



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

Contact: collingwoodprobus@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2017

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY JUNE 1, 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 MARTYNUK

SPEAKERS; RUBEN ROSEN

MEMBERSHIP AND PAST PRESIDENT: JOHN MEGARRY

NEWSLETTER:

ERIC SKEOCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was much bell ringing to herald the start of our May meeting. President MacNair began things by inviting the members to “please take sit down if you can.” He welcomed three guests for the day, Keith Rogers, Phil Coles, and Tony Svirplys.

The following new members were called the podium to be photographed and fingerprinted so that the usual police check could be initiated: Bob Galway, Terry Billo (“not, he insisted to me, “to be confused with Bob Brillo”), John Jeffs, Bob Reid, and Jim Gosnell. They seem like a nice enough crowd.

Bob then went on to introduce the seven “saviours action team” of Probud Collingwood, all of whom have now been trained in the use of the AED device which is located in the back corner of the hall. Each member of the trained group would have a specific task in an emergency situation. Members feeling the urge to collapse at any moment can now do so, confident that all will be well. Bob added that mouth to mouth stuff is not part of the deal, and also that the AED machine won’t operate if it senses that the “patient” is not in need of the electric jolt. Nor can *jolters* be sued by *joltees* or their relatives in case things don’t work out.

Meanwhile, for those just a bit under the weather but not quite ready to collapse, our support team is now in place and poised ready to sent along a warm message or even a get well card in case anyone has a knee operation etc.

For future social functions which have in the past required you to bring a cheque or perhaps have your wife give you a cash advance on your

allowance, you can now use a credit card. Our newly appointed cashiers (Paul Natale, John Nell and Bob Mills) are poised at their little machine ready to accept Visa and Mastercard.

FAST BREAKING NEWS! COMMENCING NEXT MONTH OUR STARTING TIME WILL BE 9.45 RATHER THAN 10.00. This will let us finish at 11.45 and thus give us a bit of a cushion as we wind up the meeting and also enable members to get to lunch on time.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Greg Geen started his report by informing us that our own Steve Hawker joined the hordes pulling the S.S.Keewatin to a new birth last month, and thus got into the Guinness Book of Records. Greg also referred the members to the note passed along to our club regarding the Wasaga Beach club’s trip to the Ripley Aquarium on May 25. Call Al Fraser if you are interested. Here are the events planned for our club.

April 25 – Golf at a Shelburne (Mike Lee)

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

May 29 –Bike ride around town. (Meet George Christie at The Chipper at 9.45.)

June 10 – Georgian Downs Dinner and Racing

June 21 –Theatre Collingwood *Oh Canada We Sing for Thee* (Richard Isaacson.)

July 18- Lady Muskoka Cruise

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

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

SPEAKERS REPORT

V.P. and Speakers' chair Ruben Rosen announced the following agenda items.

June – Sarah Campbell, Aquatic Biologist,

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

August. – Ross Parr, Collingwood's new Fire Chief
If you have suggestions for a Christmas speaker, please contact Ruben.

MINISTER OF CULTURE

Wayne Caswill thanked the members who each month or so passed along particular inclusions for his cultural report.

And once again we were treated to a few choice items. What would we ever do without Wayne!

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BILL FRANKS

Bill was a member a few years ago and then he wasn't and now he is back. And he brought some interesting snippets from his very interesting life.

As Bill strode to the podium our audio-visual team projected one of his paintings on the screen. Somewhat startled, Bill identified the painting as one which had recently gone missing from his home.

Bill described his early summers at Go Home Bay in the late thirties, where he was introduced to fly-fishing, bird watching, painting, and spending time with some individuals who obviously had a great influence on his life. His uncle Greg (Clark), his godfather Fred Banting, Harry Jackman, and A.Y. Jackson were among these early friends, relatives and acquaintances.

In 1946, Bill purchased the farm where he presently lives for \$900. Now valued at \$1.7 million, it poses "a capital gains problem".

After high school in 1951 Bill attended University and then headed off to medical school, to flying training, to officer training and finally to Moosejaw in a 1927 Ford which blew up on the way and left at the side of the road. We will hear Part 11 of Bill's saga colourful life a little later on.

SPEAKER MELISSA SHAW

Melissa has been making a significant mark in Collingwood's cultural life since her arrival as curator at the museum in 2007. Growing up in the farm community which stretches from Banks to the wind-swept wastelands of the 6th Line just up the hill from Ravenna, she is learned her local history from an early age.

In this her second guest appearance at Probus, Melissa again brought to us what Bob MacNair referred as "her passion and her knowledge" of our local heritage.

An introduction to Collingwood's Sesquicentennial was the theme and aided by an excellent set of slides assembled from the Museum's archives Melissa took us back to those early days in a smooth, informative and colorful presentation.

Making use of 19th and early 20th century journals and an amazing collection of old photographs Melissa carried us back to those early days when the future Collingwood was little more than a "swampy mess." Her presentation was a skillful blending of the personal and the historic.

The selection of photographs was excellent. I like the one of James Lindsay and Charles Cameron, two peas in a pod reminiscent of the Smith Brothers. Clothier Lindsay, in particular, replied to the rumour that "the Fenians are coming" with a full page ad that stated the Fenians weren't coming but his fall and summer stock was.

William Watts' wife Susan made a point of returning to Ireland with some frequency so that her children could have an "Irish upbringing". This would have meant 14 trips!

Melissa took us on a brilliant highly personal romp through Collingwood's early days.

We are very lucky to have a talented professional like Melissa in our community

Melissa was thanked by Bob and presented with a beautiful pen and pencil set carved by our own Gerry DeLeskie from wood salvaged from a 150 year old oak tree that he cut down in order to make a parking space for his snowmobile.

Our 50 50 winners were Bob Milthorpe and Ron Smith who will person the table next month.

