



# THE PRO-BUZZ

NOVEMBER 2011

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I am honoured to have been selected to serve as your Club President for 2011 – 2012.

I look forward to working with the elected officers, committee chairpersons and all club members to keep Northumberland Probus one of the Premier Clubs in Canada.

We need to continue the generous sharing of our time and talents that have made our Club projects so successful. **You** need to ask yourself, have **I** helped out with a project lately .... if not, .... this should be the year for you to get involved .... Don't leave it to the other guy.

Do you want to see some minor changes in our Club? .... **how about** we skip a guest speaker for a week and break up into small groups and discuss a controversial topic; or .... **how about** we plagiarize the Cobourg Probus Club concept of planting a tree once per year in memory of members who are no longer with us; or .... **how about** .... **you** think of a new and exciting idea and bring it to your executive for consideration.

I truly look forward to this year with excitement and enthusiasm and trust you share this same enthusiasm.

**REMEMBER: OUR STRENGTH IS FRIENDSHIP  
OUR SUCCESS IS PARTICIPATION**

George Lawrence



## REMEMBRANCE DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011

*Our club is conducting our own Remembrance Day service today. We will be acknowledging the veterans who are members of our club.*

*We have found there are different definitions of a "veteran" and provide the following for your edification:*

*Veterans Affairs Canada's definition is "Any former member of the Canadian Forces who releases with an honourable discharge and who successfully underwent basic training."*

*The Oxford Dictionary's definition is "A person who has grown old in or had long experience of (esp. military) service or occupation".*

*The Royal Canadian Legion's definition is "An ex-member of the armed forces".*

*One other definition asks, "Did you have any military service?"*

*We are pleased to report the stories of our club veterans as our tribute to them.*

### Gord Catton

Enlisted in March 1953 in Winnipeg,. He joined the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Canadian Navy. He served five years in aircraft maintenance at the Shearwater Base in Dartmouth,. He was discharged in 1958 as a Leaving Seaman. His lasting memory of the time in service is...It gave me a trade for my future endeavours with Trans Canada Airlines for thirty-one years.

### Marjorie Christie

Enlisted in Regina in February 1944. She joined the Canadian Woman's Army Corp. in a clerical and stenographic capacity and looked after paying our soldiers. She served in Vegreville, Alberta, plus Winnipeg, Saskatoon, and Ottawa. Her final rank was Sergeant and she was discharged on her birthday in Ottawa on November 19, 1945. Her lasting memory of the time in service is...Being in the Winnipeg train station when members of the Winnipeg Rifles came through after being in Japanese prisoner of war camps and how young and emaciated they were but how ramrod straight they were when marching.



### Geoff Coleman

Enlisted in Kingston in 1944. He joined the army as an infantryman followed by being an ordinance and supply technician. Basic training was in Peterborough followed by postings in Aldershot and Debert, Nova Scotia, Ottawa, Halifax, Egypt, Cobourg, Petawawa, Germany, Belgium, and Shilo, Manitoba. His final rank was Warrant Officer and he was discharged in Shilo after 25 years of service in 1969. His lasting memory of the time in service is...The extreme poverty that existed with children in Egypt serves as a constant reminder of how fortunate we are in Canada.

Editor's note Geoff is justifiably proud of the fact he is one of very few Canadians to receive the Coronation Medal in 1953 and the Centennial Medal in 1967.

### Harold Coward

Enlisted in Toronto at H.M.C.S. York in January 1942. His job was an engine room mechanic. Service was on cruisers and destroyers in Esquimalt and Vancouver, British Columbia, St. Johns, Newfoundland, Digby, Nova Scotia, and in the Mediterranean Sea. His final rank was Third Class Engineer and he was discharged in Charleston, South Carolina in April, 1945. His lasting memory of the time in service is...The feeling of helplessness watching ships being torpedoed around you.

### George Graham

Enlisted in Toronto in 1942, in the R.C.A.F. He was an air gunner flying in both Halifax and Lancaster airplanes. Service was in Trenton, Ontario, McDonald, Manitoba, near Manchester, Grandan Lodge, and Middleton St. George, England. His final rank was Pilot Officer and he was discharged in Trenton in April, 1945. His lasting memory of the time in service is...At the end of our last bombing run, we landed in England and the seven of us jumped out of the Lancaster and kissed the ground.

### Michael Hanlon

Conscripted in Oswestry, England on January 20, 1955. He joined the Royal Artillery as a radar operator and then became the Chief Regimental Clerk. His service was in Tonsanau, North Wales. His final rank was



Bombardier as Chief Clerk of the Battery. He was discharged in Milton, England in 1957. His lasting memory of the time in service is...There was a lot of waiting around.

### Russell Harrison

Enlisted in Toronto on September 24, 1941. He joined the Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers with the New Westminster Regiment out of British Columbia. He worked with twelve other men in a light aid detachment doing welding and electrical repairs to keep the regiment moving. Service was in Aldershot and Dover, England, Italy, France, Holland, Belgium, and Germany. He was discharged as a Private in Toronto in 1945. His lasting memory of the time in service is...The four years were a fast way of growing up and made me a better person.

### George Lawrence

Enlisted in Cobourg in 1966. He joined the 50th Field Regiment Artillery as the Gun Position Officer and Training Officer at the battery. All of his service was in Cobourg. He was discharged in 1970 with a final rank of Lieutenant when the Regiment was closed. His lasting memory of the time in service is...The comraderie, specifically in the field, was outstanding.

### Alan Levitt

Enlisted in Church Fenton, England on May 30, 1950. He joined the R.A.F. and was in the Air Traffic Control system logging all flights in and out. In the control tower he was part of the Twelve Group Fighter Command. As well as the logging task, it was Alan's job to summon the crash crew when an airplane came in and crashed or came in in difficulty. He was discharged as an Air Craftsman 1 on October 18, 1951. His lasting memory of the time in service is...Being in the Control Tower, surrounded by glass for visibility, when an airplane came in for a landing. The planes landing gear collapsed and the plane veered and started spinning wildly toward the tower. Emergency switches were pulled and the airplane stopped short of Alan.



### Norm Lundbohm

He enlisted in Halifax on February 23, 1953. He joined the R.C.A.F. as an electrical technician working on Saber jets. Service was in Camp Borden, Ontario, Manitoba, St. Jeans, Quebec, Germany, and Morocco. Further duties with Air Search Rescue saw him serving in Norfolk, Virginia and Ireland. He was discharged as a Corporal in Greenwood, Nova Scotia on February 22, 1958. His lasting memory of the time in service is...The opportunity he had and took to visit his relatives in Sweden when he was serving in Germany with our Snowbirds. He is the only one of his six siblings to have met his Swedish aunts, uncles, and cousins.

### Archie McGeachy

Conscripted in Oswestry, England on January 12, 1952. He joined the Royal Artillery as a mobile radar operator and acting drill sergeant. Service was in Oswestry and Troon, Scotland. His final rank was Full Bombardier and he was discharged in Troon in January 1954. His lasting memory of the time in service is...The outstanding comraderie of serving in a unit which became a cohesive functioning team.

### Sam Oliver

Enlisted in 1956 in Cobourg. He joined the 33rd Regiment as a gunner and as a band drummer. His service was in Cobourg and Petawawa. He was discharged in Cobourg as a Private in 1959. His lasting memory of the time in service is...Taking a wrong road one day and suddenly sirens were wailing and a lieutenant rushed up to rescue the squad as we were in the middle of an artillery range with shells flying overhead.

### Bill Ruttle

Enlisted in Hamilton, Ontario on November 17, 1954. He joined the Argyle and Southern Highlanders Regiment which is a militia unit. He joined as a bagpiper in the band. His service was in Ontario for fifteen years and his final rank was Piper First Class. He was discharged in Hamilton in 1969. His lasting memory of the time in service is...How wonderful it was being in the regiment and in particular the fourteen days he spent as a Duty Piper in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



Ron Templer

Enlisted in Ottawa in 1943. Joining the Royal Canadian Navy he was a telegraphist special operator working high frequency directional finding equipment(radios) to locate U-Boats. Service was on H.M.C.S. Carlton in the North Atlantic. His final rank was Ordinary Seaman and his discharge was in Ottawa in 1945. His lasting memory of the time in service is...Night watch on a moonlit night in the North Atlantic with a convoy while surrounded by U-Boats.

Coming Events by Verna Templer

*"Vimy" on Friday, November 18th at 8:00 P.M. at Victoria Hall*

*This promises to be a great show. I have extra seating in both the upper centre area and on the floor. Anyone wishing may purchase their ticket today. \$22.50 each and cheques payable to The Town of Cobourg.*

*"Our Christmas Party" on Thursday, December 8th at 5:30 P.M. at the Lion's Centre*

*Arrangements for a great evening and meal are being prepared by the Committee. See them today. \$40.00 for Members and \$45.00 for Guests. Cheques to Probus Northumberland.*

*"Sleeping Beauty--Adult Version" on Friday, December 16th at 8:00 P.M. at the Capital Theatre*

*We sold out at the last meeting but I have more seats in the same area. Get yours today. \$28.00 each and cheques payable to Capital Theatre.*

*"Shen Yun" on Saturday, January 14th at 2:00 P.M at the Sony Centre.*

*\$138.00 each includes the bus, show, and dinner at the Mandarin. There are a few who have not yet paid, plus there may be one or two seats available. Please finish this up today. Cheques payable to Probus N Travel.*



*"War Horse" on Wednesday, May 2nd at the Princess of Wales Theatre*

*There are only 6 seats left if all who signed pay to go. The price will be announced today. See Doug Lloyd or Verna at the break. Cheques should be given in today payable to Probus N Travel. Cheques may be post-dated to March 1, 2012 if you prefer.*

### The Lunch Bunch

OOPS!! Apologies to Vivian for omitting her write up of our visit to Limestone's. Here it is:

Lunch bunch at Limestone

On Thursday, September 22, 2011 we drove from the Lions Centre to the Limestone restaurant in brilliant sunshine. Lots of parking spaces too! Thirty of us were shown to a reserved area and seated at 3 tables of 10 with nice comfortable chairs. The Limestone is very spacious and airy. The service was good - the last of us left at 1.35 p.m. We arrived around noon and there was a lunch menu of 5 items + 3 lunch-sized pastas. Thank you to Marcie and Doris for booking the space and we hope you will be with us at the next Lunch Bunch get-together.  
Vivian for Marcie and Doris.

As you will recall at our last meeting, we cancelled the lunch bunch as many of us were getting together at "The Races". Therefore, in order to have no further disappointment, we have rebooked Caseys for November 24th. Please see Vivian today to sign up.

Submitted by Marcie Polson, Doris Rasmussen, & Vivian Foster

### Remember Halloween 10 Days Ago

You know You're too old to Trick or Treat when:

- \*\* You keep knocking on your own front door
- \*\* You remove your false teeth to change your appearance



- \*\* You ask for soft high fibre candy only
  - \*\* When someone drops a candy bar into your bag and you lose your balance and fall over
  - \*\* People say: "Great Boris Karloff Mask" and you're not wearing a mask
  - \*\* When the door opens and you yell "Trick or..." and you can't remember the rest
  - \*\* By the end of the night you have a bag full of restraining orders
  - \*\* You have to carefully choose a costume that doesn't dislodge your hairpiece
  - \*\* You're the only Power Ranger in the neighbourhood with a walker
- AND THE NUMBER ONE REASON SENIORS SHOULD NOT GO TRICK OR TREATING**
- You have to go home for a bathroom break

*The Speaker's Corner by Anne Grant*

*November 10th...Shelagh Purcell, will speak about her father's experiences in a Concentration Camp in Japan during the war.*

*November 24th...Dr Peter Herron..a chiropractor*

*That's it until 2012 due to the Christmas Party*

**Probus Canada Conference**  
**Rendezvous 2011**  
**Vancouver, September 13th, 15th**

*Four ladies from our club attended the conference in Vancouver: Marie Van Dusen, Theresa Smith, Dianne Lauder, Marg Denny We flew to Vancouver on Sunday, September 11th without incident! We went a few days early to do the "tourist" sights before the conference started. We were looking forward to the Tuesday workshops, but were very disappointed. Attendance was down with only 122 registered delegates and 57 non-registered. The members came from Vancouver(of course, since they were the host clubs) Alta., Man., N.B., Ont., and 12 delegates from Australia.*



*It was obvious there had been some budget slashing as the meeting room's work space was not conducive to stimulating and productive exchange of ideas. All clubs agreed of having problems with recruitment and members unwilling to hold executive positions. Finding interesting speakers seemed to be a problem for most clubs. Here, Peter Doyle, Vice President of Probus Canada, brought everyone's attention to Web Page Publisher, a site where clubs' News Letters can be posted. The contact is Brian Kirkwood at e-mail: brian.kirkwood@sympatico.ca . It might be worthwhile checking out!*

*Wednesday's and Thursday's speakers were interesting and well versed in their subject matter. Topics ranged from "Dependency to self-reliance"; "Media challenges such as competing for consumer attention in today's technical world" and the "aging Brain". On a lighter note, we were entertained on Thursday, prior to lunch, by an aficionado of William Shakespeare's works. He recited some of the better known soliloquies.*

*Thursday's lunch was delicious, unlike the Wednesday night banquet! We had the privilege of listening to Maestro, Bramwell Tovey, who is a renowned conductor and composer as well as an accomplished pianist. He demonstrated his prowess as a composer by improvising on one of Franz Schubert's themes, which turned out to be Happy Birthday to one of our delegates..., a happy ending to two and a half days of Rendezvous 2011.*

*We travelled to Calgary on the Rocky Mountaineer and flew to Toronto late on Wednesday night, September 21st. We arrived the next morning bright eyed and alert as always, on time for our regular Probus meeting.*

*Submitted by Marg Denny*

### **Probus Casino & Race Night**

Eighty plus eager gamblers headed for Kawartha Downs on October 27<sup>th</sup> for our annual trip into the world of horses and slot machines.



Many of our members were able to come home with a little extra money because of “Good Luck” with the slots or the horses. From the comments we had, quite a few winners this time.

The buffet was excellent this year with a tremendous variety of hot and cold entrées. The salad and dessert bars were also a treat as many of us took full advantage of this aspect of the dinner. Once again Laurie and her staff were excellent hosts.

An added feature this year was the opportunity for some of our members to ride in the Kawartha Downs Starting Gate Car. This gave everyone who went a close up view of the horses and the race being run at that time. Alan & Christine Wilson, Wilson Dow & Barry Hollis, Verna Templer & Fred Cooke, and finally Jo Carleton & Ted Jex enjoyed this feature event. The closeup encounter was very exciting for them.

Our handicapping competition was hotly contested this year with Gail Tapscott coming in as our trophy winner.(22 points picking 3 winners). Wilson Dow came second with 22 points but with only 2 winners. There was a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> between Nancy Jex and Don Tapscott with 21 points. In 4<sup>th</sup> place we have 3 people tied with 20 points, Ann Hollis, Shirley Erskine and Dianne Lauder. Finally, in 5<sup>th</sup> place we have 5 people with 19 points, Jim Benham, Joe Flynn, Jo Carleton, Agnes Hendry and Al Poppke. All these people shared \$130 in prize money. This year’s contest was very successful.

“Congratulations to all our winners.”

I think most people enjoyed the evening. After a slow start things took off and we had a full complement of gamblers.

Many thanks go to Verna Templer and Fred Cooke for their efforts on the phone. It sure paid off!

Hopefully 2012 will give us another opportunity to enjoy the Kawartha Downs Experience.

Report completed by Eric Carleton

*Mrs Swanson declined to serve on the jury because she was not a believer in capital punishment and didn't want her beliefs to get in the way of the trial. "But Madam," said the defendant's lawyer, who had taken a liking to her kind face and calm demeanor, "this is not a murder trial. It is merely a civil lawsuit being brought by a wife against her husband. He gambled away the \$15,000 he'd promised to spend on a mink coat for her birthday." "Hmmm," reflected Mrs Swanson. "Okay, I'll serve. I could be wrong about capital punishment."*



GOLF   GOLF   GOLF

*On Monday, October 17th the final golf took place at Salt Creek. It was a cloudy day and cool but 11 hardy golfers showed up to play. We split up into three teams and dazzled some members watching us with scores of 34, 36, & 38. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and we look forward to a big and better year in 2012.*

*Reported by Ted Jex*

Old Golfer from Doug & Jennifer Lloyd

A circus owner runs an ad for a lion tamer and two people show up.

One is a retired golfer in his late sixties and the other is a gorgeous blond in her mid-twenties.

The circus owner tells them, "I'm not going to sugar coat it. This is one ferocious lion. He ate my last tamer so you two had better be good or you're history.

Here's your equipment -- chair, whip and a gun. Who wants to try out first?"

The girl says, "I'll go first."

She walks past the chair, the whip and the gun and steps right into the lion's cage. The lion starts to snarl and pant and begins to charge her.

About halfway there, she throws open her coat revealing her beautiful naked body. The lion stops dead in his tracks, sheepishly crawls up to her and starts licking her feet and ankles. He continues to lick and kiss her entire body for several minutes and then rests his head at her feet.

The circus owner's jaw is on the floor. He says, "I've never seen a display like that in my life."

He then turns to the retired golfer and asks, "Can you top that?"

The tough old golfer replies, "No problem, just get that lion out of there."

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

=====  
Probus Club of Northumberland, P.O. Box 491, Cobourg, Ontario K9A 4L1  
Editor: Jamie Doolittle, 905-372-6465  
e-mail: dolwen@cogeco.ca

