



# PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

Contact: collingwoodprobus@gmail.com

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2017

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY APRIL 6, 2017 – BEAR ESTATE HALL - 10 A.M. - 12 NOON

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: BOB MACNAIR

VICE PRESIDENT RUBEN ROSEN

SOCIAL: GREG GEEN

SECRETARY: AL WALLACE

TREASURER: MIKE MARTYNUIK

SPEAKERS; RUBEN ROSEN

MEMBERSHIP AND PAST PRESIDENT: JOHN MEGARRY

NEWSLETTER:

ERIC SKEOCH

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

After our usual call to order and the National Anthem, we were reminded by President MacNair March is “Probus Month” and that our club is the fourth club to come into existence back in 1987. Bob and Past President John Megarry will attend the National conference in Cambridge later this year, and receive recognition as one of the originals. Incidentally, you may be surprised to learn that Probus has a song. I’m not sure when and where it is sung, but hopefully Bob and John will learn the words and the tune and lead us in singing the little ditty at one of our upcoming meetings.

Guests Dr. Bob Galway, Ralph Cole and Dan Crabb were introduced and welcomed, and it was announced that we have a new member in the person of Graham Duncan.

Bud Christensen spoke briefly about the late Peter Perry, mentioning in particular Peter’s contribution to the club over many years.

Newly appointed archivist Richard Rood then explained that his new portfolio would encompass photos, articles, and anything else pertaining to the club. If you have something of interest, send it along to Richard.

Bob reminded us that we are in the process of setting up a Members’ Support Committee.

Paul Natale shared information with the members regarding the work that has been done in the method of payments for our various social events. John Megarry, Mike Martynuik and Paul have been researching this issue for some time and we are close to a system which will streamline the process. We are the first Probus club to do this!

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Social Committee Chairman Greg Geen brought us up to date on the recent flurry of social outings, all of which were of course resounding successes thanks to the work of the various members of this dynamic committee.

He listed the following upcoming events and urged all to consider joining in, if there are spots still open.

March 8.-Tour of Agnora glass plant (full).

April 25 – First golf game at Shelburne. (Mike Lee)

May 16 – Blue Jay game against Atlanta (sold out).

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

### MINISTER OF CULTURE

Wayne Caswill warmed up the crowd in his usual manner and then passed the baton to Hal Keiser and a classic video clip from the Carole Burnett show. If you are a fan of that show, then the mere mention of Tim Conway’s name says it all.

### SPEAKER’S REPORT

Ruben Rosen announced that in April Tom Stiff will return, this time to talk about asteroids. And in May, Sarah Campbell will speak on Fishing and Aquatic Restoration in the Collingwood area.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Bill Klein had a couple of humorous anecdotes to share with us “from his past”. I thought that these anecdotes would be from his experiences as a dentist, and I suspect several of us came to the meeting wondering what could possibly be funny

about going to the dentist But Bill surprised us by with tales from far beyond the drill and the fill.

The first had to do with an experience way back in the 1970's when dial phones were being gathered by Ma Bell and replaced by button phones. The humour was in the telling, but the gist of the story was that a V.P. at Bell was Bill's old pal from Woodstock days and both were German speaking. The poor secretary was the hapless victim of much name-dropping and mirth between Klein and his old pal as she stoically tried to protect her boss.

Bill then took us on a sailboat trip through the North Channel accompanied by his two daughters. Bill's log entries would record- "a strong East wind, lost the dingy, had to have a dingy, went after dingy, dingy "submarined", righted dingy, dingy capsized, tied dingy to rock, two thugs with two equally thuggish dogs offer to help, thugs and dogs disappear with dingy, pursued thugs, dogs and dingy, found dingy high and dry with thugs and dogs nearby, grabbed dingy and fled, daughters in tears tell Bill he is "crazy...but fabulous".

There was a second dingy story, but time ran out.

#### **SPEAKER DIANA BISHOP**

Diana has just published a book which chronicled her life as the granddaughter of Billy Bishop. The title *Living up To a Legend* is an indication of the contents of this memoir. Having a grandfather and also a father who made their marks in Canada's history was not an easy role to inherit. Diana and her brother always said they suffered from the "Billy Bishop" syndrome, feeling that they always had a "morbid fear of being ordinary".

In part, at least, that was what prompted Diana to pursue a career in journalism, a work environment in which women were never in the newsroom. With a degree in French she soon found herself in Montreal and Quebec City in the years dominated by Levesque, Drapeau and Trudeau. Diana saw her career surge ahead somewhat when she asked the newly defeated Pierre Trudeau if he found returning to the practice of law "somewhat boring". This elicited a

30 second laugh from Trudeau which was broadcast nationally.

After a spell on the "animal beat" reporting on loose moose, baby Peregrine falcons, and ducks frozen in the ice, Diana was assigned a Hell's Angels murder case which she described as "one of the most gruesome murders" in Canadian history. The CBC was sued for using *defamatory* language in describing the murder of five dead bikers found in a river. The Montreal lawyer who had given her the story was shot at the restaurant where he and Diana were to meet.

Diana's career really took off at about this point. She was headhunted off to CTV and worked for three years as National Reporter in the days of Craig Oliver, Pam Waldron and Mike Duffy. This was followed by covering the campaign trail with Jean Chretien, a period in which she travelled 55,000 miles in 5 weeks and loved every minute of it. These were the days of Meech Lake, Nelson Mandela, the Oka crisis, long days and nights of incredible excitement and equally incredible exhaustion. At one point she slept in her car for three consecutive nights. She could have been paid for overtime if only she had known how to apply.

During her time as a roving reporter, Diana filed copy on earthquakes in Turkey, G7, 8 and 9 conferences in Geneva, behind the scene dramas involving Bush and Mulroney at Kennebunkport, and violent clashes at various hotspots around the world when bullets were flying and tear gas canisters bouncing on all sides. On one occasion Diana was covering a press conference in which Prime Minister John Major winked at her and so she winked back, thus sending the British tabloids into a frenzy of scandalous rumours.

I haven't got enough space to recount some of her China stories when she was Beijing Bureau Chief, except to say that she was arrested twice for asking the wrong (or right) question at the wrong time. "Being ordinary" is an expression that would never apply to her fascinating life.

Diana was thanked by Bob who presented her with a Gerry DeLeskie pen and pencil set.

Our 50 50 winners were Ian Godwin and Mike Martynuik who will person the table in April.



