

# ProBUZZ

Don Blain - Editor

## 27 January Meeting

### COMING EVENTS IN 2015

Jan. 27

[Hear for Life](#)  
[Kim Linfield](#)

Lunch Bunch

[Kam Yin](#)  
450 Erb

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Feb. 24

[K-W Jazz](#)  
[Society](#)

[Stephen](#)  
[Preece](#)

Lunch Bunch

[Benny's](#)

Friendship Force—  
Dennis & Beverly  
Haggerty



**Mission** - To promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.

**Values** - Mutual Respect • Cultural Diversity • Cultural Exploration  
• Service

**Vision** - Each individual will make a contribution to global goodwill. The Friendship Force worldwide network of clubs and individuals will overcome differences among people and nations. By connecting the world, one friend at a time, we will create a world of friends that becomes a world of peace.

**Slogan** - Changing the Way You See the World

**Explore:** We explore new countries and regions. We explore new cultures and new ways to connect across the barriers that separate us

**Understand:** By sharing a home, meals, conversation and everyday experiences, people become friends, seeing beyond governments and borders into the heart of a country and its people. By combining home hospitality with cultural exploration, we reach a new level of understanding.

**Serve:** Exploration leads to understanding. Understanding leads to an acceptance of our common humanity and the desire to serve our global village—with words and actions.

Dennis & Beverly gave a slide show of their Friendship Force trip to Brundi and Tanzania, Africa in the fall of 2013.

For more Information on the Friendship Force visit the website at:  
<http://www.friendshipforce.org>

# Club NEWS

## In Memorium

We mourn the passing of 2 of our members in December.

Andy McAuliffe passed away on December 14, 2014 at the age of 81, losing his battle with cancer. Andy was a member since 1999

Jack Brown passed away on December 22, 2014 at the age of 84. Jack was a member since 2004

## Membership

We currently have 123 members, 4 honorary members with room for 17 more.

Nov... 50/50 Draw

1. Vern Hall
2. Don Foell

November Attendance

77 Members    2 Guests

Duty Roster

January 27, 2015

Intro: Tony Cullen  
Thank: Chuck Thompson

Who Am I?

Jan- Bill Cunningham

Lunch Bunch

January – Yan Kim

## Wellness Report

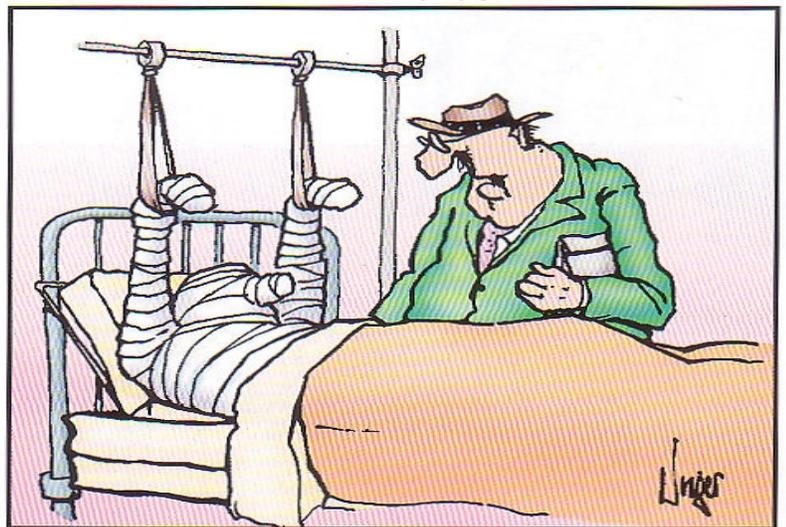
If you know of a member who is ill, please advise **Paul Kett** (Health and Wellness Chair) so he can follow up . 519-725-4994 or [exuxrev@rogers.com](mailto:exuxrev@rogers.com)

## FROM THE EDITOR

*We all joined this Club because a friend invited us to join. When we arrive at a meeting we mostly look for a friend to sit with. This is normal and a comfort, but we miss out on creating new friends if we don't get out of our comfort zone and move to a different table in the room. Try it and find 4-5 new friends.*



“Yeah, well you're not exactly an oil painting yourself first thing in the morning.”



“You're looking a lot better today, Ralph.”

I was born and raised in Kitchener-Waterloo and have lived and worked here all my life. I was born at Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital on November 2, 1940. I was the only child of my parents, John and Ruth Rumpel, and we lived on Rockway Drive next to Rockway Gardens and the golf course. I attended Sheppard School and then Kitchener-Waterloo C.V.I., and moved to Eastwood Collegiate when it opened for my final year of high school. I enrolled in the co-op engineering programme at the University of Waterloo in 1959. Our class had 200 students and that was double the number of the engineering students there at that time. I worked co-op terms at B. F. Goodrich in Kitchener, Canadian General Electric in Toronto and finally as a lab instructor in Physics and U.of W. I graduated with a B.Sc. in engineering in 1964.

My great grandfather, George Rumpel, came here from Mulhausen, Germany to what was then called Berlin in 1870 and started his own business, the Berlin Felt Boot Co, in 1875. The business was successful and expanded in 1912 to become the Rumpel Felt Company with its factory located at the corner of Duke and Victoria Streets in Kitchener. The manager, Walter Rumpel, was George's son and my grandfather. He was educated as an engineer and designed some of the machinery used in the factory and had it built locally. Walter's son, John, (my father) came into the business in 1930 and took over the company in 1944 when Walter died. I entered the family business in 1964 when I graduated but I quickly came to see that I needed more knowledge so I enrolled in the MBA programme at Western University in London, Ontario. The programme was demanding but excellent and I rejoined Rumpel Felt when I graduated in 1966. I worked there, in various roles with my father, until we closed the company in 2008. I'd realized as early as 2000 that manufacturing in Canada was losing out to Asian countries where labour and other costs were at most 10% of our costs here in Kitchener. When our largest customer, Kaufman Footwear, went out of business, and our customers both here in Canada and in the United States began buying (often inferior) products from off shore suppliers we decide to close down our company. We had had at our peak, over 100 employees. Some had worked with us for 50 years, many were second-generation workers and many had other family members working with us. Rumpel Felt was truly a family business.

Shutting down a company when done carefully is a lot of hard work. We notified our suppliers, customers, and staff two years in advance and as much as possible assisted them with the necessary adjustments. One of my greatest challenges was dealing with bureaucrats who, although they might have had experience with companies declaring bankruptcy, couldn't comprehend the graceful winding down of a well-established firm such as ours. After two more years, in 2010, I'd completed the process. The building was sold and we were pleased to learn that the buyer was the Region of Waterloo and that the intended use for the property is the new transit hub.

I'm fully retired now. Renie, my wife and I have three children, and we spend many happy times with them at our family cottage, built by my grandfather in 1935, near Penetanguishene. Renie, a retired teacher, now works as a genealogist. Our children are all living out of town. Mike is a chiropractor in British Columbia, Chris flies Hercules transports with the armed forces out of Trenton, and our daughter, Katherine, is a nurse at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton. We have 6 grandchildren

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