



The Wasagan

Official Newsletter of Beachcombers Probus, P.O. Box 321, Wasaga Beach, Ontario L9Z 1A4
International Website: www.probus.org/canada.htm
Newsletter Site: www.probus.org/10wasbcnrn.pdf



December 7, 2010

Volume 8, Issue 4



DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING
TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT:
DON BELGUM AND IRENE WALKER



We Are The Shepherds

The birth of a baby to a poor family normally wouldn't make the front pages of a newspaper. It happens every day, all over the world. Yet in many ways, this simple story is the one billions of people are celebrating.

The striking thing about the Christmas story is the sense of humility. The only brash incident is when angels arrive and scare the daylights out of some unsuspecting shepherds. But even here, humility is the rule.

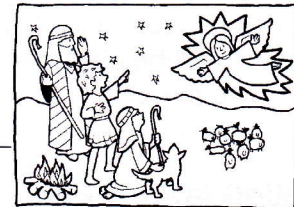
The angels left it up to the shepherds to be the first tellers of the Christmas story. They overcame their fears and followed the angels' instructions. They visited the baby who was wrapped in cloth, lying in a feeding trough.

According to Luke, the shepherds publicized what they saw. In the words of the great African-American carol: they told their story *on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere*. Luke says all who heard it wondered at the things which were spoken to them by the shepherds.

Today, we are the shepherds. We are called on to overcome our fears and prejudices by visiting the poor and showing them our support. Luke's account of what happens Christmas night is alive today.

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Don Caron, President



NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Fraser Muir was born in the small town of Westville, Nova Scotia in 1924. He left school in 1942 to join the Air Force, was called to report for service in January 1943. Fraser graduated as an Air Gunner the following January at #10 Bombing and Gunnery School in Mount Pleasant, Prince Edward Island. Fraser says that he chose the Air Force because he was too small for the army and he did not like the sea, so the Air Force it was.

"Sic fidem servamus" ("Thus we keep faith")



He was shipped overseas immediately and ended up on 50 Squadron, 5 Group, Royal Air Force Bomber Command where he flew a total of 35 bombing operations as a Mid-Upper Gunner in a Lancaster Bomber, over enemy territory.

Fraser spoke of many memories (good, bad and sad), of how he lost three of his best friends in battle, all of them just 19 years of age. They are buried in Germany ... they never did come home.

I can write the words on the page but nothing can capture Fraser's emotions and expressions. If you get a chance talk to a veteran and get the real story from them. See the fading memory of fear and the heart wrenching sadness in their eyes. It will touch your heart and soak into your soul more than any words can do.

The average age of the bomber crew was 22; young men so far from home, fighting for our freedom. Countless of millions of lives have been lost in war and the count continues to climb. Let us not forget the sacrifices made by these brave men and women. Let us thank them every chance we get and never forget! THANK YOU FRASER! THANK YOU VETERANS!

On a happy note Fraser and Joan (his wife of 56 years) grace us with their company every month. Fraser and Joan have lived in Wasaga Beach since 2002. They have five children and ten grandchildren. Fraser is an avid photographer, traveler, golfer, but most of all, his favourite role is that of GRANDFATHER! He and Joan also love to dance (and boy can they dance), especially the Jive. "That's what started our life together back in 1947!" (Fraser).

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Marlene and Keith Allen and Joyce and Bill Frost

THANK YOU TO NOVEMBER'S GREETERS, *GLORIA AND BOB HARASOWSKY*.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A GREETER PLEASE SEE BETTY BAKER.

PAST EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010 – GAMES NIGHT



63 members met at the Prime Time Club on November 18 for a fun filled evening of games. Following a Swiss Chalet dinner members enjoyed playing euchre, bid euchre, bridge, pinochle, darts, billiards or shuffle board. A few games of bingo, door prizes and a 50/50 draw finished the evening.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2010 – CHRISTMAS DINNER/DANCE

By the time you read this, I hope everyone who attended our annual Christmas dinner/dance on December 3 will be able to say that they enjoyed themselves immensely; that the dinner was delicious and the music, dancing and companionship made the evening just about perfect.



UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2011 – CURLING AND LUNCH

Tickets are still available for our January social event – curling and lunch at the Stayner Curling Club. Tickets are \$15 per person. The day will start at 9 am with coffee and muffins/scones, followed by some instruction and curling with lunch at approximately 11:30 am. If you are not a curler and wish to join us for lunch only, luncheon tickets are available at \$10 per person. We need to have 32 curlers for this event to go ahead ... so, come out and join your friends, whether you are a seasoned curler or just want to try the game!



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011 - BOWLING

Mark February 23, 2011, 1 pm in your calendars for bowling at Georgian Bowl in Collingwood! Tickets and more details will be available at the January meeting.

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2011 – CAMELOT AT STRATFORD

The Stratford Probus Club is once again sponsoring a theatre event. This year the play is **Camelot**. The cost of \$90 includes your ticket to the play and lunch. All seats are A+ (the best) on the main floor. Confirmation is required by March 15, 2011. Carpooling is encouraged. More details are available at the Social Table.



NOVEMBER LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

PLEASE BRING COINS TO BUY YOUR LUCKY DRAW TICKETS



- 1st prize of \$65.50 – Robin Nagel
- 2nd prize of \$41.00 – Olga Yates
- 3rd prize of \$32.75 – Brian Armstrong
- 4th prize of \$24.50 – Jack Benedet



\$40.00 Gift Certificate for Bulk Barn – Stan Scruton

Complimentary tickets to Wasaga Beach Community Theatre – Margaret Cajot

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

Best wishes to those who celebrate in December.

“MEET YOUR MEMBER” – WE NEED YOU!

Members who present their profile will be entered into a draw for a free Beachcombers Probus membership!

Contact Betty Keyes at 429-6064 for information regarding "Meet Your Member" profiles. 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.
Afternoon Luncheon Cuisiners	Joan Maloney	422-0573	Golf	WE NEED	YOU!!
Bid Euchre	Paul Turner	352-0747	Happy Bookers Club	Mary Barnes	429-2142
Book Worms Club	Kathy Dunnett	352-0100	Kitchen Bridge	Betty Keyes	429-6064
Daytrippers	Betty Keyes	429-6064	Regular Euchre	Lorraine Doidge	422-0622
Dinner at our Place	Steve and Jan Bivall	429-7584	Restaurant Dinner Club	WE NEED	YOU!!
First Edition Book Club	Betty Montgomery	429-6854	ROMEO - Men's Breakfast	Bob Bowyer	429-0579
Genealogy	Sandra Hanson	422-0227			

First Edition Book Club

Mid-September, members of the First Edition Book Club enjoyed a fantastic week of reading, sightseeing, Christmas shopping, laughing, eating and relaxing - not necessarily in that order! Using Bayfield as our home base, we visited such places as Grand Bend (for the antiques and Flea Market), the Pinery Provincial Park (where our largest wildlife was a chipmunk) and tours of Bayfield and Goderich. In Stratford, the production of **Evita** added to our entertainment. We were blessed with sunny, warm weather and beautiful sunsets. An annual event, the Get-a-Way may return to Ontario's West Coast in future years.

Daytrippers

The **Day Trippers** had a lovely drive through the countryside still filled with the majestic colours of fall. They enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Globe Restaurant in Rosemont. This was followed by an interesting visit at the Dufferin County Museum. On the way home, some of the members stopped in Creemore to browse through the shops.

(The Editor would like to apologize to the members of the First Edition Book Club and the Daytrippers for missing their submissions in the October newsletter!)

Happy Bookers Club (is at maximum membership)

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen was a winner for everyone in the club. Jacob is a testy, very aware ninety-three year old who resents being in a nursing home. When a circus sets up across the street, it revives his memories of being a vet for the Benzini Brothers Circus during the early days of the depression. Gruen takes many of her bizarre plot elements from real circus history so we read of freaks, swindlers, amazing performers and fascinating animals such as Rosie the elephant who is the catalyst for many of the events in the novel. It is a spell-binding story of survival, love, loyalty and cruelty. We gave it a rating of 4.5.

Book Worms Club

The **Bookworms** met at the end of October to discuss the novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. The novel focuses on three generations of a family living in the slums of immigrant Brooklyn. The tree serves as a metaphor in the life of the main character Francie. The tree itself represents the power of the human spirit. No matter how many times it is cut down, it always grows back with thicker leaves and stronger branches. The main themes in the book, religion, family relations, growing up, love, economics, and education, to name a few, allowed the group members to launch into an interesting discussion. The book is a recommended read.

ROMEO - Men's Breakfast Group

The **ROMEOs** are not meeting for breakfast in December as it falls too close to Christmas and New Year's. We will meet again on **Wednesday, January 26, 2011**; be sure to check our January *Wasagan* for the location. Merry Christmas to one and all from the **ROMEOs**!

Dinner At Our House

The 'Dinner at Our House' group is looking for more substitute couples. This is for people who like to eat great food and do not mind being asked to fill in with just a couple of days' notice, but who do not want the responsibility of having to host a dinner. You will be asked to provide one component of the dinner (appetizer, soup or salad, or dessert), but never to host. If you are interested or would just like more details, please contact Jan Bivall at the Probus meeting, by phone at 429-7584 or by e-mail at stevebivall@gmail.com.

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. If you don't tell us, we may miss sending out a card.
- Our New Member Ambassador is always available to give you information about our Club and its activities.

MANAGEMENT TEAM for 2010-2011:

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

NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 4, 2011

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.

