



NORTHSHORE NEWS

A publication of The Probus Club of Northshore Cobourg

Volume 12 Issue 7

May 2015



President

Brenda Moore

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Easter Bonnet Creativity



The April 1st Northshore Probus meeting featured an Easter Bonnet contest. Pictured from left above: Diane Morrison (best female), Shane Maclean (best male) and Judi Curtis (most outrageous. More photos on page 4.

In This Issue



**OMG, I'm rich!
Silver in the hair,
Gold in the teeth,
Crystals in the kidney,
Sugar in the blood,
Lead in the butt,
Iron in the arteries,
and an inexhaustible
supply of natural gas!**

*I never thought I would
accumulate such wealth!*

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Dan compared the Dr King, Sarah Ann Lawson case as the O.J. Simpson trial of the 1850's

The Last Hanging

It was also the first public hanging in Cobourg. The other quaint coincidence of that event and the author of the book, Dan Buchanan, was also kin to the killer; in fact he grew up in the same farmhouse where he had lived, the murderer's grave was right outside his bedroom window, his tombstone kept hidden, buried along with him because of all the shame and notoriety it had brought the family in later years and his niece didn't want to see it."

Dan's began his book as history but it became more of a mystery made all the more exciting by his telling of it to us. As with any history it had much to say about the character of the times. As in even today's mysteries there is cutting edge science leading to its resolution, the victim's family persistent in seeking justice for their loved one, an unwitting *femme fatale* who unintentionally prompts the heinous deed and dogged police work, a cross border chase and even a U.S. marshal in bringing the criminal back to face justice.

The murderer, Dr. King, born in 1833 the eldest of ten children, first trained to be a teacher at Ryerson College even taught for a couple of years at Central Public School in Hamilton before deciding to go to Philadelphia to study Homeopathic medicine. His wife and eventual victim Sarah Ann Lawson went with him, but returned home to live with her parents. She had been pregnant but the child was born and then died. Even then she described him as "acting like a tyrant". He even accused his wife of infidelity while he was away much to the anger of her parents.

He came back and they set up house in Brighton where he opened his practice. Enter Melinda Vandervoot, she had been staying with Sarah. She did have some musical talent, sang well, any way he was "smitten" described her as "sweet little lump of good nature". She sent him her picture. Then Dr. King started to tell Sarah that she seemed unwell, started giving her some medicine, "a white powder twice a day" arsenic it would be

known later. She wasn't getting any better; he gave her opium which seemed to help; he administered chloroform. She died on Saturday of the same week. The doctor "grieved loudly". The parents wanted an autopsy. The doctor goes to visit Melinda. The parents go to the constable, clear out the King house to gather evidence. Coroner summons a jury. Sarah's body is exhumed, taken to Toronto where a doctor has just developed a test for arsenic, but needed Sarah's liver to confirm it. Dr. King wants to take Melinda to New York state. Sarah's brother follows them, finds a U.S. Marshall. Dr. King is arrested and brought back to the Cobourg jail.

The trial with the forensic evidence was a foregone conclusion still the jury "Recommends mercy". The judge will have none of that, sentences him to be hanged by the neck. Now it is the local officials that have the problem. No one has ever done a hanging before and wanted a "good hanging", no emotional displays to ruin the day and there too was the possibility of escape from the jail. It had happened before. A constable was assigned to stay with him the whole time. Now it's time for a little history.

Murder in the Family: The Dr. King Story

The constable kept a daily journal. Then too custom required "a good death", the necessity of the doctor to acknowledge what he had done and confess his sins; enter the Rev. Vanderburg. On May 28, shortly before the June 8 execution, Dr. King confesses to the Reverend and then writes a rambling, self-serving 7000 word "whitewash" of his actions. The Globe refuses to publish. That of course did not mean the press ignored the case. There would be all sorts of stories especially on execution day. Ten thousand people jammed the roads, came to witness "the mournful procession" that moved to the gallows at the corner of Elgin and Burnham streets. The killer hands tied, blind folded, stood on the appointed spot, the trap sprung. He was left hanging for thirty minutes; the crowd silent, milling about finally straggling off, as Dan writes, "They had seen what they had come to see."

Dr. King's two younger brothers cut him down to be buried under Dan's bedroom window. Sarah's family were given the rope, pieces of it eventually sold off as mementos. Melinda remained in the States was rumored to have had a number of husbands eventually dying in California in a House of Charity.

New VP Accepts Position



Fairly outspoken.
Abhor negativity.

Believe rules are necessary to guide
the intelligent and control the stupid.

I encourage you to question
me, harass me, disagree with
me and make fun of me.

A cynical optimist by nature but I
look for the best but am not in the
least surprised when I don't get it.

Personally competitive but not with others

Believe human beings are truly
funny creatures.

With a most unique and hilarious speech, Brenda Carter (pictured above) described herself as she accepted the position of Vice President at the April 15th meeting of Northshore Probus. Highlighted in the boxes are excerpts from her brief presentation. As Brenda said in the beginning of her speech, "I thought I would give you a clue as to the type of acting VP you have now, so that perhaps lots of people will run in opposition at election time." We welcome Brenda to our leadership team.



Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Northshore Easter Bonnet Parade



President's Message

Recent Announcement

I was very happy to announce at our last meeting that Brenda Carter had accepted the position of Vice President. Brenda brings so much knowledge and experience to our club. You have probably been greeted by her recently as you have entered our meeting room. Brenda along with Lynda and Norma are very committed to ensuring that all our members and guests feel welcome.



Our Management Team

We have a wonderful group of people on our management team and we always welcome new members to join the team. There will be opportunities later this year to get involved, but you don't have to wait to let us know that you would be interested, please speak to any member of the management team now and let them know if you are interested.

Events

One of the highlights for this year is the Extravaganza which will be held on June 2nd. Presidents from all 9 of the Northumberland clubs are continuing to work together on the finer details of the planning to ensure that you will have a memorable experience.

A great time was enjoyed by all at our last Drinks and Appies which was hosted by Lynda Mitchell. If you have not attended one of these events please try to attend our next event which will be hosted by Brenda Carter. This is a great way get to know your fellow members better. Also, we welcome you to join us for one of our upcoming luncheons with our lunch bunch. Many long lasting friendships exist today as a result of attending one of these events.

Speakers

Our committee chairs for choosing our speakers (Trish Riddell and Judy Baker) have provided an

excellent variety of speakers to date. I received many comments about our last speaker Dan Buchanan from our members. Most of the comments included the words... outstanding speaker and presentation. If you missed this presentation you will be able to read his book, Murder in the Family - The Dr. King Story will be released July 25, 2015 by Dundurn Press of Toronto. You will find it in your local book stores and many ebook web sites.

Welcome back

I welcome all our Snow Birds back and realize that with their return the Spring flowers start to bloom and that Mothers' Day is just around the corner.

Mothers' Day

Just a few hints for our men on "**What women really want**" taken from a recent survey. Travel, Days at the Spa, Sailing on a cruise, Weekend Getaways, Jewelry, Rings or Bracelets with children or grandchildren's birthstones. Also, here are a few things that "**Women really really don't want**". Sports and Outdoor Equipment, Bar and Entertaining accessories (e.g., specialty glasses) and Equipment for the car (e.g., car stereo, car cleaning kit).

To all our Mothers.

Brenda



“The Arts Make Your Soul Grow”



Duke Orsino in Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* says the most well known statement of music’s relevance, “If music be the food of love, play on”. John Kraus, Music teacher at Lakefield School

“Music speeds up healing and is therapy.”

and Director of the Northumberland Orchestra and Choir would readily concur in the Duke’s wish, “Give me

excess of it” yet for other and perhaps even better reasons. John, who sought out “music opportunities as a kid” went to high school with members of a group, *The Alley Cats*, who acquired a degree of fame in their time, reminisced with us about his musical past and present.

John begins with its character building aspect, the “dedication” imposed by all the practice necessary in getting it right. “Making music speeds up healing” thus it is therapy. Listening to it while working makes one “more lucid [and] memories connected with music are more permanent...thus music is important is treating memory loss “so much for the debate over the kid being able to listen to his tunes while doing homework.

For him the ninety members of the Orchestra and Choir aged from 14 to 80 are exact examples of this



view. Rehearsals represent precise examples of “the mind and body at work for up to three hours a week”. In fact he alleges that working on the music of Stravinsky

makes one “wiser, healthier, have a longer life [their] brains fully engaged”.

A review of the Orchestra and Choir’s history illustrated its unique contribution to our community. It acquired fame right from its beginning. A film made of their rehearsals and performances under its first director Philip Shauss was nominated for an Acad-

emy Award. Well, it didn’t win, but then just getting into the race sometimes confers a victory in

its own right. This has been followed by a not all that long a list of dedicated directors and many performers who have graced us with a wide range of music. Also important over the years has been to give local talent a chance to develop and for the rest of us an opportunity to enjoy. And as for the soul, well, the performances are in the United Church, and then there is Handel’s soaring *Alleluia Chorus* in that setting that most certainly does more than simply lift the spirit.

Julius

Notes From the Editor
 Next month’s (June) newsletter will be the last edition until September. If you have any announcements or vital information you wish to pass on to your fellow Northshore members please submit them to me by phone or email by Tuesday May 26.

Thank you
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Welcome to Northshore



President Brenda Moore welcomed Enid Adams into the Northshore Probus family at the April 15th meeting

Upcoming Speakers



May 6 - Helping hands - Carol Carmen

May 20 Waterfront Festival - Kevin Ward Chamber of Commerce

June 3 Caroline Thornton - "Racehorses - Rags to Riches or Reverse?!"

June 17 Mandy Robinson, Cobourg Town Crier

July 8 - Diane Taylor - "The Gift of Memoir"

Sept 16 Jo-Anne Page - "The Steven Lewis Foundation, Grandmothers to Grand mothers program"

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

Events Calendar

JC = June Collins 905 373 1224

SM = Sharron McMann 905 372 3567

May 20 Lunch Bunch at Buttermilk - quiche or shepherd's pie + dessert \$20
See Sharon Holmes for details

May 30 Kawartha Downs - buffet dinner \$40 3 pm start JC



June 13 Westben Fiddler on the Roof \$35 JC

June 25 Drinks and Appies at Brenda Carter's 3:30 - 6:00. Let Brenda know if you are coming.

June 30 AGO Emily Carr \$75 Northumberland Probus

July 16 Capitol Theatre - The Dining Room \$32 JC

July 21 4th line Theatre - Bad Luck Robbers 6pm \$32 SM

August 5 Annual BBQ



August 15 Kingston Fort Henry \$75 SM

August ? Capitol Theatre - Singing in the Rain \$30 JC

August 18 4th Line - Give Me That Old Prime Religion \$32 SM

Sept TBA Cruise



Sept TBA Royal Botanical Gardens Hamilton \$65 - 70

Oct 7 Car Rally



Oct 21 AGM

Inter - Club Activity

Stratford – Sound of Music July 22 \$160

Shaw Festival – Sweet Charity August 27 \$160