

PROBUS CLUB OF TRENT HILLS

APRIL 2014

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE THREE



Canoe Museum and Lunch

Considering all the foul weather we have had this winter, it was with some anxiety that we set out by car in light flurries on our trip to the Canoe Museum in Peterborough. But, by the time we arrived at our destination the sun had come out, and although extremely cold, it turned out to be a beautiful day. What good fortune!

We had heard so many wonderful things about this fine exhibit, but just entering it's doors was enough to prove that this was going to be a very exciting experience. This museum has an extensive, very well organized and preserved collection of canoes used by the early European explorers and native inhabitants of Canada. The displays are attractive with excellent documentation and a logical layout. We were given three guides to pilot our group around the museum, and all proved to be very knowledgeable. This greatly enhanced our visit.

The Canadian Canoe Museum is North America's largest canoe museum, with a collection of nearly 600 canoes and kayaks and 1,000 related artifacts. There was a class of children there, getting the feel of what it was like living during the Fur Trade era. They were getting dressed up as voyageurs and listening to Indian folklore. Another group of older children were learning how to carve a canoe paddle.

These early watercraft document the history of Canada both as it was known to the First Nations and as it was explored, mapped and colonized by the Europeans. All Canadians should make a pilgrimage to this museum to connect with your roots. If you missed your chance to visit with your Probus friends, then make it a point to get there for a family outing this summer. You will not be disappointed.

What sets a canoeing expedition apart is that it purifies you more rapidly and inescapably than any other travel.- Pierre Trudeau



The President's Voice

"There are no strangers here, only friends you haven't yet met"

W.B. Yeats

You may remember my weather rant at the February meeting, complaining this was the worst winter in my memory. Admittedly, some of you felt this was more a reflection of my memory than the weather, but I stuck to my guns. Then in March I admitted that warmer times had to be just around the corner. And I was right! This morning as I look out my door, orange juice in hand, it's already a sunny 25 degrees, the grass is green and the birds are chirping.

Yes, life is grand in southern Florida.

We're here only for a week, which the club snowbirds will think rather piddly, but hopefully the batteries will be charged enough to plow the driveway a couple of more times on Meyer's Island before May flowers bloom once again.

Members I talk to seem generally pleased with the quality of speakers the club has heard to date, With Brian Finley and Donna Bennett on deck for April, the bar will be raised even higher. Interest groups are beginning to blossom and the entertainment program is already a huge sell out success with events like Cirque du Soleil in the wings. That said, any ideas for innovation or improvement are always welcome.

Brian Muir (Membership chair) and Jerry Hazlitt (Meetings chair) have been terrific additions to Management Committee reducing its workload and stabilizing business flow.

Probus Canada has declared March "NATIONAL PROBUS MONTH". Currently there are over 400,000 Probus members worldwide with 226 active clubs in Canada with 31,000 members.

Trent Hills will celebrate this, not in March, but in May with our charter presentation ceremony. The presidents of our three sponsoring agencies; Jim Ashman representing Campbellford Rotary, Steven Snell from Ganaraska Probus and Jean Finkle from Brighton Probus will participate together with our Regional Director, Harold Miller from Gananoque. This will be a relatively brief, yet historic ceremony. Make sure to inspect the Charter and find your name inscribed as a founding member. Your great grand children will be impressed!

Finally, I asked for newsletter volunteers at the last meeting and the silence has been deafening. Frankly, unless we get a little help the newsletter may be facing early extinction. Our needs are modest. Just a few people to organize this project. No heavy lifting involved, and we will make sure you have any and all the support needed. Please think about it and give me or one of my colleagues a call if you can help.

Did I mention that Spring is coming?

Cheers,
Bill



The Probus Club of Trent Hills

proudly announces that our next speakers will be Westben Arts
Festival Theatre Co-Founders Donna Bennett and Brian Finley



Donna Bennett – Soprano
Advancement & Marketing Director – Westben Arts Festival Theatre

Donna Bennett is a renowned soprano and co-founder of Westben Arts Festival. She is also Westben's current Advancement & Marketing Director. Donna directs three Westben Youth Choirs with Brian Finley. As an artist, she is known internationally for her performances ranging from opera and oratorio to Broadway and musical theatre. She has performed in England, Scotland, Germany, Italy and the USA.

Donna made her Canadian Opera Company debut in Britten's *Albert Herring*, returning the following season to sing over 30 performances as Gretel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* for the COC's touring company. In Canada, she has sung with Opera Atelier, Tafelmusik, the Toronto Symphonietta, Orchestra London, Opera Mississauga and the Victoria and Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestras. Donna has also appeared in a number of musical roles for the Westben Arts Festival Theatre including the recent premiere of John Burge's opera *The Auction*.

Donna's recordings include Hans Werner Henze's opera *The English Cat* and a collection of Mozart Arias and Lieder recorded live at the Olympic Music Festival in Washington. Her three CD releases with husband and Westben co-founder Brian Finley, include *A Christmas of Love & Light*, *Lullabies for Benjamin*, and *Love's Old Sweet Songs* recorded in Victoria Hall, Cobourg. She has also recorded performances for CBC, CFMX, KING-FM Seattle, and the BBC in London.

Holding a Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music, Donna also attained the Meisterklasse Podium from the Musik Hochschule in Munich, Germany working with Reri Grist. Additional studies took her to New York and London where she received a full scholarship to the Royal College Opera School.



Brian Finley – Pianist, Composer, Conductor, Director
Artistic & Managing Director – Westben Arts Festival Theatre

Brian Finley is the co-founder of Westben Arts Festival Theatre as well as its Artistic & Managing Director. He also continues his multi-faceted career as a pianist, composer, director and impresario.

As a pianist, Brian has performed with numerous orchestras including the Dallas Symphony and Calgary Philharmonic as well as at the Olympic Music Festival in Washington, Wigmore Hall in London, England and the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto. He has appeared in over 10 international piano competitions including the 8th International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow, and he won the third prize in the AMSA International Competition in Cincinnati as well as the Gina Bachauer Award in Dallas.

Brian's compositions range from solo piano music to songs, choral works and arrangements for full symphony orchestra that have been heard from Victoria to Vienna. Many of his compositions, including his 70-minute *Requiem for a Millennium*, have been published internationally by Boosey & Hawkes in New York. His recordings include a collection of solo piano music from Wigmore Hall, three critically acclaimed CDs with his wife, soprano Donna Bennett as well as several recordings for CBC, CFMX, KING-Fm in the US and Soviet Television. As a director he has staged musical productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Sound of Music*, *Requiem for a Millennium*, his own musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* for Westben. In addition, he has written and produced three full-length opera-musicals: *SAMSON* (2001) and with Ken Tizzard *Rapunzel* (2005) and *Selfish Giant* (2010). Brian is currently working on an opera called *The Pencil Salesman* to be premiered at Westben in 2015.

Winner of two Floyd S. Chalmers Awards from the Ontario Arts Council, Brian holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Toronto as well as an ARCT. Principal teachers include William Aide, Boris Lysenko and the Schnabel pupil Maria Curcio with whom he worked in London, England. He has been a full scholarship student at the Banff Centre and the Victoria International Festival, as well as a frequent performer at the Olympic Music Festival in Washington. In 2002, Brian was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of his work within his community and with his fellow Canadians.

News

Special Interest Groups

Music Group

(Alan Appleby and Pete Goemans)

The Music Makers Group is an opportunity to get together with a small group of folks and make or enjoy some home-made music. It's a home-made-jam. You bring whatever fixings you have: instruments/ music/ voice/ hands and have an hour's fun once in a while turning noise into music (or vice versa). Sign up at the Events table at a Probus meeting or email us at trenthills@probusnorthumberland.com and let us know you would like to get involved.

Fishing charters Lake Ontario

(Tom Terentiew)

Like fishing? Like catching the BIG ones? Some Probus members are interested in arranging charter fishing trips on Lake Ontario. Are you interested in joining in? Sign up at our next Probus meeting at the Events table, let us know you would like to get involved at trenthills@probusnorthumberland.com

Photography

(Tony Crocker)

Tony Crocker is a Probus Member and Professional Photographer, and had offered to help us get started. Unfortunately there were not enough members interested to make this Club happen--at least for now. We will try again this summer and see where it goes.

Women's Book Club

(Mona Cooper)

This book club is well under way but 2 more members are needed to round out this group. There will be a sign up page at the next meeting for anyone interested. The clubs next meeting will be at Mona's house, 111 Church Street, April 15th at 1:30 PM. The book chosen for this meeting is "The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared". (Kid you not!).

Mystery Book Club

(Barb Hobart)

The first meeting for the ten members of this club was held at St. John's United Church. Louise Penny author of many mystery books is the first author chosen. Members have been given free rein to read any of her books for discussion at the next meeting. Another mystery writer will be picked at this time.

Barb will let club members know when the next meeting place, date and time will be. She has recently been under the weather.

Scotch Tasting

(Gord Reid and Bob Bennett)

First-ever Scotch Tasting Event

Our very first Scotch tasting event was a great success, held in mid-March, with a sell-out group of 16 folks. It was a learning opportunity to sample three fine single malt Scotches and to enjoy an excellent lunch at Capers Restaurant in Campbellford. It is planned to hold several more such events during the balance of the year, the next one being scheduled for Thursday May 8th, from 12 noon until 3 PM. If you are intertested in participating, a sign-up table will be available at our regular Probus meeting in April, where you may obtain further details, and pay.

Each tasting event is intended to be a learning opportunity and to develop an appreciation for single - malt whiskeys, all in an informal and fun-filled setting. No experience necessary!



Speakers Past

January 8/14 - Karen Cofield - Cofield Home Inspections

We heard Karen present compelling reasons for having a home inspection, whether you plan to sell your house or not. She came with plenty of informative hand outs and gave a very impressive presentation.

February 12/14 - Stan Fergusson - Fergusson Fuels

Stan is a motivational speaker of the highest order. He spoke about life goals and how to achieve them. His train analogy pretty well summed it up: A train is coming, you can do one of three things - stand in the middle of the track and get run over - stand at the side of the track and watch the train go by - or buy a ticket and get on board. Well said!!

March 12/14 - Doreen Sharpe - Sharpe Physiotherapy

Doreen's enthusiasm for her profession shone through her presentation. We learned by doing, how to sit, stand, bend - all while taking care not to harm our backs in the process. Now all we have to do is remember her sage instruction while out there living our lives.

Thank you Doreen.

We are looking for a Newsletter Editor



Clark Kent and Lois Lane were newspaper reporters. You may not want such an exciting life as Superman and his girl friend, but you could keep Probus Club members up to date on Events and Interest Group activities by becoming a Probus Newsletter Editor or Reporter. It would be Super if you would send us a short article on an event or interest group meeting for the newsletter. No cape required (and telephone booths don't have doors anymore anyways)... Email us at trenthills@probusnorthumberland.com and let us know you would like to get involved.

Two New Events

New Outing !!!

Birdwatching at Presqu'ile

Sunday May 18, 2014

Meet at the Lighthouse at 9:30 AM

There is a small charge per car for entrance to the park

Bring your friends



Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend

Held on the May Long Weekend, this special event celebrates the spring migration of the smaller birds, such as warblers, and the shorebirds like the Whimbrel, that annually stop down at Presqu'ile on their way north.

Presqu'ile's position as a peninsula sticking out into the lake, and its varied habitats, makes it a migration hot spot.

Migrating birds concentrate in numbers throughout the park, resting and feeding before moving on north. This gives birders a great opportunity to see and appreciate a wide range of bird species, many of them quite colourful.

While the number of birds present in the park varies from day to day, there is always something to be seen in May.

The Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend is aimed at those just starting out as birders or would just like to know a bit more about the birds with which we share the park and the world.

Guided walks will leave from the lighthouse at 10:00 am and volunteer naturalists will be in the lighthouse area from 8:00 am to 10:00 am to point out what birds are in the area.

Let's do lunch afterward!

Don't Miss Out!

Sign Up Now!

**The Toronto Welsh
Male Voice Choir**

**New Event!
Sign up now!!**

Sunday, September 14 - Afternoon Performance

Westben Festival Theatre

Price per ticket - \$40.00 (Does not include lunch)

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Campbellford and the Warkworth Service Club



The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir (TWMVC) was established in 1995 when its founding member and first president, Gwyn Roberts, gathered together a group of like-minded individuals of Welsh heritage to kindle the spirit of traditional Welsh male voice singing in their adopted country. Although many of the current members still lay claim to Welsh connections, the TWMVC now has members from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds.

The TWMVC proudly draws on the great Welsh tradition of singing hymns and songs born of the mountains and valleys of Wales. It also emphasizes in its ever increasing repertoire: spirituals; operatic arias; North American folk songs; as well as Broadway show tunes – a perfect blend of traditional and contemporary music.

Come and experience the sounds of the TWMVC this September 14 at Westben Festival Theatre. We are privileged to offer you performances of traditional and newer repertoire, and we thank you for your continuing partnership in the success of this wonderful group of dedicated individuals.

Lunch will be available at the Clubs' BBQ on site

Cirque du Soleil



PROBUS CLUB OF TRENT HILLS EVENT



MAY 25TH - 1:30 PM
GENERAL MOTORS
CENTER OSHAWA
\$119.00 P.P.

Sold Out!

TRAVEL FROM THE CANADIAN TIRE PARKING LOT TO
THE CENTRE IN OSHAWA
VIA FOLEY BUS LINES

AFTER THE SHOW

DINNER AT THE MANDARIN RESTAURANT, OSHAWA

This event has the full 52 seats spoken for by those who signed up.

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The seat number is determined by the number of seats on our bus.

#

We also have 12 names on the waiting list. So if there is anyone on the sign up list not going to this performance please let me know so that others have a chance to go.

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Money for this event will be collected at the April meeting, so don't forget your cheque books!

#

There is a restaurant at the GM centre for those of you who skipped breakfast or lunch.



A Huge Thank You

To: Jerry Hazlitt for taking over the Meeting Manager position on the Committee.

To: Brian Muir for taking on the Membership Manager's role

To: All the Special Interest Group Leaders (see Page 4)

And to all the members who have come forward to help out on committees, as greeters, to thank speakers, to help set up for the meetings, etc - you know who you are!

Important Notice

New EMAIL Address:

We have a new email address at trenthills@probusnorthumberland.com

This is tied in to our web site at www.probusnorthumberland.com. It provides us with better security over your identity and email address, and less spam than our current gmail account. Our current email at [<trenthillsprobuss@gmail.com>](mailto:trenthillsprobuss@gmail.com) will continue to work and will forward messages to our new address. Please add our new email to your address book and start using it to contact us.

MEMBERS OF YOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Bill Hogle - President

Art Linton - Vice President and Program Manager

Alan Appleby - Secretary

Bob Bennett - Treasurer

Dave MacDougall - Communications Manager

Anne Linton - Events and Special Interests Manager

Brian Muir - Membership Manager

Jerry Hazlitt - Meeting Manager

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