



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

Contact: collingwoodprobus@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2017

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY JULY 6, 2017 – BEAR ESTATE HALL – 9.45 A.M. – 11.45 A.M.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: BOB MACNAIR

VICE PRESIDENT RUBEN ROSEN

SOCIAL: GREG GEEN

SECRETARY: AL WALLACE

TREASURER: MIKE MARTYNUK

SPEAKERS; RUBEN ROSEN

MEMBERSHIP AND PAST PRESIDENT: JOHN MEGARRY

NEWSLETTER:

ERIC SKEOCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After a slight diversion into the memory bank of Ian Godwin's national anthems, we eventually returned to Oh Canada with great gusto. [What, I wondered to myself, has happened to the *Sons or Us* debate?]

Anyway Bob then returned us to our customary welcoming of our guests; Bob Buckner, David Walkom, Gordon Mackay and Vic Nolte. (Apologies for any spelling errors – by the time I could chase down the foursome at coffee-break they had disappeared into the milling mob.)

Badges were available to new members Carson Bell, Tony Svirplys, Bob Reid and Bob Galway.

President MacNair announced that our "Support Team" of Brian Lucas and Al Wright is poised and ready to address the needs of those of us who are in need of tender loving care. Let them know if you have information you think should be shared.

Fred Holmes presented us with a fast and furious marketing survey emanating from his new position on the Museum Advisory Board. He was pleased to discover that a very high percentage of our members are frequent users of the Museum.

Incidentally, Probud dues are due, and of course they can be paid via a credit card thanks to the ground-breaking work done by your talented and dedicated management persons.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

With the President hovering ominously behind him, stopwatch in hand, Social Chair Greg Geen announced that he had been allocated a mere 600 seconds for his report. He launched into his items in fear and trepidation. Thanks were extended to

James Macready and Al Fraser for their work in organizing the trip to the Blue Jay game, and to Mike Lee for his May 24 coordination of the golf outing. And here's what's looming on the horizon.

- June 10 – Georgian Downs Dinner and Racing (Richard Isaacson)

- June 12 -20 km. bike ride with George Christie

- June 20 and July 13 –Golf (Mike Lee)

- June 21 – Theatre Collingwood, Oh Canada, We Sing for Thee (Richard Isaacson)

- July 18- Lady Muskoka Cruise (Gary Holzendorff)

-August 17– Annual King's Wharf outing and picnic lunch. (Sandy White)

-Oct. 18 –fall colours train ride and lunch from Orangeville (Richard Isaacson)

We were also reminded that there are still 6 spots available on the Wasaga Beach outing to Ripley's Aquarium. And the Ski Legends group has spots available on a trip to Val D'Isere. (John Housser).

SPEAKERS REPORT

V.P. and Speakers' Chair Ruben Rosen announced the following speakers ready to go.

July – Pharmacist Marjorie Medley with Answers to Men's' Health Issues (Note: Let Ruben know if you have a particular issue of concern.)

August – Ross Parr, Collingwood's new Fire Chief.

September – OPP Inspector May Shannon

If you have suggestions for a Christmas speaker, please contact Ruben.

MINISTER OF CULTURE

Filling in for Wayne, John Megarry showed that he is a funny person and more than a pretty face.

SPECIAL BILL FRANKS - Part II

Last month Bill ran out of time just as he was recounting his experience as a gynecologist in training. This month, in Part II, he took us a blow by blow narrative on how he came close to using up three of his allocated nine lives. The first was when he was 7 or 8 years old and he almost drowned in a flood. I think he said it was someplace which started with a K, but my handwriting let me down on this one. His next life-threatening incident took place while he was partridge hunting. He turned too quickly to follow a bird in the air and came face to face with a barrel in the hand of a former friend's shotgun. (I think he said the friend's name was Cheney.) The next incident was the most memorable. It took place during Bill's flying training. In order to get your wings in those early days, you had to show that you could maneuver your aircraft out of a "spin". With Bill and the instructor poised and ready, the Harvard trainer was put into the spin, and Bill began the "get-out-of-the-spin-procedure" which was supposed to do the job. It didn't work. Plan B was "bail out or die".

As the ground fast approached, I suspect Bill wished that he had not opted out of gynecology a year or two earlier, but miraculously at the last minute, he remembered to push the right button or pull the right lever and got unspun just in time. Bill went on to serve as a medical officer in the North Atlantic, went to London to see the Queen and Roger Banister, and then returned to Canada where he specialized in traumatic brain injuries.

In December of 2015 Bill retired from his medical pursuits and has now established himself as a "poor struggling artist". Over the years he has been to the Arctic 6 times, on two occasions living off the land with the Inuit and painting.

Bill has recently published a book of 80 of his excellent paintings. It is available at his studio in the old Tremont hotel. Dropping in would be well worth the trip to Collingwood.

Thanks Bill.

SPEAKER FRED DOBBS

Fred Dobbs is the Manager of Stewardship Services at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. He was introduced by Jack Marley. Fred's early work in the Collingwood area focused on the clean-up of the harbour after the shipyards closed. Those of you who followed that work will know that over the years there was a lot of stuff that had accumulated at the bottom of the old slips. Waste material like old welding rods had to be removed in case there was a negative influence on the fish habitat. Fred's work with the NVCA has gone far beyond those early days.

In his presentation Fred provided us with a history of the Blue Mountain watershed with specific emphasis on Black Ash Creek, the headwaters of which originate from springs above the Niagara Escarpment brow in the vicinity of Castle Glen

The Black Ash Restoration project of 2006 was an aggressive plan to slow down the "violent flush" nature of the flow of the creek and thus enable the nutrients to seep into the earth.

Fred dealt at some length on the various ways in which the flow of Black Ash Creek is being controlled, such as the creation of "notches" to slow down the rate of flow, and the addition of stone supports along the creek banks...

There was some interesting information provided by Fred on the impact of small earthen dams which create ponds. The ponds restrict the flow of nutrients which poses a problem for fish. He mentioned in particular the Petun dam just off Road 19. Cold water trout streams are essential for trout hatching. There was also considerable discussion of the impact of invasive species like the Phragmites, and the way volunteers can help. There's obviously a lot to learn. Google the NVCA and also the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust and you will find a very detailed account of the work being done in the area.

Fred was thanked by Bob and presented with a Gerry DeLeskie pen and pencil set.

The 50 50 winners were Paul Reid and John Van Der Ster who will person the table next month.

