



in **TOUCH**



Probus Club of Colborne

Box 865, Colborne Ontario K0K 1S0

FOUNDED 2003

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PROBUS CANADA WEBSITE www.probus.org

Check us out at www.probusnorthumberland.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

It's hard to believe that we are half way through our Probus year. Although Spring seems to be somewhat reluctant to arrive, as I write this we have: a) been successful in dodging Toronto's latest winter blast and b) had our last Winter Bowling Bonanza. That may be fortunate for some of us (i.e. me) whose results don't appear to be improving. But others did exceptionally well (organizer Gord McArthur in particular) and everyone who came out over the season appears to have had great fun, if not great scores. If anyone has thoughts about similar types of activities that might prove fun, please do not hesitate to bring them forward.

One thought that came to my mind is that golf season is approaching (I hope). If enough members are interested, we could make arrangements at one of the local golf clubs for some sort of outing. We could make sure the location was one where you could rent clubs if needed. As a plug for our local Community Care office, Northumberland Community Care has held a spring tournament at Timber Ridge Golf Club near Brighton in early June for several years. The event includes lunch, dinner, prizes and a silent auction. It is great fun and very well run and proceeds go to a worthy cause. We could get a group together and enter that tournament if people are interested. Or we could simply go out and play golf in a less formal manner if that is what people would prefer. I will make sure we put up a sign up sheet at the next meeting and we can see what interest there is in either idea. Or both.

Don't forget our Anniversary Lunch which is to take place at the Keeler Centre at our second meeting in April, Wednesday the 20th. By then all of our snowbirds should be back and we look forward to seeing you next month.

SPEAKERS CORNER

March 2, Janine McLeod from the Black Oak Savanna and Tall Grass Interpretive Centre educated us about the two ecosystems involved in the 50 hectares on the Rice Lake Plains. This is the largest Tallgrass Prairie and Savanna in Central Ontario today. Historically these two ecosystems covered approximately 1000 square kilometers.

Globally, these ecosystems (Savanna defined as less than 25-35% tree cover, and Prairie as less than 25% tree cover) are considered rare. The Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative works to protect and restore the Tallgrass and Oak Savanna for the health of our planet and for future generations. Some of the ways they do this are: controlled burns to stop woody growth and encourage germination of the flora thereby supporting the fauna; removal and control of non-native species in the area; and restrict development (i.e. housing, mining, ATV's and roads). Everyone present enjoyed the beautiful slides Janine showed. There was great interest in planning a guided tour for Colborne Probus members in the Spring and perhaps again in the Fall. Suggested dates are June 22 or 29. Participants could be walking up to 2 hours and the cost for the event would be \$10 per person.

Al Brisco entertained us on March 16 with steel guitar music, a lesson in the workings of steel guitars (both hands, both knees and a foot must be coordinated at the same time) and an acoustic guitar accompaniment for an Irish sing-along led by Mary Lee. Several members dressed the part for The Wearing of the Green theme. Many thanks to Al Brisco, Colborne's Rotary President, for sharing his talent.

PROBUS BOWLING REPORT

On Wednesday, March 23, 2011 we held our last bowling outing for the season. Fourteen members and associates gathered for fun, exercise and some frustration, at Presquile Lanes in Brighton. This outing has proven to be a big hit with those who enjoy the game, but more importantly, the camaraderie shared. To prove that point, we have, over the four outings, 23 different members participating in the event. That is about one third of the total membership of Colborne Probus. Many thanks to ALL the participants! The top bowler this day was me, Gord, with a three game total of 487 and 7 strikes (Editor's Note: Not that he is boasting or anything!) The top three Lady Bowlers were Audrey Shewin (420 - 6 strikes), Diane Dycke (410), and Carol McArthur (363). The top Men were Gord (487), Bob Lee (397), and Bob Andrews (376).

See you next season
Gord

THEATRE

1. The 2011 season for the Stratford Shakespeare Festival is available at www.stratfordshakespearefestival.com or 1-800-567-1600.
2. The Shaw Festival is celebrating their 50th Anniversary Season with a stellar playlist. Check it out at www.shawfest.com.
3. 4th Line Theatre (near Millbrook) will celebrate 20 seasons with *Berlin Blues* running from June 28 to July 23 followed by *The Cavan Blazers* from Aug 2 to 27th. Tickets are available now at www.4thlinetheatre.on.ca or 1-800-814-0055.

4. Also locally, check out Port Hope's Capitol Theatre's playlist at www.capitoltheatre.com, Belleville's Empire Theatre at www.theempiretheatre.com and Stirling's Festival Theatre at www.stirlingfestivaltheatre.com.

COMMUNITY

1. Indoor Walking at the Keeler Centre is available Monday to Friday from 9 – 11 am, except holidays. The Community service is a safe way to stay healthy and avoid falls! The Centre can even provide music accompaniment or bring your own.
2. Sunday April 3 Colborne United Church is hosting an organ recital at 4 pm.
3. Peterborough Garden Show 2011 is April 8 – 10 at the Evinrude Centre in Peterborough. Admission is \$6 per day. There are speakers at various times on Saturday and Sunday.
4. The Colborne Community Choir is presenting 'Risen Indeed' on Sunday April 10 at 3 pm at Trinity Anglican Church. Donations for the Food Bank are welcome.
5. Trinity Anglican Church is hosting a Palm Cross Making Workshop on Saturday April 16 at 10 am.
5. Meet at Victoria Park at 11 am on Sunday April 17 for the 4th Annual Donkey Walk to Prospect Community Church for an ecumenical Palm Sunday Service.
6. All are welcome to Salem United Church on Saturday May 7 for a Mother's Day and Trousseau Tea which will include a fashion show of vintage wedding gowns from the last century.

UPCOMING DATES

- Wed April 6 – Probus** Sid Atkinson will speak on "Dairy Farming 101 – nutrition and business".
- Wed April 20 – Probus Anniversary Party** with entertainment provided by Peter Faragher; there is an Hawaiian Style theme so break out your muumuus and grass skirts. Lunch is included.
- Wed May 4 – Probus** Jim Robinson's travelogue of Australia.
- Wed May 18 – Probus** Daryl Stogryn, Director of World Outreach, Youth for Christ/Youth Unlimited – Canada will speak.
- Wed May 18 – Probus' Spring Fling** at the Evinrude Centre in Peterborough; entertainment will include Linda Cash (The Philadelphia Cream Cheese Lady). Tickets are \$35/person with Colborne Probus Club allotted only 13 – 'first come ...' (cheque payable to Colborne Probus Club)
- Wed June 1 – Probus** Ivy Succe will speak on the "Bernardo Children".
- Wed June 15 – Probus** Rick Stronks, Ministry of Natural Resources, will speak on the topic 'Bears'.
- Wed July 6 – Annual Probus Picnic** Anja Guignon's residence – bring your bathing suit!

Tues Sept 13 – Thur Sept 15 Probus members worldwide are invited to attend the 2011 National Conference and to holiday in Vancouver, British Columbia, the “World in a City.” Put **PROBUS RENDEZVOUS 2011** on your calendar and visit the website at www.probusrendezvous.com regularly for the latest program and entertainment information.

THE LAST WORD

Finally, Spring is in the air! Every day I check Gord’s flower beds for brave shoots. The muskrats are nesting, the Mallard and Hooded Merganser couples have flown on, but the Canada’s will unfortunately stay for a while. Oh well.

With the snowbirds returning I guess winter hibernation is over. Time to plan for season openers like baseball, Apple Blossom Festival, gardens and prepare for Summer relaxation. Maybe the Leafs will surprise us and get into post season play! Gord can dream anyway.

Surely someone has read a good book recently. It has been a long, cold Winter. Gord and I both read Lindon McIntrye’s *The Bishop’s Man* and enjoyed it. MJ has also read it and wants to read it again. Is anyone willing to write a small review about any book with more details than the author’s name and book title? I am willing to help if you are concerned about your writing skills. Just jot down what you would tell a friend (or enemy) and that would be a perfect start. Try it, you might like it. Besides, In Touch Editor, her spouse and the President should not be the only contributors.

Gord and I wish to thank the many Probians who expressed sympathy on his mother, Muriel McArthur’s passing. Rest assured she is dusting, dancing and rooting for the Blue Jays.

Carol McArthur, Editor

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