



The Wasagan

Official Newsletter of Beachcombers Probus , P.O. Box 321, Wasaga Beach, Ontario L9Z 1A4
International Website: www.probus.org Newsletter Site: www.probus.org/8wasbcn.pdf

December 2, 2008

Volume 6, Issue 5

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*DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING
SPECIAL GUESTS: SWEET ADELINES*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well here it is that joyous time of year again, when candles are lit, trees are decorated and children are just waiting patiently for that wonderful man in red to come and visit them. I guess by now most of them are the grandchildren that we cherish. Please remember the less fortunate by giving generously to the Food Bank. I wish you a wonderful Holiday Season and Peace, Health and Happiness in the coming New Year. - Betty Baker

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Our November speaker was **Anne Stuttaford** who had us all engaged as she recounted her fascinating experiences during the 2nd World War.

Anne was born Anne Morgan in Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland in November 1920. She completed primary school, high school and went on to business college there. She enlisted in the army in 1942 and served in the Royal Corps of Signals until the end of the war. In 1944 she married Pearce Stuttaford who was a Southern Rhodesian tobacco farmer. In 1951 they moved to Kirkcaldy and opened a pub which they operated until 1956. In 1956 they moved to Toronto with their two children and that same year had a third child. In Toronto Anne worked for a pathologist at Women's College Hospital earning a certificate in Pathology from the Boston Medical Secretaries' Association. She retired in 1981 and moved to Wasaga Beach. She now lives in Elmvale.

In Britain, in the 1940's, a group of civilian women, many of them with PHD's in mathematics, were trained to break German codes. This group was known as "The Code Breakers". Anne Stuttaford was one of several women chosen to perform the task of learning Morse codes transmitted by the German army and air force.

Anne and many other women were sent to Edinburgh, Scotland and trained to become soldiers. Anne chose to be trained for the "Special Wireless" job without any knowledge of what this job was about. The women were not given any information regarding their duties. They went by ship to the Island of Man on the south coast of England. They arrived at a camp for men and women (with 3 to a room). The food was bad until an army catering corps was brought there to cook for them. The women were taught Morse code for 5 months from morning to night until they were proficient. Many women dropped out of training due to the constant noise of the Morse code. During this training, the women had only 2 hours off a week, 1 hour Tuesday and 1 hour Thursday. Many practical jokes were played during these leisure hours, such as, flying the ladies bloomers above a flag pole.

After the training was completed, the women went to Yorkshire and were commandeered into barracks at a school on the Yorkshire moors. Their task was to intercept German army and air force information from radio signals sent daily by the Germans. Anne was especially gifted to interpret the codes and she was one of three women chosen for special assignments. All kinds of information was transmitted by the Germans, including the weather conditions and important German strategies. The women eventually came to know which German was transmitting the codes by their call signs and SS frequencies and they made up their own names for them. This turned out to be vital to the operation. The women swore to not tell anyone of their operation until 40 years after armistice was signed. Their vow of silence was never broken. Winston Churchill said "It was the best kept secret in World War 11".

In the 1980's the women went to a reunion at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire, England. This was the wartime home of allied code breaking. This is where the British housed their cryptographers who broke through the ciphers and read enormous amounts of German military and diplomatic radio traffic. The women were wined and dined. A museum with pictures and mannequins was built in honor of these brave women.

Anne said she was very proud to be a part of this history and we thank her for relating her moving experiences.

MEMBER PROFILER: LUCILLE MANCER

Lucille grew up in Moncton, New Brunswick with its rich French and English Acadian cultures, languages, songs, and food. In Grade 9 she went to a girl's boarding school in Moncton. It was similar to a finishing school with girls from all walks of life. Lucille likens it to a prison as it was very strict. They were told when they could talk, eat, sleep and study. Their mail was even opened before it was delivered to them.

After high school, Lucille encountered culture shock when she went to Montreal to begin studying nursing at St. Mary's Hospital. She soon went to live with her older sister in Winnipeg to continue to study nursing. Lucille met her husband in Winnipeg. Their first date was a visit to an ancient cemetery.

After Lucille graduated from nursing and her husband from Medical school, they went to Seattle where her husband specialized in Pathology and Lucille became the charge nurse at the University of Washington cancer clinic. Their daughter was born here. They moved to New York where her husband specialized in cancer pathology at the Sloan Kettering cancer centre. Lucille enjoyed going to operas, concerts and plays in New York. She visited museums and art galleries with her baby daughter in her stroller.

In 1970 Lucille and her husband moved to Toronto where he worked in Sick Kids Hospital and Lucille nursed at the Princess Margaret Hospital. Their son was born here, however, when he was 6 months old Lucille and her husband separated. Lucille worked at PMH from 1973 to 2000 in various capacities. The last position held was as a Case Manager. Throughout her career Lucille's love of learning led her to take many courses at various universities.

When the tornado struck in Barrie several years ago, Lucille contacted the Red Cross to search for her children as the phone lines were down. She ended up volunteering to help. The Toronto Red Cross Emergencies Services asked her to join them and eventually Lucille chaired the committee as team leader.

In 2000 Lucille retired and moved to Wasaga Beach where she has lived for 5 years. She has a great network of friends and several hobbies such as knitting, sewing, reading and writing. She belongs to the Probus First Edition Book Club. Lucille also belongs to the Wasaga Beach Writers Club and has written several novels which she is currently editing and a children's story about a turkey vulture called Tank. Her new pastime is karaoke singing which fulfills her lifelong ambition to be an entertainer and a ham. Thanks to Lucille for an entertaining profile.

PAST SOCIAL EVENT – Putting Edge Mini-Putt

On Wednesday, November 19th, 40 members shouted and mini-putted their way through the tricky course at the Putting Edge in Barrie. Many yells and screams of frustration were heard throughout the game. When the noise and the dust settled, the team of Jim Somerville, Lyn Rice, Charlie Doidge and Lois Davies came first (after a tie breaking resolution) and each went home with a nice bottle of wine. The fifty-fifty draw had Paul Turner win \$25, Ed Davies win \$20, and Ray Dimock win \$15. After the game, we went around the corner to Cora's for a delicious lunch. With good golf and food a lovely time was had by all.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS – FROM YOUR SOCIAL COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 – Christmas dinner/dance – This event is sold out. Hope to see you all there. You will have a very good time.

BLUE JAY'S BASEBALL – June 4 and July 23 – Are there any baseball fans out there? We know it's a long time away but you can make plans today for next summer. Purchase tickets for either one or both Blue Jay games. Tickets are a little cheaper if 20 people or more go (\$41 each instead of \$44). Sign up if you are seriously interested.

JANUARY 14, 2009 – Games Day - Tickets are on sale today. We have booked the arena from 1:00 to 4:30 P.M. on the 14th of January for the first Games Day. We supply the playing cards, the snacks and cold drinks; you supply the board games and any other details needed for cards, whether it's score cards, dice, chips, pegs, etc. Tickets are on sale today. Indicate a game and/or join up with others who have signed up. Come and enjoy the afternoon.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009 – Pancake Breakfast

No tickets necessary. Just come early to our regular Probus meeting and bring your appetite.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009 – The Beaver Show

Tickets are on sale today. Cost is \$80.00 each and it includes a bus ride (Hamilton Tours) to Toronto for lunch at 11:30 A.M. at Tucker's Marketplace followed by a 1:30 P.M. performance- an afternoon of music, laughs, and skits presented by the Beaver Bible Class of Westway United Church of Martingrove Collegiate Institute. Don't let the name fool you. This is Toronto's longest running amateur musical and sketch review in its 71st year, and if you think you would have liked the old-fashioned minstrel shows (without the black-face), then you will love this. To ease your budget you may pay some now and the rest later. Or pay it all now.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS – Details about each will be announced at a later date.

April, 2009 - Day at the Races – Georgian Downs

May, 2009 – Ride the Red Rocket – with Mike Filey in Toronto

June 4th – Blue Jay's Game vs. L.A. at 12:30 P.M.

June, 2009 – Lady Muskoka Cruise

July 14, 2009 – Annual Picnic

July 23rd - Blue Jay's game vs. Cleveland at 12:30 P.M.

August 13, 2009 – King's Wharf performance of Country Legends

Your Social Committee wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Here's hoping the upcoming season is very social and special for each of you.

NOVEMBER LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

1st prize – \$78.40 – Bonnie Brooks-Ayre

2nd prize - \$49.00 – Gail Dawe

3rd prize- -\$39.20 – Kathy Zack

4th prize - \$29.40 – Frieda Collins

\$40.00 Gift Certificate for Canadian Tire – Olga Yates

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES: Best wishes to those who celebrated in November!

'MEET YOUR MEMBER' – Please contact Betty Keyes at (705) 429-6064 for information regarding "Meet Your Member" profiles.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

(If you are considering organizing any type of interest group, please approach the Executive Committee.

Special interest groups are open to Probus members only.)

* The First Edition Book Club	Contact Betty Montgomery	429-6854
* Happy Bookers Club	Contact Mary Barnes	429-2142
* Dinner at Our Place	Contact Linda Willis	429-0467
* Afternoon Luncheon Cuisiniers	Contact Marilyn Ruse	422-0271
* Restaurant Dinner Club	Contact Joyanne Loughran	429-6574
* Fair Weather Walkers	Contact Luci Worch	422-0062

Note: Lucille Mancer has 6 members so far that are interested in starting another book club. If you are interested in joining, please contact Lucille at (705) 422-0143.

"NEW" SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The survey sheets are on the table for December's meeting only. Two more activities have been added. A new **LADIES LUNCHEON GROUP**. Space will be limited to ten. If there is enough interest, Betty Keyes would be willing to have the first luncheon at her place, and guide the participants for future luncheons. A new **MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP**. This group would meet once a month for a breakfast and good fellowship at a restaurant. We will tally up the sheets in December. The final results will be in January's Wasagan newsletter.

For **Dinner at Our Place** we have 5 hosts each welcoming 6 guests. Responsibilities are rotated monthly with everyone preparing a portion of the meal. The host picks some dates within any given month and together a date for dinner is set. The hosts are responsible for the main entrée with suitable sides, as well as tea and coffee. As coordinator, Linda Willis assigns one couple to provide appetizers, another soup or salad, and the third dessert. Everyone provides their own beverage, whether it is wine, beer or a soft drink.

We have some people interested in starting a sixth house, but we need a few more to get it going.

If you are interested in learning more about the Dinner at Our Place special interest group, please contact Linda Willis. During a meeting, Linda can be found at the Sign-In desk, or call her at 429-0467.

The **Happy Bookers Club** is at maximum membership.

The book read this month was "The Nightingales" by Gillian Gill. It was enjoyed by all members of the book club and we would recommend the book to others. The detailed account of the family background at the beginning of the book made it a little tedious at first but the effort to continue reading was well worth it. Florence Nightingale was born to a wealthy family and showed at an early age a passion for helping others, and a mind of her own that was

truly focused and bent for power. This book is a portrait of an amazing woman who became a nurse, administrator, politician and a lobbyist. We gave the book a rating of 3.8.

The **First Edition Book Club** has reached its maximum membership of 10 members.

This month the "First Edition Book club" did not have a reading selection. Instead, we met at the home of Betty Keyes where we spent the afternoon setting up and planning our reading list for the next twelve months.

The **Fair Weather Walkers** are a friendly bunch who walk in almost any kind of weather. During the fall and winter months we sometimes meet at Powerline Road and will either take the skidoo trail, which is relatively flat, or one of the other trails off of Powerline Road. At the end of about 1 ½ hours we reward ourselves with a cup of Timmy's coffee and good conversation. When the bugs come out in the spring, and usually through the summer months, we walk the beach front. Occasionally we take other trails in the Wasaga Beach or Collingwood area. **We have recently changed the walking venue to Blueberry trail and changed the walking date from Friday to Thursday at 1:30 P.M.** For information call Doris Willis 429-7835 or Luci Worch 422-0062.

The **Afternoon Luncheon Cuisiners** meet every 2nd Monday of the month at 11:30 A.M. 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.

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 Joyanne Loughran 429-6574 or e-mail her at somatech@rogers.com if you are interested in joining the group or you can recommend a good restaurant in the area. Bon Appetit!

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. This is only an information service to our members.
- **Please notify the Membership Convener (Linda Willis @ 429-0467) of any changes to your address, phone number, email address, 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 death of a member to our Goodwill Convener (Marilyn Ruse @ 422-0271) - if you don't tell us, we may miss sending out a card.
- Our New Member Ambassador, Lucille Mancer, is always available to give you information about our Club and its activities. Lucille can be reached @ 422- 0143 or lucille.mancer@sympatico.ca

PROBUS CANADA WIDE BULLETIN BOARD

A new bulletin board posting is available to Probud Clubs. The address is www.probus.org/bulletin.htm

NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 6, 2009

ALL STARS ARENA

Arrive at 9:30 am to enjoy coffee and tea with your friends prior to the meeting at 10:00 am. Remember to bring your "Probus" mug.

When you are unable to attend a meeting, you can access your copy of The Wasagan at www.probus.org/8wasbcn.pdf (Please contact the Editor if you do not have a computer.)

NEWSLETTER ITEMS:

It would be appreciated if contributors could submit their items to Lyn Rice at gl_rice@rogers.com by the end of the third week of the month.

MANAGEMENT TEAM for 2008-2009

President:	Betty Baker	422-1909	Social:	Tom Donohue	429-0644
Vice-President:	Bob Bowyer	429-0579	Membership:	Linda Willis	429-0467
Treasurer:	Kathy Zack	429-0033	Refreshments:	Susan & Brian Passmore	422-1956
Secretary:	Joanne Scruton	422-0976	50/50 Draw:	Kay Knab	429-5547
Past President:	Tom Donohue	429-0644	New Members:	Lucille Mancer	422-0143
Speakers:	Jan Bivall	429-7584	Goodwill:	Marilyn Ruse	422-0271
	Diane Nagel	428-3209	Newsletter:	Marilyn (Lyn) Rice	429-1798