



The Wasagan



Official Newsletter of Beachcombers Probus

– Wasaga Beach, Ontario

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

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JUNE GENERAL MEETING

TODAY'S SPEAKER: HEATHER RITCHIE, RITCHIE'S FEED N NEEDS GARDEN CENTRE
SUBJECT: CHEMICAL-FREE LAWN & GARDEN CARE

SAY YES

Are you interested in getting more involved with the behind the scenes life of Beachcombers Probus? It is a new level of involvement which is very pleasing and rewarding. Both the social and management teams (members of the management team are listed on page four of this newsletter) need new members to continue to organize the fun and varied activities which we all enjoy. You are welcome to attend the June social committee meeting which will be held on June 18 at Vivian Sheridan's home at 7 pm. Call Vivian on the 18th if you wish to attend. The Management Team meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Superstore Community Room at 10 am. Please say yes when you are invited to join.

MAY SPEAKER

Mr. Hodgson fascinated us with his story of Camp X which was an Ontario WW2 training site for allied secret agents.

On September 15, 1940 the RAF and RCAF shot down 39 enemy planes over Great Britain. Sir Winston Churchill was informed of a planned retaliation attack on Britain by the Nazis scheduled for November 1 of that year. In the event that Britain would become occupied by the Nazis, Churchill took the crown jewels and gold reserves to Canada where he planned to have a "government in exile" set up in the Toronto Casa Loma. The Casa Loma was a hotbed for secret agents. Station "M" was set up in the basement where authentic clothes, counterfeit passports, counterfeit currency and many other items were created for use by secret agents.

Churchill formed a Special Operations Executive which was in charge of training secret agents and it was determined that a spy school was needed which was close to the U.S. border. At that point the United States was forbidden by an act of Congress to get involved with the war and so in early 1941 a piece of land on Lake Ontario between Whitby and Oshawa was found. This land would be home to the future Camp X. Housing was built, staff and guards recruited and instructors, who were experts in weaponry, explosives, hand combat and communications were brought over from Great Britain.

Camp X opened on December 6, 1941 and 12 hours later the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The United States then became involved in the war and Camp X was not only training spies but they were training trainers for the U.S. spy camps that were being built. Britain was still an invasion target to the Germans and the agents were recruited in Canada and had ten weeks of training at Camp X before being sent to Britain to have further training in their area of expertise. The Germans knew about Camp X and German secret agents were operating all over the Toronto area. The Germans even recruited an Italian agent who infiltrated Camp X as a double agent!

Camp X trained approximately 500 agents but the records were unfortunately destroyed in a fire. The site of Camp X is now only 17 acres and is called Intrepid Park.

Mr. Hodgson went on to tell us the story of Joe Gelleny, a Hungarian born Canadian who at the age of 20 was recruited for Camp X because he spoke fluent Hungarian. Recruitment was done cautiously and agents had only a 50/50 chance of surviving behind enemy lines. They could not make mistakes.

Joe went on a mission in Hungary, was captured and brutally tortured. He had a lead capsule that was fitted for his back tooth and sewn into his uniform. He had been instructed to put the capsule in his back tooth and bite down on it if torture became unbearable. Luckily Joe did not have to resort to using the capsule, he escaped from the prison of war camp when the prisoners created a diversion and then ran in different directions. There weren't enough guards to go after everyone and Joe was able to climb a barbed wire fence and escape. His parents did not know if he was dead or alive until he walked through their door upon his return to Canada.

More information about Camp X can be found at www.camp-x.com

PAST SOCIAL EVENT

FAMOUS PEOPLE PLAYERS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

39 Probus members journeyed to Toronto to attend the Famous People Players Dine and Dream Theatre. As is the usual for our group, we were early so we had a tour of the Lake Front. At the theatre we were greeted royally by the staff and were served a lovely chicken dinner. The show was fantastic - "Alice in Funkyland"! It was uniquely original and inspirational. After a rousing introduction from Alice and the Rabbit, the black light popped on and suddenly life-sized puppets in dazzling neon colors appeared before our eyes to depict the story. It was an excellent presentation, very lively and uplifting. The best part was the amazing troupe of talented performers who live life from their hearts and who love being in a place where they are accepted for who they are - a place where the masks are only for the stage. It was a great day and if you have never been, you certainly should go as you will not be disappointed.

Reported by Marilyn Ruse

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

*****In July we will be having a discussion and ballot vote on the subject of refunds on tickets for social events. A no refund policy has been recommended by the Executive.**

GEORGIAN DOWNS RACETRACK

BARRIE

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

Tickets are on sale now for **\$34.00** per person. Included are a delicious buffet dinner (visit the chocolate fountain for dessert!), soft drinks, 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. Car pooling is suggested, let Betty Baker know if you need a ride or can provide transportation to others.

ANNUAL PICNIC

ELMVALE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

This is a popular event! The picnic is 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.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

AUGUST

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. Stay tuned for the date and more details of this annual event.

MAY'S LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize of \$63.50 was won by Jeannie Boem

2nd Prize of \$39.50 was won by Collette Durrant

3rd Prize of \$31.00 was won by Dorothy Mitchell

4th Prize of \$25.00 was won by Jan Bivall

Gift certificate for Montana's Steakhouse was won by Kay Knab

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

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? 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.

May's book club choice was "Sarah" by Marek Halter. This is a historical novel based on Sarah, Abraham's wife in the Bible. Halter says he sees her as a modern woman who controls her own destiny and who decides to marry Abraham for love but this did not seem to be the image that he conveyed in the novel. Using the author's questions as a basis for our discussion, we ultimately decided that overall, the portrait in this novel of Sarah was not very flattering. She is obsessed with her beauty and her barrenness which seems to influence everything that happens to her. She is not particularly a good role model for the other women in Abraham's tribe. At the ripe old age of 99, Sarah gives birth to Isaac and Hagar, her handmaid, gives birth to Abraham's son Ishmael. Because Sarah is literate and could pass along the teachings of God, Halter sees her as the mother of the Judeo-Christian religion and Hagar as the mother of Islam. But as few elements in the novel actually paralleled the Bible and the portrayal of Sarah didn't seem very accurate, we weren't sure of the value of the novel as a means of giving insight into a Biblical character. We rated it about 2.5 and few of us felt we'd recommend it. - Reported by Jan Bivall.

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 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. Brown velour rocker chair \$25. Call George and Marilyn Rice @ 429-1798
2. 36 x 36 inch mirror in good condition. \$25 or best offer. Call Ruth Kammer @ 429-7887
3. Nordic "Walk fit" with computer, like new - \$359. or best offer. Call Dina McDonald @ 429-7730
4. Desk – all steel, double pedestal, 60x30x29 h - \$45. Call Dina McDonald @ 429-7730
5. 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 May!

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:

July 3

*****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 (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