



# ganaraska currents

April 2014

Volume 8 Number 4



## March APPS & DRINKS

Thanks to Gary and Gail Chadwick for hosting this event again, and with a St. Patrick's Day theme!



Verne Meadows, Michelle Langevin, Gail Chadwick, Stephen (Steve) Snell and Leslie Ewert



Bob Gibson (love the hat), Carol Patterson and Felicity King



Betty Curtis, June Gibson, Marilyn Dunne, Lois Meadows and Roy Finlayson

## Your Probud Calendar

<b>Apr. 10</b>	<b>Probud Meeting</b> – 9:30 AM at the Port Hope Recreation Centre Speaker: Cori Arthur, tourism coordinator for Northumberland County, discussing hiking, skiing, canoeing, and more.
<b>Apr. 11</b>	<b>Appies &amp; Drinks</b> – 2 to 5 PM at Lois & Vern Meadows, 15 Ramsey Road, Port Hope
<b>Apr. 15</b>	<b>Euchre</b> – 1:30 PM at the Ruth Clarke Centre. Contact: Garry Curtis - 905-885-5304
<b>Apr. 22</b>	<b>Games Day</b> – 1:30 to 4:30 at the Port Hope Recreation Centre
<b>Apr. 23</b>	<b>Rovers</b> – 6 PM at Port Hope United Church, 34 South St.- Ham & scalloped potato dinner - yum
<b>Apr. 24</b>	<b>Probud Meeting</b> – 9:30 AM at the Port Hope Recreation Centre – Speaker: Craig Brockie about SOCAN - making sure artists receive royalties.
<b>Apr. 24</b>	<b>Lunch Bunch</b> – 12 noon at Boston Pizza, Elgin St., Cobourg Contact: Joan O'Grady 905-419-0360
<b>Apr. 29</b>	<b>Euchre</b> – 1:30 PM at the Ruth Clarke Centre.
<b>Apr. 29</b>	<b>Pub Night</b> – 6 PM at The Beamish House Pub, Port Hope. Contact: George Grimes, 905-885-1594
<b>May 5</b>	<b>Bowling</b> – 1:30 PM at North Shore Lanes, Northumberland Mall Contact: Bryan Rose 905-797-3415
<b>May 13</b>	<b>Euchre</b> – 1:30 PM at the Ruth Clarke Centre
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Appies &amp; Drinks</b> – 2 to 5 PM at Gwen Logan & Charlie Dobbie's, 145 Third St., Suite 320, Cobourg



Sign up for many of the above events at our sign-up table



# ROVERS

at The New Massey House Restaurant



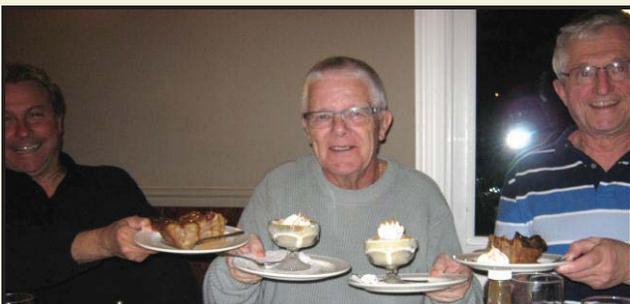
Joan Bebee, Jan & Eric Blaikie, Betty Curtis and June Gibson



Mike & Joan O'Grady, Roger Ingram & Leslie Ewert



Lacey Ingram, Carol Patterson & Anthony Skinner



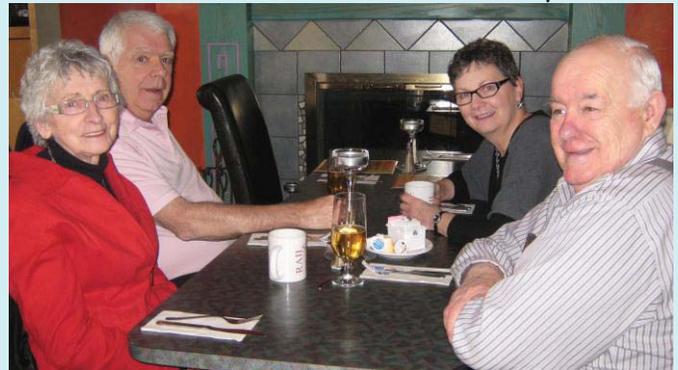
Bob and Steve - you shouldn't encourage Garry

# LUNCH BUNCH

at the Railside Restaurant



Joan O'Grady, Frank Griffin, Larry & Gayle Squire, Michele Duval Lane, Marion Griffin, Lois Meadows and Mike O'Grady



Julie Rondeau, Roy & Cathy Finlayson and Marcel Rondeau



A toast - Bob Kearns, Bruce & Linda Britton, June Gibson, Jan Blaikie and Barbara & Liam O'Kane



Willie & Rosalie Jakobi, Liz Linton, Felicity & John King, Helen Dayman, Doreen Sproule and Stuart Linton

## Our 1<sup>st</sup> GAMES DAY

at the Port Hope Recreation Centre  
And a great time was had by all!



Cribbage, with Pat Rawson, Betty Curtis,  
Ray Williams & Marilyn Dunne



Gayl Squire, Joan O'Grady, Lynda Britton, Lois  
Meadow, and, refereeing this game of Sequence,  
Gail Chadwick



Verne Meadows, Mike O'Grady & Gary Chadwick,  
Hey guys - you need more cards than that to  
play cribbage!



Bob Gibson, Steve Snell, Dorothy Giddings &  
June Lentir



Having lots of fun playing Rumoli, Bruce Britton,  
Carol Patterson, Anthony Skinner, Larry Squire,  
June Gibson & Garry Curtis

### *Some hints on how to maintain a healthy level of "insanity" in retirement:*

1. At lunch time, sit in your parked car with sunglasses on and point a hair dryer at passing cars...watch 'em slow down!
2. On all your cheque stubs, write 'For Marijuana'!
3. Order a diet water whenever you go out to eat, with a serious face.
4. When the money comes out of the ATM, scream 'I won! I won!'
5. Pick up a box of condoms at the pharmacy, go to the counter and ask where the fitting room is.  
And finally...
6. Go to a large Department store's fitting room, drop your drawers to your ankles and yell out: "THERE'S NO PAPER IN HERE"!

# A Piece of Notorious Northumberland History

Story: Linda Goldie

Our speaker on March 14 was Dan Buchanan, a resident of Brighton, computer systems professional, avid history buff and family tree builder ([www.treesbydan.com](http://www.treesbydan.com)) Dan kept all of us captivated with his dynamic, informative and occasionally humorous account of the first and only hanging to take place in Northumberland County. Dan is a relative and grew up on the farm in Codrington where Dr. King, the villain of the story, was buried. The grave marker was buried at the corner of the house, uncovered in 1955 and buried in the garden, dug up by the plough ten years later and destroyed with a sledge hammer by Dan's grandfather.

This true story is about Sarah Ann Lawson, born in 1833 to prosperous farmers in Brighton and Dr. William King, born in 1833. His family moved to the farm in Codrington and William and Sarah were married in 1853. William went to Normal School in Toronto and took a teaching job in Hamilton. Sarah moved back to Brighton some time later, confiding that her husband was a "tyrant". William went on to attend the Homeopathic Medical College in Philadelphia and moved back to Brighton as Dr. King. He and Sarah reconciled.

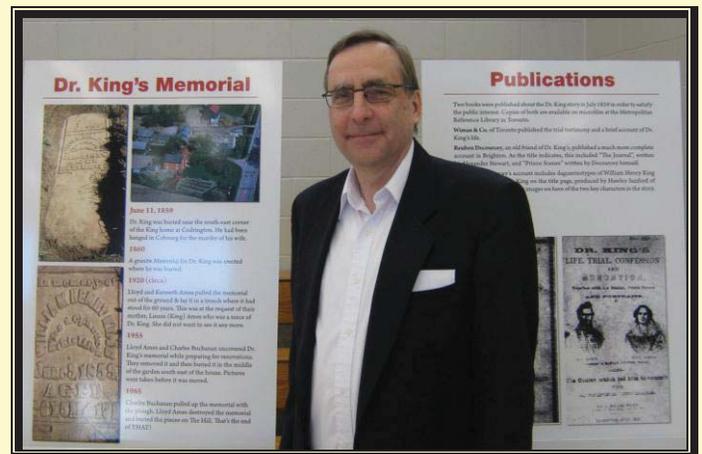
William began a serious flirtation (not his first) with Melinda, Sarah's friend. Sarah became pregnant and William announced that she wouldn't survive the pregnancy and began treating her with a white powder (arsenic as it turned out). Sarah became sicker and her parents moved to the home. William refused to let them call in another doctor, treated Sarah with opium and, after a "talk with the devil" administered chloroform. Sarah died on November 4, 1858, age 25.

Sarah's family immediately requested an autopsy. Meanwhile, William went to Melinda's home and persuaded her to flee with him to New York State. Sarah's body was exhumed and her stomach sent in a pickle jar by train first to Kingston and then Toronto. When her liver was requested, the body was re-exhumed and the liver sent in a pickle jar by train to Toronto. An inquest determined that Sarah was poisoned and a warrant was issued to her brother, Clinton, who travelled to New York and returned with William.

Dr. King's trial in Cobourg was attended by 1500 people and resulted in a guilty verdict with a recommendation for mercy. However, the judge said there would be no mercy and William was sentenced to hang on June 9, 1858. To ensure a "good" hanging, there must be no escape and the prisoner would ideally repent and behave well at the end. To ensure there would be no escape, a constable was assigned to live in the next cell to William. Rev. Vandenberg visited daily and spent hours praying with William resulting in William sending a 7000 word confession to the Globe (which they declined to publish).

On June 9, the hanging proceeded with William escorted to the gallows by Rev. Vandenberg. His neck didn't break immediately and his body was left hanging for 30 minutes after which his brothers were allowed to take the body in a wagon to Codrington for burial at the family farm. It is alleged that Sarah's family, the Lawson's, obtained the rope from the hanging and it was cut up and pieces sold as mementos.

The hanging was a huge event in Cobourg with an estimated 10,000 people in attendance. Such an event has never been repeated.



Dan Buchanan

## Some funnies:

- \* We're all mature – until someone pulls out the bubble wrap.
- \* You're getting old when "getting lucky" means you find your car in the parking lot.
- \* Be crazy. Be stupid. Be silly. Be weird. Be whatever. Because life is too short to be anything but happy.



## Advice from our local Police

By Bob Kearns

Two of our Port Hope police officers, Gerry Marino (Community Liaison Officer) and Matt Lawrence (Computer Crime Specialist) talked to us about frauds, scams, home security and elder abuse. Basically, you have to remember two things: (1) Nothing is free, and (2) Buyer beware, and you'll be fine. They went on to describe the prevalent types of frauds, such as, grandparents scam, bank inspector's fraud and internet dating sites where you are asked to give the criminals your money.

Then there are Phishing operations that are designed to steal your identity, and obtain credit cards, car loans, mortgages, and more, in your name. Here you have to remember that legitimate banks, government agencies and corporations will never send you an email or call asking you to take over control of your computer or asking you for your Social Insurance Number, date of birth, etc. that would then give them all the personal information they need to take over your identity. You should also shred any document that contains this information. Also, keep your bank, computer and credit card passwords secret.

Be aware of vendors that just show up at your door offering deals that are too good to be true. Ask contractors for references and check them out before signing contracts. Do not let them into your home (they could be casing it out to come back and steal your valuables). If they are aggressive and will not leave, call the police.

They also discussed elder abuse and Powers of Attorney. Be careful who you trust with control of your finances.

Home security means be aware of your surroundings, make sure your walkways are well lit, change your routine and have a list of emergency contacts readily available.

Vehicle safety is important as well. Always lock your vehicle, don't leave insurance and ownership forms in the glove compartment, or recently purchased items visible on the car seats. It is also important to make sure your vehicle is well maintained. And, drive distraction free and according to the road conditions. They ended by stating that they are always available, so don't be afraid to call - and they left us their cell phone numbers



Matt Lawrence - #905-376-2771  
and Gerry Marino - #905-376-3564

## Pub Night

Pictures by Grimes



