



PROBUS News.....

PROBUS Club of Bradford

Volume 141, Published March 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PROBUS Members:

I want to start off by congratulating all of you non-snowbirds for surviving the wrath of Mother Nature, especially in the last few weeks. *"Hell, hath no fury than a woman scorned"*.

As a distraction to the last days of winter, I thought it would be interesting to take a look at some significant days in March:

The purpose of **International Women's Day** (March 8) is to bring attention to gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women.

Daylight Savings Time, held on the second Sunday of March at 2:00 am, maximizes sunlight in the northern hemisphere for nearly 8 months. As of today, the jury is still out on whether its duration will expand to 12 months.

Pi Day is March 14 (3/14) as $\pi = 3.14$.

The **Ides of March** was the 74th day in the Roman calendar, which corresponds to March 15th. It was notable as a deadline for settling debts and for the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC.

Saint Patrick's Day is, of course, on March 17th and is the traditional death date of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

Finally, there is **Earth Hour** on March 25 from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. The first number of years it was observed, the neighbours would come to our place for dinner. At 8:30, we would turn off all things electric and pull out the hand-cranked radio. The amount of dancing we did was directly related to the amount of wine we had consumed.

Lesser-known days celebrated in March include **World Compliment Day** (March 1), **National Peanut Butter Lover's Day** (March 1), **National Worship of Tools Day** (March 11), **National Napping Day** (March 13), **World Sleep Day** (March 17) and **National Puppy Day** (March 23). Who comes up with these days anyway???

So, on behalf of Kent and I, **Happy Spring Equinox Day** (March 20) and we will see you again in April, although not on **April Fool's Day** (April 1).

Until next month... Bunny

May your troubles be less, your blessings be more, and nothing but **HAPPINESS** come through your door!



PROBUS meeting
April 11 at 10:00 am
At St. John's Presbyterian Church

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The President's Message.....	1
March Meeting/Notices.....	2-3
Trip to Ottawa Info.....	4
Clubs/Events.....	5
Moose's Recipe.....	6
Miscellaneous.....	7-10

2023/4 Executive Committee:

President:	Bunny Kaufman
Vice President:	Dale Tasker
Secretary:	Pat Mohren
Treasurer:	Cheryl Blair
Social Chair:	Wendy Van Straten
Communication Chair:	Deborah Liukaitis
Technical Chair:	Pete Liukaitis
Speakers' Chair:	Bob Evans
Members Chair:	Patricia Dion
Major Events:	Brenda Andrews and Peggy Michaud
Members at Large:	Ann Evans and Chris Van Straten
Past President:	Dave McMillan

MARCH MEETING

The (not so little) green leprechauns were out for the PROBUS March meeting eager to launch St. Patrick's Day off to a good start. Although some more than others.

Cute Earl. Wait till you see what you are wearing at the Christmas party!



Going for the pot of gold!



I'm Irish.
Ignore the French accent.

Remember the Irish duet, Tommy and Martina McBride known as A Family Affair. This talented couple from Fermanagh, Ireland, gave us a wonderful concert of traditional Irish music on ZOOM for St. Patrick's Day during COVID.

This St. Patrick's Day they reached out (by email) to Dale Tasker and Brenda Andrews with this note: *"Remembering the zoom parties 2 years ago! Happy St Patrick's Day to all at Probus and still hoping we might get to meet in Canada at some point in the future... Best Wishes..."*

Sure hope they make good on that and we can meet them in person! Click picture to hear.....



April Guest Speaker...Albert Wierenga—"Life as an Educator In the Thrd World"

Born 1948 in Holland.

Immigrated to Canada in 1967.

Earned two degrees: B. SC. at Waterloo and B. Ed. From Western, London.

Lived for extended periods in Papua, New Guinea, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Columbia, USA to work for CUSCO/WUSC.

Married in 1981. Two sons, both born in Zimbabwe.

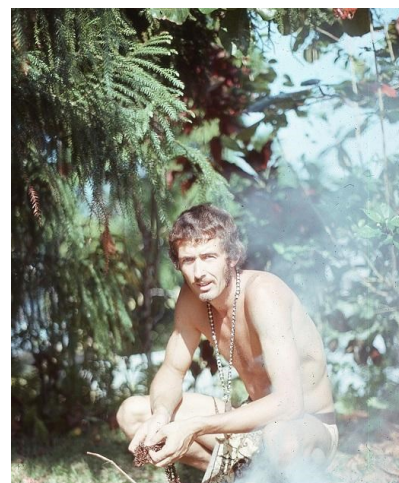
Taught/coached/managed projects from 1974 to 2010. The last 21 years in Newmarket.

Organized and led 15 international habitat trips to El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Chile, Honduras and Malawi.

Since retirement, Albert is doing a good job clearing debris from country road ditches and pursuing opportunities that suit him.



2020 in Dubai dessert.



1975, teaching in Papua New Guinea

EVENTS

ROMEO Breakfast

Wednesday, March 22 at 9:00 am, at
**Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House, 17480
Yonge St., Newmarket (in the Chapters plaza)**

To attend, contact organizer: Dave McMillan,
mcmillan2000@rogers.com by March 20th.

RODEO LUNCH

Thursday, March 30th at 12:00 noon, at **Pur & Simple,
47 Harry Walker Parkway, Newmarket.**

To attend, contact Marianne Brooks, 3brooks@rogers.com
by March 29.

APPY PARTY At Wendy and Chris Van Straten's

Date: Tuesday, March 28 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Location: The Van Straton residence, 3 King St. South, Cookstown

Bring an appetizer and your favourite beverage for a couple of hours of socializing.

Still spots open. If you wish to attend contact Wendy Van Straten at vcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

NOTE: This is a re-schedule from March 21. Please let Wendy know if you cannot attend.

hostess
WITH THE
MOSTESS



LOOKING FOR MEMBERS TO HOST AN APPY PARTY!

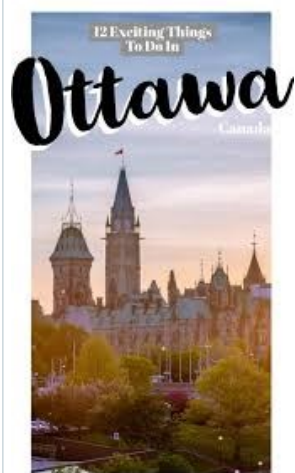
Would you like to host an "appy party" at your home?

You can set the date, time and number of members you would like to host. What ever your place can accommodate.

Keep it simple...everyone brings an appetizer and their own beverage. The fun and conversation just takes care of itself.

SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT APPY PARTY—May 31st for up to 15 people.

If you want to be "A Hostess with the Mostess" contact Wendy Van Straten at vcvanstraten@yahoo.ca.



OTTAWA TRIP IS A GO!

**May 23-25—3 days and 2 nights—the Ottawa Bus Trip is on with
Hamilton Tours of Bradford**

Seats are still available. Friends and family members are welcome.

Cost per person—double occupancy \$935 pp. Single \$1075 pp. with \$300.00 deposit. Final payment is by April 15th.

Contact Wendy Van Straten with questions or to confirm your deposit payment: wcv-anstraten@yahoo.ca

CONTINUE READING NEXT PAGE FOR FULL ITINERARY.....

E-transfer payments to bradfordprobus.treasurer@gmail.com. In the message field include: name of the event and names of the members included in the payment.

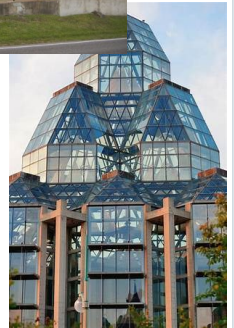
OTTAWA TRIP IS A GO!

Here is the Itinerary...

See you on the bus!

DAY 1, May 23rd

- Depart Hamilton Tours Office at 7:30 am (overnight parking is available)
- Travel through Algonquin Park
- Stop for lunch at historic Wilno Tavern Restaurant (a Polish pub in Wilno, between Barry's Bay and Killaloe)
- Tour of the National Art Gallery
- Check in to 5 star Hilton Hotel
- Vouchers for dinner and play at Casino Lac Leamy



DAY 2, May 24th



- Guided tour of Ottawa
- Free time in the Byward Market
- Amphibious boat tour of the Rideau
- Dinner show of "Oh Canada Eh!"

- Includes breakfast, dinner and \$15.00 meal voucher plus slot voucher



DAY 3, May 25th

- RCMP stables
- War Museum
- Return home
- Arrive in Bradford at approximately 8:30 pm (at Hamilton Tours office)
- **Breakfast at hotel is included that morning



TOUR INCLUDES: Motor coach transportation and tour guide. Two night hotel, taxes and baggage handling. All guided tours, admission and visits. One dinner, one lunch, two breakfast vouchers and two \$15. food vouchers. \$30. dollars in casino slot play vouchers. HST

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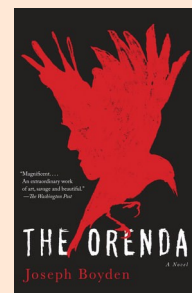
BRADFORD PROBUS CLUBS CONTACTS

BOOK CLUB (Cheryl Blair) Meeting date, March 23

The book for March is *"The Orenda"* by Joseph Boyden

WINNER OF THE LIBRIS AWARD — FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR

In the wilds of seventeenth-century North America, the lives of a Jesuit missionary, a young Iroquois girl, and a great warrior and elder statesman of the Huron Nation become entwined.



Art Fun—Ann Evans

annlesleyevans1945@gmail.com

Bid Euchre—Deborah Liukaitis

dliukait@sympatico.ca

Book Club—Cheryl Blair

cheryl_blair@rogers.com

Dinner Club—Dale Tasker

dale.tasker@rogers.com

Knitting—Linda Alsop

lindacvano@gmail.com

Walking/Hikes—Amy Wright

amywright0@hotmail.com

Bridge—Bob Evans

bob20evans@gmail.com

Discussion—Peter Ellis

peterellis1000@gmail.com

Movie—Dave McMillan

dmcmillan2000@rogers.com

RODEO—Gwen Green

gweng9@rogers.com

ROMEO—TBA volunteer

The Huron have battled the Iroquois for generations, but now both tribes face a new, more dangerous threat from another land. Uneasy alliances are made and unmade, cultures and beliefs clash in the face of precipitous change, and not everyone will survive the march of history. Joseph Boyden's magisterial novel tells this story of blood and hope, suspicion and trust, hatred, and love: a saga nearly four hundred years old—and now a timeless work of literature.

April's read is "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig

This link is access to all books the club has read: [Book Club - The PROBUS Club of Bradford](#)

KNITTING- The SSK Ladies will be meeting March 28 at Deb Liukaitis'. Linda will email the place and time.

If you are interested in joining the group, contact Linda at lindacvano@gmail.com. Love to see new faces!

Ed and Nancy met while on a singles cruise and Ed fell head over heels for her. When they discovered they lived in the same city only a few miles apart Ed was ecstatic. He immediately asked her out and their relationship progressed quickly.

Within a couple of weeks, Ed had taken Nancy to dance clubs, restaurants, concerts, movies, and museums. Ed became convinced that Nancy was indeed his soul mate and true love. Every date seemed better than the last.

On the one-month anniversary of their first dinner on the cruise ship, Ed took Nancy to a fine restaurant. While having cocktails and waiting for their salad, Ed said, *"I guess you can tell I'm very much in love with you. I'd like a little serious talk before our relationship continues to the next stage. So, before I get a box out of my jacket and ask you a life changing question, it's only fair to warn you, I'm a total golf nut. I play golf, I read about golf, I watch golf on TV. In short, I eat, sleep, and breathe golf. If that's going to be a problem for us, you'd better say so now!"*

Nancy took a deep breath and responded, *"Ed, that certainly won't be a problem. I love you as you are and I love golf too; but, since we're being totally honest with each other, you need to know that for the last five years I've been a hooker."*

Ed said, *"I bet it's because you're not keeping your wrists straight when you hit the ball."*

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO



COOKING WITH MOOSE IS BACK!

A fun time on ZOOM cooking with Moose and making his famous wienerschnitzel. Many comments on how delicious this recipe is. Thank you Moose and Pat!



Wienerschnitzel!!!

INGREDIENTS:

2 veal cutlets, one-half inch thick (you can use chicken or pork if you prefer-all cooked the same)

Salt and pepper

Light oil (e.g., Sunflower)

One-half cup flour

One whole medium size beaten egg

One-half cup breadcrumbs

Melted butter and/or lard (a mixture of half and half is ideal) sufficient to cover your frying pan to a depth of one-third to half an inch)

Lemon wedges

Potatoes – we are using small potatoes (whatever amount you want)

Green beans

Slivered almonds if you are doing Green Bean Almandine (whatever amount you want)

DIRECTIONS:

*Gently pound veal cutlets (or chicken or pork) with a meat mallet to make them very thin and flat, about one-quarter inch thick. (Hint: for ease of cleanup, you can place each cutlet between two sheets of plastic wrap or wax paper; if you do not have a meat mallet, you can use a heavy pan or anything flat). Sprinkle the flattened cutlets with salt and pepper, then rub with light oil or apply cook spray.

*Set up 3 shallow dishes, one with flour, one with beaten egg and one with breadcrumbs. Coat each cutlet well first with flour, then egg, then breadcrumbs.

*Heat a sturdy frying pan with butter and/or lard (or the half and half) until melted. Carefully place cutlets in pan. The melted fat must cover the cutlets well. Do not crowd the pan, two at a time, (if you are doing more than 2). Agitate the pan gently as the meat is cooking to ensure that the cutlets do not stick to the bottom. As the cutlets float in the oil, the breadcrumb coating will form a light, puffy crust around the meat and will not retain too much of the cooking fat.

*Cook 3 – 4 minutes over medium heat until the cutlets begin to brown, then turn them over and cook another 1 -2 minutes until both sides are golden brown. Remove from fat and place on a paper towel to drain. Salt the finished cutlets lightly.

Potatoes: Cook your potatoes whatever way you want. You can also do a pasta or a salad to go with your schnitzel. Just remember there is no gravy.

Vegetables: Green Beans Almondine

*Lightly brown slivered almonds in a bit of oil and put to one side in paper towel to soak up the oil (these can be done ahead of time). Cook your green beans the way you like them and then drain, put them in the fry pan, after you have lightly wiped excess oil from the pan, that you browned the slivered almonds.

*Add the slivered almonds and toss with the beans.

Irish Mythology: Na Fianna – An Elite Warrior Guild

Na Fianna, also known as the Fianna Éireann, were a legendary group of warriors in Irish mythology. They were said to be skilled hunters, warriors, and protectors of the high king of Ireland. The Fianna was made up of many battalions called *cathas*, each with 3,000 warriors.

In peaceful times, the main body of the Fianna was made up of three *cathas*, or about 9,000 fighting men, while in times of war this could expand to seven *cathas*, or 21,000 trained, agile, and toughened noble warriors.

The leader of the Fianna was Fionn MacCumhaill, a legendary figure who was said to have acquired great knowledge and wisdom by sucking his thumb as a child. Fionn was known for his bravery and cunning, and his ability to overcome challenges and enemies.

Other prominent members of the Fianna included Diarmuid Ua Duibhne, who was known for his beauty and his love affair with the high king's wife, Gráinne; and Caoilte MacRonan, who was said to have lived for hundreds of years and to have witnessed many historical events.

The Fianna were known for their loyalty to their leader, their bravery in battle, and their strong connection to nature. They were said to have had a code of honor that emphasized fairness, generosity, and respect for the land and its creatures. Many stories and legends have been told about the Fianna over the centuries, and they remain an important part of Irish mythology and folklore today.

The initiatory process for a young man to join the Fianna was an arduous one. The process involved a series of tests and challenges designed to assess the young man's skills, strength, and character.

The first step was for the young man to seek out the Fianna and request to be tested. If he was deemed worthy, he would be given a series of challenges to complete. These challenges could include feats of strength, endurance, and bravery, as well as tests of skill in hunting, tracking, and survival.

Once the young man had completed these challenges, he would be required to swear an oath of loyalty to the Fianna and to its leader, Fionn MacCumhaill. This oath involved a binding commitment to uphold the Fianna's code of honor and to protect the land and its people.

After taking the oath, the young man would be accepted as a member of the Fianna and would be given a place among its ranks. He would be expected to participate in the Fianna's activities, including hunting, training, and defending the land against threats.

Overall, the initiatory process for joining the Fianna was a rigorous and demanding one, designed to ensure that only the most skilled and honorable young men were accepted into its ranks. It was seen as a great honor to be chosen to join the Fianna, and those who were successful in completing the challenges were regarded as some of the finest warriors and protectors in all of Ireland.

Artwork by Lynn Kirkham titled: "Fionn and His Hounds", is located on a roundabout near Newbridge, County Kildare. This public artwork was commissioned by Kildare County Council for a number of reasons, it was to mark the contribution of the work of the army at the Curragh Camp, to mark the significance of Fionn and na Fianna in Kildare and to initiate a key piece to be included in the Public Art and Heritage Trail in Newbridge. The piece is located on a roundabout at exit 12 of the M7 for Newbridge South and The Curragh. The artwork was paid for from 'paid parking' in Newbridge.



From the Brehon Academy, March 2023

A woman was surprised to find an old picture of herself, younger, slimmer and falling in love with her future husband. When she showed him the picture he said,

"WOW, look at that! That's my old Impala!"

Romance is alive and well.



St. Patricks Day Traditions

How does one celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

Does your family have deep Irish traditions that are followed every year with the corn beef meal, green shamrocks, leprechauns and honouring the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick?

Or, has the draw of green beer, Irish music and general merriment enough for you non-Irish individuals to throw on some flashy green duds; adapt an Irish Gaelic accent and join in the fun for one day. (Nix on the corn beef.)

Wendy and Chris Van Straten (Irish name, *not*) become St. Paddy celebrants every year with their grandchildren. It seems that babysitting can be combined with educating their granddaughter, Maeve and grandson, Finn with a little Irish fun at the local pub in Cookstown.



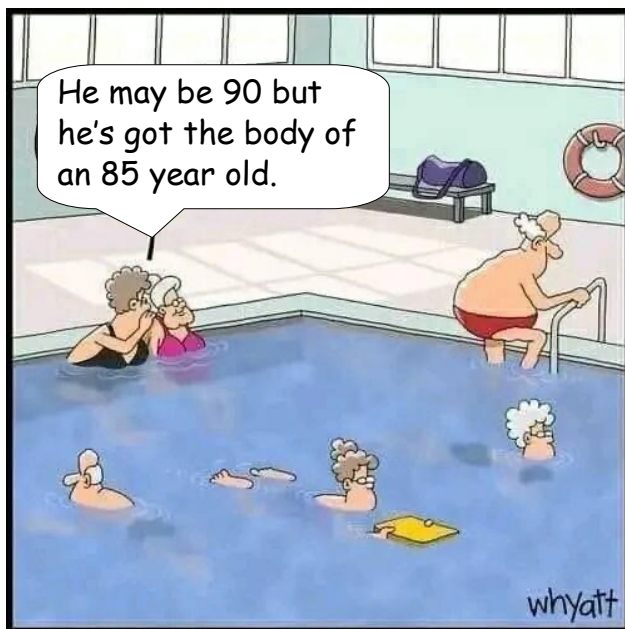
Maeve's 2nd St. Paddys's



Finn's 1st St. Paddys's Day.



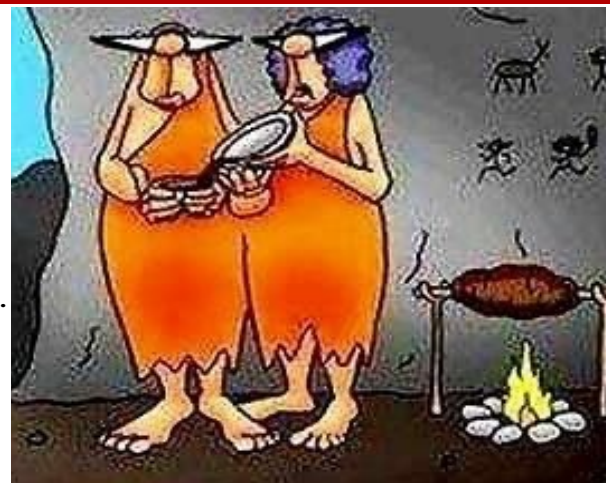
I think they have the hang of it now!



WINE PAIRING IN THE STONE AGE...

"Simple rule of thumb; if it tries to eat us, serve with red. If it runs away from us, serve with white."

My teacher said, "Don't worry about spelling. In the future there will always be autocorrect." For that I'm eternally grapefruit!



Big Willie! Faron Young's Bull

interview from Country Music Magazine, March 2023



Willie Nelson was an unknown songwriter when he pitched "Hello Walls" to Faron Young, one of the hottest singers in country music. Faron recorded the song in 1961, and it stayed at number one on the Billboard country music charts for nine weeks.

Faron later explained in a radio interview that artists get paid sooner than writers do. When he had already received \$38,000 for the song, Willie was still broke.

Willie asked Faron for a loan, and promised to sell him the song's royalty rights. Faron gave Willie five \$100 bills, and "made him swear on a stack of Bibles he wouldn't sell that song."

Willie Nelson—
Grand Ole Opry
photo 1965



Willie said in his autobiography, "When I got my first royalty check of \$3000, I ran to Tootsie's and found Faron sitting drinking at a table and kissed him flush on the mouth I was so excited."

Faron had a more colorful description of this incident in a Nashville tavern: "I was down at Tootsie's watering trough, having a bottle of grape juice. I felt this hairy arm go around my neck, and Willie pinched my jaw and pulled me back and French kissed me. It was probably one of the best kisses I ever had."

Willie tried to repay the \$500 then, but Faron responded, "I don't want your money, son. Wait till you can afford it and then fatten a steer for me or something."

According to Willie, "It took years, but I finally paid Faron back by giving him a prize bull my son Billy bought at a livestock auction for \$38,000."

In November 1984, Willie had the bull delivered to Faron's office on Nashville's Music Row. A newspaper quoted Faron as saying, "I could have killed him. I didn't have any place to put a bull like that."

Faron called friend and Grand Ole Opry performer, Jimmy C. Newman, who raised cattle on a farm fifty miles from Nashville.

Jimmy C. agreed to take the bull, but was unprepared for what arrived: "There in the trailer was the biggest bull I'd ever seen in my life. It was three years old, a registered Simmental bull. I said, 'What in the world have I gotten into?'

"The bull weighed around 3000 pounds. Willie Nelson gave him to us, so I called him Big Willie."

Faron gave half-ownership to the Newmans and wanted to use the bull for breeding.

But that would include showing its registered offspring, and Jimmy C. wasn't equipped for that. He said, "We didn't have registered Simmental cattle. The only cattle I had were crossbred."

Big Willie became an item in Faron's 1986 divorce. A special master inventoried the property of both Faron and Hilda, and included as one of Faron's assets half-interest in a Simmental bull valued at \$10,000.

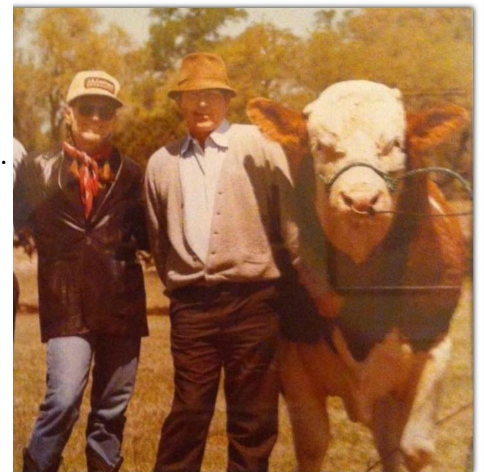
Faron's lawyer filed an objection, saying the bull was a gift from a personal friend and not a marital asset.

Hilda's lawyer responded with, "This is a marital asset as the defendant had loaned Willie Nelson money years before from marital assets and this animal was in repayment of this debt." The divorce settlement required Faron to pay Hilda \$2500 for her interest in the bull.

Jimmy C. Newman told me this past February he still has three of Big Willie's offspring. "They're huge. They were some of my best cows. They're getting old."

And what became of Big Willie? Jimmy C. says, "Finally we sold him for what we call grade. I forgot what he brought. I would imagine around \$1500. So that was the end of that."

"Picture of Willie & Jim Stinson - breeder of Big Willie - was given to me by Jim's son-in-law. He told me why they have their hands behind their back. They were enjoying a Coors & because Willie was promoting Lone Star at the time thought it best not to be seen with another beer."



Flying Outhouses!!!

Ma and Pa were two elderly hillbillies living out on a farm up in the hills.

Pa has found out that the hole under the outhouse is full.

He goes into the house and tells Ma that he doesn't know what to do to empty the hole.

Ma says,

"Why don't you go ask the young'n down the road? He must be smart 'cause he's a college gradjyate."

So, Pa drives down to the neighbor's house and asks him,

"Mr. College gradjyate, my outhouse hole is full, and I don't know what to do to empty it."

The young'n tells him,

"Get yourself two sticks of dynamite, one with a short fuse and one with a long fuse. Put them both under the outhouse and light them both at the same time. The first one will go off and shoot the outhouse in the air. While it's in the air the second one will then go off and spread the poop all across your farm, fertilizing your ground. The outhouse should then come back down to the same spot atop the now-empty hole."

Pa thanks the neighbor, then drives to the hardware store and picks up two sticks of dynamite, one with a short fuse and one with a long fuse.

He goes home and puts them under the outhouse.

He then lights them and runs behind a tree.

Suddenly, Ma comes running out of the house and into the outhouse! Off goes the first stick of dynamite, shooting the outhouse into the air.

BOOM! Off goes the second stick of dynamite, spreading poop all over the farm.

Then, **WHAM!** The outhouse comes crashing back down atop the hole.

Pa races to the outhouse, throws open the door and asks,

"Ma, are you all right?"

As she pulls up her panties she says,

"Yeah, but I'm sure glad I didn't fart in the kitchen!"



It is time for Dale and I to say goodbye to sunny Florida! By the time you read this newsletter we will be winding our way back to Ontario and spring weather (I hope).

We are taking our time this year and detouring by Ashville, North Carolina to visit the Biltmore Estate (America's Largest Home®, built by George Vanderbilt). Just a little real-estate shopping!



Hope to have some great pictures for the next newsletter!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting.



See you at the PROBUS meeting!
April 11th—10:00 am
At St. John's Presbyterian Church