



The Wasagan



Official Newsletter of Beachcombers Probus, P.O. Box 321, Wasaga Beach, Ontario L9Z 1A4

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May 4, 2010

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MAY GENERAL MEETING

TODAY'S SPEAKER: LORRAINE LESLIE, EDITOR OF WOMEN WITH VISION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We welcome back the last of our returning snow birds.

So much for April showers that bring on the May flowers; April was a particularly dry month compared to last year. Our lawns sure could use a drink. It is nice to see the lawns turning green, buds breaking open on the shrubs and trees.

I just look forward to all that back breaking work fixing up the lawn, gardens and all those outdoor chores. I think I will go lay down now until the feeling passes.

This is just a heads up; soon we will be posting a notice board looking for volunteers to fill positions or join various committees. "Don't ask what BEACHCOMBERS can do for you; ask what you can do for BEACHCOMBERS!"

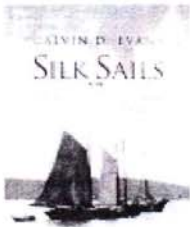
Bob Bowyer



Thank you

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO TOM DONAHUE FOR DOING SUCH A WONDERFUL JOB ON APRIL'S NEWSLETTER! I REALLY APPRECIATE TOM STEPPING IN TO COVER FOR ME.

APRIL'S GUEST SPEAKER



Calvin Evans, a retired University Librarian and United Church Minister, entertained us with the role of women in the shipbuilding industry. Born into a family of shipbuilders for over 100 years, Calvin initially came across four women who were ship-owners and his decision to follow this up resulted in three books; "For Love of a Woman", "Women of the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario and Their Ships" and "Silk Sails; Women of Newfoundland and Their Ships".

Fifteen years of research went into *Silk Sales* in which 500 women are mentioned. These bold and feisty women tackled jobs, usually thought of as sexist, in a time when women were supposed to be barefoot, pregnant, and in the kitchen. Their occupations included merchants, traders, dealers and school teachers to name a few as described by women. These same women were described by men as spinsters, married and widowed.

As history is usually written by men, little or no mention was made of the role women played in these times. When Calvin spoke to Maritime Historians at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland and

McGill University in Montreal, they were surprised to find out women were ship owners. Widows and single women (spinsters) had the same property rights as men and the justice system acknowledged this.

As girls stayed in school longer than the boys, who were taken out of school to help their fathers, the girls developed the skills necessary to run a business; from curing, drying, washing and salting the fish to owning and operating their own ships. Many a woman named her ship (or one of them) after herself. This let the world know "I am now worthy." During the 19th Century, 786 British women owned ships. Many of the women, who went to sea, left us a legacy in their diaries and journals. Thank you to Calvin for a most informative speech.

PAST SOCIAL EVENTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010 – AN EVENING AT THE RACES

Sixty-five members attended Georgian Downs and all seemed to enjoy themselves. The food choices seemed to be reduced but were still good. Desserts were also tasty. A bonus gift of five dollar gambling vouchers encouraged many to test their luck at the slots. There were various reports of wins and losses in both the races and the slots and we leave those details for you to glean at your leisure but no one lost a car or a spouse as far as we know.



UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2010 – MAGICAL MYSTERY CAR TOUR

Forty-nine members have already signed up to take the Magical Mystery Car Tour of the local area. This year we will travel a little further a field and leave the Wasaga Beach area. Teams will be provided with some information and challenges to guide you on your way and then it's up to you. Four persons per vehicle are encouraged.



The tour will explore some places in our local area which are naturally magical. For that reason we ask that you bring **binoculars** as well as **digital cameras**. There will also be a mystery pit stop for a coffee break along the route. At the end you will all be guided to a place for a delicious meal, and exactly where is another mystery. Tickets are available at today's meeting and the \$12.00 cost includes your suggested route, challenges, prizes and the surprisingly good meal (lots of variety available) with coffee or soft drink.



TUESDAY, JUNE 1st, 2010 – FREE LUNCH FOR \$5.00



Yes, you are reading that correctly. If you pay \$5.00 each, you will get a free lunch after the next Probus general meeting. If you come to the meeting and stay for the lunch, you get the \$5.00 back when you turn in your ticket. The lunch will not look exactly like the photo but will be worth the stay. And yes, you may purchase lunch tickets for other club members who are not here today but **no refunds will be given if they do not show up**

on the day or if you do not come so be careful.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2010 – TALENT NIGHT – IS IT A GO or A NO GO?

Tickets are on sale today for the Dinner and Talent Night. You can sign up to be either a diner only or a diner/entertainer. The cost is only \$25.00 for a delicious (roast beef) meal at the newly renovated Collingwood Legion Hall followed by the talent show. Mark your calendars and get ready for a night of fun entertainment. We are looking for a minimum number of people and as ticket sales have been somewhat sluggish so far, we will determine near the end of **today's meeting** whether we should continue with the show or cancel.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 - STRATFORD THEATRE – This is a whole day bus trip to the Stratford Theatre to view "Evita" which includes lunch at the Queen's Hotel. Cost for the day which includes bus there and back, the lunch and theatre ticket is \$120.00 each.

Availability is on a first-come-first-serve basis. **Sign the interest sheet**, pick up a brochure and pay in advance if you are seriously interested and able to attend.

HEADS UP FOR FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY, JULY 20 – Annual picnic in Elmvale

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5 – A comedy at King's Wharf in Penetanguishene at 2 PM

AUGUST (Date TBA) – Probus Golf Tournament

APRIL LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

1st prize of \$60.00 – Mary Barnes

2nd prize of \$40.00 – Penny Rivet

3rd prize of \$30.00 – Sam Ritchie

4th prize of \$24.00 – Charlie Baker

Wreath donated by Monica – Tom Donohue

PLEASE BRING COINS TO BUY YOUR LUCKY DRAW TICKETS

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES: Best wishes to those who celebrate in May.

“MEET YOUR MEMBER” – WE NEED YOU! Please consider presenting your profile.

Please contact Betty Keyes at (705) 429-6064 for information regarding "Meet Your Member" profiles. If you are not comfortable speaking in front of groups, Betty will be pleased to help you compose and read your profile at a specified monthly meeting.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST	CONTACT NAME	PHONE NO.	SPECIAL INTEREST	CONTACT NAME	PHONE NO.
First Edition Book Club	Betty Montgomery	429-6854	Pinochle	Bob Bowyer	429-0579
Dinner at our Place	Linda Willis	429-0467	Happy Bookers Club	Mary Barnes	429-2142
Restaurant Dinner Club	Joyanne Loughran	429-6574	Afternoon Luncheon Cuisiners	Joan Maloney	422-0573
Bid Euchre	Paul Turner	422-0747	Fair-Weather Walkers	Lyn Rice	429-1798
Book Worms Club	Lucille Mancer	422-0143	Regular Euchre	Loraine Doidge	422-0622
Kitchen Bridge	Betty Keyes	429-6064	Daytrippers	Lucille Mancer	422-0143
Genealogy	Sandra Hanson	422-0227	ROMEO - Men's Breakfast	Bob Bowyer	429-0579
Golf	Bill Travis	422-1148			

First Edition Book Club

In April we read the book *The Law Of Dreams* by Peter Behrens. This was a miserable story, although well written, about the potato famine in Ireland. Rich/poor, farmer/owner, feast/famine, trust and betrayal are some of the emotions in this book.

Emigration to England at least meant work, therefore food, even in the terrible slums and conditions. Brave emigration farther a field to "Quebecers" or North America, with no knowledge of geography, only meant a 40 day sea trip (bringing all of your own food for the journey).

The ready cheers for Fergus all the way through the book, and is proud of his tenacity and decisions. We rated this book 4 out of 5.

Happy Bookers - (Is at maximum membership)

Our latest book was *Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood. This novel takes the reader back in time and into the life and mind of one of the most notorious women of the nineteenth century. In 1843 at the age of sixteen, a servant girl, Grace Marks, was convicted for her part in the murder of her employer and his mistress, another servant in the house. Some believe Grace is innocent; others think her guilty or insane. Grace herself claims to have no memory of the murders. Although fictional, this story has been based on

reality. This novel has a terrific sense of mystery, history and interest to engage the reader. The overall rating of the book was 3.4 and most people would recommend the book. It was felt that the book would be most appealing to women.

The Daytrippers

Since we started this group we have driven to a number of wonderful places including St Jacobs, Square One and different places in Toronto. April's excursion was to the Cookstown Outlet Mall followed by lunch at Furusato, where we discovered you don't have to eat raw fish to enjoy Japanese food. Future excursions planned include, Royal Ontario Museum, Bata Shoe Museum, a Theatre Matinee, and viewing the Fall colours.

Ladies Euchre

Ladies euchre has started again after a hiatus. We play the last Monday of each month. New players are welcome.

ROMEO - Men's Breakfast Group

The **ROMEO** (Men's) Breakfast group meets on the **last Wednesday of the month** for fellowship and a good breakfast. We rotate between 5 or 6 local restaurants. Our next breakfast will be at **GOODIES CAFE RESTAURANT on Wednesday May 26 at 9:00AM**. We have capped our group at 25. To get on the list as an alternate call Bob Bowyer at 429-0579.

Restaurant Dinner Club

April seemed to be a very busy month for everyone so we moved our Dinner Out to May 11. We will be going to Copper Blues (at Blue Mountain) to take advantage of their SPRINGLICIOUS menu. If you have never experienced the SPRING-LICIOUS or FALL-LICIOUS events now is the time to check it out (it runs until May 14). Twelve restaurants at Blue Mountain are taking part in this event so go online and check it out.

Golf News

Golfing will start up again in May at Orr Lake, date to be advised. If you are interested please contact Bill Travis at 422-1148.

DON'T FORGET:

- The Secretary's Minutes of the last General Meeting and the Treasurer's Summary of the Club's finances are posted at the front of the room. Please read them!
- **Please notify the Membership Convener of any changes to your address, phone number, e-mail address, etc.** We realize this is a continuing reminder, but it is very important!
- Please pass information regarding sickness, hospital stays, or death of a member to our Goodwill Convener (Shirley Brett at 429-8907). If you don't tell us, we may miss sending out a card.
- Our New Member Ambassador, Lucille Mancer, is always available to give you information about our Club and its activities. Lucille can be reached at 422-0143 or Lucille.mancer@sympatico.ca

MANAGEMENT TEAM for 2009-2010.

President	Bob Bowyer	429-0579		Membership	Heide & Guenter Haessler	422-0288
Vice-President	Don Caron	429-0308		Refreshments	Susan & Brian Passmore	422-1956
Secretary	Mary Barnes	429-2142		Lucky Draw	Michael James	429-7207
					Linda Vanderknokke	429-6846
Treasurer	Kathy Zack	429-0033		New Members	Lucille Mancer	422-0143
Past President	Betty Baker	422-1909		Goodwill	Shirley Brett	429-8907
Speaker and Profiles Chair	Monica Kristan	429-9635		Newsletter	Vincy Stephenson	422-0201
	Mary Barnes	429-2142				
Social	Tom Donohue	429-0644				

NEXT MEETING

JUNE 1, 2010

WASAGA STARS ARENA

Arrive early to enjoy coffee and tea with your friends prior to the meeting at 10:00 am. Remember to bring your "Probus" mug and wear your name tags.