



THE PRO-BUZZ

JANUARY, 2008

NORTHUMBERLAND PROBUS CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

ONCE AGAIN, OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS.

Arriving for a 5 p.m. start, Probus members and guests, looking resplendent in their party finery, were welcomed by the Christmas committee.

The Lions Centre, our usual venue, was also dressed overall. The hall was beautifully lit and decorated; the tables clustered around the stage, which was edged with poinsettias, and were completed with handmade table centers with ornaments. A very festive and welcoming ambience.

Following a social hour, our President Barry Hollis welcomed everybody and invited Jo Carleton to say grace, which, as always, was very moving and beautiful. Dancing to the music provided by Bob Trennum and Lee Batchelor was in evidence even before dinner.

Dinner, a salad and roast turkey with all the trimmings was beautifully presented and served, followed by Cindy's special dessert of filo pastry, mascarpone cheese and strawberry coulis.

Our very special guest MRS. CLAUS visited, accompanied by her ELVES in costume, complete with shoes with turned-up toes. This was preceded by a spirited carol singing session led by Bob and Lee. Mrs. Claus, who came prepared to give many hugs, presided over the Christmas Draw where a selection of varied prizes were won by members, and delivered individually by the elves. Mrs. Claus did tell us that unfortunately Mr. Claus was unable to join her as he suffered from "migraine headaches".



None of this would have been possible without the enthusiastic and energetic preparations of the Christmas Committee: Marian Boys, Joanna Dwinell, Vivian Foster, Anna Langley, Theresa Smith, Doris Rasmussen and Marcie Polson; chaired by Moyra Brown..

A very special "Thank You" to Verna who helped us tremendously, and of course to Food Director Cindy Phillips and her staff, and last, but by no means least, to Bob and Lee, who provided the music for carols and dancing, and of course to Mrs. Claus and her Elves.

A very wonderful time was followed by dancing. Thank you to all the Probus members who came prepared to party!!!!

Prepared by: **Moyra Brown**

Editor's Note: I tried to find a Mrs. Claus graphic, which would have been more appropriate for our party this year, but could not locate one.



COMING EVENTS

Robbie Burns Day Celebration – Regular Probus Meeting - Thursday, January 24th.

Dinner Theater – “Not Now Darling” – Friday, February 1st – Tickets available in January.

Valentine’s Day Luncheon – Regular Probus Meeting – Thursday, February 14th
Bring a signed Valentine’s Card.

Dirty Dancing Show – Wednesday, April 9th (seats are still available for this trip) - Wednesday, May 14th (this trip is sold out) - \$120.

Provided By: **Verna Templer**

MEETING SPEAKERS

Thursday, January 10th

Ron Cameron – Principal of Education at Brookside Training School – Speaking on Restorative Justice.

Thursday, January 24th

Coleen Dupuis – Speaking on “Services for Women”.

Thursday, February 14th

Diane Buckler – PowerPoint Presentation on “Village of Hope” in Africa.

Provided by: Ron Templer

SIGNS

At the Electric Company : "We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a Restaurant window : "Don't stand there and be hungry. Come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home : "Drive carefully. We'll wait. "

Provided by: **Pamela Jackson**

THIS IS ME

Editor’s Note: Beginning in January, we are including a new feature in the Pro-Buzz entitled “This Is Me”. This month, we are featuring our current President and our Past President, and in future editions we plan to use this vehicle to introduce our new members. Hopefully, this information will help to expedite the integration of these new members into our club.

Page 2 of 4

This is Me

Name: Barry Hollis

This is how I spent my adult/working life:

Most of my working life was spent in change management positions, clinical research, Children's mental health, Developmental Disabilities and "administrivia".

I also spent time administering changes within Non-Profit organizations to facilitate broader care and treatment options within communities. I ended my working career at Ryerson University to bring technology into the curriculum within the Business Faculty.

This is what interests me and what I spend my time doing:

In addition to enjoying travel and our home with my good lady, I spend significant amount of time with the Concert Band of Cobourg and take great "Pride in Performance" that the band provides. We both enjoy the outdoors, and playing (at) golf. I enjoy paddling, and refinishing furniture. I read and am a bit of a news junkie. I have fairly broad interests and enjoy many sporting activities both as a participant and audience.

These are my pastimes and what I enjoy doing:

I bowl, play (at) darts and golf, do statistical support for golf/bowling groups and support individuals in making their computers behave (this is gratis for seniors). I also refurbish computers and make them available to those who need.

These are the things I would like to do if others might be interested:

Perhaps a fishing derby might be a fun activity.

THIS IS ME

Name: Michael Hanlon

This is how I spent my adult/working life:

Journalism. In Canada since 1958 as copy editor, magazine copy editor, entertainment editor and daily columnist at Globe and Mail until 1964; then joined new Canadian Magazine as staff writer, posted to Vancouver as Western Canada correspondent, also covering the North and U.S. West Coast, including Hollywood; joined Toronto Star around 1970-71 as daily columnist, then special feature writer, visiting every Canadian province and on many out-of-country assignments, as feature writer (groan – including Hollywood again) and foreign correspondent, Toronto Star European Bureau Chief based in London and covering Europe and Middle East in late Eighties. Retired late 1998.

This is what interests me and what I spend my time doing:

Much reading of newspapers, magazines, novels, poetry. Schlepping about. Travel. Theatre. Golf, sort of. Tai chi. Cooking. Eating.

These are things I'd like to do if others are interested:

Perhaps add a writing club – much like an art club of amateur artists – to Probus or the Lunch Bunch. An inter-club polo tournament alongside the bowling and curling. How about our own dragon boat?

The Ranch Hand

A successful rancher died and left everything to his devoted wife. She was determined to keep the ranch, but knew very little about ranching, so she placed an ad in the newspaper for a ranch hand.

Two cowboys applied for the job. One was gay and the other a drunk. She thought long and hard about it, and when no one else applied she decided to hire the gay guy, figuring it would be safer to have him around the house than the drunk. He proved to be a hard worker who put in long hours every day and knew a lot about ranching. For weeks the two of them worked hard and the ranch was doing very well.

Then one day, the rancher's widow said "You have done a really good job, and the ranch looks great. You should go into town and kick up your heels." The hired hand readily agreed and went into town on Saturday night. He returned around 2:30 am, and upon entering the room, he found the rancher's widow sitting by the fireplace with a glass of wine, waiting for him.

She quietly called him over to her. "Unbutton my blouse and take it off", she said. Trembling, he did as she directed. "Now take off my boots." He did as she asked, ever so slowly. "Now take off my socks." He removed each gently and placed them neatly by her boots. "Now take off my skirt." He slowly unbuttoned it, constantly watching her eyes in the fire light. "Now take off my bra." Again, with trembling hands, did as he was told and dropped it to the floor.

Then she looked at him and said: "If you ever wear my clothes into town again, you're fired!"

SIGNS

On a Fence: "Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive!"

At a Car Dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

Outside a Muffler Shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

Provided by: **Pamela Jackson**