



Beaver Valley Probus Club

The Grapevine for January 2015

Box 148, Clarksburg, Ontario N0H 1J0

Volume 15, Issue 01

Current Activities

by Convener Joan Hammond
[\(details\)](#)

Backroads Cycling
Book Club Chapter One
Book Club Chapter Two
Book Club Chapter Three
Book Club Chapter Four
 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".

E-mail address: beavervalleyprobus@beavervalleyprobus.com

Web-Site: www.beavervalleyprobus.com

President's Message



Here we are in the year 2015. I wish everyone a happy, healthy, relaxing but exciting new year.

Our December Christmas lunch was well attended and members enjoyed good food, pleasant surroundings, and great table service. The sound system was a touch temperamental but the prize winners of the draws happily heard the numbers called. It was a nice event and then two days later we had a snow storm which would have interfered with our pleasant routine.

The first snowshoeing outing was this morning. Skiing has been available much of December. Outdoor skating rinks are open and mostly the weather is cooperating. However, the snowfall is less than last year when we experienced "la grand neige".

The nominating committee (Peter A. / Howard K. / Catharine P.) has been meeting regularly to ensure a management committee is in place for 2015. Our Annual General Meeting will be on 24 February 15. Traditionally there is a light luncheon served before this meeting and there will be a sign up sheet for the luncheon at our upcoming meeting.

Hope you can attend our January meeting.

Regards and Happy New Year

Catharine Pepper



Your editor wishes to thank all those who made the publication of this newsletter possible during 2014. It has been a pleasure to work with you and I look forward to future contributions from all those who are willing to provide them during the coming year.

It would not be possible to provide this essential communication medium to the membership at large without that help.

I thought that a little humour based on an experience we have all had at some time in the past would help to enliven these dull winter days.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

David

Upcoming Club Events

Come and enjoy **Carousel**, a Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical, at the **Avon Theatre in Stratford** on Wednesday Oct 7, 2015, 2:00pm.

Far ahead of its time in confronting the issues at the heart of a troubled relationship, this wrenching musical drama features a luscious score that includes "You'll Never Walk Alone", "If I Loved You" and "June is Bustin Out all Over". Ticket cost is \$114.00 which includes theatre, bus and lunch at Anna Mae's in Millbank. Sign up sheets will be at the back of the room at our Jan 27 meeting. PAYMENT BY CHEQUE ONLY. Stella Zahradnik

Once Again at the King's Wharf Theatre Penetanguishene

From the creators of last year's sensation, *Twist and Shout: The British Invasion*, comes another production in the perennially popular *Legends* series of tribute shows that will put a snap in your fingers and a song in your heart. **Legends ... of Rock 'n' Roll** relives the incredible discography from the 1950s through 1970s that forever changed the landscape of modern music. Such influential acts as Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison, The Beach Boys, Elton John, ABBA, and Simon & Garfunkel are celebrated in this tribute to musical pioneers.

Our Probus Social Committee has arranged for 40 tickets on Thurs. July 30 for the 2 PM matinee at King's Wharf. Reserve your tickets starting at the January Probus meeting or by contacting Vicki Kellar.

Activity Group Update

COOKING TOGETHER Christmas 2014: We had our Christmas hors d'oeuvre session again and it is amazing that after several years of doing this we have not repeated a recipe yet.

Thanks to the organizers, Gayle Smithson, Bev Wright & Jackie Stewart and all the hosts, especially to Wendy Gillies for hosting us all for the final tasting. For photographs [click here](#) *Seija Wolf*

BOOK CLUB CHAPTER FOUR Some members of Probus met in the spring to start a 4th book club as the other 3 were full. We decided to meet on the 3rd Tues of the month from 2 - 4 pm starting in Sept. We have 12 members and have met 4 times to date, each time at a different members house. With health issues, traveling and other commitments we average about 5 at each meeting so there is room for more members. The person who suggests the book can review it (very casual) or can just leave it up to the assembled group to comment.

So far we have read:

Dream Wheels by Richard Wagamese
Road Ends by Mary Lawson
Me before You by Moyes
The Lowland by Lahiri

In January we are reading *The Mountains Echoed* by Hosseini.

Cathie Gellatly

SINGLES GOURMET So far this year, we are avoiding massive subzero temperatures but even so, many of our members are taking no chances this year. Many have gone south. Our next dining experience is 1pm lunch, on Jan 25th. The theme is ALBERTA CUISINE. This is a challenge. Our hosts are Peggy Corson and Ruth Beerli. Does anyone out there have a recipe for "beefcake?" [Editors note: try www.indobase.com/recipes/details/beef-cakes]

TRAVEL GROUP There will be a survey of what you, the members want to do , in regards to trips. This will be done on the Activity Day.

If you can't be there that day, please contact the new convener, Peter Zahradnik [or Gloria Thompson]. And please keep an eye on the sections area for travel for singles info.

FINALLY...THE BIG ANNOUNCEMENT I HAVE BEEN PROMISING!

Howard Kitchen

I'm very pleased to announce that JOHN FULFORD-BROWN the man who made the KEEWATIN video "Bringin' her on Home" is signing a deal with CBC to license the film for play on their Documentary Channel. The agreement allows them to run the one-hour film 120 times over the next three years, plus one time on the CBC national network. CBC Documentary Channel has 2.8 million subscribers. That is a lot of people being introduced to Port McNicoll and the KEEWATIN....



BIRDS I VIEWED

[Actually there were several of us but I never let truth get in the way of a good title]

Recently I participated in my first ever Christmas Bird Count [44th Annual Meaford CBC] under the guidance of Lynne Richardson, a Probus club member and very knowledgeable birder. I had always wondered what this count entailed but until now had never taken the time to learn about it. Its beginnings date back to 1900 when Frank Chapman and a few others initiated it as an alternative to the Christmas Day competition of seeing which team could shoot the greatest number of birds and small mammals! Now over 70,000 volunteers in the Western Hemisphere join forces in small groups to document the number of bird species and individual birds seen on any chosen day between December 14 and January 5. Each team has a designated area and day in which to spot birds over as many hours as it wishes to put in. Many teams go out 'owling' before dawn until well after dusk. The information the teams gather is compiled and sent to Bird Studies Canada which along with the National Audubon Society uses the data to "identify significant population changes and help direct conservation planning." [<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/>]

My day began at 8:00 a.m. when we four avid bird watchers, including Lynne, piled into her car and headed down the road to my bird feeder. What a disappointment – the chickadees, goldfinches and nuthatch which are frequent diners decided to eat out elsewhere. Not a bird to be counted there. At Thornbury Harbour our luck changed. Noisy crows alerted Lynne to a confrontation between the crows and a Snowy Owl. Unperturbed the Snowy took off west along the shore. Keep your eyes open this winter as you may well see it there.

We continued on to such exciting spots as the Thornbury Sewage Lagoon, a gravel pit and The Blue Mountains Waste Disposal site. Micro-organisms thrive because of the raw sewage in the lagoons and this creates a nutrient rich environment where birds feed. Here we were able to count Mallards, an American Black Duck and Common Goldeneyes. Two kinds of Gulls rested on the ice of the gravel pit, including the Great Black-backed Gull – the largest gull in the world, while Ravens and Crows circled the landfill area. I saw a few American Tree Sparrows, a first ever sighting for me, in a thicket on the way to the landfill. They are beautiful little creatures with their chestnut crowns, grey heads and dark spot in the middle of their grey breasts. They fly south from their Hudson and James Bay breeding areas to overwinter here. Our group visited several other bird feeders and did find both Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. And so our day continued as we spotted and recorded the birds we saw.

We met with the members of five other teams of 'citizen scientists' for dinner at one of our local restaurants and compiled all of our birding information for the day. We discovered that our bird count was down but others will have to compare this year's data with that of other years in order to determine trends. For me the whole day was a very enjoyable learning experience with lots of laughter and I look forward to volunteering for the count again next year.

Nancy Seppala & Lynne Richardson

The Master Gardener's Corner

Things to do in or for your garden in – January 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.

- Inspect houseplants for white flies, spider mites and aphids.
- Apply insecticidal soap and spray with water.
- Inspect bulbs in storage. Discard soft or mouldy ones.
- If there is a thaw and the snow melts, mound any snow that's remains over roses and tender perennials. It's the freeze/thaw cycle that kills the plants.
- Expand personal knowledge through library visits, courses, catalogues, etc.
- Think about and start planning your garden for next spring.
- Google "Seed Catalogue Websites" and see hundreds of seed sources.
- Order flower and vegetable seeds. Decide which seeds should be started inside.
- Try forcing amaryllis and paper white narcissus for winter bloom.
- Start slowest germinating seeds like begonias and geranium, also seeds for early spring bloom e.g. pansy, verbena, alyssum and dianthus.

Good friends: are like quilts – "they age with you, yet never lose their warmth."

To find out why [Click here](#)

Our Speaker for January - 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.CI.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. This can be achieved by hearing aids, PSAPs (personal sound amplification products), auditory training, aural rehabilitation, education and counselling. Mark will discuss the most recent discoveries in hearing research and what they mean to the average individual

Law of the Bath

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.



The Quiz this month tests your general literature knowledge; it really is not difficult so why not give it a try by [Clicking here](#)

Peeping Tom This girl I know lives on the 4th floor of an apartment, and even though it is a fairly good neighbourhood, she has been having trouble with a Peeping Tom that lives next door... Every time she goes out on her balcony to catch a bit of sun while wearing her bikini, this Peeping Tom looks over from his balcony as soon as she removes her top, and stares at her... She has complained to the superintendent about this Peeping Tom, but he says she must have positive proof before he can do a thing -- She FINALLY got a picture of him while he was staring at her. [Click here](#)

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting-
at the Community Centre on
Tuesday January 27
starting with Fellowship from 1 to 1.30pm

Newspaper Team

Editor

David Morgan

Reporter

Caroline Bacher &
Nancy Seppala

Distribution

Barb Thompson

Website Maintenance

Barb Thompson

Technical Advisor

Mike Seagram

Support Group

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

Please do not hesitate to call **Eileen Scott** who is the contact for January or any one of the Management team.

Next months contact is Louise Lamont.

The Last Word

Submitted by Past President Peter Armstrong

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours, and let every New Year find you a better person".

Benjamin Franklin