



PROBUS PATTERN

April 2012
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President's Message

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SPECIAL EVENTS
CATHARINE RAMSEY

NEWSLETTER
CAROLYN WEBB



The months do seem to fly by. It is hard to believe that spring has arrived and that it is April already.

Last month our club was saddened by the death of Richard Chubb. Richard was a long time member of The Port Hope and District Probud Club and was always cheerful and a willing volunteer. We shall miss him. Our most sincere sympathy goes out to his family and friends.

During the past few months our members have been traveling here and there. Upon their return home they always look so healthy and refreshed. Let it never be said that seniors don't get around. If you have a tale to tell after your time away, please let the editor or your president know.

I want to thank you for filling out the questionnaire about the Christmas Party. As I said before this is your Club and your Management Committee represents you. We needed to know and be able to respond to your wishes. We have booked the Lions' Centre for Tuesday, December 4th, 2012 and shall move forward from there.

Even though I do not have a drop of Irish blood in me, I set out to celebrate with the Irish at the Beamish last Tuesday. I arrived a little later than most. When I opened the front door there were wonderful sounds of happy people chattering and laughing.

Many thanks to Terry Bell from all of us who totally enjoyed a fun filled evening and an excellent Irish dinner provided by Gary and his staff.

We have invited The Ganaraska Valley Probud Club to join with us on May 15th. Please mark that special day on your calendars.

Also the Adamsons have once again kindly invited us for a spring picnic on June 12th, 2012. Needless to say we have accepted the invitation.

Before I sign off this time, let me remind you that we need volunteers. We need hosts for "Appies and Drinks", someone to perhaps plan a lunch group and book a restaurant, organize a card party, golf group, the picnic etc. Plan ahead for next year's Management Committee. Gary will need help.

Barb

Probud Patter
The newsletter of the
Port Hope and District
Probud Club
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SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF AN AGING CLUB

By Pauline Carrick, President 1999-2000

As I look through the back issues of our newsletter, Probus Patter, I know our club used to have more energy. We went on wonderful trips, including a bus load of enthusiasts to St. John, New Brunswick, for an international Probus meeting in 2008, boat cruises, play trips to Stratford and Niagara-on-the-Lake, some overnight, etc.

In 2008 (only four years ago!) our club had the energy to organize an extremely successful area meeting, Spring Fling, in which 15 clubs took part. By pulling together and working hard, we put on an event that brought us many kudos.

As a club, we have enjoyed annual events, such as car rallies, picnics, corn roasts, Christmas galas, St. Patrick's Day parties, and any other excuse to have a party or an outing. Now, it's almost as much work to find someone to say "YES, I will help" as it is to plan the event.

Our energy is flagging. It's time to face the problems that go with an aging club.

When we began in 1998, we were a sprightly and enthusiastic group of people in their 60s and 70s. Add the intervening 14 years to those ages and the Charter Members are now in their mid 70s and mid 80s. We have lost several members and others are no longer able to take an active part.

Of course, through the years, new members have joined our merry throng and have come forward to join the management team and organize the events that make Probus an interesting club to want to belong to. But if you look around, it's evident that the oldsters dominate.

One event that has influenced the "aging" of our club is that we spawned a new Probus Club in 2007 as our waiting list was too long. The Ganaraska Club has attracted many of the younger retirees and they are now in the position that we were when the majority of our members were younger.

I was present at the embryonic stage of our club when a few of us met in Doug Gellatly's living room and he told us about Probus Clubs for retirees. Did we want to start one up in Port Hope? (Cobourg already had a club, 3 years old at that point.) Enthusiastically we said YES and chose an executive from those people, with Doug as President and me as Vice-President. Then we began to learn everything we needed to know. The local Rotary Club was required to sponsor us, and then we were off to the races, making things up as we went along, and having fun in the process.

Now we would like to pass the baton on and take a well earned rest.

What to do? In my opinion, I believe our newer members must be willing to say YES, just as we did in our charter stage, and essentially "take over" the running of the club. In the natural order of the world, the old must give way to the new. With the energy of our older members fading, we need the vitality and new ideas of fresh blood. We need YOU! After all, in the beginning, we didn't know what we were doing either.

When my English mother was trying to get us kids to do something, she'd say, "Remember, one volunteer is better than ten pressed men." Referring, of course, to the old days when the British Navy used to get its new supply of sailors by sending crews of thugs out to the port streets and "pressing" unlucky stray men to join their ranks.

So, we cordially (urgently?) invite the newer members to say "YES, how can I help?" There are lots of opportunities from organizing one small event to serving on the executive. President Barb Loucks or Vice President Gary Webb or any other members of the Executive would love to hear those welcome words.

PROBUS INSURANCE

A couple of years ago several clubs, mostly in Northumberland, raised questions about insurance coverage for members. It was learned that the fee we pay to National was for director's insurance only.

The concern was that we were not covered if there was an incident at a member's house or on a sponsored bus trip for example. The answer we received was that we are covered as a whole body and therefore would not be covered if we sued each other.

Why would we sue each other? Although we might not sue each other because we are friends that would not stop another insurance company or a person's estate suing the organiser of an event. We also received the response that a member's house insurance would cover an accident occurring at an event held at their house. That is not satisfactory as it could increase the premiums for that person.

The difficulty in obtaining insurance to suit us is that we don't handle large sums of money, we don't have employees and we aren't a charitable organization. Most policies are designed for service clubs.

As a result of Northumberland raising the issue at the National level they have changed insurance companies and we are now covered as individuals and not solely as a whole. Much better, but an issue still remained unresolved and that was lawyer's fees. If an organiser of an event was sued they would be covered for the suit but the upfront cost of hiring a lawyer to defend them would be their responsibility.

Northumberland Clubs pursued this as well and National arranged with the main insurance carrier to enable individual clubs to get insurance for this and other coverage for a cost of \$300 per year. Toronto clubs have had similar insurance for years. This coverage is for directors, committee chairs, committee members and other volunteers. Your management team has voted to obtain this coverage.

So, after a lot of hard work we are now covered insurance wise for the unthinkable happening to one of us while protecting our members who volunteer to host events.

A copy of the policy is available for anyone wanting to peruse it.

Bill Minion

SPRING FLING

The seven vice-presidents of the Northumberland Probus clubs (Brighton, Cobourg and District, Colborne, Northshore, Northumberland, Port Hope and Ganaraska Valley) have held several meetings to discuss the future of "Spring Fling" as a result of no club offering to host it in 2012.

Many of the members of the clubs (including our own) participated in a survey earlier this year. Here are the highlights of the results from the 442 replies.

The majority of respondents:

- Said main reason for attending was to socialize with other club members
- Wanted the event limited to ½ day
- Wanted only the 7 Northumberland clubs involved
- Wanted event held indoors
- Preferred event to be held every other year

As a group we are considering renaming the event, splitting the duties with the seven clubs involved and ensuring it is self financed. Discussions are ongoing.

If you have any suggestions/concerns about the event I'd appreciate hearing from you.

Gary Webb

SPECIAL EVENTS

- MAY 15 JOINT MEETING WITH THE GANARASKA CLUB
LIONS CENTER
- JUNE 12 ANNUAL PICNIC – ADAMSON COMPOUND
CO-ORDINATOR – COULD YOU HELP??
- OCTOBER 3 CRUISE FROM PORT SEVERN TO THE BIG CHUTE MARINE RAILWAY
CO-ORDINATOR – EDITH CARR

PROGRAMS – FRASER CARR and SHIRLEY KANE

- April 3 Dr. Stacey Fritsch – Dr. of Naturopathic Medicine
Focusing more on the “Why” of an illness rather than the “What”
- April 17 Gary Lumsden
Volunteer with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre
- May 1 Bruce Williamson
Teaching in Borneo, Malaysia
- May 15 Al Rutherford
My Journey up the Amazon

CATERING – ANNE SHIELDS

- APRIL **CAPTAIN BARBARA MOORCROFT**
- 3 Marg and Murray Dillon, Lynn Liddell, George Watson
- 17 Bob Moorcroft, Sue Speirs. Shirley Kane, Lous Hueston
- MAY **CAPTAIN JUDY JOHNSON**
- 1 Sharon and David McElroy, Barb and Sam McReelis
- 15 Vern Johnson, Don Kent, Marg Tait, Shirley Robbins

GREETERS – BARBARA WINFIELD

- April 3 Eleanor Carter and Betty Delong
- 17 Ruth Evans and Diane Conduit

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EDITOR’S NOTE ABOUT ELECTRONIC “PATTER”

A recent survey asking for those who would like the Patter sent by e-mail gave us nearly 40 names. This is much appreciated as it will cut down on the cost of printing.

Your electronic Patter will be on your computer the Monday before the first meeting of each month when the Patter is normally available to all.

If you have indicated that you want to receive your Patter by e-mail it would be appreciated if you do not take a hard copy as that might make it hard for those who want theirs the “traditional” way. Of course if there are leftovers please help yourself.

Thanks

Carolyn

IRISH NIGHT AT THE BEAMISH
Great food. Great time. Thank's,Terry!



**MARCH 6 - SPEAKER
PETER FISHER
AUTHOR "HIGHWAY OF HEROS"**



Peter was a driving force on having the stretch of the 401 from Trenton to Toronto designated as the Highway of Heroes.

He shared with us a slide show of photos taken since 2002 – the first being in Port Hope.

Some of his photos were taken with permission from the families at the repatriations at CFB Trenton – in doing this he was very careful not to encroach unnecessarily on the families at this painful and very emotional time.

He has done four "ride alongs" and has an interesting and moving number of photos of the various bridges along the way showing the many people who come together all on their own to show their sympathy and support for these families in their time of loss.

One of these photos has been recognised with an Edward Dunlap award.

On a visit to the mint with his family Peter put forward the idea of a coin to honour not only the heroes but all those who come to the bridges – with a lot of help from a great number of people he finally got the Mint to agree to make this coin in 2011. It is now available through the Postal Service.

**MARCH 20 - SPEAKER
PEGGY CROWTHER
HOSPICE PROGRAMS IN YOUR COMMUNITY**



Peggy provided a comprehensive explanation of the work done by Hospice in Northumberland County.

Two of the "credos" followed by volunteers is to focus on living---not dying and to focus on caring---not curing.

From April to December 2011 they provided care for 353 people in the County.

They view each client as very special with unique needs and make every effort to ensure that the volunteer will be able to meet those needs.

It is good to know that this service is available for those who may need it.

For more information contact "Community Care Northumberland."

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From our friends in Kamloops, BC – after reading our February Patter in which I said we definitely would not get into snow shoeing Frank sent me this picture of their group enjoying this sport – bully for them!!

