

WHITBY/BROOKLIN PROBUS CLUB

General Meeting #14
Westminister United Church, Whitby
November 26, 2014

Chair: Bob Ashton

Acting Secretary: Maria Upton

AGENDA: The Chair, Bob Ashton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Agenda was reviewed and guests and several new members were welcomed to this morning's meeting. Thanks were extended to today's greeters: Mary, Carol and Teresa. Bob indicated Pauline would be presenting a very thorough Financial Report this morning and it looks like we are in good shape. It was noted that there are still about 12 people who need to pay their fees today for the Wine and Cheese Part to be held on Dec. 3rd. Please take care of this during the break, thanks.

REPORTS:

Financial Update by Pauline

At the beginning of the year we had \$4,683.00 in our account.

From Sept. 1st until today we received \$6,170.00 in membership fees; \$137.00 from 50/50 funds; \$214.00 – refreshment \$ for a Total Revenue of: \$6,522.00.

Expenses were: Rent: \$1020.00; Coffee, etc.: \$540.00; Dues to Probus Canada: \$665.00; Speakers: \$230.00; Badges: \$564.00; Barbecue: \$234.00 (\$534.00 subsidized); Office Supplies: \$299.00; Misc.: \$28.00 (gift); Bank Charges: \$59.00 – for Total Expenses of: \$3,641.00. (it was noted no \$ owing the Social Club)

As of today, the Total Cash Balance is: \$7,563.00

Pauline indicated that Management Meetings are held at St. Thomas Church in Brooklin and we pay a fee of \$400.00 for the year (this is included in the rent total). We have a three month contract with Westminister Church and we are hoping the rent remains the same. She outlined projected expenses for the upcoming year based on 258 members + 10 new members to be approximately \$9,043.00 of income and \$5,290.00 of expenses for a total \$3,753.00 Cash Balance at the end of the year.

Questions were taken from the floor. What is the capacity of this meeting room and do we meet the Fire Dept. regulations? Bob responded that the capacity is 200 people and except for the first meeting, our totals have been around 160 members at each meeting. We are aware that it is a bit of a gamble re: numbers but it appears to be common in all PROBUS Clubs that you never get a full attendance (some people join for social events only) and there are always people away – at cottages in the summer and going south in the winter.

How do we increase our revenues if we have no new members? Our money comes from dues.

Why do we carry a Cash Balance? Pauline responded that we have to think about the future – we may not have as many members. Our rental fee is very good, but it may increase and she really likes to have a cash balance reserve on hand.

It was suggested as we are not having a meeting in December, that we donate some \$ to the Food Bank at this Church. Pauline indicated that this has not been budgeted for, but she will bring it up for discussion at the next Management Meeting.

One member suggested that the Management members take turns holding the Mgmt. meetings in their homes and save paying \$400.00 to St. Thomas Church. Bob indicated that had been tried, but this works better as not everyone has the facility to host a large number of people in their home. They do provide their own coffee and refreshments though.

Bob mentioned that he learned after attending a Regional Meeting that we charge one of the lowest fees in the Region, so he felt we are doing a pretty good job.

A round of applause was given in appreciation of the work Pauline has done – it is felt this Club is in good hands as we have a great Treasurer. Pauline indicated she would be posting the Financial Outline on the PROBUS Board for review if you so wish.

Interest Groups – Trudy

Trudy extended thanks to the people who have started up new interest groups. She attended several and reported the following:

Music Appreciation – meet in the afternoon and it is a very good group.

Train Group – she attended and found it very interesting. She took her 5 yr. old grandson with her and he liked it a lot (even after 2 hrs.). More info on this group from Doug Smith later.

Grey Cell Stimulator Group – great function, great brain workout!

Gentlemen's Breakfast – she was invited to attend and was absolutely fascinated with the members and their stories (it will start again in January)

Book Nooker's – meet 1X month in members homes (8-10 people). They use Book-in-a-Bag from the Library and the membership select the books to be read. Their current read is Orphan Train. We will be opening a second group in the new year.

Indoor Golf – Don Mills has offered to start this new group for gentlemen. Thanks, Don.

Doug Smith gave a brief overview of the Train Group. He indicated he started up this group about a year ago and the members at the time discussed their various interests. They have visited the Whitby Train Show, the North Toronto Station, the Cobourg Train Station and the Port Hope Station (1856). Other trips planned for the future are to Kinmount Station, Roundhouse Museum in Toronto,

Uxbridge Station and the Station Gallery in Whitby. Members take turns setting up the meetings. Anyone interested in trains is welcome to join us.

Social Events – Patricia Caple/Clare (assisting Pat today as Pat has a voice problem)

Christmas Wine & Cheese Event – next Weds. Dec. 3/14. We are now at our maximum, thanks to all who purchased tickets. Remember to bring your blue ticket with you (for wine and raffles). As there is limited coat hanging facilities, please double up on hangers. The Wait List is available if the 12 people still owing money do not pay by the end of the break. We may consider renting a bigger room next year as this is proving to be a very popular event.

Oshawa PROBUS Christmas Dinner/Dance – Dec. 11/14 - \$40.00/\$45.00 for non-members. Lorraine V. has the tickets for those who have paid. She requires the money from the people who have not paid (read out names) – please see her at break.

Break at 10:25 a.m. Bob extended thanks to Les and Diane Robinson for providing the Christmas ‘goodies’ today. Bob’s ‘joke of the day’ – Why are Santa’s reindeers, Dancer and Prancer, always taking coffee breaks? Because they are Santa’s ‘Star Bucks’!!

Following break Bob indicated that Jack B. the Club Photographer would be happy to attend any of your meetings/events – just let him know when. Also there is one spot left in the Yoga group – see Nancy if you are interested. There were also some cancellations to the Oshawa PROBUS Dinner/Dance – see Lorraine today if you wish to attend.

Guest Speaker: Glad Bryce – WW2 Women in the Air Force

Speaker Introduction by Russ Caple. Russ indicated that his mother will be turning 100 yrs. old within the next few months and she still remembers everything about the war. Glad is an international award winner for her book and will be glad to do book signing following her presentation. Welcome, Glad.

Glad indicated that it was at a University Women’s Club meeting that it was suggested that she could do a book about women in the Air Force (books had already been done on women in the Army and Navy). She had been visiting a friend in a Nursing Home when her friend indicated she had been a W.D. in the Air Force (in the Women’s Division). They talked for two hours – Glad had known Doris for 30 years and never knew she was in the war!

She drove to Ottawa in 2008 for the 67th W.D. Reunion (and the last one) and shared a room with two of the women and interviewed them non-stop. She asked why they had joined the war and they said ‘to fight Hitler’ as they thought they were losing their freedom. They became part of the RCAF, but it was a male dominated area. Nothing had been written about these women, so she interviewed them and told their stories. Her book is made up of eight Chapters and she uses

the words and stories told to her during the interviews. Glad showed slides and pictures taken by many of these women. They made life-long friends. Their changing uniforms (they couldn't wear pants until they arrived at a hanger), hat styles and hair styles were shown (their hair could not touch their uniform).

Glad found it astonishing that during the Nov. 11th ceremonies in Ottawa that no mention of women was made, and yet so many women participated during the war. They learned to do mechanics and many tasks (like stripping air craft wings with a highly toxic glue) that women had never done before and didn't mind getting dirty. They taught men how to do many things as well and also assisted with checking that planes were safe prior to takeoff. It was noted that Roberta Bondair had written the forward in her book.

Women also were part of the Motor Transportation area (as was the Queen during the war as we have seen pictures of her driving a jeep). It was suggested that the Queen be presented with a copy of Glad's book, which she was and Glad received a letter of thanks from her.

Some women indicated they went 'Overseas' to Newfoundland! It wasn't part of Canada at that point!

Glad had slides of many different kinds of planes – the Anson, Bristol, Tiger Moth, Lancaster, Mosquito, etc. – the women could work on these planes but they were not allowed to fly them, which high school girls find astonishing today.

Glad met Fran Oakes in a Nursing Home when she was 103 yrs. old. Fran trained all the RAF Nursing Sisters during the war and had a wonderful memory. The Nursing Sisters were not Nuns and their nursing was quite different from nurses in the Army and Navy as they dealt mainly with burn victims.

In Ottawa, a monument was dedicated to the 17,000 women who served in the RAF during 1941-46 and it reads 'We serve that men may fly'.

Glad indicated that all proceeds of her book sales go to Scholarship funds for women through the University Women's Club in Toronto. The books are being sold for \$35.00.

Glad took questions from the floor. Were all the women single? Yes, you could not join if you were married. Were they able to choose the work they did? Yes, they could follow a trade that interested them. After the war did they continue in these trades? It was difficult as the men were returning as well and many, about 75% chose to pursue further education. It was noted that they were paid about ¼ of what the men were paid.

Russ thanked Glad for her very interesting presentation to our PROBUS members today and invited members to speak to her and noted she will sign any book that is purchased.

Speaker Series –

January: Family Group – First to climb Mt. Everest.

50/50 DRAW: \$35.00 won by Joan M. Meeting adjourned @ 11:55 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 28th, 2015

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