



The Wasagan



Official Newsletter of Beachcombers Probud, P.O. Box 321, Wasaga Beach, Ontario L9Z 1A4
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DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING TODAY'S EVENT: BIRCHVIEW DUNES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHOIR

MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE

Today, we are happy to welcome the children's choir from Birchview Dunes Public School, along with some of their teachers. They will be entertaining us with their lovely singing which we hope will help everyone get into the Spirit of the Season. Hope you have all been nice as we have another special guest this morning – Ho! Ho! Ho!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month I had the honor of representing Beachcombers' Probud at the Remembrance Day Wreath Laying ceremony here in Wasaga Beach (along with Bob Harasowsky). It was very well attended. It is with mixed feelings that we will be losing our newsletter editors, Maggie and Ken, in the spring. We are happy for them on a personal level but it is sad for us to see them leave. More later. Some discussion arose about the use of Styrofoam cups at our last management meeting and we would love to reduce their use. We will be asking Brian and Susan, our coffee makers, to purchase cardboard cups to replenish stocks. It would be our small contribution to a greener world. It would be even greener if members could remember to bring their own mugs from home to general meetings. We would welcome little ways to get to know each other better at our general meetings. I will make a modest attempt this morning with a small initiative. At today's meeting we welcome some special Christmas guests thanks to the members of our hard-working social committee. During this season of frequent festivities, please be careful out there. On behalf of all the members of the management team, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In the New Year we are going "green". Please help by bringing your own coffee mug to each meeting. For those who forget, disposable coffee cups will still be available for your use.

AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY AWAITS YOU! Are you an organized person who enjoys writing short articles, being involved in the "behind the scenes activities" of our club and having your good name known to all the members? If so, then we have a job for you! Ken and Maggie, your Wasagan editors are regretfully moving from Wasaga Beach in April and a **new editor is needed** to fill in for the remainder of the "Probud" year (which is in August). A computer, printer and email capability are essential to this job. You can start your new job any time between now and the April 8 meeting. Please see Maggie at the general meeting or call her at 422-1338. Thank you.

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Katherine Barber, Editor in Chief of the Oxford Dictionary, Canadian Edition, spoke to us about the history of the English language. Ms Barber was so entertaining and rapid paced that I am afraid that I gave up on scribbling notes in my illegible longhand and decided to sit back and enjoy her presentation. Suffice to say, if you were absent from the November meeting you missed a fascinating speaker.

I learned that our language originated from the Anglo Saxons, the Old Norse, the French, Latin and Greek. All of these different languages led to some really weird ways of spelling words. Most countries do not have spelling bees because words are spelled the way they sound. Not us! We are masters of confusion. As well, we English speaking people hate to stop using a word and so we tend to change the word to mean something else when it becomes redundant. As I said, we are masters of confusion!

If you would like to hear more of Katherine Barber you can tune into CBC radio's "Metro Morning" show in Toronto. She has a regular spot on the show. As well, Ms Barber has written a number of books (besides the Oxford Dictionary of course). Her books are available from Amazon.ca as well as in book stores. The book she most often quoted from in her talk is called "6 Words You Didn't Know Came From Pigs". Another book worth seeking out is called "Only in Canada You Say". Thanks to Ms Barber for a thoroughly entertaining and educational session!

PAST SOCIAL EVENT: NOVEMBER 20th SILENT AUCTION AND LUNCH

Once again the social committee managed to provide us with a fun filled day and much laughter. Betty Baker headed the committee for this event and everyone really worked hard and long to make it a success. I think that most of us managed to walk away with at least one new found treasure. Remember that one man's junk is another man's treasure and this proved to be the case as we all waited with anticipation for each winning ticket to be drawn. Betty Baker and Bill Travis were seasoned professionals (sort of) as they called the winning numbers. Things went quickly as the runners – Fred Worch and Paul Turner efficiently delivered the items to the lucky winners.

I have a word of advice to Bill Travis though. "Bill, please try to remember to take the time in the morning to use your Poly-grip and cement those dentures down!" To those who did not attend the auction I should tell you that as Bill was calling out a winning number his bottom teeth fell out of his mouth and landed in the bowl he was auctioning off! People laughed so hard that they nearly fell off their chairs.

The lunch was delicious and we munched happily on sandwiches and squares. Betty Keyes was in charge of the volunteers for the lunch. Betty states: I wish to sincerely thank all of the kitchen staff who arrived at 9:30AM to assist in the luncheon preparation for the "Silent Auction". Thanks also to those at home who assisted with the sandwich fillings and to all the members who baked for this event. You are the reason this is a successful and enjoyable venture each year; I appreciate your volunteering and participation very much.

Thanks go to Betty Baker and her hard working team for such a great day!

CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE

Today is your last chance to purchase tickets for our Christmas basket filled with delicious chocolates and nut treats (valued at \$100.00). The draw will take place during today's meeting. This beautiful basket was specially made up for this raffle by Rheo Thompson Candies of Stratford, Ontario, and was purchased in Stratford by Marilyn Evans. The items in the basket are of the highest quality. Tickets are \$1.00 each. You will be required to print your name and telephone number on any tickets you purchase (you may buy as many tickets as you wish). This way, if someone purchased a ticket at our October or November meetings and they are not present today and their ticket is drawn, a member of the Social Committee will telephone the lucky winner. Good luck, everyone!

Please note: All proceeds from this draw will be used to help defray the cost of our Christmas Dinner Dance.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS FROM YOUR SOCIAL COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 7th – CHRISTMAS DINNER/DANCE AT THE COLLINGWOOD LEGION

One hundred and twenty two tickets have been sold for this event. Sorry, we are unable to sell tickets today as we were given a deadline of November 25th to finalize the number of people attending with the Legion caterers. A full turkey dinner, with all the trimmings, will be served and we will have dancing, prize baskets, spot dances, door prizes and, perhaps, a surprise to two, as well! Our deejay, Tom, has a wide selection of music and will take requests. We look forward to a fun and festive evening. **PLEASE NOTE:** The Social Committee would like to ask that you arrive at the Legion no earlier than 5:45 p.m. Last year we had quite a number of people arriving before the cloak room was supervised. Unfortunately, last year the bartender arrived late. We hope to have the bar opened on time this year and avoid a long wait for some Christmas Cheer!



BOWLING – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 2008 - \$12.00 PER PERSON

Tickets will be on sale today and at our January club meeting. Bowling will be at Georgian Bowl in Collingwood, beginning at 2:00 p.m. We will be meeting for dinner following the bowling at a location to be announced soon. **Ticket price is for bowling only – dinner not included.**

FEBRUARY – MINI PUTT

We have yet to set a firm date for this event. However, it will most likely be held the week of the 18th to 22nd at Putting Edge in Barrie

NOVEMBER LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize of \$82.50 was won by Sam Ritchie

2nd Prize of \$51.50 was won by Ray Dimock

3rd Prize of \$41.00 was won by Valerie Willock

4th Prize of \$32.00 was won by Sandra Hanson

Gift certificate for Chapters was won by Ray Porter

Complimentary tickets to "A Nice Family Gathering" were won by Kathleen Benedet

There were also 4 lucky winners of chocolate bars donated by Rheo Thompson Candies.

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.

* 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 keyes1@sympatico.ca

The Happy Bookers Club

Each member read a non-fiction book of their choice and then shared a synopsis of the novel with the group. One of the books we reviewed was "Crashing Through" by Robert Kurson, the true story of a blind man who dared to see. Blinded at the age of three, Mike May defied expectations by downhill skiing, joining the C.I.A. and becoming a successful inventor, entrepreneur and family man. In 1999 he heard of a revolutionary stem cell transplant surgery procedure that could restore his vision. The procedure was filled with risks, some of them deadly. There were countless reasons for him to refuse vision however he chose to go forward. The novel is beautifully written with an insight into the mysteries of vision and of the brain. It's a fascinating account of one man's choice to explore what it means to see. Next month's reading will be "A Book of Humor" of your choice. Submitted by Joanne Scruton

The First Edition Book Club meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. Our maximum membership of 8 persons has been reached. Contact Lucille Mancer @ 422-0143 for information.

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.

ITEMS FOR SALE OR SPECIAL REQUESTS

Probus members can post their ads at each general meeting on the Probus bulletin wall which is to the right of the stage. Remember to bring masking tape and remove your ad at the end of the meeting to avoid having it discarded.

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

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 BULLETIN BOARD

A new bulletin board posting is available to Probus Clubs. The address is www.probus.org/bulletin.htm

NEXT MEETING:

JANUARY 8, 2008

ALL STARS ARENA

Because of New Years Day, our general meeting date has been changed to the 2nd Tuesday which is January 8. Arrive at 9:30 to enjoy coffee and tea with your friends prior to the meeting at 10:00 am. Remember to bring your mug!

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). (In January the address changes to www.probus.org/8wasbcn.pdf)

MANAGEMENT TEAM

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

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY!