

# FORUM



Volume 8 — Issue 12 — December 2020

## President's Message:

## Happy Holidays



In September of 2019, I enthusiastically took on the role of president feeling that I had a good handle on how Escarpment PROBUS was organized. Six years had passed since our inaugural meeting and the club was thriving with all our activities and interest clubs. In some months, our meetings attracted close to 200 participants. Then in March, COVID-19 came along and up-ended all our plans. The management committee soon realized that we had to revise our meeting format and how we communicated with each other. We had a team ready to rise to the challenge:

**Jenny O'Brien**, our secretary, booked our general and interest club meetings. She learned how to utilize Google Forms and held our first AGM voting through email.

**David Boss**, our Forum editor, reformatted our newsletter and website, and also took on the role of technical advisor as we had a lot of questions about how we were going to make our club work with Zoom.

**Ruth Gagnon**, our activities chair, creatively designed ways to make our virtual meetings fun with contests and held socially responsible events.

**Ron Millichamp**, our program chair, found interesting speakers comfortable with using Zoom and we all particularly enjoyed vicarious travel through their photo presentations.

**Ted Chliszczyk**, our treasurer, found that while money wasn't coming in, it also wasn't going out in rent for the hall or expenses at special events. Our main expenditure has become payment for speakers.

**Penny McIlwaine**, our membership chair, informed members they were in good standing despite not having to pay dues this fall. And she is still keeping a wait list for people who wish to join when we can open up again.

**Pat Vogt**, our social chair, had prepared plans for our annual picnic, anniversary dinner and Christmas luncheon this year. All had to be cancelled and Pat did not get the chance to plan parties as she would have wished she could.

**Paul Crawford**, our past president, reached out to find the replacements for management team members who had served their two years. It was not an easy task when we aren't meeting in person and still don't know what the future holds.

**Wayne Herder**, our vice president, says he did his best to eat all the cookies we were missing out on eating at our meetings. He'll be taking over as president in January and will be sure to keep our club Zooming along.

So, while it was not the year I expected, and it ran on a little longer than a president's term normally would have, I am grateful to have been a part of this team. I will be thanking departing management members at our December general meeting and introducing you to the people replacing them.

Thankful to be participating in our Escarpment PROBUS club, and wishing you all a merry Christmas season,

— Liz Read

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## Membership dues

*by Penny McIlwaine, Membership Chair*

In the past few weeks I have received several emails from Probians concerned about their membership dues. Normally we would have collected dues for the upcoming year as the membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Given the current circumstances, the Management Committee has decided to defer collection of dues until we are able to meet in person, at which time dues will be pro-rated.

This club is fortunate that our bank balance allows us to function without the revenue from dues for the foreseeable future. If, however, the break in meetings is prolonged we may have to collect dues in some fashion and you will be notified. Until that time you are all considered members in good standing. If you miss the notification of dues owing I will follow up with you; you will not be dropped off the membership list inadvertently.

Remember to keep safe and keep in touch. If you have any questions please email me at [pennymcilw@gmail.com](mailto:pennymcilw@gmail.com).

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## Looking back...

*by Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair*

Well it was almost a year ago that we were getting ready for our annual Christmas Party at Piper's Heath and Pat Vogt (Chair, Social Committee) and her team were madly going about the last minute planning details. One of the things that the Social Committee did to make it extra special for the Escarpment PROBUS Members was to ensure there were lots of prizes, with the majority of the "gifts" coming from local Milton restaurants and businesses. I know that a lot of us enjoyed our prizes! Take a look at some of our 2019 donors listed below and think local, buy local, eat local! Maybe order in a meal this week!

2019 donors: Casa America, Heritage Fish & Chips, La Toscana Ristorante, Luigi's Lasagna & Pizzeria, Paramount Fine Foods, Symposium Café Restaurant & Lounge, Bryden Pub, Ned Devine's, The Works, Turtle Jacks, EddieO's, Swiss Chalet, Kelsey's, Wimpy's Diner, Thai House Cuisine, The Grand Chalet, Shoeless Joe's Sports Grill, East Side Mario's and Boston Pizza.

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## What a year...

*by Pat Vogt, Social Chair*

What a year we didn't have, the December general meeting being my last "task" as Social Chair as I hand over the reins to Marg Jones. Wishing Marg all the best and hope she enjoys the adventure as much as I did. I am sure that once we all can get together, Marg will enjoy putting together whatever social event we will be allowed to have at that time.

I would like to thank the management teams past and present for their support and encouragement along the way in this position. It was quite daunting to follow in the steps of the previous Social Chair(s), planning the Anniversary Dance, Christmas Luncheon and summer picnic. But with all the help and support it was fun planning these social events. A huge thank you to the Social team of Barb Campbell, Lorrette Shermet, Suzanne Herder, Megs Shellard, Bonnie Lennox, Jenny O'Brien and Judy Krauss. This was a great team to work with and I hope they know how much I appreciated their help and suggestions. I would also like to thank all the convenors running the social clubs; they do a great job of organizing and keep the clubs running smoothly and making sure that we all have fun.

Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year. Here's hoping that we will be getting together sooner rather than later. Cheers!

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# Wishing you an Orange Christmas

by Wayne Herder

Originally from a small town north of Montreal on the Lake of Two Mountains, we always had a white Christmas with lots of snow. Our first Milton Christmas, in 1977, was a different experience. It was my first green one with a BBQ on Christmas Eve. It was actually a brown one with frozen grass that left the kids without outdoor play. The following Christmas was white. I could not even find my BBQ.

I was brought up in a family of nine children, eight boys and one girl. It was always a magical time of year when our parents thought it was time to upgrade our clothes at Christmas. New shirts, sweaters and socks were the main gifts. We always received some small toys. I remember receiving a Coca Cola truck complete with wooden cases and small glass bottles. (In retrospect, I should have saved it for the Antique Road Show.) One year it was a family gift of an electric train set. Regretfully, all my older brothers thought they were engineers and I was in charge of the caboose. We always had Christmas stockings filled with candy and other small items. The main item was always an orange. Yes, we appreciated it as they were very expensive and hard to get at that time of year. A beautiful vibrant orange with lots of juice. Did not eat it all at once because it was sweeter than candy and I wanted it to last. A perfect Christmas with family, friends and an orange.

May you all enjoy the beauty and sweetness of Christmas. Merry Christmas to all of you. May you enjoy your orange.

## Escarpment Photo of the Month

This month's Escarpment Photo of the Month was taken by Gloria Pennycook in her own back yard. What a sunset!

Send your photos to [david@bosscommunications.com](mailto:david@bosscommunications.com) and I will select one for inclusion each month.



# ACTIVITIES

## Is 2020 over yet?

*By Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair*

As we near year end I'm hoping that 2021 will be better and that we will have the opportunity to be together again!

On November 24th we had our Car Rally / Scavenger Hunt. We had 25 members participate and it was a lot of fun! Check out the article in the Activities section for some fun pictures!

Our monthly contest continues! Our theme for December is the Best/Ugliest Christmas Sweater! The November winners (selected by Dawn Ross) were Cliff & Liz Read and Suzanne & Ian Greaves. They were each given a copy of the book "Ready to Come About" by Sue Williams. Sue and her husband were the speakers at our November Zoom General Meeting. They did a great job!

We are working on a couple of activities for the new year so stay tuned for details in future Forum issues.

**Please note that any activity we plan will adhere to any provincial guidelines and restrictions due to COVID.**

## DECEMBER ACTIVITY:

**Zoom Personal Fitness Trainer – Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 am**

*Convenor: Ruth Gagnon*

**An email will be sent to each participant who has registered for this event a couple of days prior to December 9th! Contact me to register! It's not too late to join!!**

Winter is a coming and it is important for us to keep moving! Maybe think about a New Year's Resolution! We have been approached by a personal trainer (Eric Daw) who has offered a "free" 50-minute fitness session focusing on balance, coordination, strength, flexibility and posture. The session will be delivered via Zoom and each participant will be given the Zoom information a few days prior to the session. Please make sure you register for this activity so the information can be emailed to you! Each participant will need a pair of weights (soup cans could be substituted), a small ball (could be a tennis ball), Theraband or exercise band and a chair. The bands can be purchased from any fitness store, Walmart or Shoppers Drug Market. Each member will need to participate using a laptop, iPad, desktop computer or smartphone. This is something you can do in the privacy of your own home. Stay safe, stay fit!

Activities Committee  
Members:

*Ruth Gagnon*

*Anne Gibbard*

*Kelly Ground*

*Irene Hiebert*

*Joanne Millichamp*

*Ron Millichamp*

*Dawn Ross*

# MEETING: DECEMBER

We will hold our next Zoom General Meeting on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. This meeting will include a guest speaker (see below). You will receive a link to the registration form in an email in early December.

## The Most Wonderful Time of the Year



George Sanford has been a teacher all his life. Whether he is leading opera and art tours to Europe, teaching seniors the beauty of the world at various locations, or presenting with his unique approach to his idea of the world, he is a teacher, musician, dancer, writer, and creative explorer who gives back in many, many ways to those that want to listen. George will be speaking to us on his favourite time of year, Christmas, and all the traditions, myths, images and music that entails.

If you need help with the Zoom program, check out our Zoom page at <https://www.escarpmentprobus.com/zoom>. All the information you need to use Zoom is there.

# 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	Carolyn Rumley	905-302-0442	carolynrumley@sympatico.ca
Book Club - <i>Trilogy</i>	2nd Wed. - 10 am	Linda Green	289-851-8655	lgreen@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 - <i>Cribbage - Card Sharps</i>	2nd Mon. - 7 pm	Martin Capper	905-693-0354	martin@martincapper.com
Cards - <i>Cribbage - 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 - <i>Knitting - Chicks with Sticks</i>	3rd Thurs. - 10:30 am	Christine Willekes	905-820-0269	chriswillekes@gmail.com
Crafts - <i>Quilting - Piece Makers</i>	1st Tues. - 1 pm	Diane Comstock	905-876-4909	meljenscc@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 - <i>Bowling - 10 Pin</i>	2nd Tues. - 4 pm	Michelle Tschirhart	416-668-9083	mltschirhart55@gmail.com
Sports - <i>Bowling - 10 Pin</i>	Last Wed. - 4 pm	Michelle Tschirhart	416-668-9083	mltschirhart55@gmail.com
Sports - <i>Golf - Pin Seekers</i>	TBA	TBA		
Tastings - <i>Beer - Suds and Buds</i>	4th Thurs. - 7 pm	Pete Shermet	905-878-1293	peteshermet@gmail.com
Tastings - <i>Whisky - D'Stillers</i>	1st Wed. - 7 pm	Chris Strachan	905-878-0812	strachan.chris1944@yahoo.ca
Tastings - <i>Wine - Grapenuts</i>	1st Mon. - 7 pm	Jim Tschirhart	647-648-8231	jim.tschirhart@gmail.com
Tastings - <i>Wine - Grapenuts</i>	1st Thurs. - 7 pm	Jim Tschirhart	647-648-8231	jim.tschirhart@gmail.com
Tastings - <i>Wine - 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			

# RECENT EVENTS

## November Meeting

Our November Zoom General Meeting was held on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Here's a link to the recording of the meeting and our guest speakers, Sue and David Williams, with a fascinating story of adventure and self reflection on the high seas.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/K0r7-KnQg0u\\_DOkhjlqM6mEE4suC85LYAe9SwaXYiVEAcvXh-hISyIKROv4y0JKF.xfQjSNIQWw0GKWI](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/K0r7-KnQg0u_DOkhjlqM6mEE4suC85LYAe9SwaXYiVEAcvXh-hISyIKROv4y0JKF.xfQjSNIQWw0GKWI)

Access Passcode: Escarp1118!

## Book Discount

Sue Williams also advised us of a special publisher's holiday discount for their book (see the flyer). Note that the discount using the promo code SUEW25 is actually **30% until December 7th** and then 25% until December 31st.

*For Escarpment Probus Club members!*



**Special Limited Time Offer from Dundurn Press  
Discount 25% off purchase of**

***Ready to Come About***

(Online purchases only)

<https://www.dundurn.com/books/Ready-Come-About>

Click on “Add to cart”, then “Checkout”

Use Promo Code: **SUEW25** at checkout

# Activities

## Car Rally/Scavenger Hunt (November 24<sup>th</sup>)

by Ruth Gagnon

Well, it was a lot of work, but the laughs you gave Kelly and me made it all worth it! We appreciate all those who participated. We know those that did had a lot of fun! Just check out the wonderful smiles on these beautiful faces!!

Paul and Ellen Crawford came in with the most points (220) and more importantly gave Kelly and me a lot of laughs as they went “hunting”. Paul did a great impression of Abbey Road! The pic is great but the video is better ([click here or on the picture](#))!! And Ellen’s picture with Elsie is udderly delightful!

Here is some of the other fun ‘hunts’ that happened:

- Martin found the secret handshake at the Masonic Hall.
- John Flynn did a great job serenading us with his guitar. We have a great sample video ([click here or on the picture](#)).
- While we don’t have the picture to share a “Living History”, Ron and Joanne Millichamp were quite creative in capturing the picture of “decades” so perfectly. They headed home to grab family pictures – five generations in all! Lovely!
- Ron also did a most entertaining picture in his Titanic pose!
- A few didn’t make it to Goodfellow’s but Cliff & Liz Read did. The others decided LaRose fit the bill to hang out with DeNiro, Pesci and Liotta!
- Ted’s “vowel movement” captured the “I” perfectly!



- John & Julie found the Escarpment PROBUS motto by No Frills – Live, Laugh, Learn!!

The best news is that everyone made it to the final spot, which was the Connect Centre (Milton Bible Church) where – at one time – we held our monthly general meetings!

Thanks to everyone who participated! I especially want to thank Kelly Ground for her creativity! Each participant received a “Baby it’s COVID Outside” 2020 Christmas decoration!

And for those who did participate, Kelly and I want to reassure you that we will never become marriage counsellors!!



## Clubs: Books, Hobbies, Games

### The Bs brought their A game

by Diane Comstock, Correspondent

The BeeGees zoomed together twice in November, once to play Farkle and once to play Yahtzee.

During the Farkle game on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, Barb rolled her way to victory in the first game by blowing the competition away by more than 3000 points thanks to a two-triplet roll and a three-pair roll. During the second game it looked like Lorhel took a page out of Barb’s book by reaching 10000 points when the other players had not yet reached 7000. But wait, Barb had one last turn and rolled a whopping 3750 points to win the game.

On Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, Pat started the game with a Yahtzee, but alas, could not roll fours so she did not achieve the upper section bonus, resulting in a second place finish with 236. Even though Beth had to zero out her Yahtzee, she scored 4 twos, 4 threes, and 4 fives to get her upper score bonus, beating Pat by 11 points.

Our next dice game will be on Tuesday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. If you would like to join in on the fun, let me know.





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## Composers and failed plays

by Michael Hooker, Convenor

Some of us continue to Zoom together twice a month to share some music and see each other's faces on our screens.

Asoka Yapa played us music by three European composers, all born in the 19th Century and died in the 20th Century, and whose names started with "S".



- Franz Schmidt, born in Bratislava (now in Slovakia). He suffered from bad health almost all his life, which affected his ability as a composer. Asoka played his first symphony, which he composed at age 22; a really mature, melodic and enjoyable piece. Asoka mentioned to us that he has also listened to Schmitt's second symphony, not nearly as good.
- Jean Sibelius, Finland's (and Scandinavia's) greatest composer. Born when Finland was still part of the Russian empire, he was a dedicated Finnish nationalist. His early short orchestral piece "Finlandia" became the unofficial Finnish National Anthem. We listened to pieces from two of his music suites, Karelia and Lemminkainen.
- The German, Richard Strauss (not the Waltz King, Johann Strauss Jr.). Likely every one of you readers is familiar with the start of his best-known piece, "Also Sprach Zarathustra", made world-famous when Stanley Kubrick used it as the opening music for "2001 – A Space Odyssey". You probably hear it in your head as you read this! Strauss had a long composing life, with many operas, orchestral pieces, and songs. He lived through the Nazi era, and although rewarded by prestige he never sought favour, and was a strong covert anti-Nazi; in fact, it was almost a miracle that he survived that dark period. We listened to his last composition "Four Last Songs", which he wrote at age 83, two years before his death; and of course the famous opening to "Also Sprach Zarathustra", both the orchestral version and a Brazilian Jazz rendition.

It's just as well that Asoka didn't decide to play every "S" composer, otherwise we would still be listening: Schubert, Schumann, Saint-Saens, Saeverud, Sainte-Columbe, Salieri, Sallinen, Sarasate, Satie, Sauer, Scarlatti, Schickele, Schoeck, Schoenberg, Scriabin, Stravinsky, Searle, Sullivan, Suppe, Shostakovich, Smetana, Soler, Sousa, Stamitz, Stockhausen, and of course the whole of the "other" Strauss family – Johann Senior and Junior (The Waltz King), Josef, Eduard, and a bunch of other composing "S's", too numerous to mention.

I put on our other November ZOOMer, the music that the French composer Georges Bizet (who is mainly known for his opera "Carmen") wrote for the play "L'Arlesienne" (The Girl from Arles) by Alphonse Daudet. The play was a failure, but the music, some of the best that Bizet wrote, was a hit, right up to today!

Now, an invitation to you Non-Mozartians: On Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm, I'm hosting our "Mozart and Friends Pre-Christmas" Zoom music presentation. The theme is "Carols and Songs for the Christmas Season". Many will be completely new to all of you. Many are centuries old, some from the "folk" tradition. All are melodic and interesting, and none involve Rudolph (or similar ilk). If you would like to hear this music, please send me an email with your name ([mhooker10@bell.net](mailto:mhooker10@bell.net)). I'll send you an invitation a few days in advance with the Zoom sign-in info and the detailed program (which lasts about 70 minutes).

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## A Walk in the Woods

by Lorene Rea, Correspondent

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, eight members of the Sequel Book Club met via Zoom. Our Book of the Month was *A Walk in the Woods*.



Bill Bryson, the author, is well known for his various books on travel, science, the English language and “a Short History of Nearly Everything”. He has dual American and British citizenship, is well travelled, and has a plethora of awards, degrees and an OBE.

The story is the tale of a middle aged man who decides to walk the challenging Appalachian Trail, covering 14 U.S. states and 2100 miles. On the author’s journey he meets a cast of characters and animals, and encounters moonshine and guns. Throughout the book his wonderful dry sense of humour is displayed.

It quickly becomes obvious that this task is not for beginners. It requires stamina, both physical and mental. Good camping equipment is necessary, a good physical condition would be helpful, and choosing the right months to walk is important. He encounters snow his first week, learns how to use some of his new equipment and also pares down his heavy load by leaving food and brand new tools on the trail, at a sleeping/camping post. The challenge is more than he anticipated. He feels proud that he walked the Appalachian Trail, but realizes that he will never walk the whole distance.

On the positive side, the scenery is magnificent in parts, the sense of being capable and successful grows, and he becomes more physically fit. His companion is not an experienced hiker, has some unusual habits and provides both humour and frustration for Bryson.

Interspersed with the story are paragraphs that teach us about current challenges with our forests and wildlife and how urbanization is affecting our outdoors. Altogether this is an interesting, sometimes humorous, and informative book. It received a cautious thumbs up, but all said they enjoyed it at some level.

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## Born a Crime

by Catherine Parr, Correspondent

Though best known as a comedian, Trevor Noah wrote his first book, an autobiography, on a serious topic. This alone sparked curiosity as to how it would read. Would it be as comedic as he is, or would it be a difficult story of growing up under apartheid as a person of mixed race?



Noah delivered his narrative by marrying the two in a surprising and unique way. He faced a life of challenges growing up in poverty, inequality, danger and violence. Our readers braced themselves for a difficult and uncomfortable ride, navigating through the horrific injustices Noah faced. We were presented first with his birth to a black mother and white father, an illegal relationship in South Africa at the time. This set the foundation for a treacherous life for Noah as a mixed race child not accepted by either whites or blacks. Trevor’s mother was a driving force in his ability to navigate a difficult life and to be able to rise above the adversities.

Noah’s telling of his upbringing is the story of a survivor, dwelling not on the obstacles but on how he overcame them in his creative and entrepreneurial way. There were many humorous moments seeing the world through the eyes of a child who didn’t see himself as a victim but as a wiry kid determined to make the best of any situation. He has not only survived his upbringing in South Africa but has risen to a life as a brilliant comedian and talk show host.

A couple of our book club members had spent time in South Africa and were able to contribute firsthand knowledge of the challenges Trevor would have faced.

Our book club gave this book two thumbs up.

# Half Square Triangles

by Diane Comstock, Convenor



On Thursday, November 5, the PieceMakers gathered together on Zoom for their monthly quilting meeting. Although it is not the same as in-person meetings, we still managed to have a Show and Tell and once again had a sewing lesson. Wendy showed us her Seminole black and white table runner and her Snowman table runner, with a close-up of how she included fabric with Merry Christmas writing. Louise showed us her finished T-Shirt quilt and her first attempt at paper piecing using the Ice Crystal block – excellent jobs; she should be very proud of her accomplishments. Judy Nelson held up the One-Patch quilt she completed using charm packs. Diane's temperature quilt is growing – she now has all 54 blocks completed and five of the six columns pieced with directional arrows. Diane also showed the placemat she finished using the first Ice Crystal block. Carol Ann showed us her Snowflake Pillows and her String Pillow (using a pattern given to us by Judy Osman back in June). Carol Ann showed us her Ice Crystal blocks – she has completed Blocks 1, 2, and 3. She is planning on incorporating all nine block patterns into a table topper to add to her Christmas décor.



After the show and tell, Judy demonstrated how she made 8 half-square triangles (HST) using two fabric squares. You mark two diagonal lines and sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on both sides of the marked lines. You then make 4 cuts: one on each marked diagonal line, one up the vertical centre, and one across the horizontal centre. Open and press to reveal 8 HSTs. Judy also sent us a handy chart of beginning cut square sizes with the resulting unfinished and finished HST sizes. Thanks Judy.

Quilting Terms of the Month:

**One-Patch** – Any quilt pattern that uses a single shaped patch for the pieced top. May be squares, triangles, hexagons, etc., repeated in colour patterns or different fabrics.

**Charm Pack** – A bundle of 5" squares of pre-cut quilt fabric featuring an array of coordinating fabric from a designer's collection. Charm packs are a fast, fun way to make quilts come together like magic.

**Seminole Patchwork** – A style of strip piecing in which strips of fabric are sewn together and then units are cut apart, repositioned, and sewn again to create intricate geometric designs.

Our December meeting will again be via Zoom on Tuesday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, at which time, we will share tips and tricks that we have discovered during our quilting experiences.

Anyone interested in quilting, consider joining the group.



# MANAGEMENT TEAM



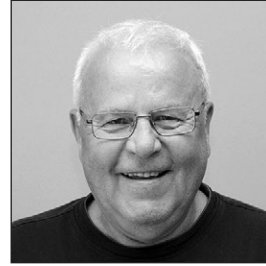
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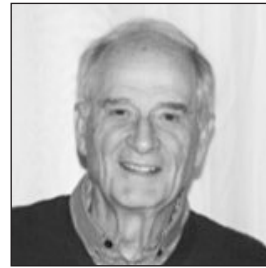
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At PROBUS we want to keep in touch, we are all friends. If you know of anyone who is ill, moving away, lost a loved one, etc., or someone with a new grandchild, great grandchild or special anniversary, please let Lorrette Shermet know and she will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

## 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.