



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2017

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY SEPT 7, 2017 – BEAR ESTATE HALL – 9.45 A.M. – 11.45 A.M.

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

As of 9.45 a.m. Bob was the President, but Vice-President Ruben Rosen started the meeting (with Bob hovering nearby), and explained that though he (Ruben) was currently Vice-President he would shortly be Acting President because President Bob was resigning as President a little earlier than expected and would thus be Past-President and this would mean that Ruben would be elevated to the position of Acting President and then hopefully President if he gets elected at the September meeting at which time Bob will be Past President and thus eligible to run for a position at Probud HQ which, if he is successful, means that he will be our Past President, a position which he had to hold in order to run for the new position at HQ which was only open to Past Presidents which Bob wasn't unless he resigned as President, which he did and which explains why Ruben was starting the meeting.

Bob, (now known affectionately as “the gimp”), provided us with the background of the above. I won't repeat his explanation because I'm sure you found my explanation quite clear.

Bob did suggest however that in order for him to get elected to the new HQ position he needs support from local clubs. So if you and/or your spouse are members elsewhere and you are inclined to do so, put in a good word for “the gimp”.

Then Al Wallace led us in the National Anthem.

Ruben was then told to sit down and Bob re-assumed the chair, welcomed guests Marv Cohen and George Mugford, and badgered new members Gordon Mackay and Carson Bell.

It was announced that two of our members have recently died, Jim Thatcher and Bob Davidson.

Bob mentioned that Ian Godwin has been portrayed in the recent issue of *Georgian Life*.

A photo of our AED team was flashed on the screen, and Bob suggested that in the event of a crisis the rest of us should just give the team lots of space to administer the defibrillator.

Dues are due right now, at the rate of \$55. Paul Natale and his cohorts are now available at all our meetings for payments via credit card.

Bob mentioned again that he has a brochure on the Johnson Insurance Co. *Extended Health and Travel Plan*.

Norm Paterson, one of our long-time members has written his second novel and he will be giving a book-talk at the Collingwood Library on August 24 and 7.00 p.m.

Our Annual General Meeting will be at our usual time in September. Prior to the meeting information regarding a slate of management candidates, a Treasurer's report and the Auditor's report will be forwarded to you very shortly. As was the case last year, we will have lunch following the meeting, at a subsidized rate of \$10.

And finally, it was announced that a local lad has approached the club with a plan to “Tech Tutor” senior who feel the need for computer assistance. More details will follow.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Social Committee Chair Greg Geen reported on the recent social outings on the golf courses, the boat excursion, and a somewhat damp bicycle ride to Stayner.

And here's what's looming on the horizon.

- August 14 and Sept. 18 rides around Collingwood with George Christie
 - August 17– Annual King's Wharf outing and picnic lunch. (Sandy White)
 - September 13- *Dean and Jerry* at the Gayety Theatre
 - Oct 11 – Murder Mystery Theatre in Wasaga Beach
 - Oct. 18 –Fall colours train ride and lunch from Orangeville (Richard Isaacson)
 - November 13 – Tour of Homes in the Community
- And finally, Al Peters reminded us of Ski Legends trips to France, Sun Peaks, and Whistler.

MINISTER OF CULTURE

I intended to mention that Minister of Culture Caswill did his usual, but I am running out of space.

SPECIAL SARAH CORMIER

Sarah came to us as a representative of CHAMPS, the Child Amputee Programme begun by the late Cliff Chedderton to provide assistance to kids primarily through the Key Tags service which over the years has returned 1.5 million lost keys to contributors. Sarah, an amputee herself gave a very impressive presentation which touched on the various features of the programme.

- *Matching Mothers* connects parents of children with similar amputee issues.
- *Jumpstart* addresses computer adaptations which can be installed on lap-tops.
- *Operation Legacy* provides information at Remembrance Day Ceremonies, Heritage Videos and Letters to the Editor.

Accompanied by a very moving video, Sarah spoke about her own experiences in learning driving skills, on "tips and tricks", new developments in prosthetics, and "coping with the hurdles."

To Sarah and the many kids helped by CHAMPS, "being different is O.K".

Sarah is more than O.K.; she is terrific. And she gave an excellent presentation.

SPEAKER ROSS PARR

Fire Chief Ross Parr was appointed as Collingwood's Chief just this year, after an earlier career as Deputy Chief in Orillia. He let us know that today was his first public speech in our community. A friend suggested that if he was nervous, he should imagine that his audience was naked and this would help him overcome any nervousness. After a cursory glance at our members, and perhaps imagining our members' members, he chose to ignore this advice.

Ross provided us with a very extensive snapshot of what the Collingwood fire fighters do each day, with lots of examples of specific emergency calls.

-Determining the cause of a particular fight is mandated, and the cause is usually discovered.

-If nobody reports a fire, the department often doesn't know there is one.

-At one lightning strike, the roof of a house was ripped in half, but there was no fire.

-The new "Taj Mahal" site (2013) cost \$5.1 million, and is extremely well equipped, with 2 pumpers (\$650,000 each), 1 Rescue vehicle (\$450,000), 1 Aerial (\$1,400,000), 1 Tanker (\$550,000) and 1 UTV (\$20,000). There is always a mechanical expert on site for needed repairs.

-There are compulsory 2 hours of training each shift for the 24 full-time staff and 8 volunteers, all of whom are trained for all possible issues, medical and fire related. Females candidates are subject to the same hiring criteria and the same tests.

-The budget is \$4.7 million, 89% of it for salaries.

-There is a mutual aid arrangement with neighbouring fire halls.

-10 years is the life expectancy for a fire extinguisher, and you are better to replace one instead of trying to get it recharged.

-Health concerns around particulates necessitate an on-site sauna after a call if deemed necessary. PTSD is a modern concern for fire-fighters.

Ross's presentation was extremely informative and well received; He was thanked by Bob and presented with a Gerry DeLeskie pen and pencil set.

The 50 50 winners were Wayne Caswill and George Christie.

