



The Wasagan



April, 2015

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Official Newsletter of
Beachcombers PROBUS, Wasaga
Beach, Ontario

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THIS GENERAL MEETING - APRIL 7

Speaker: Connie Campbell from "The Move Planners" will be discussing downsizing.

BRING CHEQUE BOOKS TO THE APRIL MEETING

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has finally arrived. I don't know about you, but the older I get the longer winter seems to be. I think by now we're all already for some sunshine, some green grass, and some flowers in the garden. I know I am.

For those of us who fled to warmer climes over the winter, welcome back. For those who stayed around Wasaga Beach for the winter, congratulations on surviving the challenges Mother Nature sent our way. In spite of the winter, it's nice to live in a place like Wasaga Beach which provides a number of enjoyable social opportunities for its residents. A special thank you goes out to our active social committee for helping us to survive the winter with smiles on our faces.



Ross Dawe



Wasaga Beach PROBUS clubs at town hall flag raising. Recognize anyone?

MARCH'S MEETING

Greeters: THANK YOU TO OUR GREETERS FOR MARCH: George and Carolyn Paylor. If you wish to be a greeter, please speak to **Ron Hanson**.



Greeters Carolyn and George



Lucky winners of the "pot of gold"

Ambiance: Thanks were given to: **Joan Smith** for her table décor and **Lyn and George Rice** for the coffee and goodies.

The members arrived early for a special catered breakfast to celebrate PROBUS month. Everyone agreed that it was a fine breakfast and the Taste of Paradise did a thorough job. The Town Hall featured a small ceremony where the PROBUS flag was raised for the month and PROBUS members from all Wasaga Beach clubs were in attendance.

There was a special St. Patrick's Day draw and a lucky table won a "pot of gold."

WELCOME NEW PROBUS MEMBERS



In the absence of New Members Chair **Sheila Ewing, Betty Baker** (left in the photo) introduced new members **Linda & Daniel Hayes** and **Helen & Jim Wittomes** assisted by Vice President **John Dunnett** (right)



OUR GUEST SPEAKER

This month's speaker was Dan Skelton, Blue Mountain Resorts and he gave the group a history of the ski hill, how it has become automated with special ski lifts, etc and how it is responding to the needs of the future. No longer a family run business, it is now owned and operated by Intrawest. It was a very thorough presentation about a very impressive resort right in our own neighbourhood. **Doug McCullough** thanked speaker Dan Skelton for his interesting talk. Dan is on the left shaking hands with **Doug**.

LUCKY DRAW WINNERS



Lucky Draw: Joan Maloney
1st PRIZE: \$47.00 Tom Stephenson
2nd PRIZE: \$32.00 Bob Harasowsky
3rd PRIZE: \$26.00 Marion Belgum
Speakers' Fund: \$35.00
PLEASE BRING COINS TO THE LUCKY DRAW TABLE AND BUY TICKETS BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS.

Smiling Tom, Bob and Marion with winnings.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 2015



I understand that the March PROBUS Month Pancake breakfast was enjoyed by all those that attended.....sorry that **Sandy** and I had to miss out. Also during the month we had planned two separate outings to The Lively Olive in Collingwood for a private oil tasting evening then followed up with dinner at Tesoro restaurant. Thank you to all who attended this event on March 10th and 11th. Attendees (some seen in the photo left) enjoyed it

immensely and their taste buds are still savouring the delicious treats of the evening. It needs to be mentioned that there were a number of people who had committed to The Lively Olive event who did not show up on the date scheduled. It is important that the membership realize that the social committee makes commitments to plan these events and when we do not generate the numbers that we have committed on the clubs behalf, this reflects badly on Beachcombers PROBUS Club and those of us on the social committee.

Here is a summary of our upcoming events that we hope you all will take advantage of

APRIL 2015 - LAST CHANCE TO PAY - APRIL 7

April 15th is the date scheduled for the Base Borden Museum tour (9:30 am - 11:30 am). **Final numbers MUST be established** at the April 7th meeting so we will need to pay either \$2 if you wish to take only the tour OR \$14 (cash or cheque) if you wish both the tour AND lunch on the base.

DIRECTIONS to Base Borden Museum: Proceed straight through the main gate ahead on the one way street and turn left at Gibraltar Rd. Take the next right (Ram) and come up to the museum (#27 Ram). Parking is across the street from the museum. Make sure you are there no later than 9:15 am as the tour is scheduled to start at 9:30 am.

If you wish to car pool with other club members please make your own arrangements.



May 2nd, 2015 – LAST CHANCE TO PAY - APRIL 7

Saturday May 2nd at 8:00 pm is the date & time of the Roy Orbison / Everly Brothers Tribute performance at the Meaford Theatre. Exactly 50 people have committed to all 50 reserved tickets. We will **ONLY** order tickets (\$34 per person) for those who have **actually paid** on April 7th so remember to bring a cheque.

JUNE 2015

During the April general meeting we will have an interest sheet for you to indicate whether you would participate in an evening of dinner / horse racing at Georgian Downs. The cost of the buffet dinner is \$24.99pp and is at the member's expense. The buffet dinner is only available on Saturdays therefore most likely we would be looking at either June 13th or 20th.

Save the dates for these future social activities

*July 15th, 2015 - Beachcombers picnic @ Klondike Park

*August 19th. 2015 - Kings Wharf Theatre - Footloose - ticket cost \$39.00

Thank you for your participation - your social committee

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to Sylvia Vandale and Ruth Clarke for manning the membership table last month. We are now 186 members and growing. New members are always welcome. Soon all members will receive an address list of the new members who joined this year.

If you have a spreadsheet program (in Numbers or Excel) on your computer and are moderately familiar with using it please talk to Judy Morrison. Thank you.



GOODWILL AND TELEPHONE COMMITTEE

No cards were sent last month. Please pass information regarding illness, hospital stays or death of a member to our Goodwill Convener, **Vincy Stephenson**.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

If you want to join a group, call the convener listed below. If you wish to start a new group, speak to the Management Team.

PM Luncheon Cuisiners:

Joan Porter - 429-9260

Genealogy:

Sandra Hanson - 422-0227

Daytrippers:

June Davidson - 422-0960

Dinner at our Place:

Diane Nagel - 422-0835

First Edition:

Rickey Lemire - 422-1738

Happy Bookers:

Jan Bivall - 429-7584

Kitchen Bridge:

Betty Keyes - 429-6064

Men's Breakfast:

Bob Bowyer - 429-0579

welcome
April♥

Birthdays/Anniversaries

Best wishes to those who celebrate a special day in **APRIL, 2015**.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

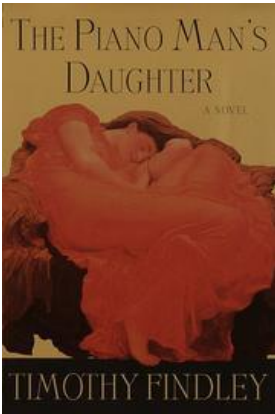
The **ROMEO MEN'S** Breakfast group gathers on the **last Wednesday of each month** for fellowship, and breakfast at various local restaurants. In



March approximately 16 met for breakfast, and conversation at Georgian Circle Family Restaurant. The **ROMEO'S** group has now grown to 30 who enjoy breakfast and stimulating conversation whenever they can attend. We average about 18 for breakfast. If you wish to join us for the first time, contact Bob Bowyer at 705-429-0579. We will add you to the list for the monthly reminders. We send out a reminder a few days ahead to find out how many can make it. We try to give the restaurant an approximate count a few days before as to how many will be attending.

Our next breakfast will be on **Wednesday April 29, 2015, 9:00AM** at **YAMMAS GRILL, 1288 Mosley St.**

HAPPY BOOKERS REVIEW

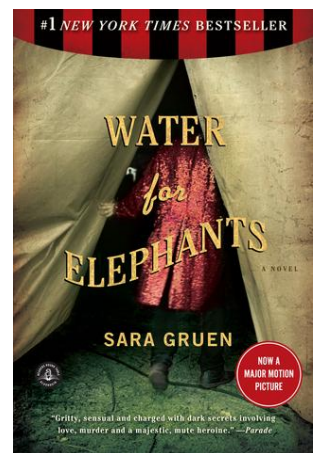


In March we read "The Piano Man's Daughter" by Timothy Findley. It is a sad story beginning with the seduction of Ede, Lily's mother, by a travelling piano salesman who then meets an untimely death. The narrative about Lily's life bristles with illness, recurring signs of Lily's madness and the falling sickness that keeps her forever on the fringe of respectable society. Convulsions, brain tumors, premonitions of death by fire among other excesses make for a very melancholy read. Most thought the book was well written but too long.

It earned a 3.25 rating and we would recommend it with reservations.

FIRST EDITION BOOK REVIEW

In March we read **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** by Sara Gruen. It is the story of a young man, Jacob, who is about to write his final exam to become a vet like his Father. Just as the exam is handed out, he is informed that his parents have been killed in an accident. He does not write the exam and goes home. There he is informed by the lawyer that the bank now owns all family assets as his Father was treating animals for free, because it was the depression. Jacob leaves and starts walking. He walks for a very long time and then falls asleep. He wakes up to the sound of a train horn. He runs and hops on the train. It is a circus train. He becomes a "vet" for the circus to earn his keep and so starts the story. It is the story of lives, loves, hardships, animals, and class order in circus life. This was a good read!



Here is this month's follow-up report from the south with a further tale of caution.

Travel Insurance: What a Surprise!

*This is a very revealing follow-up from **PROBUS** member, our own Dennis Moise (Our thanks to Dennis for sharing the details with us) to last month's insurance story from Florida. As an aside, travel insurance is available to all **PROBUS** members. Go online to "Probus Canada Travel Insurance" for more information.*

Do you like surprises? Well we sure got one when we heard back from our Travel Insurance Company after my wife's bout with pneumonia and the hospital visit here in Florida.

We purchased 90 days of Emergency Medical Coverage last fall before we left Canada from a well known travel insurance company recommended by a large organization of winter travellers at a cost of \$1200.00 for the two of us.

I reported last month that my wife had an attack of chest pains and we visited the local hospital here in Florida. The diagnosis was pneumonia and they took care of it right away with some tests and then some terrific antibiotics. She was doing well within days.

You are required to call your insurance company before going to the doctors or hospitals to get their permission which we did. We were also in touch by telephone with the insurance company to get authorization for the tests and medication while we were at the hospital.

We followed all the rules.

The insurance company followed up once a week for 2 weeks to make sure my wife was getting better and then the **SURPRISE.**

They advised us that we must return to Canada immediately because they were **cancelling the balance of her insurance** due to the claim. We still have 45 days of coverage paid for but that didn't matter. They will pay to fly my wife home but will not cover her for anything from this point on. NO INSURANCE. Cancelled.

So it's either end our winter vacation right here and now or gamble for 45 days without insurance. If you read my last blog you will have seen that the cost for the 7 hours in the Florida Hospital was potentially \$20,000, I guess we go home. No mention of a refund of the balance of the premium either.

After a discussion with the insurance company, they agreed to continue my wife's coverage but not for anything related to the pneumonia just other illness. I worry that everything will somehow be connected to the pneumonia bout.

I wonder what will happen now when we reapply next fall for new insurance for our next winter vacation. Will the cost be so high that we can't afford to go? I guess we'll see.

I have already recommended that everybody buy travel insurance and don't think you will be lucky or quick enough to stay healthy or make it home if you have a problem but I also recommend that you investigate the insurance company you are buying the insurance from.

Speak to other travellers about their experiences and DON'T buy the lowest price coverage. That's almost like not buying any insurance at all.

If you don't like surprises or shocking bills then make sure you do your homework and check out the insurance company you are about to buy from to see if they really will pay for treatment and if they will drop you like a "Hot Potato" the moment you get sick.

Stay Healthy, Stay Well and Enjoy your Southern Travels

BRIAN WINS GOLD TWICE



And in Report from the South, Part 2, PROBUS member Brian Passmore won 2 Gold Medals at the Tallahassee Senior Games in March. All those mornings of making coffee for our members at monthly meetings have paid off. Congratulations, Brian. Wear your medals when we see you next.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015

Wasaga Stars Arena

Come at 9:30 AM for coffee and fellowship.