



# PROBUS News.....

## PROBUS Club of Bradford

Volume 116, Published December 2020

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear PROBUS Members:

This year we have seen our world turn upside down. However, I do hope that you enjoy the magical month of December. For our family, it is a special time of the year with Christmas carols, flashing lights and of course, experiencing chocolate overload. Let's enjoy the season, count our blessings and be thankful for all that we have.

Your Executive, led by Social Chair Wendy, continue to review potential events and new interest clubs. As we bring in 2021, we can look forward to enjoying more fun club activities. For example, our "fireside chats" have been well received. We will bring an international flavour to this event starting in January. On Robbie Burns Day (January 25<sup>th</sup>), Stan Thomson from Banchory, Scotland will do an interactive presentation for us.

One of the barometers of how successful a club is performing is whether other club's Executives want to attend a General Meeting. Well, over the past year we have had 25+ Executives from other clubs around the world attend. I think the word is out that our members know how to have FUN !

As you may recall, in our July newsletter, and as mentioned at the General Meeting, we advised we were deferring 2020/21 membership fees until further notice. Now 6 months later, our club will need additional income to continue our virtual activities, speakers' fees and fund PROBUS Canada expenses i.e. membership and insurance. Therefore, in January we will implement a partial \$20.00 membership fee. Further details will be announced in January.

On behalf of your Executive, we wish you and your family the very best for the holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Until next time,  
Dave

**Merry Christmas  
2020!**



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### 2020 Executive Committee:

President: *Dave McMillan*

Vice President: *Bob Watt*

Secretaries:

*Eleanor Watt and Cheryl Blair*

Treasurer: *Lorna Foti*

Social Chair: *Wendy Van Straten*

Communication Chair:

*Deborah Liukaitis*

Technical Chair: *Pete Liukaitis*

Speakers' Chair: *Philip Junop*

Members Chair: *Patricia Dion*

Major Events:

*Brenda Andrews and  
Peggy Michaud*

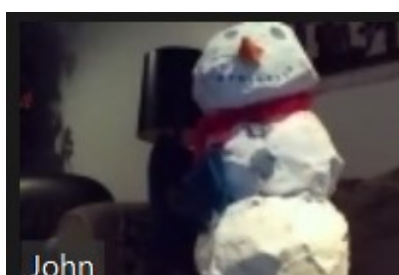
Members at Large:

*Dale Tasker and Pat Mohren*

Past President: *Dave Martin*

## DECEMBER MEETING — MERRY CHRISTMAS!

This greeting was heartily expressed to friends as over 100 people jumped on the ZOOM train for our PROBUS Christmas party. With sweaters, hats and beverages we were a festive view on the computer screen. Ready for



a  
show!

After a wintry wonderland scene video to get everyone in the mood, our club President, Dave, welcomed all. Special guests, Jamie Doolittle, the President of PROBUS Canada and from Sudbury, England, Shirley Roberts, President of PROBUS Global. Nine other guests tagged in including visitors from Scotland and Australia!

Happy birthday was sung (lead by Judy) to 17 December babies. Pat Mohren also announced some community events coming up.

Deb Liukaitis put together a picture show from Christmas parties past.



2019

Just a sample...2013 shows a little more energy  
but yes you all still look great!



## PERFORMING — 'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS...

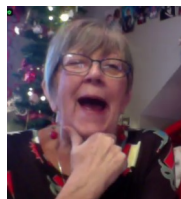


A time honoured poem repeated every year.

Just [CLICK on this link](#) to see these culprits recite the tale.

**Follow the bouncing ball!**

## Guest Speaker...Timmy Boyle, Stand Up Comedian



A VERY FUNNY man! Timmy's performance was so personable. His ability to engage with the audience and tell funny stories made for lots of knee slapping giggles.

These two ladies were enjoying the show or did Lynn just get a start on her wine winnings?



## JANUARY SPEAKER... Sally Jo Martin...Sleeping Children Around The World

Sally Jo is an educator and volunteer who will be speaking about SCAW, Sleeping Children Around the World, a charity founded by Murray and Margaret Dryden, (Ken Dryden's parents) in 1970. SCAW volunteers deliver supplies of bedding and clothing to impoverished children throughout Asia and Africa.



Sally Jo herself has taken part in delivering 54,000 bed kits to needy children.

## FEBRUARY SPEAKER... David T. Chapman...Wild, Weird and Whacky Weather

David is a professional photographer and storm chaser from Lincoln, Ontario. David has been pursuing his career since the age of eighteen. In the course of his work David has studied meteorology, ornithology and the Aurora Borealis. David's program will consist of a wide variety of weather that can be seen all across North America.



## THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WINE CONTEST!

It all started when Patricia Dion suggested- "12 Days of Christmas Wine Contest". Entry fee was a nice bottle of wine. For twelve days we drew names to eliminate and the last four names left in the pot by the December meeting won the prizes.

Well, *Bradford PROBUS members like wine!! 45 members contributed! 45 bottles of wine!*

So the contest was launched in late November and according to Mark C. (aka, the email whistle blower) this is where it started going off the rails...

**Mark's warning:** "I had a few friends fall for an investment scheme and they both lost their initial investment and they have no recourse. It is a scheme gaining popularity in the Simcoe County and York Region areas. I thought I'd warn all of you. It is a typical scam where investors are promised potential gains far exceeding reason but it is very tempting. The scam is usually run by an attractive, friendly couple that can charm their way past your guarding nature and tap into your thirst for personal gain.

This gain sounds too good to be true but people still fall for it because of their addictive nature. Typically the couple resides out of the region secluded from civilization and law enforcement. Here is the latest scam...

You are promised tenfold return on your initial investment. You meet with the couple at the address given and soon realize they do not have an office but operate out of their car in a plaza similar to a Walmart plaza.

Here, you turn over your last expensive bottle of wine and are reluctant to let it part your hands but you see others doing it, so hey, it must be okay. You let the wine go. The scamming couple has an SUV packed with wine and it doesn't dawn on you that you cannot all be winners. You are about to lose everything. The couple disappears to the far north never to be seen again.

I would NEVER invest in such a scheme - they are usually scams but try talking my wife out of it. She invested...now I have nothing to drink. You have been warned".

So, bottles were collected. Did I mention 45 members, 45 bottles of wine? The wine was taken to a "secure" storage facility (accomplice Cheryl Blair) to await the official moment of the elimination draws.

**Cheryl's disclaimer:** "I know I can speak for Patricia as well as myself when I say that we take the job of managing the collection, storage and distribution of members valuable assets very seriously. We did a rigorous inventory when the assets were put into storage, although I must say that I did not actually have the master ownership list in my possession and can not swear to the fact that all assets were transported to me - however, I do trust my co-worker completely.

Since I have received these assets I have ensured that they have been properly stored at the optimal light and temperature conditions.

Now you must understand that with any inventory of this size, even though all the best procedures are followed, there is still a risk of shrinkage due to breakage, misplacement, theft, etc. I am doing the best job I can but I can't be there 24 hours a day. Rest assured that I am expecting no more than a 10% loss which is well within industry standards for this type of product.

Oh and by the way, Gord says there is no point monitoring our blue boxes. With his Scottish heritage there is no way he is throwing out a bottle with a 20 cent deposit."

As December came upon us, the contest was in full swing and members were suffering the bleak days of elimination draws. All hell is breaking loose and the emails are flooding the internet. Disqualified members are now voicing their suspicions/accusations.....





## THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WINE CONTEST! *continued*

**Brian F.:** "IT'S FAKE NEWS EVERYBODY KNOWS I WON BY A LANDSLIDE-MILLIONS OF PEOPLE VOTED FOR ME!"

**Linda MaG.:** "We are ashamed to say we also fell for this despicable scam. However, we contacted the wine police and they are on the case. They have given us hope that all is not lost, but did point out that if we didn't drink so much wine, we wouldn't have fallen for it in the first place."

**Pat M.:** "OK, I can't stand this anymore. Moose was eliminated a couple of days ago and since then has done nothing but walk around, antlers down, muttering constantly all day and even in his sleep about this scam that he got involved in and also the \$5.00 he "donated" to the northern guy to make it to the finals.

I had to stop him. I took a picture while he wasn't looking. I also told him, for \$5.00 I wouldn't have put him in the finals either .

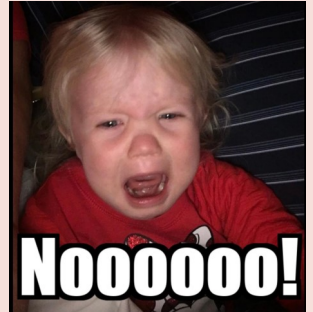


**Bunny K.:** "I married Kent thinking he was a winner. Now I'm wondering if I should be considering a divorce! "

**Cheryl B.** after elimination: "I guess my luck has run out! Now I need to put wine back on my Christmas list.

I tripped over a nice Chocolate Shiraz today and according to the wine critic ( someone by the name of Brooks I think) it is a sipping wine to be paired only with a chocolate bar. I was planning to save it for the meeting Tuesday but may need to drown my sorrows tonight instead, if only I had some chocolate....."

**Judy T.:** "This is a snap of my husband when I told him he wouldn't be winning any of the WINE!"



Now this public hue and cry may have placed doubts on the validity and fairness of this contest but rest assured in Patricia's email all is explained: "It is with a heavy heart to read all the mistrust going around Bradford and area. It has come to my attention, that certain people have made it their quest in life, to challenge the honesty and integrity of my assistant and myself along with the driver of the said vehicle who, while parked in the Dollarama parking lot, did accept some alcoholic beverages in good faith, to possibly enhance their donation.

Due to the pandemic and cost of electricity along with the cost of fuel, (and possible purchase of a Tesla) there may have to be some changes to the wine lovers contest. We will discuss this problem through the night along with a beverage or two and ponder on how we may make this contest better in the future. I do know that the main instigators of the elimination draw emails will be dealt with severely ( no wine for you ) and eventually those who continue to be successful in dodging elimination will come out of this with at least one bottle of Cold Duck because, as the song says "Baby it's Cold Outside" and the nights are long and lonely."

Alas, all this entertainment came to the end. On December 8th members put away their competitive sour grapes to congratulate these four winners who survived the 12 Days of Christmas Wine Draw:

**1st Prize (18 bottles) Debbie J.**

**2nd Prize (13 bottles) Lynn K.**

**3rd Prize (9 bottles) Sam F.**

**4th Prize (5 bottles) Dale T.**



**A HUGE success!**

Thanks Patricia and all who helped make this contest such a smashing success. For those who didn't win, *what a bunch of "winers"!*

**CHEERS!**



## CHRISTMAS DELIVERY

On December 6th  
members of the execu-  
tive delivered lovely  
Christmas poinsettias  
to the delight of the  
Bradford PROBUS  
members. A small way  
of spreading some holi-  
day cheer. Many thanks!



### COVID Christmas

T'was the season of Christmas,  
And all through the town,  
People wore masks,  
That covered their frown.

The frown had begun  
Way back in the Spring,  
When a global pandemic  
Changed everything.

They called it corona,  
But unlike the beer,  
It didn't bring good times,  
It didn't bring cheer.

Contagious and deadly,  
This virus spread fast,  
Like a wildfire that starts  
When fueled by gas.

Airplanes were grounded,  
Travel was banned.  
Borders were closed  
Across air, sea and land.

As the world entered lockdown  
To flatten the curve,  
The economy halted,  
And folks lost their verve.

From March to July  
We rode the first wave,  
People stayed home,  
They tried to behave.

When summer emerged  
The lockdown was lifted.  
But away from caution,  
Many folks drifted.

Now it's November  
And cases are spiking,  
Wave two has arrived,  
Much to our disliking.

Frontline workers,  
Doctors and nurses,  
Try to save people,  
From riding in hearses.

This virus is awful,  
This COVID-19.  
There isn't a cure.  
There is no vaccine.

It's true that this year  
Has had sadness a plenty,  
We'll never forget  
The year 2020.

And just 'round the corner -  
The holiday season,  
But why be merry?  
Is there even one reason?

To decorate the house  
And put up the tree,  
When no one will see it,  
No-one but me.

But outside my window  
The snow gently falls,  
And I think to myself,  
Let's deck the halls!

So, I gather the ribbon,  
The garland and bows,  
As I play those old carols,  
My happiness grows.

Christmas ain't cancelled  
And neither is hope.  
If we lean on each other,  
I know we can cope.

By Shawna Hickling, Calgary AB



# CLUBS DURING COVID

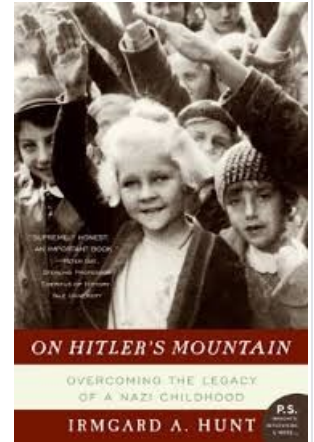
Ten months and counting! These groups are still finding ways to reach out and continue with their club groups:

**BOOK CLUB** (Cheryl Blair) : **Currently reading** "On Hitler's Mountain" by Irmgard A. Hunt

Growing up in the beautiful mountains of Berchtesgaden – just steps from Adolf Hitler's alpine retreat – Irmgard Hunt had a seemingly happy, simple childhood. In her powerful, illuminating, and sometimes frightening memoir, Hunt recounts a youth lived under an evil but persuasive leader. As she grew older, the harsh reality of war – and a few brave adults who opposed the Nazi regime – aroused in her skepticism of National Socialist ideology and the Nazi propaganda she was taught to believe in.

In May 1945, an eleven-year-old Hunt watched American troops occupy Hitler's mountain retreat, signaling the end of the Nazi dictatorship and World War II. As the Nazi crimes began to be accounted for, many Germans tried to deny the truth of what had occurred; Hunt, in contrast, was determined to know and face the facts of her country's criminal past.

*On Hitler's Mountain* is more than a memoir – it is a portrait of a nation that lost its moral compass. It is a provocative story of a family and a community in a period and location in history that, though it is fast becoming remote to us, has important resonance for our own time.



Use this link to access information on all books the club has read or to join any clubs: [Book Club - The PRO-BUS Club of Bradford \(weebly.com\)](http://BookClub-ThePRO-BUSClubofBradford.weebly.com)

And just like that, Grandma was off the list for church fundraisers



**The Knitting Club** is still ZOOM meeting and the last one was December 1st. We welcome anyone who has an interest in knitting or crochet and scintillating chats. For more information contact Linda A. (lindacvano@gmail.com).

Next zoom meeting is January 5, 2021!

Anyone have the pattern for these lovely pot handle holders? They would make great stocking stuffers.

**WALKS ON THE TAME SIDE**—Amy W. welcomes all to join her in COVID safe walks. The first one was Dec. 14th at the Cookstown Rail Trail. Amy prefers these leisurely walks in open spaces rather than “street walking”.

The next walk will be December 28th on the trails at Friday Harbour, Innisfil. Weather depending. Contact Amy at amywright0@hotmail.com Future walks will be announced by email.



# ZOOM WINTER EVENTS

This is a list of the planned ZOOM events with contact information for this winter. Any changes to this schedule will be announced by email.

<b>December 16</b>	<b>Trivia Night</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	Sign up Dec 13th Contact Wendy at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca
<b>December 30</b>	<b>Fireside Chat</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	Sign up by Dec 29th Contact Dale at dale.tasker@rogers.com
<b>January 13</b>	<b>BINGO</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	To participate contact Wendy at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca
<b>January 25</b>	<b>Fireside Chat</b> (Scottish theme, Robbie Burns Day) <b>2:00 pm</b>	To participate contact Dale at dale.tasker@rogers.com
<b>February 10</b>	<b>Games Night</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	To participate contact Wendy at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca
<b>February 24</b>	<b>BINGO</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	To participate contact Wendy at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Fireside Chat</b> (St. Patrick's Day) <b>2:00 pm</b>	To participate contact Dale at dale.tasker@rogers.com
<b>March 31</b>	<b>Games Night</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	To participate contact Wendy at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

**Q: If 2020 was a drink, what would it be?**

**A: Colonoscopy prep**

**Nothing is truly lost until your wife can't find it.**

**My kids say they want a cat for Christmas.**

**Normally I do a turkey but hey, if it'll make them happy...**



Thankyou everyone who sent me  
their Christmas photos!

What a great response of old,  
new, cute and oops! Enjoy.

Mikki got more than what she  
bargained for under her tree!

Just the mistletoe Mikki.



So, he bring gifts and all  
I have to do is be good?  
*Riiiiiight.....*

Hank and Betty Lou's  
great grandson.



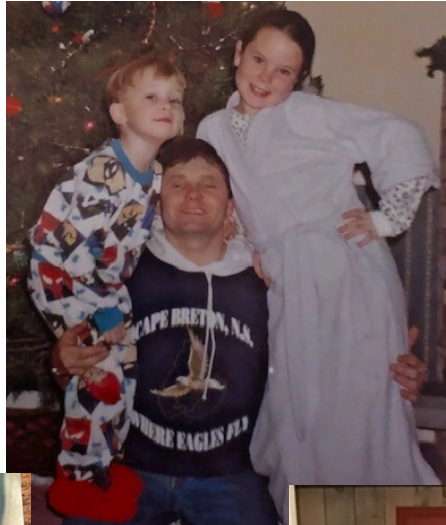
Ellen & Neil's three sets of grand children. Wow!  
That is going to be one busy time under the  
Christmas tree!







Phil & Claire's family from the 90's!  
A lot of kids. Where's the parents?



Judy T. with her older sister  
1958.



The Bob & Eleanor's family competing  
with the Mooses in hats.







Chris Van S. and Sinterklaas

Nancy B., Debbie J.  
and Faye B.

Christmas at Casa  
Loma 2018



2019

Colleen E. with daughter and  
granddaughter currently liv-  
ing in Australia.







Bob E. and his brother 1950.

Brian's family in Cuba for a Christmas holiday and Brian and Jean's 50th wedding anniversary.



Pat and Moose's first and last pictures of their girls with Santa.



Pat M. with Santa...like last year?



Moose and Hank have their trees up. Take a **VERY** close look. Can you tell whose tree is whose? Betty Lou worked very hard on one.







Lorna and Carmen's grandson at a drive-through parade. His Santa letter was picked up by a helper through the truck window.



Judy McC.'s 8 year old granddaughter.



Dale's favourite present from his brother.

Last but not least...We share our two little grandsons in our combined Dion/Tasker family.

They make Christmas more fun every year.

*Merry Christmas Everyone!*



Tasker ugly Christmas sweater year.





## Santa's Village—65 years and going strong!

In the early 1950s the building of Highway 11 around downtown Bracebridge caused concern for the locals to find a way to pull people off the bypass and bring business and employment into their town not only during the tourist season but beyond.

Bracebridge's location along the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel—halfway between the Equator and North Pole—inspired the idea for a Christmas-themed attraction. What better than a Santa's Village. So in 1955, a 6 year old's dream was built.

A theme park, complete with a series of log cabins surrounded by paths filled with characters from nursery rhymes and fairy tales, played mostly by local high school students. A carousel, purchased from Eaton's department store. An outdoor theatre to present classic children's stories and folk tales. Rides and boat trips to the Elves Island play ground (added in the 70's). Santa was provided with a home and workshop, where elves would carry on their work amid, as an early ad put it, "18 acres of enchanted evergreen forest." It was largely a local project, with 95 percent of the initial 160 shareholders residing in Muskoka.

For the past 65 years, Santa's Village in Bracebridge has thrived (even after the opening of Canada's Wonderland). In 2005 the park welcomed it's 5 millionth visitor not including the many dignitaries who have visited since it's creation.

Today, Santa's Village still consists of the core park, campgrounds, Sportsland (which offers activities ranging from go-karts to mini golf), and Muskoka Zip Lines and Aerial Park. While new attractions are continually added, Santa remains at the heart of the park's appeal, spreading the spirit of the holidays throughout the sunnier parts of the year.

Sadly, John McTavish, the man known as Santa at Santa's Village, passed away this past October. Adored by thousands of children over the years, his enduring legacy will never be forgotten.

—Cottage Life, December 2020



Santa's chapel  
1955



Santa and staff 1955

Figure skating's beauty, strength and athleticism is always entertaining to watch. Click on the image below to see a skating pair perform a routine unlike anything you will ever see.





CHRISTMAS FUNNIES

"2020 is almost over. We're in the homestretch!"

The homestretch...



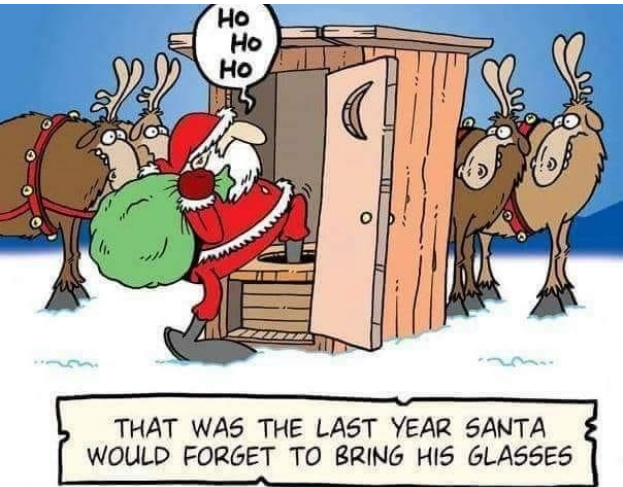
Anyone know anyone called Leon that might want these? I ordered Noel but they sent me the wrong one.



Learning to write in Mandarin during the quarantine.



I SELL SNOWMAN ARMS, \$50.





## UNKNOWN FACT ABOUT PENGUINS

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica? Where do they all go?

Wonder no more! It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird and lives an extremely ordered and complex life. Penguins are extremely committed to their family and will mate for life, as well as maintain a form of compassionate contact with their offspring throughout the remainder of their life.

If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and their social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using only their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into, and buried.

After packing the ice back in the hole, the male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:

*"Freeze a jolly good fellow."*

*"Freeze a jolly good fellow."*



Sweet ride for those long morning commutes.



Clifford and Daisy Mae were married for many years.

Whenever there was a confrontation, yelling could be heard deep into the night. Clifford would shout, "When I die, I'll dig my way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life ol' woman!"

Neighbours feared him. Old Clifford liked the fact that he was feared.

He died at the ripe old age of 98.

After the burial, Daisy Mae's neighbours. Concerned for her safety, asked, "Aren't you afraid that he may indeed be able to dig his way out of the grave and haunt you for the rest of your life?"

She replied: "LET HIM DIG, I HAD HIM BURRIED UPSIDE DOWN...AND I KNOW HE WON'T ASK FOR DIRECTIONS."



**Somebody call this lady so she can stop looking for her phone...**





# HELP WANTED

Timothy Tocher

Santa needs new reindeer.  
The first bunch has grown old.

Dasher has arthritis;  
Comet hates the cold.

Prancer's sick of staring  
at Dancer's big behind.

Cupid married Blitzen  
and Donner lost his mind.

Dancer's mad at Vixen  
for stepping on his toes.

Vixen's being thrown out—  
she laughed at Rudolph's nose.

If you are a reindeer  
we hope you will apply.

There is just one tricky part:  
You must know how to fly!

*From A Poem for Every Winter Day*



I leave you with this beautiful Gordon Lightfoot song, "Song For A Winter's Night" by Glass Tiger. Click on the image below.

Merry Christmas Everyone!



Next PROBUS meeting is January 12, 2021 at 10:00 am

*Merry Christmas , Happy New Year ... see you then!*

[www.bradfordprobus.weebly.com/activityclubs.html](http://www.bradfordprobus.weebly.com/activityclubs.html)