



The ProBuzz



Newsletter of the PROBUS Club of Northumberland – February 2020



Awareness Month



Have you noticed that almost every month has been designated to represent a great cause here in Canada ... in North America?

February has been deemed the month to recognize Heart Disease and Black History month.

Certainly, in our household the importance of an awareness of Valentine's Day or of our wedding anniversary has long been known for the need of some form of acknowledgement.

Your PROBUS Northumberland management team has become aware of a trending decline in attendance numbers for Club events. Our membership committee drew our attention to a considerable reduction in membership since the August renewal date.

At our management meeting we did discuss the reasons as to why we might be seeing lowering in attendance to Club events and to our membership.

Maybe we are offering too many events that put a strain on budget? Are changes in personal energy a reason? Do some of our programs need freshening? Do we not allow a long enough time period for an event registration? Good thoughts but not definite answers.

We are fortunate as a Club to have such keen volunteers who make efforts to perform their roles well so that fun times... often at discounted group rates, can be offered.

However, just as much as willing organizers, we also need active participation to the events PROBUS Northumberland offers.

On a positive note ... awareness is a first step in change. I invite you to contact me with your thoughts.

Thanks to Eric Carleton, Russ Donaldson, Jamie Doolittle, Margaret Godawa, Ron Luciano, Fraser Maxwell, Peter Ridout and Barb Swallow for agreeing to join me to address improvements we could make to our club that would continue to support its thriving nature.

As I mentioned twice at our last meeting that we are not pressing a panic button, but we would serve our Club well to be proactive and not rest on the laurels of our 20 years.

Regards, **Marcia MacLeod**

Nibblers

Tuesday, February 4: Nibblers enjoy the 'Delicious' restaurant festival in Port Hope. For a two week period, participating restaurants offer a 3 course fixed price menu so festival goers can sample their offerings. 'The Social' is one. The restaurant is committed to serving ingredients grown locally in Ontario. The owner says that there are many growers who bring fresh ingredients like micro greens to the restaurant daily.

Northumberland News

Thursday, March 19: First day of spring! Save the date! We will visit a Cobourg restaurant.

Linda Syrota 1

Valentine Luncheon

The Valentine Luncheon is on Thursday, February 13th **replacing the regular meeting**. Doors will open at 10:45 am, Marcia will conduct a short meeting at 11:30 am with a buffet lunch at 12 noon. Entertainment and draws will follow.

Don't have a ticket? It's not too late!

Call Susan Brown at (905) 372-0733 if you'd like to come. Tickets are \$22 for ...

- ✓ Tea, coffee and juice during the registration & socializing time
- ✓ Lunch including salad, soups, pickle tray, assorted sandwiches, squares and cookies, tea and coffee
- ✓ Entertainment sure to keep you smiling
- ✓ Door prizes



Carol Petter

Dan Buchanan aka The History Guy

At our regular meeting on Thursday, January 23rd, 2020 our guest speaker was Dan Buchanan, aka "The History Guy". Dan hails from Brighton Ontario and describes himself as a late-bloomer history geek who brings the past to life in a most unique and entertaining way. He told several local history stories about Brighton & Cobourg using photographs and write-ups that captured everyone's attention as was indicative by the questions from the floor. He also provided a heads-up on Brighton's History Week 2020 which consists of two events. First, "Every Picture Tells a Story" to be held on Feb 16th 2-4PM with Dan telling fascinating stories about the town. Then on Feb 22nd 10AM - 4PM Brighton's History Open House" featuring displays, artifacts & vendors. These events are being held at the King Edward Park Auditorium in Brighton and all are invited ... In addition to all of this he has a new book being released in early June 2020 entitled "HMS Speedy: The Tragedy & Mystery of the Final Voyage". Indeed an interesting and entertaining presentation.



Russ Donaldson

Next Lunch Bunch – February 27, 2020

We had a group of 18 people out for lunch at Kelly's on January 23, 2020. As usual many people took advantage of the special - Liver and Onions. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and it was a chance to catch up after the Christmas season and before a few people go away for a few weeks over the winter. Our next outing will be February 27, 2020 and we will meet at Swiss Chalet after the meeting. I will have a sign-up sheet available at our Valentine Lunch on February 13.

Dawn McGregor

Men's Koffee Klub

DATES FOR THE FIRST HALF OF YEAR 2020

Meet at Chevy's Café in Kelly's Homelike Tavern on Third Street in Cobourg.

**February 18, March 3, March 17, March 31, April 14, April 28, May 19,
June 2, June 16 & June 30 2020**

Chevy's Café requires advance notice for room setup.

Please let either of the convenors know if you plan to attend.

Jack Butler (905) 269-5062 or jehb1701is@gmail.com

Or Ron Luciano (289) 252-1939 or ron@lucianogroup.com



Social Events

It's been a busy month with lots of people wanting to escape our dreary winter weather for some fun theatre time. We had 40 people attend *Sunshine Boys* at the Best Western, and 37 booked to see the musical matinee *Chicago* in Port Hope on February 22nd. I am sold out, but may be able to obtain additional seats – just let me know as soon as possible.

I'm quite excited to try something new – **PROBUS Movies at the Loft**. On **Tuesday, March 17th**, we will have an exclusive showing of the Oscar nominated film *Ford vs Ferrari*. Doors will open at noon so we can enjoy a light lunch provided by the Dutch Oven before the movie at 1 pm. Maximum number is 50 people and 36 signed up at the first announcement. Total cost is \$20, cash preferred. While there are exciting race scenes, *Ford vs Ferrari* is a wonderful movie about the intense rivalry between Henry Ford and Ferrari during the early 1960's and each man's determination to win the gruelling 24 hour LeMans race.

Dianne Graham

RIVERDANCE 25 - An all new 25th anniversary special performance.

Join us on Sunday, March 1st for this day trip to the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto. We will travel by coach with a Box Lunch from Cobourg's popular catering company, Ketch's Korner's. The coach will leave the Staples parking lot in Cobourg at 11:30 am and return around 6:00 pm. The cost per ticket is **\$155**. Contact Maureen Cavan

SAVE THE DATE - Thursday, June 18

A day trip to Gananoque, by coach, for lunch at the Gananoque Inn overlooking the harbour and an afternoon performance at the Springer Theatre to enjoy "Back in '59". If you were a teen back in '59, this musical mashup with four friends attending their 10-year high school reunion will have you rockin' and rollin' through the '50's, 60's and 70's! And since I'm "The Leader of the Pack" and "It's my Party" - "Let's Twist Again"! Costs and more details at the first meeting in February. Contact Maureen Cavan

Maureen Cavan

Cynthia Hunt



On January 9th, our speaker was a very remarkable woman. Cynthia Hunt, a native of Minnesota and a graduate of the University of BC with a Master's degree in Resource Management, decided to devote her working life to helping people in marginalized communities of the Tibetan Plateau where war, poverty, climate change and loss of culture threaten the future of the peoples living there. Life in those communities is extremely difficult, with daily challenges of just obtaining adequate food and water. Young people usually attend residential schools away from home and often leave when schooling is done. Hopelessness is common. All this she described with vivid images of the country sides, where military jets regularly fly overhead and occasional mud slides could spell life or death for the residents.

She described in detail how she used hockey to get kids back to their villages, playing and working together and believing in themselves again. Using donated hockey equipment from Canada and local labour with some earth moving equipment to level the ground, Cynthia brought skating and hockey playing on makeshift ponds to these people, which turned out to be a remarkably joyful pastime during the winter months when there was not much else to do. This activity led to revived hope for the future in a generation of young people prone to suicide.

Her presentation was filled with emotionally moving content and was truly inspiring. The audience showed their appreciation with abundant applause.

Submitted by John Umiastowski. 3

APPIES & DRINKS

Chase some of the February blues away ... at an Appies & Drinks.

Well, we may not be able to offer you the sand and the surf but feel free to wear an outfit that makes you feel like you are on holiday in a tropical location.

Where: the home of Marcia Macleod and Jack Butler, #1701-55 Munroe street, Cobourg, ON K9A 1B9

When: Thursday February 20th from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Email: getmarsh55@gmail.com if interested in attending but unable to sign up at a meeting.



A Light Bulb Moment

It seems when the power went “OUT “at the January 23rd meeting, a few light bulbs went “ON”.

During the break, a member, I hold in high regard, approached me about how maybe, we should have more member involvement at our meetings. (I do hope that you been noticing how the speaker committee has engaged different members to thank our speakers?)

It seems to be an expectation whereby the President should produce at least 2 funny stories for each meeting. I think we have many members who may not want to take on the presidency but who would willing contribute to the story telling.

Therefore, I propose to offer the opportunity for **2** members to tell a joke, story or read a meaningful poem during the last meeting of each month. This trial period will include the meeting dates of February 27, March 26 and April 23.

Just because we became seniors doesn't mean we should lose confidence, skills or the ability to rise to challenges. I encourage you to take advantage of the supportive environment that PROBUS Northumberland offers during this trial period.

My contact is getmarsh55@gmail.com Who's up first? Marcia MacLeod



Save the Date

Let's celebrate Probus Northumberland's
20th Anniversary

On Thursday, May 28, 2020

Luncheon will be held at the Lions centre



Future Meetings & Speakers.

Feb 27 Michael Hanlon - His life as a reporter

Mar 12 David Newland — Arctic Adventures
Speaker Committee

The Pro-Buzzards

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Deadline for the next ProBuzz is February 28th.

Please send any material to john@cobourginternet.com

Need a Ride?

If you need a ride to a meeting, you can phone Marg or Bob (not John) MacDermaid at 905-309-1598 by 5:00 pm the day before the meeting.

They will arrange to have you picked up and returned.

Probus Club of Northumberland, 529 Foote Cres., Cobourg ON K9A 0A4

Go to www.probusnorthumberland.ca for all our previous newsletters & lots of photos and videos.