



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

Contact: collingwoodprobus@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2017

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY MAY 4, 2017 – BEAR ESTATE HALL - 10 A.M. - 12 NOON

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: BOB MACNAIR

VICE PRESIDENT RUBEN ROSEN

SOCIAL: GREG GEEN

SECRETARY: AL WALLACE

TREASURER: MIKE MARTYNUK

SPEAKERS; RUBEN ROSEN

MEMBERSHIP AND PAST PRESIDENT: JOHN MEGARRY

NEWSLETTER:

ERIC SKEOCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No doubt anticipating a jam-packed meeting, President MacNair quickly hustled Ian Godwin to the podium for the National Anthem.

And equally urgently, the call went out for guest recognition. There were many; Harold Higden, Ed Cohen (Sp?), John Rood, Don McLaughlin, Sam Forrest, Terry Burroughs, Carson Bell, and Ron Richie., To this impressive list was an even more impressive list of new members; Graeme Duncan, Bob Galway, Aiden O'connor, and Richard Lord. At this point Mike Lee came forward to reflect on the recent death of his good friend and a former President of our club, John Pineo.

George Christie suggested that any able-bodied Probus member wishing to make history via the Guinness Book of Records can join in a boat-pulling venture moving the Keewatin. Volunteers are needed for April 22. Call George for details. President Bob made a special presentation to Gerry DeLeskie for his service to the club, not only as the "pen and pencil set provider", but also as a member of our Management team. Gerry was presented with a magnificent bird feeder created by George Christie in his spare time. There was of course thunderous applause in recognition of Gerry's contributions to the club.

Paraphrasing the oft-quoted words of JFK, Bob urged the members to "ask not what your club can do for you but what you can do for a poor soul who didn't even get a crummy get-well card after his recent knee operation". The members were reminded that currently we have three activities in need of volunteers, the members' Support group, the credit card programme, and the Defibrillator

Training group. Please note today's other attachment which provides details regarding these activities as well as an amber alert for a missing coat.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Richard Orviss reported on the success of the Agnora Glass visit in place of Greg Geen and outlined the activities looming on the horizon.

April 25 – Golf at a Shelburne (Mike Lee)

May 16 – Blue Jay game against Atlanta (sold out).

June 10 – Georgian Downs Dinner and Racing

July 18- Lady Muskoka Cruise

August 17– Annual King's Wharf outing and picnic lunch. (Sandy White)

Jack Marley queried the members on the possibility of organizing a fishing charter out of Meaford. 16 minimum needed for a 4 hour trip at \$75 per person. There was not much interest.

MINISTER OF CULTURE

The Minister's report again reminded us of why his report should never be deleted. This month added to his report was a Hal Keiser video on the newest craze on the sports scene, the Jog Strap.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

We were pleased this month to welcome Deb Piggott and Robin Heald to our meeting. Both represent the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization of the Georgian Triangle. The organization has been in Canada for over 100 years and in our area for the past 49. It offers a wide variety of programmes, serving kids who

have specific needs. It is extremely flexible in what it provides.

Deb and Robin provided us with a long list of what the organization does in our community.

1. Traditional mentoring of kids, pairing a “big” with a “little” for 2 to 5 hours per week.
2. “Go Girls”, 1 ½ to 2 hours per week, developing skills which focus on health minds and bodies.
3. “Game On”, a programme which addresses the same issues for boys.
4. In school mentoring, during school hours for an hour.
5. After school programmes focusing on homework or sports etc.
6. “Big Bunch” activities, like field trips, sports, kids and cops etc.
7. Boys’ Club sports.

It was a surprise to me to hear about the range of activities the Big Brothers/Big Sisters includes in their programme. They currently have 348 “littles” on their list and only 300 volunteer “bigs”, so if you are interested give them a call.

SPEAKER DR. TOM STIFF

It was more than a little overwhelming. According an early statistic cited by our guest, 70,000 metric tons of debris bombards our planet each year. It is therefore not surprising that I had a great deal of difficulty keeping track of that portion of that 70,000 that was finding its way into the conference room at the Bear Estate. We were bombarded with a cosmic shower of fascinating and confusing statistics on what apparently has been happening out there over the past several million years, is now happening even as we speak, and will be happening sometime within the next 100 million years or within the next several minutes.

I had difficulty keeping up with the deluge of data which came at us.

But here are some gems which I was able to record from his wide-ranging presentation and from his excellent slides.

There are asteroids, meteoroids, micrometeoroids, varying in size from kilometers in size down to a

few millimeters. The latter are the most common and most frequent. Fortunately they get vaporized immediately. But it is no secret that some notable chunks do end up hitting the earth from time to time. Think of the big one in Crimea in 2013 which had a capacity of a 500 kiloton explosion, set off thousands of car alarms and sent 2000 people to the hospital. Dr. Stiff's slides and videos showed the dramatic effects as windows and doors simply disappeared when the shock wave hit.

A 1914 event in Siberia leveled almost 3000 kms of forest and killed 20,000 reindeer. The speed of an asteroid hitting earth would be 15 to 20 kms per second!

Dr. Stiff, in a moment of political reflection posited that the impact of a meteor on an American urban area would probably result in President Trump calling for the guy who follows him around with the little brief case...

There are many craters at various places around the world. Canada has several notable ones. It is pretty well certain that the Yucatan blast in Central America ended the age of the dinosaurs. Some of you may recall that one.

Dr. Stiff left an *Impact Rate* hand-out which estimates that we can expect a 10 meter diameter sized asteroid every 200 years or so and a mass extinction one every 100 million years.

The big question was how do we “mitigate “the disaster. Although there are scientists regularly watching the skies to see what’s coming, altering the course of an incoming one is pretty well impossible. Dr. Stiff agreed that “This is not a pleasant thought”.

One of the questions asked of Dr. Stiff was what sized asteroid would alter earth’s orbit. Apparently it would have to be the size of the moon. Everybody was relieved.

It was a spell-binding presentation and Dr. Stiff is a spell-binding speaker.

I hope he becomes a regular at Probus.

[Breaking news! Google *Big Asteroid to Whiz by Earth this Month.*]

President Bob MacNair thanked Dr. Stiff.

Our 50 50 winners were Eamon O’Dowd, and Jim Gosnell, who will man the tables next month.

