



PROBUS News.....

PROBUS Club of Bradford

Volume 147, Published October 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PROBUS Members:

I think I must be getting old. I was sure it was summer last week and yet when I look at the calendar, it's the end of October. Either the clocks have sped up or, my sense of time is diminishing.

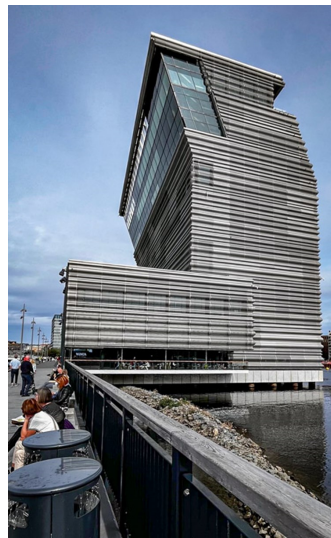
Some of our members ended the summer by going on vacations in September and Kent and I were among that number. For us, it was a celebratory trip with friends, and we made the most of it. Doing an ocean cruise, we visited 7 countries (8 if you count a 3-hour layover in Iceland) over the course of 3 weeks seeing and experiencing a variety of things. As interest has been expressed in this trip, I thought I would give a few highlights of our visits.

First stop: **Oslo**, a beautiful city and a great introduction to the country that became our favourite. The architecture is a mix of old and new, the styles blending cohesively. From the buildings of the Barcode Project to the Opera House rising out of the water like an iceberg, from the art of Munch to the sculptures of Vigeland, the city was amazing.

Leaving Oslo, we boarded a train for an 8-hour, 450 km trip north and west. At **Finst** we were travelling at 1300 metres above sea level, passing glaciers but no trees or roads. We went through the town of **Voss**, where a Christmas tradition is eating sheep's heads. At **Bergen**, we discovered that despite it being the rainiest city in Europe, it has burnt to the ground 40 times.

The countryside around the city has several troll fences that obviously work as we never saw a troll on our visit.

An interesting fact about Norway: the country has made a commitment to decrease its greenhouse gas emissions by 85% by the year 2030 and is well on its way to achieving this goal. *Continued....*



Munch Museum, Oslo, Norway



Bergen, Norway

I think ghosts are just people who died trying to fold a fitted sheet.



PROBUS meeting
November 14 at 10:00 am
At St. John's Presbyterian Church

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2023/4 Executive Committee:

President: *Bunny Kaufman*
Vice President: *Dale Tasker*
Secretary: *Diane Turcotte*
Treasurer: *Cheryl Blair*
Social Chair: *Wendy Van Straten*
Communication: *Ellen Rombough*
Presentations: *Tom Nelson*
Speakers' Chair: *Bob Evans*
Members Chair: *Pat Mohren*
Major Events:
Brenda Andrews and Peggy Michaud
Members at Large:
Ann Evans and Chris Van Straten
Past President: *Dave McMillan*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...continued



Most of the transportation is electric. Glass and tin are used instead of plastics and electric bikes and scooters are in use everywhere.

Many permanent accommodations in **Amsterdam** are houseboats and barges. These boats have to be removed from the water every 3 to 4 years for their hulls to be checked and repainted. As well, old cruise ships are being used to house many of the refugees that arrive in the city.

Bruges has a 2-mile-long tunnel running 111 feet deep under its cobbled streets and gothic houses. This tunnel connects the 500-year-old De Halve Maan brewery in the heart of Bruges to its bottling plant just outside the city. Enough beer flows every hour to fill 12,000 bottles.

Paris is undergoing massive renovations, especially in tourist areas such as Champs-Elysees, in preparation for next summer's Olympic games. As the opening ceremonies will be held along the Seine River, the green bouquinistes (open-air, second-hand bookstalls) lining the Seine are due to be dismantled and moved for the summer, creating a lot of controversy.

In the 1860's, 4 tunnels were built under **Portsmouth** and **Southwick** to defend the naval base. In World War 2, these tunnels became the communications nerve centre for the planning of D-day, being used as Underground Headquarters for Operation Overlord. Later, they became part of the Royal Navy's NATO communication network, resulting in the Soviet Union classifying them a Category A target during the Cold War.

Winter storms along the coast of Cornwall can be fierce, with waves breaking over the top of clock towers. Dealing with seas such as this may be one reason the **Pendennis** Coast Guard has coordinated rescues as far away as Jamaica.

Porto, which was settled in the 4th century, is a city of bridges. The Maria Pia Bridge, which was built in 1877, is attributed to Gustave Eiffel who, 10 years later, began his work on the Eiffel Tower. A more recent connection to fame is *Harry Potter*; J. K. Rowling wrote her first novel here.

While Bergen is the rainiest city in Europe, **Malaga** is the sunniest – 320 days of sun per year. The city is home to the bullring *La Malagueta* as well as many Roman ruins, including a theatre dating from the first century, which was discovered behind the Alcazaba fortress (the residence of the Turkish sultan in the 11th century) in 1950. Visiting during the Malaga Fashion Week, we saw the longest catwalk in Europe. It is situated outdoors, covered for sun protection, blue carpeted and extends for 300 meters.

..continued



Barges and houseboats along an Amsterdam canal



Bruges,
Belgium



Rabelo boats—Maria Pia Bridge,
Porto, Portugal



La Malagueta, Malaga, Spain

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...continued



Cartagena also has a number of Roman ruins but is currently known for the building and repair of NATO submarines. A city where the average monthly income is 1000 euros, the average monthly rent is 800 euros.

As a lot of you are aware from following the news, Europe has been affected by global warming with high temperatures (it was always in the mid-90's when we were there) and drought. In **Barcelona**, the plane trees (sycamores) have lost their bark due to this and consequently all have to be removed and replaced with a variety of other trees. To help combat global warming, it is now mandatory for solar panels to be put on all new or refurbished buildings.

Of special interest to a number of our members: there is a new sport rapidly gaining popularity in Barcelona known as Pickleball!

Back home and over our jet lag, we are once again enjoying socializing with you at the events that our club has been offering. The Probus get-away in Collingwood was a resounding success. We are looking forward to welcoming back Guess Who's Coming to Dinner and Twelve Days of Christmas Wine. In the new year we will have our first Whisky Tasting (is there a theme here?).

I'm sure you have/will enjoy these events and all the others being offered. We're always looking for ideas so don't be shy with your suggestions.

Until next month...

Bunny

Teatro Romano de Cartagena, Cartagena, Spain



Arc de Triomf, Barcelona, Spain



TALKING DOG

A man is touring the backroads of Montana and he sees a sign in front of a broken-down shanty-style house, "Talking dog for Sale".

He knocked on the door and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard. The man goes into the backyard and sees a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there. "Do you talk?" the man asks.

"Yep." the Lab replies.

After the man recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he asks, "So, what's your story?"

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was a young pup. I wanted to help the government, so...I told the CIA. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eaves-dropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running. But, the jetting around really tired me out and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so, I decided to settle-down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies and now I'm just retired."

The man was amazed and went back to the owner and asks him what he wants for the dog. "Ten dollars." the owner says.

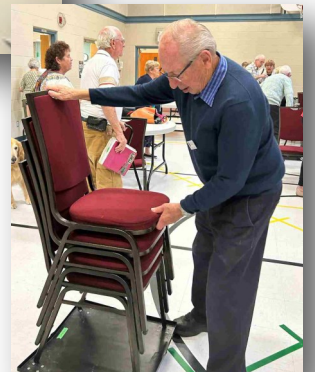
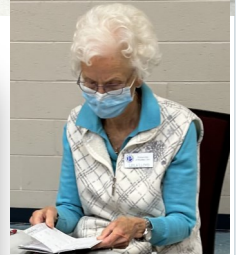
"Ten dollars! This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because" the owner said "He's a bullshitter. **He's never been out of the yard!**"

OCTOBER MEETING

Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who arrive early before each meeting to help achieve a successful meeting. Here they are hard at work:

- The audio and video setup crew (fondly known as the erection team).
- The Membership Chair, Pat Mohren, who greets members as they arrive.
- Wendy Van Straten, Social Chair, lays out the event sign-up sheets; answers questions and collects money for events.
- The 50/50 draw ticket ladies (very important);
- Lila and her group makes the coffee and tea and arranges the snacks provided by the Elden (**MOST important**);
- All those who stay and clean up.



JOBS WELL DONE AGAIN THIS MONTH!



Brenda Andrews, District Director of PROBUS Canada, presented PROBUS members Patricia Dion and Deborah and Pete Liukaitis with plaques thanking them for their years of dedicated service and the tremendous amount of work they have done for the club since its inception.

Welcome to our new members...

Deryl Lynn Franklin

Sarah Lough

Tina Philpott

Patsy Beynon

Elva Sepa

Karen Kenn

Cynthia Riley

Brian Riley

Bev Clark

John Tolchard

Joe Taggio

Barbara Ennis

OCTOBER MEETING

Guest Speaker... Daniel Aonso "The Sounds of Hollywood—Discovering the Music of Film"



Starting from the soaring romanticism of the Golden Era of Hollywood, and traveling through the years— From the scares and screeches of Bernard Herrmann to the beautiful sounds of John Williams, explore the music of motion pictures!

Daniel demonstrated how music (or sounds) in the background, from Al Jolson's first "talkie" movie up to the late 1970's Star Wars and Jurassic Park, set the desired dramatic or comedic atmosphere.

Next movie you see, pay attention to the background audio. Note how the music/sounds are set with a purpose to set the mood of the scene.

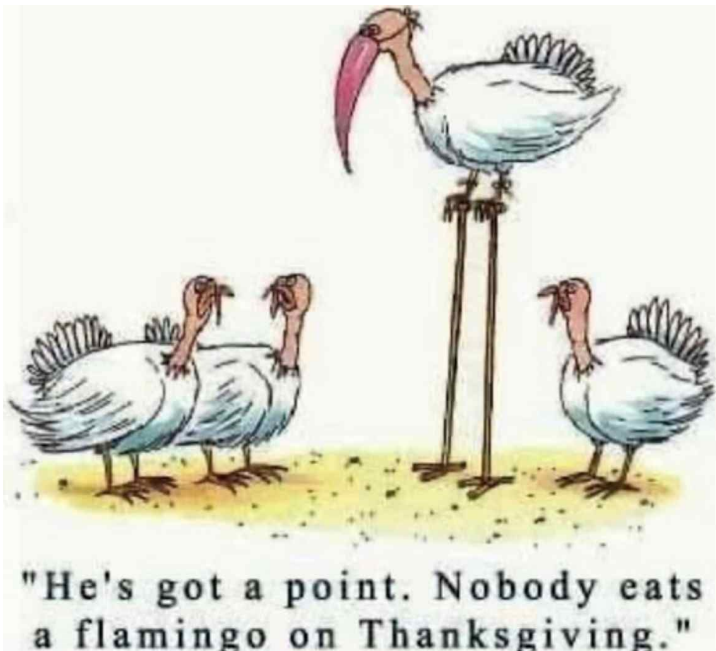
Guest Speaker for November... Paul Bassett "Demystifying Artificial Intelligence: What We Do and Don't Yet Understand"

Paul Bassett is a software engineer, author, and entrepreneur, having co-founded two successful software-engineering companies.

In the 1970s Paul taught computer science at York University. His research in artificial intelligence led him to invent an award-winning technology that is still used around the world to automate software manufacturing.

He's the author of peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, and a book on software engineering. As one of *IEEE's Distinguished Visitors*, he's given many keynote addresses.

Now retired, Paul still writes and speaks avidly about the impacts of emerging technologies.



BRADFORD PROBUS CLUBS CONTACTS

These are the current clubs that are actively running. If you have a particular interest that you would like to share with club members and start another club contact Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

Bid Euchre—Deborah Liukaitis
dliukait@sympatico.ca

Book Club—Cheryl Blair
cheryl_blair@rogers.com

Cycling Club—Heather and Mark Cannata
thecannatas@gmail.com

Dinner Club—Dale Tasker
dale.tasker@rogers.com

Discussion Club—Peter Ellis
peterellis1000@gmail.com

Knitting—Linda Alsop
lindacvano@gmail.com

Mah Jongg—Pat Mohren
jp,mohren@gmail.com

Movie—Dave McMillan
dmcmillan2000@rogers.com

RODEO—Gwen Green
gweng9@rogers.com

ROMEO—Rotating Leads

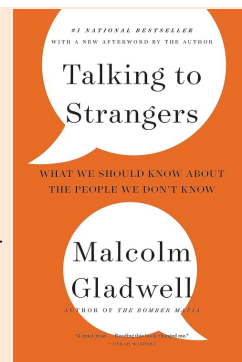
Scrabble—Amy Wright
amywright0@hotmail.com

BOOK CLUB (Cheryl Blair, cheryl_blair@rogers.com)

Book Club is meeting October 26. The book is "Talking to Strangers" by Malcolm Gladwell.

Malcolm Gladwell, host of the podcast *Revisionist History* and author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Outliers*, offers a powerful examination of our interactions with strangers, and why they often go wrong.

Check this link for access to books the club has read: [Book Club - The PROBUS Club of Bradford](#)



KNITTING- The SSK Ladies are meeting at Pat Tasker's, on October 24.

Knitting group will be meeting on the 4th Thursday of every month.

November 28 January 23 February 27 March 26 April 23 and May 28.

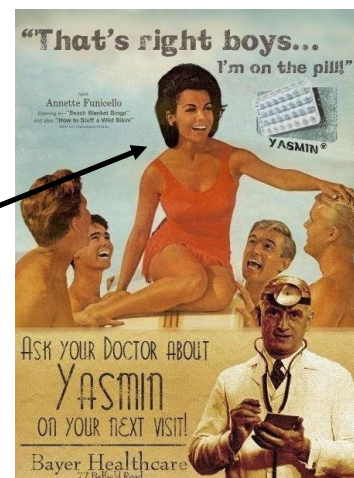
Linda will notify the group on who is hosting and of any changes, prior to the meeting dates.

If you don't knit or crochet but do needle point or another craft and are interested in joining the group, contact Linda Alsop at lindacvano@gmail.com. All are welcome!



ADVERTISING IN THE 1950-60's

Annette Funicello!!!!???



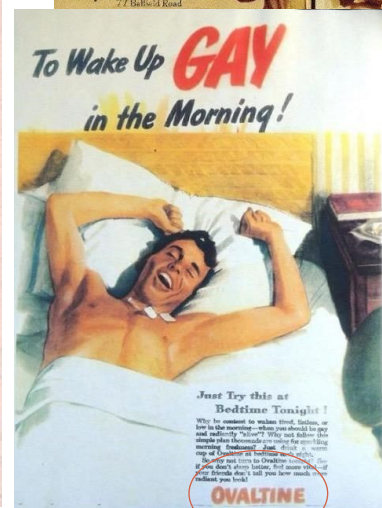
WHISKEY Tooth Paste!



Genuine 6 Proof Stuff SCOTCH • BOURBON

Why fight oral hygiene—enjoy it! Here's real he-man toothpaste, best argument yet for brushing 3 times a day. 2½ oz. tubes flavored with the real thing—Scotch or Bourbon. Night-before feeling on the morning after. Rinse with soda instead of water if you prefer. Per tube ppd. \$1

Greenland Studios
DEPT. HG-114, MIAMI 47, FLORIDA



GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER!

DATE CHANGE!

NEW Event Date: Monday, November 20, starts at 4:00 pm

For those who have signed up AND confirmed that you can still make the new date... there will be new envelopes given to you at the November 14 meeting. **DO NOT OPEN THEM RIGHT AWAY!** You will be advised of new details then. Contact Carol McMillan at dmcmillan2000@rogers.com or Brenda Andrews at dbandrews2004@gmail.com

EVENTS

APPY PARTIES!

Here is the list of the next appy parties.

If you want to attend or host any future events, contact: Wendy Van Straten at vcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

Remember to bring an appetizer to share and your favourite beverage for a couple of hours of socializing.

Barb and Chris Zuercher

Date: Saturday, November 4 Starts 4:00 pm (30 member maximum)

Wendy and Chris Van Straten

Date: Thursday, January 4 Starts 4:00 pm

Look for the sign-up sheet at the November meeting



RODEO LUNCH **Georgian College Culinary School**

Wednesday, November 1 at 12:00 noon

Location: Georgian College, Duckworth Street at Hwy 400, Barrie (Park in parking lot E)

We are meeting at 10:45 in the northwest part of Walmart parking lot near Dollarama if anyone wants to ride share.

The lunch is quite interesting as the students are professional, the kitchen is supervised by chefs (teachers) and the food is well presented and delicious! It is a unique experience.

Contact Gwen Green by October 30 if you wish to attend gweng9@rogers.com

EVENTS



Bid Euchre Tournament

Thursday, November 9 at 1:30 pm

Location: Bond Head United Church, 4221 Hwy. 88, Bond Head

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Coffee, tea, water and snacks are provided. Or bring your choice of non-alcoholic beverage.

Contact Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca to attend.

Brigadoon!

THIS EVENT IS CLOSED

Date: Thursday, November 30th

Cost: \$221 per person **Final payment is due!** Contact Wendy Van Straten wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

INCLUDES:

- Bus departs Hamilton Tours, Bradford, parking lot at 8:30 am
- 1st stop—Picard's Peanuts
- Lunch at Queen's Landing
- Show starts at 1:00 pm
- After the show—approx. 1 hr. free time on Main Street (or spousal day care—pub)
- Bus return to arrive Bradford is 6:30 or 7:00 pm (depending on traffic)



MERRY CHRISTMAS LUNCH!

Friday, December 8 at 12:00 noon

Location: Bond Head Golf Course

Cost: \$55.00 per member Guests \$70.00

Last day to signup and pay is at the next meeting—November 14!

Signup sheet will be in the lobby before the meeting.

Contact Peggy Michaud at pviae7942@rogers.com

We also need to know if anyone has any food insecurities.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WINE SURVIVOR CONTEST!

It's Back!



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WINE SURVIVOR CONTEST!

Bring your \$18 to \$25 purchased wine entry (red or white) to the November 14 PROBUS meeting for your entry to the contest!

Once again Patricia Dion has volunteered to organize the highly anticipated **12 Days of Christmas Wine Survivor ~~Ripoff~~ Contest!**
Thank you Patricia!

This is what you need to know:

- At the **November 14 meeting**, each participant will contribute a bottle of wine (red or white). Purchased value \$18 to \$25 dollars. Please no private crafted wines.
- Meet John Dion in the church's back parking lot **before the meeting** (9:15 am to 9:50 am) to submit your wine donations. He will look only slightly nefarious.
- The daily elimination draws will start December 1st and Patricia will email the names of those who were eliminated. You can then open your own wine and drown your sorrows if that happens to be you.
- The final draw will be held at the PROBUS meeting on December 12th and the winners will take home their wine.

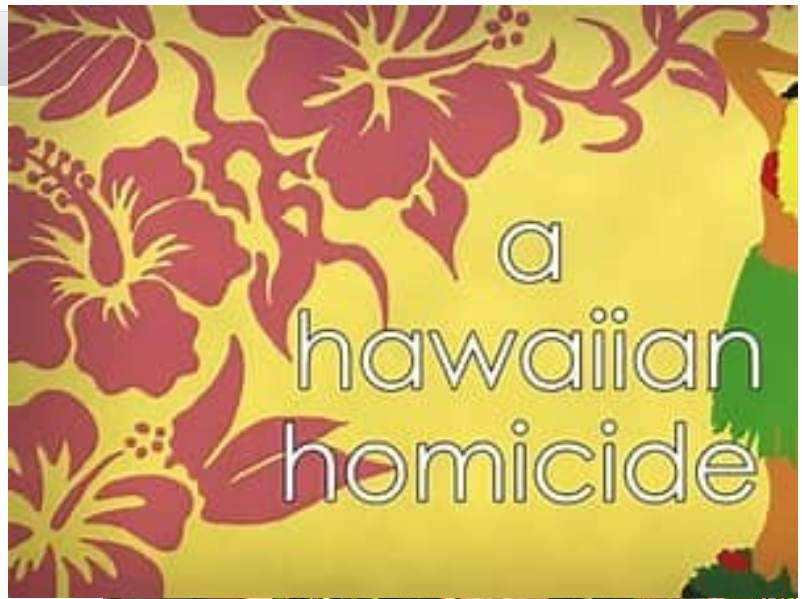
THE DRAW WINNERS WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1st place will win 30% of the wine collected
 - 2nd place will win 25% of the wine
 - 3rd place will win 20% of the wine
 - 4th place will win 15% of the wine
 - 5th place will win 10% of the wine
- (5th place draw will also include those names who were previously eliminated for another chance.)

Contact Patricia Dion if you have any questions—patriciadion@bell.net

Mark Your Calendar!

Aloha and welcome to the Make Kaka resort, a luxurious Hawaiian resort where guests can enjoy drinks and dinner in the open air Tiki Bar, private surfing lessons with the resident surfing instructor Keanu and authentic Polynesian music and dancing shows each evening on the stage. The private beach offers a tranquil place for relaxation, which is where The Hula Hut, a small open-air hut selling hula dolls, is located. But when one of the owners of The Hula Hut is found dead, killed with a coconut behind the hut, guests and staff alike suddenly find themselves suspects in a murder investigation!



Murder Mystery—January 18

Thursday, January 18 at 1:30 pm

Location: Bradford Curling Club (on the 2nd floor, steps to climb)

Cost: tba

Don your favourite Hawaiian shirt or coconut bra and grass skirt and immerse yourself in an afternoon of murder, sleuthing and fun at the luxurious Make Kaka resort.



To be witnesses/sleuths—sign up sheet will be available at the November 14 meeting. [Limit of 50 people.](#)

Contact Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca to attend.

Doris & Ivy In The Home—Orangeville Theatre

Wednesday, February 21 @ 2:00 pm

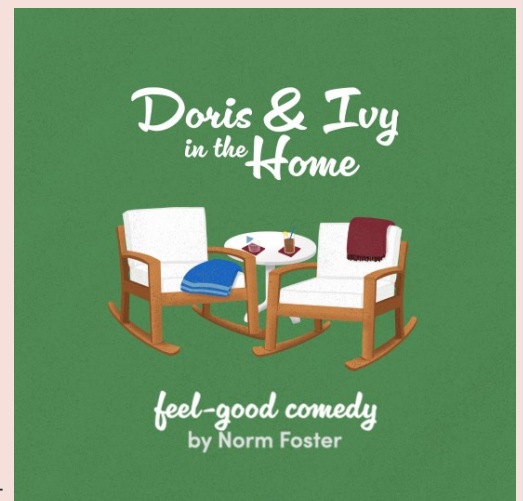
Cost: \$35 per person **NOTE:** Only 30 seats available. Payment reserves your seat.

Contact Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca to attend.

Retired prison guard Doris Mooney has just moved into Paradise Village, a retirement home in Canmore, Alberta. She quickly befriends Ivy Hoffbauer, a former champion skier who's taken aback by Doris' cheerful brashness.

Rounding out the trio is dapper Arthur Beech who has designs on Ivy.

Love, gossip, and sex behind the compost heap, this is Norm Foster at his hilarious best!



Mark Your Calendar!

Whisky Tasting

Thursday, January 29

Cost: \$30 per person

More information to come!

Contact Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca to attend.



How refined is your
pallet?

The Pumpkin Regatta—Oh Canada!

Craig Baird, Canadian History Ehx, October 2023

Each year in October, people take to the water of Lake Pesaquid in Windsor, Nova Scotia for the famous Windsor Pumpkin Regatta. Let's explore the history of this event! The race was founded in 1999 by Danny Dill. His father, Howard Dill, grew Atlantic Giant Pumpkins. The first race featured only five entries, and it was won by Leo Swinimer of New Ross, Nova Scotia. As it turned out, Leo would dominate the event, winning every single year from 1999 to 2007, while also being in his 70s. The first person to win the race other than Leo was Anthony Cook, who won in 2008. He won again in 2010. By this point, the regatta had grown to 60 entries with 10,000 people coming out to watch. In the regatta, there are three classes of races: Motoring Experimental Paddling The paddling class is by far the most famous. The race runs for 800 metres, and the giant pumpkins must be the sole means of flotation in the race. In 2005, Martha Stewart stated she would participate in the regatta. While she did enter a pastel-coloured pumpkin, she was unable to attend as she didn't have permission to enter Canada after her incarceration yet. Due to low water levels in Lake Pesaquid, which has now dried up, there has not been a full regatta there since 2018. The lake is man-made and was filled with fresh water from the Avon River. In 2019, the event was nearly cancelled due to a poor growing season and a lack of giant pumpkins. It went forward but was much smaller than usual. No pumpkin regatta was held in 2020 or 2021 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. In 2022, the regatta made its debut on Thanksgiving Weekend in Shelburne Harbour. The event was held as part of the Shelburne County Giant Pumpkin Festival. The event in 2023 was also held there on Oct. 7.



COLLINGWOOD FALL GET-AWAY

October 11 to 13th

The trip to Collingwood was a success! Everyone who attended took advantage of the local touristy sites during the day. The hospitality suites were popular gathering spots at night. Here are some of the takeaways from the trip. Thanks to all who sent their pictures.



Grandma Lambe's Market

Mmmmm pies



Yes ladies...this is a dam.



Everyone loved Meaford's scarecrows. They really turned Faye's world upside down.



The older I get,
the more I regret
all the people I've lost
over the years.

Maybe being
a trail guide
wasn't such a
great idea after all.



HIDING FROM WIFE

\$ BAR PHONE RATES \$

\$1.00	"Nope Not Here"
\$2.00	"Just Missed Him"
\$3.00	"Just had 1 drink and left"
\$4.00	"Hasn't been in all day"
\$5.00	"Never heard of him"

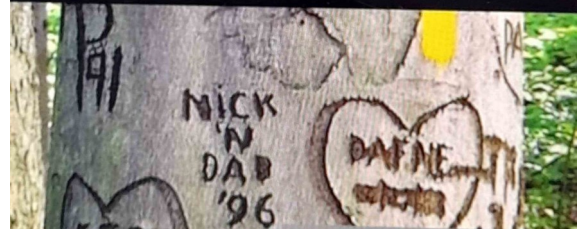
(Please see bartender upon arrival)

VINCE THE SIGN GUY

TOMORRO WERE
EXPECTIN RANE
HALE & LITENIN
A REEL BAD SPEL
OF WETHER

© 2023 SignPurs LLC

When I see lovers' names
carved on trees, I think it's
strange how many people
bring knives on a date.



See you at the next PROBUS meeting

November 14—10:00 am

At St. John's Presbyterian Church