



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

Contact: collingwoodprobus@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

October 4, 2018

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY November 1, 2018 Royal Canadian Legion, Collingwood

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT GREG GEEN
SECRETARY: AL WALLACE
SPEAKERS; RUBEN ROSEN

PAST PRESIDENT: RUBEN ROSEN SOCIAL: DOUG BROWN & TERRY BILLO
TREASURER: MIKE MARTYNUIK
MEMBERSHIP: JOHN MEGARRY NEWSLETTER: GORD HALL

THE OPENING

Ian was in his usual fine voice! Did that initial start signify a statement on the USMCA??? [Plenty of laughter from the membership]. Thank you, Ian.

GUESTS

John Deyell [guest of Paul Natale] – resides in Olde Town

Ben Ball – visiting from Quebec

Bruce Daniels – visiting from \ formerly of Unionville – 39 years with Big Blue (I.B.M.)

David Fischer [guest of our Minister of Culture] – resides in Cranberry – retired from TVO – graphic designer \ presently a part time artist (painting).

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Our new member, Gordon Andrews, was introduced by John Megarry and welcomed by the Membership.

Ruben Rosen received his gold-plated badge in recognition of his strong leadership over the last

twelve months and thought-provoking Whisperer insights. Thank you for your hard work and brain power Ruben!

Mike Lee wrapped up several years of hard work in organizing and promoting the Club's golf group this season. Many thanks Mike!

Friendly reminder – except for the 50\50 draw, the Club will no longer be taking cash for future events – i) debit ii) credit cards iii) cheques are appreciated and will reduce the record keeping burden. Thank you!

MINISTER OF CULTURE

The Honourable Minister performed well but issued a non-publication order to your scribe.

MEMBER PROFILE – KERRY BASKEY

Kerry has been a member for two years \ presently resides at Rupert's Landing \ previously Kimberly where he and his vivacious wife, Sue, ran a five-bedroom B&B "just for fun."

Kerry grew up in Port Hope \ graduated in 1963 from Ryerson in the architectural area.

Exciting and challenging building projects included the Manulife Centre [Bloor & Bay] and

the Palace Pier condominium high rise complex on Lake Ontario near the Humber River. Both complexes remain important Toronto landmarks.

Kerry's subsequent career included setting up and running a small Design /Build firm focusing on custom design \ renovations in both the large custom homes sector and hospitality industries. From there Terry and his partner teamed up with the principals of Barbarians Steak House which resulted in the creation of Telfer 's Restaurant \ The Office Bar in downtown Toronto in 1980 – one of the in spots!

During this period Kerry and his group were involved in developing the concept of a boutique hotel on the 28th and 29th floors of the newly completed Scotia Tower. Things were going well until the early 1980s recession hit!!! [Your editor remembers it well].

Thereafter Kerry's career turned to involvement in the development and franchising of a custom winery concept which grew to over 23 outlets in Ontario. Following his retirement from his involvement with "Wine Not" Kerry spent three years as project manager for the "proposed new Talisman Resort". During this time Kerry & Sue operated their "Jasper Stuart House" in Kimberly as a weekend B&B [a "hobby"]. Common sense subsequently prevailed and in 2003 Kerry & Sue sold their large three-story century home and moved to Collingwood to enjoy an active retirement. We are pleased to have Kerry as a Probus colleague.

OCTOBER SPEAKER – ROBERT BURCHER

Robert Burcher resides in the Beaver Valley, is a professional photographer with a deep interest in history. He describes himself as a "curious kind of guy". His talk at our October meeting detailed the results of his work in investigating the two-

year period that the subsequently famous Scottish American naturalist \ botanist, John Muir [1838- 1914], lived and worked in the Meaford area [1864-66] as a young man. During his lifetime John Muir became known as "John of the Mountains" and "Father of the National Parks". He was an influential Scottish-American naturalist, author, environmental philosopher, glaciologist, and early advocate for the preservation of wilderness in the United States.

Burcher's work and his talk to our Club focused on Muir's walking tour of two loops in parts of Southern Ontario [Upper Canada] in 1864 when Muir was just 26 years of age.

Robert had been amazed to discover, following his move to the Beaver Valley, that Muir had spent two years in Southern Ontario and had worked at a mill at Trout Hollow on the Head River near Meaford to support himself.

Burcher determined that Muir arrived in Bradford, Ontario in March 1864 and ended up in Meaford in September of that year. Everywhere he travelled [by foot] he carried a plant press on his back and collected plant specimens [236] which survive. The most famous was likely the Calypso Borealis Orchid ["I never saw a plant so full of life"] discovered near the Holland Marsh.

Burcher has written that Muir's 1864 walking expeditions consisted of two loops: i) Simcoe \ Dufferin Counties ii) Trafalgar Road route to Hamilton-Dundas then north to Meaford where John found work near Meaford. He continued to botanize [i.e. looking for plants & trees] along the Escarpment in his spare time travelling as far west as Owen Sound.

Muir returned to the States following the destruction of the mill where he was working by fire – the American Civil War had ended in 1865. Muir had been a "conscientious objector".

Thereafter he became increasingly prominent during his thirties. Muir is famous and highly regarded in the United States as a leading conservationist \ the founder of both the Sierra Club \ National Audubon Society and as the Father of the American National Parks System. His famous 1903 three-night camping trip with Theodore Roosevelt is said to have helped shape the U.S. president's own conservationist policies.

He died in Los Angeles in 1914.

Follow-up:

- Meaford Museum – wall of memorabilia – attracts American visitors
- PBS – documentary which runs at the Museum
- Honoured in San Francisco – “Muir Park “

[John Muir is not the John Muir who we honour for writing the lyrics of the “Maple Leaf Forever”]
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Our speaker was thanked and then asked to pick our fifty \ fifty winners.

FIFTY \ FIFTY WINNERS

Congratulations to Richard Hawkins & John Miller! Friendly reminder = winners are on the hook to man the 50\50 desk for the November meeting [or to arrange a substitute].

The meeting adjourned with many of our members enjoying the Legion's cuisine!

► NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4 – THE COLLINGWOOD LEGION – 9:45AM \ COFFEE 9:15 AM ON

► ► DECEMBER 6 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – December 4, 2018 – ALPINE

We are looking forward to our December 4 Christmas Luncheon at the fabulous new facility at the Alpine Ski Club. Food by “Men With Knives”. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Karin Euler, a Thornbury General Practitioner, will be presenting on her ongoing volunteer work to Tanzania each Fall to help the residents on an island situate in Lake Victoria. We are excited to have Dr. Euler and believe that her topic and presentation will be of great interest to members, spouses and partners! Please join your fellow Probus members and their guests as we continue the tradition of launching the Holiday Season.

**Note: Feedback: the “good, bad & the ugly”
► ► gord@halllaw.com**