



## MERRY CHRISTMAS



### APPIES AND DRINKS EXPLAINED ...



“Appies and Drinks” are fun get togethers to sample some goodies and get to know one another in a relaxed and comfortable setting. The Host provides the venue, sets the time, the date and the number of guests appropriate to the size of their house. They provide coffee, tea and water along with mugs and cups.

Guests bring a “potion” of their choice (alcoholic or non-alcoholic, your preference), along with a glass, as well as an appetizer with enough for the size of the group. Plan to have a good time AND take home your glasses and leftovers!

You don't have to have a “model home” to be the host, or try to have everyone in our Probus group at the same time. YOU determine the number of people, the day and the time. We have had some daytime events as well as evening ones. They have all been successful, and a lot of fun.

I am now looking for venues for 2012 – February to December – complete with host and house!

Please see me for sign up! Or contact me by phone or email at 905-786-2549

[marilyndunne@yahoo.ca](mailto:marilyndunne@yahoo.ca)

Marilynn Dunne  
Appies and Drinks Coordinator

### War Time Memories



**Lance Corporal Wilmer Gagnon**

On the eve of Remembrance Day, Will Gagnon, a WWII veteran, spoke to us about his service as a Lance Corporal in the Canadian Forestry Corps. Will was one of 12 children and, even though the legal age for enlisting was 18, he lied about his age and enlisted when he was 16. He joined the Forestry Corps and was stationed in Scotland. The Forestry Corps was disbanded after WW1 but reinstated for WWII when it was discovered that huge quantities of wood were needed for use in the war effort. The British government concluded that there was nobody more experienced or qualified in the British Empire to harvest timber than the Canadians. Altogether, some 35,000 Canadians served in the Forestry Corps which eventually consisted of dozens of companies, each composed of several hundred workers. The Canadian Forestry Corps cut trees in forests in England, Scotland and France, where the timber was squared, sawed and transported to be used for duckboards, shoring timbers for trenches, crates—anything that needed wood had to be provided.

Will was promoted to Lance Corporal and was awarded the Canadian Voluntary medal and the war medal. He and his wife returned to Juno for the 50th anniversary celebration.

# ***Appies and Drinks***

Sheila and Jim Scherer hosted the Appies & Drinks event on November 18. As always, there was lots of interesting food, drinks and camaraderie.



**Ladies in the Living Room**

(Visible to the camera) Carolyn Williams, Jan Blaikie, Joan O'Grady, Dorothy Donaghue and Betsy Wright



**John Forder talking to Jim Scherer with Liz Forder and Sheila Scherer in background**



**Jan Blaikie, Gayl & Larry Squire, Ray Williams**

# **ANNIVERSARIES**



*Congratulations to  
Ruth and Don Newington  
on their  
49<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!*



*Congratulations to  
John and Felicity King  
on their  
57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!*

# WELCOME TO OUR THREE NEW MEMBERS



**Brian Underwood**

I am the husband of Sharon Underwood, whom I have been happily married to for 27 years, and we have 3 sons - all young independent adults now. I lived most of my life in Sudbury Ontario, where Sharon and I met, married and raised our family. I was employed by a Canadian mining company, Inco, upon graduation from the University of Toronto. Over my 30+ years in a successful and rewarding Information Technology career, I enjoyed various assignments around the globe, relocating our family when necessary. The most recent assignment was based in Brisbane Australia for 7 years, where our 2 oldest sons established their own careers, and still reside. As a result of various strategic changes, I voluntarily elected to take full early retirement, and thus relocated back to Canada in early 2010. My wife and I luckily chose Port Hope as our new home, and we are still in the process of discovering what a wonderful community we now belong to. I love to golf, read, dabble in computers in my spare time, and as often as possible Sharon and I continue to travel. I am looking forward to meeting people and learning about different aspects of this area through the activities Probus offers.



**Janet Kershaw**

I moved to Port Hope from Ajax approximately 8 years ago. During my time in Ajax I commuted to downtown Toronto where I worked as a researcher for Ombudsman Ontario. My 2 children, Mike and Karen, have presented me with 5 grandchildren and one great grandson. My hobby is painting landscapes and flowers in various mediums. I sometimes show and sell my work and try to put a little magic in each painting. Thanks to Michele Duval Lane for inviting me to Probus.



**June Gibson**

I was born in Liverpool, England and emigrated to Canada with my parents when I was 3 years old. We settled in the Toronto area of East York, where I graduated from Toronto Teacher's College. My husband Bob and I have been married for 35 years and have 2 children. Our daughter Elizabeth lives in Calgary with her husband Ryan and our grandson, Levi who is 10 months old. Our son Jeremy was married in September, and he and his wife Christina, live in Toronto. My husband and I have lived in Whitby, Calgary and Ottawa. I have been an occasional teacher with the Durham Board of Education, Ottawa Carleton District School Board and a preschool teacher in Calgary. We are happy to have recently settled in the Oak Hills area of Rice Lake, where I am now retired. Bob is still working, and looking forward to retiring in a couple of years. I enjoy reading, knitting, cross-stitch and recently, the frustrating game of golf.

## KEEP SMILING



I knew I was an unwanted baby when I saw that my bath toys were a toaster and a radio.

*Joan Rivers*

Never order anything you can't pronounce.

*Erma Bombeck*

If it weren't for pick pockets, I'd have no sex life at all!

*Rodney Dangerfield*

There's a trick to driving on ice - apparently nobody knows it.

*Maxine*

I've decided to bake this Christmas, so don't tell me miracles don't happen.

*Maxine*

## THE STORY OF THE SINNOTT DAIRY



*Pat Sinnott showing a picture of her grandfather's house which is now her home on Cavan St.*

Our speaker on November 24 was Patricia Sinnott. Pat is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Port Hoper and in 2002, she bought a house built by her grandfather James Sinnott, on Cavan Street.

Her grandfather was born in 1885 in Hamilton Township. He worked at the nearby file factory as a young man. At age 22, he purchased a parcel of land at the northern edge of Port Hope (now 252 to 274 Cavan Street). Two years later, he sold a lot next to Pat's house to the Seymour Power Company, which built the first hydroelectric substation in Port Hope. With the profit he made from the sale of this lot, he began his dairy business in 1910. The Sinnott Dairy eventually became known as the Port Hope Dairy and was located where Pat's garage is now.



*Members enjoyed looking at many historic artifacts belonging to Pat.*

Due to the warm weather in summertime, ice was needed to keep milk chilled during bottling and delivery so an ice house was built on the north side of the house. Ice was cut from the Ganaraska River or the pond behind 252 Cavan Street. The ice was kept packed in sawdust in the ice house. Some of us recall running after the ice wagon so we could get a chunk of ice to suck on, on hot summer afternoons!

Before pasteurisation, accommodation was needed so dairy cattle could be cleaned prior to milking. Some dairy farmers contended that pasteurisation made farmers lazy --- they could skip the cleaning of the cow's udders before milking them! Pasteurisation became mandatory in 1938. Pat's grandfather sold the dairy in 1932 to the Downey's who ran City Dairy; the new business became the Port Hope City Dairy and was located in what is now Dr. Corbett's Inn at the corner of Augusta and John Streets.

In 1919, Pat's grandfather married Grandmother Carrie who was a seamstress, and they had 2 boys, Pat's father, Pat, and his brother Ted. The house was enlarged by building over the original frame cottage. Pat's grandparents made concrete blocks themselves using a machine called "The Wizard" which was sold by Sears' catalogue for \$42!

Ontario Hydro bought Seymour Power in 1930 and Grandfather Jim became a town councillor involved in politics and electrical power. The old Seymour Power station is still standing next to Pat's home and is owned by the Municipality of Port Hope. With a new roof and some inspiration and hard work, the substation could become a great home for someone committed to adaptive re-use of this relic of Port Hope's industrial history.



*Willy Jakobi thanking Pat Sinnott for her presentation.*

## SOME CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

### DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS?

1. The Christmas Island in the Pacific Ocean is fairly popular. Where's the other Christmas Island?
2. Who was the star of the movie titled White Christmas?
3. Where is the world's largest Christmas tree?
4. Which Christmas song holds the credit as the most-selling Christmas single of all time?
5. How many days do we have between Christmas and the Epiphany?
6. What was the name of the Tom Hanks animated Christmas movie?
7. Which nation traditionally uses straw decorations for Christmas?
8. Which American President banned Christmas trees in The White House?
9. Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees?
10. Which popular Christmas food was an American discovery?
11. Which was the first country to issue a Christmas postage stamp?
12. Which Christmas carol did Jimmy Boyd make famous when he was just 12 years old?



### ANSWERS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD

### Thought for the Day

And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

Abraham Lincoln

## SHARE THE WEALTH WINNERS

November 10

Wilf Quigley won \$53

November 24

George Grimes won \$44

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### Dec/Jan Crews CATERERS

December 8

Captain

Betsy Wright

Helpers

John Wright

Lorna Turner

Elaine Simmons

January 12

Captains

Bryan & Georgina Rose

Helpers

Sharon Rathbone

Julie & Marcel Rondeau

### GREETERS

December 8

Michele Duval-Lane

Ken O'Neill

January 12

Marilynn Dunne

Dave Strong

### My Christmas Wish For You

My Christmas wish for you, my friends  
Is not a simple one  
For I wish you hope and joy and peace  
Days filled with warmth and sun

I wish you love and friendship too  
Throughout the coming year  
Lots of laughter and happiness  
To fill your world with cheer

May you count your blessings, one by one  
And when totaled by the lot  
May you find all you've been given  
To be more than what you sought

May your journeys be short, your burdens light  
May your spirit never grow old  
May all your clouds have silver linings  
And your rainbows pots of gold

I wish this all and so much more  
May all your dreams come true  
May you have a Merry Christmas friends  
And a happy New Year, too ..

Author Unknown

# UPCOMING EVENTS...

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thursday December 15  
Cobourg Lions Club at 12 noon.  
Buffet turkey lunch served at 12.30.  
\$20 members, \$25 non-members.  
Last chance to sign up and pay at  
December 8 meeting.



## ROVERS NIGHT OUT

Tuesday January 10 at 6 pm. Harry's Little City of Bricks. Max 40. Sign up sheet on Bulletin Board.

## APPIES & DRINKS

Friday January 13 from 2 p.m. till 5 p.m. at Marilyn Dunne & Dave Strong's home. 3327 Roseberry Road. Weather permitting, prepare for outdoor fun in the way of snow shoeing or cross country skiing or sit and watch from the window!

# UPCOMING SPEAKERS

## December 8:

Linda Kramer, a Port Hope musician, will entertain us.



## January 12:

Colonel Greg Smith, the son of Probus member Ron Smith, will speak about life in Afghanistan, the Afghan people and the Canadian soldier. Colonel Smith has been a soldier for 23 years and has deployed to Afghanistan twice. He will be deploying again to Kabul in February 2012 as the Deputy Task Force Commander for the Canadian training mission.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

*The Executive Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a peaceful and joyous Christmas Season and good health and happiness in the New Year.*

*We look forward to seeing you all for our first meeting of 2012 on January 12<sup>th</sup>.*



# ONGOING EVENTS & contacts

## PUB NITE

Join us for dinner, conversation & drinks.  
Last Tuesday of the month 6:00 PM at the Beamish House  
Coordinator: George Grimes 905-885-1594

## APPIES & DRINKS

Bring an appetizer and your own drinks  
Coordinator: Marilyn Dunne 905-786-2549

## EUCHRE

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday from 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. at Ruth Clarke Senior Centre, 81 Mill Street  
Coordinator: Lois Meadows 905-885-6715

## LUNCH BUNCH

After the last meeting of the month.  
Coordinator: Maggie Colborne 905-885-1722

## BOWLING

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 1 p.m. at Northumberland Mall Bowling Alley.  
Coordinators: Georgina & Bryan Rose 905-797-3415

## CONTACT INFORMATION Ganaraska Valley Probus Club Executive 2011-2012

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