



The Wasagan



Official Newsletter of Beachcombers Probud

Wasaga Beach, Ontario

International Website: www.probus.org Newsletter Site: www.probus.org/7wasbcnrn.pdf

January 2, 2007

Volume 4, Issue 6

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JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

TODAY'S SPEAKER: SUZANNE HAMILTON, HAMILTON TOURS

DECEMBER PROFILER

Our profiler was Mr. S. Claus who many of you will know as "Santa Claus". His voice was cheery, his demeanor how merry as he related the story of his long and busy life. The South Pole where Santa currently lives is a snappy -28 Celsius and that is why he seemed a trifle warm and just a bit confused as Gloria Harasowsky tried to fasten the belt that his rather ample waist had popped off! Santa was glad however to see Wasaga Beach under cover of snow. You see, his sleigh doesn't do well on dirt and the reindeer get upset.

Long before yesterday, (280 AD) on the Mediterranean coast of what is now called Turkey; Nicholas was born to a wealthy family. While still a young man, his parents died and he spent his time secretly giving gifts to those in need. He helped out a poor man with 3 daughters by tossing gold coins through the man's window to be used as a dowry for each girl. When the time came to toss the 3rd daughter's coins, the window was closed so Nicholas tossed the bag of coins down the chimney. We all know the significance of that!

Nicholas eventually became a Bishop, was credited with many miracles and was named a saint. Later, in Holland, St. Nicholas became associated with Christmas. He was depicted as a man riding a white horse and wearing black robes and sporting a big white beard.

In America, St. Nicholas was known as a rogue and a rascal who frequented pubs! Luckily that image was changed in 1822 when the poem "The Night Before Christmas" was penned. Mrs. Claus came into being in the book "A Children's Story". Mrs. Claus helped with directions on the sleigh and one year she fell out! She survived to become the nurturing spirit we know today.

In the 1930's the Coca Cola Company introduced the 1st present day picture of our beloved Santa Claus and the rest of the story is painted in our hearts and memories.

Editor's note: It is said by some that Mrs. Claus's name is "Jessica Mary" but Santa has not confirmed this for me. (Thanks to Bill Travis for filling in for the real Santa who is really busy at this time of year and couldn't make it to our meeting.)

DECEMBER MEETING ENTERTAINMENT

Birchview Dunes Elementary School entertained us with Christmas carols and cute seasonal songs.

First up were the Birchview Dunes Crooners (grades 1 through 3) under the direction of Mrs. Ives. They all wore sparkly garlands around their necks and did a great job in entertaining us with their sweet voices.

Then the Birchview Dunes Junior Choir (grades 4 through 6) under the direction of Mrs. Mitchell took over. Their professionalism and maturity was really quite astounding and we enjoyed their singing immensely.

The whole event was quite entertaining and a real treat to behold. Our club donated \$200 to the school and the children, in the spirit of the season, then turned around and presented the money to the food bank. Thanks go to the school for allowing the children to come and sing for us.

PREVIOUS SOCIAL EVENT

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Legion did a great job in cooking and serving a delicious turkey dinner to us. They are so efficient that it befuddles the mind!

Our bellies full, we settled down to listen to our president Christina read a hilarious rendition of "Twas The Night Before Christmas" describing seniors in a nursing home celebrating the season. Next was the distribution of door prizes (someone at each table won one of the beautiful baskets) and poinsettia table prizes. Then the winners of the 50/50 draw were announced.

Then it was on to the music and dancing. The DJ spun his songs as videos played on a large screen. The prize giving continued with the spot dances and contests. Later, cake and coffee was served for those who wanted a little nibble of something sweet. The music played on and the fun continued until we were ready to toddle off to our beds with visions of sugar plums dancing in our heads. A job well done by the social committee!

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

BOWLING AND DINNER

COLLINGWOOD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

This event is scheduled for 2 pm on January 10, 2007 at the Georgian Bowl in Collingwood. Tickets are sold out for the bowling. Your ticket includes cost of bowling shoes rental. Dinner will follow at Rock Dell Steak House in Collingwood at your own cost. You'll have a choice of ribs, veal, chicken or beef.

INDOOR PUTTING

THE PUTTING EDGE, BARRIE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Keep those golf skills honed! The fun starts at 11 am at the Putting Edge in Barrie. Lunch will follow at The Marketplace Buffet Grill located at 47 Mapleview Avenue. Tickets for the putting are **\$10.00** and the lunch is at your own expense (priced at \$9.19 plus tax for the senior's special rate). Tickets are on sale at today's meeting.

GEORGIAN DOWNS RACETRACK

BARRIE

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

Enjoy an exciting evening at the races! Tickets are on sale now for **\$34.00** per person. Included are a delicious buffet dinner (visit the chocolate fountain for dessert!), soft drinks, and the races - which you can watch from your dining table, tax and gratuity. Whether you bet a lot or a little, whether you win a lot or a little, you'll have a great time.

DINNER AND VARIETY SHOW

COLLINGWOOD LEGION

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

We will enjoy a delicious chicken dinner followed by entertainment put on by our very own Probus Club members. Do you have a talent that you would like to show off? This is your night to shine! We are still looking for a few more participants to round out the evening's entertainment. Speak to anyone in the Social Group to sign up. Tickets for this diverting evening will be priced at **\$25.00**.

DECEMBER'S LUCKY 60/40 DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize of \$81.45 was won by Brian Armstrong

2nd Prize of \$33.95 was won by Linda Squires

3rd Prize of \$20.35 was won by Diane Nagel who generously donated her winnings to the food bank

Gift certificate for Wal-Mart was won by Glenys Whittamore

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

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. I assign one couple 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

Dinner Club Christmas Party: This is an invitation to all you members who have thought about joining our dinner club but have not contacted me. On December 14th you would have been invited to a wonderful Christmas social with all of our members enjoying and celebrating this 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 will power! 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. All of our members thank Diane & Robin Nagel for their hospitality in hosting our Christmas event 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. 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

December book report by Mary Ranta:

Our book for December was *The Time In Between* by David Bergen. It was a well written portrait of a troubled man...a Vietnam War veteran. Upon his return to the U.S.A. after the war, he experienced a tumult of emotions - chagrin, remorse, guilt and despair over the fact he had shot a young Vietnamese boy while on duty. He moved to a remote area in B.C. to raise his young family and to try to find some resolution to his conflicting emotions. Once his family was raised, having found no peace of mind, he returned to Vietnam seeking answers to his continuing anguish. When his son and daughter lost contact with him, they too, went to Vietnam in search of him. What they each found was very interesting!!

The story proved to be very pertinent to many veterans returning from conflict. It is just as relevant to W.W.II veterans as it is to our men who will be coming home from Afghanistan today. It reveals some of the difficulties war veterans face upon returning and trying to adjust to peacetime living again.

While this sad story is not advised for Christmas reading, the majority of Happy Bookers would recommend that their family and friends might want to read it in the New Year.

The Fair Weather Walkers: The walks always take place at Powerline Road. We will have the choice of either walking along the skidoo trail as we do during the winter, or we can use the forest trails. The walking is never cancelled; we enjoy each other's company no matter who happens to show up. We have walked in blizzards, in downpours and while fending off Canada's other national bird (The mosquito!). So come along any Friday and reward yourself with a cup of Timmy's coffee afterwards. Call Gary Willis @ 429-7835 for more information.

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 to go on the "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 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 4th Wednesday morning of the month. Call Joan Maloney @ 422-0573 for more information - new members welcome.

BEACHCOMBERS SELLERS PAGE

Sellers must be members of Probus Beachcombers. Email your submission to Doris Willis @ 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.

1. 2 piece sofa & loveseat, wedgewood blue, excellent condition, perfect for cottage or bedroom \$200. each piece or \$300. for both. Call Valerie Deveau @ 420-0354
2. Olympus 2.1 Digital camera with extra memory cards \$100. Call Jim Park @ 322-2419 (selling on behalf of Keith Rossel)
3. Professional Beauty Salon Hair Dryer; hardly used \$125. Husquvarna garden tractor; adjustment for pushing snow. Call Nell Holowachuk @ 429-7240
4. Child's Evenflo Exersaucer- Deluxe Active Learning Center. Call Kay Knab 429-5547
5. Crock Pot Rival 5 quart Model 3850. LIKE NEW!! \$ 30.00 (Sears catalogue \$ 69.50 plus tax) Call Sheila @ 429- 3451
6. Dark green love seat (2 years new) \$250. Call Bill Travis 422-1148
7. Victorian 3 piece Settee set, carved, Mother of Pearl inlay English. Call Jim Park @ 322- 2419

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 (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:

FEBRUARY 6, 2007

ALL STARS ARENA

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

When you are unable to attend a meeting, you can access your copy of The Wasagan at www.probus.org/7wasbcn.pdf (Please contact the Editors if you do not have a computer)

Please be aware that the **address changed** in January to reflect the year 2007.

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