



The Wasagan



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

International Website: www.probus.org Newsletter Site: www.probus.org/8wasabern.pdf

January 8, 2008

Volume 5, Issue 6

Newsletter Editors: Maggie Higgins & Ken Wong 422-1338 kemala@rogers.com



JANUARY GENERAL MEETING
TODAY'S SPEAKER: DR. DENNIS SMITH

We are going green! A special surprise gift awaits you at the February meeting. Don't be square – be there!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where do you stand with relation to video games? Hopefully you have all recovered from the hectic pace of the Christmas/New Year celebrations. Activity is a good thing and better than the alternative. One knock against video games has been the sedate nature of playing them as well as an anti-social aspect. Along with computers, they seem to be blamed for obesity in some of our youth. Well, over the holidays, I was exposed to the latest generation of video games and I can highly recommend them to you, not just for your grandchildren but for you. I played Guitar Hero three on PlayStation and even though I was booed off the stage by an unforgiving audience, with practice, I could see that lots of enjoyment is attainable with this one if you have a little musical ability. It was more than just sitting and pressing buttons. A second system and even better is the Wii system. Using controllers and a sensor you can participate in activities which use the actual motions of playing the game. You stand and throw and release the bowling ball or swing the club to strike the golf ball. The sensor interprets your movements and the screen displays the results. Sports activities are quite satisfying and enjoyable. Wrist straps are provided in case you accidentally release the controller (hurling it at your television screen can have disastrous results!). With practice you could even do better than your grandchildren, for now. Just do not give them the system for Christmas, keep it for yourself. With these new generations of video games which require lots of activity, liven up family visits and provide opportunities for team work, I have definitely changed my negative feelings toward video games

AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY AWAITS YOU! Are you an organized person who enjoys writing short articles, being involved in the "behind the scenes activities" of our club and having your good name known to all the members? If so, then we have a job for you! Ken and Maggie, your Wasagan editors are regretfully moving from Wasaga Beach in April and a **NEW EDITOR IS NEEDED** to fill in for the remainder of the "Probus" year (which is in August). A computer, printer and email capability are essential to this job. You can start your new job any time between now and the April 8 meeting. Please see Maggie at the general meeting or call her at 422-1338. Thank you.



DECEMBER MEETING ACTIVITIES

The meeting was a festive affair as befits the season. Everyone received a gift of a free energy saving light bulb as they signed in. Chocolates were handed out by Diane Nagel – Yum!

Unfortunately the Birchview Dunes Elementary School Choir was unable to perform because of our meeting date change so the Sweet Adeline's were kind enough to come at short notice to entertain us with some old favorites from the Beatles era, then some memorable Christmas carols. They finished off by leading us in a Christmas sing along which was great fun.

We had a great time with a quiz developed from the book "Only in Canada You Say" by Katherine Barber, who had been our November speaker. The quiz was really tough! There were 25 questions and the winning team had 12 correct answers along with 2 other teams who lost the short straw draw to determine the final winner. I can only imagine how low some of the other teams scored!

PAST SOCIAL EVENT: DECEMBER 7 CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE, COLLINGWOOD LEGION

Well, wasn't the Christmas dance fun? As always the Legion did a lovely job preparing and serving the delicious turkey dinner. Betty Baker and Tom Donohue led us in a sing along and then there was nothing else to do but work off those gained pounds on the dance floor. The DJ kept the room swinging with all the old and great tunes that we know and love. Spot prizes were being handed out in great numbers and everyone looked like they were having a wonderful time. Every table held a poinsettia plant and each person at the table had an opportunity to win one by playing "pass the candy cane". Bill Travis impersonated Santa, who is much too busy at this time of year to do personal appearances. Bill's teeth stayed put and his North Pole elves Joan and Ray Porter somehow managed to borrow a Santa suit from the big man himself for Bill to don in gay abandon. Santa handed out "kisses" to everyone and he also helped with the Christmas basket draw - a person at each table was eligible to win a basket. In addition, there were draws for the door prizes and for the 50/50. A special thank you to John at "Mountain Brew" in Collingwood for donating the main door prize, a gift certificate worth \$105.00. Congratulations to the lucky winner, Linda Willis. The night flew on golden wings to its completion before we knew it.

We owe a big thanks to all those who participated to make the party such a success: Betty and Charlie Baker, Irene and Tom Donohue, Marilyn Evans, Heide and Guenter Haessler, Gloria and Bob Harasowsky, Joan Maloney and Mary and Ron Searl.

CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE

Thank you to all of our members who purchased tickets for this raffle. Your support helped net a profit of \$94.00, which was used to defray the cost of our Christmas Dinner Dance. Congratulations to the lucky winner, Wally Clost. We trust you and your family had a "sweet Christmas"!

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS – FROM YOUR SOCIAL COMMITTEE

BOWLING – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 2008 - \$12.00 PER PERSON

Tickets are on sale today. Bowling will be at Georgian Bowl in Collingwood, beginning at 2:00 p.m. We will be meeting for dinner following the bowling at the recently refurbished Kelsey's, also in Collingwood. **Ticket price is for bowling only – dinner not included.**



FEBRUARY 21st, 2008 – MINI PUTT

Tickets for this event will be on sale today and also at our February general meeting. The ticket price of \$9.00 per person is for the mini-putt only. We hope everyone will be able to join us for lunch (location to be determined) following this event.

DECEMBER LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

- 1st Prize of \$67.00 was won by Betty Baker
- 2nd Prize of \$42.00 was won by Mary Searl
- 3rd Prize of \$34.00 was won by Guenter Haessler
- 4th Prize of \$25.00 was won by Brian Aherne
- Gift certificate for Home Outfitters was won by Frieda Collins

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

(If you are considering organizing any type of interest group, please approach the Executive Committee.)

The special interest groups are open to Probus members only.

* The First Edition	Contact	Lucille Mancer	422-0143
* Happy Bookers	Contact	Mary Barnes	429-2142
* Dinner at our Place	Contact	Betty Keyes	429-6064
* Afternoon Luncheon Cuisiners	Contact	Maggie Higgins	422-1338
* Restaurant Dinner Club	Contact	Diane Nagel	428-3209
* Fair Weather Walkers	Contact	Gary Willis	429-7835

Dinner at our Place Christmas Party.

This is an invitation to all you members who have thought about joining our dinner club but have not contacted me yet. It also is a special invitation to our single members. Please seek out another "Beachcomber" as your partner, someone who enjoys entertaining, cooking, and socializing once a month, and join our happy group. You will be included in our substitute list until I have enough couples willing to join as regular participants.

Our members look forward to our group socials which we hold twice a year. On December 14th you would have been invited to a wonderful Christmas social with everyone enjoying and celebrating the season together. You would have selected from many hot and cold appetizers, dips and spreads along with cheese and fruit platters. Following this bountiful array were sweets of all descriptions to tempt your taste buds and willpower! We had ladies in the kitchen bringing out food from the oven and plating delicious tidbits for everyone to enjoy. You would have been involved in interesting conversation in small and large groups and heard much laughter throughout the house; we even had a group sing song! Our setting for these festivities could not have been more charming, at the home of Diane and Robin Nagel. We thank them both for their hospitality and for hosting this event again this year.

Now, if that doesn't tempt you to come dine with us, perhaps I can also tell you that we hold a scrumptious barbecue every August with main courses and side dishes to please one and all. We welcome you to be a part of our group; give me a call and I will be happy to answer any of your questions. Call Betty Keyes @ 429-6064.

The **Happy Bookers Club** - December's reading was "A Book of Humor" of your choice.

The **First Edition Book Club** met at Helen Hutton's on December 18. For this meeting we decided to do miscellaneous readings chosen by each individual member. Interesting and varied items were read or discussed from Christmas short stories (i.e. "Twas a Computer Christmas" "Watchman Tell us of the night" "The Tablecloth Story" and others. Lucille read excerpts from her book and there were references to "Park Prisoners -- The Untold Story of Western Canada's National Parks 1915-1946". Betty Keyes read from her journal of her and her husband's trip to Spain. The discussion from each of these contributions was lively and interesting. Everyone had a learning experience and a good time. Submitted by Helen Hutton.

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. We have one opening remaining before we can reach our maximum membership of nine. Contact Lucille Mancer @ 422-0143 for information.

The **Fair Weather Walkers**, as the name implies, walk when the weather co operates. However we have been caught in downpours and blizzards but have always managed to complete the course. The route begins at the Powerline Road Skidoo trail and except for two small hills, is easy to walk. Our pace is unhurried yet steady and gives us plenty of time (about an hour) to observe the ever changing world around us. We have been known to see deer, a variety of birds, the occasional porcupine and even a black bear. (But he was too far away to cause us too much worry!) Please join our friendly group any Friday at 1:30. We enjoy laughter and good conversation which always carries to Tim Horton's afterwards.

The **Afternoon Luncheon Cuisiniers** meet every 2nd Monday of the month at 11:30 am. Members take turns hosting the lunch, which is an organized pot luck. It is a time of good food, laughter and gossip. We are now at our maximum membership limit of 12 ladies. Call Maggie Higgins @ 422-1338 if you want to be on our "wait" list.

The **Restaurant Dinner Club** is a group of some 60 members dedicated to the proposition that retirement is more than cooking. They go to different restaurants in the area every other month. Call Diane Nagel @ 428-3209 if you are interested in joining the group or you can recommend a good restaurant in the area.

THE STUD ROOSTER Submitted by Ross Dawe

A farmer went out one day and bought a brand new stud rooster for his chicken coop. The new rooster struts over to the old rooster and says, "OK old fart, time for you to retire."

The old rooster replies, "Come on, surely you cannot handle ALL of these chickens. Look what it has done to me. Can't you just let me have the two old hens over in the corner?"

The young rooster says "Beat it: You are washed up and I am taking over."

The old rooster says "I'll tell you what, young stud. I will race you around the farmhouse. Whoever wins gets the exclusive domain over the entire chicken coop."

The young rooster laughs. "You know you don't stand a chance, old man. So, just to be fair, I will give you a head start."

The old rooster takes off running. About 15 seconds later the young rooster takes off running after him. They round the front porch of the farmhouse and the young rooster has closed the gap. He is only about 5 feet behind the old rooster and gaining fast.

The farmer, meanwhile, is sitting in his usual spot on the front porch when he sees the roosters running by. The old rooster is squawking and running as hard as he can. The farmer grabs his shotgun and – BOOM – he blows the young rooster to bits.

The farmer shakes his head and says, “Dammit....third gay rooster I bought this month.”

Moral of this story?.....Don’t mess with OLD FARTS – age, skill, wisdom, and a little treachery will always overcome youth and arrogance!

ITEMS FOR SALE OR SPECIAL REQUESTS

Probus members can post their ads at each general meeting on the Probus bulletin wall which is to the right of the stage. Remember to bring masking tape and remove your ad at the end of the meeting to avoid having it discarded.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES: Best wishes to those who celebrated in December!

DON’T FORGET:

- The Secretary’s Minutes of the last General Meeting and the Treasurer’s Summary of the Club’s finances are posted on the Bulletin Board. Please read them! These Bulletin Boards often have details of other Community Events and Happenings in the area. We do this as an information service to our members, but we do not promote such things.
- **Please notify the Membership Convener (Linda Willis @ 429-0467) of any changes to your address, phone number, email address, etc.** We realize this is a continuing reminder, but it is very important!
- Wear your name tag to all Probus meetings and events.
- Please pass the information on sickness, hospital stays, or death of a member to our Goodwill Convener (Marilyn Ruse @ 422-0271) - if you don’t tell us, we may miss sending out a card.
- Our New Member Ambassador, Betty Keyes, is always available to give you information about our Club and its activities. Betty can be reached @ 429-6064.

PROBUS RENDEZVOUS 2008

This year the Probus rendezvous will be held in Saint John, New Brunswick on September 25-27. Registration is \$100.00 per person and includes opening ceremonies and the Maritime Kitchen Party. All special excursions and meals are at an extra charge. Registration forms must be received by August 24th. We are sorry that our club cannot subsidize you for this event. If you are interested in attending please see President Tom for more information.

PROBUS CANADA WIDE BULLETIN BOARD

A new bulletin board posting is available to Probus Clubs. The address is www.probus.org/bulletin.htm

NEXT MEETING:

FEBRUARY 5, 2008

ALL STARS ARENA

Arrive at 9:30 to enjoy coffee and tea with your friends prior to the meeting at 10:00 am.

When you are unable to attend a meeting, you can access your copy of The Wasagan at www.probus.org/8wasbcn.pdf (Please contact the Editors if you do not have a computer). Please note that the number 7 in the website address has changed to number 8 to reflect the new year of 2008.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

President:	Tom Donohue	429-0644	Refreshments:	Susan & Brian Passmore	422-1956
Vice-President:	Betty Baker	422-1909	Membership:	Linda Willis	429-0467
Treasurer:	Kathy Zack	429-0033	Social:	Irene Donohue	429-0644
Secretary:	Joanne Scruton	422-0976	60/40 Draw:	Kay Knab	429-5547
Past President:	Christina Armstrong	429-7805	New Members:	Betty Keyes	429-6064
Speakers:	Jan Bivall	429-7584	Goodwill:	Marilyn Ruse	422-0271
Diane Nagel		428-3209	Newsletter:	Maggie Higgins & Ken Wong	422.1338