



TRENT HILLS PROBUS CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2022

Our Strength is Fellowship; Our Success is Participation

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



It's February and we're counting down the months until Spring when we can start to be together – hopefully inside and out!

In my last message I mentioned a couple of outside events we could look at planning this spring/summer. One was *Mystery Tours* (scenic car rides followed by lunch) and the other was a visit to a horticultural centre such as the Quinte Botanical Gardens. I am now pleased to let you know that both of these activities are going to happen.

I always love to hear from our members and I was thrilled when Leslie Turpin contacted me and offered to help plan our first mystery tour. Leslie has developed a tour based on the famous Have-lock bank robbery in 1961. Her tour follows the robbers' escape route. We plan to follow the route and along the way we will learn how they were thwarted at every turn until they were finally captured. This is such an interesting part of local history and we feel sure you will all enjoy this tour. Leslie, Lesia and I will check out the route this spring and find a location where we can all join together for lunch after the tour. We will have more information for you in April.



The other good news is that Quinte Botanical Gardens outside of Frankford is reopening this summer on June 11th. On that day they have a Garden and Nature Show planned. You will see more information later in the newsletter. It looks like a fun day with an opportunity to learn more about how to plan your garden and talk to various horticultural experts about your gardening hopes and challenges. However, don't think you have to be a gardener to appreciate the beautiful gardens. All are welcome! If we go as a group we will be entitled to a guided tour. Cost is \$13 a head and there will be no need for pre-payment. In the spring we will start to collect names of those interested in attending.



As you know, Jim Rice is our Communications Manager. When we learned that Jim and his wife, Robin, were spending 6 months in Italy, we thought their experiences would make for a very interesting article in the newsletter. Thank you, Robin, for submitting the article which I really enjoyed reading. If anyone else has an interesting piece for our newsletter, do let us know.



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President's Message Cont'd

Don't forget to keep sending your ideas for events and articles or just to say hello so we know the newsletter is being enjoyed!! Thanks to Laura who turns out such a high-quality newsletter every month so that we can all stay in touch until we meet again.

Currently we have no zoom meeting planned for February but we continue to monitor the Provincial regulations regarding inside gatherings and we will get together just as soon as it is possible to do so.

In the meantime, stay safe and active!

Hazel Farley



SUGGESTION BOX:



NO NEW SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH.

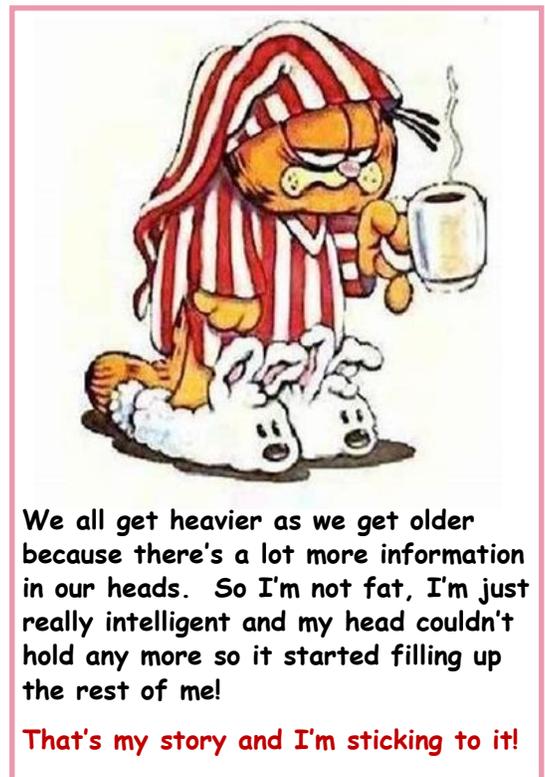
What would you like to see our Club try?

- Restarting monthly meetings, at St. John's or elsewhere if not possible at the church?
- A Facebook Page to keep up with activities? Would you refer to it for information? Could you administer the Page for our Club?
- New Groups: walking, bicycling, golf, knitting, bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, movie, dining, wine-tasting, trivia, euchre, arts and/or crafts, etc.? Other suggestions? Would you join a group? Do you have any interest in organizing or helping to organize a group?

SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES OUR MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SO FAR ARE: WALKING, BRIDGE OR EUCHRE, GOURMET LUNCH GROUP, DINNER THEATRE, BOOK CLUB, LAWN BOWLING. WOULD ANYONE ELSE BE INTERESTED IN JOINING THEM?

- Any other suggestions to bring our Club back to FUN?

Please send **any and all** suggestions and ideas to our email address: trenthillspobus@gmail.com with subject line "Suggestion Box".



We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads. So I'm not fat, I'm just really intelligent and my head couldn't hold any more so it started filling up the rest of me!

That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

CONTEMPLATIONS OF A SENIOR!



Monthly tidbits suggested by member, Leslie Turpin

"God promised men that obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then he made the earth round...and laughed and laughed and laughed."

UPCOMING 'MYSTERY TOUR' THIS SPRING

The Bad Luck Bank Robbers

We are pleased to announce our first 'Mystery Tour'. This tour was created by member Leslie Turpin and tells the story of the 1961 Havelock Toronto-Dominion Bank robbery that has since become known as the Bad Luck Bank Robbers. The route will take us through back roads north of Havelock and will cover a total distance of approximately 115km.

This was the largest bank heist in Canadian history at the time and led to a massive 5 day police search North of Havelock. Over \$230,000 cash and securities was stolen. The money has never been found and never entered circulation.

Leslie is going to work with us as we test out the robbers' escape route and figure out a place where we can all gather for lunch. We'll have more information in April so stay tuned!



As mentioned
in Hazel's
Message..



Garden & Nature Show

The First Safe, Outdoor (Tented), Garden Extravaganza!

meander through 6 acres of gardens
chat with horticultural people
get your gardening "fix!"
find the best tomatoes to grow
learn how to design your landscape
see a Hummingbird Moth (or two!)
enter a fun floral competition
discover the best pollinator plants
find your garden "colour psychology"
see the new line of designer hanging baskets
learn about conservations
savour home-made delights
discover how bees behave
meet the "Zinnia Warrior!"
get ready to feel better!

An outdoor exhibition + botanical gardens!

Sat-Sun June 11-12, 2022 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
All Admissions: \$13.00
Quinte Botanical Gardens
664 Glen Ross Road, Frankford, Ont.
www.qbgardens.ca dgroves@qbgardens.ca 613-398-0402

Join us and become..."one-with-the-worms!"



Members Jim and Robin Rice were kind enough to share some experiences from their Italian holidays...

“The management committee thought you might be interested in what we are doing in Italy, so this is what we are up to. Our daughter Chandra married an Italian man, Andrea, three years ago. Together they run an agriturismo near a hilltop town in Tuscany. Vetulonia was originally an Etruscan town called Vetula. There



are ruins being excavated in the area, and often while digging here on the property, old pieces of pottery come to light – the most recent one is a stone mold for making the bronze handles of drinking vessels. It is apparently an important discovery that indicates these vessels were made here rather than traded. It is the first indication that this is so and the stone will go in a museum. We found it while widening the main driveway.

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The agriturismo overlooks the equivalent of a provincial park called The Maremma. The area is famous for its wild boars which are an ingredient in local cuisine. Winter is hunting season and on weekends you hear dogs barking and gunshots from the valley below us. In the distance you can see the Mediterranean. An agriturismo is a property

that has space that is rented out to short term guests. It also must have an aspect that relates to farming in some way. Two olive groves are part of the property; one has trees that are two to three hundred years old. The olives from this grove are larger and contain more oil than those in the newer grove. So, they produce a tastier oil. If you would like to see what Il Bacciarino looks like, check their website: www.ilbacciarino.com

The guest season runs from mid-March until November. During those times they have a few “work-aways” that help them keep things running. A “work-away” is usually a young person who wants to see the world and is willing to work in order to do so. They are given free room and board in return for 5 hours of work a day. In the summer this work is mostly looking after guests...greeting them, changing beds, cleaning rooms, tending the gardens that provide fresh vegetables and herbs, baking bread. But the winter is when things really get done. Work-aways come from all over the world. This winter the Netherlands, Canada, Italy, Hungary, Argentina, Germany and France are represented. They paint rooms, build things, move rocks, build walls, expand gardens, make jam. Chandra came here as a work-away.

We all sit down to three meals a day in or near the common room. The food is plentiful and delicious. Breakfast is at nine, lunch at two and supper at eight. Right now there are fifteen at each meal.

The 'Agriturismo' Cont'd

Preparing and cleaning up after meals are shared activities. Jim and I do breakfasts. We sit down to food from all over the world. And what wonderful food it is! On Mondays Andrea's mother and father make



lunch for us. Wine is served at lunch and dinner. Andrea buys it from a farmer in big gallon jugs and bottles it for each meal. On sunny days we have lunch outdoors.

On rainy days, we are often above the clouds or in them! – so we eat in the common room.

The work-aways tend to be free spirits. They are looking to experience different cultures and to find out how they fit in the world. Several play guitars or electric piano and sing. There are also bongos, a beat box and a ukulele on the property. Most evenings before supper there is



a fire outside to sit around and chat or make music while the sun sets. After supper there is more music and board games to play. English and Italian are the shared languages, and everyone learns Italian as they go.

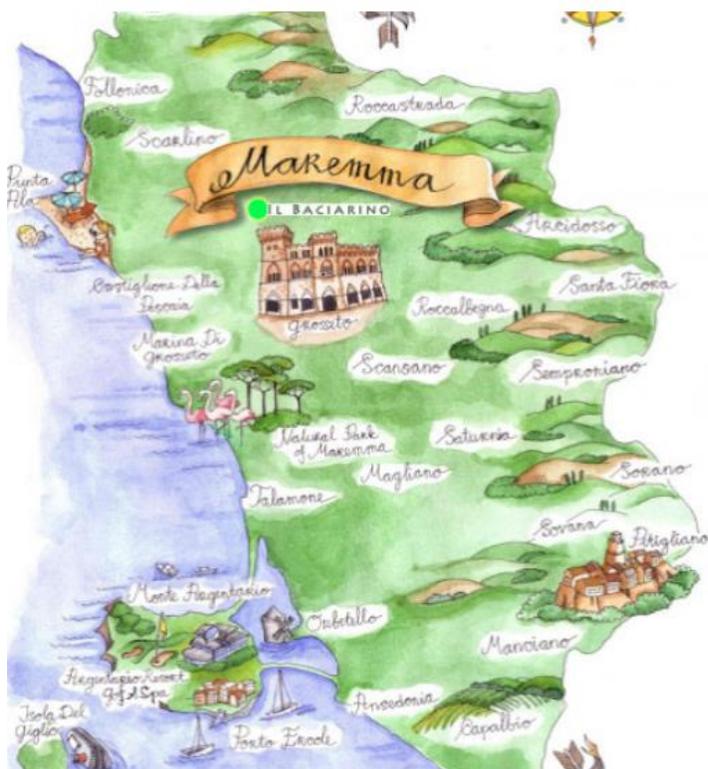
The 'Agriturismo' Cont'd

Italy itself is an interesting country. It is very beautiful. The land is often terraced; vineyards and olive groves pattern the hillsides. You have all seen pictures of the tall Cyprus trees, the umbrella pines and the warm coloured buildings that give the landscape its distinctive look. While there are highways between major centers, most of the roads and streets we travel tend to be narrow. To reach Il Baciardino there are four kilometers of winding, twisting roads with several hairpin turns from the Tuscan plains at the bottom, to the top of the hill. Your ears pop by the time you get to the top. The roads are almost two cars wide and have no shoulder or guardrail to speak of. Everyone drives in the middle of the road until they see an oncoming car, then they pull to the side enough to pass without driving off the edge of the road. This is done at full speed! Bridges on these roads are narrow enough that if two cars arrive at the same time, the driver that has a red arrow on their side of the bridge waits or backs up to allow the driver with a white arrow to go first. Road signs like stop, yield and speed limit are suggestions and followed only when it is absolutely necessary to avoid collision.

Shopping is also different. First of all, many of the stores close for three to four hours in the middle of the day, so you have to plan when to run errands. And second, food is labeled in Italian!!! What's that about? There are so many foods that are unfamiliar. Luckily the Italians who cook are introducing them to us. Octopus is my new best friend! The produce department provides plastic gloves and you must wear them. Any fruit or vegetable that you eat with the skin on must go in a bag which we have found to be very hard to open. Someone finally showed us the trick today. Bananas don't need a bag because you peel them. Packages of eggs have either six or ten eggs in them. And the pasta aisle in one store we go to is as long as the aisles in Sharpe's with pasta of every shape and size on both sides of the aisle. Right now blood oranges are at their peak – delicious!

Like the work-aways, we are enjoying having a chance to experience other cultures. It is wonderful to spend so much time with young people (who are not your children). Their energy and enthusiasm for life is energizing. It was also wonderful to spend time over the holidays with our entire family. Hope this gives you a sense of what we are up to...a dopo!

P.S. Italians really do talk with their hands! Check out this website for a lesson in Italian sign language: <https://myoutu.be/oZk5rAVuNsc>



COVID-19 UPDATE FOR NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

(Data provided by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, Jan.30, 2022)

Current Active Cases: 137

Cases to Date: 2020: 232 2021: 1231 2022: 1330 Total: 2793 (3.3% of Population)

Cases Resolved: 2635 (94.3% of total cases)

Hospitalizations: 2020: 7 2021: 37 2022: 26 Total: 70 (2.5% of total cases*)

Covid-related deaths: 2020: 2 2021: 16 2022: 3 Total: 21 (0.75% of total cases*)

Editor's Note: * New daily case count has dropped steadily through the month. Although cases have ballooned, hospitalization and death rates continue to fall and, in fact, are no doubt lower than these percentages due to the reduced testing available.

Message from the Editor...



Thanks so much to Robin Rice for taking the time to tell us a bit about their Italian sojourn. You should visit the website—looks like their daughter and son-in-law have really made their dreams come true! Did anyone else take a recent holiday or attend an event they'd like to share highlights from?

Looking for St.Patrick's Day-themed material for next month's newsletter! Send to lauramcculloch52@gmail.com

Stay safe and warm!

Laura McCulloch
Newsletter Editor



On the Lighter Side...

Last Will & Testament:

His nurse, his wife, his daughter and two sons, are with him. He asks for two witnesses to be present and a video camera be in place to record his last wishes.

When all is ready he begins to speak. "My son, Sam, I want you to take the Ocean Reef houses."

"My daughter Sybil, you take the apartments between mile markers 100 and Tavernier."

"My son, Jamie, I want you to take the offices over in the Marathon Government Center."

"Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the bay side on Blackwater Sound.

The nurse and witnesses are blown away as they did not realize his extensive holdings and as Doug slips away, the nurse says:

"Mrs. Boone, your husband must have been such a hard-working man to have accumulated all this property.

The wife replies, "**The asshole has a paper route**".



Submitted by Lesia Karas