



The Wasagan



Official Newsletter of Beachcombers Probus, P.O. Box 321, Wasaga Beach, Ontario L9Z 1A4
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March 1, 2011

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MARCH GENERAL MEETING

TODAY'S SPEAKER: *HELEN HUTTON, PHOTOGRAPHY*

President's Message

March, the third month of the year is already here. Where did it go? It just seems like yesterday we took down our Christmas decorations. Remember the saying "*Beware the Ides of March*"? What are the *Ides of March* anyway?

The soothsayer's warning to Julius Caesar, "*Beware of the Ides of March*" did not necessarily evoke a dark mood – it was simply the standard way of saying "March 15." Surely such a fanciful expression must signify something more than merely another day of the year. Not so. Even in Shakespeare's time, sixteen centuries later, audiences attending his play *Julius Caesar* wouldn't have blinked twice upon hearing the date called the *Ides*.

The term *Ides* comes from the earliest Roman calendar, which is said to have been devised by Romulus, the mythical founder of Rome. Whether it was Romulus or not, the inventor of this calendar had a penchant for complexity. The Roman calendar organized its months around three days, each of which served as a reference point for counting the other days.

- Kalends - 1st day of the month
- Nones - the 7th day in March, May, July, and October; the 5th in other months
- Ides - the 15th day in March, May, July, and October; the 13th in other months

Let's enjoy the spring season, which also begins in March.



Don Caron

FEBRUARY'S SPEAKER

We did some Clowning around in February ... OK maybe we just watched, but we enjoyed none the less! Our speaker was Skooter (aka Jackie Zimmerman - a professional clown) from *The Clownery*. Jackie is a member of Clowns Canada which is an organization of clowns, jugglers, magicians, face-painters, balloon artists and other children's entertainers. Clowns Canada Incorporated is a Federally Incorporated organization dedicated to the advancement of the art of clowning, not only in Canada, but worldwide.

Jackie worked at Sears for 20 years and then linked up with some people who worked as clowns. She was intrigued enough to take a government program to learn how to be a professional clown. *The Clownery* entertains at parades, fundraisers, store openings, Christmas parties, weddings, etc. It provides entertainment for all ages at children's parties, corporate events, fairs, nursing homes and more, in and around Toronto, Barrie and Peterborough ... "Have Clown Will Travel". Their services include face painting, creative balloon twisting, floral balloon bouquets (delivered with a smile and a message) for special occasions and more. Ask about their "side splitting human puppet show" and NEW 'digi.clown'.

Skooter and her assistant Clover were joined by *The Beachcomers Line Dancers* (Betty Baker, Christina Armstrong, Doris Willis, Joan Bowyer, Helen Hutton, Bob Bowyer, Bill Travis, and Michael James) to entertain us with a puppet routine where members 'line-danced' to 'Whose Bed Have Your Boots Been Under' and 'Boot Scootin' Boogie'. Totally HILARIOUS! The show ended with the ever popular (don't ask me why) pie in the face!

THANK YOU TO FEBRUARY'S GREETERS, *DORIS AND GARY WILLIS*.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A GREETER PLEASE SEE *BETTY BAKER*.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome goes out to Don and Marion Belgum.

GOODWILL

A "HUGS" care was sent to Linda Willis.

PAST EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011 - BOWLING

A fun afternoon was had by 29 bowlers at the Georgian Bowl in Collingwood and a few more for our dinner at the Beaver and Bulldog. Prizes were presented to the winning team lead by Larry Ruse, for the two top ladies and top man scores and most honest bowlers. Several door prizes were drawn to complete the afternoon. A most enjoyable afternoon was topped off with a delicious dinner.



UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011 – A NIGHT AT THE RACES

On March 29, we will be at Georgian Downs once again for a buffet dinner and an evening of horse racing and, perhaps, a little time in the casino. Tickets are available again today for \$24.00 per person which includes the buffet, coffee/tea, racing program, taxes, and gratuities. This has always been a popular event so come out and enjoy the fun!

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011 – LUNCH AT A SUGAR BUSH

Come out and enjoy a pancake and sausage lunch in Oro-Medonte at Shaw's Maple Sugar Bush. We will take a stroll through the sugar bush starting at 10 a.m. and at 11 a.m. have a Pancake and Sausage luncheon. If we are lucky, we may see maple sap being boiled into syrup. Today's meeting is your last chance to get your tickets which are \$14 each.



TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2011 – WINES OF SPAIN AND ARGENTINA

Join the festivities and delight your senses as we take a journey through the wines of Spain and Argentina. Enjoy an evening of wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres and good company. The adventure will start at 7:00 PM at the Lions Club, Wasaga Beach. YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT!

FEBRUARY LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

PLEASE BRING COINS TO BUY YOUR LUCKY DRAW TICKETS



- 1st prize of \$59.00 – Charlie Baker
- 2nd prize of \$37.00 – Helen Hutton
- 3rd prize of \$29.00 – Shirley Brett
- 4th prize of \$23.00 – Marilyn Ruse



Gift Certificates to Ardene's Chocolate Shop and the LCBO – Valerie Willock

“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.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

Best wishes to those who celebrate in March.

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	Loraine 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

Last month the First Edition Book Club read *I Am Hutterite* by Mary-Ann Kirkby. This book was a good insight into life in a Hutterite Colony where everything is shared and orderly. It takes you through the life of one family who decides to leave the Colony and start a new life in the outside world where they are like lost, unprepared immigrants in their own country. This is a true story seen through the eyes of 10-year-old Mary-Ann (the Author). For us it was a great read and an education. We rated it 4 out of 5.

Daytrippers

In January, the Daytrippers enjoyed a trip down to Barrie. We had lunch at an authentic Thai restaurant. The ambiance and decor was amazing; the beautiful hand carved furniture, the golden head-ware, the pottery and the woven fabrics made us feel as though we really were lunching in a very exotic place. Next, we went around the block to the MacLaren Art Centre, where the works of emerging artists, photographer Meryl McMaster and carver Luke Parnell were featured. McMaster uses contemporary faces and bodies (including her own) as screens on which she projects 19th and early 20th century paintings and photographs of indigenous people, resulting in hauntingly fused composite portraits. Parnell's painted cedar sculptures follow deep patterns of Nisga'a and Haida woodcarving that were lost and recovered. The artists were able to examine how historical cultural imagery can be made to express personal presence.

Happy Bookers Club (is at maximum membership)

For this month's meeting, part of our club was in the north; the other half reported from their holiday in southern climes.

February, written by Lisa Moore, is the story of Helen O'Mara who is suddenly widowed on February 14th, 1982 when her husband, Cal, dies with the sinking of the oil rig *Ocean Ranger*. Told in episodes, Helen relives her life with Cal while carrying on with the raising of her family, cleaning house and attending yoga classes. Members agreed the book was well-written with the author giving a vivid and realistic view from inside the character's mind. Many felt they would have liked more written about the disaster itself. We gave the book an average of 3.3.

Book Worms Club

The book selected for discussion at our February meeting was *"What the Dog Saw"* by Malcolm Gladwell. In the book, the author, a graduate of University of Toronto, compiled 19 of his favourite essays from his work as a staff-writer with the New Yorker. Included are pieces on the essence of genius, the flaws of

multinational corporations like Enron, the challenge of homelessness and the quirks of human behaviour. The book is divided into three parts. The first deals with what Gladwell calls obsessions and minor geniuses; the second with flawed ways of thinking and problem solving; the third on intelligence, character and personality. This was not an easy read but the author is skilled in his ability to make his readers think and as a result our group members had a lively discussion about several of the topics raised in the book. Malcolm Gladwell has written several other best sellers: "*The Tipping Point*", "*Blink*" and "*Outliers*".

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 4 or 5 local restaurants. Our next breakfast will be held at **GEORGIAN CIRCLE FAMILY RESTAURANT, 1441 Mosley Street, Wasaga Beach on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at 9:00 AM.** We have 27 in our group. If you wish to join us anytime call Bob Bowyer at 429-0579.

Computer Special Interest Group

A total of 25 people signed the *Computer Group* interest sheet. All interested members will be contacted by e-mail in late March to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient date and time. Given the number of those interested we may need to set up two separate meetings. After the initial meetings are held we can decide how the group will continue and if we need sub-groups based on interest.

Thank you all for your interest and I am looking forward to meeting with you and sharing our extensive computer skills.

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 Mary Barnes	429-9635 429-2142			

NEXT MEETING

APRIL 5, 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.

