

Monthly Newsletter of the
Probus Club of South Muskoka
February 2009



Presidents' Remarks:

As we plod through winter, we constantly seek signs of spring, pathetic though they may be. Such as seeing a crow, even if it was just north of Toronto. Or it's being light when one gets up in the morning (the fact that it's dark at night may be that the sun has gone down or that the snow banks are covering all the windows, I'm not sure which). Anyhow, this is the time of year when our snowbirds have flown their respective coops and the rest of us with apparently clipped wings continue to shovel. We may be many fewer at this time of year, but I have no doubt the quality of our activities will stay high. I encourage all of us who are still around to keep active, both without and within Our Club. Attend the meetings, meet other members and check the activities and Special Interest groups described in the newsletter.

Peter McLaren

This Month's Meeting: - February 10, 2009

Greeters: Perry & Karen Bowker

10:00 - 10:10 President's Remarks
10:10 - 10:40 Biography: Margaret Smithyes
11:05 Speaker: Ken Garth - BDO Dunwoody
12:00 Adjourn

Next Month: (March 10, 2009)

Greeters: Alan & Queenie Reville
Biography: Peter Milner
Speaker: TBA

Words of Wit and Wisdom

Forgiveness is not an occasional act. It is a permanent attitude.
- Dr. Martin Luther King

Tell a man there are 400 billion stars and he'll believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint and he has t touch it.
- Stephen Wright



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

At our last meeting January 13, 2008

Biography: Sandra Snelling

When we experience Sandra's upbeat outlook and generous attitude, it's hard to imagine how much hardship she has endured. Born in Lancashire, England, Sandra spent most of her formative years in and out of abusive foster homes following her parents' divorce.

She met her husband, Gordon in Coventry. Together they raised three children, two girls and one boy. In 1975, because of deteriorating social and economic conditions in England, the Snelling family immigrated to Canada where her husband found work with Bell Canada in Bracebridge.

In the late 1980's, when Gordon had suffered a series of strokes and was unable to work, Sandra became the breadwinner. She worked in a number of administrative support positions within the community until her rheumatoid arthritis finally forced her to retire a few years ago.

Since that time, the Snelling's have endured a daughter's mini-stroke, a granddaughter's heart transplant, and a son's brain aneurysm and continuing rehab. For good reason, Sandra considers herself a survivor.

Sandra finds enjoyment in travelling, knitting, reading, playing cards, surfing the web, and most of all, her family including five wonderful grandchildren.

Speaker: Ken Arnott

As a member of the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association, Ken has visited many of the war veterans who are still in residence in Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital. One of them is Hal Gooding, a former pilot who has a particularly interesting story to tell. Over a period of four years, Ken & Hal met once a week to assemble the details of Hal's combat experiences. This resulted in the recently released book "A Man Called Hal" which Ken wrote as a thank you to Hal and the other veterans who sacrificed their youth so that we could enjoy today.

Hal Gooding flew most of his combat missions in extreme weather conditions over the Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska. In total, he flew 309 sorties over enemy territory, had three tours of duty, and crash landed twice. Now 89 years of age, Hal is one of the two left from his original Aleutian group.

As Ken Arnott observed, Hal Gooding is just an ordinary man who was able to accomplish the extraordinary.

OUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2008 - 2009

President:	Peter McLaren	645-1015	pmclaren@muskoka.com
Vice-President:	Robert Doig	645-0391	past.tense@sympatico.ca
Secretary:	Sandra Hartill	646-0082	scm.hartill@sympatico.ca
Treasurer:	Bonnie Blain	646-1155	bblain3@sympatico.ca
Speakers:	Joe Ursano	645-8381	jursano@vianet.on.ca
Newsletter:	Ken Pharoah	646-2104	kpharoah@muskoka.com
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
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. Announcements will be made for individual meetings. Adele will keep us up to date.

Book Group: Contact MARILYN CROFT at 764-0099

Meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. February meeting on the 24th at Irene Green's home. Book this month is "The Elegant Gathering of Whit Snows" by Chris Radish. New members are welcome.

Bridge: Contact JEANETTE HEENEMAN at 764-1839

Bridge has a new location this year. Time from 1 pm to 4 pm, it will be at James Street Place, 148 James St., Bracebridge. Cost: \$2.25

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 LAVENTHOL at 646-8909 for Easy Dining

Computers: If interested in this group Contact COLIN BARCLAY at 684-8115.

The Bracebridge Library has set up a training session on February 25th – Boost Your Brain Power. Contact Kathy Ashby at 645-4171 to register as space is limited.

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

Curling is on Sunday, February 21st at 2:00 pm in Gravenhurst. Registration is at 1:30 and all are welcome.

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 the every third Thursday of the month from 2 'til 3:30 pm. is doing very well and are working hard for the needy people in Kabul, Peru, Bolivia, etc. Knitting material is always welcome. Anyone interested please contact Jeanette.

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

Hiking will resume in April/May of 2009.

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.

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.

Robbie Burns Dinner

January 25th at the Delta Sherwood Inn. See Joni Addis.

Muskoka Airport Tour

Tuesday, March 17th, includes an Irish lunch. More info from Thelma Marrin.

Theatre & Travel Events

Rene Caisse Theatre.

Sunday, March 1st - Please join us for a matinee performance of "Gypsy". The cost is \$12.50/person and everyone is invited. Please sign up at the next Probus meeting or contact Adele Allen.

AGO Trip

Wednesday, April 8th - We have only 8 seats left for the excursion to the Art Gallery of Ontario. We will have a private tour of the newly transformed galleries, with time for browsing or visiting the gift shop. After the tour, our bus will take us to the Distillery District for lunch, (on your own and at your expense). After lunch, we'll have a private tour of the Distillery District, which is a national historic site of the Gooderham and Worts Distillery. Dinner follows at Le Papillon French cuisine restaurant in Toronto. Please sign up at the next Probus meeting or contact Adele Allen.

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. Please sign up at the next Probus meeting or contact Adele Allan 767-3728 or adelalla@yahoo.com.