



NORTHSHORE NEWS

A publication of The Probust Club of Northshore Cobourg

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President

Carol Lawless

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A Very Busy Club



I think I must be dreaming - did I miss winter? I am sure it will return when we least expect it. In the meantime I hope you are getting out and about enjoying this so

called "winter thaw".

It was great to see so many of you out to the January meetings. Our Club has so much happening. Bert MacMillan and Kathy Cole organized a Lunch Bunch this past week. A Drinks 'n Appies social is being planned (see details further in the newsletter). And Jack Chapman and Mary Potter have the Interclub Bowling under way. Of course, Sharron McMann and Jennie Herniak are planning several outings if you wish to take part. Our Probust Calendars can be full!

Watch for the details to celebrate Probust Month in March. One activity our Club is planning is a breakfast for all members to attend.

We have inducted six new members since I became President and we have four more coming through. Wow! That is awesome. Keep up the good work encouraging your friends to come to Probust.

I will be away for half of February but our Club will be in the capable hands of our Vice-president Rose Wood and Past President Brenda Carter. Thanks for covering for me gals!

By the time you read this newsletter, it will be less than 50 days until spring. Yippee!

See you all at the next meeting...your President Carol.



PROBUS BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Date: Monday, April 24, 2017

Place: Northshore Lanes, North'and Mall

Time: 9 a.m. Registration
9:30 a.m. bowling

Cost: \$10 for bowling, \$1.00 for shoes

Lunch Location: Lions Club Cost: TBA
Prizes, Share the Wealth Draw

Sign up: Mary Potter

Phone: 905 372 1758

Email: mpotter@cogeco.ca



Lunch at The Mill



Twenty-four Probus members enjoyed lunch at The Mill Restaurant on Wednesday, January 18 at noon.

Members sat at two long tables of twelve to facilitate conversation and serving.

The menu was a condensed one with tasty choices. Prices ranged from \$10 to \$18. A happy, sociable time seemed to be enjoyed by all!

Alberta MacMillan (Lunch Bunch Person)



Stop trying to make everybody happy. You 're not tequila

WELCOME TO NORTHSHORE



The new year has seen the induction of five new members to Northshore-Cobourg Probus Club. We welcome the following into our friendly fold:

Sponsor

Roberta Armstrong
 Roberta Armstrong
 Sharron McMann
 Bryan Armstrong
 Carol Lawless

New Member

Shirley Duncan
 John Egberts
 Mary Korol
 Harry Knapper
 Bernice Hache



Drinks and Appies

Thursday, February 9, 4 - 6 p.m.

512 Foote Crescent

Sign up with David or Lynn Harrison



It 's better to walk alone than with a crowd going in the wrong direction



The Legend of Saint Valentine



The history of Valentine’s Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine’s Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine’s actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first “valentine” greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor’s daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed “From your Valentine,” an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

While some believe that Valentine’s Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine’s death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine’s feast day in the middle of February in an effort to “Christianize” the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat’s hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city’s bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.



If you have to choose between drinking wine daily or being skinny, which would you choose? Red or white?

Building a Better Democracy

Wanting something better is a no-brainer, right, so what’s the hassle about a “better democracy”, eh? That too is obvious; define the term “better”. Well for the true theorist, democracy is not just about counting the votes, but “making each vote count”. For these guys the issue is that the last two majority governments, one Conservative and the other Liberal have been achieved with 39% of the popular vote and that means for 61% of the folks who voted they got nothing for their efforts. A true majority government should have 51% of the popular vote, probably a difficult result in our multi-party political scene. Now the current government that won all the seats in Canada’s major cities, elected MP’s from every province of both genders and both official languages is deemed “representative” but still not necessarily democratic for that reason. For the actual politicians who will have to decide, democracy is also about winning and getting power and thus any reform must give them a fair chance of win. And then there is the rest of us who are really not necessarily policy wonks, the form of our democracy seem a bit abstract amid all the more practical issues that beset us like taxes, climate change and the concern over our environment, the economy and “the Donald”, the tweet in the Whitehouse who looms large on the horizon.

Thankfully we have Wilfred Day Secretary for Fair Vote Canada to sort through the debate. He reminds us that in 9 of the last 11 elections resulted in minority governments. The “First Past the Post System” now in use “makes the country appear more divided, less national, more opposed.” Mapping the last election certainly looks that way as the largest block of Blue seats are on the prairies, “240,000 Conser-

vative ballots elected no one”. Proportional Representation was passed by the 2013 Liberal Convention leading P.M. Trudeau to promise that “The 2015 election would be the last under the current system” and indeed an all party committee was struck to agree on a system.

Well the Committee did work away and came to the conclusion that a Proportional Ballot was desirable but not the specific form of how this might actually appear. Wilfred seems to lean towards a ballot voted on in a P.E.I. referendum that permits voting for a particular candidate for the riding as well as casting a vote for

“last two majority governments ... achieved with 39% of the popular vote”

Party to represent the region. The Government will have to decide it

seems. But then how is it to be made law? The Committee recommended a referendum. But not even Wilfred was absolutely how such a thing might be held. In a country that is very pleased with itself getting electors out in the high in the high sixty percents voting getting a large enough turnout for a referendum appears problematic. In P.E.I. only 32% showed up to vote on its reform. Clearly a lot more decisions have to be made.

Julius



If you have a gun you can rob a bank. If you have a bank you can rob everyone.

Trips & Tours



Book of Mormon Sunday, March 26, 2017,
7:30pm, Cost - \$130.00,
Supper - \$34.00 per person due by March 1st.
Departure from Cobourg will be by bus at 3:00
pm from the Staples parking lot.



Beautiful - The Carol King Story, Summer, 2017, more info to follow.



Dinner Theatre: Forever Plaid, May 5th, 2017; \$50.40;

Best Western Hotel. If you have already seen it you will want to see it again! If you have not, it is a fun evening out! Think...”Four Lads”, “Jersey Boys”, “Perry Como Show”. You will know the songs from your youth (remember the sock hops) and you will want to sing along. I have tickets for the front row but I must have a commitment by February 28. So check your calendar and get a group together for a fun night! Info on above

Contact - Sharron McMann, 905-372-3567
samcmann@sympatico.ca

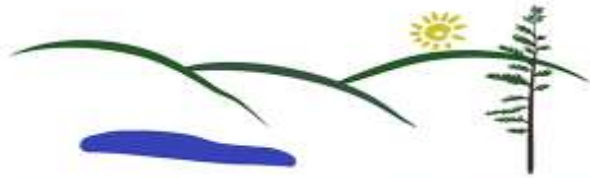
Stratford - Guys and Dolls, Thurs. July 27, 2017,
\$50.00 deposit due now. Final Cost TBD



Shaw - Me and My Girl, Thurs., Aug. 17, 2017
\$50.00 deposit due now. Final Cost TBD



For more info on the above **Contact – Jennie Herniak**, 905-372-5953,



Northumberland Land Trust

**Preserving Northumberland County
– one acre at a time.**

We keep creating more people, but God is not creating more land and so sharing with all His creatures has become our problem. John Geale, retired teacher and current head of the Northumberland Land Trust outlined how with the generous kindness of others the issue is being resolved.

It is not difficult to recognize that, "That growing population has put pressure on natural wilderness." The Land Trust is a charitable organization whose purpose is to acquire land and preserve it as part of our natural heritage. Now most of these tracts are not readily accessible to the general public and of course that is in part intentional. Now the land thus acquired provides the owner with a tax deduction but then the Trust requires cash flow to pay the taxes on it and volunteers to work to keep up the natural setting, for example, re-plant trees.

The one that is familiar to most of us is the Laurie Lawson Nature Reserve because all our kids spent time there as children in various education programs. The Board of Education pays the expenses. The area has large growth of Ash trees which are now falling victim to a foreign insect assault and the Trust has to replace these with new plantings.

It is amazing the number of endangered species that exist in Northumberland. Most of these are amphibian species and so wetlands are highly prized. Of these Chub Point is highly accessible by a bicycle path and serves as home to

a variety of frog, toads and salamanders.

Pelton Farms and Peter's Woods also features a wetland but more importantly features a Red pine and natural forest mix. It has required some re-planting after a controlled burn. Here effort has been made to attract Hognose and Milk snakes simply by laying boards in naturally sunny areas.

McEwen Park is also accessible by a cleared path has a pond and "prairie elements" but currently efforts are being made to increase the forested areas as the area is intended more as a sanctuary for Bluebirds and grass hopper Sparrows

To keep up with what's happening with the Trust there is a newsletter and speakers made available during the winter. Problems don't go away simply by watching and waiting to see. There is always effort called for and need to put the remote and getting off the couch.. This just might become your case.

Julius



John Geale accommodated club members answering many questions following his presentation

More info available at NLtrust.ca

Someday us old folks will use cursive writing as a secret code.

Once again, The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly neologism contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words...and the winners are:

1. Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.
2. Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.
6. Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
7. Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.
8. Gargoyle (n.), gross olive-flavored mouthwash.
9. Flatulance (n.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
10. Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.
11. Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
12. Pokemon (n), a Rastafarian proctologist.
13. Circumvent (n.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men..
14. Frisbeetarianism (n.), (back by popular demand): The belief that when you die, your Soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

Upcoming Speakers

Feb 15

Cobourg 150 year celebrations

Peter Delanty

Mar 1

Exploring options in seniors housing

Diane Wilson

Mar 15

Northumberland Learning Connection

Joanne Bonebakker

