



The Wasagan



Official Newsletter of Beachcombers Probud

Wasaga Beach, Ontario

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MARCH GENERAL MEETING

TODAY'S PROFILER: Christina Armstrong

SPEAKER: Michael Fawcett

THE FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

OUR PROFILER WAS TOM DONAHUE

Tom was the eldest of five children who grew up in North Bay where he was spoiled by a loving extended family. His nickname of 'cute boy' says it all. After moving to Toronto, he went to De La Salle Oaklands, Riverdale Collegiate and eventually, Teachers' College. He started teaching elementary school and was in a musical/comedy troupe called 'The Funk Brothers'. Weekends were spent at Wasaga Beach. In 1965, Tom met his future wife Irene and this year they will celebrate forty years of marriage. Their honeymoon was rather unique as it included his mother-in-law. The 80's were very busy with their two children, travelling, teaching high school, coaching and working in the teachers' union. In 1998, they built a house in Wasaga, but only lived here part-time until recently. Tom is still working at a high school in Barrie, but he managed to convince us all that he 'is a very lucky guy.'

SPEAKER: LT. COLONEL (Retired) TOM CHRISTIANSON

Tom was the kind of speaker who just had so many stories and adventures to tell that the normal amount of time was just not enough. In the 60's, at the University of Wisconsin, after initially trying to avoid the draft, he decided to enlist in the Special Forces Branch (Green Berets) for a two year stint and ended up retiring from the service in 1997, after 24 years. While Tom had seen action in Desert Storm 1 & 2, Grenada, Panama, Africa and Afghanistan, both as a paratrooper and as a tank commander, the majority of his time (14 years) was spent in Europe. He was wounded twice and decorated many times. He has taught military and European history at West Point and other military colleges. Currently, he takes Canadian veterans on military tours through Europe. He told us of one Owen Sound vet going to Beny Sur Mer Cemetery and the Abbee D'Ardennes 'House of Canadians' monument and finally confirming the death of a comrade after all these years. He spoke movingly about the moments when these living vets connect with their friends who had made the ultimate sacrifice. You may recognize Tom as the military analyst for CTV and see him periodically on the Evening News with Lloyd Robertson. Thank you Betty for arranging for this most interesting speaker.

On February 15th, 36 Probus members, filled with excitement and anticipation, arrived at the Georgian Bowl. Armed with nothing but their colourful shoes and the determination of true Olympians, each athlete rose to meet the challenges of this grueling sport. One could see the expertise of the individual participants: from ball choices, to the hand grips, to the practiced stance and the smooth delivery... each was a true master of the game. Probian sportsmanship was also witnessed. The loud thunk of a ball dropped was graciously overlooked (tsk!) while the occasional gutter balls were not met with laughter (not much at least) but rather with words of encouragement. Even the "granny roll" perfected by a past Probus president, was celebrated by team members. Throughout the afternoon, the air was filled with the resounding noises of successful strikes and spares and even "turkeys " (3 strikes in a row). At the end of the day, there were no medals and no podiums to stand upon but these Probian athletes survived the strain of the lane with the sweat on their brows and laughter in their hearts. Prizes went to Larry Ruse for high bowler, Yvonne Visser for high female bowler, and to the winning team of Fred Worch, Jeanne Boem, Guenter Haessler and Sandra O'Halloran. Especially good sports were Luci Worch, John Fost, Marg Richmond and Gloria Harasowsky. What a great day!

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

MINI PUTT AND LUNCHEON THE PUTTING EDGE, BARRIE THURS, MAR 9

Last chance to purchase tickets! Cost will be \$10.00 plus lunch at your cost. The Putting Edge has mini putt with black lights and we will play 11 am to 12 noon. There will be teams of 4 and lots of fun and prizes! Lunch will follow at the **Mandarin Restaurant** in Barrie.

MURDER MYSTERY BAYSHORE SENIORS CLUB FRI, APRIL 21

Rehearsals have begun for our 'Flapper Era' Murder Mystery. The cost will be \$25.00 for a dinner of juice, salad, meat lasagna, bread, dessert & coffee or tea (if you prefer veggie lasagna, let us know). There will be door prizes, 50/50 and tons of laughs. Tickets will be on sale today and at the April meeting. There are only 130 tickets available. Cost for guests or non-members is \$30. Dress the part with flapper dresses for the ladies and pinstripes & wide ties for the men.

Marilyn Ruse is organizing a 'Charleston Dance Team' for the intermission. If you are interested, please sign up with her. Great exercise for the knees!

Recycle/Reuse: we need empty Mateus style wine bottles (the shorter, the better) for our centrepieces. If you have any, please let the Social Committee or June Davidson know.

We would like a piano interlude at the beginning of our play; is there a pianist in the crowd?

O.P.P. MUSEUM TOUR ORILLIA MON. APRIL 24

Diane Nagel will be calling all those who signed the interest sheet. The tour will be from 10:30 – 2 with a break for lunch (11:30 – 12:00) at the 'Steak Out'. Diane will try to organize a car pool. Additional names are welcome.

HONDA PLANT TOUR ALLISTON THURS, MAY 25

There will be two tours due to the large number of people attending. The tours will be at 9:00 am and 12:30 pm. At the April PROBUS meeting, we will confirm times, provide a map to the plant and also a handout of Honda information e.g., no sandals or open toed shoes, no cameras, the walking portion of the tour is 45 minutes and the total tour is 1 ¼ hours.

Taylor and Susan Pearson and Bob Hammond are in charge of this tour.

FUN AT THE CASINO COLLINGWOOD LEGION FRI. MAY 26

There will be an interest sheet out at today's meeting for a "crew" to help organize this event. If you are interested in helping, please sign up. We will be looking for new ideas. Cost will be \$25.00 and include a roast chicken dinner with all the trimmings and, of course, the money to play with.

CRAFT FAIR

There is an interest sheet available. This fair would be held in the fall to coincide with early Christmas shopping. Crafters would return 5 – 10% of sales to the club which would subsidize the event. We only have 3 people signed up so far and need a minimum of 12 craft tables to make this event worthwhile. We would like someone to take charge of this event and approach other Probus clubs for more craft tables.

FEBRUARY'S LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize of \$45.30 – Barb Holder

2nd Prize of \$18.80 – Brenda Brand

3rd Prize of \$11.35 – Linda Straiko

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

*	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
*	Golfing Around	Contact	Bill Travis	422-1148
*	Restaurant Dinner Club	Contact	Diane Nagel	428-3209
*	Fair Weather Walkers	Contact	Gary Willis	429-7835
*	YOYO's	Contact	Shirley Hoskin	429-4378

Dinner at our Place wants you to come dine with us. Would you like to join us as a substitute for those who are on vacation? We rotate the duties; however as a substitute you would **never** have to host a dinner. You would be assigned an appetizer, or a 1st course of soup or salad or a dessert to bring that evening. We now have a full roster of 4 houses participating with 8 people at each house. You would enjoy good food, super company and interesting conversation. Speak to any member who is a part of this group and you will find they enjoy these evenings very much. Give me a call. I would be happy to explore any questions you might have about the dinners and welcome your participation. Betty Keyes – 429-6064

The Happy Bookers Club. Future reading schedule: in March we will each read a book of our own choice from the "The Canada Reads List". April will have us reading Alligator by Lisa Moore. The book club meets every third Monday of the month at 1:00 pm. If you are interested in joining us, please call Joanne Scruton at 422-0976.

The **Fair Weather Walkers** meet every Friday at 1:30 pm at Powerline Road. Contact Luci Worch or Gary Willis for more details. The walk lasts about an hour and the coffee break after the walk is worth the effort. **Show up any Friday!**

The **Afternoon Luncheon Cuisiners** meet every 2nd Monday of the month at 11:30 am. Each person takes a turn hosting the lunch, which is run as an organized pot luck. It is a time of good food, discussion, laughter and gossip. Call Marilyn Ruse at 422-0271 for more information.

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 at 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 new group of individuals looking for good fellowship and diverting outings to theatres, restaurants, bowling, etc. Call Shirley Hoskin at 429-4378 for more information.

State of Fear by Michael Crichton

Just as Crichton's based his other novels, such as Jurassic Park on a controversial concept, State of Fear questions the validity of the theory of global warming. The hero, Peter Evans, is a lawyer for George Morton, a millionaire philanthropist who bankrolls the environmental group NERF. When Morton disappears, Peter gets reluctantly involved in the search, along with a Dr. John Kenner, professor of Geoenvironmental Engineering at MIT and secret agent for some national security organization. Evans represents the ignorant 'every person' who gets his information about global warming from the media. Crichton theorizes that the media is a pawn for the government and the environmental groups who want to keep people in a state of ignorance and fear about environmental issues. While pursuing the 'baddies' across several continents and through harrowing adventures, Crichton, through Kenner, attempts to educate Evans, using climate graphs, statistics and theories to his reality of our environmental situation. In this suspense-thriller, reality and fiction become very confusing; however that makes the book thought-provoking and worth the read.

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Everyone has an intriguing life story to tell. Give a thought to sharing your biography with the Probus membership! Call Betty Baker at 422-1909 if you are interested in presenting your profile.

NOTICE

Discounted cruise cabins have now been made available up to 01/Apr/06. As of now, there are 12 Beachcomber Probus couples going. Singles are also welcome. For further information, contact Paul Dorian, 429-3311.

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 (Lynda Trimble - 429-3402). 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 Members Ambassador, Betty Keyes, is always available to give you information about our Club and its activities. Betty can be reached at 429-6064.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

Best wishes to those who celebrated in February!

NEXT MEETING:

April 4, 2006

at the Wasaga Stars Arena

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

MANAGEMENT TEAM

President:	Ray Porter	429-9260	Goodwill:	Lynda Trimble	429-3402
Vice-President:	Chris Armstrong	429-7805	Membership:	Deborah Ferris	429-4977
Treasurer:	Harry Durrant	429-3071	Social:	Joan Porter	429-9260
Secretary:	Doris Willis	429-7835	Refreshments:	Orlene & John Fost	429-9479
Past President:	Luci Worch	422-0062	Speakers:	Betty Baker	422-1909
			60/40:	Kay Knab	429-5547