

Monthly Newsletter of the **Probus Club of South Muskoka**



April 2009

Presidents' Remarks:

And now for something completely different, as John Cleese used to say. The Gastric Brooding Frog was discovered in the rainforests of Queensland, Australia, in the 1970's. As their name suggests, these frogs raise their young inside their stomachs. Females swallow fertilized eggs which then hatch and develop in the mother's gut to be regurgitated as mature tadpoles. To avoid being digested by their mother, the young secrete substances that were under investigation as a treatment for human stomach ulcers, a major health problem around the world. Then in the early 1980's, the Gastric Brooding Frog went extinct, a tragic loss to biodiversity (all such losses are tragic) and a major setback to medical research. Causes of its extinction are unclear, but habitat loss and parasites are suspected to have been contributing factors.

I will admit that this doesn't have much relevance to our Probus Club, except to those of us who suffer from ulcers. However, I found it interesting, just like I find our Club.

Peter McLaren

This Month's Meeting: - April 14, 2009

Greeters: Alan & Queenie Reville

10:00 - 10:10 President's Remarks

10:10 - 10:40 Biography: John Vellinga

11:05 Speaker: Jim Hodgson, Lake Central Airways
Aircraft Modifications for Research

12:00 Adjourn

Next Month: May 12, 2009

Greeters: Stan & Barb Hiseler

Biography: John Gasson

Speaker: Chief Warrant Officer, Yves Beaudoin – Afghanistan experiences

Words of Wit and Wisdom

The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring. - Bern Williams

Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get. - Dale Carnegie



Care Bear:

If you know of anyone who is ill or has suffered bereavement, please call Rena or Arno Liebster at 646-8909.

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, or complaints, to your Newsletter Editor at kpharoah@muskoka.com 646-2104
(Your pictures are also welcome ... full-res jpegs please)

At our last meeting March 10, 2009

Biography: Peter Milner

Peter opened by remarking that in his 75 years he has “wandered the world” – 1/3 in Europe and the UK, 1/3 in the US, and 1/3 in Canada. His Father’s family was from England and had moved to Canada; however, he was born in 1934 in New Jersey in the US, where his father had gone to work for IBM’s World Trade division. He was only four months old when the family moved to Switzerland, as his father had been promoted to the senior financial position in the new IBM Europe. So his first language was French. With World War II starting, they had to return to the US. Later, his father left IBM for a job with Alcan, and the family went to Montreal. As he was graduating from High School, his father was moved to London, but Peter stayed and entered McGill. After graduation, he got a financial intern position in England, but soon found it boring, so he went to France to brush up his French. Meanwhile his father retired back to Canada, and persuaded Peter to return also. He gave Law a try but didn’t like it; and tried other things for a few years. Finally he hit upon teaching and qualified himself as a French teacher, which proved to his liking at last. He taught in several public schools before moving to a series of private schools, which he found more satisfying as well as more challenging. Along the way he also became an avid skier and coach. His final school was Rosseau Lake College, where he stayed until retiring in 2002. He and wife Elizabeth moved to Connecticut, where they owned a small farm. But taxes and the aftermath of 9/11 eventually made this uncomfortable, and so they moved to Bracebridge. He has lost track of how many times he has moved in his life, but the number must be upwards of 50.

Speakers: Jan Lucy of Nipissing University and Bonnie DeWitt of Georgian College

There have been many exciting developments in the Bracebridge campuses of this Community College and University, which Jan and Bonnie came to share with us.

Jan Lucy began with a bit of history of Nipissing University, and especially the newly completed Bracebridge campus. Right now they have about 125 students, but can handle up to 600. Naturally their interest is to offer degree programs for local students where possible, and they are even able to offer Masters-level programs. They are currently planning to roll out several new degree courses, including a BComm in Hospitality.

She showed a ‘slide tour’ of the new building and its amenities. They have several classrooms for 30 students, and a 100-seat lecture hall. All are well equipped with audio-visual and teaching aids. The entire campus is wireless-enabled, and students can use their own laptops or borrow one from a loan pool. As well, there is a lounge operated by the students, and other usual facilities.

Next, Bonnie Dewitt told the story of Georgian College, which has had a Bracebridge campus for thirty years, although often located in a storefront. However, they were offered the old Centennial Centre, and after a lot of work now have a proper facility. The majority of students are from the Muskoka area. Georgian offers the usual range of Community College programs, but of special importance are a number of courses which allow students and adults to ‘top up’ their high school subjects and/or to qualify for higher education. They work with Nipissing to try to provide a seamless range of education for local people. However, they also recognize the local demand for many types of skilled trades, and can in some cases provide apprenticeships leading to certification. They are also proud of their “Women in Skilled Trades” curriculum.

The speakers were thanked and presented with honoraria, which they directed to the Cancer Society and to the Bracebridge Library.

OUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2008 – 2009

President:	Peter McLaren	645-1015	mpmclaren@sympatico.ca
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Member-at-Large:	Marilyn Croft	764-0099	cro55@on.aibn.com
Past Presidents:	Rena & Arno Liebster	646-8909	renarno@sympatico.ca

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

If you are interested in forming another 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: ADELE ALLAN, 767-3728. Next meeting is in May. Everyone is welcome!

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

Last bridge session on April 28th, until next September.

Cooking/Dining: Groups are full, but if interested in being on a waiting list, please contact:

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 the Decadent Dining Out

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

CRAIG/LOUISE HUSTADT at 641-1949 for The Prestige Diners

RENA LIEBSTER at 646-8909 for Easy Dining

Computers: If interested in this group Contact COLIN BARCLAY at 684-8115. Kathy Ashby at the Bracebridge Library will give one-on-one sessions for a variety of computer subjects. If interested, contact the library at 645-4171 to book an hour.

Curling: Contact LINDA/ALLEN EDWARDS at 769-2214 or e-mail al_lindaedwards@vianet.ca

Curling is over until next November.

Cycling: Contact KEVIN McALLIDON at 684-8456 or e-mail Kmcallindon1@cogeco.ca.

Will be up and running May 2009.

Geneology: If interested, Contact RON DYER at 645-0004

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

Hookers and Knitting Bees: Contact JEANETTE HEENEMAN at 764-1839

“Knitters for Global Warmth” which meets in Huntsville on every third Thursday of the month from 2 ‘til 3:30 pm. Anyone interested please contact Jeanette as we have a carpool going. New members and knitting material always welcome.

Hiking and Walking: Contact HERWIG or LYNNE SCHROTH at 765-7394 or email herlyn@muskoka.com.

First official hike is May 8th. We will be doing the Fairy Vista Trail in Huntsville. More info to follow for the hiking group.

Investment: Contact FRED GREEN AT 385-2241. Meeting on Monday before Probus at 10 am at the Edward Jones Office, 81 Manitoba Street, Bracebridge. New members welcome – no money involved.

Movie Buffs:

VIDEO GROUP (1) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. 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. Group is full at this time, but for information or to go on a waiting list, contact ANNE OR FRED GRANT at 687-5633.

Note: The new LCD Projector is now available to Special Interest Groups for their use only.

Social Events

(Contact Dianne Darragh at 765-0593 or the social committee) Events such as day trips, tours, and luncheons are usually planned for the third Thursday each month.

Muskoka Airport Tour

On Tuesday, March 17th, this handsome group attended an organized tour of the Muskoka Airport, including a presentation of "The Lost Airmen of Muskoka" by Al Bacon.

Thanks to Joe Ursano for this photograph.



The Wildflower Farm

Wednesday May 27. On Highway 12, just west of Highway 11, from 11:30 to 3:30
Lunch, presentation and tour - \$25.00. Call Dianne 765-0593 or diannedar@aol.com after April 1st.

Sparrow Lake Fall Cruise

Saturday, October 3rd from 9:30 to 4:00 pm. This is one of the Island Princess' most popular cruises. Cost is \$65.00 including continental breakfast, coffee all day, plus a hot & cold buffet lunch. Call or e-mail Dianne after April 1st.

Theatre & Travel Events

Sound of Music

Wednesday, September 2nd:- We will have a morning tour of Casa Loma, followed by Lunch (not included), the Sound of Music at 1:30pm, and then diner at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Toronto. Only four places left, (first come, first served basis). Contact Adele Allan adelalla@yahoo.com

Editor's Note: *Special thanks to Perry Bowker for his kind assistance in providing bio and speaker write-ups over the past two months when I was unable to attend monthly meetings.*