

Monthly Newsletter of the Probus Club of South Muskoka

February 2008



Club No.119,
Chartered June 12, 2001

Presidents' Remarks

"An old man in love is like a flower in winter" Portuguese Proverb

This is a message for our snowbirds. GUESS WHAT! IT'S SNOWING IN MUSKOKA!!!! The scenery is picture perfect with billowing white snow on the trees. We will miss you and wish you lots of fun in the sun and safe journeys wherever you roam. We'll see you in the spring. But life continues here. The Robbie Burns luncheon was a great success. Thank you to Joni Addis, Catherine Dedrick, and all those who arranged our wonderful afternoon. Our club is fortunate to have many dedicated members who work on your behalf to create and implement exciting programs and keep our club running smoothly. Thanks for your efforts.

Rena and Arno Liebster

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Construction activity continues 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: February 12, 2008

Greeters: Elizabeth and Ken Northey

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

10:20 - 10:40 Biography: John Curran

11:05 Guest Speaker: Nancy Telfer, Composer

12:00 Adjourn

Next Month: (March 11, 2008)

Greeters: Brian and Marilyn Croft

Biography: Bonnie Blain

Guest Speaker: Malcolm Wilson, M.D. - "The Benefits of Exercise"

Words of Wit and Wisdom

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

- Winston Churchill

[Concerning writing to politicians] Your letter is more likely to be counted than read, so better make it clear what you want in the first sentence.

- Bob Parks (scientist)



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 (January 8, 2008)

Biography: Rena Liebster (Leventhal)

Rena is the second of three daughters, all of whom were taught to love music, value education, and live with a sense of humour. Her father was a pediatrician. They lived first on Palmerston Avenue in Toronto and later on Spadina Road in Forest Hill – where she grew up to be the second tallest in her family, ¼ inch under five feet. Early aspirations were varied - becoming an actor, or maybe a doctor - her teachers recognized a talent for mathematics. Eventually she entered the Biology and Medicine program at U of T and graduated with a B.Sc. in 1966. While the next step would have been Medicine, she had married her childhood sweetheart, Sheldon, and so switched to graduate school and earned a M.Sc. Then her children Paul and Debbie were born and she never got around to medicine.

Unfortunately, after ten years her marriage failed and she had to support her family, so she took a temporary job in a friend's dental office – which lasted ten years! Along the way she learned enough to start a consulting company specializing in Dental Practice Management.

A close call with breast cancer in 1989 encouraged her to make a life change, so she started a business providing math tutoring. This led to the realization that she really wanted to be an educator, so in 1991 she was accepted into the Faculty of Education at U of T. She graduated in 1992, now qualified to teach Math, Science, and ESL. She worked for Jobs Ontario and then Seneca College, and then got a position at Western Tech. She learned that despite the rough nature of the students (many of whom were quite tall!) she loved teaching and the feeling of making a difference.

With her children now grown and on their own, she was glad to have made friends with a young math teacher who, it turned out, had a single father named Arno. Before long, nature took its course and they married. Amazingly, they discovered that their pictures were side by side in the 1966 U of T yearbook – they had been that close for 28 years before meeting! Their blended family now has five children and their spouses, and six grandchildren. On retirement, they moved to Bracebridge where they enjoy being part of the Cellar Singers, playing bridge, volunteer work, and fellowship in our Probus club.

The Member's Biography is a popular feature of our meetings! The schedule is filled for the next few months, but we need a bio for June, and for August onwards. If you haven't done yours yet, please sign up with our Presidents.

Guest Speaker: Ken Garth

In what has become a January tradition for our club, Mr. Garth spoke on "Tax Tips for Seniors". He decided to highlight recent changes in tax law that we ought to be aware of. While there were lively questions discussed throughout the presentation, I [the editor] choose to list only the topics here, without detail ... you should review any you think might apply with your own financial advisor.

- Pension splitting allows transferring up to 50% of pension income between spouses
- CPP may also be split if one spouse has no CPP – but this must be arranged with CPP authorities in advance
- The age at which RRSPs deductions are ineligible for tax credit, and when RRSPs must start to be collapsed into RIFs, has been increased from 69 to 71. Also, deductions can still be made on behalf of a spouse who is still under 71
- Some eligible Canadian dividends may now qualify for an increased tax credit – check your T3 or T5's
- The Capital Gains exemption on the sale of businesses and farm land has been raised to \$750,000 – but complex tax rules apply
- T3 slips must be issued earlier than in the past, to match the deadline for other information slips
- Charitable donations – stocks and certain land holdings can be donated without triggering capital gains
- And don't forget to claim credits for pension income, caregiver expense, and medical expenses.

In summary, the talk was wide-ranging and informative. Mr. Garth donated his honorarium to the South Muskoka Hospital.

Robbie Burns Luncheon – January 28, 2008

SECOND IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our Probus Club runs like a well-oiled machine, thanks to the work of our Management Committee. Once again it is time to solicit nominations for positions that will become vacant in June when current terms expire. The jobs are easy and fun because the rest of the team is always there to help. We will need four new members this year, to take the roles of: **Secretary, Speakers Chair, Newsletter Chair, and Vice-President**. If you don't volunteer, expect a tap on the shoulder! (You may also wish to join the nominating committee.)
Contact Ted Daglish at 765-0330 or daglish@muskoka.com



Hosts Catherine and Joanie, with 'The Immortal Bard'

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. Please join us for our EGYPTIAN EXPERIENCE as presented by Peter Gairusso on Wednesday, February 19, 2008 at Bracebridge United Church at 1:00 p.m. Bring a friend !!!! See you there Adele Allan

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

Meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

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. We now have seven tables and growing. There is no need to have a partner. Next game is February 26.

COOKING / DINING GROUPS: (all groups are full, but please contact the convener to get on a wait list)

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*

CRAIG & LOUISE HUDSADT at 641-1949, email chustadt@cogeco.ca for the *Prestige Diners*

COMPUTERS: (Contact **COLIN BARCLAY** at 684-8115 or e-mail cbarclay1@cogeco.ca)

Thursday March 20th from 10:00 to Noon in the Bracebridge Library. Subject Genealogy on the Internet by Reference Librarian Nancy Wilson. This is not intended for people new to genealogy. Please register with Colin.

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

Curling at the Gravenhurst Curling Club on Sunday February 17th. Setup of teams at 1:30 pm curling at 2:00. 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, but if anyone wants to downhill ski at Collingwood, we'd welcome them to come along.

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)

Our clubs are in storage until the spring.

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

Hikers are enjoying other pursuits until the spring.

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 (February 11th) 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)

Wellness Clinic – Therapeutic Touch on the 13th of March at 7:00 pm at Bracebridge United Church (Upstairs Parlour). Bonnie Christie of Probus will be speaking.

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

Upcoming Social and Travel Events:

*The Social Committee arranges events such as luncheons, day trips, and tours. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. (Contact **DIANNE DARRAGH** at 765-0593, diannedar@aol.com, or the Social Committee)*

Snowshoeing at Red Leaves

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 (from Fine Thymes Restaurant) at the Rock Steakhouse and Grille on Thursday February 28 at 10:30 a.m. We are fully subscribed, but a few spaces may open up. The cost \$15.00 per person. Snowshoe rentals are available at Muskoka Outfitters (646-0492) for \$15.00 a day. Call Thelma Marrin (645-9760).

Wabara Japanese Hibachi Lunch

March 18 There is still space to join us at 12:00 p.m. for lunch at Wabara restaurant in Bracebridge. Your meal includes soup, one choice of chicken, beef or salmon, plus veggies, rice (white or brown), mango tempura ice cream or chocolate spring rolls, tea or coffee. Cost is \$25.00 including tax and gratuity. Bring your cheque to the next meeting, or contact Linda Edwards (769-2214 or al.lindaedwards@vianet.ca)

Dirty Dancing

April 30 We have tickets for the latest musical coming to Toronto, and there may still be a few seats left! 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.

Shaw Festival – “Wonderful Town”

May 7 Enjoy a tour and lunch at the Peller Estates Winery, followed by a matinee performance of Wonderful Town and dinner at the Mandarin in Brampton! As usual, we will share a bus with members of the Gravenhurst club. Bus departs Bracebridge at 7 AM, back by 11 PM. \$165 per person covers everything. Bring a cheque payable to Probus Club of South Muskoka to our next meeting. Contact Adele Allan, 676-3728 or adelalla@yahoo.com.

Buffet Lunch Cruise

August 19 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 when plans are confirmed. Contact Elizabeth Hughes at 385-2020, or behughes@sympatico.ca.

Music Man

October 7 We are planning an exciting trip to see THE MUSIC MAN at Stratford on Tuesday, October 7th. The cost is \$165 per person which includes transportation, ticket, and lunch. Space is limited, so if you are interested, contact Adele Allan, 676-3728 or adelalla@yahoo.com.

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
Treasurer:	Bonnie Blain	646-1155	bblain3@sympatico.ca
Speakers:	Joe Ursano	645-8381	jursano@vianet.on.ca
Newsletter:	Perry Bowker	765-0242	pbowker@sympatico.ca
Membership:	Margaret McLaren	645-1015	pmclaren@muskoka.com
Special Interest:	Gail Oakley	645-8006	geoakley@sympatico.ca
Social / Events:	Dianne Darragh	765-0593	diannedar@aol.com
Member-at-Large:	Marilyn Croft	764-0099	cro55@on.aibn.com