



The Wasagan



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

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March 4, 2008

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MARCH GENERAL MEETING

TODAY'S SPEAKERS:

IAN McCLEARY, INSURANCE BROKER

STEPHEN STEWART, INVESTMENT ADVISOR

3rd SPEAKER IS A DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to this morning's meeting. I hope you all remembered to bring your new Probus mugs. If you did not receive a mug because you missed the last meeting, ask Linda Willis, our membership convener, for yours. Similar to your name tags, it is hoped that this special Probus mug will be brought to every meeting in our efforts to reduce waste and go green. A reminder about drinking coffee: the new mugs hold almost double the coffee that Styrofoam cups hold so let's try to keep the coffee drinking on an even keel. Kudos and thanks to Maggie Higgins for doing all the work in choosing and purchasing the new mugs.

I wish to extend a big thank you to all the members of the social committee for their efforts to make a wonderful variety of events available to our members. Ever since I joined Beachcombers Probus, I must say that even though the members in the committee have changed, their dedication to providing good events has not. So a hearty well done and keep up the good work to all the members of the social committee.

I forgot to praise all those who wore red to the February general meeting in the spirit of Valentine's Day. This is dedicated to all those wearing green to this meeting in honor of St. Patrick's Day - top of the morning to you. The Irish myth about the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow comes true today. The gold coins on each table are part of the pot of gold everyone dreams of finding. Hope you find it delicious. The rest of the priceless pot of gold will be added to the draw as a prize. The only hitch is: you have to buy draw tickets to be eligible to win. Good luck.

In addition to St. Patrick's Day (green beer, anyone?), March brings St. David's Day for the Welsh among us, Easter, and the first day of spring. Let's hope the long winter finishes in March. Have a wonderful month.

President Tom Donohue.

FEBRUARY MEETING

As the members entered the meeting area they were greeted by President Tom with a gift of a Probus mug filled with cinnamon hearts. If you were unable to attend the meeting, don't despair – you will receive your mug at the first meeting that you are able to attend. Everyone is urged to bring their mug to future meetings to avoid sending more Styrofoam cups to the landfill.

The day of the meeting was Shrove Tuesday so by popular vote we had a catered pancake breakfast consisting of berry filled pancakes with maple syrup, sausages and fresh fruit. Tom and Irene Donohue did a terrific job of organizing this delicious and fun start to our morning.

FEBRUARY SPEAKERS

Our first speaker was **John Hartley**, a Probus member in Collingwood, who formed a group called Sentax. Sentax is not associated with Probus as the club cannot be involved in politics. Mr. Hartley detailed Sentax's successful battle with the government for pension income tax splitting. Their next step will be to lobby for FULL income splitting. They are fighting their battle under the name "Common Front for Pension Security" and many organizations are involved, including CARP.

Our second speaker was **Stephen Stewart** who works with Nesbitt Burns and writes a column on investments for the Collingwood Connection. Mr. Stewart spoke about the financial crisis in the U.S.A. and how it affects us. He also explained pension splitting and spoke about investing.

PAST SOCIAL EVENT: GLOW-IN-THE-DARK MINI PUTT, FEB. 21

On Thursday, February 21, forty of our members enjoyed a “glowing” and challenging mini-putt tournament at Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Putt in Barrie. Thanks to the great organizational team at Putting Edge for placing everyone into teams of four – they had everyone’s name and team number on a notice board in the lobby before we arrived. Also, everything was in place for a shotgun start to the event – all putters, golf balls and score cards were at each team’s starting point. It certainly sounded as though everyone had a good time, lots of cheers, ooh’s, aah’s, and even a few “darns!” were heard. After careful checking of each team’s score card the winning team members were Ray Dimock, Gloria Harasowsky, Marilyn Rice and Jim Somerville. Each member of the winning team received a small gift. We also had three door prizes: first prize winner (\$30 gift certificate to Beverly’s on Main) was Sheila Ewing; second and third prize winners (\$20 gift certificates to Beverly’s) were Jack Benedet and Ed Davies. Congratulations to all of our prize winners. Following the tournament approximately thirty-seven members gathered at the Market Buffet and Grill, in Barrie, for a very enjoyable buffet lunch. Thank you, Heidi, for arranging lunch and booking us into a separate room which enabled us all to be together to continue the day’s fun, chatting and getting to know each other better. Thank you, to all who attended this event. Your participation is greatly appreciated by your Social Committee. Submitted by Irene Donohue

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS – FROM YOUR SOCIAL COMMITTEE

PLEASE NOTE: The date for **Casino Rama** has been changed to **Wednesday, March 19**. We apologize for the inconvenience this date change may have caused to those who have signed up and paid for this trip and to those who are unable to participate. Today is your last chance to sign up. No ticket will be issued. The cost is \$5.00 per person, which includes the bus trip and lunch, if forty or more people attend. Your \$5.00 deposit will be recorded on a list of attendees and will be refunded on the bus on the day of the excursion if the minimum quota is met. Pick-up time will be at approximately 9:30 a.m. at Wasaga Stars Arena and return by 5:30 p.m. ***In the event we do not have forty people signed up by the end of this morning’s break we will refund all deposits we have received and the trip will be cancelled.***

APRIL 19th Tickets on sale today for the Wasaga Community Theatre production of “Who Killed Elvis?” This is a musical/murder mystery. We will qualify for a group ticket rate of \$12.00 rather than \$15.00 per person if fifteen or more people attend. We are also planning to meet for dinner at the newly renovated Dardenella (the “Dard”) at 5:00 p.m., prior to the performance. Please be sure to let Betty Baker know if you will be joining us for dinner as she needs to inform the restaurant of the approximate number of reservations.

MAY 21st: Murder/Mystery, “Dancing With The Stars Is Murder”, at the Old Mill in Toronto. Ticket price is \$87.00 per person, which includes bus there and back, a delicious lunch at the Old Mill Restaurant and the show. Pick up time, 9:45 a.m. and return at 5:00 p.m. This trip is organized through Hamilton Tours, who always do a wonderful job and provide great personal service.

JUNE 26th: Variety Night and Dinner (back by popular demand) – at the Royal Canadian Legion in Collingwood. The evening will consist of dinner and the show. Several performers have already come forward, but there is room for more. We know there are a lot of talented Beachcombers waiting in the wings. So, come on everyone, flex those musical muscles, dust off those dancing shoes, practice those famous party pieces, skits and jokes, get a group together or go it alone, you can do it! Please sign the interest sheet provided. Linda Willis is still looking for some more people to make up a square dancing group. Linda is willing to teach you all you need to know.

JULY 22nd – Annual Picnic at Heritage Park in Elmvale. Burger Bob will be catering again this year and he promises that the corn will be cooked this time!

AUGUST – Annual Golf Tournament. Date to be announced.

DECEMBER 5th – Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance. Mark your calendars.

FEBRUARY LUCKY DRAW WINNERS



- 1st Prize of \$54.40 was won by Dorothy Mitchell
2nd Prize of \$34.00 was won by Rod Ranta
3rd Prize of \$27.20 was won by Bob Harasowsky
4th Prize of \$20.40 was won by Ray Porter
Gift certificate for the Rockdell Steakhouse was won by Sheila Ewing

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.

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|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| * 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: TO ALL MEMBERS – We now have a 5th house for our monthly dinners. This brings the number of members participating to 40. Since a few couples have moved from our "Substitute" list to the regular rotation, we do need more of you to join us as an occasional guest. (Two singles are welcome to join as a couple). This winter we have many going south for periods of 1-3 months and I will need and welcome YOUR participation to fill in. You have seen our photographs of various social events, you have talked to some who are a part of our group, why don't you join us and give me a call? Does this fit your description?

1. I like to cook and prepare favorites dishes as well as try new recipes.
2. I like to have fun, share a lot of laughs and get to know members over the course of an evening.
3. I enjoy the experience of welcoming people to my home and entertaining.
4. I like the fact that others are responsible for preparing courses which they bring to my home that evening.
5. I like the fact that I will only host once every 4 months.
6. I like the fact the other 3 months I will be a guest in another member's home.
7. Finally, I would love to attend the group socials: the annual Christmas party in December, and the annual barbecue in August each year.

Please inquire about your participation with this super group. Betty Keyes 429-6064 keys1@sympatico.ca

The Happy Bookers February's reading was "The Memory Keeper's Daughter" by Kim Edwards.

This book is set in 1964 when a young couple are about to have their first child. There is a bad snow storm and the father who is a doctor has to deliver his own child. He takes his wife to his clinic and calls his faithful nurse. The wife delivers twins, a healthy boy and a girl with Down syndrome. The wife is "out of it" and the father remembers his own sister that died at age twelve from a heart problem and how it broke his mother's heart so he decides to have the nurse take the baby to an institution. He tells his wife that the baby girl had died. The nurse cannot bear to leave the baby in the institution so she runs away and raises the baby herself. The story goes on to tell how this lie ruined all their lives as the mother could never get over losing her baby girl and the father is so guilt ridden that they both ignore the boy and he grows up very unhappy. Only the girl grows up happy and loved.

We rated this book 3.5 and most liked it and would recommend it although some thought it lacked substance. We had a very lively discussion on this book.

Submitted by Christina Armstrong

The **FIRST EDITION** Book Club met at the home of Betty Montgomery on Feb 19th. The chosen reading was the book "The Secret". We enjoyed a pot luck lunch and then watched a DVD movie of the book. A lively discussion followed with an interesting and varied reaction from all participants. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and at this time have reached our maximum of 10 members.

Submitted by Betty Montgomery

The **Fair Weather Walkers**, as the name implies, walk when the weather cooperates. 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.

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

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:

APRIL 1, 2008

ALL STARS ARENA

Arrive at 9:30 to enjoy coffee and tea with your friends prior to the meeting at 10:00 am. Remember to bring your "Probus" mug!

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

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|-----------------|---------------------|----------|---------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 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 |