



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

Contact: collingwoodprobus@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2016

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2016 – 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

The meeting began in a bit of frenzy, as members streamed in from all quarters. The Watts Room proved to somewhat small for our purposes, but I didn't notice anybody stomping out in a huff.

The hallway in particular was a bit crowded, the social table somewhat overwhelmed by members waving their cheques aloft. and past President Megarry button-holing members who were on his list of "annual fees still outstanding".

After a few words of welcome, President Bob called out for guests and was pleased to extend our usual welcome to Jody Laplante, Bob Gillis, Gerry Blundel, Bruce Bunker, and Steve Officer.

Bob urged the guests to consider joining the club, assuring them that we are a rough but friendly group.

Bob also mentioned that we will soon have a defibrillator on site at the Bear Estate Some of members have already had training it its use, though it is designed to be quite user friendly.

Bob also announced that although we are always interested in hearing personal *profiles* of our members, we are also open to having members with a particular interest or obsession share that interest with us. Just let us know and we will find a time for you.

Al Peters provided the members with some details about The Probus Ski Legends group, of which he is our representative. The group arranges great social events for couples and singles, ski trips to resorts in North America and discounts at various stores in Collingwood. Contact Al at al.peters@yahoo.ca for more information.

SPEAKERS REPORT

George Soleas of the LCBO will be our speaker in November and John Carswell in December. As you will have noticed in the social committee's summary {previously emailed out}, our December speaker has a barn-burner of a presentation on the Canadian Arctic.

SOCIAL REPORT

Unfortunately Greg Geen was ill and thus unable to be in attendance and give his report. Bob filled in for Greg, summarizing the recent outings and thanking the members of the social committee who organize those events.

There are two notable activities on the horizon, a tour of the Drysdale Tree Farm on Oct. 12 (Al Fraser is the contact person at joanalfrazer@rogers.com or 705 888 9385.)

And on the 29th of October there is a tour of a local apple processing plant (the contact person is Richard Orviss at richard.orviss@rogers.com or 705 2931282.

The other major activity is of course our December Luncheon meeting. The tickets are \$40 per person and there are still some tickets available.

Members might want to make a point of consulting our web site for ongoing information. The summary of Social Committee information sent out by email each month in the Reminder notice just prior to our meetings is also a fund of information. Greg Geen does a super job of publishing our activities in glowing colour and eloquent narrative.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

We were pleased to welcome Andre Abbott-Kokosin to our meeting this month. Andrea is the Director of Collingwood's Breaking Down Barrier's Independent Living Resource Center. This organization provides support for individuals with a wide range of challenges. There are 3 full-time staff members and 65 volunteers. Consumers of the service are a minimum of 16 years old, and face challenges which may be physical, emotional, intellectual or sensory – anything in fact which limits their ability to live independently. The specific types of support can be quite wide-ranging, financial assistance, tax preparation, computer literacy, etc. There are programs on peer support, independent living skills and mentorship assistance. Andrea stressed the importance of partnerships with the public and private sectors. Funding comes from various sources, both governmental and through donations and sponsored social activities within the community. There is a curling bonspiel on the calendar for this winter. Andrea's presentation was relevant and interesting. Further information can be accessed via www.breakingdownbarriers.ca.

SPEAKER DR. TOM STIFF

Our speaker was introduced by Ruben Rosen, who informed us that in explaining what type of audience Tom would be facing this morning, Ruben simply said "don't use too many big words." Speaking of words, Ruben always has a way with them.

The topic chosen by Tom was NASA's plans for a voyage to Mars. Although initially the topic seemed somewhat daunting, as it turned out Dr. Stiff's handling of the intricacies of the psychics was quite straightforward and clear. It can be summed up by an equation presented to us.

$Mp/Mc = Ex \text{ (times a little triangle)}/Ve-1.$

Well there's not much more to be said. Several members seated near me just nodded in a manner

that suggested they now understood the whole thing and might as well have a little nap until it was 50-50 time

-Not realizing that he'd pretty well shot his bolt by the time he'd given us his equation, Tom added a number of additional points just to add emphasis to his thesis.

-Applicants for a one way ticket to Mars numbered 200,000, but only 2000 were serious.

-Whereas the moon probe was *politically* motivated, the Mar schema is *economically* motivated (Elon Musk of SpaceX and Tesla fame is central here.)

-Mars has seasons, and day/night cycles. The density of the air is very low; the gravity is 0.38, whereas ours is 1.0; the air is 95% CO₂. The hottest day on Mars is like the coldest one we have experienced. It is a hostile environment!

-The mechanics of coordinating the relative orbits of a satellite and Mars was particularly interesting.

-The problems consist of 1. What kind of land vehicle is needed? 2, How do we get it there? 3. What about air, food, and water? 4. How do you land and leave, and how do you get the fuel for a return trip? Many of these questions have been addressed but are still major problems facing scientists. Then one has to consider the difficulties of technical failure, radiation, weightlessness, dust storms, isolation, and the unknown factor of "back-contamination", ie. What about the bugs that might come back. All of these issues were dealt with in a detailed but very practical way by Dr. Stiff. And not without humour. The topic of weightless led Tom into a little aside about "perkiness" which was particularly interesting.

-Incidentally do you know that the original Apollo computer had 12000 transistors and a modern cell phone has 2 billion!

All in all the presentation was absolutely fascinating. Bob MacNair thanked Dr. Tom and presented him with a Gerry DeLeskie pen set.

Our 50 50 winners were Gary Holzendorf and John Nell, who will man the tables in November

