

The PROBUS Club of Bradford



May 2019

Issue 96

Management Committee:

President:	Dave McMillan
Past President:	Dave Martin
Vice President:	Bob Watt
Secretaries:	Patricia Dion Eleanor Watt
Treasurer:	Lorna Foti
Social Chair:	Amy Wright
Speakers' Chair:	Philip Junop
Member at Large:	Dale Tasker
Members Chair:	Deb Liukaitis
Technical Chair:	Peter Liukaitis
Major Events:	Peggy Michaud, Brenda Andrews
Newsletter:	Jayne Greer

bradfordprobus@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:

April 24 – ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out)
9:00 am at The Fork & Plate Family Grill 2383 25th
Sideroad, Innisfil

April 25 – RODEO (Retired Old Dames Eating Out)
12:00 pm., Sabella Restaurant, 23 Barrie St.
Bradford

April 25 – AED/CPR Workshop, 9:30 am Action First
Aid 92 Commerce Park Drive, Unit 5, Barrie

May 1 – Theatre 'Skin Flick', 8 pm Markham Flato
Theatre, 171 Town Centre Blvd., Markham

May 14 – General Meeting, St. John's Presbyterian
Church hall. Guest Speaker, Dave Kiernan, Resource
Professional for cardiovascular prevention and
rehab.

May 22 – Parkwood Estate Tour 1:30 pm, 270
Simcoe St. North, Oshawa

May 28 – Hawaiian Luau, 4:30 pm., Bradford Golf
Course

June 17 – Whistling Garden, Fountain Show and
garden tours 9:00 am., Wilsonville (South of
Brantford)

President Dave McMillan's Message:

Dear Probus Members:

We've just experienced a winter very similar to when we were younger but now, we look forward to spring. We welcome back our snowbirds and other members who have travelled to warmer climates and hope everyone had safe travels. We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

In last month's message I mentioned that, in this issue, we would discuss how our club was started. As you can imagine, there are a lot of behind the scenes people and activity that occurs when starting a new club. Peter Ellis was a member of the South Simcoe Probus Club in Alliston and saw an opportunity for a club in Bradford. Thus, he engaged the Bradford Rotary Club of which he was a member. The Bradford Rotary club was instrumental in forming our Bradford PROBUS Club. They loaned us the initial funding for the first several weeks to rent halls, advertise the new club and they ran the first information and foundational meetings. The Bradford Times local paper was helpful in spreading the message by providing free advertising. The Alliston Rotary Club knew the District Director of PROBUS, who eagerly chaired the first meetings until Brenda Andrews volunteered to become the first President. Then, the Club really began to take off.

Now, over to our Past President and current Probus Canada District 2 Director, Brenda Andrews sharing her account of The PROBUS Club of Bradford's beginnings.

'It all started with an ad in the local paper announcing a new club called PROBUS. This sparked my interest! Over the next three months people gathered to find out what 'PROBUS' was all about. Approximately 25 people attended our first two information meetings. Yes, people were interested!

So, we held a foundation meeting to establish an Executive Committee. I am sure you will recognize some of our founding members: President - Brenda Andrews; Vice President - Joanne Leroux; Secretary - Margo McNamara; Treasurer - Janet Pearce; Speakers - Peter Ellis; Social - Peggy Michaud. Next, we scouted for a location to hold the meetings. Leila Lloyd kindly suggested St. John's Presbyterian Church. We were ready to open our new PROBUS club.

I am happy to say, our 'PROBUS Club of Bradford' was chartered on July 27th, 2010 with 26 members.

Looking back, I realize that we didn't have a clue what we signed up for. With the guidance of our PROBUS District Director, visits to other clubs to discover how they handled their meetings, a good team and a little bit of knowledge the club was up and running.

Our club grew so fast that we soon had a lengthy waiting list. At that time, we decided to start a second club called 'The PROBUS Club of Bradford West Gwillimbury' which was chartered on January 2014.

We haven't stopped. And thanks to our members today we are 150 members celebrating Fellowship, Friendship and Fun!

What a great story! As you may know, Brenda is still a very active member of our Executive Committee. Brenda and Peggy have been very busy planning our Hawaiian Luau on May 28th. Carol and I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Until next time,
Dave



APRIL GENERAL MEETING (Patricia Dion, Secretary)

Bob Watt, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed members and three guests. Bob reminded us that on this day in 1917 the Battle at Vimy Ridge took place.

Community Sharing Events:

Patti Ellis will be singing with a Latvian Choir at the Presbyterian Church in Alliston on May 5th and invited those who are interested to attend.

Leila announced that St. John's Church is hosting a ham and scalloped potato dinner on Friday, May 3rd.

Bob Evans told everyone that on Thursday, May 30th an indigenous lawyer will be speaking about reconciliation at the Alliance Church and if interested in tickets to contact himself or Cathryn Rees.

There will be a roast beef dinner at Trinity Anglican Church on April 26th.

Birthday Wishes and Baby Faces:

Happy Birthday wishes were extended to those members born in April:

Margaret Body, Lorna Foti, Dawn Harvey, Philip Junop, Jo Kenemy, Wilf Kenemy, Anne Kuri, Earl Michaud, Donna Nicholson, Maureen Patterson.

Members tried to guess the baby pictures of: Gwen Green, Jean Calder, Hank Van Der Post and Milt Calder.

Speakers, Sub Clubs, Events and Trips:

The May speaker will be Dave Kiernan speaking on Cardiovascular Care and Stress and Sleep Management.

The June speaker will be Dr. Patricia Wheeler speaking on the Use of Music in Film.

The July speaker will be Brian McFarlane, sportscaster and author.

Lindsay Brooks discussed a new club, 'Jamming' and encouraged those who are interested to join.

Terry Marshall has researched and talked with members from the library and Genealogy Society and is now ready to begin the 'Genealogy Club' and invited interested members to meet right after today's meeting.

Bev Ferguson discussed the 'Walking Club' and explained that 1 ½ to 2-hour walks will be planned according to the weather.

ROMEO will be having a breakfast on April 24th at 9:00 a.m. at the Fork & Plate Family Grill in Innisfil.

RODEO will be having a lunch on April 25th at Sabella Restaurant in Bradford.

Amy discussed upcoming events:

To celebrate 'National Canadian Film Day', there will be a movie/pizza night at Bond Head United Church on April 17th at 4:00 to see two Canadian moves: 'One Week' and 'A Bear Named Winnie'. The cost is \$10.00 per person.

Lorna arranged a two-hour AED/CPR workshop in Barrie on April 25th and payment is due today.

On May 1st Lorna arranged a theater event at the Markham Flato Theater to see 'Skin Flick' by Norm Foster and payment is due today.

Amy set up a Tour of the Parkwood Estate in Oshawa on May 22nd at 1:30 p.m. and the cost is \$20.00 or \$22.00 depending on how many people sign up.

Amy arranged a tour to visit 'Whistling Gardens' in Wilsonville (south of Brantford) on June 17th at 9:00 a.m., which includes a tour, fountain show, lunch and transportation for \$65.00.

On June 11th Jo Kenemy arranged a sail and lunch on the tall ship Kajama for \$50.00.

Brenda reviewed the menu of the May 28th Luau and said that payment is due today.

The play 'Dear Evan Hanson' at the Royal Alex is at 1:30 p.m. on June 26th.

Amy is planning a trip to Peterborough to see the lift locks and Canoe Museum and a river cruise.

Lynn Kanyo is planning an Elvis Tribute event for November.

Guess Who is Coming to Dinner will take place in September.

Brenda discussed a trip to New York City planned for October 31st to November 4th.

Sam Polsinello won \$77.50 Bob Watt thanked those who provided treats today.

Guest Speaker, Barbara Dickson Bomb Girls, Trading Aprons for Ammo

Philip Junop introduced Barbara Dickson who is an author, historian and speaker from Scarborough, Ontario. When Barbara heard about the 4 kms of tunnels under Scarborough, Ontario she began her journey to know all she could about the tunnels and GECO Munition Factory build in the early 1940's.

GECO was the largest munitions factory in Canadian history.

It employed over 21,000 employees and 256 million fuses were filled and shipped overseas.

There were 172 buildings built on 346 acres of farmland.

A sister plant in Ajax, Ontario filled the shells that the fuses were attached to and 9,000 people worked at that plant.

Scarborough became a mini city encompassed by a barbed wire fence with two fire halls, a bank, a hospital, a recreation club and a switchboard.

The buildings were built out of wood and twenty-one of them remain standing today.

What is left of the facility is privately owned and the tunnels are sealed.

The Canadian government set it up, ran it and determined the wages of the employees.

The bomb girls work was very complex and dangerous, they had to press down volatile powder to fill the detonators and often the yellow powder couldn't be rubbed off and left permanent staining.

The factory processed five hundred women every 30 minutes and it took 2 ½ hours to process each one.

No outside clothing was allowed and they could have nothing on them that would cause a spark.

No nail polish, no playing cards, no make up and no chewing gum were allowed.

There was free transportation to and from the plant.

They only ceased production for one day, due to a severe snowstorm.

Not one person died while working at the factory.

Barbara showed slides of some of the bomb girls that she has met and told a little of their story.

Mayor John Tory has recently recognized their contribution to the war effort.

There is a mural honouring them at the Warden subway station.

Margo McNamara thanked Barbara for her fascinating and informative presentation.



Thanks to John Dion for the photos.

PROBUS BRADFORD ACTIVITY CLUBS

**Badminton
Bid Euchre
Book
Bridge
Dinner
Genealogy
Knitting
Photography
Walk/Hikes**

**Lindsay Brooks
Deborah Liukaitis
Cheryl Blair
Bob Evans
Dale Tasker
Terry Marshall
Linda Alsop
Robert Alsop
Bev Ferguson**

Bid Euchre Tourney

March 30, 2019





Thanks to Dave McMillan for the photos.

Upcoming Speakers

May:

Dave Kiernan is a resource professional for cardiovascular prevention and rehab at Southlake Hospital and will be focusing his presentation on cardiovascular care, as well as, stress and sleep management as we age.



June:

Dr. Patricia Wheeler is a saxophonist and jazz director for the New Horizons Band of Toronto performing throughout North America. She teaches at Ryerson University and Centennial College. Topic: Use of Music in Film.



July:

Brian McFarlane is a Canadian television sportscaster, author and honorary President of the Society for International Hockey Research. He is the son of a prolific writer, Leslie McFarlane, who wrote many of the Hardy Boys books. Brian is best known as a broadcaster on HOCKEY Night in Canada and as an author of hockey books.



Thanks to Philip Junop for the write ups and the photos

**Your mind is a garden.
Your thoughts are the seeds.
You can grow flowers,
Or you can grow weeds.**



**The June newsletter will come your way on May 28!
Jayne Greer, Editor**