



Beaver Valley Probus Club

The Grapevine for March 2014

Box 148, Clarksburg, Ontario N0H 1J0 Volume 14, Issue 3

Current Activities

by Convener Joan Hammond

[\(details\)](#)

- Book Club Chapter one
- Book Club Chapter Two
- Book Club Chapter Three
- Canasta
- Casual Dining
- Computer
- Cooking Together
- Cue Sports
- Digital Photography
- Dining About Town
- Euchre
- Euchre 2
- Gourmet (not really)
- Marsh Street Painters
- Scrabble
- Singles Gourmet
- Ski Legends
- Snowshoeing
- Stitch & Bitch
- Table Tennis
- Travel
- Wood Carving
- x
- Chess Group

If you interested in participating in this new activity group please contact Bob Fitz-James

“Please be advised that all events and activities of the Beaver Valley Probus Club are organized for the benefit and enjoyment of its Members. Individuals who participate do so at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety”.

E-mail address: beavervalleyprobus@beavervalleyprobus.com

Web-Site: www.beavervalleyprobus.com

President’s Message



The next time we meet spring will be here—at least in the calendar if not in the thermometer. The month of February was cold, snowy but exciting with the Olympics holding our attention.

The AGM in February was well attended with approximately 230 members enjoying the complimentary lunch followed by our thirteenth annual business meeting. The lunch and desserts were provided by the Thornbury United Church Women’s Group and all was organized by our Social Convener Stella Zahradnik. Many thanks go out to her and all who assisted that day. For photographs [click here](#)

The speaker, Catherine Turner from Johnson Insurance outlined the general policies of the company’s travel packages, using the short stay or long stay option (182 days) and the various medical coverage available. They have three health plan options, good emergency coverage, trip interruption insurance, and are a sanctioned insurance agent for Probus Canada.

This month we are having our Activity Fair and hope you can attend to discover an interest group for yourself and/or to support your longstanding groups and the leaders. It is a well-attended event and by joining a group you will meet some very interesting members.

We welcome the 2014 -2015 management committee members, both new to the team or continuing to provide their leadership. We also extend our sincere thanks to retiring members for their support and many contributions to our club. We appreciate all volunteers.

Regards *Catharine Pepper*

Activity Group Update

SINGLES GOURMET:

We have now had our 3 lunchtime winter meals and now with "winter ending," we revert to our usual 6pm. Our theme, to guide the menu for Sunday, March 30th at 6pm, is SLOW COOKER. Our hosts are Marg Nattress and Sheena Liikson.

In wine there is wisdom, in beer there is freedom, in water there is bacteria. Cheers.

GARDENING GROUP:

The Gardening Group is in need of new leadership! It is one of the longest running activity groups in our club, but the leaders have suffered fatigue and are hopeful of handing over the leadership to a new group of enthusiastic gardeners. The job is not onerous if spread between 2 or 3 people and there is lots of support available in terms of past activities; what worked and what did not.

If you think you could help organize some interesting garden group activities please contact one of us or sign up at the Gardening Group table at the March Activity Fair.

If there is no response the Gardening Group will have a hiatus until new leadership emerges. *Barb Thompson, Marie Berrington, Louise McFarlane,*

HELP KEEP BVPC THRIVING; Our Club is unique - the number of Activities, no doubt a direct result of the number of members – is most likely the reason that we never seem to be without a wait list. Though have we all asked ourselves the question – “have I ever considered helping by becoming an Activity Group Coordinator?” Some of our group leaders have been in place since the Club started, and yes, understandably, they’re getting tired. So is this the year for you to offer to help a current group leader? or take over one of the groups that might be in jeopardy? The current Coordinators would be happy to show you the ropes. And if you feel it is too much for you alone ask others in the group if they’d pitch in. All our activity groups need our members, not just to participate but to help run them! *Viv Alper*

Upcoming Club Events

Come and enjoy **Crazy For You**, the New Gershwin Musical, at the Festival Theatre in Stratford on Wed Oct 8, 2014, 2:00 pm.

Sent to Deadrock, Nevada, to foreclose on a derelict theatre, banker Bobby Child falls for its owner's daughter, Polly Baker. Can he reconcile the demands of duty and love – and his own dreams of dancing. "I Got Rhythm", "Nice Work if You Can Get it", and Someone to Watch Over Me" are just some of the gems in this dynamic musical's dazzling score.

Ticket cost is \$112.00 which includes theatre, bus and lunch at Anna Mae's in Millbank. **A WAITING LIST HAS BEEN STARTED**
Sign up sheets will be at the back of the room at our January 28th meeting. Payment by cheque only.

Probus Birding Group Owl Prowl

Submitted by Lynne Richardson

The Probus Birding Group had an impromptu winter outing on Tuesday February 11, in hopes of observing a rare winter specialty – the spectacular Snowy Owl.

These big white owls from the high Arctic have 'irrupted' (a term used when birds migrate outside their normal range) south this year in record numbers.

According to Cornell University Department of Ornithology "This year's invasion is one of the most dramatic natural history spectacles in north-eastern North America.

Each winter a few Snowy Owls appear in Ontario, but this winter has been exceptional. The likely reason is that the summer breeding season was highly successful due to an abundance of lemmings, which enabled high numbers of young to be raised. The young birds are the ones we are seeing in Ontario, as they spread far and wide driven by a search for feeding territory, free of competition from other Snowies.

Once a Snowy Owl establishes a winter hunting territory they can be seen fairly reliably in that vicinity throughout the winter weeks. The Birding Group leaders Rob & Donna Kearns and Lynne Richardson took the opportunity to take the group to two such locations. The group had distant views of the first Snowy in a tree, and some also went to the second location and had close-up views of a Snowy on its usual hydro-pole perch outside of Thornbury.

Being diurnal hunters, Snowy Owls are often visible during the day on a high perch surveying the landscape for food with their incredible eyesight. The owl's human-free Arctic home makes them somewhat oblivious to people in their proximity, but should you come across one, have a good look at this big beautiful bird, but keep a respectful distance when viewing or photographing. The birds need to concentrate on hunting stress-free and harassment-free to survive this harsh winter. [Click here](#)



Snowshoeing on St. Valentine's Day

A healthy number of snowshoers gathered in Rocklyn on the morning of February 14. Then, with each of us wearing a bright red heart, we set off to enjoy our time in the nearby woods..... Snowshoeing! The two groups (some choose to go faster than others) re-grouped back at the Rocklyn Inn in time to enjoy a delicious lunch. A total of 42 BVPC members had many wonderful dishes to choose from before finishing up the meal with delicious fruit pies and a decadent chocolate dessert – all lovingly prepared by Diana and her staff.

Many Thanks to our Coordinators John Dick, Eileen & Dave Robinson for a wonderful outing.

PS. The snowshoeing was really good too!

For more pictures [click here](#)



This is your Management team for 2014; unfortunately the photographer could not get all to look at the camera at the same time.

For more photos from the AGM [click here](#)

INTERESTING WEB SITE

Here is a website that Sharon Black sent in; it is quite interesting and informative. She says "You may want to share it with the members in one of your upcoming editions to the Grapevine. All the years I lived in the big smoke and never thought to take a tour of this place!"

http://educationportal.ontla.on.ca/lao_tour/content/first-floor

WE USED TO HAVE A RAILWAY RUNNING THROUGH THORNBURY



We used to have a railway running through Thornbury. It was the Canadian National Railway's Meaford subdivision of the Allandale Division, which naturally enough ran from Allandale (now part of Barrie) to Meaford until the early 1960's. Lines to Allandale ran directly from Toronto and, through Collingwood, from Hamilton. The line from Hamilton to Allandale actually ran through Alliston and Beeton and, when it reached Collingwood, the track ran up the middle of Walnut Street and across First Street (Highway 26), where it turned right to join the track from Meaford heading for the station.

From Thornbury in the early 1950's, you could catch the 6:19 a.m. or the 2:35 p.m. passenger train to Collingwood and on to Allandale and the 1:20 p.m. or the 9:47 p.m. to Meaford. Every day but Sunday (and Monday heading for Allandale). On Sundays, the train headed "south" from Thornbury for Allandale at 5:49 p.m. The night train to Meaford stayed there overnight and returned to Allandale the next morning. These were passenger trains, although freight cars were sometimes pulled behind the passenger coaches, and ski excursion trains ran on weekends from Union Station in Toronto to Craighleith.

For the continuation of this article and photographs [click here](#)

Submitted by *Donald Posluns*; he says if anyone is interested in model railways to contact him by e-mail.

The Master Gardener's Corner

Things to do in or for your garden in – March from *John Hethrington*

Things to do in your garden each month taken from the Ontario Master Gardener Calendar by John Hethrington, Past President, Master Gardeners of Ontario. For more information, or your copy of the 11" x 17" calendar of the full year's tips for a \$1 contribution to Master Gardeners.

- Start tuberous begonias and caladiums in pots using damp peat moss.
- Start brassicas (cabbage family) and hardy annual seeds for April-May planting in your garden.
- Start tomatoes, lettuce and other fast growing seeds late March, or early April this year.
- Order summer flowering bulbs.
- Get your To Do list for this spring and summer into your computer so you can't say you lost it.
- Check and repair gardening tools. Find them first. Sharpen spades, shovels, etc. Wipe down wooden handles with boiled linseed oil. Paint the handles of small hand tools like trowels with red or fluorescent enamel, so you won't lose them.
- Apply combination dormant spray to fruit trees and pest prone shrubs when non-freezing weather permits and the snow drifts come down. Especially good against scale.
- Start forcing branches of spring-flowering shrubs like Forsythia and lily-of-the-valley root pips after buds start to swell.
- Prune summer-flowering shrubs and vines as the snow recedes.
- When the snow is gone, Loosen up packed winter mulch and press back perennials heaved by the frost.
- Plan to add a few native berry plants or shrubs that will attract birds this summer.
- Visit local nursery greenhouses to smell the coming spring.
- Check dates for annual garden shows like Canada Blooms, Mar 14 – 23 2014. Check it out at www.candablooms.com

COMMUNITY WATCH

The Blue Mountains Community Watch website and social media strategy has been developed with the Community Policing Committee. The Facebook and Twitter pages are now available. This has been done to create a social media community where we can all share information about scams, crime, traffic etc. in our community.

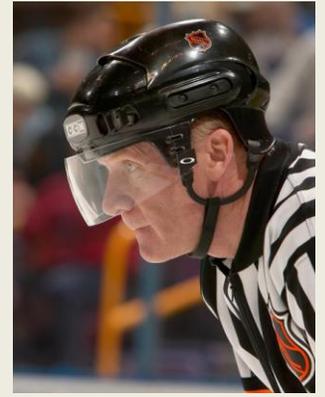
Website: <http://www.bluemountainscommunitywatch.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsCommunityWatch>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BlueMountainsCW>

Our Speaker for April TERRY GREGSON

Terry lives in our community at Lora Bay. He has been the National Hockey League Director of Officiating from 2009 through 2013. Terry was formerly a referee in the NHL from 1981 through 2004. During his career, he refereed 8 Stanley Cup finals, an All Star game and the 1996 World Cup of Hockey. He officiated at 1,427 regular season games and 158 playoff games. Terry will talk about developing passion and potential in people, team building, and the physical and mental management of people – not just hockey! Terry will share with us how the NHL system is organized and how they get ready for the season. As a Director of Officiating, Terry has just returned from Sochi and will no doubt have some interesting comments about the Olympics. At the conclusion of the presentation you will have an opportunity to ask questions. Come and hear this highly recommended presentation by Terry.



Our next meeting is the **ACTIVITY FAIR on March 25th**

1.00 – 3.00 pm at the Community Centre .Make sure to get your tickets for the Door Prizes from the greeters. Name tags mandatory: Please see Terry and Vicki Kellar at the membership desk if there is an issue with your name tag or membership. Light refreshments will be served. For New Members, there are 30 or more activities to join. Please look at our website for more information on the groups. There will be sign up sheets at the Fair. You will also get to meet and talk to the co-ordinators for the different groups. Hope to see you at this fun event. Please use the New Ideas Suggestion List that will be posted at the Fair or come and talk to me. I want your input.

Joan Hammond Activities Convener



The Quiz this month has an Ursidae flavour test your knowledge by [Clicking here](#)

February winners:
Jennifer Baker & Murray Lamont

Newspaper Team

Editor

David Morgan

Reporter

Caroline Bacher

Distribution

Barb Thompson

Website Maintenance

Barb Thompson

Technical Advisor

Terry Kellar

On a Septic Tank Truck: Yesterday's Meals on Wheels

Sign on the back of another Septic Tank Truck:
"Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises"

Support Group

Do you know of a member who needs encouragement to get through a difficult period?

Please do not hesitate to call **Phyllis Thomas** who is the contact for March or any one of the Management team.

Next months contact is Mary Armstrong

A WORD OF THANKS

'The family of 'Mac' Uglow wish to thank Probus members for donations, calls and cards during these past few weeks. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Look after each other. Sincerely

Joan Uglow

The Last Word

Submitted by Margaret Morgan

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

C.S.Lewis. British academic, apologist and author 1898 - 1963