



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2016

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 1

.N .N0 , 2016 – BEAR ESTATE HALL - 10 A.M. - 12 NOON

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: JOHN MEGARRY

VICE PRESIDENT BOB MACNAIR

SOCIAL: GREG GEEN

SECRETARY: AL WALLACE

TREASURERS: MIKE MARTYNUK

SPEAKERS; RUBEN ROSEN

MEMBERSHIP

GERRY DeLESKIE

PAST PRESIDENT: PAUL NATALE

NEWSLETTER: ERIC SKEOCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting began fairly cleanly, with President Megarry for some reason on his best behaviour. Ian Godwin returned to his usual position as choir leader and organist, leading us in the singing of the National Anthem. (Am I the only one detecting a slight confusion as we get to the “sons/us” line?)

Anyway, John warmly welcomed guest Ken Halton and extended the right hand of congratulations to new member Will Guertz.

John reminded the members that the club no longer has a P.O. Box. Any contact with the club can be facilitated through a contact with our membership chair Gerry DeLeskie at 705 444-4596 or email at gerrydeleskie@hotmail.com.

Now here’s some crucial information to keep in mind regarding our Annual General Meeting in September:

1. There will be no profiler. Instead we will proceed through the required steps relevant to the Probud AGM.
2. Within the next several days you will receive a formal announcement of the AGM, complete with a slate of possible officers for the 2016/2017 year. Additional nominees can be brought forward prior to the September meeting.
3. A year-end financial report and our auditor’s report will also be forwarded to all members.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Greg Geen reported that the mini-put outing scheduled for July 13 had to be cancelled due to

insufficient numbers and the George Christie bike ride was re-scheduled to August 8.

August 13 – Racing and Dinner at Barrie (Richard Isaacson)

August 17 – Cruise on Georgian Bay

Sept. 1 – After our AGM we will have a B.B.Q. lunch at the Bear Estate for the paltry sum of \$10.

Sept. 14 – Tour of Vintage Cars in Maxwell.

_ Golf at Shelburne

The Scandinave Spa still offers us a reduced price. Just mention Code 6064.

SPEAKERS REPORT

Ruben Rosen reported that our September speaker will be Emily Klinck, Gemini award winning visual researcher. Dr. Tom Stiff of the Canadian Space Agency will highlight the October meeting and George Soleas of the LCBO is scheduled for November.

PROFILE STEVE HAWKER

No doubt hoping to defuse any unruly behavior on the part of the frequently volatile Probud membership, Steve began his profile by commenting that “joining Probud was probably the best thing to happen to me since moving to Collingwood.”

After a brief sojourn in a condo at Rupert’s Landing, Steve and his wife moved into central Collingwood in 2009 with “2 daughters, 2 mothers, 2 motorcycles, 2 cats and 2 cars”.

Steve’s gainful employment in the years prior to Collingwood was all over the map. He apprenticed as a pastry chef at the Royal York Hotel, but after

five years began to suspect that the lifestyle just wasn't quite what he wanted.

So, in a seemingly odd career switch, he moved to the world of printing presses, learning the intricacies of Gestetner machines and then proceeding to install and maintain them in locations far and wide. Steve saw the writing (printing) on the wall for big machines, as modern components began to dominate the industry. So, in the 1970s, Steve moved to AB Dick, again picked up the new technology, and was back on the road both literally and figuratively. He was soon promoted and began to troubleshoot problems wherever the local branches needed help.

Then, again new technology put new pressures on the industry, and Steve saw what was coming. He moved to Mars Canada and *the extruder revolution*. Kibble dog food, one of Mars' many products, used extruders which pumped out 10 tons of Whiskas kibble in a 12 hour shift!

It was enough to keep one awake at night. And I guess that's what happened, because Sleep Apnea and rotating shift work resulted in Steve having to consider yet another change. He took a position with Toshiba Machine Canada in the heavy equipment arm of the company, and for remaining years of his gainful employment installed machinery in some of the most innovative companies in the world. "It was a good ride."

And it was a really good profile presentation.

SPEAKER ANDY BARRIE

Andy was introduced by Ruben, who chronicled Andy's early days in the U.S. during the time when American young people were facing difficult decisions with the conflict in Vietnam. In 1969, after receiving orders to be shipped to Vietnam Andy and his wife headed north in an old Volkswagen, passing over the border without even noticing it was there. "It was a far cry from Check Point Charlie."

Andy shared a number of reflections with us on his life from those early days until now. Diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2007, he explained that his presentation might be somewhat disjointed, due to the effects of the disease on the brain.

Though there occasional moments when this proved to be the case, his presentation was absolutely fascinating.

Andy's first stop after arriving in Canada in 1970 was Montreal where he picked up a job in broadcasting during the October Crisis. He needed a crash course in Canadian history and society. Getting his tongue around "out and about" was tough enough, but when he anglicized the *Richard* part of Rocket "Richard" it could have been fatal! After eight years in private in Montreal, Andy and his wife moved to CFRB in a Toronto which was "narrow and insular and dominated by autocracy", a Toronto totally different from the sensational city of today.

He left CFRB in 1995 and moved to CBC, a change which was a very significant for Andy and he spoke at some length about the importance of public broadcasting. He was very critical of the Harper government's funding cuts. He also lamented the fact that the U.S. is one of the few countries in the world which does not have a national broadcaster.

Here are some of Andy's responses to our questions.

-TVO and Steve Paikin are great! People can hear about Canada anywhere in the world.

-“Do you mind if I smoke? No, do you mind if I fart?”... He asked one of his guests if she thought there was any difference.

- His best interview? The one on FCUK.

-Donald Trump? He is a disaster, appealing to “Republican screwballs.” He might even quit.

- Sarah Palin took the U.S. down this road.

-Gordon Sinclair? A fabulous guy, who once told an archbishop to “go piss up a rope.” Andy later broke with Sinclair over the latter's U.S. views.

-Fox news media people are liars, just like Trump.

-Michael Moore's latest movie is wonderful!

Andy's presentation was one of the best we've had. I was left wanting more.

Andy was warmly thanked by John and presented with a Gerry Deleskie pen set.

50-50 winners Ian Godwin and Paul Tranquada, will person the sales desk next month.

