



The Wasagan

January 2026 Volume 22 Issue 5



Official Newsletter of Beachcombers
PROBUS, Wasaga Beach, Ontario

International Website:

<https://www.probuscanada.ca>

Beachcombers Probus web Site:

<https://www.beachcombersprobus.com/>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:
Peter Zammit

PAST PRESIDENT:
Patricia Copeland

First VICE PRESIDENT:
Steve Copeland

Second VICE PRESIDENT:
Keith Somerville

TREASURER:
Kathy Zack

SECRETARY:
Linda Cunningham

MEMBERSHIP:
Donna Durham
Marilyn Somerville

SPEAKERS:
Richard Durham

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:
Lynn Moore
Al Grondin/Carol Lisk
Jim Lisk/Chuck Christie/Colin Throop
Rudy Hochkirchen /Doug McCullough

NEWSLETTER/WEB SITE :
Jim Desormeaux

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

SIG
Carrol Lisk

COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS:
Cindy and Andy Payne, Donna, and Bill
Aitken

LUCKY DRAW:
Lynn & Barry Moore

DECORATIONS:
Judy Grondin/Suzanne Buchner

GOODWILL CONVENOR:
Tony Svirplys

Also if you want to communicate with
any one of us just send an email to

beachcombersprobus@gmail.com

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

January 6, 2026 at 10:00am

**LOCATION: Wasaga Beach United Church 380 Zoo
Park Road, Wasaga Beach**



Georgian Bay
Photography Club

Guest Speaker: Georgian Bay Photog-
raphy Club

TOPIC: Travels Through The World

President's Corner



As we look forward to 2026 and say goodbye to 2025, we are well into a winter with lots of snow in the month of December. The good news is here in Wasaga there will be about 8 hours and 40 minutes of sunlight today, it's getting better but still a long way to go before we get too excited.

We enjoyed a great evening at our Christmas Dinner and Dance with over 80 members joining us for a great Roast Beef Dinner. We have booked the United Church Hall for next year's Christmas Dinner and Dance for Saturday December 5 2026. We hope everyone had a Great Christmas and New Year with family and friends. I was also pleased to

receive many compliments on the events of our December meeting. You are safe to come to the January meeting as there are no plans for the executive to sing again in the near future.

We received a big thank you for all the donations to the Mission Food Bank and Toy Drive that we collected at the December meeting and at the Christmas Dinner and Dance. They greatly appreciate all the seniors' groups in Wasaga Beach for all the support they provide.

We have reviewed the findings of our survey that was sent out to members and we will be discussing some of the suggestions at our meeting in January. The results of the survey were generally very favourable.

We have a great list of speakers and events planned for the next several months. I would like to thank all the organizing committees for all their effort and time in making all these events such a great success.

I am sure that we will have some members head away on vacation and travel over the next several months, and we wish them all safe travels.

Peter Zammit, President

“NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE”

WHICH CULTURE BEGAN CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR WITH A FEAST OF FOOD AND ALCOHOL???

The earliest recorded New Year’s festival was in ancient Babylon in what is now Iraq. Before the introduction of a calendar year, the celebration took place in spring during the planting season. The Babylonian feast was elaborate, lasting eleven days, and included copious drinking and eating in a tribute to the gods of fertility and agriculture. Celebrating the new year was both a thanksgiving and a plea for a successful new harvest.

AND NOW YOU KNOW!

Submitted by Ron Hanson

YOUR CLUB REPORTS:

Your Web Site: beachcombersprobus.com

Don't forget that if you are new to the club you must submit a password to log in at the Beachcombers Probus web site. Please visit our web site periodically to get all of the up to the minute information, new photos or new videos. We have now reach **14500 visits** as of this writing. The Home Page usually has content that is very recent. Click on the photos from our Social events to see the latest photos. Click on the photos from our monthly meetings to see the latest photos. Many of our Monthly Newsletters from past years can be seen under the Monthly Newsletters tab. Just pick a year and then a month. For photos and information regarding the SIG (Special Interest Groups) click on the MORE tab/SIG and if you want to contact us, click on MORE/Contact .On the top right side tab click MORE/Calendar of Events for all our upcoming club events. Just click on the Dark gray heading and all the information will appear. Its there for you, our members, so please use it. Just go to beachcombersprobus.com to get all the information.

We are looking for a photo for the month of November to be displayed on our web site. Send a jpeg file to newsletter@beachcombersprobus.com

New Free Book Exchange at each General meeting- Bring a book and Take a book, please.

HOW TO SETUP YOUR BEACHCOMBERS PROBUS PASSWORD TO GAIN ACCESS ON OUR SECURE WEB PAGE

To Sign Up for the First Time:

“ Click on **Log In**

“ **New to This Site? Sign Up**

“ **Enter your first name**

“ **Enter your last name**

“ **Enter your password**

“ Click **Sign up**

“ For a one time event you must check your email address that was given in the sign up page and from that email enter the 6 digit code where it says **“Enter 6 digit code”**

“ **Press confirm and sign up**

You will now be moved to the Beachcombers Probus Web Site Home Page. You may press any tab at the top of the page to gain access to that topic. For example **“Social Events”** or **“Monthly Newsletters”** or **“Monthly General Meetings”**

To Log Out

“ go to the top right hand corner that displays your name and click on the **down arrow**

“ Click **Log Out**

On your second and any other future visit

“ click on **Log In**

“ Enter your **email address (if not saved)**

“ Enter **Password (if not saved)**

“ Click **Log in**

If you have any questions please contact newsletter@beachcombersprobus.com

DECEMBER

Club Events (con't)

December 2, 2025 General Meeting



Share the Pot winners: \$50 ea. to Doug McCullough & Lynn Moore. Congrats!

More photos can be seen under the TAB Monthly General Meeting at

<https://www.beachcombersprobus.com/>

DECEMBER

Club Events (con't)

December 6, 2025 Christmas Dance



More photos can be seen under the TAB SOCIAL

<https://www.beachcombersprobus.com/>

DECEMBER

Club Events (con't)

ICYMI

Here is a recap of our December 2, 2025 General Meeting

- **Rudy** got up and '*Thanked*' the Ontario Healthcare System for being there when he needed it! He's had 2 Cataract surgeries; Hearing Aids; Hip replacement surgery and recently, Heart valve 'pins'. Great Care was given to him!
- **Website information Presentation.** **Jim** explained, by way of an *onscreen presentation*, how our Club Website works and how to set up a *Login* name & password for the security area, Also showed the other areas of the website that everyone has access to. There will now be a \$5 reward for the **first** correct answer submitted to the **monthly Quiz** in the Newsletter!
- A question was raised about being able to contact a member through info on the Website or by a hard copy – this issue will be addressed further in 2026.
- **There will be a change**, going forward to 2026, in the way *New Probus* Groups are named, i.e., only NON-GENDER SPECIFIC allowed. Current & Long Established Groups will not be affected by this change.
- **12 Days of Christmas - Festive song: sung by Executive 'Choir'!**
Thank you to all members who sang along with us! To hear the fantastic choir just click on the link below.



Movie BCP 12 Days of Christmas.mp4

JANUARY

Club Events (con't)

The Guest Speaker for the January 6, 2026 General Meeting will be 3 members of the Georgian Bay Photography Club. **The Georgian Bay Photography Club (GBPC) is a long-established, community-driven organization that brings together photography enthusiasts from across Southern Georgian Bay, including Collingwood, Wasaga Beach, Meaford, Thornbury, and the Blue Mountains. Founded in 1999, the club now has nearly 100 members and is dedicated to fostering the appreciation and enjoyment of photography for people of all skill levels—from beginners to seasoned professionals.**

The club offers a welcoming environment where members can learn, share, and grow. Regular monthly meetings, guest speakers, workshops, and organized photo outings give photographers the chance to expand their technical skills and artistic vision. Members also participate in competitions, exhibitions, and community showcases—such as the *Beyond Words* visual art exhibition at the Wasaga Beach Public Library, which featured 30 striking works created by GBPC photographers. Reviews from members highlight the club's supportive atmosphere, strong educational opportunities, and the sense of camaraderie that comes from connecting with like-minded creatives canada.chamberofcommerce.com.

Whether someone is looking to improve their craft, find inspiration, or simply enjoy the company of fellow photographers, the Georgian Bay Photography Club provides a vibrant and engaging space to explore the art of visual storytelling. Visitors are always welcome, and the club continues to thrive as a hub for creativity and community in the Georgian Bay region.

The topic for this meeting will be “Travelling the World”. Presentations will be from 3 members of the GBPC providing videos of photos and videos that they took in Tahiti, The Baltics and Ecuador.



JANUARY

Club Events (con't)

Tuesday January 6, 2026

Beachcombers **PROBUS GENERAL MEETING**

They meet the first Tuesday of the month Time: 10:00 to 12:00 at the Wasaga Beach United Church 380 Zoo Park Road, Wasaga Beach. Our guest groups must be seen.

Wednesday January 7, 2026

Beachcombers PROBUS SIG: **EUCHRE GROUP 1**

For the new Euchre season we will be playing on the First and Third Wednesday of each month between 1 and 4ish at various member's houses. We enjoy lots of laughs and don't take the game too seriously. We also have a list of spares who are called on when needed.

interested in joining us, please contact us. Jayne E or Doug McC or information or

sig@beachcombersprobus.com

Wednesday January 14, 2026

Beachcombers PROBUS SIG: **SIPS AND SNACKS CLUB**

They meet the second Wednesday of the month Time: 5:00 to 7:00 at various member's houses. contact Joyce or sig@beachcombersprobus.com

Friday January 16, 2026, 2025

Beachcombers **PROBUS SOCIAL:**

JANUARY 16 – FRIDAY - 12 noon – Pizza & Games Day at the Arena upstairs in the Rotary Room. We will play Euchre, Mexican Train, Rummoli, board games. \$10.00 pp for pizza, pop and munchies

please contact me directly at social@beachcombersprobus.com.

Thursday January 20, 2026

Beachcombers PROBUS SIG: **Dominos Mexican Train #1**

They meet the third Tuesday of the month at various locations.

Co-Ordinator: Donna A or sig@beachcombersprobus.com

Tuesday January 20, 2026

Beachcombers PROBUS SIG: **DOMINOS MEXICAN TRAIN #2**

They meet the third Tuesday of the month at various locations

Co-Ordinator: Peter Z. or sig@beachcombersprobus.com

JANUARY

CLUB EVENTS (con't)

Tuesday January 20, 2026

Beachcombers PROBUS SIG: **Dinner & Movie**

They meet the third Tuesday of the month at Various Locations at 5pm

Co-Ordinator: Ron and Sandy H. or sig@beachcombersprobus.com

Wednesday January 21, 2026

Beachcombers PROBUS SIG: **ROMEO GROUP**

They meet the Third Wednesday of the month at 9am at various locations. Co-Ordinator: Rudy H or

sig@beachcombersprobus.com

Wednesday January 21, 2026

Beachcombers PROBUS SIG: **EUCHRE**

For the new Euchre season we will be playing on the First and Third Wednesday of each month between 1 and 4ish at various member's houses. We enjoy lots of laughs and don't take the game too seriously. We also have a list of spares who are called on when needed.

interested in joining us, please contact us. Jayne E or Doug M or sig@beachcombersprobus.com

Tuesday January 27, 2026

Beachcombers PROBUS SIG: **BID EUCHRE**

They meet the 4th Tuesday of the month 1:30 pm at various locations.

Co-Ordinator: Gertrud B or sig@beachcombersprobus.com

Tuesday January 27, 2026

Beachcombers PROBUS SIG: **Women, Wine & Words**

They meet the 4th Tuesday of the month 1:00 pm at various locations.

Co-Ordinator: Anne L or sig@beachcombersprobus.com

Tuesday January 27, 2026

Beachcombers PROBUS SIG: **Couples Luncheon Group**

They meet the last Tuesday of the month at 1 pm at various locations

Co-Ordinator: Kathy Z. or sig@beachcombersprobus.com

DECEMBER

CLUB EVENTS (con't)

GEORGIAN PROBUS TRAVEL GROUP PRESENTS IRELAND

Maximum
16 people
on the
tour!

marlin  travel

RIT 
Royal Irish Tours

11 Nights | \$4799 per person sharing
12 Days | \$1350 single supplement

June 1 - June 12, 2026

Day 1 - June 1, 2026

You are met on arrival at Dublin Airport by your friendly driver/guide. We journey west through Ireland's midlands towards Ahascragh, home of Ireland's first eco-distillery. We will partake in a tour and tasting and learn the art of crafting 'the water of life'. There will be time to enjoy lunch in the distillery's café before arriving at Experience Gaelic Games, a fun and interactive activity that takes us through the history of the Gaelic sports of hurling and football, before heading out to the pitch to try it yourself. Tonight is at leisure in the vibrant town of Galway.

Overnight - *Hardiman Hotel, Galway (4*)*

Day 2 June 2, 2026

After breakfast we head to Doolin where we will board a ferry to the smallest of the Aran Islands, Inis Oírr. After taking in spectacular views of the mighty Cliffs of Moher on our return ferry, we are met by Ollie, a local guide who will lead us on a mouth-watering food tour of West Clare.

Dinner/Overnight - *Lahinch Coast Hotel, Lahinch (4*)*

Day 3 June 3, 2026

We depart Lahinch and take the scenic route to the Kingdom of Kerry including a photo stop in the picturesque town of Adare. On arrival in Killarney, we are met by a group of local jarveys who will take us on a jaunting car ride through the town and National Park.

Overnight - *Killarney Plaza Hotel, Killarney*

Day 4 June 4, 2026

This morning, we begin our drive along the scenic Ring of Kerry Road taking us to the edge of Ireland as we pass through quaint towns and villages, including Moll's Gap, a mountain pass that offers breathtaking views of the McGillicuddy's Reeks mountains. After dinner at our hotel, we will be entertained by local musicians playing traditional Irish music.

Dinner/Overnight - *Killarney Plaza Hotel, Killarney*

Day 5 June 5, 2026

Leaving Killarney, we journey north to County Tipperary to visit The Rock of Cashel. Legend has it the devil himself formed it when taking a bite out of a nearby mountain, breaking his teeth and then spitting the rock out which landed at the site in Cashel. Onto County Laois to visit the Donaghmore Famine Workhouse Museum, a unique place which aims to tell the story of the families who lived and died within the famine workhouse walls before, during and after the Great Famine. We continue to the town of Athlone, and our hotel that is ideally situated on the River Shannon, just steps from great restaurants and lively pubs. While in Athlone, be sure to stop into what's considered to be Ireland's oldest pub, Sean's Bar, for a taste of Sean's very own whiskey or a pint by a traditional peat fire.

Overnight, *Sheraton Hotel, Athlone*



Rock of Cashel

Day 6 June 6, 2026

We travel north to the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre for an in-depth insight into the battle between King William III and his father-in-law King James II in 1690. On arrival in Belfast, we undertake a panoramic tour of the city, including the political murals along the Catholic Falls and Protestant Shankill Roads. The remainder of the day and evening are at leisure. Be sure to check out the Cathedral Quarter, an area well-known for its great restaurants and lively pubs.

Overnight - *Ten Square Hotel, Belfast*

DECEMBER

CLUB EVENTS (con't)

Day 7 June 7, 2026

After breakfast, we make our way to the Harland and Wolff Shipyard and Titanic Belfast for a self-guided tour of the Visitor Centre. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore, do a little shopping or visit a few attractions such as Crumlin Road Gaol, or Belfast City Hall. Tonight, you are treated to an Ulster supper at The Old Inn in Crawfordsburn.
Dinner/Overnight – Ten Square Hotel, Belfast

Day 8 June 8, 2026

Travelling north, we make a refreshment stop at the at the Glenariff Teahouse nestled within the Forest Park. Here, you may wish to purchase a freshly brewed coffee or tea and indulge in a delicious baked scone. We continue along the Antrim Coast to stand on the shoulders of giants at the famous Giant's Causeway. Onward to Derry (Londonderry) and our home for the evening.
Overnight – Maldron Hotel, Derry



Titanic Belfast

Day 9 June 9, 2026

This morning, we undertake a fascinating, guided walking tour Walls of Derry. Next, we visit the home of Donegal Tweed, Triona Design. Here you will enjoy an Irish Coffee while learning the history of Donegal Tweed, including a weaving demonstration on a 200-year-old Hand Loom. There will be time to grab a light lunch in Donegal Town before we make our way to the Atlantic Sheepdogs for an entertaining display of sheepdogs hard at work herding their flock. Tonight, we stay at the luxurious Kilonan Castle and dine like royalty in the beautiful surroundings of the Douglas Hyde Restaurant.
Dinner/Overnight – Kilonan Castle, Roscommon

Day 10 June 10, 2026

There will be time to enjoy the castle grounds or spa, before making our way to Dublin. Enroute, we will stop at the Arigna Mining Experience, a centre dedicated to the coal mining history of Arigna over a period of 400 years. The tour includes a visit to the mines, with many of the tour guides being former miners. Once we make our way back above ground, we head towards the Shed Distillery - producer of Drumshanbo Gunpowder Irish Gin. Tonight is a free night in Dublin, a great city for dining, where you can not only indulge in traditional Irish fayre but choose from a vast selection of fine dining restaurants and bistros that feature cuisines from around the world.
Overnight, Riu Plaza The Gresham Hotel, Dublin

Day 11 June 11, 2026

The entire day and evening are at leisure to explore the 'Fair City.' RIT recommended places of interest include Kilmainham Gaol (advance bookings are strongly advised), EPIC, Guinness, Trinity College and the Book of Kells, and Glasnevin Cemetery.
Overnight, Riu Plaza The Gresham Hotel, Dublin

Day 12 June 12, 2026

A group transfer will take you Dublin Airport for your flight home.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Transportation throughout by
- modern touring mini-coach
- Services of an experienced local driver/guide
- 11- nights ensuite accommodation
- Full Irish breakfast daily
- 3-evening meals in hotels
- Walking tour of the Walls of Derry
- Gaelic Roots Traditional Irish Show at the hotel in Killarney
- Ferry to/from Inis Oirr with views of the Cliffs of Moher
- Jaunting Car Ride through Killarney National Park
- Sheepdog performance at Atlantic Sheepdogs
- Foodie Tour of West Clare
- Tour & Tasting at The Shed Distillery
- Admissions to: Ahascragh Distillery, Experience Gaelic Games, Jaunting Car ride through Killarney National Park, Rock of Cashel, Donaghmore Famine Workhouse, Titanic Belfast, Giant's Causeway, Dunluce Castle, Arigna Mines

For more information and to book the tour, please contact:

Gloria Thompson
705-429-9455

To book airfare and insurance, please contact:

Brenda Chapman at Marlin Travel
705-444-1161
TICO #2696157

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Price of \$4799 is per person, based on double occupancy. Land only. Single supplement - \$1350. All taxes included. A \$300 nonrefundable deposit is due at time of booking. Full payment due 60 days before departure. For full terms & conditions, visit ritvacations.com. TICO# 50021282

DECEMBER

CLUB EVENTS (con't)



BRAIN TEASER

WINNER



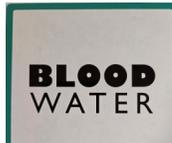
Carol Leckie



Last Month's Question and Answer

QUESTION: What do you see?

ANSWER:



Blood is thicker than water

This Month's Question

QUESTION: In What Movie Musical features the song "All That Jazz"

If you think you have the answer please email it to

newsletter@beachcombersprobus.com

And the **first** person to send in the correct answer will win a **\$5.00 Tim Horton's Gift Card**

SMILE OF THE DAY



I just ordered
a life alert
bracelet so if
I get a life, I'll
be notified
immediately.

MY WIFE ASKED ME WHY I
SPOKE SO SOFTLY IN THE
HOUSE.
I SAID I WAS AFRAID
MARK ZUCKERBERG WAS
LISTENING!
SHE LAUGHED.
I LAUGHED.
ALEXA LAUGHED.
SIRI LAUGHED.

BRAIN AT 3AM:

I can see you're trying to
sleep, so I would like to
offer you a selection of
every memory, unresolved
issue, or things you should
have said or done today as
well is in the past 40 years!

Smiles by Linda C.

Note: Submission of articles for the February Newsletter should be sent to

newsletter@beachcombersprobus.com by **January 20, 2025**