

# Monthly Newsletter of the Probus Club of South Muskoka

October 2007



Club No. 119,  
Chartered June 12, 2001

## Presidents' Remarks

" Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination... and life to everything."  
-- Plato

October is our favorite month of the year. The colours are brilliant and the air is fresh. We have started singing again with the Cellar Singers and had the pleasure of performing in our new theatre. What a wonderful facility! We are all back full swing into our regular activities. Make room in your busy schedules for our Probus Special Interest Groups. There are many activities from which to choose. We look forward to an exciting and interesting Fair at our next meeting.

Rena and Arno Liebster

## This Month's Meeting: October 9, 2007

Greeters: Linda and Allen Edwards

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

10:20 - 11:05 Special Interests Fair + Intermission

11:05 Speaker: Peter McLaren – "Bird Migration"

12:00 Adjourn

## Next Month: (November 13, 2007)

Greeters: Judy and Bill Watson

Biography: Dianne Darragh

Speaker: Hap Wilson – Environmentalist – "Wild Muskoka"

## Words of Wit and Wisdom

October is crisp days and cool nights, a time to curl up around the dancing flames and sink into a good book.

- **John Sinor** (Author, b. 1930)

You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, 'Wow, you're right! I never would've thought of that!'

- **Dave Barry** (Humorist, b. 1947)



### 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 bring a copy 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](mailto:pbowker@sympatico.ca) / 765-0242

## At our last meeting ... (September 12, 2007)

### Club Financial Report: Colin Barclay

Over the past couple of months, member Colin Barclay made a review of the club's finances for the 2006-2007 year (distributed to all members with last month's newsletter). In his verbal report, Colin stated that the club is in excellent financial condition, with no problems of accounting or process to concern us. Co-President Arno Liebster thanked Colin for his excellent work on our behalf.

### Special Guest: Dave Moore

Dave has been engaged by Elections Ontario to brief electors on the upcoming referendum to groups like ours. He explained the differences between the current "First-Past-The-Post" and the proposed "Mixed Member Proportional" system being recommended by the Citizens Assembly. In this system, the number of ridings would be reduced from 107 to 90, each to elect a member as is done today, first past the post. Another 39 seats would be filled from prioritized lists of candidates provided by each party, to "top up" each party's total seat count to approximate its share of the total popular vote. Dave illustrated in detail how this would work, and contrasted some of the possible positive and negative implications of both the current and the proposed systems.

### Guest Speaker: Rudy Hrdlicka

Rudy was born in Prague, where as a child he enjoyed designing and building his own boats. He continued doing so after he came to Canada in 1968. He has embarked on many canoeing adventures, often designing a specific craft for the conditions he will meet.

A recent trip was a six-week excursion down the Nahani river system in the Northwest Territories, which was the first Canadian region to be named a World Heritage site (in 1978). Rudy took many beautiful and inspiring photos of the journey and used them well to illustrate his talk.

He and his companions drove to the drop-off point on the Macmillan River and began moving downstream towards the Nahani. Some rapids were passable but others required portage – where no trails existed they had to force themselves through dense forest. They did tip once and were fortunate not to lose anything, since the fast moving river could quickly carry a loose canoe and all provisions far out of reach. They entered another small creek leading to the Nahani itself. Travelling upstream, they once had to pull their canoe through ten kilometres of rapids by wading along the edge of the river. Eventually they reached the headwaters of the Nahani and took a side trip to climb Mount Wilson before descending the river. It is a beautiful mixture of smooth wide waters, narrow gorges, breathtaking waterfalls and raging rapids.

Many sights were seen and explored along the way, such as the spectacular Virginia Falls, the Figure-8 whirlpools, the Preacher, the Headless Range. From time to time they left the water to explore nearby valleys and cliffs which offer magnificent views of the river valleys and mountains. All of these were expertly captured on film and the appreciative audience often gasped at the sights.

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## Calendar

### Social and Travel: (see details on page 4)

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>November 6:</b>    | <b>Georgian Downs</b> – Races, dinner and transport. Bus departs at 4:30 PM               |
| <b>December 1:</b>    | <b>Christmas with the Canadian Tenors</b> – at the Rene Caisse Theatre                    |
| <b>December 12:</b>   | <b>Christmas Party</b> – at the Riverside Inn   |
| <b>April 30, 2008</b> | <b>Dirty Dancing</b> – 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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|---------------------|---|
| <b>October 23:</b>  | <b>Probus Club Management Committee</b> - 10:00 A.M. at the Rotary Centre |
| <b>November 13:</b> | <b>Probus Club regular meeting</b> – 10:00 A.M. at the Rotary Centre      |
| <b>December 12:</b> | <b>Christmas Party</b> – at the Riverside Inn                             |



### <<-- Picture Gallery

Members of the Canoeing group recently enjoyed a quit paddle.

(photo by Joe Ursano)

## 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](mailto: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.

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

Meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. (Oct. 23/07 at Irene Green's home – Book is *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards.)

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

Meets on the last Tuesday of the month (Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>) at 1 pm at St. Joseph's Church, Bracebridge, cost \$2.25.

## COOKING / DINING GROUPS:

**BONNIE ALEXANDER** at 732-1734 for *Decadent Dining Out*. Spaces are available. There will be a sign-up sheet at the October Special Interest Fair.

The following 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*

**DIANNE DARRAGH** at 765-0593, email [diannedarragh@aol.com](mailto:diannedarragh@aol.com) for *Dine and Unwind*

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

**CURLING:** (Contact **LINDA/ALLEN EDWARDS** at 769-2214 or e-mail [al\\_lindaedwards@vianet.ca](mailto:al_lindaedwards@vianet.ca))

Games are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 2 – 4 pm starting Nov. through to March **except Dec.**

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

Next ride will take place on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

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

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

The October hike was the last one for this season. Hiking will resume in the spring of 2008.

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

Meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. Spaces available there will be a sign up sheet at the October Special Interest Fair.

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

Meeting on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jursano@vianet.on.ca))

## MOVIE BUFS:

**VIDEO GROUP (1)** meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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:

### Georgian Downs

**November 6** A day at the races. Your \$65 ticket includes the bus, dinner, taxes and tips. Bus departs from the Rotary centre at 4:30 PM. Registration forms have been distributed, or can be had from Adele Allan 767-3728, [adelalla@yahoo.com](mailto:adelalla@yahoo.com).

### Concert - "Christmas with the Canadian Tenors"

**December 1** Described as "Canada's National Treasures", the Canadian Tenors have received rave reviews from coast to coast. Their **Christmas with the Canadian Tenors** show includes seasonal best-loved favourites and soon-to-be-favourites. This special holiday show at 8:00 PM in the new Rene M. Caisse Theatre in Bracebridge is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit! Tickets are at a special price for the South Muskoka Probus Club are \$28.50 + GST = **\$30.21**. Bring your cheque to the October 9 Probus meeting please. For more info contact Adele Allan 767-3728, [adelalla@yahoo.com](mailto:adelalla@yahoo.com).

### Annual Christmas Party

**December 12** Once again we will be at the Riverside Inn to enjoy conversation, food, and dancing. Organizers are Marlene and Richard Robinson 646-2443.

### 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](mailto:adelalla@yahoo.com).

### Buffet Lunch Cruise

**August 19, 2008** Even more in advance, please 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](mailto:behughes@sympatico.ca).

### Five-year Pins

Anniversary membership pins are available from Probus Canada at a cost of \$5.00. Contact Peter McLaren if you wish to order one.

## YOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2007-2008

Co-Presidents:	Rena & Arno Liebster	646-8909	<a href="mailto:renarno@sympatico.ca">renarno@sympatico.ca</a>
Past President:	Ted Daglish	765-0330	<a href="mailto:daglish@muskoka.com">daglish@muskoka.com</a>
Vice-President:	Peter McLaren	645-1015	<a href="mailto:pmclaren@muskoka.com">pmclaren@muskoka.com</a>
Secretary:	Carol Ursano	645-8381	<a href="mailto:jursano@vianet.on.ca">jursano@vianet.on.ca</a>
Treasurer:	Bonnie Blain	646-1155	<a href="mailto:bblain3@sympatico.ca">bblain3@sympatico.ca</a>
Speakers:	Joe Ursano	645-8381	<a href="mailto:jursano@vianet.on.ca">jursano@vianet.on.ca</a>
Newsletter:	Perry Bowker	765-0242	<a href="mailto:pbowker@sympatico.ca">pbowker@sympatico.ca</a>
Membership:	Margaret McLaren	645-1015	<a href="mailto:pmclaren@muskoka.com">pmclaren@muskoka.com</a>
Special Interest:	Gail Oakley	645-8006	<a href="mailto:geoakley@sympatico.ca">geoakley@sympatico.ca</a>
Social / Events:	Dianne Darragh	765-0593	<a href="mailto:diannedar@aol.com">diannedar@aol.com</a>
Theatre / Trips:	Adele Allan	767-3728	<a href="mailto:adelalla@yahoo.com">adelalla@yahoo.com</a>
Member-at-Large:	Marilyn Croft	764-0099	<a href="mailto:cro55@on.aibn.com">cro55@on.aibn.com</a>