



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

P.O. BOX 601 COLLINGWOOD, ONTARIO L9Y 4E8

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2016

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4, 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 MARTYNUIK

SPEAKERS; RUBEN ROSEN

MEMBERSHIP

GERRY DeLESKIE

PAST PRESIDENT: PAUL NATALE

NEWSLETTER: ERIC SKEOCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Megarry tolled us and then told us how happy he was to see so many “bright and shining faces” pantingly directed towards him in anticipation of his monthly words of wisdom.

He was quickly nudged out of the way by Ian Godwin who in his usual melodious tones led us in a rousing rendition of the national anthem.

Immediately thereafter, obviously having noticed a number of suspicious-looking strangers in the crowd, John called out for “guests”. A forest of hands was thrust up in response. Where have all these people come from? Has our fame, heretofore unknown and unappreciated in the Georgian Triangle, finally been realized?

What a list! Doug Smith, Chuck Cameron, Peter de Vries, Gary Perry, Mike Mills, Bill Franks (again), Craig Howes, and Jay Warner. And also, four brand new members who have gone from guest status to full membership – Tom Stefaniuk, Brian Lepage, Dave Turnbull and Lars London.

President Megarry was almost speechless with excitement, no doubt silently noting that the sudden influx of new members coincided exactly with his advent to the position of President.

Anyway he soon recovered his composure and went on to congratulate Social Chair Greg Geen, Past President Paul Natale and all the other members who put together the December luncheon meeting. It was a resounding success.

John then went on to inform us that two of our members had recently been recognized for their outstanding volunteer work in the community.

Don Kerr was featured as one of the *Grassroots Heroes* for his work with the Blue

Mountains Watershed Trust. And Jack Merwin was recognized and given an award for his volunteer work with people with disabilities. We are proud to have such notable individuals in our club.

And John also mentioned that one of our members, Norm Paterson, has recently published a novel. Norm was stationed at the back of the hall poised and ready to sign autographs and talk about his delightful novel *Finding Mildred*.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Social Chair Greg Geen echoed John’s thanks to the organizing committee for the Christmas luncheon, specifically mentioning that 224 stuffed animals were delivered to the G & M Hospital and according to Bud Christensen, greatly appreciated. Greg announced the following social events:

Jan. 20 -Tour of the Filtration Plant (Jim Worts)

Jan. 28- Ski Legends Dinner/Dance (Al Peters)

Feb. 10-Snowshoeing/C-C skiing (George Christie)

Feb. 11-Curling Bonspiel (Tom Chisholm)

Feb. 14 -Valentine’s Day Dinner (Jim Worts)

July 27 -Mama Mia at King’s Wharf Theatre

Note: The Mama Mia tickets are going fast, so be sure to contact Sandy White at 905 933 0004 or sandybwhite@gmail.com if you are interested.

SPEAKERS REPORT

Ruben Rosen has lined up the following speakers:

Feb. - Glad Bryce– Women in the RCAF in WWII
March – Jeff and Susan Potts –The Shipyard Accident

April – Consul General for Ukraine

May – Fraud and Internet Theft.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bob MacNair informed the members that in addition to the regular social activities card, there is a white card which summarizes the various activities we had during 2015 (22 of them). Bob suggested that this might be of interest to potential members.

SPECIAL FEATURE IONA TOUGH

What do two 8 foot length of eaves trough (\$5.00), 6 containers of shoe polish (15 cents each), 3 pieces of 3x21 sandpaper for a belt sander (\$2.00), and a Robertson screw driver (\$1.00) have in common? They were all purchased by me towards the end of December at the Habitat for Humanity Restore just off Raglan St. in Collingwood.

And now, thanks to Iona Tough I know a lot more about this unique organization than I did before my Christmas shopping adventure.

Iona provided us with a very impressive snapshot of the contribution that Habitat for Humanity make to our community and beyond.

-It is a non-profit, incorporated organization which since 1976 has built 600,000 homes worldwide, houses which are affordable and designed to break the cycle of poverty.

-Eleven homes have been built in our area, using volunteer workers, donated materials, and free real estate services.

-Mortgages are interest free and capped at 25% of the families income. Mortgage payments are "paid forward" towards acquiring new land.

-To qualify, you need to demonstrate a level of need and a willingness to become a partner in the process.

-According to a 2012 CMHC Study, the impact of this programme on confidence and family well-being is extremely positive.

-Here's how you can help:

1. Donate stuff to the Restore (including electronics).
2. Do you have vacant land?
3. Participate in a build.
4. Join in fund-raising activities. (Golf on June 23.)

Iona's presentation was excellent!

SPEAKER JEFF MACINIS

Jeff MacInis is an adventurer extraordinaire. Jack Marley filled us in on his background as a downhill racer with the "Crazy Canucks", an eco-challenger and now a motivational speaker. His presentation chronicled two of his most recent adventures, a 4000 km. trip through the NW passage in an 18 foot catamaran, and a 300 mile Eco Challenge adventure in Malaysia.

His NW Passage trip was chilling to say the least, with frigid water (fall in and you have 5 minutes to get out.), polar bears who were clearly intent on eating you. (The survival advice here was "Shoot your buddy and run like Hell"), and of course body-numbing temperatures. Jeff showed us a few photos of frozen, puckered up toes that made me think of last month's Everest venture. Sometimes it took an hour and a half j to put your boots on.

On one occasion, Jeff and his photographer partner were marooned for 12 hours on a tiny piece of ice during a storm which had 75 mph. winds and 40 foot high seas. Jeff asked the photographer why he was taking a photo at such a critical time. "So people will know how we died."

The journey of 100 days was featured in a National Geographic issue as *Braving the NW Passage*.

And then there was the Eco Challenge adventure. Co-ed teams of 4 tackled a 300 mile route, sailing, mountain biking, and hours of slogging through swamps and equatorial jungle. Jeff's descriptions were complemented with an excellent visual record of the misery of the journey. Again photos of feet loomed large, this time because they were festooned with leeches."Relax; they will drop off when they are full."

The female member of Jeff's team broke her wrist fairly early in the game, but after getting medical advice that she should get to a hospital, commented that "that is not an option". This clearly impressed Jeff; she is now his wife.

Paddle boarding somewhere is the next challenge. Jeff was thanked by Jack Marley and given one of Gerry DeLeskie's pen and pencil sets.

50 -50 winners were John Lennox and Sandy White, and they will man the tables next month.

