

FORUM



Volume 8 — Issue 3 — April 2020

President's Message:

Stay well, my friends



Hello, PROBUS members. I hope you are taking proper precautions to stay healthy and protected. Though it has been difficult to keep up with the changes in the world since our last meeting, it is up to each one of us to do our best to address the COVID-19 crisis and to follow the guidelines set out by the health department. These restrictions will decide when and how we will be able to resume any activities, but for the foreseeable future all club events are on hold.

Cliff and I came home two weeks early from our trip to Mexico. We went into self-isolation and counted on friends to drop off food until I could negotiate buying groceries online. It was not easy leaving a warm and sunny destination for the confines of our house. But the biggest hardship is not being able to visit with friends and attend social events. PROBUS membership has enhanced our lives and we are experiencing withdrawal pains. So many of you have become friends and so many of our happiest times in the past seven years are connected to this club. The fact that we were about to celebrate PROBUS month in April makes this even more pronounced.

This Forum contains information about events in early March and also tips about how PROBUS members are connecting with each other online. Hopefully, you will find useful information that will help you to reach out to others.

Take care of yourselves till we can meet again.

Stay healthy my friends.

— *Liz Read*

Editor's Note:

This issue is quite different from previous ones. For reasons that we are all too aware of, not many events happened last month and none will go ahead for the foreseeable future, so there wasn't a lot of club information to share.

What we do have is a new (temporary) section I have called "News" with information on PROBUS Month and input from several members on how to survive the dearth of social interaction. If anyone else has information to share on the subject, please submit it to me for the next Forum.

Between Forum issues, please remember to check our website www.escarpmentprobus.com for the most current club information.

And don't forget that the Escarpment PROBUS Facebook page is a great way to connect with other members and share your photos and experiences.

— *David Boss*

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PROBUS Month


Greetings to Escarpment PROBUS club members from PROBUS Canada!

In my capacity as Director for Ontario District #4, I had planned to talk briefly to you during the April meeting and to celebrate PROBUS month in person with many of you, however COVID-19 has made that impossible so I will have to do it through the medium of the Forum.

First a brief explanation of why we celebrate PROBUS month in either March or April. All Canadian PROBUS clubs are sequentially numbered in chronological order based on the date that they were accredited by PROBUS Canada. The first PROBUS Club in Canada was chartered in 1987 on March 17. We are honoured to be in the same District as Club #001 as it is in Cambridge. The first club was and still is a men only club and was sponsored by Rotary Galt District 7080. It had 52 Chartered members and currently has a membership of 145!

For many years PROBUS Canada celebrated PROBUS month in March - the month in which PROBUS formally came to Canada! However as we are a club for retirees and semi retirees we discovered that many of our members, not just in Ontario, were snowbirds and did not return to their clubs until April each year. So in recent years PROBUS Canada has encouraged members to celebrate PROBUS month in either March or April.

It is interesting to know how clubs in Canada have celebrated PROBUS month. Escarpment PROBUS club launched its website a few years ago in March. Several clubs have persuaded the Mayors of their home towns to proclaim March or April as PROBUS month. At least one club has placed permanent PROBUS signs at major entrances to the town not dissimilar to the Rotary sign we can see mounted in Chris Hadfield Park on Martin Street just south of the Rail overpass!

Almost all clubs have cake decorated with the PROBUS logo. I can remember one March getting a panic call from our then Social Chair who was at the Superstore and the USB drive that she thought contained the logo was empty. Fortunately we were able to get a replacement in time and our members were unaware the next day as they enjoyed the cake! We can't enjoy a real cake together in April so here is a virtual cake  !

PROBUS Canada has just chartered club no. 271 in Bobcaygeon, a combined club, with 150 chartered members! Based on our year end updates we have just under 39,000 members throughout Canada with by far the largest percentage of them here in Ontario!

Happy PROBUS month!

Martin Capper
District Director, Ontario District #4
Past President Escarpment PROBUS Club

The on-line experience for game players

by Paul Crawford

The Internet is alive with places to play different games. The main sites I use are card games. One bridge site is called Bridge V+. It is free from the App Store. There are three types of play. Rubber bridge where you play against the computer once you have set your play parameters. Duplicate is played in a true on-line game where you are playing with partners in cyberspace. The game gives you two free experiences then if you like it there is a cost for further games. There is also a Chicago option much like Rubber.

For Cribbage players there's Cribbage JD, in which you play against real people you invite. This can be downloaded free from the App Store. There is also a Cribbage Classic game, again from the App Store, in which you can choose three levels of play Easy, Standard and Pro. You play against the computer.

For people who like word games, Wordbubbles can become particularly addictive. It is a word search game which progresses from level to level of increasing complexity, working up to 11 letter words.

Ellen is an aficionado of the on-line Scrabble and word game universe. The games are all available through the App Store. Words With Friends and Scrabble Online are games where you invite others to play against you in the usual Scrabble type game. You can have multiple games going at one time. Letter Press is another word search type game that is played against an opponent.

Other suggestions are Mahjong, Wordscapes and Solitaire, which can be played against the computer.

There is also a whole other universe of combat games available that involve simulation and role play. Not our cup of tea but many love to play.

Enjoy!

[*Editor's Note:* Paul doesn't mention it, but all of those games (or similar) are also available for Android devices in Google Play Store.]

Like being there

by Liz Read

A great way to connect with friends and family is through Facebook or Skype, even though screen sizes can be quite small on your phone or tablet. Since our grandkids live in B.C., we have been using this method for years with an added boost of being able to converse with them through our TV screen. We were originally set up with an Xbox Connect, a game box that includes a camera. But Facebook has come up with a simpler product called Facebook Portal. You attach it to your TV and a Smart Camera automatically adjusts to capture movement in front of the unit such as people entering the room. It has a built in microphone to let you communicate and it includes Alexa. Check it out online. I found Best Buy is one of the sources selling it. At \$249 CAD each unit with \$70 off if you buy two, it is expensive but it can lessen the heartache of not being able to connect with loved ones in person.

Here's how my grandkids see me reading them a bedtime story. And I can watch them as they play and run around their living room. I have even done virtual babysitting while their mom was doing the laundry downstairs.



Houseparty

by Irene Hiebert

Houseparty is a really neat video calling app, where you can see and connect to a maximum of eight people, and can play a choice of games. These games include Trivia, Pictionary, Quick Draw and the Ellen DeGeneres-inspired Heads Up.

Available for Android, iOS (for iPhone users), iPadOS (for iPad users), macOS (for Mac users), and Windows (as an in-browser app for Google Chrome), it's fast becoming one of the most popular options in the app stores.

While plenty of other applications offer free video calling - such as FaceTime, WhatsApp, Google Duo, Skype, Google Hangouts, Microsoft Teams, and Zoom - Houseparty's addition of quizzes and games gives it a unique pull for friends and families wanting to do more than just sit in front of a camera and talk.

How to set up Houseparty

Download and open the app, then follow the on-screen instructions for sign up. You'll need to enter your name, email address and mobile number, and choose a unique username. As Houseparty has been around for several years, a lot of the obvious usernames are already taken, so you may need to get a little creative.

Next it's time to link up the service to your contacts. You can opt to give the app access to your phone's contact book, plus you can also pair the service with Facebook and Snapchat to spread your friend net as wide as possible. Houseparty will automatically recognize contacts and friends who have already signed up, allowing you to dive into chats almost instantly.

Some people have reported that Houseparty does not manage to grab their contacts from the contact book. This issue has occurred only with some Android devices, but there's a chance it may arise on others. If you're struggling to find your friends via the contact book, Facebook and Snapchat integrations, you can also search for their username and add them that way.

How to use Houseparty

Once you're all set up, you'll be taken to the main screen, where you'll likely see your own face from the selfie camera of your phone, tablet or computer. The plus icon in the top right corner allows you to find your contacts, and group multiple people together into a 'Houseparty' for group calls.

Below that there's a dice icon, which is a quick link to the available games. Tap a game and you'll then be asked to add friends to play with you. Wait for them to connect, and you're away!

To quickly start or join a chat/Houseparty, swipe up on screen. Here you'll be able to see friends you've recently spoken to, and any 'House Parties' (group chats) currently in progress, which you can join by tapping.

A word of warning

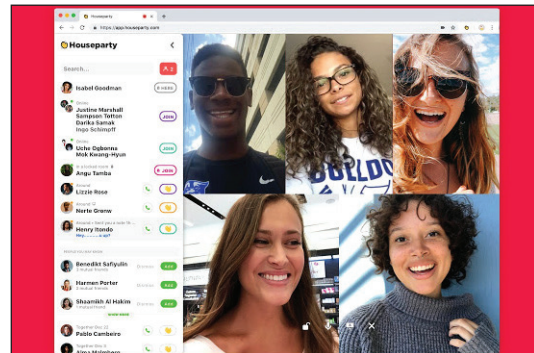
If you want to grab someone's attention you can hit the hand wave icon next to their name to send them a notification on their device, or if you want to get straight into a video chat you can just tap the phone icon.

You can also use the search bar in this panel to find contacts who aren't appearing on your recently called list and add them to a chat. Swipe from right to left over this pane and you'll be taken to your inbox, where contacts can send you private video messages (called Facemail) when you're not around. You can also record and send them to your contacts.

Once you're in a call you can use the buttons along the bottom of the screen to toggle your mic and camera on and off, switch between your device's front and rear facing cameras (if it has them), and use the padlock icon to 'lock' the chat to prevent any more people from joining - useful if you want to have a private conversation.

To exit a call, just hit the cross icon in the bottom right corner of the screen.

It's a wonderful way to stay connected and have fun!



Facebook Aficionados:

by Jenny O'Brien

Have you friended our Escarpment PROBUS Facebook page yet? It's another easy way of staying connected with the broader PROBUS community.

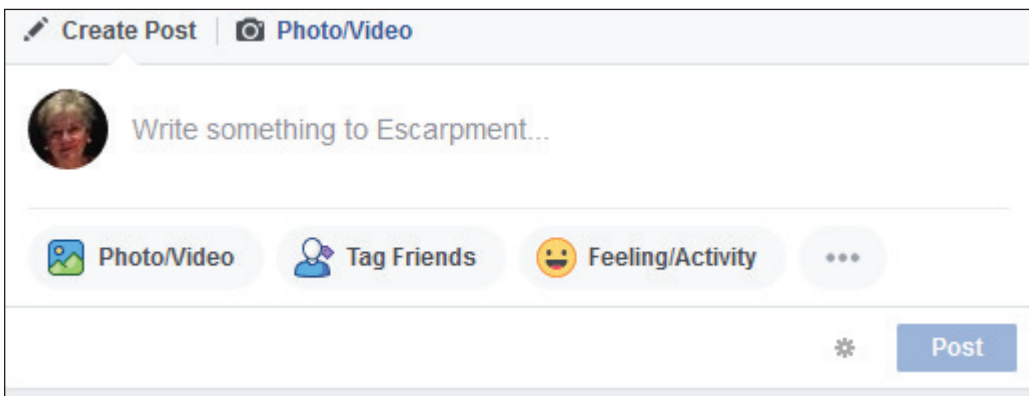
If you haven't joined yet, it's as easy as typing "Escarpment Probus" on the top search line of your personal Facebook page, and selecting **Enter**.



You'll then be presented with a page that asks you to click on "Join" (or alternately it might say "Add Friend"). Click on the respective button, and your request will be quickly approved for access.



You'll then be able to check in on others, as well as post messages and pictures to be shared with our fellow PROBUS followers. Simply type your update in the "Write something to Escarpment ..." section, and/or select the **Photo/Video** button and add a picture to your message. Then select the **Post** button. Voilà!

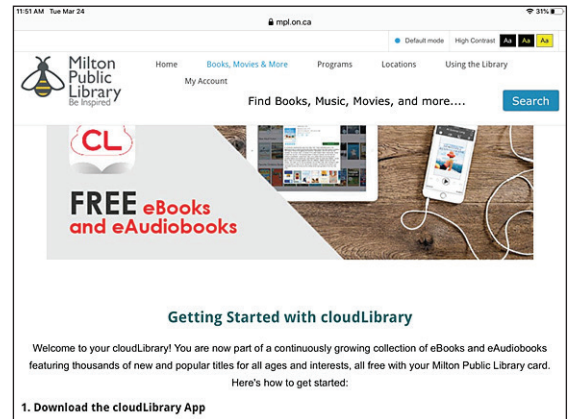


This is an easy and fun way to communicate at any time of the day (or night). Join the growing group of members and stay in touch!

Library resources

by Liz Read

The Milton Public Library offers free access to ebooks, audio books and magazines with your library card. Go to their website and download the Cloud Library app for thousands of books and Flipster for hundreds of magazines. Choose from the version of the app that matches your device and you'll be good to go.



Social distancing isn't so new

A LETTER FROM F. SCOTT FITZGERALD, QUARANTINED IN 1920 IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE DURING THE SPANISH INFLUENZA OUTBREAK.

Dearest Rosemary,

It was a limpid dreary day, hung as in a basket from a single dull star. I thank you for your letter. Outside, I perceive what may be a collection of fallen leaves tussling against a trash can. It rings like jazz to my ears. The streets are that empty. It seems as though the bulk of the city has retreated to their quarters, rightfully so. At this time, it seems very poignant to avoid all public spaces. Even the bars, as I told Hemingway, but to that he punched me in the stomach, to which I asked if he had washed his hands. He hadn't. He is much the denier, that one. Why, he considers the virus to be just influenza. I'm curious of his sources.

The officials have alerted us to ensure we have a month's worth of necessities. Zelda and I have stocked up on red wine, whiskey, rum, vermouth, absinthe, white wine, sherry, gin, and lord, if we need it, brandy. Please pray for us.

You should see the square, oh, it is terrible. I weep for the damned eventualities this future brings. The long afternoons rolling forward slowly on the ever-slick bottomless highball. Z. says it's no excuse to drink, but I just can't seem to steady my hand. In the distance, from my brooding perch, the shoreline is cloaked in a dull haze where I can discern an unremitting penance that has been heading this way for a long, long while. And yet, amongst the cracked cloudline of an evening's cast, I focus on a single strain of light, calling me forth to believe in a better morrow.

Faithfully yours,
F. Scott Fitzgerald

ACTIVITIES

Time to stay home!

By Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

Well, we aren't being very active with PROBUS activities at this time. I miss my PROBUS friends, but we will get through this and be together again. Please note that cancelled activities will be rescheduled at a later date. The Activities Committee will reach out to you as we cancel events.

At this time we are cancelling **ALL** April activities. Here is the list:

Tuesday, April 14th – Terra Greenhouse – Spring Planter

Thursday, April 16th – The Weather Network

Wednesday, April 22nd – Pub Night?? Trivia Night?? at The Royal Canadian Legion

Wednesday, April 29th – Home Hardware Tour

We are also cancelling Line Dancing on May 6th as there has been no opportunity for members to sign up. And obviously we will not be doing signup for any activities/events at this time.

Stay well my friends!

MAY ACTIVITIES:

Tuesday, May 12th – Brantford Twin Valley Zoo

Convenor: Anne Gibbard

There's no better way to learn about the wonderful animals of this world than to experience them up close and in person. The goal of the Brantford Twin Valley Zoo is to create an enjoyable environment where we can learn about animals of the world. Through this we aid in educating people about the importance of wildlife and the environment. Built on 25 beautiful acres in Brant County, Brantford Twin Valley Zoo is a great place to observe a collection of native and exotic animals maintained in natural surroundings. The zoo is located at 84 Langford Church Road and we will be meeting at 10:30 am. The cost for this event is \$16.50/person. Before we head home we will go for lunch at Symposium Café located at 1146 Wilson St. W., Ancaster.

JUNE ACTIVITIES:

Thursday, June 11th – Wine Tour in Niagara-on-the-Lake

Convenor: Michelle Tschirhart & Ruth Gagnon

THIS EVENT IS FULL We will be heading to Niagara-on-the-Lake for a visit to the Reif Estate Winery. From there we will go to Caroline Winery for lunch and a wine tasting. Next stop will be Marynsan Estate and finally we will be going to Upper Canada Cheese Company for some sampling. We will meet behind the Milton Sports Centre at 9:30 am and board an Ayr Coach Line bus to be a chauffeured for the day! The cost for this event is \$61 and it is limited to 33 members.



Need a lift to an activity/event? Check out the sign up sheets for a member who is willing to drive!

Please remember to bring your cheque book to all PROBUS meetings so you can sign up for the great activities!

Unless otherwise stated, cheques will be cashed at the beginning of the month the event is scheduled.

Activities Committee Members:
Ruth Gagnon
Anne Gibbard
Kelly Ground
Irene Hiebert
Joanne Millichamp
Ron Millichamp
Dawn Ross

JULY ACTIVITIES:

Thursday, July 2nd – Drayton Theatre presents **Rock of Ages**

Convenor: *Kelly Ground*

Rock of Ages is a fun jukebox musical built around classic rock songs from the 1980s, especially from the famous glam metal bands of that decade. The musical features songs from Styx, Journey, Bon Jovi, Pat Benatar, Twisted Sister, Steve Perry, and Poison, among other well-known rock bands. We will meet for lunch at Crossroads Restaurant in Elmira and 11:30 am and then head over to St. Jacob's Playhouse in St. Jacobs for 2 pm. Cost for the play is \$45.20/person and it is limited to 21 members. Drayton Theatre will only hold tickets for us until June 2nd so the May General Meeting will be the final opportunity to sign up for this event. **Cheques for this event will be cashed at the end of May.**

Escarpment Photo of the Month

This month's Escarpment Photo of the Month was taken by Joy Castello on the Bruce Trail in the Britton Tract, part of the Halton Agreement Forest. Send your photos to david@bosscommunications.com and the Management Team will select one for inclusion each month.



Spring Trillium -- *Joy Castello*

At PROBUS we want to keep in touch, we are all friends. If you know of anyone who is ill, moving away, lost a loved one, etc., or someone with a new grandchild, great grandchild or special anniversary, please let Lorrette Shernet know and she will gladly send a greeting card (contact lorrette@sympatico.ca or 905-878-1293).

SOCIAL CLUBS

Club	Date/Time	Convenor	Telephone	Email
Board Games - <i>Bee Gees</i>	2nd Wed. - 1 pm	Stephen Comstock	905-876-4909	scomstoc@sympatico.ca
Board Games - <i>Jokers</i>	2nd Thurs. - 1:30 pm	Auriel Halliday	905-336-2430	aurielh@gmail.com
Board Games - <i>Jokers</i>	4th Wed. - 1 pm	Auriel Halliday	905-336-2430	aurielh@gmail.com
Book Club - <i>First Edition</i>	2nd Mon. - 1 pm	Paul Crawford	289-878-4968	pauellencrawford@gmail.com
Book Club - <i>Happy Bookers</i>	4th Thurs. - 12:30 pm	Judy Wallace	905-878-3374	lollipops@sympatico.ca
Book Club - <i>Ravenous Readers Recycling</i>	3rd Wed. - Probus meeting	Ellen Crawford	289-878-4968	pauellencrawford@gmail.com
Book Club - <i>Sequel</i>	2nd Wed. - 10 am	Catherine Parr	289-971-9214	4catparr@gmail.com
Book Club - <i>Trilogy</i>	2nd Wed. - 10 am	Linda Green	289-851-8655	klgreen@sympatico.ca
Cards - <i>Bid Euchre</i>	3rd Thurs. - 1:15 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Cards - <i>Bridge</i>	1st Tues. - 1 pm	Jeanne Reid	289-878-9920	jreid345@cogeco.ca
Cards - <i>Canasta</i>	4th Mon. - 7 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	2nd Mon. - 7 pm	Martin Capper	905-693-0354	martin@martincapper.com
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	Tues. after the 2nd Mon. - 1:30 pm	Martin Capper	905-693-0354	martin@martincapper.com
Cards - <i>Euchre</i>	3rd Tues. - 1 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	4th Tues. - 1:30 pm	Michael Hooker	905-878-8953	mhooker10@bell.net
Club <i>Français</i>	2nd Wed. - 10 am / 11 am	Anne-Françoise Gibbard	905-854-3781	anne@gibbard.net
Crafts - Knitting - <i>Chicks with Sticks</i>	3rd Thurs. - 10:30 am	Christine Willekes	905-820-0269	chriswillekes@gmail.com
Crafts - Quilting - <i>Piece Makers</i>	1st Tues. - 1 pm	Diane Comstock	905-876-4909	mejlenscc@sympatico.ca
Dining - <i>Appy Hour</i>	Last Sat. - 6:30 pm	Mary Cousins	416-628-6275	mlecousins@outlook.com
Dining - <i>Lunch Bunch</i>	3rd Wed. - noon	Bonnie Lennox	416-899-7727	bblennox@live.ca
Dining - <i>Nosh 'N' Natter</i>	1st Fri. - 5:30 pm	Gillian Reynolds	905-878-1636	gilliana@cogeco.ca
Dining - <i>Nosh 'N' Natter</i>	2nd Fri. - 5:30 pm	Gillian Reynolds	905-878-1636	gilliana@cogeco.ca
Dining - <i>Nosh@Nite</i>	4th Fri. - 5:30 pm	Paul & Ellen Crawford	289-878-4968	pauellencrawford@gmail.com
Dining - <i>Saturday Night Lives</i>	1st Sat. - 6 pm	Anna Strachan	905-878-0812	annastrachan1945@gmail.com
Dining - <i>Skip the Dishes</i>	3rd Thurs. - 6 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Dining - <i>Supper/Dinner Club</i>	<i>Scheduled by convenor</i>	Auriel Halliday	905-336-2430	aurielh@gmail.com
Friendship Club	4th Wed. - 10 am	Judy Krauss	289-878-8194	judykrauss@gmail.com
Movie Club - <i>Oscar Nights</i>	2nd Tues. - 7 pm	Theresa Spano	416-618-2955	1tspano@gmail.com
Probus Info Exchange - <i>PIE</i>	Online only - no meetings	Cliff Read	905-864-1565	cliff.read@cogeco.ca
Sports - Bowling - <i>10 Pin</i>	2nd Tues. - 4 pm	Michelle Tschirhart	416-668-9083	mltschirhart55@gmail.com
Sports - Bowling - <i>10 Pin</i>	Last Wed. - 4 pm	Michelle Tschirhart	416-668-9083	mltschirhart55@gmail.com
Sports - Golf - <i>Pin Seekers</i>	TBA	TBA		
Tastings - Beer - <i>Suds and Buds</i>	4th Thurs. - 7 pm	Pete Shermet	905-878-1293	peteshermet@gmail.com
Tastings - Whisky - <i>D'Stillers</i>	1st Wed. - 7 pm	Chris Strachan	905-878-0812	strachan.chris1944@yahoo.ca
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	1st Mon. - 7 pm	Jim Tschirhart	647-648-8231	jim.tschirhart@gmail.com
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	1st Thurs. - 7 pm	Jim Tschirhart	647-648-8231	jim.tschirhart@gmail.com
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	2nd Wed. - 7 pm	Jim Tschirhart	647-648-8231	jim.tschirhart@gmail.com
Travel - <i>Annual Trip</i>	<i>Scheduled by convenor</i>	Joanne Millichamp	289-878-2969	jmillichamp@hotmail.com
Travel - <i>Wanderlust</i>	2nd Thurs. - 7 pm (bi-monthly)	Gloria Pennycook	905-659-7789	gpennycook@icloud.com
Walkers - <i>Trail Walkers</i>	Every Tues. - 1:30 pm	Ronald Flannagan	905-332-6310	rflannagan@cogeco.ca
New information	Temporary change			

Social plans on hold

The Social Committee is unable to make any plans at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions. Stay safe!

— Pat Vogt, Social Chair

RECENT EVENTS

Activities

Drury Lane

by Ron Millichamp, Convenor

What a lot of fun when 37 of us attended the Drury Lane production “ Music Hall”. We clapped wildly, laughed loudly, booed, hissed and stomped our feet to the antics taking place on the stage in this the 40th anniversary of the show. It all started with a singalong and encouragement from the cast to join in, as they sang and acted out their various skits.

Many of us met afterwards at Ned Devine’s to enjoy a pint and fellowship.

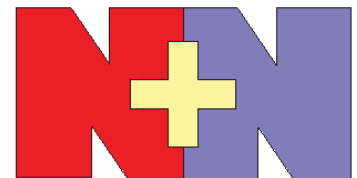


Clubs: Food and Drink

Nosh N Natter Goes Green

by Gillian Reynolds, Convenor

On March 6th, Margaret and Patrick Murphy hosted an early celebration of Patrick’s namesake, so green was the theme. The guests, who hailed from England, Wales, Canada and France, got into the spirit of the evening, decking themselves with all things green.



It was evident that it is not just the Irish who have the gift of gab. I couldn’t find out what the men were talking about (segregated as usual), but we women discussed important topics, such as, “What is the one thing that you are so addicted to that you have to hide it or not even have it in the house?”

A good time was had by all. The appetizers were all delicious and the bread and butter pudding was truly addictive.



Only Dinner Club

by Auriel Halliday, Convenor

There was only one Dinner Club held in March. It was a fun night, as you can see from Martin Capper starting and finishing the evening!



Portobello's

by Anna Strachan, Convenor

A hearty group of fourteen SNLs were on hand to enjoy the Italian cuisine at Portobello's on Saturday March 4th, as attested to by the happy faces in the pictures.

Thanks to the Coronavirus the April and possibly May SNL get togethers will be cancelled. So looking forward our next event.



Zoom Nosh

by Ellen Crawford, Correspondent



Eighteen Noshers joined in a Zoom party meeting on our usual Nosh Friday evening.

We couldn't share appetizers or desserts but we still managed to fill an hour and a half of social isolation with happiness and catching up with friends.

Cheers to more times like this!



March Results

by Jim Tschirhart, Convenor

Hosts: Robyn Balfour & Sandy Cannell

Theme: Wines Robyn and Sandy enjoy from various places around the world (Italy, France, South Africa, Argentina and Australia)

We tasted and scored three white wines and three red wines that we ourselves enjoy.

Best White: Robertson Winery Chenin Blanc, a South African wine with an average score of 13.5. The cost is \$9.45, LCBO # 495507 (lowest priced wine of the evening).

Best Red: Argento Malbec Reserva, an Argentinian wine with an average score of 15.4. The cost is \$14.45, LCBO # 363192.

We had an added reason to celebrate. Following the official tasting we all joined in a chorus of Happy Birthday for Joanne Millichamp (her birthday was the next day). Pete and Lorrette Shermet provided the wonderfully delicious birthday cake, candles and all. A bottle of Taylor Fladgate Late Bottled Vintage Port was passed around and enjoyed by all.

PROBUS
grape
-nuts
WINE TASTING CLUB



Hosts: Norma & Martin Capper

Theme: St. Patrick's Day and Wines

Twelve Grapenutters gathered for wine tasting at the Cappers on Wed March 11th, the official start of the St Patrick's Week Parties. Despite my best efforts no Irish wines were found! So I had to stretch things a little and found a very tenuous connection to Saint Patrick for each of the wines. The Pinot Grigio and Pinot Noir each started with the letter P! The other four were even more tenuous. Other names attributed to St Paddy were Maewyn Succat - Merlot and Malbec dealt with the M and Sauvignon Blanc and Soave dealt with the S!

All cheeses had an Irish connection, including one in the shape of a shamrock and also, heresy for a true blue Ulsterman, one that was coloured green, white and gold! The cheeses were served with homemade soda and wheaten bread.

The evening was rounded off with Irish coffees!

Now for the technical stuff. Top white was Collavini Pinot Grigio, scoring an average of 13.8/20, LCBO #33340 at a price of \$15.00. Top red and top wine on this occasion was the most expensive wine, a J Lohr Los Osos Merlot, scoring an average of 15.3/20 and hitting the back pocket for \$22.95, LCBO# 27516.



Hosts: Petra Halk & Stephanie Hamnett

No report submitted.

Clubs: Books, Hobbies, Games

And We Sewed and Sewed and Sewed

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

On March 2nd and 3rd, the Piece Makers descended on Diane's condo party room with sewing machines in tow. People thought they were moving in, as they brought bags of fabric, notions, batting, and of course food. At times, all you could hear was the hum of the sewing machines. Other times, there was laughter and lively discussions on how to sandwich a quilt and what quilting patterns to use. Diane handed out a sheet with Stretches for Quilters, which we all diligently followed (NOT). Judy and Louise learned how to attach and use a walking foot. Diane demonstrated how to use pool noodles to help sandwich a quilt without getting down on the floor.



We kept the party room door open and this led to several residents looking in and asking if we were giving lessons – LOL. We also had a lady join us for afternoon tea and she brought her knitting project.

At the end, we all agreed that we had a great time and even suggested we make it an annual event.

Quilting Term of the Month:

Quilt Sandwich – The layering of quilt top, batting, and backing that is quilted together. It is the last step in making a quilt.

Due to this nasty COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be getting together in April. Perhaps we can all make use of this isolation time to complete our round robin projects.

Anyone interested in quilting, consider joining the group.



Stay With Me

by Joy Castello, Correspondent

FIRST EDITION BOOK CLUB

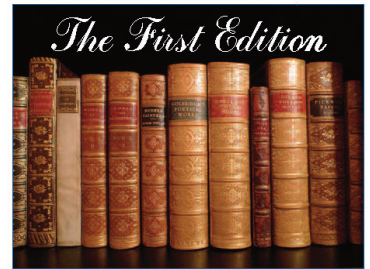
On Monday, March 9th, the First Edition Book Club met to discuss the book *Stay With Me* by Ayobami Adebayo.

It's the story of Akin and Yejide, a young married couple living and working in Nigeria in the 1980s. Caught between their desire for a modern monogamous marriage and the polygamous culture of their families, Akin and Yejide struggle to keep their marriage from falling apart.

After a few years of marriage, Yejide is still not pregnant so both families decide a second wife is the solution to this problem. Shocked and furious, Yejide knows the only way to save her marriage is to get pregnant. She finally does get pregnant but at an enormous emotional cost. As Akin reflects back on his life he learns that he'd left out things that ruined his plan: "all the mess of love and life that only shows up as you go along."

The story unfolds in alternating chapters from both Akin's and Yejide's point of view. Set against the backdrop of political unrest in Nigeria, the story spans the years from 1985 to 2008. Our group gave this novel an average score of 6, with ratings between 5 and 8.

We hope it's not too long before we can enjoy another book club get together. To all PROBUS members and families - stay safe and well everyone.



Educated

by Judy Nelson, Correspondent

The Sequel Book Club met March 11th at Judy Nelson's home to review our monthly selection. We read *Educated*, a memoir written by Tara Westover. Ms. Westover was raised in the backwoods of Ohio by strict parents who had removed themselves and their family from mainstream USA by espousing the Mormon faith. Their children did not go to school, nor did they seek medical help when anyone was injured or ailing.

This is a remarkable story of one woman's ability to rise above her isolated childhood to attend Brigham Young, Harvard and Cambridge universities and eventually earn her doctorate. This is a testament to her survival skills while all the while trying to keep her family proud of her. It was not an easy task. While we would like to think this story was unique, we suspect that it was not.

The novel was engrossing, moving and powerful. The majority of our members would recommend the book. I hope you have had or will have the pleasure of reading this book sometime. It is well written and captures your attention!!

I would like to thank Gretchen Green O'Brien for her assistance with this report.



Ellen wins big

by Jeanne Reid, Convenor

We had our March bridge club at Jeanne Reid's home. The 12 players at 3 tables were happy participants. Ellen Crawford was the big winner and Paul Crawford was the big loser. Ginny Galipeau came second.



Clubs: Travel

Wanderlusters beat the deadline!

by Michael Hooker, Correspondent

The Wanderlusters who met in my condo on Thursday March 12th March were almost the last Escarpment PROBUS group to meet before the curtain came down because of the notorious COVID-19 closure. We lost two attendees at the last moment – both trying to deal with issues from the closures announced earlier that day.

I showed videos I made of two fabulous trips I took some years ago.

- Ballooning in Cappadocia, Turkey (from a trip in 2014 covering major highlights of Turkey). Millions of years ago, this area was volcanically very active, with layers of ash and lava hundreds of metres thick. Erosion has worn away much of this material, creating a surreal landscape of valleys filled with huge ash and lava columns – many of them dug out to form houses and caves. They are known as the “Fairy Chimneys”. This is one of the greatest ballooning sites in the world, an unbelievable experience. Also extremely popular; on the day I did it, there must have been close to a hundred balloons in the air at the same time!
- A 12 day cruise to Alaska in 2007, starting in Prince Rupert and finishing in Juneau. This wasn't your average Alaska cruise – with you and a few thousand others. The boat was the sailing schooner “Maple Leaf”, 33 metres long. The Maple Leaf was built in 1914, and was then the most expensive pleasure craft on the west coast. After World War One it was converted to a fishing boat and fished the B.C. and Alaska coast for over 50 years. In the 80s it was rebuilt as an eco-tourism venture. It carries a crew of five (captain, mate, deckhand, cook, naturalist), and nine passengers, who were accommodated in relatively close quarters with the essentials of living. In other words, this was an Adventure! As we left Prince Rupert we got stuck on an unmarked sandbar (a la Gilligan's Island), and took a few hours to float off! Each night we would anchor in a sheltered spot or tie up at a dock in some small port. We visited a deserted Haida village, and walked among the decaying houses, mortuary and totem poles. We saw and listened to humpbacks, orcas, seals, porpoises, sea otters, and eagles. We washed the grime off our bodies in natural hot pools. We were one of the first boats of the season to push our way through the ice chunks up Tracy Arm to see the North and South Sawyer Glaciers. A Holland America cruise ship followed us, but retreated about a third of the way in – too much ice! And in sight of the glaciers our naturalist Andy McKinnon did a realistic imitation of a seal, jumping off an ice flow for a very short swim, then was pulled out before he congealed solid. I had opportunities to steer the boat, also help raise sail on occasion. The Maple Leaf under full sail is a glorious sight! All of this was on the video. As I said, not your average cruise.



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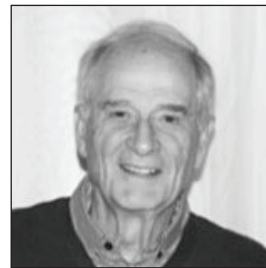
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Sincere thanks to Lorrette and Pete Shermet, photographers at large.

FORUM - THE ESCARPMENT PROBUS CLUB NEWSMAGAZINE

This newsletter is published monthly in PDF format. If you know someone who you feel might be interested in joining the Escarpment PROBUS Club, please forward this publication with our compliments.

FORUM Deadline

The editor notifies the management team and all convenors of the deadline for articles and pictures for publication for each issue. Stories and articles may be emailed to the editor or submitted to any member of the management team. Escarpment PROBUS Club reserves the right to refuse, edit, or change any copy or image submitted.