



# The Wasagan



Official Newsletter of Beachcombers Probus - Wasaga Beach, Ontario

International Website: [www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org) Newsletter Site: [www.probus.org/7wasbern.pdf](http://www.probus.org/7wasbern.pdf)

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Newsletter Editors: Maggie Higgins & Ken Wong 422-1338 [kemala@rogers.com](mailto:kemala@rogers.com)

**JULY GENERAL MEETING: ELECTION DAY**  
**TODAY'S ACTIVITIES: MYSTERY ENTERTAINMENT**

## SAY YES

We still need a Secretary and a Social Convener. These positions are vital for the smooth running of our club. We are a social club but without a social convener there will be no planned activities outside of the monthly meetings. Someone has to step forward. Without a secretary there will be no record of our monthly general meetings or of our Executive meetings and no record of motions passed. This is a necessity! The Management Team needs you! They meet on the third Wednesday of each month at the Superstore Community Room at 10 am. Please say yes.

It is time to renew your annual membership! Membership is \$25 per person. Please make your check out to "Beachcombers Probus", post date it for August 1 and give it to Deborah Ferris who you will find at the "sign in" table as you enter the meeting room. You may submit your check at the August meeting if that is more convenient.

## JUNE SPEAKER

Our speaker was Heather Ritchie from Ritchie's Garden Centre. Heather spoke about chemical free lawn care. Misuse of chemicals is so vast that there is now a ban on a number of chemicals. People are looking for alternatives. Plush green lawns are the current standard and adjusting to organic will be a slow process as organic does not give the instant results that chemicals do. Going organic is all about maintenance. The basics are mowing, fertilizing, watering, seeding and controlling weeds and insects.

**Mowing:** Think about mowing your grass at a higher level so that it will be dense and weeds will have less of a chance of rooting. Constantly leaving grass clippings on the lawn will result in a lot of thatch which may pick up disease.

**Fertilize:** Organic fertilizers are available and they are slower to release than the chemical ones. Chemicals will burn your lawn if you over fertilize but you can't over fertilize with organic. You will be waiting longer for results, though.

**Watering:** Too much watering can cause disease in the thatch and a shallow root system in the grass so that it becomes dependent on constant watering.

**Seeding:** It is important to choose grass seed specifically formulated for your soil type. Enviroturf works well in the Beach's sandy soil. It is a mix of fescue that has a tall root system that takes over during draught conditions. It germinates slowly but it is worth the wait. When going organic it is better to over seed - the thicker the lawn, the less chance of weeds taking hold.

**Weeds:** Horticultural vinegar is similar in performance to Roundup, but like Roundup it kills everything including the grass. If you don't have a lot of weeds you can dig them out using one of the many tools available. Be sure to seed the holes that are left by your tool.

**Pest Management:** It is important to act quickly when you discover that you have grubs or other pests. Early summer is an ideal time to treat for grubs. Nematodes are microscope worms that occur naturally in soil and are sold in a sponge which then must be soaked in a bucket of water. These invisible worms are released into the water which can then be sprayed (or use a watering can) onto your lawn. The nematodes actively seek out pest hosts in wet soil

and within 24-48 hours will kill the infested grub or larva using it as a breeding chamber to produce more good nematodes. If the soil is allowed to dry out completely or if there are no pest larvae for them to feed on, the nematodes will die. Keep the lawn well watered for 3 days after application or use during wet weather.

Nematodes are an excellent way to get into organic lawn care. They kill such pests as army worms, bark beetle, cabbage loopers, carrot maggot, codling moth, corn earworms, crane fly, cucumber beetle, cutworms, earwigs, European chafers, European corn borer, fleas, flea beetles, fruit flies, fungus gnats, grubs, gypsy moth, house fly maggots, iris borer, Japanese beetle, June beetle, lawn grubs, leaf miner, leather jackets, Mexican bean beetle, onion maggot, sow bugs, squash bugs, thrips, webworms, white grubs, wire worms and many more!

Many thanks to Heather for making us more aware of what we, as individuals, can do to help our planet survive in a healthy state.

## **PAST SOCIAL EVENT**

### **GEORGIAN DOWNS RACETRACK**

**BARRIE**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 26**

The dictionary people should redefine the word buffet to read "belly up to the trough" because that is exactly what we did. I think I consumed about three days worth of calories and I was eating light until it was time to check out the desserts. That is when all my willpower flew like the horses on the track and I piled my plate with a couple of thousand calories worth of satisfying decadence!

I personally won \$3.40 on the horses so it is a good thing that we'd paid in advance for the meal. Not much left in my wallet! Some people did well though – both Frank Tate and Charlie Baker seemed pretty happy with their winnings but didn't tell me how much they had won, they were probably afraid that poor little me would try to rob them! All joking aside, everyone had a great time whether they actually won on the races or not. Another successful event engineered by Betty Baker and the social committee!

Prepared by Maggie Higgins

## **UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS**

### **ANNUAL PICNIC**

**ELMVALE**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 25**

This is a popular event! The picnic is heavily subsidized by the club and the games and early dinner are available to members for only \$5.00! Barbeque Bob will be providing a delicious meal and the games are always a riotous good time – you can join in or sit yourself in the shade and cheer on your favorite player. The games start at 2 and dinner will follow at around 4:30 or 5. This is the last meeting at which you can purchase your ticket.

### **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**WASAGA SANDS GOLF COURSE**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 15**

We don't care if you consider yourself a poor golfer or a good golfer, everyone is invited to participate. Dinner will follow the tournament and there will be lots of prizes for the participants. Everyone always has a great time at our annual golf tournament so come on over to the golf course on Aug. 15 and show us what you can do! Tickets go on sale today and are priced at \$50.00 for 9 holes of golf (includes cart) and steak dinner. If you would like to attend the dinner only, tickets are \$20.

### **JUNE'S LUCKY DRAW WINNERS**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize of \$48.00 was won by Margaret Brannen

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of \$30.00 was won by Fraser Muir

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize of \$24.00 was won by Kathy Zack

4<sup>th</sup> Prize of \$18.00 was won by Gail Peterson

Gift certificate for Home Depot was won by Bob Hammond

### **ON GETTING OLD**

Submitted by Linda Vanderknokke

An elderly Floridian called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car had been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher: "They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!" she cried. The dispatcher said, "Stay calm, an officer is on the way. A few minutes later the officer radios in. "Disregard" he says. "She got in the back seat by mistake."

As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful!" "Heck," said Herman, "It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!"

## 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.

* Happy Bookers Book Club	Contact Joanne Scruton	422-0976
* 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
* YOYO's	Contact Joan Maloney	422-0573

The YOYO's (You're On Your Own) are a group of individuals wanting to share in good fellowship, potlucks and amusing activities. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday morning of the month. Call Joan Maloney @ 422-0573

### Dinner at Our Place:

We have 4 hosts each welcoming 6 other guests for dinner. Responsibilities are rotated monthly with everyone preparing a portion of the meal. Our dinners begin at 6PM; we do not assign a particular evening to dine; this is left for each group to decide. The hosts are responsible for the main entree and the vegetables to accompany it. In addition, they supply the bread/rolls, tea/coffee milk/cream and sugar. As a host you do have 3 other couples who assist with your meal. One couple is assigned to provide the appetizers, another couple soup or salad, and the third couple the dessert. Everyone provides their own choice of beverage for the evening whether it is wine, beer or a soft drink. At present we have 4 people who wish to become permanent members, and we need 4 more to join them to have a 5th house operational. Please call me or see me at a meeting if you are interested. We especially want to encourage our single people. Are you willing to host, like to cook and enjoy being with people for an evening of fun, good food and conversation? Betty Keyes 429-6064

The Happy Bookers club's membership is now full. If you wish to join, your name will now be placed on a waiting list. We meet every 3rd Monday of the month. Call Joanne Scruton @ 422-0976.

The latest selection of the Beachcombers Book Club was "The Birth House" by Ami McKay. The book traces the life of Dora Rare, the only girl in a large Scots Bay shipbuilding family. Growing up in early 1900's Nova Scotia, she is marked from the beginning as different, possibly even a witch. In her late teens she becomes an apprentice to the local midwife, a Cajun returned to her Acadian roots, learning how to assist births and brew herbal remedies for everything from coughs to preventing pregnancy. But she also learns about standing up for herself and other women as her personal coming of age coincides with the First World War, the Halifax Explosion, the Spanish Influenza epidemic and the ensuing political, social and economic advances for women. Of course, it wouldn't be much of a novel if such a transformation was easy, and Dora Rare runs into more than her share of troubles along the way, including a wayward husband, a meddling aunt, community censure and an arrogant doctor on a mission to stamp out "unscientific" birthing methods.

Our meeting to discuss this book was full of lively discussion and much laughter. Members recommend "The Birth House" and gave it a rating of 4 out of 5. Submitted by Diane Nagel.

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 Cuisiners 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.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – WASAGA BEACH

Habitat for Humanity is building a home in Wasaga Beach this summer. The project is underway with a building site and plans already finalized. Volunteer Project Manager, Reg Jalbert (429-3244) has been busy for several months working with key suppliers and the Town of Wasaga Beach to get this very worthwhile project completed this summer. The most recent major activity in the build project was to pre-fab the wall frames. This was scheduled for June 2 here in town. Both men and women participated in this activity. Later in the summer (probably mid to late August) the on-site building activity will be completed.

If you can swing a hammer or otherwise help, or if you want more information on this project, please give Reg a call as soon as possible. Also if you know of any local contractors who may be willing to contribute labor and/or materials to this project please pass this information along to Reg or ask them to contact him themselves. Thank you.

## BEACHCOMBERS SELLERS PAGE

Sellers must be members of Probus Beachcombers. Email your submission to Doris Willis @ [teacop@rogers.com](mailto:teacop@rogers.com) or add your submission to the list which is posted on the bulletin board at each meeting. Please notify Doris immediately when your item has been sold. Items will be listed for a maximum of **3 months**.

1. Traditional 3-seater matching sofa and chair. Excellent condition and top quality fabric-\$500. See bulletin board for pictures. Call George and Marilyn Rice @ 429-1798
2. Nordic "Walk fit" with computer, like new - \$359. or best offer. Call Dina McDonald @ 429-7730
3. Desk – all steel, double pedestal, 60x30x29 h - \$45. Call Dina McDonald @ 429-7730
4. Golf Cart – 4 cycle gas model in good condition - \$1,250 or best offer. Call Terry McDonald @ 429-7730

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

## **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 (Deborah Ferris) of any changes to your address, phone no., 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 deaths of our members to our Goodwill Convener (Kay Knab – 429-5547). If you don't tell us, we may miss sending out a card. Get-well Wishes, Best Wishes, and Condolences to anyone we may have missed.
- Our New Member Ambassador, Betty Keyes, is always available to give you information about our Club and its activities. Betty can be reached at 429-6064.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

**August 7**

**\*\*\*RecPlex\*\*\***

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/7wasbern.pdf](http://www.probus.org/7wasbern.pdf) (Please contact the Editors if you do not have a computer)

Please note that the **address changes** every January to reflect the new year.

## **MANAGEMENT TEAM**

President:	Chris Armstrong	429-7805	Refreshments:	Orlene & John Fost	429-9479
Vice-President:	Tom Donohue	429-0644	Membership:	Deborah Ferris	429-4977
Treasurer:	Harry Durrant	429-3071	Social:	Gloria Harasowsky	429-0180
Secretary:	Doris Willis	429-7835		Vivian Sheridan	429-5590
Past President:	Ray Porter	429-9260	60/40:	Kay Knab	429-5547
Speakers:	Jan Bivall	429-7584	New Member Ambassador:		
	Diane Nagel	428-3209		Betty Keyes	429-6064
Goodwill:	Kay Knab	429-5547	Newsletter:	Maggie Higgins	
				& Ken Wong	422-1338