



Probus Patter

Port Hope and District Probus Club, since 1998

December 2015

Regular Meetings

December 1: Christmas Party,
11:30 am, at the Masonic Hall,
54 Toronto Road

January 5: Ted Rafuse, Local
Historian, will speak on "*Coal
to Canada*"

January 19: Morris Tait:
"*Everything You Need to Know
About Exercise*"

February 2: tbd

February 16: tbd

A joint meeting with the
Ganaraska Club is being
planned for a Thursday in March



Good News!

Based on our healthy bank
balance. the Management
Committee has reduced the
meeting fee to **\$2.**



President's Message

I am writing these words a little more than a week-
and-a-half after Remembrance Day. I was at the
Cenotaph that day, in order to lay a wreath on
behalf of the Probus Club of Port Hope. I was
surprised, and pleased, at the number of people in
attendance, even though there was a light rain
falling. (At least it wasn't snowing.) As always, it
was a moving ceremony,

Now we prepare for a busy time of
year. In our house, after the American
Thanksgiving, fall decorations are put

away and out come the many containers of Christmas
ornaments. However, I read that Starbucks has
removed all signs of Christmas from their "seasonal"
take-out coffee cups; they are just plain red. One
fellow, who had a sense of humour, when asked what
his name was (to be written on his cup when he
orders his coffee), said "Merry Christmas". As a
result, the barista had to call out "Merry Christmas"
when his coffee was ready!

On a much more serious note; as usual, we are now
preparing for celebrations with family and friends.
This year, we will also remember Paris, one of our
favourite cities, and the unimaginable events that
have taken place there recently.

Robert and I wish you and yours a
Very Merry Christmas
and all the best for a
Happy New Year.

Barbara



November 3: Remembrance Day Meeting



Ian Douglas as a young army officer

It was particularly fitting that this meeting should be in the Legion Hall. Legion staff brought out four plaques commemorating Canadian troops involvement in World Wars I and II and Korea.

The meeting started with Keith Pickett, Barbara Struthers and Alan Butler reading "In Flanders Field" written by Canadian Major John McCrae in 1915.

Paul Tait introduced our speaker, Brigadier Ian Douglas (ret'd) and his wife, Joan.

The Brigadier gave a fascinating account of his 42 years in the military, starting in Germany, Cyprus and Central America with the Canadian Army, then becoming Military Attaché to the US Government, and finally, after formal retirement, playing a leadership role in United Nations Peacekeeping missions in Nicaragua, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Bosnia.

He spoke proudly of the demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance in 1990, including the disarmament of 23,000 Contra resistance fighters. Citing it as a model of peace keeping success.

His next posting, to Liberia, to conduct United Nations reconnaissance for "DDR" (Disarmament, Demobilization, and Re-Integration) was not successful. To quote "It was the most destructive war I had ever seen." The photo on the left shows Ian with some of Charles Taylor's soldiers, children whose guns were almost taller than they were. He quoted Romeo D'Allaire's book title, "*They Fight Like Soldiers, They Die Like Children*". There are still child soldiers in Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Republic of Congo.



With the Child Soldiers of Liberia



Later, when Ian was working in the Republic of Congo, no country would provide the United Nations mission with troops, so mercenaries were hired.

Many were ex policemen, and he had to give them instruction in interrogation techniques that did not rely simply on brute force.

A final interesting quote: "There is no sense in having peacekeepers if there is no peace to keep."

Brigadier General Douglas' presentation was followed by a rendition of the Last Post, a minute's silence and the Reveille, courtesy of Lieutenant (Navy) Clive Montgomery.

See more Remembrance Day photos on the facing page



Welcome to new member **Murray Munro**

already an invaluable member of our AV team. Murray's wife, Fran, likes teaching in English in foreign countries, and the two of them have lived or travelled over much of Asia, as she worked in Kuala Lumpur, Korea, Bali and now in Azerbaijan.



November 17: Adam McCue talked about Waste Management

Adam, Manager of Planning and Technical Support in the Transportation and Waste Management Department of Northumberland County, gave us a detailed overview of present practices and future plans.

In 1991 we had 9 active landfills, but now only the Brighton Landfill is open, and it is rapidly filling up. There is an already approved plan to expand it, and, at the same time, put existing landfill into plastic lined compartments to stop noxious fluids seeping into the surrounding environment. The expanded capacity will meet County needs for the next seven years.

Helped by residents' blue boxes, the County has been able to greatly reduce landfill requirements with the collection of recyclables. These are sent to the County Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Grafton, where new technologies can scan and recognize items and air blast them into the right containers, effectively reducing staffing requirements. Continual processing improvements have helped the County to further reduce and divert landfill, as well as successfully market more recyclables.

Adam suggested members may like to take a free tour of the MRF. Gill de Auer recommended the tour as being very interesting, and you can get an excellent lunch!

A five-year plan includes the Brighton Landfill expansion and developing a Green Bin program. The cost of waste management in the County is presently about \$200 per person (including the \$2.75 charged for each garbage bag). Over the five years of the plan, this will gradually increase to \$220.

Adam finished by briefly describing the Durham York Energy Centre, expected to be fully operational by the first quarter of 2016, at a cost of about \$300 million. It will then process 140,000 tons of landfill per year, reducing it by 90%. In 2014, Northumberland County only collected 8,140 tons of landfill, so a similar facility is obviously out of our reach, however, perhaps we may be able to purchase some use.



Adam McCue



President Barbara Struthers lays the Probus Wreath at the Cenotaph on November 11



Our own Veterans at the November 3rd meeting

From left: Erik Norenus, Sid Hatch, Mervyn Richard, Alan Butler, President Barbara, Brigadier General Ian Douglas, Noel Martin

Probus Small Group Outing



It was a beautiful fall morning on Saturday, November 7th when the small group of Probus members drove along Highway 2 toward Brighton.

We were on our way to visit the Christmas at Presqu'île Arts and Crafts show which was celebrating its 25th season. One hundred and fifty artisans from all across the province must go through a carefully juried process to have their work accepted for show and sale.

For some of us this was our first visit. It was all that we had hoped for.

After the show we chose to have our picnic at a table in the warm sunshine, knowing that this might be the last of the season, rather than going indoors at a restaurant.

A good time was had by all.

Now we shall look ahead to spring for our next adventure. Perhaps others will join us then. We shall be looking for new and exciting places to visit.

Marg Dennis and Barb Loucks

Edith is always interested

in hearing members' suggestions for special events. Contact her at 905-885-5390 or edicar@sympatico.ca

Restaurant Review: Tetra Kitchen and Vines

Imagine a restaurant named Tetra Kitchen and Vines! Intriguing perhaps, but not compelling. Don't be fooled. Barbara and I, joined by two Probus friends, took a chance and tried the oddly named restaurant, located in a small shopping centre in Bowmanville, several blocks north of King Street just off Liberty Rd at 570 Longworth. What a find! Staffed by extremely pleasant greeters and waiters, the restaurant lists many interesting appetizers paired with delightful wines.

Try, for example, Lobster Spring Rolls, or perhaps Shrimp & Calamari Salad. Braver souls might dare to try Escargots with a puff pastry crust or Mussels with Lobster Dill Cream.

Finishing your attractively presented appy, you would move on to the more than 15 Mains. Perhaps 10 oz. Striploin, Duck, Filet of Salmon, Lamb Shank, Mahi Mahi?

As to desserts, if sweet tooth succeeds in trumping common sense, Tetra will deliver with choices that will make you wet your lips and roll your eyes.

Was our happy foursome satisfied? You betcha! So, if you want a special occasion meal, or to try something new that will please on all counts, remember these diners' unbridled enthusiasm for all things Tetra.

Robert Struthers



Caterers: *coordinated by Dorothy Gilmer*

January Captain: Shirley Robinson	February Captain: Jeanne Keyser
Jan 5: Lucy Frew, Jeanne Keyser, Nancy Lynch	Feb 2: Barbara Hawthorne, Fran & Don Campbell
Jan 19: Joyce Lees, Barbara Loucks, Gillian & Gareth Jones	Feb 16: Liz Davidson, Jack & Sheila Goering

Greeters: *coordinated by Barb Winfield*

Jan 5:	Bernice Makepeace, Betty Collins
Jan 19:	Pat Goodyear, Una Norenus
Feb 2:	Barb Loucks, Alan Butler
Feb 16:	Ruth Roy, Joan McIntosh