

The PROBUS Club of Bradford



December 2014

Issue 46

Management Committee:

President:	Peter Liukaitis
Vice President:	David Martin
Secretary:	Patricia Dion
Treasurer:	Lorna Foti
Social Chair:	Peggy Michaud
Speakers Chair:	Brian Fuller
Members Chair:	Deb Liukaitis
Past President:	Brenda Andrews
Newsletter:	Jayne Greer

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Upcoming Events:

- ❖ Dec 09 - Christmas Dinner & Entertainment \$25. members
- ❖ Feb. 7th - South Simcoe Theater, 'The Fox on the Fairway'. Dinner at the Whistle Stop
- ❖ Feb. 18th - Famous People's Theater, 'Going Bananas'
- ❖ Apr. 22nd - Dufferin County Museum Tour and lunch at Mrs. Mitchell's
- ❖ Apr. 24th South Simcoe Theater, 'Hats - The Musical'

November General Meeting Highlights:

Pete Liukaitis, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at St. Johns Presbyterian Church, Bradford, Ontario and everyone was welcomed.

A special welcome was given to our guest speaker, Major Dave MacPherson, his wife Iris MacPherson and Warrant Officer Carlo Belanger.

New members to the Club were welcomed: Sheryl & Doug MacPhail, Anne Kursi, Jill Sanderson, Dianne Mills, Valerie & Sam Foti, Hedy Keller, Grace & Frank Nicoletta.

Edgar & Leila Lloyd, Heather & Mark Cannata, Bev Ferguson and Lillian & Jim Walker were thanked for providing snacks.

Amy Wright announced that the Friends of the Bradford Library were having another book sale to raise funds for children's programs and author visits.

Gwen Green informed all that the Bradford United Church was having a Christmas Bizarre on Saturday, November 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Linda Fleming announced that Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Newmarket is having a musical event, 'Songs for the Season', on November 28th and 29th.

PeggyMichaud, Events Chair, discussed the upcoming social events outlined on the first page of this newsletter.

The 50/50 draw was won by Mark Cannata \$52.50

Remembrance Day Observance:

Everybody stood and watched a special Remembrance Day presentation prepared by Pete Liukaitis.



Guest Speaker: Major Dave MacPherson

Pete introduced Major Dave McPherson from the Canadian Forces, Base Borden.

Major MacPherson played a video showing what the Canadian Armed Forces is doing today.

He personally thanked Dave Martin, John Blaise and Pete Liukaitis for their service, as well as Warrant Officer Belanger, who served in Afghanistan.

Major MacPherson has served for 33 years and for 23 years he was on front line combat.

Today he serves as a dentist and runs a dental clinic on Base Borden.

Major MacPherson gave an overview of his military career and showed pictures from places he was stationed in, such as Germany.

Major MacPherson gave a brief history of Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, the author of In Flanders Field, and explained that Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae was a Doctor who wanted to encourage people to continue to stand for the cause.

On the screen he showed some memorials and shared a few faces of fallen soldiers.

Major McPherson thanked everyone who stopped and celebrated Remembrance Day and reminded us that we live in comfort and peace in Canada due to those who have carried the torch of service.

Margo McNamara thanked both Major MacPherson and Warrant Officer Belanger and presented them each with a gift.

Pete Liukaitis thanked them for their service.



Bray's Fuels Tour









Sack Lunches

I put my carry-on in the luggage compartment and sat down in my assigned seat. It was going to be a long flight. 'I'm glad I have a good book to read. Perhaps I will get a short nap,' I thought. Just before take-off, a line of soldiers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats, totally surrounding me. I decided to start a conversation.

'Where are you headed?' I asked the soldier seated nearest to me. 'Petawawa. We'll be there for two weeks for special training, and then we're being deployed to Afghanistan'

After flying for about an hour, an announcement was made that sack lunches were available for five dollars. It would be several hours before we reached the east, and I quickly decided a lunch would help pass the time...

As I reached for my wallet, I overheard a soldier ask his buddy if he planned to buy lunch. 'No, that seems like a lot of money for just a sack lunch. Probably wouldn't be worth five bucks. I'll wait till we get to base.' His friend agreed.

I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty dollar bill. 'Take a lunch to all those soldiers.' She grabbed my arms and squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, she thanked me. 'My son was a soldier in Iraq ; it's almost like you are doing it for him.'

Picking up ten sacks, she headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked, 'Which do you like best - beef or chicken?' 'Chicken,' I replied, wondering why she asked. She turned and went to the front of plane, returning a minute later with a dinner plate from first class. 'This is your thanks.'

After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room.

A man stopped me. 'I saw what you did. I want to be part of it. Here, take this.' He handed me twenty-five dollars.

Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Flight Captain coming down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked, I hoped he was not looking for me, but noticed he was looking at the numbers only on my side of the plane. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand and said, 'I want to shake your hand.' Quickly unfastening my seatbelt I stood and took the Captain's hand.

With a booming voice he said, 'I was a soldier and I was a military pilot. Once, someone bought me a lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.' I was embarrassed when applause was heard from all of the passengers.

Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A man who was seated about six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars in my palm.

When we landed I gathered my belongings and started to deplane. Waiting just inside the airplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word. Another twenty-five dollars!

Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to the base. I walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars. 'It will take you some time to reach the base. It will be about time for a sandwich. God Bless You.' Ten young men left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow travelers.

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As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return. These soldiers were giving their all for our country. I could only give them a couple of meals. It seemed so little...

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'citizens of Canada 'for an amount of 'up to and including my life.'



Bruce Trail Hike





On A Lighter Note

Did you hear about the teacher who was helping one of her pupils put on his boots?

He asked for help and she could see why.

Even with her pulling, and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on.

By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat.

She almost cried when the little boy said,

'Teacher, they're on the wrong feet.'

She looked, and sure enough, they were.

Unfortunately, it wasn't any easier pulling the boots off, than it was putting them on.

She managed to keep her cool as, together, they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the correct feet.

He then announced, 'These aren't my boots.'

She bit her tongue, 'Why didn't you say so?'

Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet.

No sooner had they got the boots off when he said,

'They're my brother's boots. But my Mum made me wear 'em today.'

Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry.

But she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots BACK onto his feet again.

Helping him into his coat, she asked, 'Now, where are your mittens?'

He said, 'I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots.'

**The next PROBUS Club of Bradford newsletter comes your way December 23/14
Jayne Greer, Editor**