



The Wasagan



Official Newsletter of Beachcombers Probus

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Wasaga Beach, Ontario

International Website: www.probus.org

Newsletter Site: www.probus.org/4wasabcr

December 7, 2004

Volume 2, Issue 5

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DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

**Speakers: Corinna McFarlane
Jeff McMackin**

Subject: Acupuncture

**Special Visitor: Distinguished Gentleman from the North Pole
Purpose: Handing out Season's Greetings to All**

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Brenda Sequin, President of the Wasaga Community Theatre presented details of their next production, The Pajama Game, scheduled for 6 performances at the Rec-Plex Nov 13 – 21, and invited our members to attend. A set of tickets was donated to the Club for their distribution.

Rich Thistle of Wasaga Beach provided us with an audio-visual presentation of his work as an artist starting from his early beginnings to his present day status as a renowned artist with works hanging in many prestigious locations throughout Canada and the world. Rich is internationally respected for his aviation images, but has done Canadian landscapes, portraits, and automotive art. He also designs and creates furniture, pottery, and works in leather and stained glass, and much, much more. One of Rich's paintings is depicted in bronze in the Royal Canadian Mint's "Canada Remembers" medallion set commemorating D-Day, and he was commissioned to do a 30th anniversary painting for "The Snowbirds", Canada's aerobatic display team. Rich and his wife, Jay, re-located to Wasaga Beach from their hometown of Stratford in 1999. You may visit their studio by appointment to view, and purchase original paintings, prints & posters.

Twenty members of the Sweet Adelines of the Harmony North Choir of Thornbury entertained us with their beautiful renditions of familiar music for over 30 minutes. There was a great deal of sing-along and toe-tapping in evidence throughout their performance.

PAST SOCIAL EVENTS

Dinner & Racing at Georgian Downs - **Tuesday, November 16th**

A total of 36 people attended this event. Everyone had a great time. The dining was superb, the races were exciting, and the slots took most people's spare change as usual. The bus ride to and from was the highlight of the night for those who took advantage of it.

CHRISTMAS DINNER & DANCE - **Friday, December 3rd** - **Collingwood Legion**

The Christmas Dinner & Dance will be over by the time you are reading this. 112 members have signed up for the **Social Event of the Year**. The meticulous planning and the enormous amount of work our Social Committee has put into this event will have made it a "night to be remembered", we're sure. We'll have all the details next month.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

CURLING FOR FUN - **Wednesday, January 12th** - **Stayner Curling Club** **10:00 am - 1:30 pm** **Cost - \$22.00**

Curling will take place from 10 to 12 with a great lunch to follow. No curling experience is necessary. You will be shown everything you need to know. There will be lots of Fun Curling with a prize for every curler, a 50/50 draw and a door prize. There will also be draws for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner baskets. For anyone wanting to come to lunch only, the cost is only \$7.00. Tickets are on sale today for this event.

Future Events....

5 Pin BOWLING - **Wednesday, February 23rd** - **2:00 - 4:00 pm** **Mariners Cove Sports Complex, Collingwood** **Cost - \$12.00**

There are 8 lanes booked which will handle 40 people. The cost includes 2 hours of bowling and shoe rental. A Snack Bar is available for refreshments at your own cost. There is a sign-up sheet available today for those interested.

As reported last month, the Social Committee has prepared a plan for social events over the rest of the year. Using their plan and your input on any other activities of interest, they will continue to organize our social events for the rest of the year.

Past Happenings.....

The Remembrance Memorial Day service on Sunday, November 7th at Wasaga Beach Town Hall was attended on our behalf by Joan & Ray Porter. A wreath purchased in conjunction with the Sunbirds Probus Club was laid to remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom.

Our President, Luci and Vice-President, Ray attended the Georgian Bay Council of Probus Clubs, and returned with information on ideas and activities other Clubs in the area have found successful. We will be hearing and seeing more about these items in the future. Our Club will be hosting the next Council Meeting to be held in the Fall of 2005.

Lucky Draw Winners from November Meeting -

1st Prize of \$50.00 was won by Allan Brand, a new member at his first meeting.

2nd Prize of \$30.00 was won by Joan Porter, our Social Chairperson.

A set of tickets for the local production of "The Pajama Game" donated by the Wasaga Community Theatre was won by another lucky lady in attendance.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

*	Happy Bookers Book Club	Contact	Joanne Scruton	429-0976
*	Dinner at our Place	Contact	Betty Keyes	429-6064
*	Afternoon Luncheon Cuisiniers	Contact	Joanne Scruton	429-0976
*	Mixed Golf Group	Contact	Bill Travis	422-1148
*	Restaurant Dinner Group	Contact	Diane Nagel	428-3209
*	Fair Weather Walkers	Contact	Luci Worch	422-0062

The **Dinner at our Place** group is looking for members who would like to join the group for a once a month very social, enjoyable evening of good food and great company. At present they have 2 host houses monthly, with 8 people at each house who rotate duties of preparing the appetizers, main entree, and dessert. There are presently 6 additional people ready and willing to join the group, but two more people are needed to make the system work. They are also looking for people who are interested in being an occasional substitute when regular members are not available. Call Betty Keyes for more information if you are interested.

The **Happy Bookers** Book Club selection for December is "The Guardian" by Nicholas Sparks. Anyone interested in joining this "enlightened" group should contact Joanne Scruton, the Coordinator.

The **Fair Weather Walkers** meet every Friday at 1:30 pm at Blueberry Trails. The concept of this group is to take easy walks throughout the park area to provide an outing of fun and exercise for those interested. To date the turn-out has been light. Luci Worch and Gary Willis, the Coordinators, would be happy to have you join them. **Show up next Friday!**

DON'T FORGET....

- 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**. It makes it much easier for us to recognize each other and learn Member's names.
- We are again asking for 4 able-bodied Volunteers to sign up, on a list posted at the back door, for placing the tables and chairs for the January meeting
- Please pass the information on sickness, hospital stays, or deaths of our members to our Goodwill Convener (Lynda Trimble - 429-3402) so an appropriate card can be sent out. Also, if you need a ride to any Probus event, contact Linda. She can help you find a ride.

BIRTHDAYS

To those who celebrated a birthday in November (and we know who some of you are), we wish you many happy returns.

MEMBERSHIP

At last count, we have 174 members. There is still room for a few more members before we reach our cap of 200. If you know of anyone who is interested in Probus, bring them out to a meeting as your guest, so they can experience first hand, our great hospitality and learn what we do as a Club.

THE LAST WORD:

Remembrance Day has just passed and **Christmas** is fast approaching. Our Charter member, Kay Knab, passed on this thought-provoking poem which encompasses the meaning of both days.

A Christmas Remembrance

T'was the night before
Christmas,
He lived all alone.
In a one-bedroom house
made of
Plaster and stone.

I had come down the
chimney
With presents to give,
And to see just who
In this home did live.

I looked all about,
A strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents,
Not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,
Just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures
Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
Awards of all kinds,
A sobering thought
Came into my mind.

For this house was
different,
It was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a
soldier,
Once I could see more
clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
Silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor
In this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
The room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured
A Peacekeeping soldier

Was this the hero
Of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho
The floor for a bed?

I realized the families
That I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these
soldiers
Who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,
The children would play,
And grown-ups would
celebrate
A bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom
Each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers,
Like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder
How many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas eve
In a land far from home.

The very thought
Brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees
And started to cry.

The soldier awakened
And I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry,
This life is my choice;

I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
My life is my God,
My country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over
And drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
So silent and still
And we both shivered
From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave
On that cold, dark night,
This guardian of honour
So willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,
With voice so soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa,
It's Christmas Day, all is
secure."

One look at my watch
And I knew he was right,
"Merry Christmas my friend
And to all a good night.

By Anonymous

Next General Meeting January 4, 2005 at the Wasaga Stars Arena
Profiler – Brian Passmore

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

Management Team

President:	Luci Worch	422-0062	Goodwill:	Lynda Trimble	429-3402
Vice-President:	Ray Porter	429-9260	Membership:	Deborah Ferris	429-4977
Treasurer:	Maureen Parkes	422-0077	Social:	Joan Porter	429-9260
Secretary:	Doris Willis	429-7835	Refreshments:	Orlene & John Fost	429-9479
Past President:	Diane Nagel	428-3209	Speakers:	Diane Nagel	428-3209
			50/50:	Jean Gibson	429-8309