7:00 p.m.***

***Come on hockey fans, how about joining your
Probian buddies for a Cougars game.***

*There a good number of Probians attending the Cougar games these days. Join **Warren Harvey, Jim Domine, Russ Donaldson, Jim Hales, Bill Johnson** and others and enjoy the exciting play of the **Cobourg Cougars**, currently fighting it out for first place in their division of the OJHL. These young men deserve your support. Come on out and cheer them on.



Christmas 2011...

... Birth of a New Tradition

Submitted to the Probian by Jim Domine

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Canadians with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods -- merchandise that has been produced at the expense of Canadian labor. This year will be different. This year Canadians will give the gift of genuine concern for other Canadians. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by Canadian hands. Yes there is!

It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper? Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local Canadian hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, Canadian owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plunking down some of those hard earned Sir John A. Macdonald's on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town Canadian with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the Canadian working guy?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.

My computer could use a tune-up, and I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre. Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

Honestly, people, do you REALLY need to buy another ten thousand Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a five dollar string of lights, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice BIG tip.

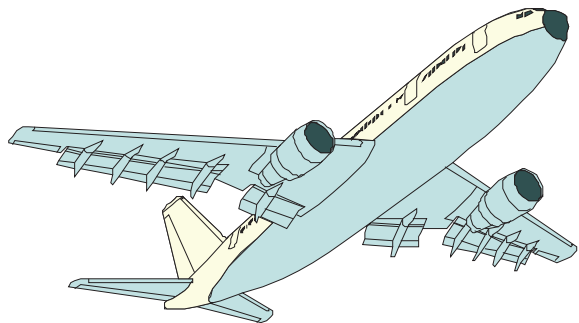
You see, Christmas is no longer about draining Canadian pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about us, encouraging Canadian small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Canadians, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine. THIS is the new Canadian Christmas tradition.

Pass this along to everyone on your mailing list -- post it to discussion groups -- throw up a post on Craigslist in the Rants and Raves section in your city -- send it to the editor of your local paper and radio stations, and TV news departments. This is a revolution of caring about each other, and isn't that what Christmas is about?

***This Christmas -
BUY CANADIAN-BE CANADIAN***

***The job you save might be your
neighbour's or your children's.***

Taken any trips, lately?



Smiles from the computer of *Alma Draper*

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots.

Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito.

I hear no one recognises you there.

I have, however, been in Sane.

They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there.

I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt.

That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense!

It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart!

At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

"Defeat is okay". Nelson Mandela's chiroprapist

*Peace is seeing a sunset or a sunrise ...
... and knowing whom to thank! Anon.*



Probus Inter-Club Bowling Tournament

*Monday, February 13th
Northshore Lanes
In the Mall!*

Meet at the Mall ay 9:30 a.m.

Bowling starts promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Luncheon after bowling at the Lions Centre.

*Cost: Bowling, 3 games, \$10.00 plus 50 cents
for bowling shoes if required.*

Luncheon: \$18.00 including all taxes

Cash Bar available.

*Come out and enjoy the fun bowling or just
cheering on your team and enjoying the
luncheon.*

*You must register and pay for the luncheon by
Thursday, January 5th, 2012*

*To register, please contact Russ Donaldson by
calling 905-372-7044 or by email at
russ.donaldson.sympatico.ca*

*Come on Probians ... help us to avoid the
embarrassment of winning the infamous toilet
seat trophy once again.*



Just like "old times"

A very special "thank you" to Past-President *Ross Adams* for stepping in and chairing the Probus Meeting on November 17th when both President *Harry Knapper* and Vice-President *John Egberts* were unavailable. It's nice to know we can rely on Probians to volunteer when they are needed. "Thanks", *Ross* for volunteering.

The Official Canadian Temperature Conversion Chart:

50 Fahrenheit (10 C)

Californians shiver uncontrollably.
Canadians plant gardens.

35 Fahrenheit (1.6 C)

Italian Cars won't start
Canadians drive with the windows down and still wear shorts and T-shirts.

32 Fahrenheit (0 C)

American water freezes
Canadians have the last cookout of the season

0 Fahrenheit (-17.9 C)

New York City landlords finally turn on the heat.
Canadians Girl Guides still sell cookies door-to-door.

-60 Fahrenheit (-51 C)

Santa Claus abandons the North Pole.
Canadians pull down their earflaps.

-109.9 Fahrenheit (-78.5 C)

Carbon dioxide freezes makes dry ice.
Canadians get frustrated when they can't thaw the keg.

-173 Fahrenheit (-114 C)

Ethyl alcohol freezes.
Canadians get a day off of work to go tobogganing.

-459.67 Fahrenheit (-273.15 C)

Absolute zero; all atomic motion stops.
Canadians start saying "cold, eh?"

-500 Fahrenheit (-295 C)

Hell freezes over.
The Toronto Maple Leafs win the Stanley Cup

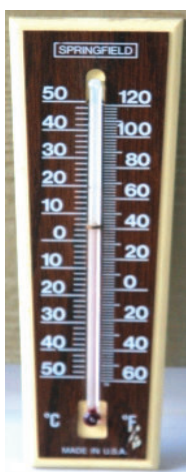
Cell Phone Tips from Russ Donaldson

5 Things You Never Knew

Your Cell Phone Could Do.

Keep this in your car, purse, and wallet. There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that it can do.

FIRST: The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobile is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an Emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for



you, and interestingly, this number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. Try it out.

SECOND: Have you locked your keys in the car? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone: If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their cell phone from your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. You could be hundreds of miles away and if you can reach someone who has the other 'remote' for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk). Note: It works fine! We tried it, and it unlocked our car over a cell phone!

THIRD: Hidden Battery Power. Imagine your cell battery is very low. To activate, press the keys *3370#. Your cell phone will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you charge your cell phone next time.

FOURTH: To disable a STOLEN mobile phone? To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following Digits on your phone: *# 06#. A 15-digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. When your phone get stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either.

FIFTH: Free Directory Service. Cell phone companies are charging us \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls when they don't have to. Most of us do not carry a telephone directory in our vehicle, which makes this situation even more of a problem. When you need to use the 411 information option, simply dial: (800)FREE411, or (800) 373-3411 without incurring any charge at all. Program this into your cell phone now. This is sponsored by McDonalds. This is the kind of information people don't mind receiving, so pass it on to your family and friends.

Quotable Quotes from Mark Twain

“If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed”.