



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Photos Eric Blaikie & Carole Elliott - Story Susan Gaudion

At our January 13th meeting, Betty Curtis, Lyn Bradshaw and Elaine Simmons gave us a really interesting presentation about their pilgrimage to Israel. They illustrated their talk with a large map, computer photos and artifacts they purchased on their travels. It was a very busy trip and it left a lasting impression on them.



Elaine Simmons, Betty Curtis & Lyn Bradshaw

They landed in Tel Aviv and traveled to the port city of Eilat by way of Beersheba and the Negev Desert on their first day. From their hotel they overlooked the Red Sea and could see Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. A camel ride under a full moon as a start to climbing Mt. Sinai was only the beginning of an exciting adventure in the cold to watch the sunrise over the mountain. They moved on to Jordan and the sandstone mountains of Petra where an unexpected snowstorm caused a change of plans. The Treasury Building in Petra was featured in an Indiana Jones movie.

Proceeding through the Jordan Valley, stops were made at Tiberius, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, and the Mount of Beatitudes and on to Cana. Here Lyn and Dave Bradshaw renewed their wedding vows. Nazareth, Caesarea Philippi and Caesarea Maritima were visited on the way to Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is a bustling city of contrasts and they spent 5 days visiting the Wailing Wall, the Dome of the Rock and Temple Mount.

The next stops were the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Some 9 kms later, Bethlehem was reached after passing through a checkpoint at the wall to enter the West Bank where armed guards patrolled the border. Swimming in the Dead Sea was a strange sensation – they couldn't sink! The Holocaust Museum was a very emotional experience.

This was certainly a trip of a lifetime and they all enjoyed it immensely.



Some of the interesting artifacts brought back from the Holy Land include a camel made of olive wood, an unusual wooden sculpture of a black woman, a book on the Holy Land, a silk ivory and green table runner, and a green and white checked headscarf called a 'ghutra' worn by Arab men.

Appies & Drinks

Photos Betty Curtis & Eric Blaikie

On January 14th, Jan and Eric Blaikie hosted appies and drinks with 32 in attendance. A great time was had by all and, as usual, the variety of appies was stunning and delectable!



Our gracious hosts



A thorn between two roses!



Dave Strong, Ray Williams & Sam Rawson

Snowbird Report

Story by Ron Frizzell in Florida



Allie, our local alligator has returned again this year & can be seen in either our back yard, or nearby in one of neighbour's yards on most warm days. While he continues to grow bigger each year, he stays away from us and we are careful to avoid him. But he is interesting to watch & a great topic of conversation.

Florida, along with much of the U.S.A. continues to struggle under the current economic downturn that is plaguing the world. While Canada still has a lot of issues to deal with, we are certainly much better off overall at this point, than from what we see here. Articles on foreclosures, short sales & bankruptcies are covered almost daily in the local paper & several of our acquaintances have been personally affected, or know people who have been.

The Canadian medical system is also something that is of great interest to Americans & even strangers will ask about our system, once they find out we're from Canada. Locally you will notice people working into their 70's & even 80's in order to be able to provide for some basic medications. In spite of that, the new Health plan recently passed by the Democrats is not being accepted by most, as the answer.

Another issue that seems strange to us is the fixation on guns that is so prevalent throughout the U.S. While I expected that the recent shootings in Tucson might lead to a push for tighter gun laws, it actually had the opposite effect. Shortly after the shootings our local paper carried a story that lawmakers hoped to give looser gun laws a try. The governor is pushing for the right for Floridians to carry guns openly, in a state where firearm laws already rank among the most lax in the country. All of this makes us realize how lucky we are. While things are far from perfect in Canada, we certainly have a lot to be thankful for.

The Story of Camp Mirage

Story Lyn Bradshaw – Photos C. Elliott & E. Blaikie



Lt. Col. Tom Dunne, Commanding Officer, Camp Mirage

THEATRE SUPPORT ELEMENT CAMP MIRAGE

On January 27th, we had the distinct pleasure of hosting Lt. Col. Tom Dunne, youngest son of Probus member Marilynn Dunne. It is impossible in the short space allotted here to fully report on the extraordinary role Lt. Col. Dunne played as the last Commanding Officer of Camp Mirage in the Middle East. He himself has had an amazing career in the Canadian Forces, decorated for search and rescue work in Labrador, commended by the U.S. Coast Guard and as a commanding officer in Trenton at the Canadian Forces Base.

Lt. Col. Dunne, deployed in May, 2010 to Camp Mirage, an installation rarely seen in the news, located in the United Arab Emirates.

Most Canadian soldiers who were sent to Afghanistan first went through Camp Mirage. Its purpose was to provide logistic support for the movement of troops, supplies, VIP's, medical and support agencies, engineering, communication, procurement, customer service, contract management, materiel, transportation, and ammunition support services into theatre. Personnel based at the camp moved 8 million pounds of cargo per year, conducting flying operations in support of Afghanistan including but not limited to, planning, crew support and air traffic control. Three CC-130 Hercules planes operated daily like taxis. Repatriation ceremonies were conducted there and it was also the centre for finance, administration, visit coordination, medical, chaplaincy and civilian staff.



Lt Col Dunne and friends...

On October 5, 2010, Tom was notified that the camp was to be closed down within 30 days. By November 1, all negotiations and briefings by the Mission Closure Team were completed, and sea containers were shipped out. There were many concerns about the closure - mission continuity, continued good relations with the UAE, support to the allies, proper disposal of assets, financial accounts and an orderly, respectful departure.



Plane and troops on the tarmac

A cenotaph was successfully transferred from the southwest Asian base to Trenton. His presentation with accompanying slides provided all listeners with a first hand account of our brave Canadian Forces mission in the Middle East.

A standing ovation didn't seem enough.



Proud Mom Marilynn Dunne and her son

Welcome to our New Members

Elsie and Brian Board



Elsie and I were both born and raised in Peterborough and have been married for 41 years. We have 3 grown children and 4 grandchildren.

Elsie has been a stay-at-home Mom after being a secretary for the Mayor of Peterborough. She enjoys golf, walking and travel. I am a retired draftsman, having started with Westinghouse in Port Hope, then Zircatec and finally, Cameco. Currently I am engaged in some contract drafting work with Cameco. Like Elsie, I enjoy golf, walking and travel as well as cross country skiing and motorcycling.

Luci Hornell



I moved to Cobourg 14 years ago from my hometown of Oshawa. I worked 19 years with the Durham District School Board and then transferred to Kawartha Pine Ridge. I retired last June from Port Hope High School after 30 years of teaching.

My children, Mike and Maggie, are now both away at university and I am now footloose and fancy free. Thanks to Anita Cotter for inviting me to a Probus meeting, and then encouraging me to join. It's a great gathering of fun people and exciting ideas

Helen Hunt



Helen was born in Toronto. She graduated from high school in 1942 and was recruited to help with farm work since so many men and women were fighting overseas in WW2. She worked near Thedford, ON for a produce farmer.

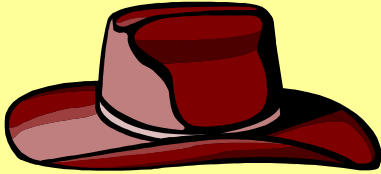
In February of 1943 while studying nursing at Hamilton General Hospital, she met Pete Hunt, a handsome medical intern recently returned from 5 yrs duty in the Canadian & British navy. They were married in 1947 and had six children. Helen did volunteer work as President of the Port Hope Horticultural Society and president of the Port Hope Fall Fair. She also loved downhill skiing, genealogy, and sang in the choir of St. John the Evangelist Church for many years.

Congratulations!



Dorothy and Leo Spicer are celebrating their 61st Anniversary today. May they enjoy many more!

Hat Day



Many thanks to Carolyn Williams for having thought of Hat Day! It was fun and almost made one think of Spring...almost.



Group picture of members and their 'chapeaux'!



Dorothy Giddings & her Caribbean hat and Steve Snell with his Portuguese bucket hat



Dave Bradshaw & his Chinese worker's hat, Lorna Turner the cowgirl, President Garry Curtis the dude, and Hugh Parker the golfer

John Wright was the winner of the Hat Day draw...a Timmies Gift Card worth...\$9.99!



The Lunch Bunch



Some of the 48 people who attended the Lunch Bunch!



Queuing up for the delicious Thai buffet
Joan & Mike O'Grady with Frank & Marion Griffin at table

Special Events Tentative Calendar

by Carolyn Williams & her Committee members

These are just a few of the events planned for this year...there are many more exciting ones to come!!!

February 10: Close to Valentine's Day! Wear something RED and if you have any romantic stories or poems, you can share them with members.

March 17: St. Patrick's Day Lunch More info at next meeting.

April: Date to be determined. Maybe a trip to Fallsview Casino!

June 16: Golf Tournament – arranged by Betty Curtis & Ray Williams.

June 28: 4th Line Theatre

July 21: Westben Theatre

August: Our Annual Picnic

September: The Car Rally

No Cholesterol Brownies

Ingredients:

1-1/2 cups sugar
1 cup all purpose flour
3/4 cup unsweetened pure cocoa powder
1 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
3/4 cup vegetable oil (not olive oil!)
4 egg whites, beaten to blend
2 tsp vanilla
2/3 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Preparation:

Oven 180oC or 350oF.
Grease 8" square pan with 2" high sides.
Combine first 5 ingredients in large bowl. Add oil, egg whites and vanilla and blend. Stir in walnuts. Transfer to prepared pan.
Bake until brownies are slightly puffed up in centre and edges are beginning to brown, about 30 minutes.
Cover hot brownies in pan with foil and chill overnight.
Store in airtight container.

The secret to these brownies lies in the **pure cocoa powder**. I use the one from Ecuador which is very dark and rich. You can get it in bulk at **Suntree** on Ontario St. in PH. They are unbelievably delicious according to 3 friends who tasted them yesterday! *Ed.*

A Prize for the Best Caption!



“What is that cheeky orange tabby whispering in John King's ear”??

Email or phone (905-885-2969) the Editor with your answers: mdlane@cogeco.ca

Results in the March newsletter!

50/50 WINNERS

Jan 13 Richard Looy won \$43.50!
Jan 27 Brian Board won \$55.00!

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FEB/MAR CREW

CATERERS

Captain: Kathy Wallace

Feb 10: Felicity King
Carole Elliott
Joanne Rockey-Smith

Captain: Kathy Wallace

Feb 24: Anita Cotter
Diane Haynes
George Grimes

Captain: Georgina Rose

March 10 Bryan Rose
Betsy Wright
Helen Dayman

If unavailable please find a substitute.

GREETERS

Feb 10: Georgina Rose
Bryan Rose

Feb 24: Linda Goldie
Hugh Parker

March 10: Lacey Ingram
Roger Ingram

(The Crew for March 24th will be confirmed later.)

If unavailable please find a substitute.

GANARASKA CURRENTS

http://www.probusnorthumberland.com/ganaraska_news.htm

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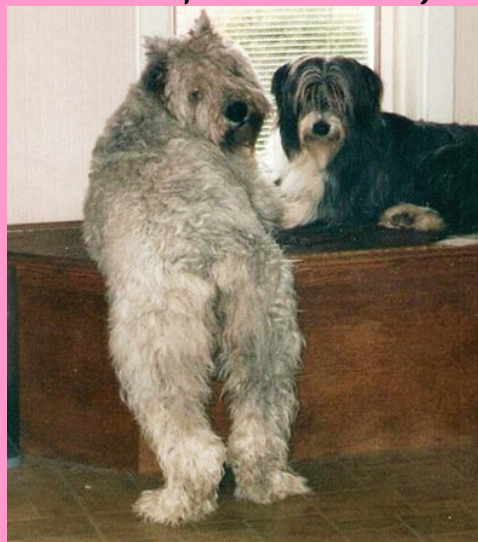
Pub Nite

Tuesday, January 25th. A happy gang of 14 members showed up for drinks and dinner and, more importantly, to wish Eileen Mountain a musical Happy Birthday.

George Grimes organized a video session of us singing our hearts out! It was a fun evening with a good group of people and it was much appreciated by Eileen who got the video in Portugal through Facebook. (That's her & her dog Hanna on the beach.)



Pet Corner for February 2011



'Bo', the Bouvier & 'Buttons', the bearded Collie
These lovely girls have gone to Rainbow Bridge but they live on in Susan and Wilson's hearts.

(Please email me photos of your pets. I'm running out and only have 1 left for the next newsletter! I need 5 more to make a calendar for next year. Ed.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING FLING

May 18, 2011 at the Evinrude Centre in Peterborough (across from the Canoe Museum). Doors open at 8:00am and the program will run from 9:00 to 4:00pm. Muffins and coffee available at registration.

Tickets are \$35.00 and our club is allotted 29 tickets. If Susan cannot get any more, there will be a draw for additional tickets like last year. Deadline: Feb. 24

Susan Gaudion

PROBUS RENDEZVOUS

September 13 -15, 2011 in Vancouver. For more information and registration forms, please visit the website or talk to **Garry Curtis**.

www.probusrendezvous.com

APIES & DRINKS

March 25, 2011 at Felicity & John Kings' home located at 33 Jarvis Dr., PH. From 2:00 till 6pm.

Limited to 25 people.

Marilyn Dunne

LUNCH BUNCH: Feb. 24 at the Railside. 4 choices for \$7.95. Maximum 40 people. **Maggie Colborne**

APRIL 28 MEETING: We will be welcoming the Port Hope Probus Club. John de Visser, one of Canada's foremost professional photographers will be our guest speaker.

SPEAKERS:

Feb. 10: Sue Hosang will speak on chocolate and the differences in quality and type. She believes a good chocolate is just like a good wine. A sampling of 3 different types of chocolate will be included as part of her presentation.

Feb. 24: Erin Walsh, archivist of the Port Hope Archives will be speaking on The Great Flood. 2011 is the 75th anniversary of the 1936 flood which devastated Port Hope. The 1980 flood may also be part of her presentation.

March 10: Donna Bennett & Brian Finley are the principals behind the Westben Concerts at the Barn. They will be presenting the fascinating story of how they came to develop this unique venue for music.

March 24: Sabena Brazeau is one of the people involved with Grow Tasty, a wonderful nursery north of Port Hope which is dedicated solely to the culture of edible plants. She will be sharing their story and hopefully some ideas for plants to enhance your garden and also your dinner table.

ONGOING EVENTS & CONTACTS

PUB NITE

Join us for dinner, drinks & conversation
Last Tuesday of the month

6:30 PM at the Beamish House

Coordinator: Eileen Mountain 705-632-0575
(George Grimes is in charge until Eileen comes back in March.)

APIES & DRINKS

Bring an appetizer and your own drinks

Coordinator: Marilyn Dunne 905-786-2549

EUCHRE

Every other Tues. at Ruth Clarke Ctr.

Coordinator: Lois Meadows 905-885-6715

LUNCH BUNCH

After the last meeting of the month at various restaurants.

Coordinator: Maggie Colborne 905-885-1722

BOWLING

1st Monday of the month at 1pm at
Northumberland Mall Bowling Alley

Coordinator: Ken O'Neill 905-885-4872

CHESS CLUB

Meets at Port Hope Library every Thursday at
6:45pm. All levels welcome. Beginners too!

Coordinator: David Broughton 905-885-1870

CONTACT INFORMATION **Ganaraska Valley Probus Club** **Executive 2010 – 2011**

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