

Monthly Newsletter of the
Probus Club of South Muskoka
February 2011



This Month's Meeting: February 8th, 2010 @ 10:00 A.M.

Come early for extra social time & coffee. The doors are open at 9:30

Greeters: Ken and Suzanne Hodgkinson

Attendance: Jim and Thelma Marrin

Tickets: Linda Doig

10:00 - 10:20 President's Remarks and announcements

10:20 Presentation:

10:40 Social Time

11:05 Speaker: Andy Monck – "The Kennedy Assassination"

12:00 Adjourn

Next Month: March 8th, 2011 @ 10:00 A.M.

Greeter: Bev Hall

Speaker: Jan McDonnell – "Co-existing With Muskoka's Wildlife"

Words of Wit and Wisdom

When you win the lottery, no one asks you to explain how. If you have a tragedy, everyone wants to know why.

- **Greg Graffin** (*Scientist and Rock Musician*)

We divorced over religious differences ... I thought I was God, and she didn't.

- **Peter Newman** (*Journalist, 1929 -*)



Care Bear:

If you know of anyone who is ill or has suffered bereavement, please call Bob Doig 645-0391

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 no extra copies will be available there. Be sure to let the Membership Director (Don Nikiforuk, 646-1452 or don.nansi@sympatico.ca.) 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 or 765-0242
(Your pictures of people and events are also welcome ... full-res jpegs please)

At Our Last Meeting ...

Biography - Jim Wardroper

Our club is moving beyond the idea of personal biographies, in favour of members' stories of interesting adventures and achievements. In this regard, Jim did not disappoint!



Using pictures from his personal collection, Jim recounted his involvement over the years in trying to make a difference in the poorest regions of Africa. As an engineer, he could see the possibility of addressing the need for safe water and educational facilities for the people. He had originally been inspired to do something when cruising past the African coast of the Red Sea and seeing the conditions there, but his efforts were stymied by political conditions. In later years he had similar opportunities and disappointments in Eritrea, Uganda (during the Idi Amin era!) and Zaire (Congo). Often he was called to action by friends he had made in these countries, and in turn he called on contacts in Canada to donate or provide supplies and machinery. He continues his involvement to this day.

Sharron Purdy - Moosonee Puppy rescue

Sharron gave an illustrated talk which explained why she and her husband created the Moosonee Puppy Rescue. They had learned, to their horror, of the brutal treatment of unwanted dogs in certain Northern communities, and resolved to do something about it. At their own expense they began to take in at-risk animals sent to them from contacts in these places. They developed a network of people and organizations who help, where they can, to remove animals from danger and transport them south. Over the years they have helped rescue scores of dogs, especially puppies, and placed them in good homes. She recounted many stories about various dogs they have rescued and where they are today.



As Sharron spoke, her companion Stillwater lay quietly, or wandered the room making friends. Stillwater was one of the Mile 26 dogs, who had seemed to take charge of the others to reassure them of their safety with the rescuers. In this picture Abby and Stillwater are sharing some food soon after their rescue.

Moosonee Puppy Rescue is completely supported by donation and fundraising, and does not have charitable status. They are always in need of food, toys, blankets, and so forth. They are located at 1490 Falkenburg Road, telephone 764-1478. There are lots more stories and pictures at moosoneepuppyrescue.com.



In particular, she related the story of "Mile 26". Last May as many as 200 dogs were suddenly orphaned when their 'owner' died in a fire deep in the bush in a location only accessible by whistle-stop on the Ontario Northland rail line. The Purdys called in favors and were able to assemble resources to reach the site and do what they could. When they finally reached Mile 26 by road and rail truck, the rescuers found dozens of dogs waiting for them! The dogs were believed to be feral, but clearly they were not – after being comforted and fed they were happy to be rescued. All told about 60 dogs were brought out of the bush and most are now placed somewhere. Unfortunately an unknown number may still be living in the bush, and there seems to be no practical way to find and remove them.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

These groups meet more or less regularly to pursue a common interest. While some may be full due to physical constraints, most will welcome guests to fill in when regular members are absent. If you are interested in forming an interest group (or if you just wish to share your ideas), please call DIANNE DARRAGH at 765- 0593 or email her at diannedarragh@aol.com

Armchair Travel: The next meeting of the season is on February 9th at 1 P.M. at the Bracebridge United Church. Ron Jean-Marie will present his travels to Antarctica (rescheduled from January). Everyone welcome!

Book Club: Contact MARILYN CROFT at 764-0099 or email her at cro55@on.aibn.com Meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 P.M. The February 22nd meeting is at Judy Watson's home to discuss *Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morten

Bowling Club: Contact LYNDA DOIG at 645 0391 or email her at past.tense@sympatico.ca. Our next game is on Friday February 18th at 7:00 p. m. at the Riverside. Come out and have some fun!

Bridge: This group plays with the Bracebridge Probus Club on the last Tuesday of the month. PETER McLAREN at 645 1015 is our contact. Tuesday February 22nd at James Street Place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Bucket List Club: A horseback-riding excursion is being planned for the spring. If you wish to join up and/or organize an event, please call MARGARET McLAREN at 645-1015.

Cooking/Dining: Please contact:

THELMA MARRIN at 645-9760 for the *Out To Lunch Bunch*. Our next lunch is Wednesday February 16th, 12:00 noon at The Old Station in Bracebridge. Please contact Thelma for more information. Everyone is welcome, but an RSVP phone call or e-mail to jtmarrin@hotmail.com so we can advise the restaurant.

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

ELLEN KING at 645-2305 for the *Red Dragons*. Please join the guest list.

BETH & DOUG WILSON at 765-0398 for *Decadent Dining Out*. Please join the guest list.

DIANNE DARRAGH at 765- 0593 for *Dine and Unwind*. Please join the guest list.

BILL and PENNY BARKER at 762-5524 for the *Prestige Diners*. Please join the guest list.

RENA AND ARNO LIEBSTER at 646-8909 for *Easy Dining*. The Easy Diners meet on the 3rd Thursday of alternate months. We try to have sixteen diners. Please join the on-call list. Our next event will be on March 17th, at the Freer's home.

Computers: FREE WORKSHOPS at the Bracebridge Library have resumed. Admission is on a first come first served basis. Please call Cathy Ashby at 645 4171 to register.

Crafter's Circle: Contact ELIZABETH NORTHEY at 645 2057 or email buscentr@sympatico.ca We usually meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m., but our next meeting will be in April as many of us will be away until then. Please call ahead.

Curling: We normally play on the 3rd Sunday of the month, so the next game will be February 20th from 2:00 – 4:00 in Gravenhurst. Please try to be there at 1:30 so that we can arrange teams. Beginners and experienced curlers are welcome. Upcoming: March 20th.

Hiking and Walking Club: Taking a rest until next spring, when the group will need a new coordinator.

Investment Club: Contact FRED GREEN AT 385-2241. Meetings are on the 2nd Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the Edward Jones Office, 81 Manitoba Street, Bracebridge. Next meeting February 14th. New members welcome – no money involved.

Movie Buffs: Contact LYNDA and KEVIN McALLINDON at 684-8456 or email kmcallindon1@cogeco.com We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Our group is full at this time, but contact us if you wish to go on the waiting list.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES and EVENTS

Billy Elliott -- sold out!! (but here is what you're missing)

The South Muskoka Probus Club, the Gravenhurst Probus Club and the Muskoka Lakes Probus Club invite the membership to a day in Toronto to see BILLY ELLIOT at the Canon Theatre in Toronto on Wednesday, May 18, 2011. The cost is \$170. per person which includes round trip transportation, private tour of The National Ballet School, show ticket for Billy Elliot, dinner at The Sultan's Tent, and all taxes and gratuities. E-mail to Adele Allan at adelalla@yahoo.com or call 767-3728 to reserve your place.

Probus Curling Bonspiel in Collingwood

This annual event for Probus Clubs is coming up in February, and as usual we are invited to put in a team or two. If interested, contact Ron Dyer at 645-0004 or the.dyers@sympatico.ca

Important Notice

At our AGM last June, we decided to have our Annual General Meeting in August. At the AGM, amongst other business, we will elect our Management Committee, which will officially take office in September. (Our year-end remains at May 31st, at which time 2011-12 membership dues are due.)

In the past, the sitting Vice-President has often run for President. This year, we have not had a Vice-President, and so it is doubly important that we secure candidates for the position of President. Under Probus Canada rules, every club must have an elected President; otherwise, the club's charter will be withdrawn and it will be disbanded.

According to our bylaws, we must establish a slate of candidates two months beforehand, that is, by our June meeting. Nominations for this and other positions can be made by anyone, with the approval of the candidate. Just advise the club Secretary in writing of the name, nominator, seconder, and position. It is also permissible for two people to co-hold a position.

All members are encouraged to seriously consider joining the Management Committee. It's not hard, it's fun, and many hands make light work!

YOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2010 – 2011

President:	Ron Dyer	645-0004	the.dyers@sympatico.ca
Vice-President:	-- OPEN --		
Secretary:	Carol Ursano	645-8381	cursano@vianet.on.ca
Treasurer:	Bonnie Christie	646-2095	bngchristie@bell.net
Speakers:	Donna Worth	646-0050	donbur94@muskoka.com
Newsletter:	Perry Bowker	765-0242	pbowker@sympatico.ca
Membership:	Don Nikiforuk	646-1452	don.nansi@sympatico.ca
Special Interest:	Dianne Darragh	765-0593	diannedar@aol.com
Social / Events:	Adele Allan	767-3728	adelealla@yahoo.com
Member-at-Large:	Beverly Hall	646-9521	revbev@vianet.ca
Past President:	Bob Doig	645-0391	past.tense@sympatico.ca



Month-At-A-Glance ... and More

February 8	Monthly Proboscis Meeting – Social time 9:30 AM, Meeting starts at 10:00
February 9	Armchair Travelers – “Antarctica” - 1:00 P.M. at Bracebridge United
February 14	♥ ♥ ♥ Valentine’s Day ♥ ♥ ♥
February 14	Investment Club – Edward Jones Office at 10:00 A.M.
February 16	Out-to-Lunch-Bunch – The Old Station in Bracebridge at 12:00 Noon
February 18	Bowling – 7:00 P.M. at the Riverside
February 20	Curling – 1:30 PM at the Gravenhurst Curling Club
February 22	South Muskoka Management Committee meets at 9:30 AM
February 22	Bridge Club – 1:00 PM at James Street Place
February 22	Book Club – 1:30 P.M. at Judy Watson’s
March 8	Monthly Proboscis Meeting – Social time 9:30 AM, Meeting starts at 10:00
March 14	Investment Club – Edward Jones Office at 10:00 A.M.
March 17	♣ ♣ ♣ St. Patrick’s Day ♣ ♣ ♣
March 18	Bowling – 7:00 P.M. at the Riverside
March 20	Curling – 1:30 PM at the Gravenhurst Curling Club
March 22	South Muskoka Management Committee meets at 9:30 AM
March 29	Bridge Club – 1:00 PM at James Street Place