



TRENT HILLS PROBUS CLUB NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

Our Strength is Fellowship; Our Success is Participation

MONTHLY MEETINGS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID-19

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Covid 19 is here and we must deal with it. I did not expect to be President a second year, but this is an unusual year.

We have been using the Newsletter as a tool to keep in touch with members monthly. Thank you to those who submitted pictures—it definitely helped to give interest to the newsletter. Now that we are in this situation for the long haul, I hope more people will make submissions to Laura of any type. You do not have to send in pictures of people if you do not wish, but scenery pictures are relaxing and interesting too. We would like to keep this newsletter going as a link to our members and keep it interesting for members to read.

It was suggested that, in general, group meetings will not start again until we have a vaccine deemed to be safe and offered to everyone. Some clubs have already started online meetings via the Zoom program and we are planning to go this route, as well.

Hazel (Vice President and Events Manager), Laura (Communications Manager) and I have signed up for a series of tutorials offered through Probus Canada. We have been assigned a mentor, located at the Beaver Valley Probus Club, and spent an hour with him on Zoom a week ago at the time of writing. We sat in on one of his Club Zoom meetings last week to see how it works. We are aiming to try our first Zoom meeting in either November or December. Watch for further information.

It looks as though Zoom is here to stay. If you haven't tried joining into a Zoom meeting, have a friend set up a meeting for you to practice. There are Zoom tutorials on line if you need help. When we start, I will post step by step how to get the app and how to get into Zoom for those who are not already connected. You only need the free version of Zoom to join a meeting.

If you have any ideas for speakers or activities, send them into the club and they will be forwarded to the appropriate person. We welcome all suggestions! One advantage to 'Zoom' speakers is that they don't have to be physically available to come to Campbellford to talk because they are speaking from their home or business. They could be across the province, country or even across the world! Some examples of activities being pursued by other Clubs are: carrying on their Book Club through Zoom, another has a wine-tasting club on Zoom (they don't have to drive home!).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT'D)

Right now, the aim of all us is to stay safe. Wear your mask and, if cloth, wash it after each use. Physically distance and stay in your bubble. Wash, wash and wash your hands. It is tempting to want to go out, but don't be reckless.

We will all get through this.

Norah

Announcements:

The **Car Rally** was cancelled. We thought we could have a fun activity as a group, however, with the rise in Covid numbers across the province and the negative publicity with regards to groups of people meeting when outside the bubble, we decided it was not feasible to go ahead. Now, of course, Premier Ford has taken any possibility of anything happening out of our hands.



Still, autumn is a beautiful time of the year, so we encourage all of you to go for a drive and take in the colours. Go with a "bubblemate" or go yourself. Take a picture and send it in to the newsletter. We would all appreciate seeing the pictures of one of the best seasons of the year.

The **AGM information** is included in a separate download. Please read and vote immediately, or as soon as possible. All information required is in the document.

We still need a **Secretary** on our Management Committee. As always, it can be one person or multiples working together and dividing times or tasks—ie one do minutes and the other, email. Right now we are doing the best to cover it, however, it means someone is doing double duty.

We have a **few people** who are **leaving their roles** and I would like to thank them for their contributions to the Management Committee and the Club.

Piet and Joy Goemans have stepped down from their roles as Co-Membership Convenors. They reorganized our membership lists and were always quick to volunteer for any additional tasks as needed. They are a good example of multiple people (it does not have to be spouses) doing a single role on the Committee and we will miss having them as part of our group.

Valerie Pridmore has stepped down from her role as Events Convenor. We have had many interesting field trips, both near and far, all of which have provided some great memories for all of us. Two that stand out for me are the Kingston Pen trip and the trip to Toronto to attend "Come from Away". She also led in the planning of our Christmas party and Picnic, both fabulous events for our members. Thanks Val for all the ideas and great events for our Club members to enjoy.

Lesia Karas is leaving her role as Secretary, however, she will be staying on in the Management Committee as Events Convenor. Her computer didn't always match ours, but she still managed to get our minutes out for all of us to read and the newsletters out to all of you. We all belong to multiple organizations and clubs, but Lesia works in her own business as well and still managed to meet our deadlines. Thank you Lesia for always being there when we needed something and always being willing to help others.



POSITION AVAILABLE...

LOOKING FOR A LITTLE ACTIVITY IN YOUR DAY ?

HAVE SOME COMPUTER SKILLS?

Our Club needs a new Secretary ! No experience necessary!

Duties include:

Receive and respond to emails and letters sent to the Club, consulting with President as required. Send out emails to Membership when required.

Attend a monthly Management Committee meeting (currently held on the computer via the Zoom program)

Take the minutes of the Management meeting, following the President's agenda, type up and forward via email to members of the Committee.

Forward monthly e-newsletter (prepared by others) to the Membership.

PLEASE CONTACT NORAH MCGOWAN IF INTERESTED OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST SOMEONE :

norahmcgowan376@gmail.com .

NEW FEATURE!! THANKS TO SHEILA WOOD

Sheila's Joke of the Month

LEMON SQUEEZER

At a local bar, the owner & bartender, was so sure that he was the strongest man around, that he offered a standing \$1000 bet.

The bartender would squeeze a lemon until all the juice ran into a glass, and then hand the lemon to a patron.

Anyone who could squeeze two more drops of juice out of it, would win the money.

Many people had tried, over the years: weightlifters, longshoremen, football players etc., but nobody had ever been able to do it.

One day, this scrawny little fellow came into the bar, wearing thick glasses and a polyester suit. He sat down, ordered a glass of draft, & started looking around the bar.

After reading the sign on the wall about the lemon challenge, he said in a meek voice: "I was just reading your sign, and I'd like to try the bet."

After the laughter in the pub had died down, the bartender grabbed a lemon and squeezed the heck out of it.....

Then he handed the wrinkled remains of the rind to the little fellow.

The Crowd's laughter turned to total silence....as the man clenched his little fist around the lemon....and six drops fell into the glass.

As the crowd cheered, the bartender paid the guy his \$1000, and then asked little man:

"Do you mind if I ask what do you do for a living? Are you a lumberjack, a weight-lifter, or what?"

The little fellow quietly replied:

"No".. he said"I work for Revenue Canada".



As we reach our “Year-End”, Norah looks back over the past year...

We had an enjoyable first six months with a variety of interesting speakers. There were storytellers at Christmas and at our St Patrick’s Day celebrations. Two authors talked about their earlier real-life experiences – Judy Fong Bates described being part of the only Chinese family in small town Ontario, and Darcy Jenner told us some little publicized stories from the October Crisis. We learned all about medical cannabis and had our questions answered. Northumberland changed their recycling rules and who knew it could be so exciting. Hats off to Dan Orr for being such an interesting speaker.

Our Car Rally & lunch in October were great fun and who could forget our dinner at Elmhirst’s Resort! We were a little crowded, but the excellent food and camaraderie made up for it. It is disappointing that we will not be able to do it again this year. Our Christmas party with a traditional singalong was enjoyable but, for now, that is a



memory. No one will ever forget Tom and his Trivia Quiz. It was so much fun and everyone left on a high. In January the bowlers in the group had fun and in February a movie afternoon was enjoyed at the Aron Theatre.



I would be remiss if I did not thank all of our members who have volunteered to help out in so many ways. Members who have

helped out in planning our events, members who have suggested speakers, members who helped with the set up or take down of the room; we could not do it without you. You are all wonderful.

Your Management Committee was busy behind the scenes, as well. All documents were examined and those that needed to be updated were. Our meeting place changed in appearance and the back of the room became the front, emergency exits changed, and sound systems had to be adjusted. Still was a work in progress as we left.

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 was our last meeting together. We had seventy-two people sitting together at tables, back to back. We could help ourselves to coffee, water and plates of goodies as we desired. Our coats were all together on racks at the back of the room waiting for us to pick them up when we left. Who knew, while sitting there, that this would be our last time together and that, by the time we got home, there were strong indications that our world was changing – and did it change fast over the next few days!

COVID 19 protocols hit with a vengeance. Social isolation, physical distancing, masks, constant hand washing and hand sanitizers, “bubbles”, grocery and pharmacy deliveries, restaurants and businesses closed. Our lives have changed and we have been forced to find different ways to occupy our time and communicate.

Still, your Management Committee feels that the companionship we have through our Probus Club is worth holding on to. With meetings impossible at least for the next several months, we are turning to an online (Zoom) meeting format to see if the Membership can benefit from this form of socialization and participation. Time will tell. Our first attempt will be November 11th, with speaker Sarah Cook of the Alzheimer Society. See further information in this newsletter.

Certainly, 2019-20 has been a unique year in the history of the Trent Hills Probus Club. Hopefully, we all have learned to “go with the flow” and to enjoy each day as it comes.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO ATTEND OUR FIRST ONLINE “ZOOM” PROBUS MEETING ON OUR REGULAR MEETING DAY, **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH**. BECAUSE THIS DAY IS REMEMBRANCE DAY, WE WILL START THE MEETING AT **2 PM** FOR **THIS MEETING ONLY**. THE SPEAKER WILL BE SARAH COOK, EDUCATION COORDINATOR FOR THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY. HER TOPIC WILL BE **“HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW DEMENTIA?”**. INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINING THE MEETING WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER. THERE IS NO COST TO THE MEMBERS FOR THIS.

Message from the Editor...

Thanks to Sheila Wood for agreeing to continue her always enjoyable jokes in our Newsletter instead of at the meetings!

Thanks to Vice President, Hazel Farley, for locating and arranging for a speaker for our first Zoom Probus meeting.

Fall is such a beautiful time of year in Trent Hills! As such, I suggest we hold a little **Photo Contest**. Send in to me by **October 20th** (address below) a favourite photo you have taken over September or October this year. We will have two categories: “Scenery/Nature” and “Activities”. With Thanksgiving coming up there are lots of opportunities for photos (maybe it’s a picture of the tiny turkey you cooked this year for the tiny group of people who enjoyed it!) You may enter both categories if you wish. Maybe we can drum up a little prize for the winners! The photos will be judged by the Management Committee on October 21st and the winners will be displayed in the November Newsletter.

As always, I welcome input from members who have something interesting to share: articles which may be of general interest to our membership, jokes or quizzes, pictures of what you are doing to keep busy, achievements and activities of our members (either upcoming or in the recent past), links to interesting sites (businesses, activities, etc.) Content can be sent to: lauramcculloch52@gmail.com. Deadline for submissions is the 25th of each month.

Stay positive, stay safe and SMILE often—it’s good for your soul!

Laura McCulloch
Newsletter Editor

