



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

Contact: collingwoodprobus@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2018

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY APRIL 5, 2018 – BEAR ESTATE HALL – 9.45 A.M.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: RUBEN ROSEN

SOCIAL: SANDY WHITE

SPEAKERS: PAUL TRANQUADA

I.T. CHAIR HAL KEISER

PAST PRESIDENT BOB MACNAIR

SECRETARY: AL WALLACE

MEMBERSHIP: JOHN MEGARRY

VICE PRESIDENT GREG GEEN

TREASURER: MIKE MARTYNUK

NEWSLETTER: ERIC SKEOCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After a brisk call to order and a robust rendering of the National Anthem led by our resident director of music, we were off and running.

President Ruben Rosen welcomed several guests for the day in the persons of Ken Hadfield, George Czerny, Murray Morrison and Brad Roberts. Gordon Mackay, filling for John Megarry, then introduced and badged the following new members: Tom Rideout, Bill Stutz, RonDeschamps and Bob Boyd. Wayne Caswill then took a photo for “posting on the post office bulletin board”.

CLUB NEWS

Ruben announced that long-time Probud member Tom Schutte recently died. A celebration of Tom’s life will be held at the Collingwood Curling Club on Monday, April 30 and 12.00 noon.

We were given an early notice that our May meeting will be held at the Watts room of Cranberry and for that May meeting only, we will meet on the first Wednesday in May rather than our usual Thursday. In June we will again meet at the Watts Room but on our usual Thursday. You will be given more reminders as we get closer to May.

There are a couple of other changes looming on the horizon. First of all, our Social Committee is undergoing a name-change procedure. It will now be called the **EVENTS COMMITTEE**, presumably because its activities in addition to being social are also *eventful*.

And, the colourful events card which Jack Marley has peddled at each meeting will now be retired

and replaced by an email sent out each month with all the details previously listed on the cards now on an email which you can print and nail onto your refrigerator door. There is still some tweaking to be done on this new venture so as to make it of a size that will be printed on one page. This change saves us the cost of printing the cards, and more significantly gets the information into the hands of everyone rather than just those who attended the meeting. It also enables us to make changes where necessary.

EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT (See, I told you we were going to change the name.)

Greg Geen (formerly of the Social Committee which in case you haven’t noticed is now called the Events Committee), gave the report because Sandy White is on holiday.

April 18 – The Blue Jay game is sold out, but there is a waiting list.

June 16 – Trip to Georgian Downs. Richard Isaacson is the contact.

June 20 – Cruise on Collingwood Harbour. Jack Marley is the contact person.

August 16 – Hairspray at King’s Wharf

October 10---Come From Away trip.

Our Special Interest Groups are moving along quite nicely, with the Investment group meeting every 2nd Tuesday at the library from 10 to 12. Terry Billo is the contact person. And the Computer group meets on the 4th Thursday at the library from 12 to 2.00. John Jeffs is the contact person.

A survey sheet was circulated with questions related to the types of activities members would be interested in pursuing.

SPEAKERS REPORT

Paul Tranquada informed the members that our speaker in April will be Dr. John Fernandes, forensic pathologist on high profile Ontario murder cases.

MINISTER OF CULTURE

Minister Caswill provided a few of his best cultural anecdotes and our IT team had a humorous excerpt from the old *Laugh In* TV show of past years.

PROFILE EAMON O'DOWD

Eamon began by thanking whoever it was that phoned him "last night" to inform him that he was scheduled to present his profile the next morning. As you probably concluded by noting the peculiar spelling of Eamon's name, he is of Irish heritage. He dealt quickly with his early education in Dublin beginning at age 3 when he was placed in the local school run by the nuns. All the boys, he claimed, were soon kicked out and placed in the hands of the Christian Brothers. He thought the nuns were cruel until he met the Brothers whose approach to education was "whack them and keep whacking them until they come around to your way of thinking." Somehow, he survived these educational experiences in Dublin, and in 1968 headed off to University College, Dublin where he studied mathematics. Part of the curriculum included an international work experience programme in the United States. So off he went to a job in Boston at \$120 a week, an appealing sum in the 70s. Before long his interest in soccer resulted in his getting in with "a bad crowd" who offered him his first beer and his first cigar, neither of which impressed him at the time. We need to hear a lot more about those days in Boston, because whatever happened there prompted him to head up to Canada in 1972 before looking into Canadian weather. He had a brief foray into a career in publishing. Actually, it

was really an entry level position selling encyclopedias.

The siren call of teaching soon lured him away from the joys of door to door sales. He joined the Toronto School Board where he taught for 19 years and then ran a reception centre for foreign students for the next 10.

In 1979 he met his wife and after a fast trip back to Dublin to meet her family, he and they bought a VW van and headed off on an adventure-filled trip through Europe and Africa.

Eamon's years after teaching have focused on renovating houses and developing properties one of them down on Sunset Point.

He is glad he came to Canada and to Collingwood, and we are too.

SPEAKER BRENT PRESTON

Brent Preston and Gillian Flies made a life altering decision in 2003. With their two children, they left a comfortable life in Toronto and bought a 100 acre farm near Creemore. Their plan was to "create profitable, sustainable organic farm." For the next 15 years they worked incredibly hard, learned a lot, faced and surmounted obstacle after obstacle made countless mistakes and succeeded. Impressed by his excellent presentation, I grabbed a copy of his book The New Farm, thinking it would help me in summarizing his presentation for the Newsletter. Once I read the first chapter, I couldn't put it down.

Brent and Gillian's story is simply fascinating, and Brent's recounting of their experience is persuasive, inspirational and very funny. Over the years since 2003, Brent and Gillian built an immensely successful sustainable organic farm. The New Farm chronicles their experience in an extremely readable and inspiring book.

Brent was thanked by Ruben and presented with a Gerry DeLeskie pen and pencil set.

Our 50/50 winners were Ross Klopp and Eamon O'Dowd who will man the ticket table next month.

