



PROBUS ISLANDER

**Probus Club of Gananoque
P.O. Box 13
Gananoque ON
K7G 2T6**

Volume 5 – Issue 8

Aug 2010

**Founding Meeting
October 10th 2006**

General Meeting: Aug 10th/10– Kinsmen Hall – 10 am

Speaker: A representative from Ontario Hydro will be informing us about everything we need to know regarding Smart Meters. Have your questions ready for an informed response.

Events for 2010 – Mark your calendars

Aug 26th Echoes of Ireland – Brockville Arts Centre

Aug. 28th Corn Roast, Lansdowne @ Harold Miller & Janet Edwards

Sept.18th Upper Canada Playhouse "The Odd Couple" (Female Version)

Sept. 23rd Rideau River Fall Cruise – Westport to Merrickville

Oct. 16th "Rhinestone Cowgirl" Morrisburg

Nov. 18th Casino Breakfast & Speaker

Dec 12th Christmas Banquet

More information about these events will be coming in future newsletters

Message from the President: Deb Denison

Deb's Deliberations

Can you believe it's already August? Our Probus Club has made stimulating progress over this early portion of summer.

At our upcoming meeting we will welcome even more than our 100th member! The newsletter "Probus Islander" sports a new name & logo thanks to Janet's initiative.

This summer KUDOS go to our members, who have so generously hosted us at their homes - Stan Body & his friend, Donna Fry at Whitefish Lake in June, Dorothy & Bruce Higgs at Howe Island in July - and, just around the corner, yet to come at the end of the month, Harold Miller & Janet Edwards for our now "annual" corn roast.

We want you to know that we do not take it lightly & deeply appreciate the hard work, the largeness of heart & all the kindness that goes into these offerings.

Both the Events Committee & all those, who have offered support & help are to be commended. We are a very fortunate Club.

Perhaps, however, we need a volunteer for the events committee, who can have a little more influence on the weather. Between rain for Stan's day & then an even larger upset, nigh unto a tornado for Higgs' event, we declare, "Enough is enough!" Sunshine is on order for Janet & Harold this year!

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, August 10th. Coffee will be ready any time after 9:30 a.m.

Deb

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***"Always forgive your enemies, nothing annoys them so much"*
*-Oscar Wilde-***

General Meeting: July 13th/10

Vice President Harold Miller presided over the July meeting. We welcomed new members: Sharon Fleming, Errol and Patricia Jesse and Rick and Kay Olmstead. Also guests, Jack and Judy Kempson, Patricia Herckimer and Phyllis Shirley. We hope your time with us will be rewarding

After a brief social time Dorothy Maxwell introduced our guest speaker, Maggie Wheeler.



**GUEST SPEAKER AT THE PROBUS CLUB OF GANANOQUE, JULY 13, 2010
MAGGIE WHEELER, INGLESIDE ONTARIO. THE LOST VILLAGES**

There are two Maggie Wheelers in the entertainment business; our guest was the author, historian, tourism booster, Director of Communications at the BG Hospital, mother of 3 daughters and a darn good talker with a sense of humour.

I didn't really know what was coming. "Lost Villages of the Seaway"; perhaps some statistics, some human relations stories etc. This we got, and much more. Most of us remember the Seaway project; we have seen Ed Clark's power point presentation of the immensity of the undertaking. But most of us really don't appreciate the deep emotional impact that the movement of 6,500 people from their homes, farms and roots had on those involved. Called the "Deep Water Project", the "Billion \$ Project", the "8th Wonder of the World", the seaway development of 1954-58, changed the geography of the St Lawrence, and the lives of many people. The "head pond", the water backed up behind the new dam is 4 miles wide and 33 miles long, and is called Lake St. Lawrence. It drowned the Long Sault Rapids, the old canal. It flooded 18,000 acres of farmland, six villages and 2 towns. It provides 2 million watts of power, and was finished on time and budget.

Ontario Hydro never realized the human emotion that was kindled in relocating the residents. No grief counselors here. The farmer, who in his retirement would 'go fishing', but really just went out to sit in his boat over his drowned farm and dream of what was. When our speaker arrived in Ingleside in 1967 as a young girl, the town had 600 residents, 4 churches, 2 elementary schools and no past. She realized though that the lost villages did have a past. However in 1998, when the water levels were unusually low, she discovered a way of bringing the villages and their people to life -with historical murder novels. The

rest of the story is up to you. Ms. Wheeler has written four fictional mystery books about the villages and the people who lived through the trauma of the flooding. To grasp the emotion of the time, you need to get one or all of her books, sit down and enjoy them. I am almost finished the first one, *A Violent End*, which is the first in the Farran Mackenzie Mystery series and certainly recommend it. (save the last book to the end). In researching the material for her work, Maggie found that people are still grieving over the loss of villages and homes, that there are many stories out there waiting to be told. Her first book was a hobby that took on a life of its own, as the fictional characters continue their lives. She said it was an honour to work with this piece of history and the people involved. Thanks Maggie for the insight. You deserved the standing ovation.

Peter Murray July 16.



Please don't forget to place a Looney or a Twoony in the basket for the coffee and treats.

Past Events:

Fish Fry @ The Higgs on Howe Island July 21st/10



Probus-ites to the rescue!



**Drenched, but still standing!
Andrew and Bruce are ready to party!**

The above photos can't describe the devastation caused by a microburst that swept across Howe Island on July 21st 2010. Taking down trees, ripping off branches and hurling everything it could into the path of the Higgs residence. Hailstones as big as marbles stopped us in our tracks as we entered the driveway to the property. What we saw were the men trying to upright a tent, and the ladies sweeping the hailstones away from the pool area. Tables were waterlogged and vases of flowers tipped over, their blossoms lying on the ground. But 60 Probus-ites came to the rescue and helped put things back in order as best that they could.

Bruce and Dorothy came through all this with a smile on their faces and the day was a success. Our resident comedian, Tom Fleming kept us entertained with his singing and talking contraptions and endless energy, as well as dancing with some red headed dummy!!

All in all it turned out to be a memorable event – thanks to the Higgs;
and of course, to Mother Nature!

(look for more pictures in the album)

Future Events:

FUTURE EVENTS

*** Thursday, August 19th - LAST SIGN UP**

Canoe or kayak from Morton Bay (Highway 15) to the Kenney Hotel for lunch.

Departure times from the Kinsmen parking lot will be forthcoming.

REMEMBER it is the responsibility of each craft to make sure the required safety items & life preservers are in place!

*** Thursday, August 26th**

Echoes of Ireland, Brockville Arts Centre - 2:00 p.m.

Leaving from Kinsmen Hall Parking Lot at 12:45 SHARP.

*** Saturday, August 28th (Rain Date: August 29th) - LAST SIGN UP**

Annual Corn Roast at Harold Miller & Janet Edwards', Lansdowne,
(right across from the Fairgrounds - Bicycle Repair sign out front)

Doug Bickerton will lead a moderately strenuous hike at Charleston Lake Park beforehand, for those interested.

Leaving Harold & Janet's at 1:00 p.m.

NO OPEN-TOED SHOES!

All others welcome anytime after 3:00 p.m.

Bring along: lawn chair, outdoor games, B.Y.O.B. (soft drinks & non-alcoholic punch will be provided)
- your donation of appetizer, salad, dessert (at the last event we were top heavy on desserts - slack on salads)
- \$5 per person to cover costs

Merna Price has volunteered to be "Chairperson" of this event. In consultation with Harold & Janet, she will have a list of "helps" needed. Please be in touch with Merna if you are willing to set up, shuck corn, clean up etc.

*** NEW - Thursday, Sept. 23rd - Rideau River Fall Cruise - Westport to Merrickville. Bus back to Westport.
FIRST SIGN UP & (pay up) starting this meeting.
Lunch is also included (bar available).**

**Cost: \$77 per person for groups of 10 or more people
Leaving Kinsmen Parking Lot at 7:45 a.m.
(return approximately 7:00 p.m.)**

*** Friday, October 8th, Brockville Arts Centre - 8:00 p.m.
A Tribute to Patsy Cline
\$26
Car pool (be ready to indicate if you are either willing to drive or need a ride)**

Speakers:

Anyone who is interested in serving on the Speakers Committee, let one of the Committee or Management Team know of your interest for the coming year. You can ensure we keep having interesting speakers on topical Topics

"Marriages are made in heaven. But so again, are thunder and lightning."

- Anonymous.-



Annual Photo Contest:

DEADLINE – NOVEMBER 14TH/2010

Categories:

- 1. Best Nature shot**
 - 2. Best group activity**
 - 3. Most adventurous**
 - 4. Most Humorous**
- Best Overall Photo.**

- **A maximum of 6 pictures may be submitted for the contest**
- **The Judge will determine which category they belong to**
- **DO NOT write your name on the back of the photographs**
- **The Judge will determine the winners and the runners up**
- **Photos should be 4x6 and have been taken at a Probus event.**

Place your entries in an envelope with your name on it.

**Prizes will be awarded at the Christmas Banquet
Dec 12th/10**

What's Happening:

Sept. 5th/10 Sunday Brunch Cruise 11am – 1 p.m. Come and join us in a luncheon cruise aboard the Sea Prince II.

**Sponsored by Anglican Church of the Redeemer & Rockport Boatline
Gourmet Buffet Menu includes Vegetarian Choices, Dessert, Coffee,
Tea, Soft drinks and Cash Bar**

Adults - \$45. Children under 12 - \$25

**For more information or tickets phone 613-923-2337 or Harold Miller –
613-659-3565**

Meet the Probus Member:



Rick and Anna Lee Johnston

I, Rick, was born in 1933 and after living with my family in Colborne and Brockville for a short time we finally made Sarnia our hometown attending Public School and High School there. I met Anna Lee at an Interschool Christian Fellowship meeting as we both had recently become born again Christians. Anna Lee was born on her grandmother's farm in Port Huron Michigan but came home after two weeks to the family's house in Sarnia. She remains a US citizen. I went to Queen's for 2 years before a one year pause in Sarnia got married in 1956 and we moved back to Kingston for 3 years completing my Mechanical Engineering degree. Anna Lee worked my way through school!

After graduating we moved to Fort Erie where I worked for Horton Steel Works. We had two daughters while there and then moved to Oakville where I worked for Procor Limited manufacturing railway tank cars. Our son and another daughter were born there.

Procor acquired PL Robertson, maker of square recess screws and named me Works Manager. During 5 of those years I completed my MBA at McMaster and we moved to north Burlington near Milton by the escarpment. I moved my employment to the Gray Tool company in Bramalea and then to the Illinois Tool (ITW) in 1983 in Don Mills. ITW promoted me to Business Unit manager responsible for the Canadian plant, 1 plant in Illinois and 5 plants in Wisconsin so we moved to Elgin, Illinois.

After a short move to Kent Ohio with RB&W we came to Gananoque in 1992 to Townsend, a division of Textron but soon learned hardly anyone knew "Townsend" but they sure knew "P&B". We lived first on Hwy 32 and now in the Commodore Condo. After getting the Textron operation back into a profitable position and starting plans for the new

plant where Home Hardware is now I retired in 1999. Anna Lee had joined the Gananoque Choral Society and the Gan Golf Club shortly after arriving and I joined the Rotary club and later the Golf club. We attended church in town and met many friends and enjoyed the town so much that we gave up plans to return to the Burlington area.

Cards were sent this month to:

Deborah Denison

Peter Schmidt

We hope you are recovering and feeling much better.

If you know of anyone who is ill and would appreciate a card to let them know we are thinking about them, please let our management team know.

THE LUNCH BUNCH:

**Please join us for lunch after the meeting at
The Ivy Lea Club**

Please sign the lunch sheet at the meeting for reservations

MANAGEMENT TEAM - 2010.

President: Deb Denison. 382-3297 ddenison7@sympatico.ca

Past Pres: Rick Dunn 382-8542 rick.dunn@sympatico.ca

Vice Pres: Harold Miller 659-3565 haroldmiller@1000island.net

Secretary: Peter Murray 382-2824 pmurray5@cogeco.ca

Treasurer: Merna Price 382-3859 merdon@primus.ca

Speakers: Sharon Noseworthy 382-8566 s.noseworthy@cogeco.ca

Events: Bill Denison 382-3297 wcd7@sympatico.ca

Newsletter: Janet Edwards 659-3565 janet@janetedwards.ca

Deadline for Sept. Newsletter – Aug 30th/2010

If you change your address, phone # or email address, please let us know so that you can continue to receive the newsletter – we don't want you to miss out.

