



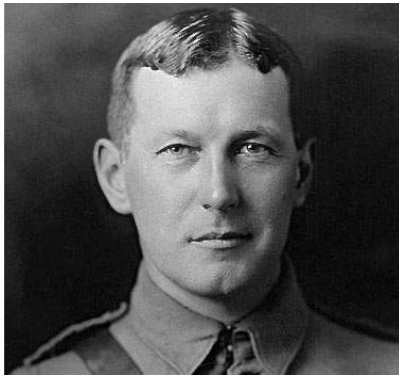
# The ProBuzz



Newsletter of the PROBUS Club of Northumberland – November 2015

## “Lest we forget”

We observe Remembrance Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the day in 1918 an Armistice halted World War I. The symbol of that day is now the Scarlet Poppy, which grows naturally in Europe, and which flourished after the battles of WW I, just as it had done after the devastation of the Napoleonic Wars, 100 years before. The flower was chosen in 1921 by the British Legion as the symbol for their “Poppy Appeal” to raise money for veterans. In no small measure, their choice came about because of the impact of a poem written by the Canadian surgeon, Lt. Col. John McCrae, just after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres in 1915 (when the Germans first used chlorine gas). Sadly, he died from pneumonia 10 months before the Armistice was signed.



## President’s Message

A big “Thank You” to all the members of the **Probus Club of Northumberland** for the opportunity to be your President for the coming year. This is a real honour, and I will strive to keep our Club vibrant and active.

Thank you to our Past-President **Lynn Ramsay** for a great year of Leadership. She certainly had her challenges along the way, but she managed to get through them just fine. Great year, Lynn.

I am looking forward to a busy year, and I am confident that, with your ongoing support, we will have another great year of fun, fellowship, and lots of activities.

Thanks to all of the members of Probus–Northumberland whose enthusiastic participation make for such an active and successful Club.

*“Our Strength is Friendship; our Success is Participation”*

Yours in Probus,

~ Barb Lawrence

**Note:** Every issue of **ProBuzz** is actually created in **colour**. A PDF copy of it is posted online, and also put in the club archives. If you would like to receive a copy by e-mail each month, just let the Editors know.

Contact: <stee@cogeco.ca>

## “In Flanders Fields”

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch: be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

~ by John McCrae (1872-1918)

## Membership News

As of October 15th, we have **180 members** in our Club. The latest Membership List was given out on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, but copies are available at the check-in desk or, if you prefer, we would be happy to e-mail it to you. Here are some recent changes:

**New Address:** Jane Holmes has moved to 128 Hibernia St., Cobourg K9A 3J8

**New Members:** Please welcome **Audrey Stacey**, 101 Marisa Lane, Unit 2, Cobourg K9A 5N6. Tel: (905) 373-1484. She was sponsored by Marcie Polson, and is interested in birding, carpet bowling and shuffleboard. (*Audrey was inducted on October 22<sup>nd</sup> with the aid of Three of our Halloween Witches. ~ the Editors.*)

Also welcome **Brian & Marg Clarkson**, sponsored by George & Barb Lawrence. They are willing to “man” a sign-up table, host an Appies & Drinks, be greeters and to help with photography. (Brian also said “and whatever my wife tells me to”!) They are both interested in golf and music, and Marg plays the flute in the New Ventures Band. Please add their details to your Membership List: 36 Tremaine Terrace, Cobourg K9A 5A8. Tel: (905) 377-0452.

~ Dianne & Gord Graham

**Trip to Agawa Canyon** ~ Mary Wilson

On **September 28th**, 10 Probus members and 43 others set out on a 5-day coach tour, arriving in Sault Ste Marie, in the early evening. The next day, "The Agawa Canyon Train" took us 114 miles into the breathtaking scenery of the Canadian Shield, with its lakes, rivers and waterfalls. The fall colours did not disappoint as the sun shone on vibrant red, orange, yellow and golden trees. We were fortunate to have such a bright sunny day to see sights like those painted by "The Group of Seven" who spent time in the area in the 1920s.



A treat was in store for us. As the train slowed down we saw a Moose trotting ahead and for several minutes we watched until it found a clearing and sauntered off into the trees. It was a rare sighting that thrilled our tour guide who hadn't seen a moose in 25 yrs of doing the tour. Once in the canyon we walked along the trails and took photos. A couple of Probus members even talked about a "Jamie" sighting in the canyon. How did he get there?

Next day, in contrast, we travelled by bus to Michigan, and boarded a ferry to spend 2 days on Mackinac Island. It was a step back in time as island transportation is limited to horse and buggy, bicycle or foot. We took a carriage ride early on a cold morning so that gloves were the gift shops' best sellers! The carriage was pulled by 3 Belgian Draft horses, each weighing 2000 lbs. No traffic or noise or exhaust fumes on the island, but don't step in a puddle, as it might not be water.

We strolled through "The Grand Hotel", quite resplendent with carpeting and sofas in bright colours, and furniture in different shapes and styles: it had to be seen to be believed. We sat in the dining room, serving 500 visitors, and had a quite extensive buffet.

Later, in the afternoon, 3 of us rented bikes and cycled the 8 miles around the island. This bike ride, plus seeing a moose, and 53 people singing "Happy Birthday" to me on the bus, were highlights of my week.

Thank you to Roslyne Cooke for suggesting this tour.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Drive & Dine** ~ Evelyn Gorringe

Monday, **October 5<sup>th</sup>**, started off with a miserable weather forecast for our outing. Fortunately, though it was cloudy, it did not rain. At 2 min intervals, 25 cars set off from the Lions Club Centre for an afternoon of exploration and discovery.

It's amazing how many roads were found by our intrepid planners that enabled us to avoid the main highways, and to

spend a delightful afternoon trying to follow their instructions and discover answers to their questions. I came back with several interesting pieces of information that I will share with those who missed this trip.



Are you aware that the Bluebirds of Northumberland owe their survival to a widowed mother of seven (Hazel Bird), and to Audrey Wilson and her students of Merwin Greer School? Did you know that a large solar energy farm is being established in our area? Have you seen large, oval holes in trees and know that Pileated Woodpeckers are responsible? Did you know that Hydro workers have put platforms on pylons and poles for nesting Ospreys? Are you aware that the phrase "Rate of Speed", seen on the Port Hope road signs, is grammatically incorrect?



The tour itself ended at the Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre for a healthy dose of local history. It was followed by a wrap-up, with drinks and a chicken dinner at the Lions Club Centre.

Thanks to Stan & Gladys Maggs and Sue & Ossie Tee for arranging such an enjoyable and informative event.

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**Speakers Corner**  
 ~ George Lawrence & Michael Hanlon  
**November 12**, Remembrance Day  
**November 26**, New Ventures Band

## Multiple Speakers

The expected speaker for **October 8<sup>th</sup>** cancelled at the last minute, so George Lawrence recruited a few of our club members to talk about themselves, to fill the void.

**Harry Nash**, who came from the Toronto area, spent 32 years in the Air Force. Early on, he met and wisely chose to marry Linda, a girl from Bancroft. After Harry left the military they moved to Scotland to look after Harry's mum. While there he worked for local government and later set up his own computer business (and did consumer research on Single Malt Whiskies).

**Gord Hewson**, a Brit, came over in the 1950s and worked on the ill-fated Avro Arrow. After its demise, he worked as an engineer for the Canadian Car Company and other companies across Ontario, fetching up finally in Cobourg, at General Foods, in its engineering department. Gord recited a humorous poem about Sam, a soldier in the Peninsular War, in Napoleonic times.

**Eve Gorringe** also crossed the Atlantic in the '50s. She had grown up in England, and stayed in London throughout most of WW II. After the war, she became a teacher and in 1956 met an Australian girl who was moving to Canada and she agreed to meet her here. A week before Eve left England, the "Sheila" phoned to say her father was very ill and so she was returning home. Eve had no job, no place to stay and little money but she still crossed the "pond". She liked the people and the country, and so she stayed.

**Ossie Tee** grew up in England, and came to Canada as a student in 1963. He obtained an M.Sc. at McMaster, where he met his future wife, Sue. He went back to the UK to get a Ph.D. in Chemistry and returned to the U of T in January 1968. When, in 1970, he got a job at Sir George Williams U in Montreal, he and Sue got married, had two children, and lived there until 2009 when they moved to Cobourg.

**Theresa Smith** grew up on a farm near Roslin, north of Belleville, where she acquired 3 brothers and 3 sisters. After she married, she raised 2 children, a boy and a girl. She has lived in various towns and cities around Ontario, before coming to Cobourg in 1986. She was a founding member of our Probus club.

**Michael Hanlon** was born in Harrow, near London, UK. After working on newspapers in Windsor, Hull and Stoke-on-Trent, he came to Canada in 1958 to work at the Globe and Mail, where he held various positions. He quit in a huff in 1965 and joined "The Canadian", a weekend supplement that appeared in papers across Canada. He joined the Toronto Star in 1974 as a daily columnist and later worked on special features and news that took him around the world. He and Joan moved to Grafton in 1992 and they now live in Cobourg.

**Roslynn Cooke** was born in Scotland but was raised in Montréal, where she was educated by Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame. She moved to Toronto and taught with the Metro Separate School Board. Later, she trained and worked for the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital. After that, Roslynn entered into politics and was involved in the appointment of a provincial solicitor general. More recently, after a stint as an innkeeper in Port Colborne, she moved to Cobourg to live with her daughter.

## "The Halloween Meeting"



On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we were greeted at the door by the Halloween committee: Evelyn Gorringe (dressed as a disorderly Nun) and Norma Stoffers (as a provocative Pussycat). The room contained several witches, including our current President (Barb) and our immediate Past-president (Lynn), while the previous past-president (Jamie) was a very pale Calypso singer.

There were many other varied, even outrageous costumes. We had a handsome Artist with a bright red tam and scarf taking bookings for portraits. We almost had a blessed event as a very "pregnant" "Chambermaid" looked close to deliver. Apparently, "the Butler" (her husband) did it!

The tables were nicely decorated with treats for those with a sweet tooth.

Thank you all for making this another fun Halloween. We can always count on our Probus members to support the committee that has worked so hard for us all

~ Theresa Smith

## SOCIAL CALENDAR ~ Marie Dunphy

**November 13 - 22:** The Northumberland Players present "**Macbeth**" at the Firehall in Cobourg.

**November 14:** "ELVIS: Wonderful World Of Christmas" with Steve Michaels, 8:00 PM

**January 16, 2016:** "Take it Easy: The Story of the Eagles", Capitol Theatre, Port Hope. 8:00pm. \$35.00

**Ideas for Trips & Events:** Please let Mary Dunphy know if you have ideas for future trips or events. Her e-mail address is <mbdunphy51@gmail.com>. She would be very interested in hearing from you.

### Singles Club ~ Louise Barraclough

**Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.**

The Mill, Cobourg, at 12:30 pm.

**Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

The Carlyle Inn & Bistro, Port Hope, at 12:30 pm

### Lunch Bunch ~ Marion Boys

**November 26:** C.J.'s, 1 Strathy Rd, Cobourg

**Future Thursday Meetings:**

**November 12<sup>th</sup>.** Remembrance Day

**November 26<sup>th</sup>.** New Ventures Band

**December 10<sup>th</sup> - Our Christmas Celebration.**



Tickets for this evening of socializing, dinner, music and fun will be \$48.00 per person. Sign up soon. The organizers are Barb Lawrence, Shirley Erskine and Anne Sargent.

**January 14<sup>th</sup>** TBA and **January 28<sup>th</sup>** TBA

**Gentle Reminder**

Cell phones that ring during the public parts of the meeting are annoying and embarrassing. Please remember to turn your phone to 'silent', or better still, turn it 'OFF' before the start of the speaker's presentation. Thank you.

**HERMAN** by Jim Unger (1937-2013)



**"You need more exercise. Go out and get me a Cheeseburger with onions."**

*"Don't worry about avoiding temptation.  
As you grow older it will avoid you."*

**Proceed with Caution**

A young policeman called in on his radio.

"I have an interesting case here, Sarge. An elderly lady has shot her husband for stepping on the floor she had just mopped."

"Have you arrested her?", asked the Sargeant.

"No sir. Not yet. The floor's still wet."

**Notes:**

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The next **ProBuzz** will be in **JANUARY** and the **DEADLINE** for it is **December 28<sup>th</sup>**.

Please send any material to: [ossie@cogeco.ca](mailto:ossie@cogeco.ca)

PDF versions of **ProBuzz** are available at < [www.probusnorthumberland.com/news/northumberland-news](http://www.probusnorthumberland.com/news/northumberland-news) >

# ProBuzz Picture Supplement



**Photos from the  
Agawa Canyon Trip  
by Mary Wilson**



## Photos from the Drive and Dine



# Photos from the Halloween Meeting

