

## **WHITBY/BROOKLIN PROBUS CLUB**

General Meeting #13  
Westminster United Church, Whitby  
October 22nd, 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 plus nineteen (19) new members were introduced (note: several new members were not in attendance at today's meeting). A membership renewal reminder was given – October 31<sup>st</sup> is the last day for renewal following which the dues will be \$40.00.

Thanks were extended to today's greeters: Diana Woolford and Connie Coker and Greeters for the next meeting were indicated. Introduction of our new House Chair Les Robertson and his wife Diane was made.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Financial & Membership Update** by Pauline

The current membership is now 227 members. Another reminder that dues will be increased after October 31<sup>st</sup> so renew your membership now. Badges can be picked up at the table during break. Our current bank balance is \$8,042.00. She will give a more in depth Financial Report at the November meeting. Pauline will be posting a trial balance on the Board at every meeting.

#### **Interest Groups**

##### **Toronto Walks** – Trudy Semeniuk

The walks take place once a month and the last walk for the year will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup> (the walk had been rescheduled). The walk will take place on Yonge St. and vicinity – sign up today - \$10.00 per person. The walks will resume again in March, 2015.

Trudy pointed out that we have sign up today for some new and fascinating groups so check them out.

##### **Breakfast Club** – Terry Brown

Terry pointed out that although our PROBUS Club has more ladies than guys, he feels that we need more activities specifically for the guys! A Men's Breakfast Group has been suggested (meeting places – Ajax Casino, Hooters! – suggestions welcome). Please talk to him at break if you are interested in joining this group. It is felt that the core of PROBUS should be the interest/social groups – not just the monthly meeting.

##### **Grey Cell Stimulators** – Jane Brown

Are you worried that you are less sharp than you once were? The theory is that you have to 'use it or you'll lose it' and on that note we are suggesting a 1X month Brain Games and Puzzles meeting (which will be non-competitive). If you are interested see Jane at break or e-mail her at Whitby Grey Cells @ grey mail.com

A presentation (wrapped in tartan) was made to John Cooper for sharing all his 'jokes' with us during the past year.

**Social Events** – Patricia Caple

Updates: Patricia pointed out that there is a full listing of all the upcoming events at the end of the Newsletter – check it out.

**Dance Group** – Oct. 24/14 - \$15.00 to be held at the Wing – Oshawa Airport.

**Les Mis** – to be held at the OLT on November 21/14 – Cost \$21.00 (group rate)

**Dinner/Dance at the Italian Club** – Nov. 22/14 - \$35.00 for a full turkey dinner.

**Christmas Wine & Cheese Event** – Weds. December 3, 2014 at All Saint's Church in Whitby - \$15.00 (Nov. 26th is the cut-off date for purchasing tickets)

**Oshawa PROBUS Christmas Dinner/Dance** – Dec. 11/14 - \$40.00/\$45.00 for non-members.

**Break** at 10:25 a.m.

It was noted that the Toronto Male Welsh Choir will not be able to attend today's meeting.

**Guest Speaker:** Natalee Caple – Author of books of fiction and two books of poetry.

**Speaker Introduction** by Russ Caple. Russ is the proud father of our speaker today – Natalee Caple who is the author of seven (7) books and has won several awards for her writing. She has a PhD in English and is a Professor at Brock University in Canadian Literature and creative writing. Please welcome Natalee.

Natalee thanked her father for his introduction and she indicated that her parents just adore being members of the Whitby/Brooklin PROBUS Club and that they were very worried today that she may not show up on time!!

Today she will do some brief readings from her latest book – 'In Calamity's Wake' and then take questions from the audience.

The historical 'Calamity Jane' was born in the late 1800's and is one of the only significant women figures of the time. She dressed as a man, drank a lot, roped bulls and was believed to be a prostitute and an alcoholic. She defines the polarization of good and bad, but it's hard to tell what's true and not true as there are many myths about her.

Supposedly she was a daughter of Wild Bill Hicock, (three versions of Jane's birth are outlined) but in my version that takes place in the badlands of the Canadian West – she was adopted by a French Canadian priest who raises her on her own. On his deathbed he tells her to find her biological mother (she has only heard

horrible things about this woman). The story begins as she travels by horse across the Dakota's to the Canadian West – it's a long, hard journey and a lot of bad things happen.

She has a wolf in her story – it's not clear if it's real or not. Wolves have always fascinated Natalee as they often showed up in mythology – her wolf in the story is uncanny (a female wolf). Calamity Jane was associated with wolves – she would often 'howl' when she was drinking. At this point she adds a '4<sup>th</sup>' birth story to the book.

Are there any questions? She has brought some of her books with her today and she will be selling them for \$18.00 (signed copy).

Question: What was the most interesting thing you learned about Calamity Jane? I think it was what she became – a symbol for other people.

Question: As a child did you write? Yes, my mother always said I would become a writer. I think story telling is a way to work through our memories.

Question: How long did it take you to write the book? Seven (7) years – as I was working on my PhD at the time and I also gave birth to twins (which kept me pretty busy).

This was my first historically based book and I am now working on another book – about women pirates!

Thanks was extended to Natalee on behalf of the Whitby/Brooklin PROBUS club for attending our meeting this morning and for her interesting readings from her latest novel.

**Speaker Series** –

November : Roles of Women during the War

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

**50/50 DRAW**: \$41.00 won by Sheila M.

**Next Meeting**: Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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