

Monthly Newsletter of the

Probus Club of South Muskoka

December 2006



Club No.119,
Chartered June 12, 2001

President's Remarks

What a way to come back! Just last week we were in shorts and short sleeves enjoying the beautiful scenery of New Zealand. Now with 12" of snow we are right back into the busy time of Christmas. It was funny in both Australia and New Zealand to see houses decorated with Santa Claus, snow and Christmas ornaments in the windows with beautiful rose gardens in front. Imagine what it would be like to celebrate Christmas in the middle of summer. It just wouldn't be the same.

My thanks to Rena and Arno for filling in while I was away.

This meeting is the cookie exchange and carol singing with the Cellar Singers. It is just a super way to get into the Christmas season. Then next week we have the dinner-dance and you probably have a calendar full of all the other parties and gatherings.

May I take this time to wish you and all your family the Very Best at this wonderful Holiday Season. May you truly enjoy all the wonder this world has to offer.

Ted

Today's Meeting: December 12, 2006

Greeters:	Marlene and Dick Robinson
10:00 -10:15	President's Remarks / Business
10:15 -10:50	Refreshments and Cookie Exchange
10:50	Our Special Guests - The Cellar Singers
12:00	Adjourn

Next Month: (January 9, 2007)

Greeters:	Marlene and Dick Robinson
Biography:	Jim Wardroper
Speaker:	Ken Garth, on Estate Planning

Words of Wit and Wisdom

"Success" is going from one failure to another without losing enthusiasm. - Winston Churchill

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt - Anonymous



Care Bear:

If you know of anyone who is ill or has suffered bereavement, please call Sandra Snelling at 645-8477.

At our last meeting (November 14, 2006)

Biography: Gordon Freer

Gord's parents were from Newfoundland – his father a Methodist minister, his mother a nurse. After marriage in 1924, they were posted to Saskatchewan, where, in 1927, Gord was born. He grew up in the tough times of the depression and the dust bowl. At the University of Manitoba he started to study medicine, but instead earned a degree in philosophy and ultimately graduated as a minister. While at U of M he met Arlie, and they married in 1951. Initially posted to Emerson, Manitoba, he later studied at Harvard and earned his MA degree in 1958. He then joined the national office of the United Church of Canada, where he held a number of positions over the years, pausing in 1980 to earn a Doctorate. He and Arlie retired to Muskoka in 2002.

With this broad background of education, travel, and spiritual profession, Gord has deeply pondered the meaning of life, and the intersections of belief and science. He cited four 'memory pictures' that were pivotal in shaping his thinking about these matters. At age 9 a slide show while on vacation stirred his interest in the universe and 'bigger things'. In 1957, while studying under Paul Tillich, Sputnik I was launched, opening space to mankind and bringing a challenge to old ideas. In 1987 a trip across the Prairies again immersed him in the vastness of sky and landscape. And in 2000, he and Arlie climbed Mars Hill in Athens and experienced the ambience of the site where so many important events in history took place. In summarizing, Gord quoted the title of John Buchan's autobiography: "Memory hold the door".

Guest Speaker: Melissa Cass – "Canadian Space Robotics"

Melissa is a professional engineer with MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates (MDA) Ltd., and is part of the team responsible for keeping NASA's Canadarm space-worthy. They are essential for moving and installing payloads in space, as well as providing a platform for spacewalking astronauts, on missions such as the building of the ISS and maintaining the Hubble Space Telescope. For 25 years, Canadarm has been the only mission-critical hardware on the Space Shuttle which is sourced outside the US. The later-generation Canadarm-2 is a key part of the International Space Station (ISS) with its ability to move itself around the structure like an inchworm.

Melissa gave an insider's tour of the assembly and launch of a Space Shuttle, and then a tour of the ISS, illustrated with fascinating photographs from NASA and MDA Ltd. She then described some of the leading-edge robotics work her company has been involved in or is working on, including automated mining systems, the Radarsat satellites, remote surgery robots, the Phoenix Mars mission, the Mars Smartlander, and "X-Project" spacecraft designs.

She concluded by stressing the major contributions Canada has made to space exploration and satellite technology, and assured us that these will continue in the future. A lively question period followed.

Calendar

Social and Travel:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| December 13, at 5 PM | Christmas Party at the Riverside Inn – \$50 per person, cash bar. Cocktails at 5, dinner at 6. Dancing to the music of <i>Moonglow</i> . Contact Marlene and Dick Robinson 767-3000. |
| January 16, 2007. 12:30 | Bowling – at the Riverside Inn, \$10 for shoes and three games. Meet at AJ's at 12:30 (across the street) for an optional lunch for \$10; bowling starts at 2:00 PM. |
| January 25, 11:30 A.M. | Annual Robbie Burns Dinner – at the Delta Sherwood Inn, Glen Orchard (see page 4). Cost is \$25 per person. Contact Joni Addis (765-1118) or Catherine Dedrick (765-0536). |
| February TBA | Tour of the new recreation/theatre complex. Details to follow |
| May 2007: | A trip to Cape Cod/Boston is scheduled for early May. Please contact Fred Grant to show your interest (687-3728). |

Activities:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| December 12: | Probus Club meeting – 10:00 A.M. at the Rotary Centre – Christmas Cookie Exchange!! |
| December 19: | Book Group Christmas lunch at noon – contact Marilyn Croft for details |
| January 8: | Investment Group meets – 10:00 A.M. at the Edward Jones office |
| January 21: | Curling at the Gravenhurst Curling Club, 2:00 PM |
| January 23: | Probus Club Management Committee - 10:00 A.M. at the Rotary Centre |

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

If you are interested in forming another interest group (or if you just wish to share your ideas), please call FRED GREEN at 385-2241, or email him at jfgreen@muskoka.com and it will be included here in the next Newsletter.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL: (Contact **BOB** or **LINDA CARTHEW**, 687-3388, or **MIKE** or **MIDGE CARSON**, 645-7394, or **ADELE ALLAN**, 767-3728)

This group normally meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 1pm at Bracebridge United Church. Nothing scheduled for December however. New members always welcome.

BOOK GROUP: (Contact **MARILYN CROFT** at 764-0099)

The book group meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. In December the book Club is having a Christmas Lunch on December 19th at noon. Please call if you are interested in joining this group.

BRIDGE: (Contact **JEANETTE HEENEMAN** at 764-1839)

This group meets at St. Joseph's Church in Bracebridge at 1:00 pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The cost is approximately \$2.50 for the afternoon. Please call Jeanette if you are interested in an afternoon of playing bridge.

COOKING / DINING GROUPS:

These groups are full, but if you are interested in being on a waiting/standby list, please contact:

GRETCHEN WARREN at 687-7765 for the *Silver Bullets*

ELLEN KING at 645-2305 for the *Red Dragons*

BONNIE ALEXANDER at 732-1734 for the *Decadent Dinners*

DIANNE DARRAGH at 765-0593, email diannedarragh@yahoo.com for *Dine and Unwind*

CURLING: (Contact **LINDA/ALLEN EDWARDS** at 769-2214)

No Curling in December. Curling resumes at the Gravenhurst Curling Club, on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Next date is January. 21st at 2:00 p.m.

GOLF: (Contact **MIKE GEORGE** (Bracebridge Probus) at 645-3838)

The golf schedule has been completed and will resume in the spring.

"HOOKERS and KNITTING BEE'S" (Contact **JEANETTE HEENEMAN** at 764-1839)

Are ready to learn from each other, socialize and chat while knitting and crocheting. They will meet every third Wednesday of the month in the afternoon.

HIKING AND WALKING: (Contact **HERWIG** or **LYNNE SCHROTH** at 765-7394 or email herlyn@muskoka.com)

Hiking is over until the Spring.

INVESTMENT: (Contact **FRED GREEN** AT 385-2241)

We meet on the second Monday of the month, at 10:00 a.m. at the Edward Jones office, 81 Manitoba Street, Bracebridge. The next meeting will on January 8th. New members welcome! It's a friendly group – no money involved.

MOVIE BUFFS:

VIDEO GROUP (1) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The group is full at this time, but for information or to go on a waiting list, contact **NORM OR BEV IDING** at 764-0906.

VIDEO GROUP (2) meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The group is presently full, but if you are interested, please call **ANNE OR FRED GRANT** at 687-5633

PHOTOGRAPHY: (Contact **BURT WORTH** at 646-0050)

There are no winter meetings scheduled. Come and have fun in the spring.

SOCIAL EVENTS: (Contact **ADELE ALLAN** at 767-3728 or the social committee)

Events such as day trips, tours, and luncheons are usually planned for the third Thursday each month. Watch the "Social and Travel" section of the newsletter for upcoming events.

And Visions of Sugar Plums... ...!!

Final reminder to those who wish to participate in the Christmas Cookie exchange! Bring three dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies, wrapped in packages of one dozen, to the Probus meeting on December 12. Don't forget to include your name and phone number with the package for those who would like to have your recipe. You will bring in three packages and go home with three packages. The exchange will occur at the Break. Let's get baking, ladies and gentlemen!

Robbie Burns Day

The Probus Clubs of Central and South Muskoka invite you to their annual 'Lunch with Robbie Burns' on Thursday, January 25, 2007 11:30 a.m. at the Delta Sherwood Inn in Glen Orchard - \$25 per person including taxes and gratuity. Please make your cheque payable to the Probus Club of South Muskoka and confirm your reservation with Joni Addis (765-1118) or Catherine Dedrick (765-0536) or email catd1@sympatico.ca

In other news

The new members' gathering on November 21 was a great success, with about 25 attendees. Many thanks to Carol Ursano and Sandy Snelling for organizing the event, and especially to the Wardroppers for making their home available and hosting the party.

Adele Allan's hardy band of travelers has made their way back from a month's sojourn in Australia and New Zealand. Can we expect a travelogue, with hundreds of pictures, in the near future?

YOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2006-2007

President:	Ted Daglish	765-0330	daglish@muskoka.com
Past President:	Sandy Snelling	645-8477	ardnas@sympatico.ca
Co-Vice-Presidents:	Rena & Arno Liebster	646-8909	renarno@sympatico.ca
Secretary:	Carol Ursano	645-8381	jursano@vianet.on.ca
Treasurer:	Judy Watson	646-2453	judyx3@muskoka.com
Speakers:	Joe Ursano	645-8381	jursano@vianet.on.ca
Newsletter:	Perry Bowker	765-0242	pbowker@sympatico.ca
Membership:	Peter McLaren	645-1015	pmclaren@muskoka.com
Special Interest:	Fred Green	385-2241	jfgreen@muskoka.com
Theatre/Trips:	Adele Allan	767-3728	adelalla@yahoo.com
Social:	Adele Allan	767-3728	adelalla@yahoo.com

Send ideas, corrections, complaints, or praise to your Newsletter Editor at pbowker@sympatico.ca / 765-0242

The newsletter is distributed in advance of each month's meeting to all members who have given an e-mail address. Be sure to let the Membership Director know if your address (or any other contact information) has changed or is incorrect.