



The Wasagan



Official Newsletter of Beachcombers Probus – Wasaga Beach, Ontario
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MAY GENERAL MEETING

TODAY'S SPEAKER: Mr. Lynn Philip Hodgson
Subject: Camp X – a WW2 training site for allied secret agents

SAY YES

Are you interested in getting more involved with the behind the scenes life of Beachcombers Probus? It is a new level of involvement which is very pleasing and rewarding. Both the social and management teams (members of the management team are listed on page four of this newsletter) need new members to continue to organize the fun and varied activities which we all enjoy. You are welcome to attend social committee meetings which are held on the third Friday of the month at the SuperStore Community Room at 10:00 a.m. The Management Team meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the same time and place. Please say yes when you are invited to join.

Ex-President Ray Porter will speak today to inform you of the positions that need to be filled.

APRIL SPEAKER

Our speaker was Michelle Rich from the Collingwood Environment Network. Michelle gave a most thought provoking talk on our changing climate and its causes. The earth's atmosphere is changing at an alarming rate and it is suspected that human involvement plays a big role in that change. We are having more severe weather patterns with ice storms, draughts, rain, higher winds and melting glaciers which will cause a loss of land mass.

We need to prepare for these changes. New bridges must be built to withstand a "100 year" storm. The government must start planning more infrastructures. Insurance rates will skyrocket and there will be a change in real estate desires to a preference for higher elevations as we lose land mass to the oceans.

So what can you, as an individual, do to help? Here are ten suggestions given by Michelle.

1. Hang your laundry to dry instead of using a clothes dryer.
2. Eat meat free meals once a week. (Cattle produce methane gas which causes scarring to the environment. Gas emissions are caused during delivery of the meat.)
3. Buy fuel efficient cars with low emissions.
4. Choose energy efficient appliances and R2000 homes.
5. Stop using pesticides. They accumulate in your fat cells and are never shed except to the fetus during pregnancy.
6. Walk, bike or use public transit.
7. Prepare meals with locally produced food. Eat what is in season.
8. Choose a home that is close to your regular destinations.
9. Retrofit your house to increase energy efficiency.
10. Encourage and compliment people for biking, skate boarding or walking to their destination.

Al Gore's movie "An Inconvenient Truth" has raised awareness on this issue. Why not rent it and watch it with your friends as you munch on some locally produced, pesticide free snacks?

PAST SOCIAL EVENT

DINNER & VARIETY SHOW

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

The event was a huge success as it showcased all the wonderful talent hidden among the Probus members. The dinner which featured a chicken breast in mushroom sauce was delicious – all in all a wonderful night!

After dinner we stood for the Queen (played brilliantly by Betty Baker) who complained about her treatment from British Airways and subsequent treatment in the Georgian Bay area as her staff, which had been lost in the shuffle, tried to catch up to her. The flashing of the cameras from the paparazzi probably nearly blinded her as she spoke!

Upcoming Canadian Idol, Gordon Baird then entertained us with several memorable romantic ballads and later in the show we were treated to a number of Elvis songs. Gordon's singing was a real treat indeed!

Then the Crazy Country Crones took to the stage with red lights flashing on their behinds and some much synchronized line dancing which was a pleasure to watch. They are some sexy ladies!

Priscilla Snodgrass (Doris Willis) took it upon herself to interview Pierre La Poop (Christina Armstrong) on stage for the position of Probus secretary. Pierre, who seemed to think that Priscilla's name was "Pissy" is a rather backwoods French Canadian and he did not get the position but was sent to the Probus Sunbirds to apply there. I guess that means that we still need a secretary for the new year so why not apply – heck you can't be worse than Pierre!

Next we had a real celebrity on stage. Ellen DeGeneres (Betty Keyes) flew in from LA as a last minute fill in. She was staying at the Dyconia and was much funnier than on TV! We paid a pretty penny for her, though. Her traveling expenses were \$3,000 and her speaking fee was \$5,000! The Probus Beachcombers Club is now broke!

In a skit called "The Policeman", a police detective interviewed candidates for their suitability to become detectives. The candidates resembled more the Three Stooges than detectives and it was a good laugh.

Stan Scruton, who claimed his name was Harry Durrant, then entertained us with a string of hilarious jokes. Don't give up your day job, Stan!

The entertainment ended with a brilliant performance taken from the movie, The Sister Act. The music soared and the Sisters were really convincing with their dancing and miming of the words. It was hard to tell that they weren't actually singing the words themselves. A highly entertaining act! The Pope (Gunter Raab) was there to witness it!

Master of Ceremonies, Tom Donohue did a great job of introducing the acts. Special thanks to the Social Committee for arranging such an entertaining evening. Thanks also to Larry Ruse for his work with the sound equipment and to Gordon Baird & Marie Jany for providing their professional level sound equipment for all the acts. Thanks also go to Bob & Gloria Harasowski and Tom & Irene Donohue for their donation of materials and labor with the stage backdrop. Thanks also to David Sheridan and Gunter Raab for videotaping the show and to all those who took pictures.

Performers in no particular order were: Betty Baker, Gordon Baird, Helena Aherne, Shirley Allan, Judy Hutton, Diane Nagel, Mary McCluskey, Mary Ranta, Marilyn Ruse, Christina Armstrong, Doris Willis, Aeron Raab, Luci Worch, Stan Scruton, Collette Durrant, Rickey Lemire, Joan Porter, Joanne Scruton and Gunter Raab. A job well done everyone!

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

FAMOUS PEOPLE PLAYERS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

Our theatre outing includes bus transportation, chicken lunch and the performance, all for a cost of \$79.00 each. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to learn more about each other on the bus trip to and from Toronto. Come and join us for a fun day. Meeting place & time will be confirmed later. Tickets are still available.

GEORGIAN DOWNS RACETRACK

BARRIE

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

The strike at the racetrack is over and so we are once again offering you the opportunity to enjoy an exciting evening at the races! Tickets are on sale now for **\$34.00** per person. Included are a delicious buffet dinner (visit the chocolate fountain for dessert!), soft drinks, the races - which you can watch from your dining table, tax and gratuity. Whether you bet a lot or a little, whether you win a lot or a little, you'll have a great time.

ANNUAL PICNIC

ELMVALE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

This is popular event! The picnic is subsidized by the club and the games and early dinner are available to members for only \$5.00! Barbeque Bob will be providing a delicious meal and the games are always a riotous good time – you can join in or sit yourself in the shade and cheer on your favorite player. More information to follow.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

AUGUST

We don't care if you consider yourself a poor golfer or a good golfer, everyone is invited to participate. Dinner will follow the tournament and there will be lots of prizes for the participants. Stay tuned for the date and more details of this annual event.

APRIL'S LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

- 1st Prize of \$59.60 was won by Margaret Pothier
2nd Prize of \$37.25 was won by Christina Armstrong
3rd Prize of \$30.00 was won by Glenn Martin
4th Prize of \$22.35 was won by Rita Matthews
Gift certificate for Marks Work Wearhouse was won by Nancy Ritchie
"Moon Over Buffalo" tickets were won by Lucy Worch

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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

The special interest groups are open to Probud members only.

*	Happy Bookers Book Club	Contact Joanne Scruton	422-0976
*	Dinner at our Place	Contact Betty Keyes	429-6064
*	Afternoon Luncheon Cuisiniers	Contact Maggie Higgins	422-1338
*	Restaurant Dinner Club	Contact Diane Nagel	428-3209
*	Fair Weather Walkers	Contact Gary Willis	429-7835
*	YOYO's	Contact Joan Maloney	422-0573

The **YOYO's (You're On Your Own)** are a group of individuals wanting to share in good fellowship, potlucks and amusing activities. We meet on the 4th Wednesday morning of the month. Call Joan Maloney @ 422-0573 for more information – new members welcome.

Dinner at Our Place:

We have 4 hosts each welcoming 6 other guests for dinner. Responsibilities are rotated monthly with everyone preparing a portion of the meal. Our dinners begin at 6PM; we do not assign a particular evening to dine; this is left for each group to decide. The hosts are responsible for the main entree and the vegetables to accompany it. In addition, they supply the bread/rolls, tea/coffee milk/cream and sugar. As a host you do have 3 other couples who assist with your meal. I assign one couple to provide the appetizers, another couple soup or salad, and the third couple the dessert. Everyone provides their own choice of beverage for the evening whether it is wine, beer or a soft drink. At present we have 4 people who wish to become permanent members, and we need 4 more to join them to have a 5th house operational. Please call me or see me at a meeting if you are interested. We especially want to encourage our single people. Are you willing to host, like to cook and enjoy being with people for an evening of fun, good food and conversation? Betty Keyes 429-6064

The Happy Bookers club's membership is now full. If you wish to join, your name will now be placed on a waiting list. We meet every 3rd Monday of the month. Call Joanne Scruton @ 422-0976

April's book was "Throwaway Daughter" by Ting-Xing Ye who lives in Orillia, Ontario.

"Throwaway Daughter" tells the dramatic and moving story of Grace Dong-mei Parker, a typical Canadian teenager until the day she witnesses the Tiananmen massacre on television. Horrified, she sets out to explore her Chinese ancestry, only to discover that she was one of the thousands of infant girls abandoned in China since the introduction of the one-child policy, strictly enforced by the Communist government. But Grace was one of the lucky ones, adopted as a baby by a loving Canadian couple.

With the encouragement of her adoptive parents, she studies Chinese and travels back to China in search of her birth mother. She manages to locate the village where she was born, but at first no one is willing to help her. However Grace never gives up and, finally, she is reunited with her birth mother, discovering through this emotional bond the truth of what happened to her almost twenty years before.

The Book Club enjoyed this book very much; even though it was listed for Young Adults (does that tell us something?).

The Fair Weather Walkers: The walks always take place at Powerline Road. We will have the choice of either walking along the skidoo trail as we do during the winter, or we can use the forest trails. The walking is never cancelled; we enjoy each other's company no matter who happens to show up. We have walked in blizzards, in downpours and while fending off Canada's other national bird (The mosquito!). So come along any Friday and reward yourself with a cup of Timmy's coffee afterwards. Call Gary Willis @ 429-7835 for more information.

The **Afternoon Luncheon Cuisiners** meet every 2nd Monday of the month at 11:30 am. 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. Call Maggie Higgins @ 422-1338 if you want to be on our "wait" list.

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 Diane Nagel @ 428-3209 if you are interested in joining the group or you can recommend a good restaurant in the area.

BEACHCOMBERS SELLERS PAGE

Sellers must be members of Probus Beachcombers. Email your submission to Doris Willis @ teacop@rogers.com or add your submission to the list which is posted on the bulletin board at each meeting. Please notify Doris immediately when your item has been sold.

1. 2 piece sofa & loveseat, wedgewood blue, excellent condition, perfect for cottage or bedroom \$200 each piece or \$300 for both. Call Valerie Deveau @ 420-0354
2. Olympus 2.1 Digital camera with extra memory cards \$100. Call Jim Park @ 322-2419
3. Professional Beauty Salon Hair Dryer; hardly used \$125. Call Nell Holowachuk @ 429-7240
4. Crock Pot Rival 5 quart Model 3850. LIKE NEW!! \$ 30.00 (Sears catalogue \$ 69.50) Call Sheila @ 429- 3451
5. Dark green love seat (2 years new) \$250. Call Bill Travis @ 422-1148
6. Victorian 3 piece Settee set, carved, Mother of Pearl inlay English. Call Jim Park @ 322- 2419
7. **NEW LISTING:** Traditional 3-seater matching sofa and chair. Excellent condition and top quality fabric-\$500. See bulletin board for pictures. Brown velour rocker chair \$25. Call George and Marilyn Rice @ 429-1798
8. **NEW LISTING:** 36 x 36 inch mirror in good condition. \$25 or best offer. Call Ruth Kammer @ 429-7887

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

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. We do this as an information service to our members, but we do not promote such things.
- 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.
- Please pass the information on sickness, hospital stays, or deaths of our members to our Goodwill Convener (Kay Knab - 429-5547). If you don't tell us, we may miss sending out a card. Get-well Wishes, Best Wishes, and Condolences to anyone we may have missed.
- Our New Member Ambassador, Betty Keyes, is always available to give you information about our Club and its activities. Betty can be reached at 429-6064.

NEXT MEETING:

June 5, 2007

ALL STARS ARENA

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

When you are unable to attend a meeting, you can access your copy of The Wasagan at www.probus.org/7wasbcn.pdf (Please contact the Editors if you do not have a computer)

Please be aware that the **address changed** in January to reflect the year 2007.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

President:	Chris Armstrong	429-7805	Refreshments:	Orlene & John Fost	429-9479
Vice-President:	Tom Donohue	429-0644	Membership:	Deborah Ferris	429-4977
Treasurer:	Harry Durrant	429-3071	Social:	Gloria Harasowsky	429-0180
Secretary:	Doris Willis	429-7835		Vivian Sheridan	429-5590
Past President:	Ray Porter	429-9260	60/40:	Kay Knab	429-5547
Speakers:	Jan Bivall	429-7584	New Member Ambassador:		
	Diane Nagel	428-3209		Betty Keyes	429-6064
Goodwill:	Kay Knab	429-5547	Newsletter:	Maggie Higgins & Ken Wong	422-1338