



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

Contact: collingwoodprobus @gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2018

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY MARCH 8, 2018 – BEAR ESTATE HALL – 9.45 A.M.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: RUBEN ROSEN

PAST PRESIDENT BOB MACNAIR

VICE PRESIDENT GREG GEEN

SOCIAL: SANDY WHITE

SECRETARY: AL WALLACE

TREASURER: MIKE MARTYNUK

SPEAKERS: PAUL TRANQUADA

MEMBERSHIP: JOHN MEGARRY

NEWSLETTER: ERIC SKEOCH

I.T. CHAIR HAL KEISER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The bell tolled and away we went with resident songster Ian Godwin leading us in the National Anthem.

President Ruben Rosen welcomed the following guests: Bob Boyd, Bill Stubbs, Darryl Reader (sorry, I didn't get much of the name.), Gordon Sheppard, and Ron Deschamps. We were also introduced to Tara Bone and Janet Peters.

Membership person John Megarry inducted a new member David Stamper.

CLUB NEWS

Ruben informs us of the status of our future meetings as the restructuring of the Bear Estate looms on the horizon. As mentioned in our earlier meetings, we will be meeting at the Watts Room of Cranberry beginning in September. One of the terms of our contract permits Cranberry to bump us out of our meeting room if there is a wedding or a special convention, and this will in fact happen for our May meeting. We will meet for that meeting only on the first Wednesday rather than our usual Thursday. Don't worry there will be lots of warning and reminders.

Our Special Interest Groups (SIG) are starting up thanks to organizer Jim Worts. (705 606 0331). The computer information group is not a fix-it type group, but more a general interest thing. Call Jim for more detailed information.

A special bit of news was provided by Ruben as he recounted his experience in Hawaii during the rumoured missile attack several weeks ago. Though he didn't experience too much of the

panic, it was nevertheless a somewhat scary event. As he was warming up his morning coffee, all electronic devices start to buzz with the news that "WE ARE BEING ATTACKED IN 7 MINUTES." Ruben's wife kept doing her emails. Upon hearing that people were advised to go into something, Ruben replied "where would anybody go on such a little island?"

"It is a sort of Hang Loose state".

The only other news to report was that our Member of Parliament is not running again.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TARA BONE

Tara is the Programme Co-coordinator for the Collingwood Red Cross and she provided us with a very detailed description of the extremely impressive services offered by the Red Cross in our community. Her presentation covered the three areas of Transportation, Meals on Wheels and Friendly Contacts.

Transportation involves connecting people who need a ride and people who are willing to provide a ride. This might be individuals who are unable to drive or perhaps no longer have access to a car. There are 20 Collingwood volunteer drivers who do the transporting, to the hospital, to the grocery store, or even down to the beer store for a little refreshment. The pay is .45 cents per kilometer and the volunteers do the driving whenever they can and to whatever destination they feel comfortable with. There are 1500 trips per month, and the number is growing. Customers pay a fee of \$7 for a trip in Collingwood and \$144 round trip

to Toronto. In total there are 700 “clients” who make use of this amazing volunteer service.

Meals on Wheels has 45 active volunteers delivering a meal consisting of an entrée, dessert, soup and crackers for \$8. There are 100 recipients receiving the meals, which are always within a short distance, and so there is no kilometer reimbursement. Scott Russell has been mealing and dealing for 17 years and urged the members to give him a call if you have some time available.

The Friendly Visiting programme rests on the assumption that there are many individuals in our community who are alone and in many cases desperate for some company. It might be just a visit for a couple of hours or a trip to the movies, the delivery of a Christmas gift or drive in the park. One of our members who has connected with this service described how his contact would just wait and watch for his arrival. It struck me that loneliness is a terrible thing for many members of our community.

I am sure I wasn't the only one who found Tara's presentation profoundly moving. How lucky we are to have people like Tara and her Red Cross volunteers among us.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

In the absence of Sandy White and his designated 2IC former Social Ct. Chief Greg Geen leaped in to present the report. Snowshoeing at the Christensen farm was of course a great success but somebody left a coat and some sunglasses at the farm. Mike Martynuik has them.

Feb. 7 – Tour of MacLean Industries, two spots still available. Gather at 8.45 and pay \$10.

Feb. 8 – Curling Bonspiel

April 18 – Blue Jays game

June 16 – Georgian Downs Raceway

June 20 – Summer Solstice boat tour on Collingwood Harbour

Aug. 16 – Hair Spray at Kings Wharf

Oct (TBA) - Come From Away in Toronto. Note: you must pay the \$220 to hold a seat. This includes a lunch at the Old Mill, ticket, bus ride and snack.

MINISTER OF CULTURE Wayne Caswill was his usual scintillating self and after a bit of a delay provided us with a thoughtful and humorous video on the confused little Irish lad and a nun.

SPEAKER JANET PETERS

The Reluctant Sailor is Janet's book on the round the world sailing adventure she and Al embarked upon in 2001. Her presentation, based on her journal, was “the real story, from a woman's point of view.” And what a story it is.

The adventure began in 1995 when Janet's husband Al asked her if she would consider “selling our house, furniture, car, and belongings and sailing around the world?” Five years later, they were in Miami admiring the 46 foot Cabo Rica sloop which would be home for the next many months. Janet had lots of stories to share.

-Prior to facing the Pacific, two experienced (?) sailors were added through a web-site list. Janet rolled her eyes at this point and added that “we dumped one of them when we got to the Galapagos.”

-In Jamaica a uniformed official demanded a registration form in order to dock. Not having arranged for one, they presented a recent receipt from a gas station. Admission was granted.

-The weather was a dominant theme. “The rain never stopped. Al liked it; I stayed below.”

-Strange local food was also a challenge to Janet; Al usually said “Mmm, I'll have some of that.”

-In the Gulf of Aden Al the pirates got 10% of the boats. Travelling in small convoys, you went through at night and didn't sleep.

-“The water maker was always broken; the oven rarely worked; the dingy motor needed love and respect, and eventually disappeared; and the Head broke. But in spite of all that and more, it was obviously a unique and wonderful experience.”

Janet's anecdotes were spun out in a flowing and humorous narrative. I hope she and Al take another trip and Janet writes another book.

Janet was thanked by Rube and presented with a Gerry DeLeskie pen and pencil set.

The 50 50 winners were Ross Klopp and Eric Skeoch who will person the sales desk in March.

