



PROBUS CLUB OF COLLINGWOOD

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NEWSLETTER

SEPT., 2016

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY OCT. 6, 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: PAUL NATALE

NEWSLETTER:

ERIC SKEOCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Outgoing President John Megarry opened the meeting in his usual confident and welcoming manner and asked Ian Godwin to again lead us in the national anthem. It is noted that “us” has not yet replaced “sons”, though there are a few stalwarts who have quietly snuck in the change in advance of Senatorial sanction.

John welcomed our only guest in the person of Dr. Bob Galway, and also extended congratulations to new members Bob Monck and Eamon O’Dowd, both of whom were informed that the red strip on their new name tags is not to be interpreted as an advertisement for a Jamaican beer.

And speaking of new members, John informed the members that personal contacts are the best way to bring in new members, so if you have any friends who are just sitting around breathing air and growing hair, invite them along for a guest appearance at one of our meetings. One brief taste of what we have to offer will likely result in a new member. And incidentally we now have guest cards to pass out to unwitting friends or neighbours who might be interested in the club.

Then off we went into the AGM procedures, all neatly structured by Secretary Al Wallace. With dispatch the meeting was:

- called to order
- informed of the purpose of the meeting,
- reminded that anybody could speak if so moved,
- had the minutes of last year’s meeting not read,
- received the financial report and the auditor’s report,
- elected the new membership officers,

-and heard a motion that the 2015/2016 meeting was herewith terminated.

All of this went fairly smoothly. Outgoing President John Megarry expressed his thanks to the outgoing management team, and to the membership at large for their support. Bob MacNair presented John with his golden name tag, and led a well-deserved round of applause in recognition of John’s excellent work during the past year. [Ed. Note; I take this opportunity to thank John personally for his outstanding leadership, and for his ever-present wit.]

Bob MacNair then assumed the chair and thanked a number of members personally for their support during his time on the executive. He also thanked the members at large for their support.

SPEAKERS REPORT

Ruben Rosen reported that our Dr. Tom Stiff of the Canadian Space Agency will highlight the October meeting and George Soleas of the LCBO is scheduled for November.

SPEAKER ELIZABETH KLINCK

Al Wallace introduced our guest speaker, remarking on her stellar past as an award-winning researcher over several years both nationally and internationally. Notable regarding her many achievements are four Canadian Screen awards and an Emmy nomination.

Elizabeth got to the heart of things right away. “Here, she said, is what an archivist does and how I got into it.”

She began as a researcher for historian Arthur Lower at Queens University, and this led very

quickly to documentary film-making. In these early years she was mentored by Pierre Berton and over the years had an opportunity to work with many other such wonderful people.

The task of the archivist is to find the background and the personal connections upon which the material of a documentary film is based. For example, during the research for the Greenpeace documentary, over 60 hours of material was accumulated from a wide variety of sources, CBC files, home movies, even shoe-boxes of personal memories.

Elizabeth went on to cite a number of documentaries she worked on over the years and we were shown excerpts from several.

Her story about the 1988 Ben Johnson storey 9.79 was particularly moving. It turns out that off the eight competitors in the 100 metre final in 1988, six later admitted that they too had taken performance enhancing drugs prior to the race. Only Ben was caught, a tribute to Canada's diligence, and to the shame of other nations. The conclusive proof was supplied by an American doctor who had retained trays and trays of urine samples. The guiding mantra seemed to be "If you don't take it; you won't make it." Elizabeth added that apparently one of the side effects of the use of a particular enhancement drug was the distortion of the jaw. When reviewing an subsequent film clip of Carl Lewis, she noticed "a mouth full of braces".

Ben ended up a sad figure, living with his mother, his medals thrown into a box.

Another of Elizabeth's film clips was Muhammed Ali's The Last Round, which dealt with the George Chuvalo bout. Ali was interviewed at length, and had a great fondness for his Canadian experience. He said "he was never treated so nice", an experience markedly different from his experience in the U.S. An interesting aside to this story was that when Elizabeth tried to arrange an interview with Angelo Dundee, Ali's trainer, it could not be in New York because "there is an arrest warrant out on me in N.Y."

Other clips provided by Elizabeth revealed an eclectic range of topics. She showed us portions of

Once More VIN903847, a documentary of an old Volkswagen which had travelled around the world three times. The research led Elizabeth to find and interview the original owner of the car and had clips of the car en route.

Research on Margaret MacMillan's book on Paris 1919 required Elizabeth to seek out and interview individuals who were living in various European countries when the Paris Peace Conference was being held. (She discovered that working as a busboy in a Paris hotel was a young man named Ho Chi Min!) In addition to contemporary film clips, there were meticulously created recreations.

One of the documentaries particularly "near and dear" to Elizabeth was Water Life, a film dealing with invasive species in North American lakes. In order to create a factually valid documentary, colourful local fishers were filmed as they sped down waterways in the northern U.S. catching airborne Asian Carp with fish pond nets. The locals were having a riotous time, and film clip was hilarious but ecologically worrisome.

The need for an occasional happy film led Elizabeth to the filming of Pucker Up 2005, The Fine Art of Whistling. In creating a musical score for the film which was not copyrighted (and therefore expensive), Elizabeth had to go into the classics, eventually finding that the Bohemian Rhapsody was the perfect background for the puckered whistlers.

We could have easily spent another hour listening to anecdotes and viewing film clips. I think I heard Ruben invite Elizabeth for a return visit just before he thanked her and presented her with a Gerry DeLeskie pen set.

Our 50 50 winners were John Shadbolt and Ray Williams who will person the tables next month.

