



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

Contact: collingwoodprobus@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

JULY, 2016

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY AUGUST 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 MARTYNUK

SPEAKERS; RUBEN ROSEN

MEMBERSHIP

GERRY DeLESKIE

PAST PRESIDENT: PAUL NATALE

NEWSLETTER: ERIC SKEOCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In a stunning variation from his usual dignified call to order, President John Megarry shocked the membership by denouncing certain members who were wearing shorts. “I have never...” he intoned, “seen such a blatant display of varicose veins!”

After several moments of awkward silence, John attempted to return to the agenda. Fortunately, Tom Crawford was in attendance and in his usual calm way was able to restore some semblance of civility by leading us in an unaltered gender-specific version of the National Anthem.

President Megarry, now somewhat recovered from his earlier pique, resumed the chair and extended a welcome to guests Bob Moenck, Bruce Dawson, John Kearns, and Will Hertz, the latter no relation to Richard of the same name.

John commented to the members that we are always eager to welcome new members to the club. “...If you have any friends please extend an invitation to join us at our low introductory rate.”

And speaking of new members, we were introduced to Dave Briggs and Kerry Baskey.

On a sad note, John informed the members of the recent passing of Jerry Nydam and Frank Bassett. Members should note that I have included with this month's Newsletter an attachment which reminds members that:

1. Fees are due.
2. Members may opt to not have personal information included in the annual membership directory,
3. Members are asked to complete a Liability Waiver and Assumption of Risk form.

Once you have had a chance to read this weighty document, and hopefully understand why we are required to enter into these 21st century legalities, please sign on the dotted lines and bring the copy along to our next meeting or pop it in the mail addressed to me at 555866, 6th line, R.R. 1 Ravenna Ont, N0H 2E0.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Greg Geen reported on our recent outing to Stayner, a healthy 34 kilometer bike ride interrupted only by George Christie pausing briefly to saw down a tree. The Blue Jay game excursion was equally pleasant, thanks to the organizational work of James Macready, aided by Al Fraser and Paul Natale.

Here is what's coming up next.

July 18 – Bike ride on our historic trails.

July 19 – Golf at Cranberry (Mike Lee)

July 27 -Mama Mia at King's Wharf Theatre (Sandy White)

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

August 17 – Cruise on Georgian Bay

Sept. 14 – Tour of Vintage Cars in Maxwell

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

SPEAKERS REPORT

Ruben Rosen reported that our August speaker will be former radio host Andy Barrie. Emily Klinck Gemini award winning visual researcher will join us in September, and Dr. Tom Stiff will highlight the October meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

In addition to heading up the Speakers Committee, Ruben Rosen serves as auditor for the club. Imagining for some reason that Probos members might harbour a secret fascination for the joys of auditing, Ruben offered to give us an insider's look at his often misunderstood profession. He began by admitting that earlier descriptions of his speeches as "dozin with Rosen" were insensitive and wholly unwarranted. Ruben then went on to electrify us with his presentation, tying his reminiscences with examples from his experiences dealing with our own treasurers.

Uncovering shady financial slights of hand might be initiated by a financial officer "living beyond his or her means", or a purchase of a vintage sports car, or a sudden trip to Florida perhaps. In one instance in recent years Ruben attended a social gathering attended by two treasurers, and the spouse of one said she wouldn't for a minute "trust this bunch" –a joke...perhaps. At another meeting, there was reluctance on the part of a treasurer to share certain documents. This led to Ruben developing a skill in reading things upside down and across the table.

There were lots of laughs and nobody was "dozin".

SPEAKER GORD CANNING

Our guest was introduced by Gord Hall, who provided us with a screen full of information on Gord's past and present accomplishments. Reduced to one word, Gord Canning has been a "rainmaker"

Assisted by his associate, Anne Zvonkin, Gord chronicled the history of skiing at Blue Mountain from the earliest days of Jozo Weider in the 1940's until the sale of the final 50 to Intrawest in 2014. There were many highlights along the way as the Weider family acquired a 999 year lease on two parcels of land in 1948 and then proceeded to build on the investment. At first, World War II surplus Bren Gun carriers provided the power for the lifts; then in 1956 the first Poma Lift, followed in 1959 by the first chair lift. Snowmaking arrived in 1966, replacing the provision of snow from out

of the bush at a cost of 10 cents a bushel. And all the while the selling of skiing on a Sunday to the local churches was a major hurdle to be overcome. Everything changed with the arrival of the baby boomers in the 1960's, a crowd with disposable income to spend and a thirst for what Blue Mountain had to offer. With no liquor license there was a 3.00 p.m. mad dash to the pubs of Collingwood.

When Jozo Weider died tragically in 1971, Gord found himself in charge and before long steering Blue Mountain into a new era of expansion. The decade of the 70's was an exciting time as skiing took off throughout the province. There was a significant expansion in the number of lifts and in the places to stay at the mountain. It was during this time that summer activities at the hill were also being developed.

The attempt to integrate the Peaks proved to be a mistake; Blue Mountain skiers wanted to "cruise" and the cliff face of the Peaks didn't offer that in the same way as the hills further to the south.

The first of the condos arrived in 1986 and

Golf and other activities soon followed. Blue Mountain was well-suited for year round recreation, and this in part resulted in the sale of 50% of the enterprise to Intrawest. It was a deal that everyone seemed to like and even more expansion followed, though things apparently went a little too fast and the Intrawest portion had to be sold to a New York hedge fund. Eventually, the entire company came into Intrawest's hands, and that's where we are right now.

No description of skiing at Blue should ignore the arrival of the 5x7 pass, 40,000 of which were sold in the first year at a cost of \$139 with minimal expenditures on the part of the company!

Gord's romp through the life and times of Blue Mountain was as smooth and exhilarating as a run down L hill on a sunny day. I can hardly wait to get my skis out.

Gord was thanked by John Megarry and presented with a Gerry DeLeskie pen set.

50 50 winners were Jack Marley and Tom Schutte.

