

THE NEWSLETTER

The PROBUS Club of Simcoe & District

Meets second Tuesday of each month at St. James United Church hall



A look back:

While our club takes a break from meetings, we have a chance to look back at an earlier meeting and a Who Am I. This month we look back at our meeting of April 2014.

Guest Speaker: Annaleise Carr

"I am just a little girl from the country who wanted to help kids with cancer," says Annaleise Carr.

Yes, Annaleise is small but she has accomplished great things.

Two summers ago, at age 14, she became the youngest person to swim Lake Ontario.

In the process, she raised more than \$250,000 for Camp Trillium, a summer camp near Waterford for children with cancer and their families.

Annaleise aims to set another record. On July 27, she plans to make the longest swim



Annaleise Carr with crew member Bruce Bowyer.

across Lake Erie, from Pennsylvania to Port Dover.

Annaleise was introduced by Probus member Bruce Bowyer, who with his friend Chuck McInally piloted the safety boat on the Lake Ontario swim.

Chuck's boat is named the Chuck Wagon. During the windy night crossing, the boat gained a new name — the Up Chuck Wagon. Chuck and Bruce will navigate for this summer's Lake Erie swim.

The logo for the Lake Erie swim looks like a drop of water, Annaleise explained.

A drop of water creates ripples, which spread out in rings, touching lives.

Annaleise took 27 hours to swim 31.6 miles across Lake Ontario.

The Lake Erie swim will be 46 miles.

Annaleise trains 10 times a week for two hours each time.

Swimmers need mental strength as well as physical strength, Annaleise said.

When the waves threatened to end her Lake Ontario swim, Annaleise ran videos in her mind of touching land in Toronto and of meeting the kids at Camp Trillium.

Nestor Rosa thanked Annaleise. "Mightiness comes in small packages," he said.

Who-Am-I: Wilf Wiedersprecher

Willfried Wiedersprecher was born in Germany in 1937. His Christian family had a tough time in Nazi Germany because of their faith.

The family lived near the industrial city of Dortmund, which was bombed many times. Wilf remembers the nightmares of going to the basement for shelter in the night. Luckily, their home was not damaged until the end of the war when it was hit by a grenade.

When Wilf was 14, his father died from war injuries.

Wilf graduated from technical school in 1956. Shortly after, he was drafted into the armed forces and he was earmarked to serve in the navy.

But he didn't want to go into the armed forces. He wanted to go to Canada.

His family had made friends through their church with some Canadian soldiers, who gave Wilf references.

On Sept. 6, 1957, he landed in Canada and took the train for Edmonton where some of his Canadian friends lived.



Wilf Wiedersprecher

By chance, he fell in with a Jewish man on the train who persuaded him to go to Vancouver. There Wilf worked in the tea and coffee import business.

In April 1958, his brother-in-law was killed in a car accident. He went home to Germany to straighten out affairs. He managed not to be caught and drafted into the armed forces.

He returned to Canada in July 1958, first to Windsor then to Toronto where he found work with an engineering company that was helping to build the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In 1959, he married his wife Joanne from Six Nations. They met at a Christian conference. They have two sons and two daughters.

By 1967, Wilf decided it was time to find work that gave him time at home with his family.

Thanks to Al Burbidge, he got a job teaching at Port Dover Composite School.

He went back into private business for a while. In 1974, he began a 25-year career with the Oxford Board of Education teaching drafting, physics and mathematics.

He happily retired in 1999.

He lives near Windham Centre.

Thanks, Wilf, for telling us your story.

.