



PROBUS CLUB OF TRENT HILLS

APRIL 2018

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2



The President's Voice

"A smile is the universal welcome"
-Max Eastman, The Sense of Humour

Is it spring yet? Yes, I know I began my last message with exactly the same question! This year, spring seems to be very slow in arriving. Nonetheless, there are encouraging signs - I do see tulips and daffodils beginning to push through in the front garden; the geese have arrived along with ducks, starlings, grackles and red-winged blackbirds and the ice has melted on the river behind the house. Without doubt, the best sign of spring is having our Probus snowbirds return! Welcome home; we have missed you. To those of us who braved this very long winter, I hope that our club's speakers and activities have helped to brighten the season.

Our club is developing a more prominent profile within our community, which is fantastic!! An unanticipated result of this recognition is a number of requests each month from worthwhile organizations wishing to address our club to promote their activities. I want to clarify our position on this issue. We will happily announce community events at our meetings and post information on our community board. We cannot allow Probians or other community members to address our meetings or to ask for items to be included in the newsletter to promote non- Probus events. We are simply getting too many such requests and do not want to agree to some and not to others. I know many of our members belong to other important organizations, so I ask for your understanding in this matter and thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please contact our secretary, Norah McGowan, if you wish to have a community event announced.

We had a fantastic March meeting to celebrate Probus month with a packed house, guests from neighbouring clubs, an absolutely terrific speaker, Ted Barris, and an afternoon movie at the Aron. We received many positive phone calls and emails regarding our day, which were greatly appreciated. Let's keep this momentum going. You, our members, are our best advertising, so be a friend and bring a friend. Guests are our most important source of new members.

Can't wait to tell you some new jokes – See you on the 11th,

Sheila



Past Speakers

Bill Hogle and Dave MacDougall, charter members of our club, were introduced at our February meeting by Alan Appleby. Both members had recently been to China and were asked to speak at our meeting about their experiences.

Bill and his wife Elizabeth, booked a Viking cruise in October 2017 and by all accounts they had a wonderful time. He talked about the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, who united the provinces into one country, and was responsible for bridging all the smaller sections of border walls into one Great Wall of China. After donning a T shirt and a hat both sporting red stars, he spoke briefly about Mao Zedong who declared China a Communist Country. During his reign the people of China were oppressed and many died of starvation, but more recently China has embraced economic modernization. China's meteoric rise over the past half century is one of the most striking examples of the impact of opening an economy up to global markets.

The country has undergone a shift from a largely agrarian society to an industrial powerhouse. In the process it has seen sharp increases in productivity and technology that have allowed China to become the world's second-largest economy.

On their trip, they travelled along the Yangtze river, visited the Power Dams at the 3 Gorges, the Great Wall, and the Terra Cotta Warriors to mention a few. They also had many other exciting tourist experiences in and around Beijing. Can't wait to see the full slide show Bill!!!



Dave MacDougall spent most of his career working for Parks Canada and the Trent- Severn Waterway. In 2007 he was elected Secretary of Inland Waterways International (IWI), a volunteer organization that promotes the use and sustainability of inland waterways on an international level. Dave retired from public service in 2006, and is now a principal and founding partner of The Canals Group.

Dave first represented IWI at a conference and meetings in 2010 at the city of Yangzhou when IWI was approached to assist the city with the preparation of the nomination of the Grand Canal as a World Heritage Site. Dave continues his relationship with Yangzhou now focusing on tourism and canal cities and towns worldwide where they share their experience and seek ways to work together for their mutual benefit.

Dave has had a lot of experience visiting China as he has travelled there on a least nine separate occasions. He spoke about the amazing treatment given at this conference by their city hosts, referencing excellent meals, complete attention paid to their every need, and many translators to help along the way.

Dave had set up an impressive display of gifts received on his various visits made to China.

Bill and Dave were thanked by Alan Appleby for a most interesting and insightful glimpse into their experiences - "Chinese Food for Thought" indeed.

Photos courtesy of Tony Crocker

Submitted by Anne Linton

The Special Guest Speaker for March Probus Month was Ted Barris

Ted's Presentation was about "The Great Escape" and how the Hollywood version was not true to the real story.



The emphasis in Ted's presentation to our club was on the word "Canadian".

Almost two decades after the daring escape, Hollywood picked up this amazing tale. The 1963 release of "The Great Escape" movie featuring some big name movie stars was a huge success. But it was wrong. Although virtually no Americans were involved in the planning or execution of this daring event, Hollywood turned it into an American story. In reality the amazing feat was accomplished by Canadian, English and other Commonwealth captives taken to the German prison camp Stalag Luft 111 situated near Sagan, Poland. Ted's book seeks to set the record straight.

His presentation seeks to correct this Americanized version and tell the true story, in many cases by speaking to many of the former prisoners involved and their family members. His thorough research is evident throughout the book.

He went on to describe how, on the cold night of March 24-25, 1944, dozens of Commonwealth prisoners crawled from a tiny hole outside the wire of the prison camp and made their way into the woods and beyond. It became known as "The Great Escape".

The plan was seemingly simple - dig several tunnels, the main one 30 feet below ground and over 330 feet in length, from the prisoner huts, out under the fence and into the woods.

In reality however, it was exceptionally complex, and required an amazing variety of skills to pull it off. Old military clothes had to be made into civilian ones, escapees had to learn languages, authentic documents had to be prepared, maps, compasses, suitcases and more - all created secretly and virtually out of scraps.

Even if few actually made it back to Allied forces, the idea was that the escape would tie up vast numbers of German resources in tracking the escapees down. In that aspect it succeeded. However for fifty of the escapees the effort ended in their cold-blooded murder.

It was the culmination of intensely secretive planning, and was an astounding achievement of hard work and incredible ingenuity.

Ted Barris is professor of journalism and broadcasting at Centennial College in Toronto, and author of 18 books, many recalling the events of WW2 and Canada's contribution to the war effort.

Submitted by Anne Linton

Upcoming Speakers

April 11th speaker will be a combination of Susan Fedorka interviewing John Russell, Campbellford Hospital's Fundraising Foundation CEO and accompanying them, Varouj Escadjisn, President and CEO of Our hospital. Both directors of the community hospital will reveal new information about the hospital, its services and its future.

May 9th an environmental group called the "Blue Dot" movement will talk about Canada's role in the world in improving environmental issues. Our guest speaker will be Fay MacFarland from the Cobourg area. She represents Blue Dot and hopes that our community helps support this global issue.

Special Interests

Book Club - The Probus Book Club meets on the 3rd Tues. monthly at 1:30 pm.

If you wish to join the group call [Maureen Dikun](mailto:Maureen.Dikun@probus.org)—[705-653-3182](tel:705-653-3182).

Photography Group - April 25 and May 30 are the next two meeting dates for our group. New members are welcome.

Contact Tony Crocker - photo@tcrocker.ca - (705) 653-1100

Garden Club - There has been some interest in starting up a garden club for our members. If you are interested please contact Susan Fedorka - [415\) 209-2593](tel:415-209-2593)

Next Probus Single Malt Scotch Tasting Thursday, April 12th, 2018

Hello Scotch Tasters!

This is just a reminder to pencil in the above date on your calendars if you would care to join in the tasting. There are still several spots available for the tasting, and I encourage anyone who has not tried it to sign up at the next Probus meeting on April 11th, at the Events table. As usual we will meet at Capers Tap & Grill for lunch at 11:30, with the tasting to follow. The cost is \$20 pp for the tasting. This is a great way for new members to meet, and socialize with fellow members, and enjoy a fun afternoon. All members are welcome to bring a friend, but please remember that members have priority, should the list be full.

This will be the last tasting until fall.

I hope to see you on April 12th. - Gord Reid

Gord gareid@sympatico.ca or [705-653-2474](tel:705-653-2474)



Upcoming Events

BOWLING

Next Bowling Date

April 16th at 11 am

Campbellford Bowling Alley

**WE NEED YOU TO SIGN UP FOR THIS EVENT
NOW, SO THAT WE CAN RESERVE LANES.**

**You will be paying for the games etc at the bowling alley. Games
are \$4.50 each and shoe rental is \$2.00**

A VISIT TO THE WATER BUFFALO FARM

WEDNESDAY MAY 16TH 11:00 AM

We will all meet there for a tour and store visit.

Store and farm address:

3346 Stirling-Marmora Road

613-395-1342

*Afterward you may want to join
us at the Springbrook Diner
for lunch!*





JUNE 24TH - 1:00 PM
TRIBUTE COMMUNITY CENTER -
OSHAWA
\$90.00 P.P.
Only One Ticket Left

YOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

SHEILA WOOD - President

TOM TERENCEW - Vice President and Program Manager

JUDY PEARCE - Past President

NORAH MCGOWAN - Secretary

STEVE WOOD - Treasurer

DENISE KELSEY - Communications Manager

VAL PRIDMORE - Events and Special Interests Manager

JOY AND PIET GOEMANS - Membership Manager

JIM CONNOR - Meeting Manager

ANNE LINTON - Newsletter Editor

Email: trenthillsprobus@gmail.com

Web address: www.probusnorthumberland.com

Postal address: 172 Lakeview Dr., R. R. #4

Campbellford, ON K0L 1L0