

FORUM



Volume 8 — Issue 3 — June 2020

President's Message:

Getting through difficult times together



There is no need to feel alone in these days of isolation. Our Escarpment PROBUS may not know when we can meet again in person, but we are still able to connect. I would appreciate hearing from you. I've reached out to many of our members since social isolation began, and would like to know how you're all doing. Contact me at elizaread@gmail.com.

One of the ways we connect with others at Escarpment PROBUS is through an outreach with greeting cards. We already celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, grandbabies and great-grandbabies' births with announcements at our monthly meetings. But there are other less joyful times when people appreciate the fact that fellow PROBUS members care how they are doing. If you or

someone you know in our club is ill, or having a difficult time, perhaps even coping with the loss of a loved one, we want to know. Lorrette Shermet has taken on the role of sending out greeting cards on our behalf ever since our club was established. Lorrette's motto is "Keep safe, keep connected" and her email is: lorrette@sympatico.ca.

We also have a resource club that never holds meetings: PIE or the PROBUS Information Exchange. If you join the email list, you'll be able to ask our members for contacts for reliable plumbers, electricians, roofers, gardeners, etc., and you'll also be able to recommend these workers to others. But in these COVID-19 times, if you need any kind of help, you could also call on members that may be able to provide you with assistance. Contact cliff.read@cogeco.ca to join PIE. He forwards your requests to other members of the exchange.

And finally, we are looking into the possibility of holding a general meeting virtually through Zoom. Jenny O'Brien, our secretary, is booking social club meetings through an Escarpment Zoom account that allows meetings to go on for more than 40 minutes and for a larger group of participants. Look for more information on this soon.

Getting through this difficult time together.

— Liz Read

Editor's Note:

Welcome to another non-standard issue of the Forum. In place of the usual event and club information we bring you travel notes, a photography lesson, Zoom events and even a few chuckles from Ron Millichamp. Mostly, our aim is to help maintain a (remote) connection between our members. So put your feet up and enjoy!

— David Boss

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NEWS AND VIEWS

Zoom Update

By Jenny O'Brien

Our Escarpment PROBUS Club recently purchased a 'PRO' Zoom licence, which allows us access to unlimited video conferencing calls each month, with no limit on time per call. We've communicated this to all the Social Club Convenors in hopes that, where applicable, they will utilize Zoom to facilitate group meetings on a regular basis.

We've had great success to date, with all of the Nosh groups having utilized this service, as well as the Cribbage Club, French Club, D'Stillers, Mozart & Friends, and an upcoming Book Club. The feedback has generally been positive, with members enjoying the opportunity to 'see' each other in a virtual setting. It does take some co-ordination, and the more people on the call, the more co-ordination required. Sound and picture quality may be device dependent. Depending on the nature of your group, Zoom may or may not be a viable option.



We continue to learn as we go, and we've also received insights from the Provincial PROBUS organization around how other Clubs are rolling out Zoom to their membership. Delegates from our Management Committee will be attending a call in June to hear more about those initiatives. The reality is... EVERYONE is doing it!!

Still not sure what Zoom is? If you have a camera enabled computer, tablet, or smart phone, and would like to join in on a demo meeting, I'm hosting an introduction to Zoom on Thursday, June 11th at 2:30 PM. Please send a quick note to jenny0103@rogers.com to let me know of your interest, and I'll send you the link and meeting code you'll need to join.

The times they are a changin' (Bob Dylan - 1964), and Escarpment PROBUS is changing to reflect our new environment. Come along for the ride!

Sewing PPE

by Mary Cousins

We have a sewing group in Georgetown and since the COVID outbreak we have been sewing PPE masks, gowns and head covers. To date we have made almost 1200 gowns and half as many head covers and masks to be donated to the hospital, nursing homes, doctor and dentist offices, CAMH, and other clinics. We use donated sheets (over 700 of them) as well as yards of donated fabric and socks for the cuffs to make PPE that can be laundered every night.

We have donated PPE in Milton and Brampton and are now getting requests from Mississauga clinics.

I have attached a picture of the five most recent gowns I made. Many of the contributors have had great fun getting out their sewing machines and having a turn making these.

Halton Hills Sewing store has been wonderful to help get some of the older machines up and running again.

It makes each of us proud to tribute in some small way to our community.



Tips for Improving Your Photography

by Joy Castello

Like the rest of us, my world has shrunk considerably over the past few months. This extra time has allowed me to study many of my photography books and get out for walks to practice what I've learned. As an amateur photographer I'm constantly seeking out books, videos and workshops by professionals. Their advice has been invaluable.

If you have extra free time now and a desire to learn more about photography, perhaps we could use The Forum as a platform to share our enjoyment of this hobby and art form. If there is interest to do this every month, then the goal would be to have members submit their photos in the following issue using the current month's tip for improvement. This month's tip is using the rule of thirds.

What is the rule of thirds?

Even though people often associate the rule of thirds with photography, it is a guideline used by many visual artists and was "invented" in 1797 by John Thomas Smith, a painter.

It's useful to know that the rule of thirds is quite controversial and some photographers find the rule far too restrictive. More about that in the next issue! So why apply this rule? If you notice that many of your subjects are in the centre of your photo, or you sense your photos have a sameness about them, you may find the rule of thirds will help you understand and appreciate a more unified photograph. The purpose of the rule of thirds is to set your subject off-centre to create a more dynamic image. Give it a try and see if you're happy with the results.

How to use the rule of thirds

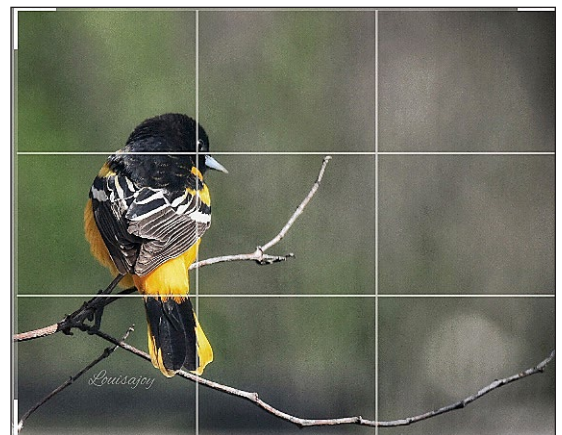
Think of a photograph divided into 9 parts to create a 3x3 grid. Within the grid are 4 intersecting points. Using the rule of thirds, place important elements of your photograph at these intersecting points and/or along the vertical or horizontal lines. The eyes (animals, people, birds), are ideally placed in the top 2/3 of the photo and at or close to one of the intersecting points.

Most digital cameras can display this 3x3 grid in the viewfinder and that will help set up the image before you take the photo. I have an iPhone 5 and it doesn't have this capability but some newer smartphones have this feature.

You will notice that I haven't chosen any examples using people. This is because I didn't get permission to use their image and this publication is viewed over the internet.

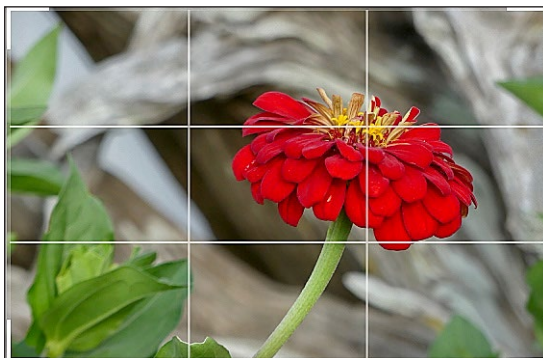
Example One

The Baltimore oriole's eye is at the top left intersecting point. The idea is to draw the viewer's eyes into the photo and explore other areas of the image: the bird's colourful body, and the fragile branches.



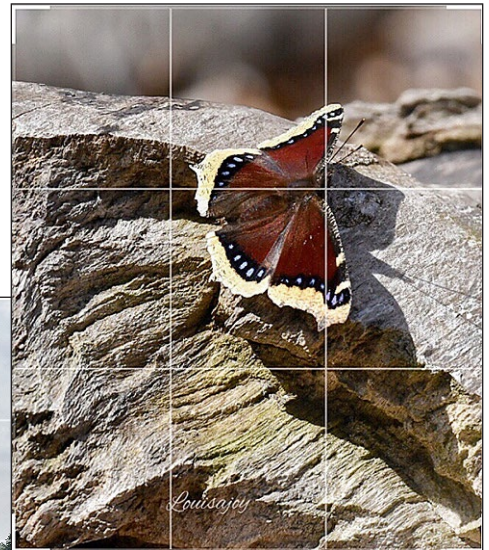
Example Two

The centre of the zinnia is at the intersecting point at the top right. The off-centre placement is more dynamic than placement in the middle.



Example Three

The head of this mourning cloak butterfly intersects at the top right point. The butterfly is off-centre but not by much. The interest is created by its shadow and the texture of the rock. The shadows in the photo create a balance of light and dark areas. For a landscape, place important elements along or close to one of the lines or at an intersecting point if the subject makes it possible. Think in terms of 2/3 horizontally or vertically.



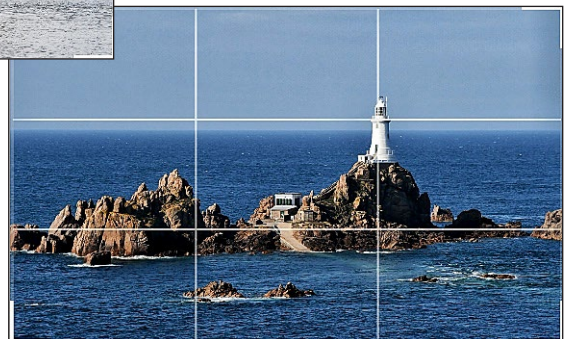
Example Four

In this photo 2/3 of the image is sky plus dense trees and 1/3 is shore, water and distant trees. The focal point is the tree leaning out over the water and the treetop intersects at the right point. This draws the viewer's eyes into the image. Notice that the rule of thirds works vertically as well.



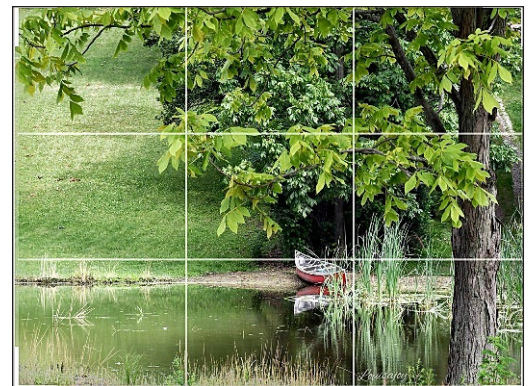
Example Five

In this photo the cloudless sky doesn't need more than 1/3 of the image. The ocean and rocky shore are more interesting and should have more importance in the photo. The focal point is the lighthouse and it's positioned along one line with the light at an intersecting point. The viewer's eyes can explore the rest of the photo and see the reason for the lighthouse.



Example Six

Even if there is no sky, you can still use the rule of thirds. In this image, the bottom third is water. This was a creative decision to frame the scene with the tree. The focal point is the red canoe and its reflection. The canoe doesn't quite intersect at the lower right point but it's close enough. Again, there is artistic leeway so don't be afraid to use it! What you want to achieve is a more dynamic and interesting image.



Summary

The rule of thirds places the focal point off-centre to create a more interesting composition. Use your camera's built-in grid to help compose your photo. This will eliminate the need for a lot of cropping later. Each time you have to crop, your image loses image quality. Less pixels equals less sharpness.

After you use the rule of thirds for awhile, you will realize that this rule can be broken without ruining your photo. But for now, why not experiment with this rule and challenge yourself the next time you pick up your camera.

Member Participation

I invite all those who are interested to submit a rule of thirds photo to be published in the July issue of The Forum. Remember to ask permission if you submit photos of people. Any questions or comments? Please email me at alegriav@cogeco.ca Have fun!

Veronica Foster a.k.a. “Ronnie, the Bren Gun Girl”

by Suzane (Foster) Herder

As we age and lose our parents, we also lose a wealth of unshared family history. Why was this history not shared? We did not ask or pay much attention when the information was given. I do, however, recall my father mentioning his cousin who was a singer and married a musician from a band.

One of the best surprises of this isolation stint was receiving the following article from my cousin, Mary Foster. Mary has spent countless time through the years assembling our family history. My father, John Joseph Vernon Foster, was born in Montreal. His first cousin, Veronica, became “Ronnie, the Bren Gun Girl”.

Veronica Eileen Foster, born January 2, 1922, was a Canadian icon representing nearly one million Canadian women who worked in the manufacturing plants that produced munitions and military materials during World War II. Veronica now has a postage stamp commemorating her contribution during WW2.

One of her sons notes “After working in the factory lathing out Bren guns she sang with some of Canada’s most popular big bands (and remember, big band swing was the pop music of the day). She met her husband, a trombone player, in one of the bands. While my mom was beautiful, talented AND had an offer to join the famous American big band leader, Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra, she -- unbelievably -- turned her back on her career and its potential around 1947 to move to my dad’s hometown of Edmundston New Brunswick to start a family. She gave birth to five kids.” Veronica died in 2000.



This is a link to a video currently on YouTube of the segment about Ronnie The Bren Gun Girl from a CBC Documentary. Also mentioned are her three brothers who fought in WWII: James, Daniel Leo & Howard.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-E0KvWve-9g>

Here she is with the Mart Kenney Band (Orchestra). There’s lots more about Veronica on YouTube, Google, Wikipedia, etc.



211 - It’s an Important Number!

All of us are familiar with the emergency number 911. But do you know what information you can access if you dial 211?

211 is Canada’s primary source of information about government and community-based health and social services.

This award-winning telephone help line will allow you to navigate the complex network of human services quickly and easily 24 hours

a day, 7 days a week, in over 170 languages.

- Do you need legal assistance?
- Are you looking for a support group?
- Do you wish information about seniors’ residences?

When you’re looking for human services, look to 211, or visit the website <https://211ontario.ca/>. Life is 24 hours. 211 is there for all of them.

Thanks to Kelly Ground for submitting this note.

Birdwatching

by Gillian Reynolds

One of the joys of having to stay home is having more time - a lot more time - to observe nature, especially at this time of the year when we spring forward to new life. With all this time on our hands, our garden has never received so much attention. One morning about three weeks ago, we were just about to cut down the dead branches of an old vine from the lattice screen on the porch, when I noticed a bird's nest right at the top. Of course, we left the vine. Over the past few weeks I have watched patiently as the mother robin sat on the nest through wind and rain, snow and ice pellets.



She demonstrated not only patience but also dedication and endurance. But what did the husband do while this was going on? Well he'd already done his bit, but he did sit and watch her for a few minutes a couple of times, perched on the roof opposite. He probably thought to himself, "There's no point in us both being miserable." A few days ago the babies were born. Now mother spends all her time feeding the hungry fledglings. Such a blessing to witness the miracles of new life. I just hope the little buggers don't poop all over our porch!



For those of you missing Ron Millichamp's jokes:

A trucker came into a truck stop cafe and placed his order.

He said, "I want three flat tires, a pair of headlights and a pair of running boards."

The brand new blonde waitress, not wanting to appear stupid, went to the kitchen and said to the cook, "This guy out there just ordered three flat tires, a pair of headlights and a pair of running boards. What does he think this place is, an auto parts store?"

"No," the cook said, "Three flat tires mean three pancakes, a pair of headlights is two eggs sunny side up, and running boards are two slices of crisp bacon."

"Oh, OK!" said the blonde. She thought about it for a moment and then spooned up a bowl of beans and gave it to the customer.

The trucker asked, "What are the beans for, Blondie?"

She replied, "I thought while you were waiting for the flat tires, headlights and running boards, you might as well gas up!"

A little boy opened the large old family Bible, and he looked with fascination at the ancient pages as he turned them one by one. He was still in Genesis when something fell out of the Bible. He picked it up and looked at it closely. It was a very large old tree leaf that had been pressed between the pages of the Bible long ago.

"Momma, look what I found!" the boy called out.

"What do you have there?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in his voice, the young boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

Boppers Quiz

submitted by Ron Millichamp

1. When did "Little Suzie" finally wake up?
 - (a) The movie's over, it's 2 o'clock
 - (b) The movie's over, it's 3 o'clock
 - (c) The movie's over, it's 4 o'clock
2. "Rock Around The Clock" was used in what movie?
 - (a) Rebel Without A Cause
 - (b) Blackboard Jungle
 - (c) The Wild Ones
3. What's missing from a Rock & Roll standpoint? Earth ____
 - (a) Angel
 - (b) Mother
 - (c) Worm
4. "I found my thrill..." Where?
 - (a) Kansas City
 - (b) Heartbreak Hotel
 - (c) Blueberry Hill
5. "Please turn on your magic beam _____ bring me a dream,"
 - (a) Mr. Sandman
 - (b) Earth Angel
 - (c) Dream Lover
6. For which label did Elvis Presley first record?
 - (a) Atlantic
 - (b) RCA
 - (c) Sun
7. He asked, "Why's everybody always pickin' on me?" Who was he?
 - (a) Bad, Bad Leroy Brown
 - (b) Charlie Brown
 - (c) Buster Brown
8. In Bobby Darin's "Mack The Knife," the one with the knife was:
 - (a) Mac Heath
 - (b) Mac Cloud
 - (c) McNamara
9. Name the song with "A-wop bop a-loo bop a-lop bam boom."
 - (a) Good Golly, Miss Molly
 - (b) Be-Bop-A-Lula
 - (c) Tutti Frutti
10. Who is generally given credit for originating the term "Rock And Roll"?
 - (a) Dick Clark
 - (b) Wolfman Jack
 - (c) Alan Freed
11. In 1957, he left the music business to become a preacher:
 - (a) Little Richard
 - (b) Frankie Lymon
 - (c) Tony Orlando
12. Paul Anka's "Puppy Love" is written to what star?
 - (a) Brenda Lee
 - (b) Connie Francis
 - (c) Annette Funicello
13. The Everly Brothers were...
 - (a) Pete and Dick
 - (b) Don and Phil
 - (c) Bob and Bill
14. The Big Bopper's real name was:
 - (a) Jiles P. Richardson
 - (b) Roy Harold Scherer Jr.
 - (c) Marion Michael Morrison
15. In 1959, Berry Gordy, Jr., started a small record company called...
 - (a) Decca
 - (b) Cameo
 - (c) Motown
16. Edd Brynes had a hit with "Kookie, Kookie, Lend Me Your Comb". What TV show was he on?
 - (a) 77 Sunset Strip
 - (b) Hawaiian Eye
 - (c) Surfside Six
17. In 1960 Bobby Darin married:
 - (a) Carol Lynley
 - (b) Sandra Dee
 - (c) Natalie Wood
18. They were a one hit wonder with "Book Of Love"
 - (a) The Penguins
 - (b) The Monotones
 - (c) The Moonglows
19. The Everly Brothers sang a song called "Till I _____ You."
 - (a) Loved
 - (b) Kissed
 - (c) Met
20. Chuck Berry sang "Oh, _____, why can't you be true?"
 - (a) Suzie Q
 - (b) Peggy Sue
 - (c) Maybelline

See page 21 for the answers.

SPECIAL: TRAVEL TALES

Members' Travel Tales

By Joanne Millichamp

As you all know, our Probus trip to the Islands of the Mediterranean has now been postponed until September 2021. Since none of us we will be travelling in the immediate future, we thought it would be fun to read about some of the interesting places our members have been to, and have included some stories below. We are looking for more content for the Forum over the next few months and would encourage anyone who has a story to tell, along with any photos to send them directly to our Editor, David Boss at: david@bosscommunications.com. I'm sure your fellow members would enjoy reading your stories while we all day dream about places to visit when it is safe to travel again.

The Azores

By Joanne Millichamp

There are nine Azores islands located in the mid North Atlantic, a short five-hour flight from Toronto. The islands are volcanic in origin, have a total population of 250,000, and comprise an autonomous region of Portugal. A few years ago we had a brief stop over in the city of Ponta Delgada, on the largest island of San Miguel.

The islands are known for their dramatic landscapes, picturesque fishing villages, lake-filled calderas, 15th century churches, natural swimming pools, colourful hydrangea hedges and the only tea plantation in all of Europe.

We stopped at the Lagoa Verde & Lagoa Azul, commonly known as the blue & green lake. This is actually one lake, but both side of the lake are different colours, the green side due to the algae.

The next photo shows the Moio Ponta do Escalvado and the rocky coastline.

We climbed to the top of the cliff at Villa Franco to see the tiny Baroque chapel of Nossa Senhora da Paz. There are amazing views from the top and beautiful examples of the blue and white tile work the area is famous for.

Our final stop was the village of Furnas, a geothermal area with geysers, fumeraoles, mud pools and hot springs.

There are many charms still waiting to be discovered on these interesting islands. We definitely plan to return one day.



Return to South Africa

by Robyn Balfour

In 2020 I turned 65. It was now or never to fill the longing to go back to South Africa. I have lived in Canada now for 20 years and had not been back to South Africa for 14 years.

South Africa was my home, seven generations of my family have lived there. This trip was to be my walk down memory lane. Staying with dear friends and visiting a few of my most favourite places: Cape Town, Knysna, Somerset West, KwaZuluNatal, Drakensberg Mountains in Natal.

I travelled alone from Canada to London England, then a 13 hour flight to Cape Town, South Africa. The weather in Cape Town was just stunning, big blue skies and sparkling ocean, and my dear friend Bev was there to meet me at the airport. There were hugs and tears of joy.

Bev and Zac's magnificent home stands on the cliffs of Camps Bay with the most expansive views of Lions Head Mountain, Twelve Apostles Mountains, Table Mountain and the Atlantic Ocean on the west coast of Africa.

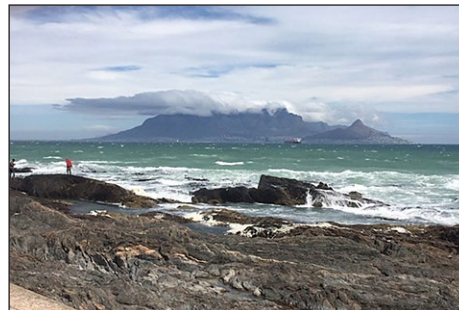
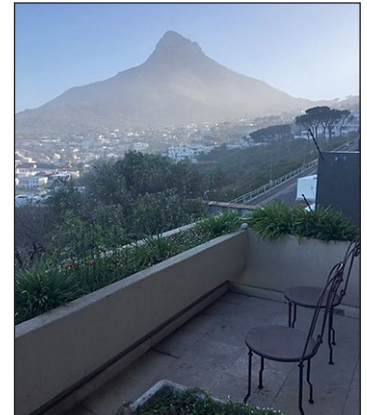
We explored each day and visited a different restaurant each evening, experiencing fine cuisine and reminiscing with special friends.

Zac had booked for us all to go to Paternoster for an overnight stay. Paternoster is one of the oldest fishing villages on the west coast of South Africa, 145 km north of Cape Town. The typical building style, a quaint whitewashed fisherman cottage with reed thatched roof, is Cape Dutch Style.

Highlights in Paternoster are the vast open spaces, spectacular panoramic beaches, arid land and Atlantic Ocean as far as the eye can see.

In 2019, Wolfgat Restaurant won the World Restaurant Awards, having competed against culinary professionals from 37 countries. Wolfgat is really a shack on the beach overlooking the vast coastline that serves 20 guests at a time. Our lunch was outstanding - fish from the Atlantic ocean off the shores of Paternoster and delicate edible greenery that staff forage on the beach.

From Cape Town I flew 45 minutes to Knysna to spend a few days with Mike and Trudie. Knysna is situated on the Indian Ocean. The shimmering Kynsna River Estuary, surrounded by mountains and the famous Knysna Forests, is spectacular.

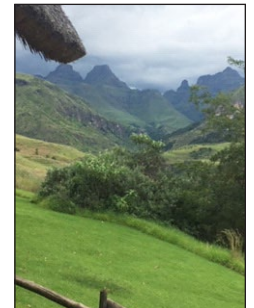
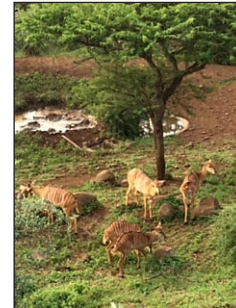


From Knysna I flew back to Cape Town to be met by my cousin Linda and Nick, who live in Somerset West. The stretch of highway from the airport to their home is fraught with danger, like burning tires on the road and you may even have a rock lobbed at you. Their home is magnificent and heavily fortified with electric fences and security cameras. Half the floor area of their double garage is covered by large batteries to back up the electricity supply. Country wide the electricity is turned off for at least two hours daily due to inefficiencies and squandered taxpayer money.



Somerset West is surrounded by wine farms with mountainous backdrops. What an indulgence in enjoyable recollections of past events.

Next stop was KwaZulu Natal, City of Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Durban is on the East Coast of Africa on the Indian Ocean. Resne met me at the airport. Walking out of the airport the humidity almost bowled me over. We drove inland for an hour to reach Ishorna Langa, their 100 acre animal sanctuary housing zebras, crocodiles, monkeys, impalas, giraffes, bush pigs, birds and many more. Resne and Victor rescue animals and give them sanctuary on their land. You might even see a giraffe looking at you through the window.



Resne and I took off on a two hour drive up to the Drakensberg Mountains to stay overnight at Cathedral Peak Hotel. I had a desperate desire to be back in those mountains one more time in my life. The mountains were as rewarding as ever. Wished I could have stayed longer.

On the way back we did the memory lane drive. I was born in Pietermaritzburg, where I lived most of my life. We visited all of the homes, schools and city where I had grown up.

After three weeks in South Africa, a 10 hour British Air day flight brought me back to Heathrow, UK, to spend some relaxing time in and around Buckinghamshire and Oxford. Country lane walks beside fast moving streams in the English Countryside were pure joy. As was wandering through the little ancient villages and catching up with my friend Su over lovely pub lunches and gin and tonics.



The last leg of my journey was a train ride into London to spend time with my sister-in-law Cathy in South Kensington, the heart of London. I love the hustle and bustle of old London and long walks through Hyde Park, past Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace.

After a most stunning one month trip, it was time for “home sweet home”.

One of the hardest things I have ever done in my life was leaving my beloved South Africa, my home, and my friends and starting over at 45 years of age in a new country. I am now very blessed to call Canada my home.

Riding Holiday in Kenya

by Auriel Halliday

When it was suggested that we write about one of our riding holidays I wasn't sure which one to feature. There have been over 25 and all are memorable. Only one became a disaster, that was in Spain, but even now we can laugh about it. We have climbed mountains in Austria, almost been swept away in Turkish rivers, galloped along Irish beaches, swam in the Atlantic, rode alongside zebras and giraffes in Kenya, slept in centuries old chateaux in France and that's just the beginning!

Being on horseback, accompanied by a local guide, is a wonderful way to experience how people live, dine and of course wine in their own country. No "tourist stuff" for us! Our guides have always been amazing historians of their region. In this way we have ridden into the courtyards of French chateaux and been given private tours, leaving the horses tied to ancient iron railings. Italians have welcomed us to their vineyards and plied us with delicious wines.

There is one adventure that stands out above all others, and that is the trek across the Masai Mara in Kenya in 1994. Unfortunately, Don could not come on this trip, but Kay, a riding friend, was excited to join me.



After a long, bumpy Jeep drive from Nairobi, through the Rift Valley, we, and the other riders, arrived at our first campsite. We were pleasantly surprised to find that our tents were quite civilized, with raised cots and tented individual bathrooms behind each one. We were introduced to all the riders and the horses we would be riding. Late afternoon found us gathered around a huge campfire, with cocktails in hand, then we sat down to dinner on trestle tables set with crystal and silverware.

The wine flowed and the food was delicious. After dinner we sat by the fire again and were regaled by the guides with very frightening stories of past rides. We were told what to do if an elephant turned towards you and raised it's ears. Answer...turn quickly and gallop in the opposite direction! We actually had to do this one day when we bumped into quite a large herd of elephants that were not happy to see us. We were warned of the danger of galloping alongside giraffe, as they tend to turn in front of the horses. We were assured that our guides carried guns but rarely used them, and we were told how to handle the horses when rescue helicopters came to collect riders who had accidents! On the previous ride a lady was carried out with a broken leg. By the time Kay and I went to our tents we were literally shaking in our boots. What on earth were we doing here?

That first night was exciting and very scary. We listened to all the animal sounds around us, hoping the tent zippers were extra strong. I think I had just fallen asleep when I heard a thunder of hooves and a herd of animals literally galloped through the centre of the campsite. The ground shook and we heard the frightened shouts of the Masai who were hired to guard our horses at night. Needless to say sleep was hard to come by after that. The following morning we were told that a herd of Cape Buffalo had decided to pay a visit. Only one of Africa most dangerous animals! And they wanted us to mount our horses and ride into the unknown...



But a delicious breakfast cheered us up and by 8 a.m. we were mounted, heading towards the next camp site, approximately 15 miles away.

Our cheerful cooks and grooms were left to dismantle the site, packing everything into two huge lorries. Extra horses were also travelling with us in case of emergency. The lorries were driven to the next camp site and the camp was set up again. When we arrived late in the day, the hot water and cocktails were waiting. The grooms took our horses and washed them in the river, with hippos watching from the opposite bank. By the time we had showered and changed, the horses were munching away, all tied to an overhead rope so they would not wander overnight. Apparently, the previous year, an elephant had stormed through the horse line, broken the rope and the horses fled into the night. Some were never found and others were rounded up, bearing the claw marks of lions down their hind quarters. Several of our mounts had the scars to prove it.



Masai men were hired to guard the horses overnight, but apparently they were nervous of chasing the lions away and sometimes the poor horses were even attacked while tied to the overhead rope.

Our days continued to delight, thrill and scare us. I remember one day that I thought would never end. Our guide became lost and our four hour ride became five, six, then seven hours long. We were only given one bottle of water to carry for each ride and soon we were all becoming frighteningly dehydrated. It was a very hot day, high 90s and after a few more hours of seemingly wandering in circles I was dizzy and getting huge sun blisters on the back of my hands. Stupidly, I had worn no sunhat or gloves and was beginning to think that maybe I would not be leaving this place. Then we heard voices, were they real or a mirage? Suddenly men appeared from the darkening shadows and we were safe again.



Each day continued to captivate our senses. Large herds of zebras, impalas, cape buffalo, wildebeest, giraffe, Grant's gazelles, topi, and hartebeast were commonplace. Sadly, the Masai Mara was experiencing a drought and we were continually coming across dead or dying animals. I can remember a tiny elephant that the herd had forsaken. Our guide used his radio to contact the rangers, but I doubt if they found him. We always rode "off the beaten track" and did not follow any sort of trail. It was very heartbreaking.

We rode through rivers full of hippopotamus, closely packed in the water. The babies would climb on their parent's backs to sunbathe. We only saw a few rhinos as the herds have been decimated by poachers. One day we sat on our horses and watched two prides of lions, with lots of cubs, playing in the sun.

One of our fellow riders had very early on decided that he was not going to ride. Instead, he joined the crew in the lorries and turned to his main love of ornithology. By the end of the holiday he had spotted and photographed over 100 different birds. Of course we all carried cameras but I regretted not having brought my larger single lens reflex with me. Too heavy, I thought. So I apologize for the weak photos I have posted. I have not added my animal photos. It is hard to photograph wildlife from the back of a horse.

So many wonderful memories of a trip I will never forget. I have just recounted a mere overview of our adventure. I hope you get the idea of how wondrous yet frightening it was. Years later Don and I rode for a week in South Africa. Another wonderful but different riding holiday. Maybe Don will write about this trip for the Forum?

Japan with no luggage...

by Martin Capper

Our one and only trip to Japan - to attend the International Transportation Systems World Congress in Nagoya - and we arrived at the baggage carousel in Nagoya, alone and no more suitcases going round. The airline representative was very helpful, advising that our luggage was on its way to Osaka but not to worry we would have it in two days and we would be compensated for the delay - \$100 each!

The problem was that the following night I was supposed to represent ITS America at a VIP dinner to be attended by his Royal Highness the Prince and his wife, and Dr Toyoda (they changed the name for the car company!). Hardly the occasion for the jeans and takkies that we had travelled in and if you've been to Japan \$100 doesn't go far in the clothing stores!

Fortunately, whether it was as a result of name dropping of the Prince or Doctor Toyoda, the luggage arrived that night and we didn't have to hide in a corner in jeans and takkies at the VIP dinner!

Nagoya in Japan is not really noteworthy, it reminded me of Hamilton! It does have one extremely interesting place - The Toyota Museum, which charts the history of the company from its origins as a textile machinery manufacturer to a global automobile company. It includes some great interactive exhibits - where else does the average person get to work an auto body press?

Got our kicks on Route 66

by Barbara Finnie

After many years of planning an historical trip across the U.S., we finally headed out on Route 66 in our Mustang convertible on March 30, 2018.

The trip began in Chicago, Ill.

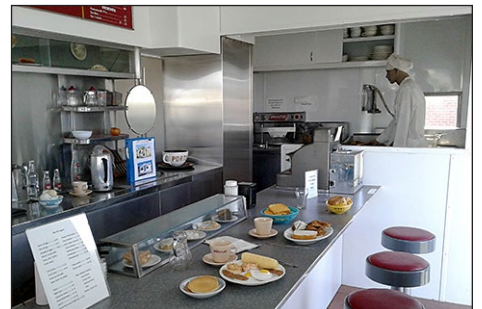


Much of the old road has not been maintained as they built new roads to make the trek across America easier for travellers.



Standing on the corner in Winslow, Arizona.

The Porter House Diner in Weatherston, Oklahoma, frequented by Elvis and his band.



Half way point, Adrian, Texas.

Meteor crater in Arizona.



The Cadillac Ranch, Armarillo, Texas.

Side trip to Death Valley.



The Horseshoe bend in Grand Canyon National Park.

The end of the road at the Santa Monica pier.



Sinking your car in floods in South Africa!

by Martin Capper

First of all let me set the scene. We had been in South Africa for a few months. I was working as an accountant at a paper mill that was manufacturing paper from bagasse - the waste fibre from the sugar milling process. In order to be close to our major raw material, the paper mill was located in the sugar cane farm near the sugar mill.

Access to the mill was via dirt roads running through the cane fields. I had been told during the rainy season the roads would flood but there was always one that stayed passable. So after a weekend of heavy rains in Natal, I get to my normal access road to the mill and about 100 yds in the road disappears under water. I decided not to risk that one but headed back to use the only other access I knew. On my way I encountered my secretary who told me that road was flooded.

I only knew two roads so that first one must have been passable - logical I thought. So back I went armed with the knowledge that no matter how bad it looked it would be passable!

I hadn't gone too far into the water when I realized the front of the car was floating. I put the car into reverse in somewhat of a panic and of course stalled it. The car started to float a little more towards the side of the road. Knowing there was a swamp beside the road I decided to let the car sink to the road and opened the door to let this happen! The water poured into the car and it sank until the water reached the bottom of the windows.

I had two choices - walk back to the main road - couple of hundred yards or walk the 2 kilometres to the mill where I could get help. The water on the road was about waist deep so I figured the mill was the best bet! At one stage I realized the cane fields were above the water level so better to walk there! I forget there was a drainage ditch at the side of the road - one step and suddenly I was up to my neck in water!

At the mill I got help and they brought a front end loader to the car, attached a chain to the front of my car with the other end attached to the bucket of the front end loader and minutes later there was my bright orange Ford Escort, complete with white vinyl roof, hanging in the air with water pouring out of all four doors!

A Day in Alaska

by Michael Hooker

When I hosted our last Wanderlust Club meeting (for goodness knows how long) on the day before lockdown, I showed a video of my 2007 cruise from Prince Rupert to Alaska on the sailing schooner Maple Leaf (9 passengers and 5 crew).

Our last full day was truly memorable, going to the head of Alaska's Tracy Arm (south of Juneau), to see the North and South Sawyer Glaciers. This was in early June when there was still a lot of floating ice, also uncertainty about whether the ice would be too heavy for us to make it all the way.

The weather was really perfect – blue sky, little wind. Getting near the entrance to Tracy arm we could already see good-sized chunks of floating ice, so all our fingers were crossed!

As we motored slowly up the Arm there was quite a bit of ice in the water, so our mate was at the bow with a long pole, pushing the ice away and giving directions to the captain at the helm. We were followed in by the Holland America liner Zaandam, which passed us but about halfway up decided that Tracy Arm was not a safe place for a self-respecting cruise ship that day, so turned tail and headed back for the open (and more friendly) sea.

We continued on at a slow pace – huge cliffs on both sides, snow near the mountain tops. At one point we spotted a seal with a new pup – pup on a big ice floe and seal in the water trying to get back on the floe. Cheers when she succeeded.

To cut a long story short, we made it right to the top of Tracy Arm, then got into our Zodiacs to get as close to both the North and South Sawyer Glaciers as was safe. We didn't see any huge chunks of ice falling off but heard lots of ominous cracking and groaning sounds. What magnificent scenery!

Once we were all back on board, our intrepid Naturalist Andy McKinnon decided that the opportunity to take a salubrious swim in the Tracy Arm waters was just too good to pass up. So Andy was motored over to a convenient floe, and egged on by encouraging shouts from the rest of us, crawled up on the floe, made noises and gestures like a plunging seal, and took an ungraceful dive into the frigid waters. To our relief he surfaced, and was promptly hauled out, dried off, and re-clothed. Nobody dared follow him! Then we all drank a toast – a cocktail of several types of spirits, cooled with Sawyer Glacier ice.

That evening after dinner, in our last anchorage outside Tracy Arm, we sat around on deck, with entertainment provided by our captain, mate, and naturalist – guitars and voices. Next day we headed into Juneau, and after reminiscences of a really memorable cruise and sad farewells we were off to Juneau airport to rejoin the rest of the world.

I've included two photos of this great day: lunch on the Maple Leaf between glacier jaunts and our naturalist in full flight.

This was NOT your everyday Alaska cruise.



Escarpment Photo of the Month

This month's Escarpment Photo of the Month is a Yellow Trout Lily taken by Joy Castello on the Bruce Trail at the Britton Tract, part of the Halton Agreement Forest. Send your photos to david@bosscommunications.com and we will select one for inclusion each month.



Extra Photo of the Month:

You can experience nature from home! Taken by Gillian Reynolds from her front porch.



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 or 905-878-1293).

ACTIVITIES: ON HOLD

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	paulellen Crawford@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	paulellen Crawford@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	meijenscc@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	paulellen Crawford@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			

More from Ron Millichamp:

A travel agent looked up from his desk to see an old lady and an old gentleman peering in the shop window at the posters showing the glamorous destinations around the world.

The agent had had an excellent week and the dejected couple looking in the window gave him a rare feeling of generosity. He called them into his shop, 'I know that on your pension you could never hope to have a holiday, so I am sending you off to a fabulous resort at my expense, and I won't take no for an answer.'

He took them inside and asked his secretary to write two flight tickets and book a room in a five star hotel. Then, as can be expected, they gladly accepted, and were off.

About a month later the little old lady came in to his shop. 'And how did you like your holiday?' he asked eagerly.

'The flight was exciting and the room was lovely,' she said. 'I've come to thank you, but one thing puzzled me. Who was that old bugger I had to share the room with?'

RECENT EVENTS

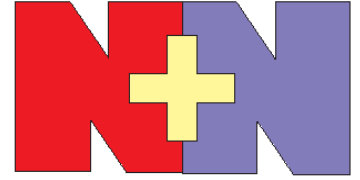
Clubs: Food and Drink

Nosh N Zoom

by Gillian Reynolds, Convenor



There were 21 Nosh N Natterers (and 1 young Nosh in training) on the Zoom call on Friday May 8th, which was VE Day (note my Union Jack t-shirt). It was great to see and hear some of our fellow Probianas again. It's been so long. I'm sure you are all missing our physical get togethers, but in these unusual times of COVID-19 restrictions (not helped by inclement weather), I'm sure we will get through this by each doing what we must. Cheers to the next happy Zoomtime!



D'Stillers taste 39 spirits in one virtual session

by Martin Capper, Correspondent

Not quite what the headline would lead you to believe (hmm where have we said that before?). Eight of the D'stillers got together via Zoom for their May session. It is clear that some of our members desperately need a buying trip to the LCBO with Chris tasting a vodka and a bourbon! His Scottish forebears must be spinning in their graves!

Wayne and Frank also showed some signs of deprivation by trying Hochtadders Rock and Rye and a mixture of rums and bourbons respectively. I rush to add that the rums and bourbons were sampled individually, not in one glass (things are not that bad!).

Spirit of the night was Chris's Tag #5 vodka - perhaps he started sampling before the rest of us :-)- with a score of 85! Followed closely by Frank's Forty Creek Double Barrel with a score of 84!

Pete, in a desperate bid to use up his Crown Royal stocks, went for a perfect storm of different versions and came up with a range of scores from 55 to 78, with top score going to the XO version and the former spirit of the year, Northern Harvest earning the wooden spoon!

Ted stuck to the single malts, Ron and I sampled what we called orphans and Russ covered the world from Ireland through Scotland to Canada.

Fun moment of the night was when the DDs unwittingly participated in Marg's book club meeting! Zoom isn't really designed for multitasking. Record for the night was Joanne's 32 unsuccessful attempts to join the DDs!



Clubs: Books, Hobbies, Games

Mozart under lockdown!

by Michael Hooker, Convenor

A small group of Mozart and Mob gave Zoom a try to see if it would be a workable substitute for our normal monthly musical soirees. While we enjoyed the experience, we felt that the sound quality of the music we played was so compromised by the time we got to listen to it that it was not worthwhile. O well, at least we tried!



To fill in the gaps left by “That Damn Virus”, many musical and stage organizations are making live and pre-recorded performances available free on YouTube and other on-line venues. Beth Barnes sent me this note about one of these performances she watched:

“One of the best performances I enjoyed on YouTube during the last month was Andrew Lloyd Weber’s musical “Love Never Dies”, the sequel to “The Phantom of the Opera”. This performance was filmed in 2011 in Melbourne, Australia, which is fortunate since the musical never made it to North America at that time.”

“The musical is set in Coney Island, where Madame Giry, her daughter Meg, and the Phantom have relocated, from Paris, and operate a carnival called Phantasma. When Christine Daaé, her husband, Raoul, and their 10 year old son, Gustave, arrive in Manhattan, the Phantom uses this as his opportunity to lure back his one true love! Ben Lewis is cast as the Phantom and Anna O’Byrne as Christine.”

“A world tour was just announced. “Love Never Dies” is scheduled to be performed on Broadway and will be coming to the Mirvish Theatre in Toronto in January, 2021... hopefully!”

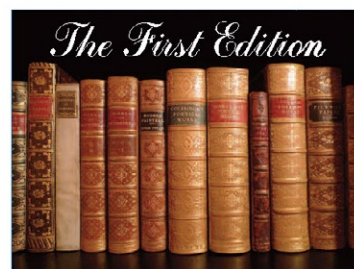
As for me (your currently unemployed Convenor), I’m an Opera Nut. Now I know what you’re thinking: “Anybody that gets pleasure out of watching / listening to a bunch of people in weird costumes screeching to each other interminably and unintelligibly in some weird foreign language around a story that only a baboon would believe” is certainly nuts. Actually, I agree with you, but (most of the time) I DO enjoy it. Both New York’s Metropolitan Opera and the Vienna State Opera are free streaming a different opera each day, and I’m watching quite a few, including several that I’ve never seen before. So, I’m happy, although on occasion I can be heard muttering: “Not another bloody opera!”

The Storied Life of AJ Fikry

by Cliff Read, Correspondent

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry is the story of bookseller A.J. Fikry’s life. It is a novel that has humour, romance, a touch of suspense, but most of all a love of books.

The plot is about a middle-aged man who owns a failing bookstore in New England. Depressed for the past several years following the death of his wife, Fikry is lonesome and somewhat cantankerous. The story revolves around his transformation as he gradually allows different characters into his life. Most notably, he adopts an abandoned two year old girl named Maya and eventually marries Amelia, a book rep who comes to the store.



Here and there, one is called upon to suspend one’s belief but this does little to dampen the readers’ enthusiasm for both characters and the plot.

The Globe and Mail review stated that this book “is a powerful novel about the power of novels”. The challenges facing the book-selling business in this electronic age and the overall importance of novels are both explored and addressed.

Our book club rated this novel an eight out of ten with a strong recommendation.

Quilting Online

by Diane Comstock, Correspondent

On May 5th, the Piece Makers again held a Zoom meeting online. Wendy showed us a quilted bag and her completed round robin project that she turned into a card table cover. Judy Nelson showed us her Modern quilt that she pieced and is now awaiting this pandemic to lift so she can bring it to a long-armed to quilt. Louise proudly showed us her completed round robin quilt that she stitched in the ditch. Diane showed the progress she has made on her BSP Friendship quilt. Judy Osman attended but has not yet attempted any sewing. She plans to buy some material to start one – we all encouraged her to contact Barbara to look over her stash first. Louise asked for pointers on starting her t-shirt quilt regarding interfacing and the proper method for cutting up the t-shirts.



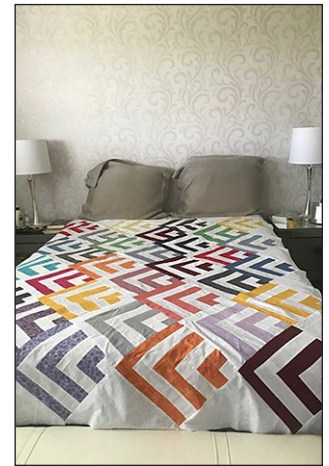
Quilting terms of the month:

Fusible web interfacing – A product that adds weight to fabric and can be ironed on for easier appliqué, providing great support to the fabric.

In-the-ditch – A stitching technique where you stitch along the seams in a quilt in order to define blocks or shapes. It is also referred to as stitch-in-the ditch.

Due to this nasty COVID-19 pandemic, it looks like we will be having another Zoom meeting in June or, if the weather is good, we might attempt a park meeting respecting 6-foot social distancing.

Anyone interested in quilting, consider joining the group.



Quick change

by Christine Willekes, Convenor

During our new isolated existence, the knitting group has not met but many are working on a variety of needlework projects at home. We're limited to the materials we have available. I know we can order online but one of the pleasures of knitting, crocheting or any other form of needle work is physically going into a store, browsing through the rows of yarn, checking out the new colours and textures, thinking about projects, imagining what we can create (usually for family members), bringing our materials home and sharing our "find" with friends. Ordering online is just not the same.

I asked the ladies to send pictures of what they were working on. They used what they had at home. Like digging out a rug hooking kit and finishing it. Using left over yarn to make doll clothes. Scarfs and toques, it's been a cold spring.

Pot holders and dishcloths, knit up quickly, are always useful and make great gifts. What about a produce bag for grocery shopping, a great idea that eliminates all that plastic. And of course, if the project didn't work out the first time, you have lots of time to "rip it out" and start again.

Take care everyone and stay safe. We'll celebrate when we finally meet.



Boppers Quiz Answers:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. (c) <i>The movie's over, it's 4 o'clock</i> | 8. (a) <i>Mac Heath</i> | 15 (c) <i>Motown</i> |
| 2. (b) <i>Blackboard Jungle</i> | 9. (c) <i>Tutti Fruitti</i> | 16 (a) <i>77 Sunset Strip</i> |
| 3. (a) <i>Angel</i> | 10 (c) <i>Alan Freed</i> | 17 (b) <i>Sandra Dee</i> |
| 4. (c) <i>Blueberry Hill</i> | 11 (a) <i>Little Richard</i> | 18 (b) <i>The Monotones</i> |
| 5. (a) <i>Mr. Sandman</i> | 12 (c) <i>Annette Funicello</i> | 19 (b) <i>Kissed</i> |
| 6. (c) <i>Sun</i> | 13 (b) <i>Don and Phil</i> | 20 (c) <i>Maybelline</i> |
| 7. (b) <i>Charlie Brown</i> | 14 (a) <i>Jiles P. Richardson</i> | |

MANAGEMENT TEAM



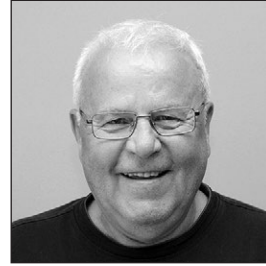
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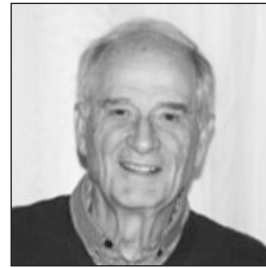
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FORUM - THE ESCARPMENT PROBUS CLUB NEWSMAGAZINE

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.