



# The Wasagan



March, 2015

Newsletter Editor: Tom Donohue (t.donohue@rocketmail.com)

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Official Newsletter of  
Beachcombers PROBUS, Wasaga  
Beach, Ontario

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[www.probus.org/canada.htm](http://www.probus.org/canada.htm)  
Newsletter Site:  
[www.probus.org/15wasbcn.pdf](http://www.probus.org/15wasbcn.pdf)

## Management Contacts

PRESIDENT:

**Ross Dawe** 429-8894

PAST PRESIDENT:

**Ron Hanson** 422-0227

VICE-PRESIDENT

**John Dunnett** 352-0100

TREASURER:

**Don McFadyen** 422-1162

NEW MEMBERS:

**Sheila Ewing** 429-5319

SECRETARY:

**Doris Willis** 429-7835

MEMBERSHIP:

**Judy Morrison** 429-6611

SOCIAL:

**Ron Hanson** 422-0227

REFRESHMENTS:

**Lyn and George Rice** 429-1798

SPEAKERS and PROFILES: **Dave**

**Morrison/Doug McCullough**

429-6611/429-7075

GOOD WILL/TELEPHONE:

**Vincy Stephenson** 422-0201

NEWSLETTER:

**Tom Donohue** 429-0644

ARCHIVIST:

**Gene Stephenson** 422- 0201

## MARCH'S GENERAL MEETING

**Speaker:** Dan Skelton, President and Chief Operating Officer of  
Blue Mountain Resorts **TODAY'S BREAKFAST LASTS FROM**  
**9:00 am TO 9:45 am. Bring plates and cutlery from home.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter rolls along and our social committee under the direction of **Ron Hanson** continues to roll out opportunities for PROBUS members to enjoy a variety of social activities. The swinging jazz luncheon was one example of a wonderful way of enjoying a cold winter afternoon and was thoroughly enjoyed by the PROBUS members who attended this event.



**Ross Dawe**



2015

Happy New Year!

I'm sure that many of you are saddened by and concerned about recent world events. However, Chinese New Year was celebrated on February 19 and provides some hope for the future. We are now in the Year of The Sheep (or Ram or Goat). In the past, some superstitious families have

tried to avoid giving birth during the year of the sheep since people born in that year can be seen as not being very action oriented and seem to take a long time reaching decisions. On the positive side, people born in the Year of The Sheep are also considered to be compassionate, kind, tolerant, trustworthy, and reliable. It appears as if a kinder, gentler year lies ahead as the year of the sheep begins. Like you, I hope that the world can become a kinder and gentler place. Let's hope that it does. We can all do our part by being kind to each other every day. Hopefully, it

won't be a "baaaaad" year.

**March is PROBUS month so wear your blue and yellow to the meeting, enjoy the special catered breakfast (only for those who paid) and sing the PROBUS song (on the last page). REMEMBER; SHOW UP AT 9:00 AM FOR THE BREAKFAST. Bring your own plates and cutlery, please.**

## FEBRUARY'S MEETING

**Greeters:** THANK YOU TO OUR GREETERS FOR FEBRUARY: Janet and Lance Wright. If you wish to be a greeter, please speak to Ron Hanson.

**Ambiance:** Thanks were given to: Joan Smith for her table décor and Lyn and George Rice for the coffee and goodies.

There was a special Valentine's Day quiz which was enjoyed by all, even though it was tough. If you seem to recollect this winning group from somewhere else, they also won the April Fool's Quiz last year.



Happy St Patricks Day

## WELCOME NEW PROBUS MEMBERS

New Members Chair Sheila Ewing introduced new members Gary and Renee Thomas, Rudy and Ann Hochkirchen, Maria and Armando Iamonaco, Sharon and George Abiad, Hogan Courier and Ellie Donnelly.





## OUR GUEST SPEAKER

**Doug McCullough** introduced our guest speaker, Christina Holroyd who gave a very interesting talk about autism. One thing to remember is you have to be direct and blunt with autistic people. Christina related the story of someone using the expression, "What's wrong with this picture?" with an autistic young person who then stopped to look at a nearby picture and wonder what WAS wrong with the picture. Christina's talk certainly offered good information in dealing with those on the spectrum who are increasing in number in our society. Thanks Christina.

## LUCKY DRAW



**Lucky Draw: Joan Maloney**  
1st PRIZE: \$47.00 **George Abiad**  
2nd PRIZE: \$32.00 **Barb Roettgher**  
3rd PRIZE: \$26.00 **Joan Porter**  
Speakers' Fund: \$35.00  
**PLEASE BRING COINS TO THE LUCKY DRAW TABLE AND BUY TICKETS BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS.**

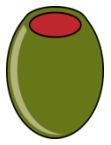
## SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

On February 18<sup>th</sup> a number of our club members participated in the "Swingin Jazz Lunch" at the Bistro 26 restaurant. The food was good and the music even better. I think that the afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended.

Here is a summary of our upcoming events that we hope you all will take advantage of.



March 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> 2015



We have planned a special private tasting party at "The Lively Olive" in Collingwood. There have been 2 dates planned for this event, March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 11<sup>th</sup>. The March 10<sup>th</sup> date has been sold out but there still is room available for the March 11<sup>th</sup> date. We can still accommodate another 10 people. The



tasting will begin at 6:00 pm., (should arrive by 5:45pm) and last for about 90 minutes. The address for the Lively Olive is, 21 Hurontario St., Collingwood). I have been advised that should you wish to bring your own wine or beer to drink during this event you can do so. There will be snacks that the store will provide for our tasting experience. We will then go out for dinner as a group to Tesoro Italian Restaurant (18 Schoolhouse Lane, Collingwood) which is beside the Admirals Pub Restaurant. There is no cost for the event.....dinner cost would be at the members' expense.

### April, 2015

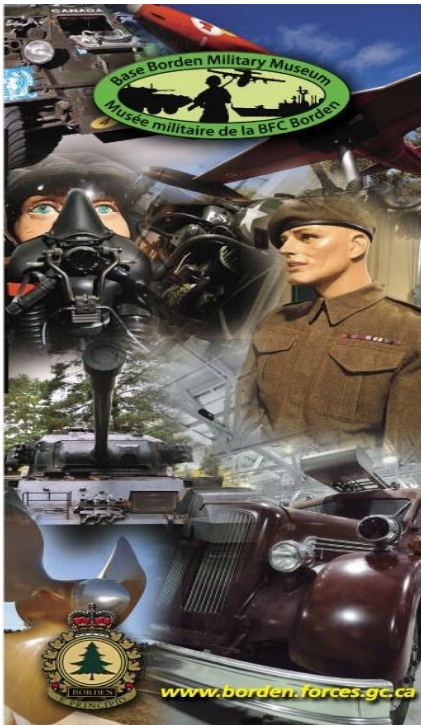
For April we will be planning a tour of the Base Borden museum and hangers on April 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. The cost of the tour will be \$2.00 pp. We are planning to go to lunch on the base at a cost of around \$12.00 each. A sign-up sheet will be available at the March meeting

### May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

We have reserved a block of 50 tickets for a performance at the Meaford Hall...Roy Orbison And The Everly Brothers Tribute.

The date of the performance is

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 @ 8:00 pm, and the cost is \$34.00pp. The sign-up sheet will be available at both the March and April meetings. Tickets are limited to 50 so make sure that you sign-up early.



## HELLO SNOWBIRDS!

Special note to our snowbird members who are currently away...if you wish to participate in the April or May social events please email Barb Christie (charlieb@brucetelecom.com) and she can put your name on the list.



### Save the dates for these future social activities

\*July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - Beachcombers picnic @ Klondike Park

\*August 19<sup>th</sup>. 2015 - Kings Wharf Theatre - Footloose - ticket cost \$39.00

*Thank you for your participation - your social committee*

## MEMBERSHIP

We are now 186 members and growing. New members are always welcome. Soon all members will receive an address list of the new members who joined this year.

If you have a spreadsheet program (in Numbers or Excel) on your computer and are moderately familiar with using it please talk to Judy Morrison. Thank you.

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

If you want to join a group, call the convenor listed below. If you wish to start a new group, speak to the Management Team.

PM Luncheon Cuisiners:

**Joan Porter** - 429-9260

Genealogy:

**Sandra Hanson** - 422-0227

Daytrippers:

**June Davidson** - 422-0960

Dinner at our Place:

**Diane Nagel** - 422-0835

First Edition:

**Rickey Lemire** - 422-1738

Happy Bookers:

**Jan Bivall** - 429-7584

Kitchen Bridge:

**Betty Keyes** - 429-6064

Men's Breakfast:

**Bob Bowyer** - 429-0579

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## GOODWILL AND TELEPHONE COMMITTEE

**Vincy Stephenson** sent out no cards last month. Please pass information regarding illness, hospital stays or death of a member to our Goodwill Convener, **Vincy Stephenson**.



### Birthdays/Anniversaries

Best wishes to those who celebrate a special day in **MARCH, 2015**.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The **ROMEO MEN'S** Breakfast group gathers on the **last Wednesday of each month** for fellowship, and breakfast at various local restaurants. In February a small group met for breakfast, and conversation at Mosley Street Grill. We still have quite a few who are away working on their tans, or golfing in other climes.

The **ROMEO'S** group has now grown to 30 who enjoy breakfast and stimulating conversation whenever they can attend. We average about 18 for breakfast. If you wish to join us for the first time, contact **Bob Bowyer** at 705-429-0579. We will add you to the list for the monthly reminders.

We send out a reminder a few days ahead to find out how many can make it. We try to give the restaurant an approximate count a few days before as to



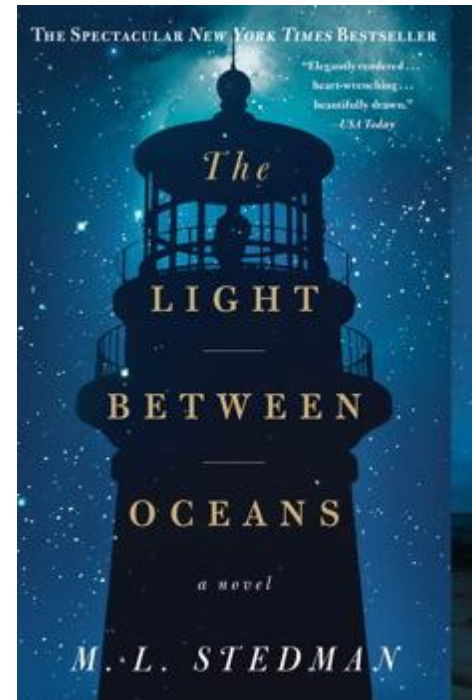
how many will be attending.

Our next breakfast will be on **Wednesday March 25, 2015, 9:00AM** at **Georgian Family Circle Restaurant**.

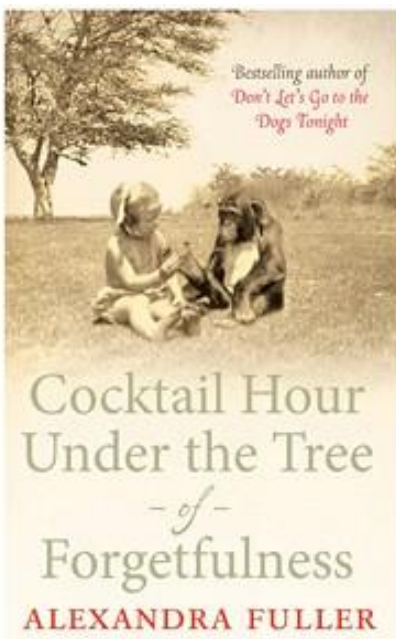
Thanks again go out to our President **Ross Dawe** for looking after January's breakfast while we took a short holiday. We bumped into **Joe Baxter** and **Olga** who happened to be staying in the same park. Joe sends his greetings to all his **ROMEO** buddies.

### HAPPY BOOKERS REVIEW

The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Steadman takes place primarily in Australia shortly after WW1. Tom Sherbourne survived Gallipoli and in an effort to attain some measure of inner peace, takes the position as the lighthouse keeper on remote Janus Island located where the Indian Ocean and The Great Southern Ocean meet. His chances at happiness seem improved when he meets and marries Isabel. One morning a boat washes ashore carrying a dead man and a crying baby. Isabel and Tom have just buried their third stillborn child and this baby seems to be the answer to Isabel's prayers. So begins a sequence of events that no reader can foresee. Everyone in the Book Club enjoyed this book with an average rating of 4.15 and would recommend it.



### FIRST EDITION BOOK REVIEW



The February selection was Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness, a biography of Nicola Fuller, told from the point of view of her daughter, Alexandra. Set mainly in central Africa at the end of the colonial era, Nicola's life was troubled by grief due to the loss of three children, the passion for land as a means to survival, and loyalty to her family and customs. The collage of life experiences was beyond the ordinary with hardship, tragedy and the rebellion and war in Kenya as a backdrop. The tree was a symbol for all the memories that are often best left forgotten but these are the reflections which also inspired the family to survive through life's most cruel ordeals.

With the exception of one member who found the book "disjointed," everyone enjoyed the book. Favourable comments included praise for the writing style, and the humour, which had

several members laughing out loud as they read. Several commented that they enjoyed reading a biography rather than fiction for a change. The rating was 4 out of 5.

Now here is this month's report from the south with a tale of caution.

### **Report from the South: TRAVEL INSURANCE: a Must**

This is a Warning and a Heads Up for all our travelling friends and family. DON'T travel without travel insurance of some kind.

If your employer or former employer granted you travel insurance in your package, that's wonderful but check it to see how many days it covers. Most are maximum 60 days and some only 30 days. Anything past those dates and you are NOT covered. Take notice that the insurance coverage has very specific dates and times and you need it the moment you cross the border into the USA not just when you arrive at your vacation destination. You equally need it until the moment you leave the USA and return to Canada at the border if you are driving.

Insurance generally starts at 12:01 AM on the date shown and not before and ends the same way. Your travel insurance is needed not just in case you get sick while you're away, it also is needed in case you are injured in a car accident or a personal injury such as a fall so don't be blinded by the idea that you are in great health and won't need it.

My wife and I are Snowbirds and travel to Florida for the entire winter each year. This year, while there, my wife noticed that she was feeling very tired and had trouble catching her breath. One morning she awoke to some chest pains in her back, chest and up into her throat. She had trouble swallowing and difficulty breathing deeply.

We went off to the nearest Hospital in Florida to the ER right away. The hospital was wonderful, clean, organized and well-staffed with trained personnel. The chest pains brought us immediate attention and she saw a doctor right away.

First there was an ECG to check her heart and a Blood Pressure check followed by a series of blood tests. The doctor ordered a chest x-ray to see what was causing the pain and pressure.

Up to this point we were entirely covered by the "Top Up" travel insurance I had purchased less the deductible I chose. Our company travel insurance covered us for the first 60 days here in Orlando but we were now into our 3rd month and are now covered by the additional Top Up insurance plan.

The results of all the tests were inconclusive and the doctor wanted a CAT scan done. Our insurance company did not agree that the CAT scan was needed and so refused to cover that procedure. The cost of a CAT scan at the "Heart of Florida" hospital is \$9,000.00 US funds.

If your insurance company doesn't or won't cover this, you must arrange to pay for it yourself. You are forced to decide between health and money.

Following a very worrisome and nerve racking period of discussion, the insurance company did finally agree to cover the Cat Scan but they informed us that if further testing was required they would not cover it and would instead, fly my wife home to Canada. We were very fortunate that the CAT scan and other tests showed that my wife was suffering from pneumonia and had

an infection in her lungs that could be cured with anti-biotic. No heart problems, no blood clots, no lung disease.

We were in the hospital ER for 7 hours in total. Our time there included an ECG, Blood Tests, Chest X-ray, CAT scan, more Blood Tests and treatment drugs along with a meal for my wife, the doctor's time, two nurses and two imagining technicians.

Based on the knowledge that the CAT scan alone cost \$9,000, I would estimate that the 7 hours at the hospital including all the tests would total over \$20,000.

Without insurance you are required to make immediate arrangements for payment including a substantial down payment before you leave. Our story has a very happy ending and I am pleased to tell you that my wife is doing very well and on the mend and the insurance I bought for \$1200 for 90 days coverage has covered all the charges less the original deductible.

Whatever you do when you travel, do not leave Canada without proper medical insurance coverage and don't buy the cheapest one either. Don't believe the advice that you will just get back on a plane and fly home. The airline is not an ambulance service and will not carry you if you are very ill. They will not take the responsibility.

Check your coverage, effective dates and rules of coverage. We were required to phone the insurance company before going to the hospital in order to be covered.

We learned our lesson and would not cross the border into the USA or anywhere else even for a day's shopping without FULL INSURANCE COVERAGE.

Our story has a Happy Ending but it could have been financially disastrous in addition to pain and suffering.

*Written by: Dennis Moise of Wasaga Beach  
February, 2015*

**More reports and stories from the south are welcome.**

## **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015**

**Wasaga Stars Arena**

**Come at 9:30 AM in April for coffee and fellowship.**

### **What, no photo?**

Finally, we have no photo this month for our **Do You Recognize this Member?** Piece. Hopefully we will bring it back next month.

## **MARCH IS PROBUS MONTH**



## THE PROBUS SONG

(Note: there is an official song, this is not it.)

b The symbol on the left means: don't be flat when you sing.

We love you PROBUS, oh yes we do,  
In all our happenings we plan and do.  
Feel free to join us, it's true,  
Oh PROBUS we love you.

These words will be on the hard copy of the newsletter.

Perhaps some member writers can pen new and improved verses. I will ask at the meeting.  
Of course you will have to sing them for us.



**See most of you at  
9:00 AM this  
Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
for the wonderful  
PROBUS breakfast**



**REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR PLATES AND CUTLERY FOR THE  
BREAKFAST ON TUESDAY.**

