

WHITBY/BROOKLIN PROBUS CLUB

General Meeting #3

Westminster United Church, Whitby

November 27, 2013

Chair: Bob Ashdown, President

Acting Secretary: Maria Upton

AGENDA: The President called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Agenda was reviewed and the following was noted:

- arrangements to get a hand-mike are still in process
- it was noted that we were able to place tables in the Lobby today (unsure as to the ongoing arrangement of this as the other group using the Church is away today.)
- membership total is now 233 with 12 people on the waiting list
- introduction of two new members – will do this in the future.
- guest speaker today is Sergeant John Keating speaking on Fraud & Scams

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: by Pauline Ordanis

This report has been omitted from the Website posting, but members able to review any time by contacting Pauline

Pauline responded to a question from the floor regarding what was paid to our speakers. She indicated that decision is left to Russ Caple, Chair of the Speaker Series, but the norm would be \$50.00. She also indicated that she brings a copy of her financial report to each meeting and members are able to review it if they so wish – just speak to her.

Bob pointed out that Pauline is a valuable member of our team. We will not be putting the financial information on the Web Site.

Interest Groups by Catherine Frost

Two new groups are starting up and sign up lists are available today. They are: i) Create & Chat (bring your own craft and meet in various member's homes) and ii) Movies (for people who are movie buffs – sign up to attend movies)

The Euchre group will be starting over as there was difficulty with the arranged space. We would like 12 committed members with a couple of spares. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the Brooklin Community Centre – Senior's Room.

December Lunch to be held at Chatterpauls and there are 40 people signed up. Please call the restaurant if you have signed up but cannot attend.

Walking Group – Oshawa Probus members are to be invited to join.

Music Appreciation Group – Catherine feels this is a 'half group' as people have signed up but no one is willing to do the hosting. She asked Jim Deloise of the Oshawa Probus to speak about this group as he started up a similar group in Oshawa. Jim indicated they meet once a month and listen to C.D.'s and comments by members. Preparing a program is no problem and it could offer you a challenge. Once a year we invite a soloist to come to our meeting and he could put us in touch with several of his contacts. It does include a cost, but not nearly

what it would cost for you to go to a concert and listen to the soloist (voice or instrumental). He will be available to speak to you and answer any questions during the break.

Do you play an instrument? Art Veroba will have a sign-up sheet available during the break. Catherine will be collecting \$10.00 for the Marathon at break time.

Camera Group – is anyone interested? Bob pointed out that we lost our photographer – someone to go to the events and meetings to take pictures – anyone interested?

Social Events – Carol Cadan and Pat Caple

Wine & Cheese Evening – Dec. 4, 2013 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. At All Saints Anglican Church in Whitby. Carol and Pat are pleased to see how many have signed up to attend this event. There are a couple of names on the list who have not paid, please let us know if you are still planning on attending. This is a great chance to meet some of the other members. Members are still able to sign up today (please note if your preference is red or white wine).

Bowling on January 14th at Nebs Bowling Alley on Wilson Rd. in Oshawa at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$4.00 per game. You can sign up today or e-mail Carol. We will plan on going to a local Restaurant following Bowling for drinks/dinner.

Winter Social Luncheon to be held at St. Thomas' Church in Brooklin during the week of February 14th is being planned. We are trying to keep local activities under \$15.00 (remember to come to Probus with your cheque book if you are interested in any of the activities!)

Oshawa Probus Christmas Dinner – Lorraine Veroba

An invitation has been extended to Whitby/Brooklin Probus members to attend this Dinner to be held on Dec. 12/13 at 6:30 p.m. at the C.A.W. Hall in Oshawa. Cost: \$35.00 (\$40.00 for non-members). Five tables have been reserved for the Whitby/Brooklin Probus members. Following the dinner, a 22 piece Band will be playing at the Dance. It is always a very nice evening and today is the last day to sign up (or e-mail her by Friday).

Cruise with Celebrity – Lorraine Veroba

One week – Feb. 23 – Mar. 3/14 leaving from Fort Lauderdale, flight not included. Cost: \$957 Outside Window, \$1112 – Balcony (if previous cruiser with Celebrity). Benefits: travel with a group, eat together, onboard credit depending on numbers. Book with Breakaway Travel to be included in the Group Credits.

Deposit due when booking. Oshawa Probus has done about seven (7) cruises over the past few years and they are always a lot of fun.

House – Jackie Finn

Jackie reported that she feels we are okay today regarding refreshments. She has borrowed coffee urns today and will have three on each table and give that arrangement a try today. Enjoy the refreshments today and please bear with us as

we try and find the most suitable arrangements for getting coffee and snacks. Thanks to my helpers this morning, they are doing a great job. Remember – no coffee or food in the hallways.

Break at 10:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Sergeant John Keating speaking on ‘Frauds and Scams’ on seniors.

Introduction by Terry Brown: John Keating has been a police officer in Durham for 30 years. He has served on the Fraud Squad and worked undercover. He is now Senior Support Co-ordinator of Fraud and Scams on people of our generation (the victimization of seniors). He also hosts ‘Senior’s Talk with Sgt. John’ on Roger’s Cable T.V. Welcome John.

Sergeant Keating presented an interesting discussion interspersed with humour on a very serious topic. He pointed out that there are over 100,000 people over the age of 65 in Durham Region and the rate of elder abuse is anywhere between 4 – 10%. Financial Abuse is the #1 abuse usually done by a trusted family member. Seniors over 75 and widows, living on their own are highly targeted. Remember, don’t sign something because someone is pressuring you. Also, consider having two Power of Attorneys jointly – another level of protection for you.

Scams by Cons & Crooks – they look average and all they want is your money and they target the senior population. A lot of seniors don’t report problems of this sort as they are often embarrassed. There are a lot of scams out there today – ‘the grandparent scam’ – calling you up representing a grandchild in trouble and asked you to send money. People wanting into your home to inspect your water heater, etc. Don’t open the door to people you don’t know (they are often high pressure sales people). Internet dating – meeting people who try to get money from you. People indicating they are from the Computer Co. indicating something is wrong with your computer. Watch for products promoted by ‘free trips’ or ‘prizes’. Before buying or investing anything – check with family/friends. Don’t give your credit card over the phone unless you are sure who you are giving it to and never, never give personal information over the phone. He noted there is an organized crime scam going around Durham – people try to see your PIN# or steal your Debit card – they usually work in pairs and one person tries to distract you - be aware and be careful.

Best Tip: ‘If it sounds too good to be true, it is!’

Call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222TIPS if you feel someone is being abused or call him at (905) 579-1520, X5624

Thank you and have a great day! He answered questions from the audience at this point (after singing ‘The cons and crooks are calling – to the tune of Danny Boy’.)

Terry Brown thanked Sergeant Keating for a fantastic presentation from which he felt we all learned a lot. On behalf of Whitby/Brooklin Probus a small honorarium was presented to him. See the web site for all of Sergeant’s tips.

Speaker Series – Terry Brown (Russ Caple absent today)

January Speaker: A Senior Archiologist from Durham Region
February Speaker: Diplomat representing Canada
May Speaker: Bobby Baun – Former Hockey Player

50/50 DRAW: The winner of \$56.00 was Sharon Gibson.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 (note: no meeting in December)

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

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