

PROBUS NORTHSHORE

NEWSLETTER



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President's Message

Fall glorious fall! The days get shorter, the air gets crisper, the trees treat us to a kaleidoscope of colour and you get a new president to break in. As I look over the past year, I realize I have some big shoes to fill and would like to thank, on your behalf, Past President Bruce for all his hard work and dedication as well as for all the fun he made our meetings this year.

As I sat down to write this, my first President's message I scanned both Bruce's and Sharon's past missives to try to ascertain if there was a specific purpose of these monthly monologues. My conclusion was that it is basically up to me to choose the topic. Boy oh boy, I thought, should I wax philosophical? But then I didn't think you'd be that interested in my musings as to why my linen closet always looks like a bomb went off inside (I just changed the towels folks, so this question was fresh in my thoughts). Should I dispense sage advice on the meaning of life – since I haven't solved that riddle yet, not likely. Should I comment on our activities, both past and future? A little of all of these themes??? I guess you'll just have to stay tuned to see what develops.



September brought not only the beginning of fall but our annual trip to the races. Although it was only the second time I'd been, I jumped in with both feet and bet on 9 of the races. This meant I had all the more reason to cheer on my picks and made the evening even more fun. I guess this is a bit of a metaphor for this month's homily – get involved, don't sit on the sidelines and let

life go by things become much more exciting if you have a stake in the outcome. One way to do this folks would be to volunteer to sit on one of the many committees that make our club tick – you'll have lots of fun, get to know your fellow members better and have the satisfaction of knowing you helped make things happen ----

OK enough sermonizing Judi!!! Congrats to the big winners (I'm down \$3 by the way, just because you get involved, doesn't mean you win). Next month is the Car Rally, the theme is Pioneer Days, sorry no horse and buggy transportation allowed. Do come out - decorate yourself and your car and get lost in the glorious hills of Northumberland with the rest of us.

Before I go any further, I need to confess to you two of my biggest weaknesses

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

(oh, I have many folks, but these two you are likely to notice sooner rather than later) --- I can't spell or edit well (long story which I won't bore you with) and have a heck of a time remembering names. Since my Dad and kids can't spell either, I've come to the conclusion that's got genetic origins. The memory thing may be a combination of genetics and laziness; I'll try and work on that one. As well as confessing to these weaknesses, I'd like to apologize ahead of time for any mistakes I make as I assume the helm ... as James Joyce wrote a man's (or in this case woman's) errors are her 'portals of discovery'. All I can promise is that I'll try to learn from them!!

Al (for those of you who don't know, Al is my wonderful, very supportive hubby of 39 years) and I, as well as Garth and Dixie (our two Labs), are off to the International Fall Grand Hunt Test in Georgia the first two weeks in October. Wish us luck!! This means I won't be here for the meeting on the 6th. Vice President Diane will be at the podium instead, many thanks Diane. Have a great Thanksgiving everyone; give thanks to all you hold dear. Be sure to go for a walk and drink in the fresh air and the fall colours, it's a great way to refresh the spirit. Take care, I'll see everyone at the car rally.

Judi ♥

Bulletin Board

A Night at Kawartha Downs

50 members attended the evening at Kawartha Downs trying their luck at the horse races and the Slots.

During a good buffet supper the group picked their favourite horse to win the 5th to the 12th races and marked their score sheets accordingly. We have some very lucky members and many chose the winners but the top 3 experts were Joanne Hamilton and Rudy Vande Stouwe who tied for first place and Cheryl Langdon who came in 3rd. Congratulations to our winners! I am not sure if we had any big winners at the Slots

Thank you to all who participated and made this an evening of fun!

Sharron McMann

Northshore Probud History Trivia

Winner of the Northshore Trivia competition was the team of
Carol Lawless, Dorla Hope, Ellen Curry, Therese May
Congratulations girls

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut and still think they are sexy.

Speaker's Corner



Our scribe
Julius Varga

Old Heroes, New Inspiration

Time recedes, memories fade, and legends are born. Yet still the philosopher would insist "We move forward on the shoulders of great men" examples do matter.

Then there is another truth; "War brings out the best and worst in men", rendered clichéd by time perhaps, yet hardly less valid. Still there are those who would persist, Canadian history is bland, nothing exciting ever happens here. (Canadians choosing to dispel this summer's doldrums with a stirring debate over the access and use of the Mandatory Long Form Census hardly does much to contradict such an assessment.) Then there is Tim Brodie whose enthusiastic presentation of the record of 436 Transport Squadron illustrates how history and tradition combine to create a legacy that all can take pride.



The role of 436 Squadron was the same as it is now, military re-supply. Of course, instead of Kandahar as now, it was Burma in 1944 supporting "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell's Sino-American forces as they were routing Japanese forces out of Burma. The campaign was "particularly difficult, no roads, jungle, monsoons...re-supply was only possible from the air...ground transport depended on mules". Tim points out that they too were also delivered by air "drunk, they were pushed out the door attached to a parachute". He notes with pride, "DC3's and the squadron flew more sorties and more tonnage than any other in W.W II."

The Squadron's first Commanding Officer was a merely 27 years old Ralph Gordon, lovingly known as "Flash Gordon" by all those who would ever serve under him from that time forward. With Gordon

"innovation was the order of the day." For example, "To fly around a monsoon", he advised, "Watch the birds...they go up first and show them how to fly around the clouds." Ralph Gordon, noted that "Men fought, ate, and slept together" and encouraged them,"to live the adventure." One who surely followed the advice was Art Adams, a pilot who in spite of everything, insisted on running 5k every day. His most curious mission was to fly a load of bricks to build a house. On the way they spotted a Japanese float plane tied up on the shore. Adams gave the order "to off-load some bricks". Of course no one knew if they hit anything. It was only much later that land forces discovered a downed aircraft surrounded by a bunch of bricks. Now that is living the adventure indeed.

Afghanistan presents its own challenges. The Hercules must "fly aggressively... not straight and level to avoid a threat. The Taliban has the ability to launch missiles." Hardly boasting, Tim points out, "Flying into Afghanistan since 2002 still no planes have been shot down." The Squadron even re-supplied Canadian Forces on the ground while they were actually engaged in combat "...for the first time since Korea... was historically significant".

Still Tim reminds everyone that "inside the uniform there is just a guy." But the lesson of history is clear, "The more we know of our past the more we can understand our present." To Ralph Gordon's insight, "In adverse conditions, men fight for bits of colour and other men" Tim would add a more promising aspiration for the next generation of the Squadron, "In a vacuum plant hope or leave despair."

Julius

Social Activities and Events



Bridge Club 2 will meet on October 14th at Bruce and June Collins'. Please let them know if you can attend.

Drinks and Appies will be at Ralph and Cobie Skinner's on Oct. 7th. Ralph and Cobie live at 253 Parkview Hills Dr. off of Densmore Rd. Please let them know if you can attend.

Car Rally is on October 20th. The fall colors should be in full display making a drive through the countryside spectacular.

Best Western Dinner Theatre is "Having Hope at Home". on November 5th, mark your calendars. Tickets are \$33.75. Please sign up to reserve your tickets. Sign up sheet on side table.

Bake and Regifting Silent Auction will be held on November 17th. Get those ovens fired up and bake your favourite cakes and cookies. Check those cupboards for new or nearly new items that you have never or very gently used, it may be just what somebody has been looking for. Mary Potter is organising this event, please see her if you have any questions. All proceeds from this event go toward the Christmas party.

Christmas Party is on December 8th at the Lions Center. We hope you can all come out to enjoy good food, good music and great friends.

Sharon O'Conner and Brenda Carter - Co-ordinators

Trips, Tours and Theatre (Out of Town)



October 28 - Tickets for "Evita", Stratford are \$120.00 (Show, bus and supper) and going fast.

Nov 12,13,14 - Shopping Trip to Erie and Grove City \$240.00. Tickets still available - see brochure with sign up sheet for more details

Nov. 24 - Mystery Dinner Theatre "Dr Jekyll, there is nowhere to Hyde" at the Old Mill Inn, Toronto \$68.00 per person (lunch, show and bus). Invitation from another group.

March 2011- Still time to sign up for Portugal and the Mediterranean Cruise. Sharron has info if needed.

Sharron McMann, John Winkworth, Judi Cutis, Sharon Holmes, Dorothy Miller.

Speaker's Corner



Our scribe Julius Varga

Winter and Other Issues

It is a small world. Bruce Collins spoke to me after the meeting. Last year he had won some plants. He went to Port Hope to collect his winnings but was told he couldn't have them

until his property was inspected, soil appraised, amount of sunlight assessed. Imagine the gardener who insists on doing house calls before providing plants. Not surprisingly she was Betty Delong, our guest speaker, a Master Gardener whose diligence goes beyond the expectations of her title.

Her stated topic was "putting your garden to bed". She even provided a To-Do List. Some things were quite obvious: fertilize the lawn in September, patch dead spots, just top dress, tamp down re-seed and water twice a day, "great to do in the fall". Clean up debris but don't compost it for a good reason, "...that's where you will find diseases. Dig up summer bulbs and let them dry "just put them in a box"; that was easy. Roses will require more work "cut them back some...cover roots with peat moss up the stem to protect the roots from the freeze-thaw cycle of spring." Plan ahead, "You can move perennials until the end of October...you cannot hurt them." Then there was the serious stuff, "Sick of cutting grass, dig up the sod and plant perennials."

Then there was that Want-To-Do List, all those questions that we asked.

Clematis: "Cut down to 10 inches in height to ensure better growth... there is clematis fertilizer"



Snails, slugs: "...only bother Hostas... make up a 1 to 10 solution ammonia and water or you can buy the expensive stuff... but don't tell them you I told you."

Day Lilies: "separate them, don't be afraid, use an axe if necessary, you can't hurt them".

Poison Ivy and Buckthorn: "You can't kill it...apply for a government certificate to help pay for the pros."

Tomatoes: "only put the miniature tomatoes in pots others will get distorted. This was dry year water often, you can't over water."

Weeds on patio: "buy a small flame thrower."

P.S. "If you want to go to a garden show in Philadelphia, she's organizing a trip. Need a little encouragement, "the venue is right across the street from the city's biggest shopping mall".

Betty has started to cut back, her property now much smaller, she no longer plants vegetables only flowers. I asked her how she came by all her knowledge. "I grew up on a farm, my father's best helper and my mother's favorite gardener." She explained, "Gardening is 10% education 90% experience," the latter of which she is most generously willing to share, as she laughed, "I love to talk." Perhaps we should give her another chance; after all spring will come soon enough and the line up at the end of the meeting showed there were still plenty of questions

Julius

NEW MEMBERS



Diana Cleland



Graham and Darlene Spicer

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

NEW MEMBERS



Barb and Don Simpson



David and Doreen Lander

How is it that one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

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