

A good crowd of hardy members braved bone chilling temperatures and gale force winds to attend the first meeting of 2018. Not among the brave, however, was President Ruben Rosen, who was basking in balmy weather in Hawaii. Consequently, it was V P Greg Geen who did the honours, as Al Wallace led us in a rousing rendition of the national anthem.

Al Grondin introduced his guest, Tom Ridout, attending his first men's Probus meeting. (Tom was either very keen to meet us, or got bad info from Al, as he arrived at 8.45am for the 9.45 meeting - and hung in!)

We did have another guest, a woman who came thinking to join our motley crew, not realising it was a men's club. I did invite her to stay as we had a female profiler and author, but once she had time to look around and assess the character of the members, she flew the coop - and who could blame her?

### **Membership**

Membership Chair John Megarry indicated that there were no new members to introduce this month, but did appeal for additional support for the Membership Committee. Ken Adolph indicated a willingness to participate, but one or two others would be appreciated. Please contact John at [megarryj@gmail.com](mailto:megarryj@gmail.com).

### **Announcements**

- V P Geen reminded members that Jim Worts is looking for 2 team leaders to assist in starting up a couple of SIGS - Special Interest Groups. This sounds like a clandestine spy mission, but these are actually informal groups who'd meet periodically and share hobby type interests. Two initial suggestions are: Finance, in which members would discuss personal financial issues, and try to educate one another on financial matters (but NOT an investment club). The other is Computers, again, where members would discuss issues around computers, tablets, smart phones, etc. and try to educate each other and get more effective use out of their various technological devices. Interested members should sign up, or otherwise contact Jim. These groups would perhaps use the Collingwood Library's Community Room for these get togethers. So if you have some background or knowledge of either of these fields, and you can invest a few hours a month in leading your fellow Probites, please contact Jim.
- PROBUS Canada - the National organisation, is seeking a webmaster to maintain and update the National HQ website. This is a highly prestigious, but otherwise unpaid, role. If interested & qualified you should contact Bob MacNair, who, now that he's on the Board of Directors, (and is not immune to a bribe) has the necessary "pull" to get you in!
- V P Geen updated us on credit card and debit card transactions. Paul Natale, our Square (but actually hip) guru, advises that we can now accept both debit

and credit card transactions, but debit can only accept the “tap” contactless type of card. Our ever-parsimonious Treasurer Mike (squeeze the nickels ‘til the beaver squeals) Martynuik pointed out that credit card transactions cost us 2.65% of the amount, whereas tapped debit card transactions cost only 10 cents! So, members are encouraged to use debit where possible!!

- Past President Bob MacNair updated us on the great Probus Licence plate initiative. These will be available for between \$1.50 and \$2.00, depending on quantity ordered. Note that this is NOT a fundraiser, the objective is to sell these at cost.
- V P Geen thanked members on behalf of the CGMH for the generous donations of stuffed toys at the Christmas Luncheon. We delivered several large bags of toys, for which the hospital pediatric staff were very grateful.

### Social Committee

Gary Holzendorff, filling in for another southern climes deserter, Sandy White, reported on Social Committee plans, while simultaneously giving us a 15 minute stand up comedy routine. Who knew Gary was so funny? First, he pointed out that he was a man of few words, thereby drawing a distinction between himself and Greg Geen and Bob MacNair. (Hurtful, but accurate.)

To add to the hilarity Gary pointed out that all earlier signup forms were locked in the absentee Sandy White’s garage, so members had to sign up again! Further humour was added by our A V team who devilishly entered wrong dates on the event PowerPoint slides just to keep us all on our toes! However, Gary swears that the dates on the Blue cards (and below) are accurate!

- **Wednesday Jan 17<sup>th</sup>** 10.30 Snow shoeing at Bud & Sue Christensen’s estate. Bring lunch and libations. Spouses welcome. No signup needed - just show up!
  - o **DIRECTIONS:** 8315 21/22 sideroad, Duntroon. Coming south on 124 it is the first sideroad south of Duntroon lights, running west. Drive 1.6 km and look for the driveway on the left.
- **Wednesday Feb 7<sup>th</sup>** 10.30am. Plant tour, McLean Engineering. Sign up required, (one more opportunity to sign up at the Feb meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2018) max 20 guests - members only. Contact Steve Hawker 705-293-1422. Suggested charity donation minimum \$10 cash per attendee - matched by McLean!
- **Thursday Feb 8<sup>th</sup>**. Probus Curling Bonspiel - now fully subscribed. Let’s hope we send the right people this time. We haven’t won since before the Leafs got the Stanley Cup! Coach, skip and G M Tom Chisholm.
- **Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup>**. Blue Jays v Kansas City Royals, 4pm game. Bus departs Walmart Parking Lot at 11.00am. Cost \$75 all incl. There will be a 3-hour

hiatus between bus arrival and game time to allow members to see the sights in the Big Smoke and visit the cannabis stores. Spouses and guests welcome. Organiser: Al Fraser 705-888-9385.

- **Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup>**. Georgian Downs, “A night at the races” with dinner. Spouses and guests welcome. A wagering seminar to be provided by Richard “The Handle” Isaacson a week prior. Members should save their allowance for this worthwhile investment.
- **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June**, an evening boat cruise out of Collingwood Harbour aboard the Huronic. Skipped by Captain “Black Jack” Marley. Spouses and guests welcome. Time & cost TBA.
- **Thursday August 16<sup>th</sup>**. “Hairspray” at King’s Wharf Theatre, Penetang. Tickets \$43.50 ea. Spouses and guests welcome. As always there will be a picnic lunch before the matinee performance. Organiser is Sandy “The Impresario” White.
- Greg proposed an **October Theatre outing** to see the hit show **“Come From Away.”** This is running to packed houses in New York and Toronto. He has obtained a deal, for \$220 per person, which includes bus to and from Collingwood, and lunch at the Old Mill Inn. This is a bargain as seats are currently selling for much higher prices!

### **Ski Legends**

Brian Lucas, speaking for Ski Legends, announced their upcoming events.

More info here: <http://probusskilegends.ca/> :

- **Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup>**. Breakfast, free (to Legends members), 8.00am TSC.
- **Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup>** ski day at Craiglieth Ski Club 8.30am
- **Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup>**. Ski day at devil’s Glen Ski Club
- **Wednesday February 7<sup>th</sup>**. Dinner Dance, Alpine Ski Club 6.00pm (This event is open to non Legends members!)
- **Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup>** Ski Day Osler Ski Club
- **Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup>** Ski Day Alpine Ski Club
- **Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>** Ski Day Georgian Peaks Ski Club.

Brian also indicated that Legends organises other ski trips to European and North American destinations. They are looking for a few more skiers for a proposed bus ski trip to Quebec City March 18 to 23<sup>rd</sup>. If interested contact Al Peters 705-445-6125.

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### Speakers Committee

Paul Tranquada, co-chair of the Speakers Committee, announced future speakers;

- **February 1<sup>st</sup>.** Janet Peters “The Reluctant Sailor” will discuss her round the world sailing voyage and subsequent book with husband Al Peters. Profile by Tara Bone on The Red Cross.
- **March 1<sup>st</sup>** Brent Preston will discuss the trials and tribulations he encountered, (and wrote about in the Globe and Mail) of starting a commercial organic vegetable farm in Creemore.
- **April 5<sup>th</sup>.** Dr. John Fernandes, Forensic Pathologist, will discuss high profile murder cases he has worked on.

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### Profile

Profile: Sharron Brigham, Certified Reflexology Practitioner, educated us on the uses and health benefits of reflexology.

Reflexology is for all stages of life, meeting specific health needs, from those with disabilities, older people and their health status, to those suffering with serious illness, and mental illness. Reflexology relieves stress and releases tension, decreases anxiety and improves sleep patterns.

Feet are the maps of our body, internal organs and reflexes. It all ends in our feet and hands and starts with our brain. Reflexology is the physical act of applying pressure to the feet with specific thumb, finger, and hand techniques on the reflexes in our feet that represents the internal organs in our body. Reflexology is based on zone theory and those zones run through the body from the top of the toes to the brain, from the tip of the fingers to the brain. The body is all connected as one, in a system that can not do with out balance, tranquility, a time to be.

Some members were seen removing socks and shoes, now seeing their feet in a completely new light!

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### Minister of Culture.

Wayne Caswill entertained us in his usual inimitable style with some stories about:

- The BMW that had crap in the carb
- How the Jewish kid celebrates Christmas
- The drunk on the subway and the cause of the Pope's arthritis.
- And Satan appearing at the cowboy's church service.

I won't spoil these by revealing the punch lines. If you missed the meeting, ask a friend to relay the jokes!

Hal Keiser then ran a hilarious short selfie video, of himself, dancing for joy when he found out his mother-in-law wasn't visiting....

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### Featured Speaker

Paul Tranquada introduced our featured speaker, Cecily Ross.

Ms. Ross had a long and distinguished career as a journalist, editor, and author. Now residing in Creemore, she has written for numerous Canadian newspapers and magazines, and had a lengthy stint at the Globe and Mail as a journalist and editor.

She has published two books; the first a memoir, "Love in the Time of Cholesterol" was widely acclaimed by Canadian print and broadcast media. Her most recent, published in 2017, a work of historical fiction, "The Lost Diaries of Susanna Moodie" is based on the 1852 book by Susanna Moodie, "Roughing it in the Bush" which described the harrowing life she led upon leaving a genteel life and growing success as an author in England to immigrate to then backwoods Canada - now Lakefield, Ontario.

Cecily Ross gives us an unprecedented fictional portrait of Susanna—the sister, wife, mother, writer—a woman confronting both the wilds of Canada and the wilderness of her own heart. Told through imagined lost diaries, the novel explores Susanna's complex inner life from childhood through to the worst challenges of pioneering in a harsh and unforgiving landscape with her devoted but hapless and often absent spouse.

Part love story, part coming-of-age narrative, this captivating novel brings to vivid life Moodie's courage, wit and strength, as well as her moments of despair. *The Lost Diaries of Susanna Moodie* shows how one woman, against all odds and adversity, prevails and makes this savage and beautiful land her own.

Paul fielded some questions from the floor, then thanked Cecily and presented her with the customary Gerry Deleski hand made pen & pencil set. She made herself available for book signing afterwards.

The 50/50 winners were: Wayne Caswill and Bob Moenck, who will staff the 50/50 table in February.

