

Monthly Newsletter of the Probus Club of South Muskoka

December 2007



Club No. 119,
Chartered June 12, 2001

Presidents' Remarks

"A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are just as hungry as the dog." --Jack London

The holiday season is fast upon us. This is a time of anticipation, reflection and sharing. It is a season of light, joy, and music. The Three Tenors Concert was wonderful. The voice is an amazing instrument. At our next meeting you will have the opportunity to find your voice. Jack Hutton, a well-known ragtime pianist, will bring the joy of music to us. He will also lead us in a brief selection of Christmas Carols. We and your Management Team wish you a joyous holiday season and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Rena and Arno Liebster

IMPORTANT NOTICE

There will be major construction activity for the next few weeks in and around the parking lot at the Rotary Centre, and parking near the building may be limited. Please plan accordingly, and if you can, leave spaces near the door available for members with mobility challenges.

This Month's Meeting: December 11, 2007

Greeters: Judy and Bill Watson

10:00 - 10:20 President's Remarks / Business

10:20 - 10:40 Biography: Thelma Marrin

Cookie Exchange

11:05 Musical Guest: Jack Hutton

12:00 Adjourn

Next Month: (January 8, 2008)

Greeters: Judy and Bill Watson

Biography: Rena Leventhal

Guest Speaker: Ken Garth - "Income Tax Tips For Seniors"

Words of Wit and Wisdom

One kind word can warm three winter months.

- Japanese proverb

When people want to know why I look like this, I say I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

- Anon



Care Bear:

If you know of anyone who is ill or has suffered bereavement, please call Ted Daglish at 765-0330.

The newsletter is distributed in advance of each month's meeting to all members by e-mail or post. Please print a copy and bring to the meeting if you wish to take notes, as only a few copies will be available there. Be sure to let the Membership Director know if your address (or any other contact information) has changed or is incorrect.

Send ideas, corrections, complaints, or praise to your Newsletter Editor at pbowker@sympatico.ca / 765-0242
(Your pictures are also welcome ... full-res jpegs please)

At our last meeting (November 13, 2007)

Biography: Dianne Darragh

Both sides of Dianne's family immigrated to Canada from Great Britain in the 1800's and are dotted all over Ontario. Her mother grew up near Barrie and became a teacher; her father was a principal, which is how they met. Dianne and her twin sister were born in Barrie (delivered by their grandfather, Dr. Horton) and lived across from the old racetrack - a Mazda dealership is there today. She grew up in a stimulating environment. Mother was a busy homemaker and teacher, and an early leader of the Women Teachers Federation, while her school principal father was also a part-time professional musician and coach of the Barrie Flyers. Family gatherings featured tales of the exploits of her various relatives all over Canada. An uncle was Tom Thompson's guide and owned several of his paintings. Diane's sister also became a teacher, and eventually opened her own private school for boys - Sterling Hall in Toronto.

After High School, Dianne briefly attended Western, but then shifted to Teacher's College, graduated, and began to teach, living with a friend in what they discovered was the red-light district of Toronto. Her first school was in a tough neighborhood too, but she managed, and thrived, doing some coaching as well. After a two-year break to travel Europe, she returned to teaching and joined the Public School Girls Athletic Association, where she made many long-time friends. And she met and married husband Bob, and soon along came a son and a daughter.

She continued to study part-time at York, finally earning a degree in psychology. Since her son had learning difficulties, she returned to university and earned a certificate in Special Education. She became interested in learning styles, and became a diagnostic and resource teacher. This led to positions at several high schools in York Region. In all her teaching career spanned 25 years.

Now 'retired' - sort of - Bob came home and announced that he was manager of our daughter's hockey team. Five enormous fundraisers and countless tournaments ensued. In the same period, her father passed away and she had to take over his investment funds, which was very time-consuming. However, by year 3 she finally started to feel retired and so they began to build their house in Minett. Seven years later they are enjoying their lives here. Their son has a wonderful job and they wonder if their daughter is ever going to leave University. Life in Muskoka is good.

Guest Speaker: Hap Wilson

Elizabeth Northey introduced Hap Wilson, a self-taught artist, photographer, writer, wilderness guide and environmentalist. He has taught Pierce Brosnan (James Bond) how to paddle a canoe and has received the Bill Mason Award for Lifetime achievement (another winner is Pierre Elliot Trudeau.) He has written eight best-selling books as well as articles for Cottage Life and Canadian Geographic. He is currently working as environmentalist and adventure trail specialist at Red Leaves Resort.

Hap began his presentation with a slide show of a canoe trip through the wilderness. He defines wilderness as "an attractive land, left undeveloped, where natural forces operate unaffected by man." Despite development in Muskoka, there are still pockets of wilderness, and secluded places to canoe, such as the Black and Gibson Rivers. People forget that most of our forest is new growth, after major logging ceased 100 years ago.

His work with Red Leaves is to ensure preservation of wilderness through mutual cooperation with the developers. He is working in over 700 acres that will not be developed, designing interpretive trails for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.

Hap then showed slides from all over Canada, and challenged the audience to spot the roughly 1 in 4 taken in Muskoka.

A question and answer period followed, with most questions relating to Red Leaves. Mr. Wilson remarked that an important part of his work involves careful study of the natural environment, and as many decisions about where not to put trails as choices of where to develop. He also said that most of the trails will be barrier-free. He closed with his concerns about who will monitor to ensure that the wilderness will be preserved once it is opened up. This is a highly political issue, and perhaps we need a "Friends of Muskoka Wilderness" organization. Any takers?

Mr. Wilson donated his honorarium to Earthroots.

Calendar

Social and Travel: (see details on page 4)

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| December 12: | Christmas Party – at the Riverside Inn, cocktails at 5:30 PM |
| January 25, 2008 | Robbie Burns Luncheon – 11:30 AM at the Delta Sherwood Inn, Glen Orchard |
| February 28 | Snowshoeing at Red Leaves – 10:30 AM in Minett, followed by Marriott hotel tour and lunch |
| April 30 | Dirty Dancing – Show at the Royal Alex, Dinner at Penelope, and bus transportation |

Events: (For Special Interest Groups, see the details on Page 3)

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| December 12: | Christmas Party – at the Riverside Inn |
| January 8, 2008: | Probus Club regular meeting – 10:00 A.M. at the Rotary Centre |
| January 22: | Probus Club Management Committee - 10:00 A.M. at the Rotary Centre |

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

*If you are interested in forming an interest group (or if you just wish to share your ideas), please call **GAIL OAKLEY** at 645-8006, or email her at geoakley@sympatico.ca*

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL: (Contact **MIKE** or **MIDGE CARSON**, 645-7394, or **ADELE ALLAN**, 767-3728)

Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 1pm at Bracebridge United Church. There is no meeting in December.

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

Meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. The December meeting will be a Christmas gathering on the 11th at the South Muskoka Golf Club at 12:30 PM.

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

Meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 1 pm at St. Joseph's Church, Bracebridge, cost \$2.25.

COOKING / DINING GROUPS:

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

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

BETH & DOUG WILSON at 765-0398 for *Decadent Dining Out*.

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

COMPUTERS: (Contact **COLIN BARCLAY** at 684-8221 or e-mail cbarclay1@cogeco.ca)

Thursday January 17th from 10:00 to Noon in the Bracebridge Library. A Probus member will speak on several interesting websites. Although group is over-subscribed we have room for 1 or 2 more for this meeting due to Snowbird migration. If interested in this group contact Colin.

CURLING: (Contact **LINDA/ALLEN EDWARDS** at 769-2214 or e-mail al_lindaedwards@vianet.ca)

Curling resumes at the Gravenhurst Curling Club on 3rd Sunday of the month (except Dec.) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. We welcome new and experienced curlers.

CYCLING: (Contact **KEVIN McALLINDON** at 684-8456 or e-mail kmcallindon1@cogeco.ca)

Bicycles are in the garage until spring.

GARDENING: (Contact **NADYA TARASOF** (Central Probus) at 789-2869 or Kimlam@ican.net.)

GENEOLOGY: (Contact **RON DYER** at 645-0004 or e-mail the.dyers@sympatico.ca)

GOLF: (Contact **MIKE GEORGE** (Bracebridge Probus) at 645-3838 or **BOB DARRAGH** at 765-0593)

Clubs are in storage until the spring of 2008.

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

Hikers enjoying other pursuits until the spring of 2008.

H00KERS and KNITTING BEE'S: (Contact **JEANETTE HEENEMAN** at 764-1839)

Due to scheduling problems of the group, many members have joined the "Knitters for Global Warmth", which meets in Huntsville on the every third Thursday of the month from 2 – 3:30 pm. This group works for needy countries and has speakers. Donations of yarn would be welcome. Anyone interested please contact Jeanette.

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

Meets on the Monday before Probus (January 7th) at 10 AM at the Edward Jones Office, 81 Manitoba Street, Bracebridge. New members welcome – no money involved.

KAYAK/CANOEING: (Contact **JOE URSANO** at 645-8381 or e-mail jursano@vianet.on.ca)

We will be hibernating until Spring.

LADIES EVENING OUT: (Contact **GAIL OAKLEY** at 645-8006 or **BONNIE BLAIN** at 646-1155)

MOVIE BUFS:

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

SOCIAL EVENTS: (Contact **DIANNE DARRAGH** at 765-0593, diannedar@aol.com, 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.

Upcoming Events:

Cookie Exchange !!

Don't forget our annual Cookie Exchange at our meeting on December 11 during the coffee break. Each person is to bring in 3 dozen cookies wrapped in one-dozen packages. On the package, your name, phone number and allergy alert (nuts) if applicable. Then...you get to pick three packages and will walk away with 36 cookies to serve to family and friends during the holidays! Yum! Questions? Carol Ursano 645-8381 or Jursano@vianet.ca

Annual Christmas Party

December 12 Once again we will be at the Riverside Inn to enjoy conversation, food, and dancing – cocktails at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:30. The cost is \$55 per person. If you have not yet paid, please bring your cheque to the next Probus meeting. Contact Marlene and Richard Robinson 767-3000.

Robbie Burns Luncheon

January 25, 2008 *"Tak' a tassie wi'a trusty fiere!"* Mark your calendar for our annual date with Robbie Burns, Friday January 25th, at the Delta Sherwood Inn in Glen Orchard. Cocktails at 11:30 AM, lunch at 12:30. The cost is \$26 per person. Please bring a cheque payable to the Probus Club of South Muskoka to the next meeting,, or mail it to Bonnie Blain, 57 Pinecone Drive, Bracebridge, Ontario, P1L 2G3. For information, contact Joni Addis (765-1118).

Red Leaves Snowshoe Trip

February 28 Snowshoe the Nature Trail at Red Leaves in Minett, take a tour of the Marriott Five Star Hotel, and enjoy a box lunch at the Rock Steakhouse and Grille on Thursday February 28 at 10:30 a.m. Cost \$15.00 per person. Bring a cheque to the next meeting or mail one to Bonnie Blain. (Please see her address above in the Robbie Burns announcement.) Note: This trip is already half filled so if you want in on it don't delay. More information? Please call Dianne Darragh (765 0593) or Thelma Marrin (645 9760)

Dirty Dancing

April 30, 2008 We have tickets for the latest musical coming to Toronto, but to get good seats we have to plan in advance! As usual, we will share a bus with members of the Gravenhurst club. The agenda includes shopping and lunch at Sherway Plaza, afternoon matinee at the Royal Alex, and dinner at Penelope. \$145 covers everything but your lunch. Contact Adele Allan, 676-3728 or adelalla@yahoo.com.

Buffet Lunch Cruise

August 19, 2008 It's not too soon to mark your calendars for the ever-popular boat cruise. This time we'll sail on the Island Princess out of Orillia, from Noon to 1:30. The price is tentatively \$35 per person, subject to possible rate adjustments in the new year. Contact Elizabeth Hughes at 385-2020, or behughes@sympatico.ca.

YOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2007-2008

Co-Presidents:	Rena & Arno Liebster	646-8909	renarno@sympatico.ca
Past President:	Ted Daglish	765-0330	daglish@muskoka.com
Vice-President:	Peter McLaren	645-1015	pmclaren@muskoka.com
Secretary:	Carol Ursano	645-8381	jursano@vianet.on.ca
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Theatre / Trips:	Adele Allan	767-3728	adelalla@yahoo.com
Member-at-Large:	Marilyn Croft	764-0099	cro55@on.aibn.com