



PROBUS CLUB OF TRENT HILLS

APRIL 2016

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, ISSUE THREE



Alan Appleby - President

The President's Voice

"Still round the corner there may wait, a new road or a secret gate."
- J. R. R. Tolkien -

Welcome to Spring! Or maybe soon? I'm seeing tulips and narcissus poking through the ground, robins looking for worms and singing for mates, ducks and geese in every pond, and even an early Turkey Vulture enjoying a snack. And of course, spring showers...endless spring showers.

Our Club had a very successful Probud Month. On Tuesday March 1 we made a presentation on Probud Clubs to the Trent Hills Council, and received a Proclamation declaring March as "Probud Month in Trent Hills". Based on their questions, Council was impressed with our progress in less than three years.

On Wednesday March 16, Bob Gibson, President of the Ganaraska Valley Probud Club, and myself made a presentation to Northumberland County Council on behalf of all 9 Northumberland County clubs. Once again there were many positive comments and appreciation for our organization (and quite a bit of interest in the Scotch tasting club). Probud Month is on the calendar!

At the March meeting we suggested that members could help the merchants of Hastings during the current closure of the Trent River bridge. As usual our members responded wonderfully. At lunch that day in Banjo's I counted 15 Probud members, about half the customers in the restaurant. Later at the gas pumps there were 3 Probudians filling up, the only cars at the pumps, and much to the delight of the gas bar operator. I understand many others were helping out on the north shore.

The Hastings bridge closure will continue until about May 21, so please consider a trip over there after our April and May meetings, or any time you can. It's a small gesture, but much appreciated in the community as they endure over four months of being cut in half.

Thinking forward to summer, planning is well underway for a summer picnic. There will be more information on that and other exciting events coming up at the next meeting, April 13.

Alan



Past Speakers

February Speaker

BOB FUDGE



Our speaker, Bob Fudge, shared some of his experiences as the owner/operator of an old mill near Campbellcroft on one of the headwaters of the Ganaraska water system. The mill was originally built as a saw mill in 1865 near a stand of white pine. The wood was used to build ships in Coburg which sailed to Britain and were then taken apart for lumber, thus avoiding import taxes.

After retirement, Bob bought the old building on impulse, not even knowing what it was. He quickly discovered that it was in a state of disrepair with no safety measures, whatsoever. He also discovered the need to control the dam on his property when a spring flood would put 100 feet of road under 8 inches of water....lesson learned.

Bob explained how the mill works and recounted some of his struggles to repair and maintain it, although his guiding principle was, "When it's working - leave it alone. The mill works at its own pace - don't try to improve it or understand it." The mill augers grain up three floors to three bins, each of which holds over 10 tons of grain. The grain is then brought down by chutes to be milled. Bob usually milled oats and barley for local farmers, bartering milling for grain.

Fixing, working and maintaining the mill, not modernizing it, obviously became a labour of love for Bob. He shared pictures of the mill and property in all seasons, telling of fond memories of fishing, family picnics, ducks and geese, as well as skating on the pond. Bob remarked, "It gets into your head, your heart. You know every smell, every sound."

Bob sold the mill, the last of 20 mills on the Ganaraska system, in 2013, to a new owner who continues to restore the mill to its former glory.

Probus member, Jan Bastedo, thanked Bob for his presentation, remarking what a joy it is to see old buildings being maintained and used.

SUBMITTED BY SHEILA WOOD

PHOTO BY TONY CROCKER





MARCH SPEAKERS
DAVE AND CAROL
BURNHAM

Members were treated to a very interesting presentation by apiarists, Dave and Carol Burnham.

Upon their retirement, following their interest in raising bees, their apiary has grown from two hives to eight in just six years. They were mentored by 93 year old master beekeeper, Alex Brown and by Probus member Wayne Buck. We learned that a beehive can contain anywhere from 20,000 to 60,000 bees; workers, a queen, and male bees. Dave demonstrated some of the tools required by a beekeeper, including a protective suit, gloves, a hive tool and a smoker, and also showed us the various parts of a beehive.

Carol explained the operation of an apiary throughout the year. Spring means beginning to feed the bees dry sugar, sugar water and pollen patties. They must also treat the hives with organic meds for mites, check the hives for evidence of a strong laying queen and monitor the progress of the hives. Summer sees the bees move to the production of honey which is then harvested in late summer to early fall. Dave and Carol explained the processes of harvesting, extracting, filtering and bottling the honey. By mid-fall the hives must be prepared for winter. Bees are treated with meds and fed sugar water. The hive is weighed, covered, insulated and covered again. Finally a wind block is constructed.

Among the many fascinating facts shared by Dave and Carol were that honey is the only food to include all substances necessary to sustain life and it doesn't spoil. Bees never sleep; they pollinate 80% of all food crops and are the only insects that produce food eaten by man. Bees improve the environment and prey on no other animals. The Burnhams were joined by Wayne Buck, also a beekeeper, for an interesting question session which included discussions of ultra-filtered honey, which is actually not honey and has lost the beneficial nutrients of true honey. We were also made aware of the concerns regarding bee and butterfly health from the use of neonicotinoid insecticides and were advised to purchase plants from local suppliers who know how the plants have been propagated. As always, whether it's honey or plants, buying local is excellent advice.

Probus member, Joan McCulloch, graciously thanked our speakers.

Future Speakers

April Meeting

Our speaker for the April meeting is **Melody Macdonald** from Twoloom Alpacas Farm, located at 290 County Road #35. The farm is owned by Melody and Dawn Campbell and Melody will tell us everything you want to know about raising, showing and breeding Alpacas --- and then she will tell you about what to do with the wonderful fleece. Be sure to mark their Open House on your calendar.

Twoloom Alpacas Farm

Open House - April 30th 10AM to 4 PM

Come and see the Farm and the animals

Watch Alpacas being sheared.

**Visit the Boutique where there is a
bounty of beautifully warm and comfortable
socks, scarves, mittens and many other items.**

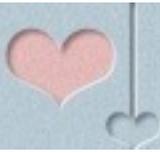
The farm is located at 290 County Road #35.

May Meeting

Lee-Anne Quinn, a retired armed forces major and nurse-practitioner will speak to us in May.

She is the recipient of the 2007 Governor General's Award and the 2003 Nightingale Award.

Since graduating from Seneca, Lee-Anne has dedicated her life to making a difference through her commitment and leadership in nursing. During her 21 years of service with the Canadian Forces, Major Quinn has travelled across the globe with peacekeeping missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Rwanda, and Kandahar, Afghanistan.



Announcements

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

There are many jobs that require help from time to time.

It is always nice to have a list of willing workers, ready to step in when asked.

We already have a small list of members who have come forward to offer their assistance, anyone wishing to join this list can leave their name(s) with any of the Management Committee, or sign a volunteer sheet located at the table just behind the entrance table.....and thank-you!

CHANGES TO PERSONAL INFORMATION

If you have had any changes to your address, telephone, email etc., please keep us informed. We want to make sure you are receiving all notices and email messages as well as this newsletter.

Send info to: Bev McComb - trenthillsprobus@gmail.com

A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED TO LOOK AFTER OUR ARCHIVES.

Bev McComb has been doing this up to now, but since she has volunteered to look after Membership, it is necessary for someone to take on this easy task.

Guidance will be provided. If you are interested please let any of the Management Committee know.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP INFO

- * The Women's Book Club is still looking for a few more members - Call Mona Cooper 653-5215**
- * A new Photography Club has been set up with member Tony Crocker at the helm. They have already had their first meeting and plan to meet once a month on the 4th Wednesday. See Page 7 for article.**
- * Sign up for the next Scotch Tasting group - sign up sheet is available at each meeting, until a quota is met, see page 8 for article.**

OUR VISIT TO HUTCHINSON HOUSE



We were in for a delightful surprise when we made our way to the Hutchinson House in Peterborough on what could have been a very nasty day, weather wise. On entering by the side door into the lower part of the house on Brock Street, we walked into a very cosy keeping room, and were seated at tables for our lunch in front of a roaring fire, set for us by the staff.

After a few words of welcome we enjoyed a delicious lunch of quiche and salad and dessert of apple buckle. We lingered over coffee and tea and then were divided into smaller groups for a guided tour of the residence of Peterborough's first doctor and his family. The staff was very knowledgeable and were able to answer all our questions after giving us an insightful look into the past lives of the residents of Peterborough in the 1800's.

We also learned a little about Sir Sanford Fleming, a frequent guest of his cousin, Dr. John Hutchinson, his wife and eight children. He lived in the house when he came to Canada in 1845.



Photography Club

Presqu'île Waterfowl Weekend

Seven intrepid photographers braved the cold, and departed from Campbellford at 6:10 a.m. Saturday March 19, to view the sunrise and the birds at Presqu'île Provincial Park. We saw the sunrise, and birds at a distance, but, due to the cold winds and great distance to the birds, retreated to Lola's coffee shop. We went on to view the Brighton constructed wetland (which will be great for birding in April) and then Barcovan beach, where swans and other waterfowl remain all winter. Three of our group had to leave early for other endeavours, and four of us finished off the morning with an enjoyable lunch in Brighton.

Wildlife photography is often planned, but nature has a way of changing the plans, and you must be prepared to photograph what nature presents.

Editor's Note: Birds - 10 Birdwatchers - 0.



Article and photos submitted by Tony Crocker



A few more from Art Linton



Saturday, April 23rd, 2016

2:00 PM

VICTORIA HALL

55 King Street W. Cobourg, ON

Ticket Price - \$26.00 per person

Non-Refundable

**THIS IS A DRIVE YOURSELF
EVENT**

**ONLY 8 TICKETS ARE LEFT FOR THIS
EVENT AND WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE
APRIL MEETING.**

With a cast of 26 Actors and Dancers this performance is every bit as relevant to audience members who will remember the original as it will be to newcomers. Young Frankenstein has all the panache of the screen sensation with a little extra theatrical flair added. With such memorable tunes as "The Transylvania Mania," "He Was My Boyfriend" and "Puttin' On The Ritz," Young Frankenstein is scientifically-proven, monstrously good entertainment. **This is without a doubt the best bargain of the year!!!**

Birdwatching at Presqu'ile

Sunday May 22, 2016

Meet at the Lighthouse at 9:30 AM

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

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.

All events are payable by cheque only. Please make your cheque payable to the PROBUS CLUB OF TRENT HILLS. It would be much appreciated if you have your cheque **already made out** when you are paying for your event. The lineups are usually long, especially before the meeting begins, and having your payment ready ahead of time would be most appreciated, especially by the members behind you in line.

Greetings from the Single Malt Scotch Tasting group!

Old man winter let us know who was in charge last Thursday the 24th, forcing us to cancel the Scotch Tasting on that day. The good news is that the Scotch did not spoil, and we have planned the next tasting for April 21st.

We welcome all Probus members to the tasting group, and if you care to bring a friend, they are most welcome also.

The tastings are proving to be a good social event for Probus members, with emphasis on having fun. It is also a great way for new members to meet other Probus members.

We meet in Capers Restaurant for lunch, with the tasting to follow. The cost is only \$20 pp for the tasting and I select three quality single malts for each event from the six distillery districts of Scotland.

If you think that you might like to attend, just send me an email, or give me a call, and I would be glad to answer any questions you have about the tastings.

As always, the tasting sign up sheet will be available at the April 13th Probus meeting or you can email/call me and I will put you on the sheet. Members will have priority should the sign up sheet be full.

I hope you will join us on the April 21st.

Gord Reid gareid@sympatico.ca or 705-653-2474

A SPECIAL REQUEST!

If any member is aware of a nature photo opportunity please let the photography group know. Examples would be an eagle's nest, a fox den, or perhaps a beaver dam in the process of being constructed. Let Tony know by calling him at 705 653-1100 or email photo@tcrocker.ca.

President Alan proposed at our last Management meeting, that we consider lunching at the restaurants in Hastings to show our support during the Hastings bridge closing. So please consider a lunch outing right after the April and May meetings, at either at The Captain's Table, or Jiang's Chinese Restaurant - both on Front Street in Hastings, or Banjo's on the south side of the Bridge. You can either drive directly there via side road #42 West from Trent River - then south on #45, or proceed to Hastings south of the river. You can park on the south side of the bridge and walk over to the restaurants. A head count will be taken at the next meeting and we can then give the restaurants a heads up.

MEMBERS OF YOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Alan Appleby - President
Judy Pearce - Vice President and Program Manager
Art Linton - Past President
Diane Williamson - Secretary
Steve Wood - Treasurer
Jim Kelleher - Communications Manager
**Anne Linton - Events and Special Interests Manager
and Newsletter Editor**
Bev McComb - Membership Manager
Jerry Hazlitt - Meeting Manager

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