



2023 has gone by quickly. It was a time of reconnecting after 3 years of Covid restrictions. We had a full slate of activities this year some enjoyed by many and some by only a few. As Jean Libbey said last year,

“Our Club is what we make of it – not more, not less. For some, it is a nice venue to meet socially at frequent intervals which serves to form new friendships, strengthen old ones and welcome new residents.”

We have some members who participate regularly and some people who join only in November to buy tickets for the Christmas Dinner Dance. However the Club meets your social needs we are happy to welcome you.

#### **Your Executive: 2023**

President:	Susan Lomas
Vice-President:	Gale McRae
Past-President	Jean Libbey
Secretary:	Val Trotter
Treasurer:	Robert Lavallee
Membership:	Denise Lavallee
Dining Committee:	Lori Armour
Social Committee:	Debbie Murphy

#### **Your Executive: 2024**

I am happy to report that all members agreed to continue in 2023 and were acclaimed at our October AGM. The executive committee met 11 times in 2023.

On your behalf and mine, I thank the members of the executive and subcommittee chairs for their time and efforts on our behalf.

#### **Reports:**

1. **Treasurer's report:** Robert Lavallee

We started 2023 with \$1,866.25 and ended the year with \$3,313.06.

As in previous years, our main source of revenue is the membership dues collected from the members, \$2,233.50. Most dinners are budgeted with a plan although some are subsidized. Most entertainment for the dinners is subsidized. Some activities like Bogie Lights and Santa Claus parade have a budgeted amount to cover costs.

Our main activity remains the monthly dinners. This year we had 10 regular dinners and the Christmas Dinner-Dance. We collected \$12,243.00 and spend \$13,320.77 for a shortfall of \$77.87.

Our other activities were:

- Bogie Lights at a cost of \$131.66;
- Christmas Float for which we won the second prize, at a cost of \$9.16;
- Hockey Game in Jan 2024 at a surplus of \$32.00;
- Donations to the Renfrew County 55+ Senior Games and the Royal Canadian Legion for a total of \$143.00

With regards to expenses, we had:

- United Senior Citizens of Ontario (USCO) dues of \$296.00;
- Bank charges of \$122.53, a substantial increase was due to the E-transfer fees;
- Miscellaneous expenses of \$38.47.

Overall, the Club is in a very good position at the start of 2024 and can look forward to subsidize some activities with a portion of these funds.

The treasurer's report will be submitted verbally at the January meeting. It is also submitted to Jim Libbey for audit purposes.

## **2. Membership Report – Denise Lavallee**

Membership at the end of December 2023 stands at 154 members including 25 lifetime members. In 2023, we welcomed 34 new members and 11 renewing members.

In Memoriam: Remembering those we lost in 2023.

We said goodbye to former Club members Marilyn Lawrie (January 23), Bonnie Wellman (June 23), Clark Isenor (August 23), Keith Zavitski (October 8), Bob Burleigh (November 2), and Lucie Perrier (November 9). RIP Marilyn, Bonnie, Clark, Keith, Bob, and Lucie. You are in our thoughts and in our hearts.

## **3. Social Committee Report – Debbie Murphy**

Along with activities at some of the monthly dinners the Club also planned other activities and events to be enjoyed by our members.

#### Purdon Conservation

In June a few club members hiked at Purdon Conservation Area in Lanark County. The orchids were in full bloom and we walked over 1.7 km on a forest trail to a lookout overlooking Purdon Lake. It is one of the seven wonders of Lanark County. It was a small group as the weather was misty but those of us who went enjoyed the experience immensely.

#### Mill of Kintail Hike

In October, the club hiked again, with a larger number of members at Almonte's Mill of Kintail which is another one of the seven wonders within Lanark County. A number of dogs also came out to participate in this enjoyable hike. The temperature was excellent for the hike and picnic lunch that was enjoyed by those who participated. It seems we are an active bunch who enjoy the outdoors.

#### Wilno Trip

Our road trip to Wilno on Sept 29th was held on a beautiful sunny day. We carpooled with each car being supplied with maps and information about each historic site that we would stop at. The lunch at the Wilno Tavern was enjoyed by all, (great perogies) A Great Day with Lots of Fun.

Thank you to Phyllis Wagorn and Jean Libbey for organizing this trip and to all those who volunteered to drive.

#### Blueberry Hill Hike

Only 4 people attended but it was a beautiful, crisp, sunny day in December. We met at Heritage Point at 9:30 am and drove together to the parking lot at the start of the trail. It was noted that there are several benches at strategic places and a new outhouse in the last 2 years. We enjoyed the hike and returned by 1:15

### **4. Dining Committee Report – Lori Armour**

2023 proved to be a busy year for monthly dinner meetings with the Calabogie 55+ club.

**January** - 32 members enjoyed salad and tacos from the Redneck Bistro.

**February** - cancelled due to weather

**March** - 25 members attended a chili dinner prepared by executive members with an opportunity to skate on the Calabogie Rink.

**April** - 46 members attended for lasagna and caesar salad from Charbonneau's. Some stayed after the dinner simply to chat and get caught up with one another.

**May** - 30 members attended Canthooks Restaurant to enjoy spaghetti and schnitzel or a Burger. Members again stayed after the meal to enjoy dessert and socialize with one another.

**June** - 38 members enjoyed a BBQ with hamburgers/hotdogs, salads and homemade pie at Barnet Park. A Canada Day trivia was held after the dinner meeting and proved quite entertaining.

**July** - 49 members attended Barnet Park for Renfrew Shawarma family platters followed by Bingo.

**August** - 53 members joined us at Barnet Park for Bogie Deli wraps or smoked meat sliders. A second trivia contest was organized following dinner.

**September** - 49 members enjoyed chicken/beef kabobs, salad and rice from Charbonneau's followed by music with Peggy Williams.

**October** - 58 members attended a Chinese dinner at the Community Centre - provided by Shanloon Restaurant in Renfrew. We were planning to hold our murder mystery event that evening but postponed until 2024 due to numerous bouts of illness in the cast.

**November** - 44 members joined us at Calabogie Community Centre for pizza and caesar salad.

**December** - 110 members and guests enjoyed a turkey dinner with all the trimmings followed by a dance with a disc jockey. Thanks to the Lions Club and Club 55 members who decorated the hall.

## **Sub Committees Reports**

### **1) Bogie Lights – Jean Libbey**

During our Bogie Lights celebration, the lights were turned on by two students from our local school on Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 60 people were in attendance including newcomers to our community. They enjoyed the singing led by Peggy Williams and Alison Fay, apple cider, hot chocolate and cookies made by 55+ members.

This year due to only two trees being available to put lights on, we made tripods trees from branches supplied by Dan Trotter and attached them to t-posts supplied by Marilyn Warnock. Lights were then strung on them.

Thank you to all who helped put together the trees, baked cookies and helped in any way to make this a successful community event.

### **2) Christmas Float – Lorna Johnston**

The Santa Claus Parade float committee consists of 12 Club 55 members, Val Trotter, Jean Libbey, Jane Benoit, Debbie Murphy, Denise Lavallee, Sue Beaton, Susan Lomas, Marie Kennedy, MaryBeth Faloon, Marilyn Warnock, Linda Cloutier, Lorna Johnston. After deciding on a theme, we began constructing the props holding building and painting days at the home of the Trotters. At parade time, Marilyn Luce, Anne Hutchinson, Dave Luce and Bob Lomas all helped to add the props to the float. We wouldn't be able to pull this off if we didn't have the help of the conscripted helpers - Larry Beaton, Dave Luce, Bob Lomas, and Robert Lavallee As always, thanks to Dan and Val trotter for their ongoing supplies of wood

and paint.

We placed second this year, winning a prize of \$75.

**3) Barnett Gardens – Joanne Levitsky and Gale McRae**

The Club 55+ butterfly garden was full of blooms and looked good this growing season. Because it is now well established, it doesn't take too much time to maintain. I spent an hour there most months, although I did miss at least one due to the heat. Some of the time was spent on the garden around Barnett cottage, which was full of weeds, while our garden was not. Joanne Levitsky devoted her time to weeding some of the other gardens. Jean and Jim were able to come and help in the spring, which is when the garden requires the most attention.

In 2024, I would like to get the garden neatly edged and then this area mulched, and perhaps plant a few more native plants. I hope that a few more members will be willing to come out and help this season. One of the many benefits of having the garden is to provide another opportunity to socialize with our membership.

**4) Nine and Dine – Sue Beaton**

We had a very successful nine and dine season. We played once a month from May to September. We were never rained out. Our numbers ranged between 20 and 37. We ate at the clubhouse after each game and we were well looked after there.

**5) Bowling – Rick Copely and Debbie Murphy**

This year on Tuesdays we have a very large group of 44 full time/part time bowlers joining us from Calabogie, Arnprior and Renfrew. We are having lots of fun.

**6) Newsletter – Val Trotter**

During 2023, a total of four (4) newsletters were issued and sent to club members. Typically, the club attempts to send quarterly newsletters, i.e. in the spring, summer, fall, and winter months. This past year, newsletters were prepared in March, July, November and December. They are emailed to active members and then also posted on our Calabogie 55+ club website. They are then removed after a few months or when a newer newsletter is issued.

**7) Web Site – Val Trotter**

During 2023, our website experienced a few technical glitches but were resolved expediently by our webmaster, Rick Brown. A Club 55 executive member (Val) was recently added as a second administrator for continuity and stability purposes.

**8) Senior Ganes – Denise Lavallee**

Golf was once again a popular event especially for the Calabogie Club 55+ club members and residents. Calabogie won many medals at golf. Club winners included Lori Armour,

Susan Veale, Marjorie and John Watts as well as Jane and Marcel Benoit. Lori, who received first place for the 55-65-year-old category, was invited to play in Brantford for the next level of play.

Other activities in which our members participated, were Euchre and Shuffle Board. Phyllis Wagorn and Doug Cosman placed 1st and took home gold medals for Euchre and qualified to go to Brantford for the provincials to represent Renfrew County.

In Shuffle Board, Phyllis and Doug placed 2nd and won the silver medal and Marjorie and John Watts came in 3rd and won the bronze medal.

Congratulations and well-done Calabogie Club 55+ for participating in the Renfrew County 55+ Games. Hopefully we will be able to bring back the Prediction and Nordic walking to the Calabogie area in the spring of 2024.

#### **9) Summer Bridge -Val Trotter**

Mixed Summer Bridge was reintroduced to the club in 2023. With the club's affiliation with Barnet Gardens, we were able to hold our monthly bridge events at the Barnet Cottage at no cost to the Club. The start of the season commenced on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with five (5) tables, or 20 players. During these months, we had between three (3) to six (6) tables. The other dates were June 20<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>, August 29<sup>th</sup> and September 19<sup>th</sup>. As we do not hold a liquor license for these events, players are asked to bring their own non-alcoholic beverage for their afternoon of fun. Snacks and yes, usually coffee and iced tea was also provided. The cost for these afternoons were \$2 pp. Members and friends enjoyed these afternoons and agreed that we need to continue in 2024, so Calabogie 55+ Club will be holding mixed bridge again this coming year at Barnet Cottage from May until September.

#### **10) Community Bridge**

The monthly bridge games were originally initiated by a Club 55 member. The activity is now open the community at large and the Township does not charge us for the use of the Community Centre. The group meets once monthly on the last Friday of the month. There is an opportunity for those who would like instruction and coaching. Many players go for dinner after bridge. For more information contact Lorna Johnston or Dona Lamoureux.

#### **11) Craft Group – Jean Libbey**

The craft group meets the second Monday of the month from February to May and Sept. to Dec. at the Community Centre Hall. This group tries out a variety of crafts. It is co-ordinated by Jean Libbey. If you are interested in joining, please contact her.

#### **12) Keep in Touch – Jane Benoit**

Thanks to Jane Benoit who connects with our members in times of illness or loss of a loved one. Throughout the year, 10 get-well cards were sent to sick members and 6 sympathy cards were sent to family of former members.

**Other activities completed by the executive committee:**

The Club Constitution was updated to include a simpler dues payment plan for those joining later in the year.

A Code of Conduct was developed and posted to our web site.

Our website was reviewed and revised and access to post was increased to 2 people – Rick Brown and Val Trotter

We added e-transfers as an option for paying annual dues and for Christmas Dance tickets. Monthly dinner tickets will still be paid in cash at the door as many caterers prefer cash payment and we would be charged for the extra e-transfer activity.

Wooden tripods were set up at Heritage Point to replace some of the trees that had been cut down. These tripods looked great when decorated for Bogie Lights. Additional lights were purchased.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Lomas

January 2024