



ganaraska currents

August 2011

Volume 5 Number 8



OF BROOD MARES, COLTS AND FILLIES...



Meet 'OK GORGEOUS' of Oak Knoll Stables!

On July 14 our speaker was Caroline Thornton who operates Oak Knoll Stables on 40 acres near Elizabethville where she breeds and raises Standardbred horses. The stables were founded in 2005 at which time there was only one small stable and 3 horses. A significantly larger stable was built that year which today houses 28 horses. Caroline explained that Standardbreds are a breed of horse best known for their ability to race in harness at a trot or pace. Many of the horses born and raised at Oak Knoll can be seen at Kawartha Downs.

There are no stallions at the stables, the breeding being done by artificial insemination. There are currently nine mares at Oak Knoll, each one producing one foal a year. The gestation period is 11 months and the mares are impregnated 30 days after a foal is born. This brings a new understanding to the term "brood mare"!

The mares are bred for approximately ten years after which time they are retired. The mares are impregnated during the months of April and May with the foals being born the following spring. The foals are approximately 120 lbs at birth and are able to stand within an hour. (More next col.)

Caroline showed us a wonderful video of a foal being born. After the foals are born, they stay with their Moms for approximately 5 months and then they are weaned. When the foals are a year and a half old, they weigh about 1,000 lbs and are sold. Many of the Standardbred horses born at Oak Knoll have gone on to be champion racehorses and big money winners throughout North America.

A couple of weeks after Caroline's presentation at our meeting, Michele Duval-Lane and I went to visit Caroline at Oak Knoll to see first hand how the business operates. After a tour of the very impressive stables and lab facilities, Caroline took us out to the paddocks to meet the mares and their foals.

They are absolutely adorable and so gentle. Caroline knows them all by name and they recognize her voice when she calls. Even though it is very hard work, it is obvious when seeing Caroline with the horses that they are her passion and joy and she admitted it is hard to part with them at sale time. Thank you Caroline for your wonderful presentation and for taking the time to show me and Michele around the farm.

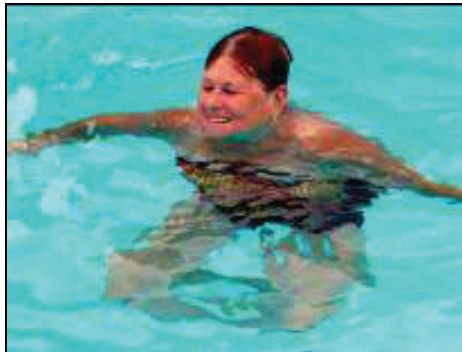


Caroline with OK GODIVA, a beautiful, sweet natured filly

APPIES AND DRINKS

Photos: Eric Blaikie

Many thanks to Joan and Mike O'Grady who hosted the Appies and Drinks on Friday, July 22 at their lovely home in Port Hope. A large group of members attended on this hot afternoon with many of the ladies enjoying dangling their feet in the pool while watching Lyn Bradshaw having a swim. As always, there was a fabulous array of food, lots of cold drinks and lively conversation.



Lyn enjoying herself in the pool.



Guys shootin' the breeze.



Lois Frizzell, Pat Rawson, our hostess Joan O'Grady, Marion Griffin, Betsy Wright and Jan Blaikie paddling in the pool

ROVERS' NIGHT OUT

Photos: Ron Frizzell

On Tuesday, July 12 dinner was enjoyed at the Winchester Arms in Port Hope with a lot of laughs & conversation with possibly most of the world's problems being solved.



Decisions, decisions....what shall we eat??



Frank Griffin a-rovin'.....



Reg Colborne and Tom McMahon sharing a laugh!

WESTBEN CONCERT AND DINNER

Photos by Eric Blaikie

We heard the history of Westben when its founders, Brian Finley and Donna Bennett, came to one of our meetings last winter with a presentation about this wonderful facility and entertained us with some of their music.

On July 21, the hottest day on record, a group of 52 members drove to Campbellford for the afternoon performance of "Broadway at the Barn – Send in the Sondheim!" Brian and Donna were joined on stage by three amazing singers as well as two young opera students. Despite the intense heat, a good time was had by all and the bags of ice cubes and ice cold cloths distributed by the theatre's volunteers were very much appreciated.

After the performance we all went to Christ Church Anglican in Campbellford for a delicious roast beef dinner prepared by the Church ladies group. Imagine our delight when we found that the church hall was air conditioned!



A really grand finale!



Starting clockwise at bottom: Elaine Simmons, Betty Curtis, Lorna Turner who organized the trip to Westben, Lynda Britton, Bruce Britton, Charlie Dobbie, Gwen Logan and Lyn Bradshaw.

PUB NITE

Yet another good night at the Beamer for 12 members!



UPCOMING SPEAKERS

August 11: Dave Rosborough, Manager of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Harwood Fish Culture Station, will be present to share with us the important role that this centre plays in the stocking of Ontario's lakes and rivers. He will show how the fish are reared. It is hoped that a tour of this facility can be arranged at a later date.

September 22: Jim Morrison, a former NHL player, will speak to us about his time in the big league.

October 13: Constable Marino of the Port Hope Police Service will address the issue of senior safety and identity theft.

NEW MEMBERS
Judy and Bruce Hooper

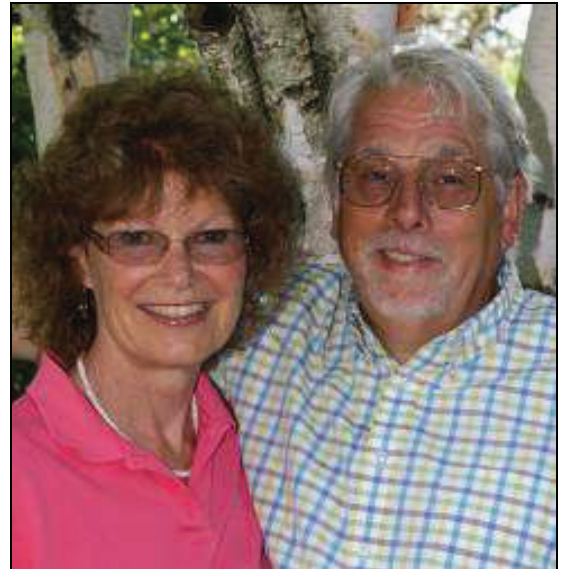


We moved to Newcastle in May 2009 and after extensive renovations on our home, we have finally settled in.

Bruce is an avid photographer and still works in the field on an occasional basis and he also enjoys fishing with family and friends.

I have been retired from Ontario Power Generation since 2006. My hobbies include gardening and watercolor painting (just learning). We both enjoy exercising our black lab Digger, and of course, we take great pleasure in the time we spend with our long standing friends, Liz and John Forder and with our children, Jen and Brett and their spouses and especially our three grandchildren, Ben, Beth and Ewan.

MORE NEW MEMBERS
Liz and John Forder



Liz and John have been married 41 years and during our married life we have moved a number of times to facilitate our careers. Liz worked for Ontario Hydro for 27 years and has been joyfully retired for eleven years. John retired from Trelleborg, as Canadian General Manager and has been retired for six years. In 2002 we built our dream home in Huntsville then in 2010 we moved to Port Hope to be closer to family and friends. John is passionate about fishing and making sawdust in his workshop. Liz enjoys gardening, reading and walking. We both enjoy traveling, best of friends, laughing and life.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dalewood Golf Club

- Date: Thursday, September 8, 2011
- 9am Coffee & Muffins
- 9h30 – 10h00 Business Meeting
- 10h00 Garry's Trivial Pursuit Contest
- 12h00 Cash bar
- 12h30 Lunch
- Cost: \$20.00 per person

Please see Ken O'Neill at our August 11 meeting for sign up and payment.

50-50 WINNERS

June 14: June Lentir won \$49.00!

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CATERERS

Captain: **Georgina & Bryan Rose**

August 11 Linda Popham
 Lois & Ron Frizzell

Sept. 22 To be announced

GREETERS

August 11 Barb Tiffin & Carole Elliott

Sept 22 To be announced

If unavailable to attend please find a substitute.

FOR WORD LOVERS

A boiled egg is . . . hard to beat.

**When you've seen one shopping center . . .
you've seen a mall.**

**Police were called to a day care where a
three-year-old was . . . resisting a rest.**

**Did you hear about the fellow whose whole
left side was cut off? . . . He's all right now.**

**If you take a laptop computer for a run you
could . . . jog your memory.**

A bicycle can't stand alone; . . . it is too tired.

**In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in
feudalism, . . . it's your Count that votes.**

**When a clock is hungry . . . it goes back four
seconds**

**The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine
. . . was fully recovered.**

**He had a photographic memory . . . which was
never developed.**

**Those who get too big for their britches will
be . . . exposed in the end.**

**When she saw her first strands of gray hair, . .
she thought she'd dye.**

Acupuncture: . . . a jab well done.

**Local Area Network in Australia: . . . The LAN
down under.**

**You know you can tune a piano, but you can't
tuna fish.**

To write with a broken pencil is . . . pointless!



**When fish are in schools they sometimes . . .
take debate.**

**A thief who stole a calendar . . . got twelve
months.**

**When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, . . .
U.C.L.A.**

**The professor discovered that her theory of
earthquakes . . . was on shaky ground.**

**The batteries were given out . . . free of
charge.**

**A dentist and a manicurist married. . . . They
fought tooth and nail.**

A will is a . . . dead giveaway.

**If you don't pay your exorcist . . . you can get
repossessed.**

**With her marriage, she got a new name . . .
and a dress.**

**Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft
and I'll show you . . . A-flat miner.**

**You are stuck with your debt if . . . you can't
budge it.**

UPCOMING EVENTS...

EUCHRE

Tuesday, Sept. 6 from 1h30 to 4h00 at the Ruth Clark Center. Every other Tuesday. **If any members who did not play last year are interested, call Lois Meadows to see if space is available. 905-885-6715**

APPIES & DRINKS

On Friday, August 26 at Sam & Pat Rawson's home, 20 Shortreed Lane. From 3 to 6pm. Max: 24 members. Bring your own glasses.
Sam & Pat Rawson: 905-885-7323

SUMMER PICNIC

Thursday, August 25 at Irwin's Farm. Same caterer as last year! Live entertainment!
Cost: \$7 for members and \$15 non-members. Sign up and pay up at Aug. 11 meeting if you haven't already done so.
Carolyn Williams 905-885-4309



APPIES & DRINKS FOR SEPTEMBER

Friday, Sept. 16 from 1h30 to 5h30. At Gayl & Larry Squires, 44 Huffman Ave. **Max: to be confirmed.** Sign up at Aug. 11 meeting with Gayl & Larry.
Gayl & Larry Squires: 905-885-1537

CAR RALLY

Thursday, Sept. 29.
Leave from the Lions Center, Elgin St. Cobourg at approx. 11:00 A.M. Rain or shine
Full Roast Beef lunch at destination.
Cost: \$10 for members; \$12 non-members
Last chance to sign up and pay
Barry McMahon/Don Newington



LUNCH BUNCH

Venue to be announced. Following our meeting on Thursday, Sept. 22.
Maggie Colborne

ONGOING EVENTS & CONTACTS

PUB NITE

Join us for dinner, conversation & drinks.
Last Tuesday of the month
6:00 PM at the Beamish House

Coordinator: George Grimes 905-885-1594

APPIES & DRINKS

Bring an appetizer and your own drinks
Coordinator: Marilyn Dunne 905-786-2549

EUCHRE

Every other Tuesday from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Clarke Center.

Coordinator: Lois Meadows 905-885-6715

LUNCH BUNCH

Following the last meeting of the month at various venues.

Coordinator: Maggie Colborne 905-885-1722

CONTACT INFORMATION Ganaraska Valley Probus Club Executive 2010 – 2011

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