



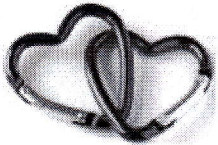
The Wasagan



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February 1, 2011

Volume 8, Issue 6



FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

TODAY'S SPEAKER: **JACKIE ZIMMERMANN OF THE CLOWNERY**



President's Message

February is the second Month of the calendar year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. It is the shortest month and the only month with fewer than 30 days. The month has 29 days in leap years. In common years the month has 28 days. Leap year birthdays are usually celebrated on the 28th in a non-leap year. Some believe that February originally had 29 days and (30 in a leap year).

Family Day is observed in the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan on the third Monday of February. This holiday celebrates the importance of families and family life to people and their communities.

February is also known for the celebration of **Saint Valentine's Day**. (The happy day is celebrated in Canada, United States, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia).

Esther Howland, the woman who produced the first commercial American Valentines in the 1840s, sold a then mind-boggling \$5,000.00 in cards during her first year of business. The Valentine industry in the United States has been booming ever since. Today, well over one billion valentine cards are sent in the U.S. each year. According to the Greeting Card Association, this is second only to Christmas cards.

Approximately eighty-five percent of all valentines are purchased by women. In addition to cards, there are millions of boxes of chocolates and bouquets of roses purchased (mostly by men) for the February 14th holiday. Let's all do our best to enjoy February 2011 (it is only four weeks), and if you celebrate Saint Valentine's Day, **Have a good one!**



Don Caron

JANUARY'S SPEAKER

Henri Linde was born in Holland. He first came to Canada as an exchange student and worked at farms in the area. He liked it so much that he decided to make Canada his home. Henri and his wife, Michelle have three children. Five years ago (with the encouragement and help from Ken and Geraldine, the previous owners of Valley Farm Market) they literally "bought the farm"! Henri and Michelle now own and operate Valley Farm Market. The farm grows organic berries and vegetables. Last year they put in a greenhouse to test the expansion of the growing season.

You can "pick-your-own" produce or buy it at the Market on the premises. It is a small store but along with their own produce they sell other locally grown produce, local honey, locally raised meat and baked goods and jams from their own kitchen. The kitchen was recently expanded and it is government inspected. They are always looking for different ways to use local produce that did not sell. The store is open

Wednesday to Saturdays during the winter and 7 days a week during the summer. They also provide catering.

Henri also wanted to talk to us about the **Simcoe Country Farm Fresh Marketing Association's** "buy local" program. The Marketing Association was formed as a grass-roots organization in 2005 and incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 2007. The association is made up of area farmers, farmers' markets, restaurants and includes other community partners in the health field, food security, government, tourism and economic development. All have an interest in raising the awareness of the availability of locally grown food.

Some of the barriers that they face are: 1) local breeders have found it difficult to get their live-stock butchered; this needs to get better or we will not be able to purchase locally raised meats at our local markets, 2) there is no central local food distribution point and they would like to set one up in the Holland Marsh area, 3) there is little or no food transportation system and 4) some food safety regulations are too onerous for small producers.

One of the questions was - *What do signs that read "Grown Close to Home" in our grocery stores mean?* This does not necessarily mean that it has been locally grown. Ask your Produce Manger what this sign means to them. If borders shut down for more than 3 days we would have a food shortage.

Some events sponsored by Simcoe Country Farm Fresh:

- Barrielicious – January 21 to February 6 - Restaurants in Barrie, Orillia and surrounding area offer a wonderful opportunity to experience an array of three course prix fixe menus from restaurants in the area for the amazing price of only \$15*, \$20* or \$25* per person.
- Savour Simcoe at Georgian College - Chefs prepare local food – August 28

They have put together a guide map of local markets, restaurants that serve locally grown food and more. For more information about the Association or the events go to their website www.simcoecountyfarmfresh.ca or call them at 705 734-2075.

Remember - Buying local is more than about buying food. Eating and buying local is about keeping our hard earned dollars circulating in our communities. That's good for our local economy! Did you eat today? Thank a farmer!

Thank you Henri for a very informative talk!

THANK YOU TO JANUARY'S GREETERS, JOAN & BOB BOWYER.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A GREETER PLEASE SEE *BETTY BAKER*.

GOODWILL

A 'Thinking Of You' card has been sent to Linda Willis.

WANTED

Shirley Roughley is making lap quilts for the residents of Senior Nursing Homes. If anyone has extra material or wool (as she has several projects in mind) please contact Shirley at 429-3247 or Betty Keyes at 429-6064.

NEW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP – COMPUTERS

In conversation with many of our members I have found that we all have something in common; we all use computers and have various levels of expertise. At this meeting we will be asking for those interested in joining a Computer group to sign up at the Lucky Draw table. At this time we would like to see 1) how many would be interested, 2) what level of knowledge would be available in the group, and 3) what areas of concern we would be looking at. If all works out we would have an initial meeting probably in April (as I will be away for 2 weeks in March). After this meeting a path forward will be formulated.

Thank You, Gene Stephenson.

PAST EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2011 – CURLING AND LUNCH

A fun day was had by 37 curlers and 11 more for our delicious "Chile Luncheon" on January 12th at the Stayner Curling Club. Several 'first time' curlers were amazed at how much fun curling can be!!!! Lots of door prizes were won....but the best part was the dessert...ice cream with all the toppings and a cherry on top.

Thanks to Judy Hutton for organizing this event and her team for helping out.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011 - BOWLING

Tickets are still available for our February event at today's meeting – bowling on Wednesday, February 23, 1 pm at Georgian Bowl in Collingwood and optional dinner out. Dinner, following bowling and at your own cost, will be at the Admirals Post Pub (Pine St. and School House Lane). Tickets are \$15.00 each. Calling all bowlers for an enjoyable afternoon! **This event will be limited to 40 bowlers. Those who wish to join us for dinner only are welcome – just let us know so we can advise the restaurant.**

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011 – A NIGHT AT THE RACES



On March 29, we will be at Georgian Downs once again for a buffet dinner and an evening of horse racing and, perhaps, a little time in the casino. Tickets are available again today for \$24.00 per person which includes the buffet, coffee/tea, racing program, taxes, and gratuities. This has always been a popular event so come out and enjoy the fun!

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011 – LUNCH AT A SUGAR BUSH (Tickets on sale in March)

Come out and enjoy a pancake and sausage lunch in Oro Medonte at Shaws Maple Sugar Bush. There will also be an opportunity for a guided walk through the woods and, if we're lucky, watching maple sap being boiled into syrup. More details at the March meeting.



JANUARY LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

PLEASE BRING COINS TO BUY YOUR LUCKY DRAW TICKETS



- 1st prize of \$53.00 – Robin Nagel
- 2nd prize of \$33.00 – Shirley Watson
- 3rd prize of \$26.00 – Bob Harasowsky
- 4th prize of \$20.00 – Chuck Davidson



\$40.00 Gift Certificate for Real Canadian Superstore – Joan Porter

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST	CONTACT NAME	PHONE NO.	SPECIAL INTEREST	CONTACT NAME	PHONE NO.
Afternoon Luncheon Cuisiniers	Joan Maloney	422-0573	Golf	WE NEED	YOU!!
Bid Euchre	Paul Turner	352-0747	Happy Bookers Club	Mary Barnes	429-2142
Book Worms Club	Kathy Dunnett	352-0100	Kitchen Bridge	Betty Keyes	429-6064
Daytrippers	Betty Keyes	429-6064	Regular Euchre	Loraine Doidge	422-0622
Dinner at our Place	Steve and Jan Bivall	429-7584	Restaurant Dinner Club	WE NEED	YOU!!
First Edition Book Club	Betty Montgomery	429-6854	ROMEO - Men's Breakfast	Bob Bowyer	429-0579
Genealogy	Sandra Hanson	422-0227			

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

Best wishes to those who celebrate in February.

NEW

SOME OF US ARE NOT COMFORTABLE GIVING OUR PROFILE BUT MAYBE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A STORY, MEMORIES OF A SPECIAL VACATION, A FAVOURITE HOBBY OR SOME OTHER SPECIAL INTEREST, LET MONICA KRISTEN KNOW AND SHE WILL SCHEDULE YOU IN!

First Edition Book Club

Last month we read the *Nine Lives of Charlotte Taylor* by Canadian author Sally Armstrong. It was the story of the first white woman to live on the shores of the Miramichi River in New Brunswick. She left England as a gentle woman but learned how to live in this new land from the natives. She had ten children with at least four different fathers and owned land, not an easily done thing with men in charge. To this day her relatives gather for a reunion every 5 years. It was an education in New Brunswick and Nova Scotian history and a real page turner. We rated it 4 out of 5.

Happy Bookers Club (is at maximum membership)

The January selection was *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortensen. Members felt the story was badly written. It tells the story of Greg Mortensen, who, injured and lost while mountain climbing, recuperates in the remote village of Korphe. In return for the hospitality received, he promises to build the village a school. This vow changes the course of his life. Faced with many challenges, including the threat of death, the author, driven by his promise, overcomes his trials and tribulations thus becoming an inspiration for all. Members gave the book an average of 2.65 mainly because of awkward phrasing and poor structure.

Book Worms Club

The Bookworms read for January was *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* written by Mitch Albom. It is a beautifully crafted novel that explores a mystery only heaven can unfold. The 83 year old Eddie awakens in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a lush Garden of Eden, but a place where your earthly life is explained to you by five people who were in it. They may have been loved ones or distant strangers, yet each changed your path forever. The book was appealing to all and provided some unusual discussion points.

ROMEO - Men's Breakfast Group

The ROMEO (Men's) Breakfast group meets on the **last Wednesday of the month** for fellowship, and a good breakfast. We rotate between 4 or 5 local restaurants. Our next breakfast will be held at, **GEORGIAN CIRCLE FAMILY RESTAURANT, 1441 Mosley Street, Wasaga Beach on Wednesday, FEBRUARY 23, 2011 at 9:00 AM.** We have 27 in our group. If you wish to join us anytime call Bob Bowyer at 429-0579.

MANAGEMENT TEAM for 2010-2011:

President	Don Caron	429-0308	Membership	Heide & Guenter Haessler	422-0288
Vice-President	Michael James	429-7207	Refreshments	Susan & Brian Passmore	422-1956
Past President	Bob Bowyer	429-0579	Lucky Draw	Gene Stephenson	422-0201
Secretary	Mary Barnes	429-2142	Goodwill	Shirley Brett	429-8907
Treasurer	Kathy Zack	429-0033	Newsletter	Vincy Stephenson	422-0201
New Members	Betty Baker	422-1909	Social	Irene Donohue	429-0644
Speaker and Profiles Chair	Monica Kristen Mary Barnes	429-9635 429-2142			

NEXT MEETING

MARCH 1, 2011

WASAGA STARS ARENA

Arrive early to enjoy coffee and tea with your friends prior to the meeting at 10:00 am. Remember to bring your "Probus" mug and wear your name tags.

