



Beaver Valley Probus Club

The Grapevine for November 2014

Box 148, Clarksburg, Ontario N0H 1J0 Volume 14, Issue 11

E-mail address: beavervalleyprobus@beavervalleyprobus.com Web-Site: www.beavervalleyprobus.com

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
 - Cue Sports
 - Digital Photography
 - Dining with Flair
 - Euchre
 - Gardening
 - 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”.

President’s Message

There was magic in the air at the October meeting. Over 200 members and some guests enjoyed a presentation outlining the history of magic as well as watching our speaker using sleight of hand to bewitch us and mental telepathy to impress us. It was fun.

Halloween is over and November is here. For some men, the month is called Movember as they grow moustaches to support a worthy charity. Judging from the community announcements heard at the meeting, November is also a countdown to Christmas as there are many bake sales and cookie sales with a festive theme occurring. November means Remembrance Day and history shows us that the First World War started 100 years ago this year. We have switched back to standard time this month for brighter mornings but darker evenings.

Ticket sales are brisk for our Christmas lunch. We enjoy good food, good friendships and lots of door prizes. Hope you can come. See you at the November meeting.

Regards, *Catharine Pepper*



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS

These were mailed to all our members last month. Please ensure that you complete the forms and return with your cheque [payable to *Beaver Valley Probus Club*] as soon as is possible. They can be mailed, as shown on the form, or returned at the November meeting.

Remember to sign the waiver, it is required for renewal, and please complete the volunteer section.

The due date is December 1st.

It is appreciated if you could immediately advise Terry or Vicki Keller, membership, if you are not renewing or if you have any questions.



Tuesday 9th Dec 2014

*This year at the Lora Bay Club
Social 11.30am lunch at 12.30pm*



Tickets are available now and will be on sale at the Nov Probus meeting

Cheques only please.

*Only 200 tickets at \$25 [guest \$35] will be available, so book early
Menu – petit traditional turkey lunch, followed by tea / coffee & desert*

Buffet service. Door prizes etc.....

O Canada: The slideshow.

Do you have a picture of winter in Canada that we could use in a future presentation? If you have one (or more) please email them to bvpcmembership@gmail.com . We are also looking for your favourite pictures of Canada: think water, trees, cottage life, mountains, notable buildings, monuments or any other picture that celebrates this beautiful country.

ACTIVITY GROUP UPDATES

The Probus Birding Group headed out Friday Oct 17 to the Strongville Road area east of Stayner. This is an extensive area of grain fields which border the great Minesing Swamp. These combinations of both feeding and roosting habitats make it an ideal area for the fall 'staging' of large numbers of Sandhill Cranes. Staging areas are significant feeding stopover locations for birds migrating south for the winter months. Cranes dance, run, leap in the air and otherwise cavort not only during mating season but all year long. Our trip was timed to observe the peak of this annual spectacle. The trip leaders had observed many hundreds of these big, handsome birds a few days earlier. However, in the few days between the cranes had decided that it was time to carry on with their migration and disappeared en masse! Quite a letdown! They do not usually head out until the end of October.



CRANING FOR CRANES

However, after some searching we did scrounge up two lingering cranes grazing in the fields and we had good telescopic views of them.

We were also hopeful that we would see two other species unique to this area and this specific time of year and were, again, somewhat successful. We saw numerous American Pipits - but alas only as mere black specks flying high in the sky and at a distance. These small, hardy birds nest on the Arctic tundra or in high alpine meadows. They're seen here only very briefly in migration.

Our third expected species – Rusty Blackbirds - were spotted in a tree on our way out – but of course the flock flew off as we approached. However, one bird kindly stayed put and we got the scope on it for somewhat good looks at its main field marks. Rusty Blackbirds nest in Canada's boreal forest swamps and are late fall migrants. They're only rusty in the fall.

This outing was not quite what we had hoped for, but we did, more or less, get to see our three target species. We're considering it a success! The group finished the outing with a nice lunch at Bistro 26.

Lynne Richardson

Dining with Flair - Something a little different: Members will gather DECEMBER 16TH at the home of Jim and Eileen Scott for a festive Cocktail Party, an opportunity for all of us to meet and greet and enjoy what I am sure will be delicious hors d'oeuvres and sweets along with some holiday cheer.

Debbie Catto

Singles Gourmet - Our last dinner was themed EAST COAST. Our chefs came through gloriously. There was seafood and seafood. There was a dish called Hodgepodge. And I saw a dessert that was decorated like a ducks head... very special indeed.

Our next event is the appetizer/cocktail event on Sunday Nov 23rd at 1pm. It is a touch early as the last Sunday is usually a snow day. We ALL gather this year at Joan Liddiard's home to say goodbye to fall and hello to winter. Someone mentioned that "health nuts" are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital dying of nothing.

Gloria Thompson

Snowshoeing: It's that time of year again to start gearing up for winter activities. Eileen and Dave Robinson and John Dick, are coordinating the snowshoeing activity group again this winter. Snowshoeing is not difficult. Anyone who is able to walk a couple of kilometers on the Bruce Trail is able to snowshoe with our group. We break into two groups at the beginning of each hike. One does an easy to moderate pace. The second does a slower, gentler walk. Different locations are chosen each week and our outings last from 1½ to 2 hours with stops to relax, socialize, and enjoy our surroundings. After snowshoeing we usually go to a restaurant for those wishing to have lunch. The activity will start at the beginning of January or whenever snow conditions permit. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to have your name added to our list so you will receive notification of our hikes.

John Dick or Dave and Eileen

World War I, known at the time as the Great War, was thought to be the war that would end all future wars... All sides suffered an incredibly high number of needless deaths, and the war devastated an entire generation. In fact, the sheer amount of death and destruction has only been eclipsed by World War II. Since it ended, all countries involved have held memorials to remember their fallen dead who sacrificed their lives for the good of their country. This fact is all the more so in England, where nearly a million people lost their lives. What they've done to commemorate their fallen soldiers is truly beautiful, while also helping us understand the true scope of these soldiers' sacrifice. Even a hundred years later, we should not forget their incredible acts of heroism and dedication. The 'moat' that surrounds the Tower of London has long stood empty and dry, but now, what may look like blood is actually something beautiful. For some wonderful pictures [Click here](#)



LABYRINTHS: have played an important role in many cultures around the world from prehistory to the present. They are part of a tradition of circles symbolizing wholeness, unity and the sacred. People walk labyrinths for good fortune, protection, empowerment, spiritual insights, and connection to the earth, to nature and to the eternal.

There is a labyrinth in our community where you can take part in this spiritual journey. It is located in the Cedar Grove which you will find to the left of the trail just behind Piper's Restaurant. It is made of bricks, different from what I had envisioned as a circle of shrubs. There are two informational plaques, one telling of the history of labyrinths and the other describing how to use the labyrinth. It is a worthwhile trip to this unique part of history. You may feel a serenity and peace in this place.



Submitted by Caroline Bacher

Clarksburg, Home of the Red Prince: If you approach the Village of Clarksburg along Grey Road 40, you will come across a sign "HOME OF THE RED PRINCE". You might wonder what this is all about, but if you look closely, you see the huge apple orchard behind the sign and the apple trees full of beautiful red apples and you know what the sign is all about.

The Red Prince apple was discovered in 1994 in an orchard located in the German/Holland border in a small town called Weert. This discovery happened by the owners when one of their apple trees had produced the most beautiful red apples among a sea of green apples. At the time, they believed it was a gift from Mother Nature but later discovered that it had been developed through the natural crossing of two varieties, the Jonathan and the Golden Delicious.

In 2001, Irma and Marius Botden, co-owners of Global Fruit, planted their first Red Prince trees in Ontario. Nine years later, as exclusive growers in Canada, they introduced the Red Prince apple to Canadians.

Global Fruit is run by a system that leaves nothing to chance. We happen to have one of their orchards bordering us and throughout the season we follow how they look after this orchard and how they handle the crop at the end of the season.

For pictures [Click Here](#)

Submitted by Seija and George Wolf

Our next meeting is Tuesday November 25th at the Community Centre 1.00pm social time meeting at 1.30pm

The Master Gardener's Corner

Things to do in or for your garden in – November

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.

- Pull the plants out and empty the soil from your pots and other containers into your compost pile; clean them thoroughly and store them.
- Try potting up some spring bulbs like amaryllis and paper white narcissus and force them into bloom for Christmas and/or for late winter indoor colour. Different bulbs will require various lengths of cold to flower, so read the product packaging carefully. Store the bulbs in an area where they will not freeze (about 5°C). A fridge or cold cellar will work well for this.
- Complete winterization procedures for plants, containers, hoses and all other garden equipment.
- Protect young trees from rodents by using collars or plastic protectors.
- Hill up your hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses with 10 inches of compost covering the stems, or use a metal or plastic "Rose Collar" and fill it with compost before the ground freezes.
- Create one or more winter/Christmas urns using a variety of evergreen branches. Find some with berries and add colour with red dogwood and dried hydrangea blossoms.
- Check mulch levels in garden. Add more compost or leaves if you have them.
- Order seed catalogues for next spring.

Speaker for November Eric Conroy - The SS Keewatin: A CPR Great Lakes Steamer



Join Eric Conroy as he tells the tale of the SS Keewatin, the last of the great lakes passenger steamships still afloat. In 1908 the Keewatin went into regular service between Owen Sound and Port Arthur/Fort William. In 1912 the Keewatin moved to Port McNicoll. Later, the Keewatin became a floating museum in Saugatuck, Michigan. Eric Conroy fell "in love" with the SS Keewatin at the early age of 17 and spent 2 summers on board as a waiter. He continued his interest by frequently travelling to Saugatuck, Michigan to assist owner R.J. Peterson. He did not know at the age of 17, that some 50 years later he would be asked to bring the Keewatin back to Port McNicoll, a stressful and epic journey. Over 5,000 people were on hand June 23, 2012 to welcome this historic vessel to its final resting place.

Eric is a qualified teacher, a successful businessman owning several retail enterprises, and a publisher of children's magazines. He also spent 28 years volunteering with the Toronto Santa Claus Parade with the task of raising \$1.5 million dollars each year to stage the parade. Eric, now a resident of Port McNicoll, is working around the clock as CEO of The Friends of Keewatin and overseeing everything involved in restoration, repair and fundraising. The official opening occurred May 11, 2013. Eric encourages everyone to come and see the ship for themselves.



The Quiz this month is really insulting! Test your knowledge of Shakespeare by [Clicking here](#)

October winner:

Murray Lamont [Who else]

There is a prize draw from all winners at the Christmas lunch

Newspaper Team

Editor

David Morgan

Reporters

Caroline Bacher

Nancy Seppala

Distribution

Barb Thompson

Website Maintenance

Barb Thompson

January 20, 2015 --- Speaker - Mark Neukom

"Grandma and Grandpa – Do you hear the birds singing?"

Mark Neukom is a certified Audiologist at Blue Mountain Audiology in Thornbury. Mark is a graduate of Western University with a degree in Master of Clinical Science (M.Cl.Sc.) Audiology. He also has degrees in engineering and music and work experience in these fields. Hearing is essential to allow us to communicate thoughts, feelings and ideas with one another. **Hearing loss is the third most chronic medical condition that is experienced by the general population.** Loss of hearing may lead to depression, isolation, embarrassment and in some cases, dementia.

An Audiologist is responsible for helping to rehabilitate the auditory system. Mark is passionate about improving people's ability to communicate with one another.

Improve your life, come and **HEAR** Mark.

An enjoyable and fun web site

<http://www.pleated-jeans.com/2014/07/04/26-animals-that-accidentally-saw-you-naked/>

Support Group

Do you know of a member who needs encouragement to get through a difficult period? Please do not hesitate to call **Carol Hetherington** who is the contact for November or any one of the Management team. *Next months contact is Doreen Bowins*

The Last Word

Submitted by Past President Peter Armstrong

Men are like wine - some turn to vinegar but the best improve with age.

Pope John XXIII