



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



VALENTINE TRIVIA

February has been the month to celebrate love for a long time, dating back to the Middle Ages. In fact, Valentines ranks second only to Christmas in the number of greeting cards sent. But how did it all start?

Legend has it that Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome. There was an Emperor at that time by the name of Claudius II. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those who were married. With this thought in mind he outlawed marriage for young men in hopes of building a stronger military base. Supposedly, Valentine decided this decree just wasn't fair and chose to marry young couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions he had him put to death.

Another legend has it that Valentine was an imprisoned man who fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Before he was put to death he sent the first 'valentine' himself when he wrote her a letter and signed it 'Your Valentine', words still used on cards today. (I like this legend much better).

Another valentine gentleman you may be wondering about is Cupid (Latin cupido, "desire"). In Roman mythology Cupid is the son of Venus, goddess of love. His counterpart in Greek mythology is Eros, god of love. Cupid is often said to be a mischievous boy who goes around wounding both gods and humans with his arrows, causing them to fall in love.



VALENTINE'S QUIZ

1. What is the most popular way to say "Be Mine" - Flowers, Cards, or Candy?
2. What fruit is also known as the "love apple?"
3. Who was the first television couple to share a bed on air (instead of twin beds)?
4. What card company is the top seller of Valentine's cards in America?
5. What percentage of flowers bought on Valentine's Day are bought by men?
6. Name one the two mob bosses believed to be involved in the St Valentine's Day massacre.
7. Between girlfriends, wives, mothers, and teachers, who receives the most cards?
8. If a woman sees a robin on Valentine's Day, what kind of a man will she marry?
9. "Ie Ovele Ouye" is I Love You in what language?
10. What is the winged child shooting love arrows at the unsuspected?
11. What color M&M is thought to be an aphrodisiac?
12. Who is Mickey Mouse's valentine?

ANSWERS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD

Canada's Continuing Role in Afghanistan

Our speaker on January 12 was Colonel Greg Smith of the Canadian Forces who gave us an impressive presentation about life in Afghanistan, both from the standpoint of the Canadian soldier and the Afghan people. Greg is the son of Probus member Ron Smith.



Colonel Greg Smith

Colonel Smith was born in Oshawa, Ontario and went to Port Hope High School before joining the Canadian Forces in 1988. He has been a soldier for 23 years and has a BA in Military and Strategic Studies, a MA in War Studies and a MA in Defence Studies. He has deployed to Afghanistan twice: once as the Operations Officer for 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, in Kabul from 2003 to 2004 and later in Kandahar from 2009 to 2010. He will be deploying again to Kabul in February 2012 as the Deputy Task Force Commander for Operation ATTENTION which will be training the Afghan military and police.

With the help of many informative slides, Greg gave us an overview of the history of Afghanistan and explained how and why the conflict began.

With Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan ending in 2011, its training mission for the Afghan military and police has taken on a larger role with up to 950 Canadians to serve in Afghanistan until 2014 in a non-combat training role. In this way, Canada will be helping to build the kind of disciplined and effective security force needed to ensure stability and promote peace and economic development for the Afghan people.

Thank you Greg for a very informative presentation and we wish you well in your upcoming deployment.



GONE FLY FISHING IN ALASKA!



Our speaker was Dave Watson and he regaled us with tales of fishing in Alaska with his father and some friends. He told us of the logistics of getting to the Ayakulik River in the wilderness on Kodiak Island where they were going to do some fly fishing for salmon. We're talking BIG salmon—some reaching 30 to 40lbs!!

Bears were another problem they had to contend with. We watched a wonderful video of bears, sows and their cubs, and their daily life on the river, source of their food supply. By mid-September, as the days grow shorter, and shadows lengthen, upwards of 30,000 chrome-plated Coho storm the Ayakulik. Then as a fitting end to the season, late September through October, the steelhead, prince of Kodiak, makes his return.



Seaplane used to get to the rivers. It is the only way to get there.

APPIES & DRINKS

The first appies and drinks event of 2012 was held at the beautiful country home of Marilyn Dunne and Dave Strong on January 13. Despite the snowy day, the afternoon was most enjoyable. Some members braved the outdoors and Dave led a lovely walk in the snow through the woods.



Joan Bebee, Michele Duval Lane and Marilyn Dunne



Steve Snell, Jan Blaikie, Dave Strong, Joan O'Grady, Anthony Skinner and Larry Squire



Jan Blaikie, Joan O'Grady and Michele Duval Lane having way too much fun

SANTA'S LEFTOVERS

Yes, even Santa has leftovers – gifts that somehow got left on his sleigh. While Santa is now settled into his year-long nap, Mrs. Claus (aka Dorothy Giddings) was on hand at our January 12 meeting to make sure the sleigh is empty & ready for next year.



A "Joke a Day" for Barb Tiffin



Past President, Garry Curtis, checking the size of his stunning new bathing suit. Looks perfect for your next cruise Garry!



Gayl Squire is thrilled with her note pad and pen to help her remember names!

HELP WANTED

I'm sure you will all agree that our Probus Club owes much of its success to our members who volunteer on the various committees that make our meetings and events so enjoyable. However, sometimes our committees need a little extra help, namely:

Our Program Committee is always looking for ideas for speakers for our meetings. If any members hear of an interesting speaker or if you have a topic you would like explored, Joyce Ferguson would love to hear from you at joycejohnf@gmail.com or 905-797-2555.

If any of you hear of any member who might benefit from a card from our Club to let them know we are thinking of them and wishing them well through any difficult times, please let our secretary, Gail Chadwick know at chadwickg@sympatico.ca or 905-885-0585.

As mentioned in the January newsletter, the Special Events Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with various events throughout the year. If you would like to help out with any of the special events listed in the previous newsletter, Carolyn Williams would love to hear from you at carolyn.joan@gmail.com or 905-885-4309.

And last but not least, we are looking for a member to take over as our Probus merchandise representative as soon as possible. If you feel you could help in this capacity, please contact Joan Bebee at 905-885-1314.

Thank you everyone and remember ...

There is no "I" in Team but there is a "u" in volunteer!

VALENTINE'S DAY GROANERS

Q: Why did the cannibal break up with his girlfriend?

A: She didn't suit his taste!

Q: What did the bat say to his girlfriend?

A: "You're fun to hang around with."

Q: What did the French chef give his wife for Valentine's Day?

A: A hug and a quiche!

Q: What do farmers give their wives on Valentine's Day?

A: Hogs and kisses!

...More 'Fishing in Alaska' photos...



Three bear cubs with their mother



Mike the Guide with Dave's dad, George Watson



The bear family relaxing on the beach after a feed

These photos from the computer video presentation were taken off the screen, so the quality is not as sharp as live photos. It was a beautiful presentation and showed a side of Alaska which most of us had never seen before.

SHARE THE WEALTH WINNER

January 26. Linda Goldie won \$47.50.



FEBRUARY/MARCH CREWS CATERERS

February 9

Captains Reg & Maggie Colborne
Helpers Helen Dayman
Shirley Harrison

February 23

Captains Marion Griffin/Joan Bebee
Helpers Dorothy Spicer
Eunice Hogg
Frank Griffin

March 8

Captain Gayl Squire
Helpers Lynda & Bruce Britton
June Gibson

March 22

Captain Jan Blaikie
Helpers Suzanne Finnie
Doreen Sproule
Joan Little

GREETERS

February 9

Barb Tiffin
Doreen Sproule

February 23

Janet Tedford
Anita Cotter

March 8

John & Betsy Wright

March 22

Verne & Lois Meadows

SOME THOUGHTS WORTH THINKING ABOUT

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.

John F. Kennedy

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

Mark Twain

Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.

Dr. Seuss

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Winston Churchill

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Maya Angelou

How about making this for your Valentine?

RED VELVET CAKE

2½ cups cake flour
1 tsp. salt
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
1½ cups granulated sugar
2 eggs
3 tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
½ tsp Wilton's red food coloring
1½ tsp. pure vanilla
1 cup buttermilk
1 tsp. cider or white vinegar
1 tsp. baking soda

Preheat oven to 350°F for 15 minutes before baking cake.

In a mixing bowl, sift together flour and salt. Set aside.

In a separate mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, on medium speed for three minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.

In a small bowl, stir together cocoa powder, food coloring and vanilla extract. Beat this into the butter mixture.

Stir 1/3 of the flour mixture into the butter mixture, alternating with 1/2 of the buttermilk, another 1/3 of flour, the remaining buttermilk, and the remaining flour mixture; stir just until blended.

In a cup, combine vinegar and baking soda. Mixture will fizz. Stir this into the batter and combine well.

Divide batter evenly between two greased and floured 9-inch round cake pans.

Bake for about 22 to 28 minutes until a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean.

Allow cakes to cool in pans on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Run a blunt knife along edges of pan to free cake; remove cake gently from pans and cool completely on wire rack.

Ice with Cream Cheese Icing



UPCOMING EVENTS...

APPIES & DRINKS

Wednesday, February 22 at 1.30 p.m. at Gail and Garry Chadwick's home. 54 Baxter Place.

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Monday, February 13. Northumberland Mall Bowling Alley. 9.30 a.m. for a 10.00 a.m. start. Cost: \$10 for 3 games, 50¢ for shoes. \$18 for lunch afterwards at Cobourg Lions Club. Come out and help us get rid of the dreaded toilet seat.

ROVERS NITE OUT on Wed. Feb. 15. at The Carlisle Bistro, 6pm. (This is old 'Palm' Restaurant. Corner Augusta & Pine St.)

PARKWOOD ESTATE

May 31. Mark your calendar for this event which will include a tour and lunch. More details to follow. Isn't it great to be thinking Spring??!?!?

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

February 9

Aces of Harmony Barbershop Chorus. A group of 12 singers from Peterborough.



February 23



Chris Hoskin, a 6th generation dairy farmer from Northumberland County will speak about the history of his farm, his life experiences on his family owned and operated farm and the challenges faced in a world of fast paced advancing technology.

??DO YOU HAVE ANY BRIGHT IDEAS??



If you have any ideas or suggestions for the newsletter, I'd love to hear from you. Perhaps an article or story about Port Hope that you think may be of interest to our members? Do you like the trivia and recipes? Is there anything else you'd like to see as a regular feature?

Equally, if there's anything you *don't* like about the newsletter, I'd like to know that too. We have a Suggestion Box at our meetings if you want to remain anonymous! Remember – this is *your* newsletter.

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: Marilynn Dunne 905-786-2549

EUCHRE

Every 2nd Tuesday from 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. at Ruth Clarke Senior Centre, 81 Mill Street
Coordinator: Lois Meadows 905-885-6715

LUNCH BUNCH

After the last meeting of the month.
Coordinator: Maggie Colborne 905-885-1722

BOWLING

1st Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at Northumberland Mall Bowling Alley.
Coordinators: Georgina & Bryan Rose 905-797-3415

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GANARASKA CURRENTS

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