



NORTHSHORE NEWS

A publication of The Probus Club of Northshore Cobourg

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President

Carol Lawless

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Extravaganza 2017



Over 300 Probus members from the Northumberland area attended the Extravaganza at the Keeler Centre in Colborne on May 31. They were thoroughly enchanted by keynote speaker Terry Fallis (pictured left) who regaled the crowd with humorous stories of his efforts to become an author.

John Mattson from the Alderville Reserve started the day off with an informative discourse on the history of the reserve and native culture. He demonstrated the basics of "smudging" (below) to Gord McArthur from Colborne and Carol Lawless from Northshore. More pictures on page 8.

Upcoming Events

June 21 Victoria Hall Tour
11 a.m. After regular meeting

July 5 The Avro Arrow
Ed Burt



President's Message



By the time you will be reading this newsletter the 2017 Probus Clubs of Northumberland Spring Celebration will have taken place. This is an event that is planned every second year. So Rose Wood and I as the Vice Presidents last year

have had the fun of being part of the planning committee for the event. Several members from our Probus Club are taking part - Brenda Carter as MC; Peter Chrisomalis leading us in *O Canada*; Therese May organizing Share the Wealth; and Linda Sedgwick-Girard decorations. I know it is going to be a success and a good time will be had by all.

Time seems to fly by: I can't believe that it is almost the month of June. Following our regular June monthly meetings on the 7th and 21st, the Club will have a bit of a break with only one meeting on July 5th and our anniversary meeting on August 16th.

Don't forget to get your ticket for the August BBQ anniversary party. Many thanks to the Club members who stepped up to make sure our summer BBQ takes place.

Many, many events have been planned over the next few months. So as Probians we could be on the road a lot. Check further into this newsletter for those events.

Over the summer we will be asking members if they will join the Management Team. It doesn't have to be a big job. Some positions we have are shared. So when asked please give it careful consideration. This is *your* Club and *you* might just be able to implement those great ideas you have.

As well as our Probus events that are planned, the Town should be jumping with the Highland Games and the Canada Day Celebrations and many other summer events. Probably see some of you at these events with family or visitors.

Have a wonderful, safe and sun filled summer. . .
Carol

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday June 21 12:30 pm

Following our tour of Victoria Hall

Oasis Bar and Grill



\$10.00 lunch menu (sandwich/wrap & soup)

Entrées include fish & chips or pasta dishes

sign-up sheet available at today's meeting.

Drinks and Appies

Home of Daphne and Bill King

Friday June 16 4 p.m.

705 120 University Ave E



A Man for the Community

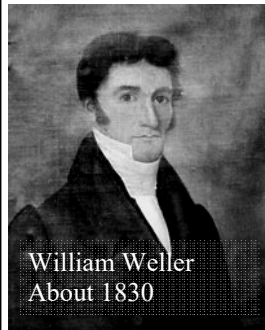
Dan Buchanan has mined local history well enough to earn three invites to speak to our group. The first was about a philandering doctor who murdered his wife, the second about a piano playing bootlegger. Both of these guys had a fatal character flaw that led to their downfall: arrogance. This is certainly not the case in his third book. He showed newspaper clippings illustrating how uniformly that his protagonist was admired his whole life even willing to accept the job of Mayor of Cobourg at a time of financial crisis when no one wanted the job.

The book is titled *The Stage Coach: William Weller*.

Cobourg was the location of his company's headquarters. The Toronto terminus for his operations is still standing was the so called "Coffin Building" for its shape built to conform to two streets that intersect at an angle. His most famous trip was carrying the Colonial Governor from Toronto to Montreal in 136 hours with multiple changes of horses every fifteen minutes in what must have been a teeth chattering ride over a road bed of felled trees. That trip incidentally is the subject for his next book and most likely the cause for his next visit. William Weller had organized the whole thing himself, but then he was a hands-on kind of entrepreneur.

Besides the company headquarters being in Cobourg so were his manufacturing shops where he built coaches, wagons and sleds for winter trips. Dan also noted the existence of a "Steam carriage" that obviously didn't work out but William was willing to take chances as the local press described him "a spirited fellow [eager] to try out new services". He even built the Rouge River Bridge at his own expense, "tightening up the stage coach business [to ensure] on time arrival times."

The 1830's were turbulent times marked by struggles between the masses and the Family Compact, a group of wealthy families that held key positions in the government that ultimately led to the Rebellion of 1837. The first Governor "to fix things up" was Charles Powlett Thompson, only to be replaced by his better known replacement Lord Durham because



William Weller
About 1830



Q & A from Dan following the presentation

of whose leadership the colonies obtained "Responsible Government" and democracy. Of course Durham didn't look upon French Canadians

very favourably advocated merging of the two colonies and a set of new problems. (I seem to be meandering off into another topic, sorry.)

The 1830's and succeeding years were ripe with opportunities, heady times for wealth and ambition. Railroads had come on the scene. There were all kinds of concern that another burgeoning metropolis on the shores of the lake, namely Port Hope, might siphon off the business if it built the railroad first even if Cobourg had the better harbour. William Weller got on board even though a railway would put him out of business. If opportunities were there for the taking no one it seemed was willing to pony up the investment except Cobourg and of course William Weller. The Railway was completed by 1854 and of course you know how it all ended. Dan speculates that given the knowledge and technology of the times there was no way to counter the wind and ice movements on Rice Lake and then there was the cost of Victoria Hall... Needless to say Cobourg hit upon hard times along with the unflattering quip, "There's Victoria Hall but where is the town?" "Muddy York" ended up with everything.

William Weller would lose all his money, died broke. Dan speculates that his children probably all moved to the U.S; "there was nothing for them here."

Julius



"The Royal Mail" by C.W. Jeffreys

Northshore Annual Birthday Celebration BBQ

Harwood Hall, Wednesday August 16th

From 3:00 to 7 pm. Dinner will be at 5:00 pm.

Bring Chairs and drinks

Buffet dinner catered by The Dutch Oven

Menu: BBQ pork loin, Chicken breast, salads, pickles etc

Water will be available as well as lemonade, coffee and tea.



Girls Night Out will run through the Summer on the Last Thursday of the month, but the venue may change on occasion.

If you plan to join us please call, or email:

Lynda Mitchell at 905-373-1812 [<l-mitchell@sympatico.ca>](mailto:l-mitchell@sympatico.ca),
or Brenda at 905-373-8194 [<mail@brendacarter.ca>](mailto:mail@brendacarter.ca).



Northshore Bridge Club will meet at the home of Carol Grice on June 15th. Please let her know your plans.



Save these Dates for the summer 4th Line Theatre Production!

Bombers: Reaping The Whirlwind – by David S. Craig Thurs, July 13.

Bombers tells the story of Peter, a man in his nineties, who is visited by a mysterious young woman whose curiosity about his wartime experience forces him to relive his memories of love, loss and friendship set against the electrified and heightened backdrop of World War II. Following Canadian Bomber crews as they struggle to win the war, this action-packed epic has romance, danger and music. Witness the joy, tragedy and human toll of war on the 4th Line stage in this world premiere. **June 7th meeting is last call for tickets for this production.**

The History of Drinking in Cavan-by Robert Winslow Wednesday August 23

The History of Drinking in Cavan looks at alcohol consumption or the lack thereof in the local area over the past 200 years. Robert Winslow and his alter-ego take the audience on a wild historical ride from the early days of Irish settlement in the township through to present-day drinking practices. This world premiere veers from the anecdotal to the psychological, from the outrageous to the serious as Winslow shares the rich stories of local residents alongside his own life experience.

Carving Canadian Pride

At the end of April of this year, the Cobourg Wood Carvers Group completed a special project of making a wooden quilt that they had designed and assembled. It began in August 2016 and was completed in April of this year. Every member that participated made individual carved wooden squares in order to assemble the 48 single and one double size patch to form this quilt.

On May 1st, 2017, Cobourg Mayor Gil Brocanier (top right) dedicated it to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Canada and the 180th Anniversary of Cobourg, (incorporated as a town on July 1st, 1837). This wooden quilt will be on display in the Northumberland Mall during the entire month of May. Following this, the quilt will return to the Senior's Centre in the Cobourg Community Centre as its permanent home.

The Wood Carvers Group currently has an average of 17 male and female members who meet once per week at the Cobourg Community Centre. Sandy (Gordon) Sandell of our Probus Club of Northshore is the co-ordinator of this group; and Jerry Chatten, who is a former member of our Probus club, until he had to leave for medical reasons, is also a member of this wood carving group.

Both Sandy and Jerry have been woodworking and carving for many years. Sandy has participated and displayed his works in many wood carver's shows and has received prizes and acknowledgements for his artwork. Jerry has also used his talents by making many wooden toys and used them as charitable works for children and hospitals before he moved into wood carving approximately 15 years ago.

Anyone who might be interested in seeing what wood carving is all about and what the Wood Carving Group does are invited to contact Sandy or Jerry, or just show up at the Seniors Center at the CCC any Tuesday morning between 9:00 AM and 12:00 noon for the fellowship and fun of wood carving as a hobby.

**** Many thanks to Paddy McCoy for the submission of this article and pictures.**



Sandy & Jerry enjoy good times at the Wood Carvers Group



Trips & Tours

Beautiful - The Carol King Story, Summer, 2017
 Registration starts in May



Info on above :**Contact - Sharron McMann**, 905-372-3567
samcmann@sympatico.ca

Oriana Singers

True North A Celebration of Canadian composers...Saturday June 10th @ 7:30 pm St. Peter's Anglican Church tickets \$25.00 from Choir members, Burnham Market, or Victoria Hall box office + (service charge)

My Fair Lady Capitol Theatre Port Hope running until June 24 905-885-1071

Very Limited number of tickets available for these productions

Cost approx \$150 - \$160

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



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



“Diversity is our Strength”

The PM had said that recently, but still it has been a long-known truth. There is a wharf in Halifax where my father first set foot in Canada that has now been remade into a museum celebrating all those who had come before. There is a poster on one of its walls that asks, “What is a Canadian?” The answer is as true now as it was when my father arrived, “An immigrant with seniority”. We had Luz Ofelia Maya, an immigrant from Columbia herself, who works with the New Canadian Centre here to describe the services her organization works to make the PM’s words into a kinder truth.



The Cobourg office of the organization had been opened as a “six week trial project” to facilitate integration of new immigrants into the Canada. It does not make decisions as to who is admitted. It just “helps with the paperwork”, like housing health card, schools, orientation...with the help of local volunteers. Services are divided between area communities with centres for various services spread between Cobourg, Port hope and Peterborough. Volunteers have been theatrical productions organized with music and dancing with their children performing as part of supporting families.

She pointed out that the kids adapt quickly to the challenges. Parents have greater difficulties,; employment assistance and learning English being the greatest. Employment Assistance is in Port Hope where an Employment Assessor is permanently located. No matter what qualifications a person might have, what drives his or her future success is Canadian experience. The Centre helps resume writing, and how to effectively present oneself, as well as the actual job search. English as a Second Language courses are available to only permanent residents. All of this is no easy task given that area residents come from nine different countries and speak six different languages.

Luz Ofelia described the various ways whereby indi-

viduals and families may become successful entrants to Canada. Individuals who apply in their home country and are approved there, gain express entry. This works equally for individuals applying as family members, for those already, here and Business Class applicants who agree to make a certain level of investment in Canada and put up a refundable bond with the government to ensure compliance.

Refugees who present the greatest difficulty are fleeing their own country and because of turmoil there, arrive with few possessions. Some are sponsored by Canadian groups as were the first Syrian refugees to arrive here. Armenian Catholics sponsored by the congregation who took charge of their well being right from the start. In total the government admitted 40,000 refugees, many sponsored by various groups, from camps in Lebanon and Turkey, supporting them for one year as they settled in. Fourteen families from this group ended up settling in our area.

It is not easy leaving the place of your birth; the challenges do not entirely stop once a family arrives; it simply changes. It must certainly be comforting to learn that the country has made some effort to anticipate issues for you. No wonder Christine Legarde, Head of the World Monetary Fund said in an unsolicited testimonial, “What the world needs now is more Canada.”

Julius



Luz Ofelia Maya describes coming to a new life in Canada

Extravaganza Collage



We're ready for lunch!!



Probus Clubs of Northumberland

Just relaxing with our friends.



John Mattson explains native culture up close and personal