



# THE PRO-BUZZ

**JANUARY 2014**

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New Years is traditionally a time for looking back over the past year with a sense of satisfaction for the goals and milestones that we've achieved. In 2013, we celebrated our 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary, updated our by-laws, and formed a Ride Committee to assist those who require transportation to attend Probis meetings. We also introduced two new regular events, the Singles' Club and Appies and Drinks.

2014 promises to be another exciting year for our Club. With Jamie Doolittle continuing as president and a full roster of both new and returning executive and committee members, many plans are already underway with special events scheduled for the new year.

In last year's January issue of Pro-Buzz, we listed the 15 new members that we welcomed to the club during the previous year. Over half of these new members have taken an active role, sitting on committees and/or organizing special events and activities. It is exciting to see new people willing to step up, often replacing members who have earned a well-deserved rest after serving several years in leadership roles. We thank Verna Templer for working tirelessly to arrange an ongoing variety of social events and theatrical productions over the past **eleven** years of our club's 13 year history. Marg Denny and Errol Markle also deserve mention here, although they haven't quite slipped out the leadership door yet.



In this issue of Pro-Buzz, we will recap some of the highlights of each month over the past year. Kudos to Marg Denny and more recently, Linda Nash, for their detailed minutes that captured the many activities that we enjoyed throughout 2013.

Since there was no December issue of our newsletter, the special events that took place at the end of 2013 are reported in more detail.



## JANUARY

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, we mourned the loss one of the founders of Probus Northumberland, a life member and its first president, Ron Templer. We were also saddened to learn that John McGrath, a member of our club until recently, passed away on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Features this month included:

- An authentic Robbie Burn's Celebration complete with bagpipes and homemade haggis
- Lunch at Casey's
- Guest speaker: Reg Longman recounted his experiences as an orphan raised in Dr. Barnardo's homes in Britain during WW11. He brought along his published book, '*Suffer Little Children*', which he wrote for his children and grandchildren.
- Donna Wootton, speaker at our 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the month, spoke of the achievements of her father, Lloyd 'Moon' Wootton, the legendary lacrosse goalie who was instrumental in winning the prestigious Mann Cup five years in a row.

## FEBRUARY

The annual Valentine's Luncheon was held on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Hearts and flowers filled the room as 80 members enjoyed a delicious lunch. The valentine hunt was also a great success.

Also featured in February ...

- On the 1<sup>st</sup>, Dinner Theatre at the Best Western. Forty-two of our members attended the Northumberland Players production '*Bedroom Farce*'. Hilarious fun.
- Bowling Tournament on the 11<sup>th</sup> – our Club happily relinquished the 'toilet seat' to Probus Colborne, that was participating for the first time. After the bowling, another delicious lunch was served at the Lions Community Centre.
- Ski Trip to Malone, N.Y. on the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> - the skiing conditions and comraderie made this a great winter getaway.
- President Jamie thanked Sue Lanctot for creating 'Rogues Gallery', an album containing each member's photo in alphabetical order.
- Guest speaker: Rod Baker, well-known to many of us, gave a moving account of his experience as the primary caregiver for his wife, Anne, who is struggling with a progressive and debilitating disease.
- Doreen Curtis was the speaker at our meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>. She shared her experiences as a volunteer in Haiti, after it was devastated by a horrific earthquake.



## MARCH

With many members away enjoying milder climates, March was a relatively quiet month in regard to activities. Highlights of the month were ...

- *Peter Pan* at the Capitol Theatre in Port Hope on the 1<sup>st</sup> – an outstanding production with several local entertainers
- We had our Easter celebration on the 28<sup>th</sup> with a parade of members wearing their colorful, decorated bonnets.
- Lunch at The Buttermilk Café on the 28<sup>th</sup> – excellent food as usual
- The first guest speaker, Luke DeSadeleer spoke about the '7 Cs' program: caring, changing, communication, connection, conflict, creativity and commitment.
- Duncan McKinnon of the Fare Share Food Bank spoke on some of the ways that the bank receives food, donations of money, and a new 'Need Milk' distribution program.



## APRIL



At the suggestion of President Jamie, one of our new members, Louise Barraclough agreed to establish a group for single members within our club. Louise hosted an introductory meeting and organized two subsequent lunches later in the month, at Marca's on the Wharf on the 16<sup>th</sup> and at Dalewood Golf & Country Club on the 29<sup>th</sup>. A great beginning for The Singles' Club! Stay tuned for additional outings and details about this expanding 'club within a club'.

The first Appies & Drinks event was hosted by Bill & Lynn Ramsay on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Guidelines for this new monthly event were outlined as follows: hosts decide the number of guests they can accommodate and supply tea, coffee, napkins and plates, as well as details and maps, as required. Guests bring an appetizer, glass and their own beverage.

Other highlights this month were:

- A 2<sup>nd</sup> annual trip to Niagara Falls in mid-April was judged a success by the participants. Activities included golf, visiting Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Butterfly Conservatory, wine tasting, shopping, and of course, the casino.
- Monty Python's *Spamalot* at Victoria Hall on the 26<sup>th</sup> provided an amusing and entertaining musical with local talented singers and dancers.
- Lunch at the Mill on the 25<sup>th</sup> where the crab cakes were a hit!
- Guest speaker was Carl Fletcher from Northumberland Hearing Centres. He discussed determining the causes of hearing loss and correcting one's hearing through the use of the new digital technology that's available today.
- Brenda Nutter, our 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker of the month took three trips to Africa between 2005 and 2009, Her presentation summarized the contrasts among Namibia, Senegal and Morocco.

## MAY

This was an extremely busy month highlighted by two very special events.

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 130 Probus members and guests celebrated our 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a delicious hot buffet breakfast. This was followed by two huge cakes served by nine of our past presidents. This annual event has become a valued tradition within our club.



The May Day Extravaganza took place at the Keeler Centre in Colborne on May 21<sup>st</sup> with our president, Jamie Doolittle, as emcee. 320 members from the seven Northumberland Probus Clubs celebrated this event (Ganaraska Valley, Port Hope, Northumberland, North Shore, Cobourg, Brighton, and Colborne). Our club was well represented with 70 members attending.

Bob Abrames, famed voyageur and author, was the guest speaker. The Meldiers entertained the crowd with a singalong of 'oldies', followed by a delicious buffet lunch.

Other notable activities were:

- On the 1<sup>st</sup>, a full busload went to Toronto to see the *Wizard of Oz*. The show was fantastic, then it was off to Pickering for dinner at the Mandarin restaurant.
- Dinner Theatre at the Best Western on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, *Bedtime Stories*, was enjoyed by 50 of our members. In her directorial debut, Lynne Templer dedicated the production to the memory of her father, Ron. The show was greeted with much laughter and was deemed a great success.
- The Singles' Club went for lunch at the Oasis on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The group decided that since the warm, busy season was coming, they would limit their outings to once a month, at places where they could enjoy the lovely Northumberland countryside.
- Shirley Erskine hosted another successful Appies & Drinks outing.
- Lunch at the Red Lantern on the 23<sup>rd</sup>
- A 3-day golf runaway in Gananoque on May 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> was the first golf outing of the season for our members. Accommodations included meals at the beautiful Glen House Resort and golf at their scenic golf course, Smugglers Glen.
- Guest speakers on the 9<sup>th</sup> were Dan and Lorraine Bulger who shared their experiences of their climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa.
- Antonio Sarmiento was the 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker of the month. Manager of the Park Theatre, he spoke of his passion in helping to revitalize downtown Cobourg by promoting live productions, musical groups, movies, galas and sports events at the theatre.

## JUNE

Our annual Picnic in the Park took place on June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club in Victoria Park. The weather was lovely. Some members tried lawn bowling, while others played bridge or simply enjoyed the beautiful setting overlooking Lake Ontario. As usual, the pot luck lunch was fabulous with a wide variety of wonderful salads, entrees and desserts. Another resounding success!

Other events in the month that welcomed summer were:

- Golf at Shelter Valley Pines on the 17<sup>th</sup> represented the kick-off to the Probus golf year – rain subsided after the first hole so it was an enjoyable outing after all.
- On the 18<sup>th</sup>, an Appies & Drinks pool party was hosted by Sue Porter and Barry Clayton.
- The Singles' Club luncheon was held at Dougalls on Brighton Bay – good food and excellent company made this another great outing.
- Kevin Narraway, Town of Cobourg Business Development Officer, was our guest speaker on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Kevin spoke about the vision for the future of Cobourg's downtown under its "Vitalization Program".

## JULY

July was another busy summer month, featuring lots of golf as well as many other interesting activities. Highlights include ...

Canada Day Parade – this was our 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive appearance in Cobourg's Canada Day parade with several of our members participating.



- On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first golf group outing of the month was at Salt Creek with 20 enthusiastic participants.
  - On the 16<sup>th</sup>, 23 golfers braved the heat at the Ash Brook course, followed by lunch at the clubhouse.
  - The final golf outing of the month was at Stonehenge, Newcastle on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Thirty golfers participated, followed by a lunch of burgers and sausages.
- On July 9<sup>th</sup>, a busload of our members enjoyed a tour of the beautiful and historic Prince Edward County. One of the highlights of the trip was lunch at the Waupoos Restaurant overlooking Prince Edward Bay. Many also sampled and purchased their lovely wines. All agreed that it was a great outing!

- This month, Appies & Drinks was hosted by Jan and Norm Lundbohm on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Thirty members attended a matinee concert, *Broadway Rainbows*, at Westben on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Selections from Broadway musicals were performed by a small group of extremely talented entertainers.
- Another bus trip to Toronto on the 31<sup>st</sup> – this time to see *Anything Goes* at the Princess of Wales Theatre. The group deemed the show to be fantastic. The homebound trip included dinner at the Mandarin in Oshawa.
- Our July guest speaker was our own Probus member Harry Nash who gave us an interesting and illustrated talk on the work of Rotary International and the Mercy Ships – fully equipped hospital ships that have provided medical services to the poor people of Sierra Leone and Liberia, in particular.

## AUGUST



The highlight of the month was the BBQ, once again generously hosted by Everil and Bill Alls. Approximately 70 of our members descended on the farm for an outdoor feast that included salads, burgers, hotdogs and corn. There was lots of fun and laughter and even prizes! Many helpers were on hand to contribute to the great success of this annual event.

Other special events were:

- Fourteen Singles' Club members made an excursion to Victoria Inn on the 13<sup>th</sup> for a great lunch and lots of lively chatter.
- On the 14<sup>th</sup>, 24 Probians travelled to Oshawa for informative indoor and outdoor guided tours of Parkwood Estate. The group enjoyed a lovely lunch at the outdoor pavilion overlooking the fountains of the formal garden.
- Jack and Evelyn Reid hosted this month's Appies & Drinks outing on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Members enjoyed beautiful weather when they golfed at Pine Ridge on the 19<sup>th</sup>, followed by lunch at the clubhouse.
- Our club welcomed 'Aces of Harmony', a 4-part harmony Barbershop chorus from Peterborough, as our guests this month. Twelve members and their conductor entertained us with a selection of familiar barbershop-style songs.



## SEPTEMBER

With cooler temperatures, September was an extremely busy month for our club members. Activities included:

- Forty-eight members and guests went on the boat trip to Kirkland lift locks on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The weather was beautiful, scenery spectacular and lunch in Kirkfield was delicious – a wonderful day overall.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup>, thirty Probians visited the National Air Force Museum in Trenton. Included in the exhibits was the world's only authentically restored Halifax bomber. The tour was followed by lunch at Tomasso's restaurant on the Trent River.
- Golfers played scramble format at Shelter Valley Pines on the 16<sup>th</sup>, enjoying lunch afterwards.
- The Probus golf season wrapped up with a final outing at the Cobourg Creek Golf Course on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-six golfers played in ideal weather and were joined by an additional 16 members for dinner and the awarding of prizes.
- On the 20<sup>th</sup>, the Singles' Club had lunch at Elmhirst's Resort in Keene.
- Carol and Jamie Doolittle hosted this month's Appies & Drinks on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Brian and Doreen Scott have volunteered to chair a new 'Ride Committee' for members who require transportation to attend meetings.
- Guest speaker on the 12<sup>th</sup> was Sherry Gibson, Development & Special Projects volunteer with Community Care Northumberland. Sherry gave us an overview of the services provided in the area by this agency and spoke about seniors' driving skills.
- Kai Liu, who was appointed Chief of Police in Cobourg a year ago, was our 2<sup>nd</sup> guest speaker of the month. He described his early interest in policing and outlined some of the challenging duties involved in this career choice.

## *OCTOBER*



On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, close to a hundred of our members participated in a mystery tour that was described as "quite magical". The tour included historical landmarks, beautiful autumn scenery, delectable treats and even a ride on Roseneath's acclaimed carousel. After 127 kilometres of touring, travellers were directed back to the Lions Community Centre where they were treated to an exceptional roast beef dinner, topped off with a variety of homemade pies.

Other highlights of the month were:

- Grafton Village Inn was up to its usual fine standard when the Singles' Club gathered there on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Danny Robertson thanked all golfers for their active participation in organizing and attending the golf outings which made 2013 a very successful season overall.
- The Hallowe'en meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> was lots of fun with costumed greeters, decorations and treats.

- Lunch was at East Side Marios, also on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Guest speaker was Chris Warsnop, the 2013 Chairman of the Vintage Film Festival. He spoke about the festival which is held at the end of October at Victoria Hall in Cobourg and the Capitol Theatre in Port Hope.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker of the month was David Newland, creative Director for Adventure Canada. David took us on an amazing virtual cruise of Canada's Arctic, featuring the highlights of his own visits there.

## NOVEMBER

The following articles detail some of the special events that took place this month.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Once again President Jamie put together a memorable Remembrance Day program. Four veterans were acknowledged and thanked. They are Geoff Coleman, Harold Coward, Harry Nash and Jim Stirling. Compliments go out to our musicians Bill Ruttle, Bill Ramsay and Peter & Marilyn Csefko. Thanks to all who participated.

*Submitted by Lynn Ramsay*

### LES MISERABLES

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, a fortunate group of Probus Northumberland members boarded a bus at 11:30am for a trip to see the new production of Les Miserables. The Princess of Wales Theatre, with a 2000 seat capacity, was sold out for this spectacular event. Overall, the show was outstanding and included new staging and reimagined scenery, inspired by Victor Hugo's paintings. The singing was fabulous, a great showcase for the wonderful songs. The constant applause and standing ovation spoke for itself. The day ended at the Pickering Mandarin, where we enjoyed delicious food that was fresh and beautifully displayed. If you have an opportunity to see this performance, it is well worth it.



*Submitted by Gladys Maggs*

Other happenings this month ...

- On the 1<sup>st</sup>, Probus members once again enjoyed the dinner theatre at the Best Western. *Don't Dress for Dinner* was a first class live theatre production and the buffet meal was delicious.
- On the 5<sup>th</sup>, Dianne and Gord Graham hosted our Appies & Drinks outing.
- The Singles' Club ended the season with lunch on December 19<sup>th</sup> at the Cat 'n Fiddle where they enjoyed good ol' pub fare.
- Lunch was at Stanley's Fish & Grill on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Mr. Ozzie Tee was our guest speaker. He presented the club with an A to Z power point presentation about the birds one can see in the local area, highlighting the Snowy Owls which have been seen lately in the harbour.

## DECEMBER

### PROBUS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Probus Northumberland triumphed again on December 12<sup>th</sup>! The annual Christmas party began with a 5pm 'happy hour'. By 6pm, the din suggested that the festive spirit had arrived. Responding to a strong, authoritative voice, the revellers seated themselves and were served a superbly dressed crisp salad, perfectly roasted turkey and trimmings, fine impeccably served wine, delicious desserts and the perfect cup of coffee.

After the meal, Barbara-Jean announced that Bob Trennum and Lee Bachelor would lead a singalong of traditional and modern songs, followed by Bob leading some novelty dances.

Next, a Christmas trivia quiz was announced and each table, working as a team, attempted to answer 15 questions related to Christmas songs and stories. Joe and Diana added five one-line puzzles to be answered on the question sheets, which were then exchanged, the scores calculated and the trivia winners announced.

Poinsettias and Sue's beautiful centrepieces were then selected by lucky draw winners.

Finally, the highlight of the evening arrived – dancing to the dulcet rhythms of Bob, Lee and Brian. Although the program promised "Dancing 'til Dawn", by 10:30pm the musicians were exhausted and the dancers agreed to call it a day.

The Christmas Party committee of Barbara-Jean & Bordon Taylor, Marilyn & Bob Harris and Diana & Joe Flynn were thanked by all present.

If you would like to be involved in planning and executing this magnificent event next year, submit your name **soon** to any member of the club executive.



*Submitted by Barbara-Jean Taylor*

The only other December event to report is Appies & Drinks which was hosted by Shirley Erskine on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Carol Doolittle reports that this outing was warm and enjoyable and that the two Christmas trees and a fantastically decorated house made the intimate group feel right at home. Smoked salmon, shrimp, cheese and numerous other goodies complimented everyone's own beverage. This was Shirley's second hosting and it was every bit as gracious as the first.

If you are interested in hosting an Appies & Drinks outing sometime in the next few months, please speak with Lynn Ramsay and give her the date, time and numbers.

### WELCOME!

In 2013, Probus Northumberland welcomed 20 new members to our Club. They are: Louise Barraclough, John Boczan, Ron Coleman, Mary Rose England, Edna Findlay, Jane Holmes, Carol Hunt, Heather Jansen, Gloria Lambert, Jean Mathias, Linda & Harry Nash, Diane Pritchard, Anne & Ron Sargent, Jim Stirling, Heather Touchburn, Tom Wallace, Lanor Woodhouse and Yutta Yager. The club also welcomed back Bette Ireland, who has re-instated her membership.



### COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATION & CONTRIBUTIONS

During the past year, our Club members also participated in the following:

- Daffodil Pins for Cancer
- Help Centre Fundraisers: Empty Bowls and Golf Tournament
- Biggest Coffee Morning Event – fundraiser for NHH Foundation
- Salvation Army Food Drive
- Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign
- The Giving Tree that provides Christmas gifts for needy children

A review of Probus Northumberland's events and activities throughout 2013 reveals a great many names of members who have hosted, organized, planned and assisted, often behind the scenes. Thanks to all those who volunteered their time, energy and talents to facilitate these activities for our enjoyment. It is this spirit of enthusiasm, engagement and commitment that has resulted in another year of memories filled with fun, laughter, entertainment and comraderie.

In addition to the events described above, many of our Probus members meet Wednesdays from September to April to enjoy an afternoon of bowling in the local senior league. New bowlers are always welcome.



### NOTES OF INTEREST

**BOWLING:** On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, the annual Probus Interclub Bowling Tournament will take place at the Northshore Bowling Lanes in the Northumberland Mall. Arrive at the bowling alley by 9:30am for a 10 o'clock start. Cost is \$10 for three games with an additional \$1 for shoe rental, both payable at the alley before you bowl. Lunch at the Lions Community Centre will follow. The price for lunch is \$22 including taxes and gratuities, payable to Wilson Dow at or before our January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. If you can't bowl, come out and cheer on your fellow Probians as they endeavor to regain the winning trophy and then join them for lunch.

**NEW VENTURES BAND:** There is an exciting new activity coming to Northumberland County! It will appeal to folks with little or no musical experience who may be interested in learning to play a musical instrument. There is a wide variety of instruments to choose from which can be rented by the month, 5 months, or one year terms, OR you may choose a 'rent-to-own' plan OR purchase the instrument at very reasonable rates. For more information, go to [newventures@cogeco.ca](mailto:newventures@cogeco.ca) and/or see the poster on our bulletin board.

**SINGLES' CLUB:** New members are welcome. You must be single and a member of our Probus Club. Please contact Louise Barraclough at 905-372-1809 if you are interested in joining the group for a social time and lunch.

**TRANSPORTATION TO MEETINGS:** If you need transportation to a meeting or event, please call Brian or Doreen Scott at 905-377-0103 and they will arrange for a ride to and from the meeting.

**GOLF GETAWAY:** Keep May 26, 27 and 28<sup>th</sup> open if you wish to participate in this year's golf getaway. Stay tuned for details.

## COMING EVENTS

### **SOCIAL** by Marilyn Csefko, et al.

Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> Singles' Club lunch at Railside in Port Hope. Louise will distribute a membership list so folks can carpool. Yes, single men are welcome.

Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> Robbie Burns celebration at our next meeting – wear your plaids.

Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> Probus Interclub Bowling Tournament – see previous page for details

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> Dinner Theatre at The Best Western - *Calendar Girls*. Cost is \$40, tickets available at the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **THE LUNCH BUNCH** by Lynn Ramsay & Marion Boys

Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> Casey's

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> Probus Valentine's Luncheon

### **THE SPEAKER'S CORNER** by Harry Nash

Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> Mile Vilneff, Cobourg Fire Chief

Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> Gerry Weatherby - Installed Aerial on CN Tower

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> Dr. Bob Scott - Rotary Polio Plus

Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> Mette Aarlev, YMCA Northumberland - Seniors-related projects

Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> Wendy Kolodziejczak & Gayle Einarsson - PATH Project

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*Note: Past issues of Pro-Buzz are available at [www.probusnorthumberland.com](http://www.probusnorthumberland.com)*

