



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

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NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2016

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY JULY 7, 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

As usual, the bell tolled and we were told to stop having fun and be seated. President Megarry welcomed Fred Whitehead's grand-daughter Nicole who was accompanying him to our meeting. And away we went.

Several new members were also welcomed but none of them happened to be present, so John just muttered their names and no doubt made a mental note to speak to them regarding their attendance.

Apparently Rich Luck was recently injured in a fall. Hopefully he will be back among us soon. Steve Hawker was also on the injured list after being nudged off his motorcycle by a hit and run driver. He stretched out a badly swollen and bruised leg for all to see, and also recounted the successful apprehension of the perpetrator thanks to a face book search initiated by his daughter. He is accepting bids on his motorcycle.

On a sad note, John announced that John Farmer died on the weekend. A celebration of John's life will be held at Sunset Cove, 16 Raglan Street, Collingwood, on Friday June 10 at 3.00 p.m.

John reminded the members that one of the main functions of our September AGM is the election of officers for the subsequent year. If you are interested in serving on the management committee or on one of our other dynamic committees, please let it be known. "Don't be shy".

Also, don't be shy about coughing up your annual dues. The \$45 *earlybird* stipend is now due. Act now because after August it will cost you \$50.

Congratulations were extended to Peter Perry in recognition of his 60th wedding anniversary.

There was thunderous applause from all quarters.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Greg Geer (I apologize for misspelling Greg's name in an earlier email) announced that the Honda tour was a great success. So here's what's coming up in the next little while.

June 13 – Bike ride to Stayner (George Christie)

June 14 – Golf at Brooklea (Mike Lee)

June 22 – Blue Jay game –only \$75, so Book fast!

July 13 – Mini Golf at Georgian Bay Hotel (Al Fraser)

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 of Georgian Bay

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

SPEAKERS REPORT

Ruben Rosen reported that our July speaker will be Gord Canning, former CEO of Blue Mountain Ski Resort. Former radio host Andy Barrie will be with us in August. And Emily Klinck will join us in September. (She is the movie researcher for the Green Peace movie many of us enjoyed at the Monday movie night).

MINISTER OF CULTURE

More of the same from our resident humorist, who just seems to get funnier and funnier as the months slip by.

PROFILE AL GRONDIN

Al was born in 1947 in St. Timothee Quebec, one of a family of ten which soon headed down the highway off to a number of destinations in Ontario. His early education was at a one-room school house in Meadowvale and then on to Bramalea Secondary. While attending high school, he got a taste of rural life, working on a farm milking cows and bringing in crops. After high school Al worked in a scrap yard separating metals at \$1.25 an hour, and then on to a job mixing pet food products in a very, very stinky factory.

All of these hands-on experiences in the world of work no doubt helped Al sort out what skills and aspirations he had regarding his future. He soon narrowed it down to a love of things mechanical. A night school course in small engines and the guidance of a very observant teacher steered him towards a career as an automotive technician.

This led Al to a five year apprenticeship placement with an English car dealership in Mississauga. This combined practical work at the garage and eventually Department of Labor certification as an automotive technician.

Along the way Al met and married Judy, and they were married 48 years ago. They have two daughters, both of whom work in social services.

In July of 1974 Al took a position with an Industrial Fork Lift Sales and Service business, and eventually took charge of servicing equipment throughout southern Ontario. He recounted a few interesting experiences during these days on the road, a collision with two deer simultaneously, trying to eat lunch in a repulsively smelly Cattle Hide factory, and a fist fight among employees while Al diligently toiled under a fork lift.

Now happily retired, Al nurtures his collection of 50's and 60's memorabilia with which he has filled up his basement, all the while he and Judy are "kept on their toes" by 7 grandchildren.

SPEAKER DEAN COLLVER

The year and a half that Dean has been Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture has apparently been a learning curve of great intensity.

He describes the job as one which attempts "to connect people with activities and well-being." From merely *leisure* services, there has been an evolution to *recreation services* with *culture* added to acknowledge the connection to long-term health and wellness. It is clearly a massive job, but one which Dean seems well-equipped to handle.

The Plan of Operation focuses on four areas:

1. Recreation facilities –the Museum, ice rinks, pool facility etc.
2. Recreation programmes – swimming, sailing, health programmes etc
3. Recreational events –Museum , and Elvis
4. Parks, Trails and the Harbour.

There are a number of current projects on the go, the Heritage Park Project, a Junior baseball diamond, a Skate park, a new dog park, new trails, the repair of washed out sections of the existing trails, and a boardwalk at Harbour park. The Elvis Festival deserves special mention. After 22 years, it is highly popular (average attendance is over 25,000) but as a standalone event is vulnerable. The objective is to heighten local community engagement by increasing first time attendance, addressing the young demographic and to connect the downtown nature of the festival with the harbour. The vision foresees a waterfront which incorporates community needs and interests and allows for the attraction of visitors to our shoreline and its obvious attractions.

Live and Original began as an offshoot of the Elvis Festival and puts emphasis on original music, the use of the Simcoe St. Theatre, and a partnership with Corus Entertainment, all of which is intended to broaden the appeal beyond the Elvis brand. It sees the Stratford model as one worth emulating. New in 2016 will be a car show and parade, a Memphis rib-fest, Small Town Pistols at Eddie Bush arena, a free concert at the Shipyards Amphitheatre, a dynamic Museum programme, and a Healthy Kids and Fitness Day. There are exciting events on the horizon for Collingwood.

Dean was thanked by John and presented with the usual Gerry DeLeskie pen set.

The 50 50 winner was John Lennox.

