



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

Contact: collingwoodprobus@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2018

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY JULY 5, 2018 – WATTS ROOM at CRANBERRY – 9.45 A.M.

PRESIDENT: RUBEN ROSEN
SOCIAL: SANDY WHITE
SPEAKERS: PAUL TRANQUADA

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PAST PRESIDENT BOB MACNAIR
SECRETARY: AL WALLACE
MEMBERSHIP: JOHN MEGARRY

VICE PRESIDENT GREG GEEN
TREASURER: MIKE MARTYNUK
NEWSLETTER: ERIC SKEOCH

National anthem: Delivered in his usual zestful style, Ian Godwin once again hit the final closing notes in an octave no other member could reach.

Opening remarks: delivered by VP Greg Geen in the absence of Pres. Rosen, these were necessarily pithy and to the point. Some members were disappointed that there was no update from the “dog whisperer”. Most, however were relieved!

Visitors, Rick Hawkins and Donald McDonald were introduced by their respective member friends. Rick is not related to the famous Ronnie Hawkins of rock ‘n roll fame.

Badges were handed out by John Megarry to new inductees Ralph Kunetzky and Michael Coward.

Members were also reminded that the July, August and September meetings will return to the Bear estate building. In October and November we will be utilizing the Legion building on Ontario Street, and in December the annual Christmas dinner will be held at the Alpine ski club.

Member profile: Al Grondin made a detailed presentation of memorabilia which he has collected over many years. He proceeded through a book of “old stuff” including a chapter by member George Christie, followed by cameras, games, snorkel pens, hood ornaments, horse bells, license plates, roller skates, transistor radios, helicopters, car coins, a bank and ultimately a 1936 version of the Dick and Jane reader.

Al was obviously very dedicated to collecting and preserving this memorabilia. He expressed some willingness to allow members to review his collection at his home in the future. He apparently has tons of stuff.

New AV guru: Terry Fitzgerald has volunteered to take over these responsibilities from Hal Kaiser, who has retired. Despite a challenging start, Terry rose to the occasion and completed his responsibilities at his first appearance.

Events Committee: Sandy White reported on the current status of Special Interest Groups (SIGS), bike tours and gave an update on the upcoming Georgian Downs event, boat cruise on the Huronic, tour of the Keewatin, musicals Hairspray, and Come from Away. (More details on our website: <http://www.probuscollingwood.ca/Probus Club of Collingwood/Probus Club of Collingwood Official Site.html>)

Sandy also advised of the status of the Wye marsh adventure tour, Beaver Valley cider tasting and potential Scotch tasting events in the future.

Speakers: in the absence of Paul Tranquada, it was confirmed that at the July meeting we will have speakers Dr. Karl Shiefer, “The unique ecosystems of Georgian Bay,” and Linda Flemington, President, Georgian Bay Chapter of CARP.

In August we will have Mauro Ferraioli and Trent Campbell , Firefighters with Pearson Airport Emergency Services. Profile by John Shadbolt,, “2017 Americas Cup” yacht races from Bermuda.

Financial report: Mike Martynuik reminded members that their annual membership fees are due as of July 2018. Dues of \$55 per annum will increase to \$60 per annum after the July meeting.

Minister of Culture: Wayne Caswill presented his usual collection of humorous anecdotes and stories, delivered in the professional manner to which we have become accustomed in Probus Collingwood. Much enjoyed was the accompanying “fart video” educating all of us on the dangers of yoga while dining out.

Speaker: Tom Bell-“Cycling the Length of South America”.

Tom engaged us with many anecdotes taken from his continental bicycle tour in South America. Briefly, his statistics were as follows:

13,500 km

6 countries

9 stages

5 ½ months duration

While he had much previous cycling experience, this was quite a challenge for Tom. He travelled up to 18,000 feet above sea level. During his trip he lost the “noise” associated with life in southern Ontario, lived an uncomplicated

existence mindful of his surroundings at all times. In fact the experience was so addictive that Tom has booked another tour for 2019 from Cairo, Egypt to Cape Town, South Africa.

Tom travelled with 10 cyclists and a staff of five assistants. All 10 finished the tour.

His odyssey fundraised \$25,000 for Campbell House Hospice in Collingwood.

Tom provided us with these bits of wisdom garnered from his adventure:

- 1. If you get saddle sores, use Clearasil.**
- 2. Your shovel is your toilet.**
- 3. If you get diarrhea, look at the stars and have a positive attitude.**
- 4. If attacked by horseflies, and you start laughing, you may be having a mental breakdown.**
- 5. If you have to pee, and there is a coral snake nearby, stay on your bike, and, perhaps most importantly,**
- 6. If you are looking for good luck, bury a llama fetus in your front yard.**

Tom was presented with the usual pen and pencil set which we used to say was carved from a local oak tree, but now apparently comes from Chinese lumber.

Tom's presentation was highly enjoyable, and enough to deter all but the exceedingly reckless from engaging in similar behaviour.

A show of hands having been taken for lunch at the B and B, the meeting was adjourned.

50 -50 winners were Jack Marley and Bob Reid.

[Many thanks to Terry Billo for filling in so admirably for delinquent Newsletter editor Skeoch.]