



# Beaver Valley Probus Club

## The Grapevine for April 2014

Box 148, Clarksburg, Ontario N0H 1J0 Volume 14, Issue 4

### Current Activities

by Convener Joan Hammond

[\(details\)](#)

Backroads Cycling  
Book Club Chapter one  
Book Club Chapter Two  
Book Club Chapter Three  
Birding  
BVP Computer Group  
Canoe / Kayak  
Casual Dining  
Chess  
Cooking Together  
Digital Photography  
Dining About Town  
Euchre  
Golf  
Hiking  
Marsh Street Painters  
Nordic Pole Walking  
Recreational Cycling  
Scrabble  
Singles Gourmet  
Ski Legends  
Snowshoeing  
Stitch & Bitch  
Support Group  
Table Tennis  
Wood Carving  
Activity groups are self sustained.  
Participate – Volunteer  
but above all-have fun and enjoy

*"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".*

**THE NEXT CLUB MEETING**  
**April 22 in the Community Centre**  
**1pm for coffee meeting**  
**commences at 1.30pm**

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Web-Site: [www.beavervalleyprobus.com](http://www.beavervalleyprobus.com)

### President's Message



The Activity Fair in March attracted about 220 members enjoying the fellowship of friends and the opportunities to sign up for interest groups. There were 24 existing groups available and always space for more. Within these groups and in new groups we are always looking for leadership. The variety and types of activities within our club make our Probus Club so attractive to many members. Thank you to Joan Hammond (convener) and helpers for their organisational skills.

In April we will enjoy more sunshine and a greener environment. Our speaker though will take us back to the winter scene as he recounts his experiences at the Olympics and his hockey career as a National Hockey League referee. I expect this will also be a popular meeting.

There is a suggestion box if anyone wishes to submit an idea for a speaker or a social outing or just an idea. Also, a reminder that community announcements are welcome in advance of the meeting, in writing and will be announced by the chair of the meeting, the president or vice president.

Regards

*Catharine Pepper*

### Activity Group Update

#### SINGLES GOURMET:

There were some date changes for the SLOW COOKER theme and it was great to hear that various people "took charge" and worked the logistics. Our schedule is supposed to "run itself" and it generally does that. Do keep in mind that we have members who are married but enjoy the program on their own. Our themes are not rigid and are just guidelines.

Our next event is at 6pm on Sun, Apr 27th. The theme is FRANCE and the hosts are Marg Eldergill and Nancy Jackson.

I hear that chickens say "a laugh a day beats a bowl of chicken soup".

#### DINING AROUND TOWN:

On April 9 we will be at the Grill and Greens in Thornbury. This restaurant appears to be very popular and we are expecting a large turnout. Members who wish to attend and have not signed up can contact Joan Uglow. On May 14 we will be at Azzurra Trattoria in Collingwood where we will experience a Pranzo family style dinner. Due to the size of the main room we have limited the number of attendees to 30. We currently have a waiting list of about 6 and if the number increases we can arrange for these members to be seated in another room. Please do not just show up if you have not signed up as this will cause problems for the restaurant and other members. If you wish to be placed on the waiting list please contact Phyllis Thomas. Our final dining event is on June 11 at Lora Bay where we have traditionally ended our season. Joan Uglow is the co-ordinator for this event. **Please Note:** June 11 is the last event that Joan and Phyllis will act as co-ordinators for this activity and if we do not have any volunteers this activity will be discontinued which would be a shame as this activity is very popular.

## 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 April meeting. Payment by cheque only.

## FEEDING THE SWANS

*Submitted by reporter Caroline Bacher*

This has been a very harsh winter for our waterfowl, especially our beautiful Mute Swans who have made their home here in the Thornbury area. Because the bay has been frozen over for so long, these beautiful birds have had trouble finding food to keep them going. Our family has enjoyed watching four swans glide by our cottage during the spring, summer and fall. Unfortunately, one or two swans have perished because of the very cold winter. After a conversation with a representative from the Town of the Blue Mountains, I decided to take it upon myself to buy some clean corn from the feed store in Owen Sound and take it down to the Beaver River where the swans have been living during the winter months. Here are some photos of my mission.



## The Master Gardener's Corner

### Things to do in or for your garden in – April

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.*

- Make sure you have done everything you were supposed to do in March.
- Spread 19-19-19 general purpose fertilizer over the snow on all your flower beds and shrub borders before the snow goes. It will melt down into the ground as the snow goes away. Available at the Co-Op in Markdale, about \$20 a 25 kg bag.
- Once the snow is gone and the garden beds are dry enough, prepare them for planting. Dig in compost, or manure, or other organic material. Remove any weeds from last fall.
- Remove rose protection: Prune and apply dormant oil spray before the buds break.
- Apply dormant oil spray to shrubs like euonymus that may have suffered from scale last year.
- Treat birch trees against leaf miner, if you can find the pesticide to do it. Try the USA.
- Organize your compost pile. Start a new one with the top foot from last year's pile.
- As the weather warms and the ground dries, prune back perennials and ornamental grasses to 3" from the ground. Put dead material on your new compost pile.
- Prepare your vegetable garden and plant seed of cool-weather vegetables like peas, spinach, lettuce, onions, beets and frost resistant annuals like larkspur, sweet peas and calendulas.
- Rake your lawn vigorously to remove thatch, repair damage with weed-free topsoil and seed bare spots. Fertilize your lawn with slow-release fertilizer. It costs more, but worth it. Apply crabgrass pre-emergence herbicide to your lawn, if needed.
- If Spring ever comes, plant trees, shrubs, perennials and biennials in your garden. No need to wait until May 24<sup>th</sup>. That's for annuals and it may be the first week in June.
- Plant frost-resistant pansies for a little spring colour.
- Start mowing your lawn only as needed.
- Check out local garden shows.

## PROFILES OF YOUR MANAGEMENT TEAM for 2014-2015

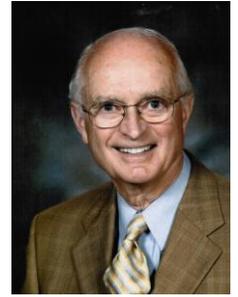
Featuring this month Vice President and Coordinator of Speakers - Mr. Howard Kitchen

Howard was born and raised in Toronto. He received a business degree from the University of Western Ontario. He spent 42 years with Lansing Buildall, a lumber, hardware and home improvement business, in the Greater Toronto area. He was also Director of Marketing and Communications.

He and his wife, Ruth, have a son and a daughter and four grandsons. The family have enjoyed skiing at the Craighleith Ski Club since 1959. Their weekend and vacation home was a farmhouse, circa 1875, situated at the corner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> line of St. Vincent and Frogs Hollow Side Road for 33 years. They now reside in Thornbury.

Howard enjoys many activities with the Probus Club such as hiking, snowshoeing, dining, gardening and bridge. He likes to be involved in the general meetings and the social time that comes with them.

We appreciate the volunteerism and expertise that Howard brings to the Probus Club.



*Submitted by reporter Caroline Bacher*

## LOCAL HISTORY

### WHO WAS ANDREW GAWLEY? : THE MAN WITH STEEL HANDS

He was born on a farm near Goring, Euphrasia Township in 1872. The early part of his life was spent in Elsinore, a small village near Southampton. He had two siblings. His mother died in his youth and his father, Royal Gawley became clinically blind.

In the 1890s, his father established a saw mill, near Lion's Head on the Bruce Peninsula. While working there as a teenager, Andrew fell across a circular buzz saw and it took more than a week to get him to the hospital in Owen Sound where both hands had to be removed leaving stumps below his elbows.

With the help of his father and a blacksmith from Ripley, he was able to over time design and construct first iron, then steel hands.. These hands had five different grips, each with a different size and degree of power.

During World War I he worked in a munitions factory as a tool and die maker in Orillia. Gawley's invention of workable steel hands proved to be readily copied for use by some soldiers who lost their hands during the war.

Sometime after World War I, Gawley moved to Meaford where he opened a bicycle repair and tool sharpening shop near the Sykes Street bridge. With his five grip hands he could do many things others could not do and most things that regular people take for granted such as: threading a needle, turn the pages of a book; tie shoe laces, make and pour tea; pick up a pin on the floor; use a rotary telephone, shave, use readily fishing rod and reel, etc. Gawley could also do feats of strength. He could pick up a keg of nails or a 260 pound engine block and swing a sledge hammer. He could pull out with ease a 4 " nail from solid wood.

In the mid 1930s he was noticed by the Newsreel Motion Picture Company of New York and then the Ripley Believe It or Not Show. He travelled with the show for a number of years throughout North America. He became internationally known.

His repair shop in Meaford thrived and his home became a refuge for battered wives and children over the years.

He was very active in the community. A staunch member of the United Church, Past Master of the Meaford Orange Lodge and a member of Meaford Black Knights R.B.P.

He died on December 25, 1960 in Owen Sound.

Meaford Community Theatre is presenting a play written by Harley Greenfield on the life of Andrew Gawley. Being set to the stage, this is a heart warming story of one of Grey/Bruce's amazing citizens. The play will be performed at Meaford Hall on April 24th to the 27th. The play is being produced by Probus members Wayne Bryant and Carol Hethrington. There is a cast of 22 ranging in age from nine to ninety.

*Submitted by Wayne Bruant*

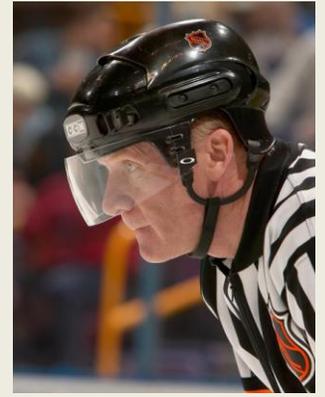


**OCTOBER YEARS** *The following is an extract from the blog of an American author of a number of books under this heading. A long time friend of the Morgan's whom we lost touch with for over thirty years ago and made contact again only last year. It resonates very much with the years that many have passed through and perhaps are still in.*

Do you ever wish that your October Years came with a crystal ball? If you're like me, by this stage of the game your time and energy are a bit limited. It would help if you could see around the next corner of your life-path...for more [Click here](#)

## 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.



### SPEAKERS FOR MAY - MARIANNE FORD and her husband STEVE NASH

Marianne and Steve are master instructors with Nordixx Pole Walking

There is tremendous excitement about this health and fitness activity. Nancy Hart is the leader of our own Nordic Pole Walking Group.

The Barrie and Wasaga At The Beach Probus groups were very enthusiastic about Marianne and Steve's presentation and opportunity to try pole walking. Pole walking is the "smarter way to walk". The whole body is involved instead of just half the body with normal walking. There are clinically proven positive results in regard to diabetes, osteoporosis, cancer, and loss of weight, relief from knee and joint pain and lower blood pressure.

An educational power point presentation will be followed by an opportunity to try Nordic poles outside in the parking lot. If desired poles will be available to purchase at that time. Come to learn all about pole walking try it and perhaps join our group.



The Quiz this month has an April fool theme test your knowledge by

[Clicking here](#)

March winners:

Jennifer Baker & Murray  
Lamont

### Newspaper Team

#### Editor

David Morgan

#### Reporters

Caroline Bacher

Nancy Seppala

#### Distribution

Barb Thompson

#### Website Maintenance

Barb Thompson

#### Technical Advisor

Terry Kellar

**BLOND MEN JOKES:** These really are "chain pullers" but in deference to the ladies [click here](#) for some laughter.

### WHAT'S NEW IN THE KITCHEN

Look for new member Caroline Bacher as Refreshment Co-ordinator. The membership recognizes her important role in keeping us sweet at meetings.

At the Activity Fair, Cheryl Besley, Caroline Bacher and Joanne Knight helped out. Bev Wright will be overseeing the refreshments ensuring that Caroline gets her sea legs.

LOOKING FOR A FEMALE [sorry guys] CABIN COMPANION for a trip to **THE GALAPAGOS** Sept 26 – Oct 6 If you are interested please telephone me (my email in the Membership List isn't current). Viv Alper

### Support Group

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

Please do not hesitate to call **Mary Armstrong** who is the contact for April or any one of the Management team.

*Next months contact is Marg Nattress*

### The Last Word

*Submitted by Past President Peter Armstrong*

"I tell you, Wellington is a bad general; the English are bad soldiers. We will settle the matter by lunchtime."

*Napoleon said this at breakfast on the morning of Waterloo to his generals.*