



PROBUS PATTER

January 2014

Club Started July 1998

It is 2:57 a.m. on Christmas Eve day and it would seem that I have had enough sleep. Isn't that always the way? Just when you know you have a busy day and that you need a good 6-8 hours your body (or your mind) says "um, I think you should try it on 3 hours". It's going to be a long day.

As I sit here, propped up in bed with my trusty laptop (I just want you to have the visual) I can see outside to what would be a beautiful scene if it weren't so devastating. The street lights bouncing off the ice when everything is so still are quite breathtaking.

However, I am aware that there are still people without power, people whose Christmas will not look quite the way they had imagined – certainly not the Hallmark Card Christmas, businesses who have taken a huge financial hit and on and on. We are normally the people who watch this kind of thing on television, happening to someone else. Sooner or later it was our turn.

The paper is full of stories of "goodwill." The true meaning of Christmas. People helping People. People thanking those on the front line who have and are working so hard to restore us to some kind of normalcy. People being resilient. People being compassionate. I would like to think that it's just people *being* people. Our Probus Club has lost a number of long time members this year: Grace Lees; Frank Hueston; Donna Wakely and Moose Ferguson. I know that many of you have fond memories of these people and that they will be missed.

2014 will hopefully continue to see our club grow and will continue to bring you the great programming that you had in 2013 - both at our meetings, in our trips, appies and drinks and just general "good times".



*I wish you all a Happy and a
Healthy New Year!*
Lynn

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Welcome New Members
At the meeting on November 5 Lynn
introduced Louise Gouëffie
and Edith Carr
introduced Jennie Vanderwindt



**Louise and Lynn
Edith and Jennie**



The meeting on November 5 was a tribute to our members who are veterans as well as tribute to all veterans.

Owen Lent read a moving poem titled:
"A Soldier died today"

Ken Scott reminded us that when we started the club 15 years ago we had more veterans as members and those numbers are **dwindling as we age.**

The guest Speaker was introduced by Ken Scott - Capt. the Rev. Don Aitchison Don is the Chaplain at Trinity College School as well as being the chaplain of the 49th Highland Regiment. Don kindly gave me this transcript for in his own words for the newsletter.

"This past July marked the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Sicily in WWII. The original mission was code-named Operation Husky. To commemorate the part played in this historic occasion by the Canadian forces of the day, a group of Canadian civilians organized a project named Op Husky 2013. This program was a multi-faceted plan to raise awareness of the role played by Canada in the invasion and to honour the sacrifices of the 25000 soldiers involved and especially the 562 who were killed in the relatively short campaign that ran from D-Day on 10 July 1943 to early August.

As chaplain of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, I became aware of this group and their plans and was deeply interested in joining them. I elected to participate in one of the central acts of the project which was to march/hike over 300 km from the beaches in Pachino to the Canadian War Cemetery at Agira near Mt. Etna. I contacted the Op Husky 2013 founder Steve Gregory in Montreal and he warmly welcomed me to the team.

After a hectic month of physical training and packing for the trip in June, I flew to Catania, Sicily via London, UK and met my fellow marchers for the first time. Everyone in the group had their reasons for being there. Many of them, such as Honorary Lt Col Rod

Hoffmeister of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, were walking in the footsteps of their fathers. I was there to explore the experience not only as a member of the 48th Highlanders, but also as the chaplain of Trinity College School. Over 35 members of the TCS community participate in the invasion and one, Lt. Robert Free Osler, was killed there in late July and is buried in the Agira cemetery.

After 20 gruelling days of marching in the hot Sicilian sun, coupled with moving daily wreath laying ceremonies at the cenotaphs of the towns the Canadians liberated so long ago, we arrived at Agira. On 30 July we gathered, over 500 strong, in the Agira cemetery for a ceremony of remembrance and a roll call. Each of the 490 grave stones were adopted by someone at the ceremony who answered for that soul as their name was called out. That night the Seaforth Pipes and Drums re-created a concert they had played in the Agira town square 70 years earlier. Thousands of local people gathered to celebrate with us the day when freedom returned to their community. It was an experience that none of us will ever forget."

For more information:

<http://www.operationhusky2013.ca/>





Our Vets: Keith Picket, Don Campbell, Jack Goering Ken McPherson, Ken Scott, Alan Butler Sid Hatch.



Special Events

APPS & DRINKS. Tues. Jan. 14 4 -6 pm.
Host Catharine Ramsey.

The Grange 33 South St. P. H.

2 LES MISERABLES. Wed. Jan. 15 10:
45 am. \$165.00 + \$4.00 optional cancella-
tion insurance.

Matinee at Princess of Wales Theatre,
Toronto, Buffet at the Hot House
Café. (Lakeshore Tours Coach)

Matinee at Princess of Wales Theatre
Toronto. Buffet at the Hot House Café.
Checks for Tours to be made out to
Lakeshore Tours Not Probus Club

**APPS & DRINKS HOSTS ARE REQUIRED
FOR FEB. MARCH & APRIL 2014**

Catering Coordinator Judy Johnson

Catering: Captain for January

Jeanne Keiser

Jan 7th Catherine Ramsey,

Caroline Webb, Harold Wakely

**Jan 21st Diane Conduit, Ed. And Nancy
Ford**

Captain for Feb Sue Speirs

Feb 4th Edith and Fraser Carr,

Betty Reynolds

Contd.. next column

Catering contd:

**Feb 18 Marion Gellatly,
Marguerite Dorrity, Betty Wanderwindt**

March Captain Barb Moorcroft

**March 4 Blair McFadden, JoyAnn Moore,
Elaine Simpson.**

March 18 Lois Hueston

Programs to look forward to:

**January 7 - Shelley Morland from the
St. Elizabeth Society**

**January 21 - Jennie Cross from
ArtsCan Circle**

**February 4 - Ministry of Consumer Af-
fairs - Fraud/Theft/Scams**

**Greeters Coordinator Barb Winfield
January 7-Sheila and Jack Goering**

**January 21-Catherine Ramsey and Liz
Davidson**

February 4-Owen and Dorothy Lent.

**February 18-Shirley Kane and George
Watson**

March 4 Eric and Una Norenius

Eleanor Carter is trying to arrange for circu-
lation of public information about our Probus
Club, we have received some printed notice
in the local papers.

Our Christmas Party was a great success; member participation was certainly the highlight of the whole event. The organizational abilities of Pauline Carrick, Lynn Liddell, Mysie Vanhinsberg, Alan Butler and Keith Pickett certainly paid off. (It could mean they might be available for hire for a fee.) Lynn Liddell was the master of ceremonies Our own Probus Choir Lynn Liddell, Fran Campbell, Margo Agnew, Alan Butler and Keith Pickett showed us their singing talents.

Sue Speers did a great job with musical backgrounds.

Twas the Night before Christmas Kids tried so hard to be good (Liz Davidson, Doreen Rossi and Margo Agnew) when they were threatened a couple of times by their parents (Maggie Snow and Terry Hickey); the mouse (Barb Loucks) tried to scare the whole family but settled down when Santa's noisy sleigh was heard clanking across the floor and presents delivered (almost thrown) down the chimney! Sandi's Claus forgot his long red cloak but he was well attired in his leggings and Xmas Boxers.

Keith Pickett gave us his Monologue saying he had difficulty this year to get good help? as well he sang a comedy song, a well-known special of Julie Andrews adapted Especially for seniors.

Sonny and Cher (Marg Dennis and Alan Butler) flew in from their Hollywood Haven dressed in their finest robes purchased especially for this occasion from the Thrift Boutiques. "Cher's Hairdo was a master piece"

The lady Choir Master Lynn with her friend on the keyboard led the group singing a selection of Christmas Carols, threatening one particular group to learn who they were supposed to be in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" but once they learned their identity they out-sang everyone else.!

We had lots of fun, (all of our own making), great friendship and a very good catered Christmas Lunch what more could we ask for.? Attached pictures sheet courtesy of Barbara Struthers.

Management Committee
President Lynn Liddell
Vice President Paul Tait
Past President Gary Webb
Secretary Carolyn Webb
Treasurer Robert Struthers
Membership Dorothy Gilmer and Doreen Rossi
Program Alan Butler
Special Events Sel and Anne Shields
Auditor Keith Pickett
Newsletter Marg Dennis email: colborne@bell.net and Eleanor Carter