

# FORUM



Volume 9 — Issue 2 — April 2021

## President's Message:

### Praising PROBUS Participants



PROBUS month without cake again this year! What would we have done without PROBUS? How lucky are we? I know I feel very lucky keeping in contact with so many members of our club. Don't know how I would have survived without our monthly meeting to look forward to and great speakers. Thank you, Chris.

It seems like we have a lot of lottery winners. Postings on different media show happy Probians commenting on getting an appointment for their vaccination. I remember crying at the thought of getting a needle and now I can hardly wait.

Was it St. Patrick's Day, our guest speaker or members feeling more comfortable with Zoom? We had the largest participation yet in our March 17 general meeting. THANK YOU! It has been challenging for the management team but they have been outstanding. Ruth and her activity members have been incredible with their hard work and ideas. Entertainment with a strong humour content. Convenors have filled our calendars with activities both enjoyable and challenging. Marg and her committee have gotten the Friendship Club up and running and are always open to more members. They have so many plans and ideas but are in a bind with the ever-changing COVID regulations. Behind the scenes your management members are doing their part to keep your club running smoothly and safely.

We had our second Skip the Dishes this month. Over thirty people participated with Casa Americo serving up a great meal. What I found interesting was the noise level was down, but the conversation was up with more people participating. Being designated driver free allowed all of us to feel more relaxed. Great job Lorrette! Only problem are the stairs in our home. Nice to catch up with some familiar faces and become acquainted with new ones.

Keep well and stay in touch!

— *Wayne Herder*

## Editor's Note:

Lots of great information again this month - upcoming Zoom meetings for various activities and clubs, results of last month's events, and a couple of great stories!

Don't forget to send in your short bio (see Lorrette's in this issue)!

— *David Boss*

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# Escarpment Photo of the Month

This red-tailed hawk is a frequent visitor to Dawn Ross's back yard and she managed to capture a great portrait!  
Send your photos to [david@bosscommunications.com](mailto:david@bosscommunications.com) and I will select one for inclusion each month.



## Islands of the Mediterranean Trip – September, 2021

by Joanne Millichamp

Vaccination rollout has now begun in Halton Region, giving us all hope for the future of travel.

I have had several calls from people regarding our upcoming PROBUS trip. There are many variables involved in making a decision, such as the current COVID situation in the areas we would be travelling to, government warnings, flights, tour companies still in business, etc.

It is too early to make a final decision re the trip, and after contacting Fran Bulley, the owner of Tour Design, she sent the following comments:

1. “I am cautiously optimistic that we can travel if everyone who travels with us is vaccinated and has a negative COVID test before travelling. I am not sure we can position ourselves that way but that is my hope.”
2. “As to suppliers and the situation in Europe, if there is ANY DOUBT that it is safe to travel, we will postpone the trip.”
3. “We will not collect final payments until all areas of travel are cleared with the Canadian government as safe to travel.”
4. “If we do have to postpone the trip to 2022, the approach we take is that clients have the options as provided previously. We will maintain the tour cost to those already on the tour and move them to the new tour dates.”

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Nancy Liu ([nliu@glpworldwide.com](mailto:nliu@glpworldwide.com) or 1/888/923-9183). Nancy is in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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## Movie Night Launch Delayed

by Theresa Spano, Correspondent

The nice sunny warm weather is starting to peek through and staying in and watching television is probably going to be low on our minds as more outdoor social gatherings will begin as we start to receive our vaccinations.

Considering this we will be delaying the start up of our movie night club. We will take this time to review when will be the best time to relaunch the club.



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## Bridge Club Online

by Jeanne Reid, Convenor

The bridge club has been getting together and playing bridge on BBO (Bridge Base Online) with eight members participating several times a week. We are also playing on Trickster Cards, another card game site. Some games are the same time each week and some are more random.

I am playing more bridge than I ever have. We all love this game and will continue online until September when hopefully we can get together in person once again.



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# Chicken Cashew Casserole

By Auriel Halliday

This has been a go to favourite for over fifty years. I first tasted it a few months after we had arrived in Canada in 1969. We lived in Cooksville and rented an upstairs apartment from a lovely older couple. We had no TV, and on July 19th, the day of the first moon landing, we were invited for dinner with them and to share their TV coverage of the Apollo landing. I will always remember the moment when Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon's surface. I still have the TV Guide from that week and I still have the chicken recipe that we ate that night. I am sharing it with you. Enjoy.



Serves 4.

1 1/2 cups of cubed cooked chicken

1 can mandarin oranges

1 can cream of mushroom soup

2 cups chow mein noodles

1 cup chopped celery

1/2 cup chopped onion

1/2 cup cashews

Pepper and salt

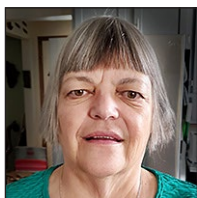
Beat the soup till smooth and blend in juice from the mandarins. Add all the other ingredients, except half the noodles, to a casserole dish. Stir well. Top with remaining noodles. Place in a 350 degree oven for about 40 minutes.

## Fifty year update:

Recently I made this recipe in my Instant Pot. It was really easy. I used fresh chicken breast, cut into pieces. I browned the chicken in the Instant Pot and then added everything except the mandarins and half the noodles. I set the pot to manual and set time to 10 minutes. As I thought the mandarins would fall apart, I added them when the cooking had finished. Then I added the remaining noodles and... Bob's your uncle!

## Member Bio

### Lorrette Shermet



My name is Lorrette Louisa Shermet, nee Haydar. I was born in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa. My sister Emily and I immigrated to Canada on November 10th, 1968, at the ages of 17 and 18. That was quite an experience for both of us as we had never experienced winter or temperatures below 60° F. With only a high school education I started working for Square D, an electrical company, in their mail room, and started night courses to become a key punch operator. I became a keypunch operator and then keypunch supervisor before leaving the company in 1979. I met my husband Pete at a Centennial College pub on November 11th 1971 in Toronto and we wed in September 1973. We lived in Bowmanville before moving to Milton in 1983. We have two daughters, Nadia who is married to Adam and has our two grandsons Eli (11) and Isaac (7), and Diana who is married to Mark and has our grand dog Duke and grand cat Malcolm. I have also worked at Sheridan College and Atomic Energy of Canada as an Administrative Assistant. I retired in 2011 from AECL and have been volunteering and working part time at Grace Anglican Church in Milton, as a church administrator. Both Pete and I are enjoying retirement and have travelled extensively, even returning to my birth place in 2011. I enjoy writing, travelling, playing board games, interacting with people and volunteering my time and energy.

# ACTIVITIES

*Spring. The smells. The colors. The flowers. The warmth.*

*By Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair*

Spring is here!! Time to get outdoors and enjoy the beautiful sunshine! In a book I recently read, a child asked an *older* man: “How old are you?” to which he replied “I’m 79 years old.” She continued with “Did you have fun getting that old?” to which he responded “What a great question. No one has ever asked me that before!”

Let’s have some fun regardless of whether we are indoors or getting outside with the nice weather we are having. We are working on some outdoor activities coming up in June so stay tuned for more details in the May Forum.

Speaking of fun, our St. Patrick’s Day event was a lot of fun with almost 50 Probians participating to make the evening a fine ole time ! Check out my article in Recent Events.

The winners of the March Monthly Meeting challenge for St. Patrick’s Day was Martin Capper who was given a (wee) bottle of Jameson! Thanks to Chris & Ellen Wallhouse for rising to the challenge and choosing the winner! Our contest for the April Monthly Meeting is all about Easter, so get out your Easter Bunny outfit or bonnet or whatever your imagination leads you to!

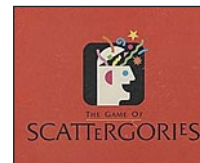
The Musical Bingo evening was fun and something we will repeat in the fall. The winners were: Frank Dawe with two wins; David Boss, Maggie Boss and Marg Jones each with one win! Winners received a \$10 Tim Horton’s card for each game!! Check out Kelly’s article for some fine tunes about it.

## APRIL ACTIVITIES:

**Zoom SCATTERGORIES – Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

*Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon*

It’s time for something new! Scattergories is a game that is easy to play, keeps the brain active and a great way to pass time with your fellow Probians! Join us on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm for a Zoom Scattergories. You can play this game alone but it might be a lot easier to have a partner! Hopefully COVID restrictions might be a tiny little bit relaxed and you can join someone or even make a team!



Here’s how it will work: For each round, a few words will be displayed on the screen. Kelly will roll the 20-sided die that shows letters of the alphabet. Whatever letter comes up is the letter that each word you answer must begin with. For example, let’s say the word is “name a food” and the letter “L” comes up. You can tell us “loaf of bread” or “liver” or “lunchables”, but the best creative response that is **not** duplicated by anyone else gets the point. So you need to be clever! It definitely tests the fluency and flexibility of your brain! In the time allotted, you must come up with the most original and unique word for each prompt on the screen.

What will you need? A piece of paper and a pen to write down your responses. We will have a “response sheet” document that you can print off to use, but you can always use your own. Email [kmgground@gmail.com](mailto:kmgground@gmail.com) or [gagnonruth@gmail.com](mailto:gagnonruth@gmail.com) to register!

Activities Committee  
Members:

*Ruth Gagnon  
Anne Gibbard  
Kelly Ground  
Irene Hiebert  
Joanne Millichamp  
Ron Millichamp  
Dawn Ross*

## **We're Back!! It's Trivia Night!! – Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

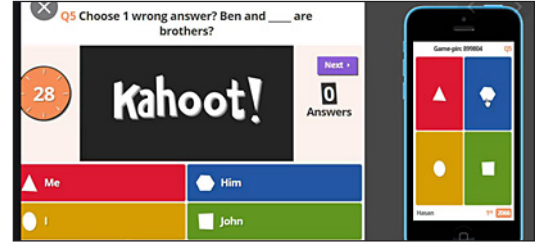
*Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon*

We had a lot of fun and laughter at our February 25<sup>th</sup> Zoom Trivia night and received a lot of positive feedback, which we appreciate. So we are going to try again on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm!

We will be using the same interactive technology and again have planned some fun that you can participate in from the comfort of your home! You can join us for a Trivia Night by yourself and even if you are a “couple” you can plan individually.

What you will need: Zoom (on your computer or tablet), and a cell phone or a tablet in order to input your answer. Once you have joined the Zoom call, we will give you instructions on how to access Kahoot! This is a multiple choice trivia game so you have a shot at getting the right answer!!!

Use your computer/tablet to join Zoom and your cell phone (a.k.a. your game device) to play.



At the start of our evening, you will be given a PIN to enable you to join the game. You will then **SPIN** to get your pseudonym name. Questions will be shown on the screen and you and or your team will have **30 seconds** to select the correct answer to the question. Points are awarded for the proper answer as well as for the speed with which you answer. There will be a prize for the top three players.

Email [kmground@gmail.com](mailto:kmground@gmail.com) or [gagnonruth@gmail.com](mailto:gagnonruth@gmail.com) to register!

## **MAY ACTIVITIES:**

### **Zoom Never Have I Ever!! - Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

*Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon*

Join us for a bunch of laughs and an opportunity to get to know your fellow Probians a little better. This is an activity for everyone! Random items will be displayed and we will want you to indicate – Never Have I Ever!! Or I Have!! Hear some interesting stories about your fellow Probians as we go through the evening! You can register by email to [kmground@gmail.com](mailto:kmground@gmail.com) or [gagnonruth@gmail.com](mailto:gagnonruth@gmail.com). This is sure to be an activity with loads of laughs and social interaction!



For those of you that played last time and are planning on playing again, please send Kelly or me a quick email to confirm ([kmground@gmail.com](mailto:kmground@gmail.com) or [gagnonruth@gmail.com](mailto:gagnonruth@gmail.com)). If you aren't playing this time around, please get the paddles back to us.

An email will be sent out a few days before the activity with the Zoom invite information and a Score Sheet.

## **JUNE ACTIVITIES:**

### **Eye Spy Photo Scavenger Hunt – Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm**

*Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon*

Yes, we are taking it back outside! Come on out and join your Escarpment PROBUS friends for a little fun! We will meet at 2 pm at Victoria Park to check in and start your Eye Spy Photo Scavenger Hunt. Whether you go “hunting” by yourself, with someone in your “bubble” or make a team, come on out and see a few friendly faces as we explore Old Milton. See what you can accomplish in two hours!! Remember to practice social distancing and bring a mask with you! Kelly and I will be waiting for you in Victoria Park to see what you accomplished!! We are working on heading to an outdoor terrace for a happy hour drink so stayed tuned on that. Please email us to let us know you are coming and if you are “hunting” on your own, in a “bubble” or “team” – [kmground@gmail.com](mailto:kmground@gmail.com) or [gagnonruth@gmail.com](mailto:gagnonruth@gmail.com). Rain date will be Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

## Play Day – Tuesday, June 22nd, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

Join us for an action packed Play Day! Let's bring out that youthful side of you and see how you roll. We will meet on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 pm at Rotary Park and play a variety of games like Yardzee, Bean Bag Toss, Lawn Darts, Ladder Ball and Washer Toss. The afternoon will take you on a Poker Run to see who has the best hand and ultimately our first Play Day winner! Once we are done we plan to head to an outdoor terrace for a happy hour drink. Stay tuned for more details! Don't miss out! Cost is \$5/member to cover the park rental, supplies and prizes! Please bring your cheque to the park. This event is limited to 25 members and will be based on a first come, first serve basis. To hold your spot, please register by sending an email to [kmground@gmail.com](mailto:kmground@gmail.com) or [gagnonruth@gmail.com](mailto:gagnonruth@gmail.com). Please indicate if you are joining us for a drink as well.

Note we are working on a rain date with the Town of Milton. Any changes to COVID restrictions affecting this activity will be communicated.

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

## MEETING: APRIL



### A Glimpse Behind The Curtain

For Nora Polley, 2020 marked 56 seasons with the Stratford Festival. Her father, grandfather and four siblings have all worked at the theatre over the years. A stage manager from 1969 to 2009, Nora now works part-time in the Stratford Festival Archives. She has an insider's view of how theatre works and sometimes doesn't.

## MEETING: MAY



### The Wreck of HMS Speedy

Dan Buchanan is "The History Guy of Brighton." Working from his home in Brighton, Ontario, he has written three books and is engaged in many activities related to local and Ontario history. As a guest speaker, Dan provides fascinating stories of Ontario history presented with humour and passion, either in person or virtually. See [www.danbuchananhistoryguy.com](http://www.danbuchananhistoryguy.com) for details

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.

### Zoom meeting etiquette:

**Mute your microphone:** To keep background noise to a minimum, mute your microphone when you are not speaking.

**Be mindful of background noise:** When your microphone is not muted, avoid activities that create noise broadcast to everyone, such as shuffling papers or speaking to the person sitting beside you.

**Position your camera properly:** Be sure it is in a stable position, at eye level, and fairly close to you. This helps create a sense of engagement for other participants.

**Limit distractions:** Turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and muting your smartphone make it easier to focus on the meeting.

# 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	paullelencrawford@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	paullelencrawford@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	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	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	paullelencrawford@gmail.com
Dining - Saturday Night Lives	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	judyckrauss@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

## Convenors and anyone else intending to use the Escarpment PROBUS Zoom account for an event:

The account allows the operation of one event at a time with up to 100 participants. To avoid scheduling conflicts, please contact our Zoom coordinator Lorrette Shermett ([lorrette@sympatico.ca](mailto:lorrette@sympatico.ca)) before planning your event.



# APRIL CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
<b>Activities</b>				
Scattergories	April 6	7:00 PM	Zoom	Kelly Ground/Ruth Gagnon
Executive Meeting	April 14	7:00 PM	Zoom	Wayne Herder
Trivia Night	April 20	7:00 PM	Zoom	Kelly Ground/Ruth Gagnon
Escarpment PROBUS monthly meeting	April 21	9:30 AM	Zoom	Wayne Herder
<b>Clubs</b>				
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only			Cliff Read
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	April 1	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	April 3	7:00 PM	Zoom	Jim Tschirhart
Crafts - Quilting - <i>Piece Makers</i>	April 6	1:00 PM	Zoom	Diane Comstock
Tastings - Whisky - <i>D'Stillers</i>	April 7	7:00 PM	Zoom	Chris Strachan
Travel - <i>Wanderlust</i>	April 8	7:00 PM	Zoom	Gloria Pennycook
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	April 10	7:00 PM	Zoom	Jim Tschirhart
Book Club - <i>First Edition</i>	April 12	1:00 PM	Zoom	Paul Crawford
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	April 12	7:00 PM	Zoom	Martin Capper
Book Club - <i>Sequel</i>	April 14	10:00 AM	Zoom	Catherine Parr
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	April 15	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	April 17	7:00 PM	Zoom	Jim Tschirhart
Dining - <i>Skip the Dishes</i>	April 18	6:00 PM	Zoom	Lorrette Shermet
Board Games (Yahtzee) - <i>Bee Gees</i>	April 20	1:00 PM	Zoom	Stephen Comstock
Tastings - Beer - <i>Suds and Buds</i>	April 22	7:00 PM	Zoom	Pete Shermet
Dining - <i>Nosh@Nite</i>	April 23	5:30 PM	Zoom	Paul & Ellen Crawford
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	April 24	7:00 PM	Zoom	Jim Tschirhart
Friendship Club	April 28	10:00 AM	Zoom	Judy Krauss
Board Games (Farkle) - <i>Bee Gees</i>	April 28	1:00 PM	Zoom	Stephen Comstock

## Puns are the best. You never see them coming..

- Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes, we arson.
- Writing my name in cursive is my signature move.
- Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? Swarm.
- If you're bad at haggling, you'll end up paying the price.
- Just so everyone's clear, I'm going to put my glasses on.
- A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone around.
- I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.
- Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.
- I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by. I kneaded the dough.
- My friends and I have named our band "Duvet". It's a cover band.
- I lost my girlfriend's audiobook, and now I'll never hear the end of it.
- Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock? Well, time will tell.
- When I told my contractor I didn't want carpeted steps, they gave me a blank stare.
- Prison is just one word to you, but for some people it's a whole sentence.
- Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person's walk, and the result was staggering.
- I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.
- I got over my addiction to chocolate, marshmallows, and nuts. I won't lie, it was a rocky road.
- What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up their own incision? Suture self.
- I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness.

— Submitted by Fred Ground

# RECENT EVENTS

## March Meeting

Our March Zoom General Meeting was held on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Here's the link to the recording of the meeting and guest speaker, astronomer and earth scientist Chris Vaughan.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Uh80WiLXncNSNR5uzmukpJgnqNIKhyQa0rL9fRnt2HnjWqUPUqNFU9xDK6YjcFgm.5XTNv9uuwYgBddwq)

[Uh80WiLXncNSNR5uzmukpJgnqNIKhyQa0rL9fRnt2HnjWqUPUqNFU9xDK6YjcFgm.5XTNv9uuwYgBddwq](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Uh80WiLXncNSNR5uzmukpJgnqNIKhyQa0rL9fRnt2HnjWqUPUqNFU9xDK6YjcFgm.5XTNv9uuwYgBddwq)

Passcode: 6&&fR3r2

## St. Patrick's Day Celebration!

by Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

Well our St. Patrick's Day celebration was quite a night with nearly 50 Probians joining in! Of course, the party didn't start until the Irish showed up! We kicked back in The Suborp Kitchen Pub – maybe we have even started a tradition!!! Lots of laughter, cheers, Irish music and dancing, trivia, Proverbs Match Ups and blessings all the way!

Special thanks to those who helped make the evening a success: Jim Campbell, Martin Capper, Norma Capper, Doreen Chester, Fred Ground, Patrick & Margaret Murphy, Avril O'Reilly, Pete Shermet and finally to my partner in crime with all these (COVID) activities – Kelly Ground! I couldn't do it without you and I promise I will get your email address right ([kmground@gmail.com](mailto:kmground@gmail.com))!!



## Musical Bingo

by Kelly Ground, Activities Committee

*Good Vibrations* were felt on the 23<sup>rd</sup> when *Billie Jean*, *Peggy Sue* and *Sweet Caroline* joined us online for our first attempt at Musical Bingo. *I Heard it Through the Grapevine* that the evening was a big success. *I'm into Something Good*, said Frank Dawe and Marg Jones who were the night's big winners winning three of the five games played. *Sealed with a Kiss* were the other two winners, David and Maggie Boss! *Proud Mary* insists that *Girls Just Want to Have Fun!* All in all it was *Simply the Best!*

Stay tuned for a new version of Musical Bingo that will happen in the fall featuring songs from three decades, from the likes of The Eagles, Queen, CCR, Smoky Robinson and the Beatles.



# Clubs: Food and Drink

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## Casa Americo

*By Lorette Shermet, Convenor*

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 30 participants met on Zoom for Skip the Dishes and enjoyed a meal from “Casa Americo”. We had a choice of a set menu, and we all enjoyed the meal.

Our next get together will be April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. and we will be ordering from Paramount Middle Eastern Kitchen. I spoke with the owner Ali and he would prefer if we placed our order on Monday and/or Tuesday for a Thursday pick up around 5.30 to 6 p.m. One chooses from their menu [www.paramountfinefoodsmenu.com](http://www.paramountfinefoodsmenu.com) Paramount is located at 1149 Maple Ave, 289-851-8883. If you would like to be included in the monthly distribution list, please email me at [lorrette@sympatico.ca](mailto:lorrette@sympatico.ca). Bon appétit.



## Irish Suds

*by Pete Shermet, Convenor*

Nine participants spent a very enjoyable evening with great friends and tasted three Irish beers.

The first beer was Harp, with a total score of 678, and an average of 75.3333.

The second beer was Smithwicks with a total score of 720 and an average of 80.

The third beer was Guinness with a total score of 696 and an average of 77.3333.

I thought it was a good choice of very drinkable beers. Since we resumed last month these three have had the closest ratings so far.



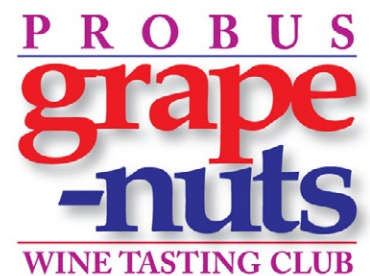
## Weekly wine tasting

*by Jim Tschirhart, Convenor*

Back in December, 39 Grapenutters set out to taste and rate 21 wines that were submitted by individuals or couples. Every Saturday since December 5<sup>th</sup> we have met via Zoom to review and score the wine of the week.

Well, we have almost sipped our way through the wines submitted, and it has been interesting. Seventeen down and four to go! The mix has been as diverse as the scores, but I think everyone is enjoying the experience.

I am working on our next set of tastings (hopefully outside) and will keep you posted.



# Clubs: Travel

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## Wandering Newfoundland

by Gloria Pennycook, Correspondent



We were delighted this month by a wonderful travel presentation on Newfoundland by Maggie and David Boss. Amazing pictures, wonderful scenery and beautiful people made us all want to go. I think Newfoundland will be a very busy place this summer with local travel becoming so popular!

On April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30, Liz and Cliff Read will take us south to Puerto Vallarta. Many of us would normally be travelling south at this time of the year, so here is our chance to live it virtually.

If you are interested in joining Wanderlust, please send me a note at [gpennycook@icloud.com](mailto:gpennycook@icloud.com) to let me know.

## Golf Trivia...

Golf balls are like eggs - they're white, they're sold by the dozen, and a week later you have to buy more.

The pro-shop gets its name from the fact that you must have the income of a professional golfer to buy anything in there.

It's amazing how a golfer who never helps with house or yard work will replace his divots, repair his ball marks, and rake his sand traps.

Did you ever notice that it's a lot easier to get up at 6:00 am to play golf than at 10:00 to mow the yard or go to church?

It takes longer to become good at golf than it does brain surgery. On the other hand, you seldom get to ride around in a cart, drink beer and eat hot dogs while performing brain surgery.

A good golf partner is one who's slightly worse than you.

The rake is always in the other trap.

If there's a storm rolling in, you'll be having the game of your life.

If your opponent has trouble remembering whether he shot a six or a seven, he probably shot an eight.

Golf appeals to the child in all of us. This is proven by our frequent inability to count past the number 5.

It's easy to keep your ball in the fairway, if you don't care which fairway.

If profanity had any influence on the flight of a ball, most everyone would play better.

The greatest sound in golf is the, "Whoosh, Whoosh, Whoosh" of your opponent's club as he hurls it across the fairway.

A recent survey shows that of all jobs, caddies live the longest. They get plenty of fresh air and exercise, and if there's ever a medical emergency, a doctor is always nearby.

The best wood for lowering your score is a pencil.

You may need lessons if you had to regrip your ball retriever.

Nothing straightens out a nasty slice like a sharp dogleg to the right.

Never wash your ball on the tee of a water hole.

No matter how badly you are playing, it's always possible to get worse.

# Clubs: Books, Hobbies, Games

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## The Golden Son

by Rosalind Jordan, Correspondent

Our readers gave *The Golden Son* by Shilpi Somaya Gowda a resounding average of 9. Overall we felt this book was an excellent read and would recommend it to others.

The “Golden Son” is Anil Patel, the eldest of the leading family in a tiny village in India. Leena was the only daughter of a poor family who lived and worked on the Patel land. Anil and Leena are playmates and friends throughout their childhood and we follow their lives in this book.

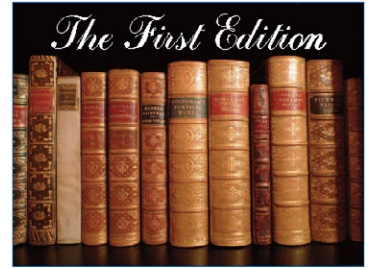
Anil is the first in his family to go to college and is trained by his father to be the community’s arbiter, just as his father and grandfather before him. He carries the weight of his family’s traditions and expectations when he leaves to begin residency in Dallas, Texas at a busy hospital. Moving to Dallas, Anil finds difficulties in the clash of two cultures and living in both.

Leena’s arranged marriage by her parents turns out not as she thought and eventually forces her to make a desperate choice, which then has drastic repercussions on her family.

Tender and bittersweet, this story shines a light on those people caught between past and present, tradition and modernity, duty and choice, the push and pull of living in two cultures, and the painful decisions we must make to find our true selves.

Ms Gowda was born in Toronto, holds a BA in Economics and an MBA from Stanford. She also wrote the national bestseller “Secret Daughter”. Her latest book is “The Shape of Family”.

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## Station Eleven

by Judy Nelson, Correspondent

The Sequel Book Club met on Zoom on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> to review our March selection, *Station Eleven*, written by Emily St. John Mandel. Ms. Mandel’s writing skills and style were praised by all present. The book was very readable.

The story is very topical, dealing with a flu pandemic that lasts for decades and directly and indirectly results in the death of more than 90% of the global population. The locale of the story was in territory familiar to most of us, much of it in and about the Great Lakes and cities surrounding them in both Canada and the United States. Readers follow the perilous lives of many characters. Many of these souls were members of a traveling orchestra performing on their trek through towns and villages along their way to safe haven. The members of the orchestra were simply referred to by the names of the instruments they play.

Since there were many people and few life resources for survivors of the pandemic, life itself became very dangerous at the hands of armed and violent people trying to prevent others from reaching safety at their expense. The traveling orchestra was trying to reach an airport in Severn City to live out their lives and their story takes us through their many trials and tribulations experienced in arriving there. At the height of the pandemic, passengers arriving were unable to leave the airport and many lived out the rest of their lives there. At least one plane simply landed and never did discharge their passengers or crew.

None of the members of our meeting recommended the book. One absentee member I spoke with subsequent to our zoom call did give it a qualified recommendation. The consensus seemed to be that while we appreciated the writing skill of the author, it was a little too close for comfort, reading an apocalyptic novel about a pandemic while living through our own pandemic. I personally found it alarming. Had I read it at a different time and in different circumstances I would probably have given it a recommendation. I do, however, look forward to reading another Emily St. John Mandel novel at a different time in less stressful circumstances.

Our April selection is *Black Rabbit Hall*, by Eve Chase.



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## Mozart Meets Schubert

by Michael Hooker, Convenor

No, in real life Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (died 1791) never met Franz Schubert (born 1797). But we Escarpment PROBUS Mozartians met the music of Franz Schubert courtesy of Asoka Yapa, who, via the Magic of Zoom, played us a fascinating cross-section of his music. Some pieces were well-known, others less so. Asoka finished with Schubert's best-known composition, his song "Ave Maria".



Schubert was one of the many great classical composers to die prematurely, but at only 31 he was the youngest. However, in his short lifetime he wrote many hundreds of pieces in a wide variety of musical styles – symphonies, solo piano, small instrumental groups such as trios or quartets, operas, music for plays, and over 600 songs for voice and piano. And he achieved a degree of musical maturity that many other famous composers who lived much longer must have envied. He is recognized as one of the (few) truly greatest classical composers, in the same class as Beethoven, Mozart, or Bach.

As a complete contrast, as the theme for my March Zoomer I picked "Folk Songs of the British Isles". Folk music, in dance, singing or instrumental playing, was one of the few entertainments for the "lower classes" before radio and cinema came along, and they composed and performed songs (often in their family setting) about many of the things that they knew best – work, sex and the various consequences, wars and battles, drinking, religion, humour and nonsense, and a whole lot more. Some songs go back hundreds of years.

We listened to songs from England, Scotland, and Ireland about love and abandonment, Scottish battles at the time of Bonny Prince Charlie, Napoleon Bonaparte, a shrewish wife who was too much for the devil, beer drinking, and more.

To give you a touch of the flavour, the following YouTube link takes you to one of the songs we listened to; something that would be dear to the hearts of many Escarpment Probians, a 2 minute song about a convivial booze-up in a pub. It's called "When Johnson's Ale was New", sung by A L (Bert) Lloyd. The song's first mention, under the title of "Jones Ale is new" was in the Stationer's Register in 1594. Enjoy.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNH-hVzTRpY&list=PLdxzX4OOQUYNMPrd0cncrBt6KnH\\_B4hwNd&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNH-hVzTRpY&list=PLdxzX4OOQUYNMPrd0cncrBt6KnH_B4hwNd&index=1)

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## Roll Those Dice!

by Diane Comstock, Correspondent



The BeeGees group swelled to eight players on Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> to play Yahtzee. The competition was fierce with two players (Dawn and Diane) rolling the elusive Yahtzee (5 of the same number), five players getting the top bonus of 35, and all but one player scoring 20+ for their Chance. In the end Pat beat out Beth by 6 points to take the podium.



On Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>, seven BeeGees played Farkle. Sixes were the magic number for Pat who rolled 3 of them multiple times throughout the game. Barb, Diane, and Dawn all rolled 3 pairs to increase their scores by 1500 with a free roll.

In the sixth round, Barb took advantage of the previous players' running totals to take the lead. In the seventh round she rolled five of a kind to take a dominant lead. Barb steadily increased her score to 9400, at which point she must have felt sorry for us, as she farkled in the 10th and 11th rounds. In the 12th round, Barb passed 10000 points. Marg did her best to defeat Barb by adding to Pat's running total and then rolling a straight, thus adding 3100 to make her final score 9300.

Anyone interested in joining our dice games, drop me an email ([meljenscc@sympatico.ca](mailto:meljenscc@sympatico.ca)).

# Sewing Videos

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

On Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the PieceMakers gathered together on Zoom for their monthly quilting meeting. Diane showed her projects that she completed from the Quilting Summit: a Valentine door hanger using patterns and instructions from three different lessons, a tea cosy, and another Trapunto project of a seahorse and shell. Carol Ann showed us her Log Cabin pillows, two of her Row-by-Rows: “Train to Agawa Canyon Tour” and “Stratford Festival”, and another project from the Quilting Summit: Welcome Bunny (including a flange binding). Wendy had completed a Christmas table runner and Louise had pieced a Rhapsody Table Runner. Dawn found some material and tried her hand at a Disappearing Nine Patch block – great job Dawn. Judy had quilts made from charm squares and said she was going to make table runners or placemats out of half-square triangles. She also played with disappearing nine-patch blocks.



The video on Scalloped Borders was not working, so we watched a video on the Rhapsody Table Runner: Binding with Inside Corners. We also discussed essential tools needed for our craft: cutting mat, rotary cutter & blades, and rulers. The following week we were able to watch the video on Scalloped Borders.

Quilting Terms of the Month:

**Ruler** – A heavy plastic measuring tool that is available in a variety of shapes and sizes. Most common are square, rectangle, and triangle, all with multiple markings to enable the cutting of various sizes.

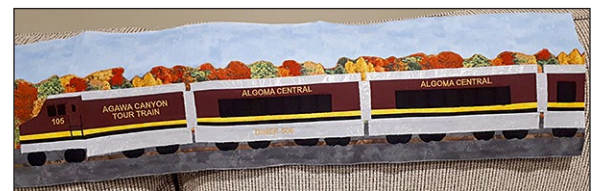


**Scalloped Border** – Term that is usually used to describe the rim edge or footed base of a plate, bowl, cup or other pieces of tableware. So if the edge of your quilt has a repeating pattern of humps or curves then it is considered to have a Scalloped Border.



Next meeting is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1pm where we will watch a video on and discuss making tubular bias binding.

Anyone interested in quilting whether it is large bed-size quilts or small table runners, consider joining the group or just join us in the Zoom meetings.



## Memories of the Boarding House

By Lorrette Shermet

The book the First Edition Book Club read for March was *The Golden Son* by Shilpi Somaya Gowda. I thoroughly enjoyed the book as it reminded me a lot of beautiful childhood memories. I felt I had a lot of similarities with Anil, the main character in the book. Anil spoke about his connection with his family in India and the big house. I would like to share my memories of the big house that we called “the boarding house”, a house that my grandfather Joseph built.

My grandparents Joseph and Lydia Haidar immigrated to German East Africa from Lebanon at the turn of the century as Lutheran missionaries. They were newlyweds and my grandmother was seven years younger than my grandfather so this was quite an adventure for her. After several years, my grandfather travelled to Germany and studied design and architecture, then returned to German East Africa and designed and built homes and hotels. The boarding house was one of the many homes he built and the Haidar family resided on the first storey.

My family situation is unique. There are three brothers married to three sisters, my father Emil and his two older brothers Albert and Louis, who married my mother Helen and her two sisters Tosia and Stasia. Tosia and my mother are fraternal twins. Their family of six came to Tanganyika as Polish refugees during the Second World War; that is another story for another time.

My immediate family consists of my sister Emily, who is 11 ½ months older than me, my parents and me. My aunt Tosia and Uncle Albert had three children and my aunt Stasia and Uncle Louis had two. From the oldest to the youngest there was an eight year difference. We all lived in the boarding house together, and other family members dwelled there as well.

Typical working or school hours in Tanzania are from 7.30 am to 5 pm, with a two hour lunch break from noon to 2 pm, Monday to Friday. On Saturday it was a half day from 7.30 am to noon. Our main mealtime was at noon and it always consisted of a three course meal - soup, the main course and dessert. Being of two ethnic backgrounds and living in a very multicultural community, our main meals were very culturally diverse. We had Arab dishes such as shish barak, mujaddara, and kibbeh; Polish dishes like pierogi, cabbage rolls, and borsht; Indian dishes such as curry, biriyani, and pilau; and Tanzanian dishes such as ugali, samaki and mishkaki just to name a few. At supper time we had something light, a sandwich or soup and we all ate together. We all sat at one table, at least fifteen of us, with my grandparents at the head. The meals were prepared by my mother and her sisters, but served by two servants who wore a long white kanzu with a red belt around their waist and a red fez. That is where we shared our daily stories; many times there were so many people talking and laughing that you could not hear yourself think. My uncle Ernie, a professor, sometimes used a gavel to control the noise. I heard the phrase “children should be seen and not heard” many times around that table.

We kids loved Saturday afternoons, it was our time to play together and make up our own games and stories. After lunch the adults used to nap and the children amused themselves, always playing together. We went to the local park and played such games as rounders, cricket, British bulldog, and hide and seek, or stayed closer to home and played on the verandah.

One of my most memorable times was Christmas. Obviously for us it was a green Christmas, living only eight degrees south of the equator and it being the hottest time of the year. We did have a real Christmas tree and home made decorations. One I recall was our imagination of snow – cotton balls. The men used to take all the children down to the beach in three or four carloads and spend at least three hours playing and swimming in the Indian Ocean while the ladies stayed back and prepared the feast. On this day we ate around 2 pm and after our meal we gathered in the living room and sang Christmas carols. While we were doing this “Father Christmas”, the man in the red suit, showed up – always arriving in a car and sometimes sitting in the trunk of the car. He always had one present for each child.

We all immigrated to Canada between 1968 and 1972. My sister and I were the first and the rest of my relatives followed, including my parents. Today we all live within a radius of about 50 km and get together three to four times a year, continuing to share and reminisce about our great life in the boarding house.



# Living the Dream

*By Michael Hooker*

At the beginning of 1956 I had just finished five years of working during the day for a firm of chartered accountants in Wellington, New Zealand, and attending university classes most evenings, finally getting my commerce degree. My Big Dream for years had been to get away and see if the rest of the world actually existed, so I booked a berth on a passenger ship to England as a start, and then I would see what I could make happen!

Unexpectedly, in February I had an opportunity (four months before my booking as a passenger) to sign on as crew on a first-class passenger ship, the Dominion Monarch, leaving from Wellington for London, and I jumped at it. What a chance – get to England, and get paid while travelling there! I spent a frantic few days: get passport, smallpox vaccination, tax clearance, resign from job, farewell to family and friends, pack, etc.

I spent five weeks on the ocean's wave – Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Cape Town, Canary Islands, London. My assigned job was as Galley Boy in one of the crew messes (Leading Hands), doing dishes, cleaning up, and other jobs. Food was great - Leading Hands got better food than regular crew, and I ate the same. Bunking six to a cabin wasn't a problem for me. The crew deck areas would now rate as "premium" – forward of the bridge to the bow (where I could sometimes see flying fish or porpoises) and the stern, where once I watched an albatross keep pace with the ship just a few feet out.

After three months in London, I got wanderlust again so headed over to Belgium to hitch-hike around Europe for a while, staying at youth hostels. And from people I met, I picked up tips on two jobs in Norway, which sounded like a fun way to spend the next winter: working on a coastal boat out of Bergen, and as odd job man at a small ski hotel near Lillehammer.

In September I got myself on a boat to Bergen from Newcastle, marched up to the Bergen Shipping Company, and found there WAS a job available immediately, on their Hurtigruten ship "Polarlys" (Polar Light). Working in the galley – dishes, preparing food, cleaning up, and so on. The Hurtigruten run is a 12-day round trip from Bergen round the North Cape to Kirkenes, way above the Arctic Circle. It's like a sea bus, linking 30 or so coastal ports together and never out of site of land. I ended up doing five round trips on the Polarlys, the last two being well into the winter season. Scenery was spectacular, and up north, really bleak. I remember on the last run, looking over the ship's bow in Kirkenes at the seawater freezing round the bow of the ship. On that trip the sun didn't come above the horizon for about five days. And on our way back south, the sun appeared and the crew cheered! As crew I didn't get much opportunity to really see the scenery, so 44 years later my wife and I did the same trip as passengers, in the spring. Absolutely gorgeous! I would recommend this voyage to anybody. We were on the ship on Norwegian Independence Day, and the ship's Purser arranged that any passenger interested could actually march in the Independence Day Parade in the City of Tromso, the world's largest city above the Arctic Circle, which we did! Crowds cheered us on, many of them dressed in their national costumes (beautiful), and we passengers waved back!

After Bergen I headed to Lillehammer and my job at the ski hotel. Lots of snow, but not as much opportunity to ski as I'd hoped for. A lot of hard work and long hours. Food was generally ok, but I couldn't stomach main dinner courses of raw herring or home-made blood pudding! So, after two months I quit and returned to London, to settle myself down and start having a more conventional life.

# Right place at the right time

By Alan Jordan - Occasional Correspondent

**H**ave you ever been in just the right place, at just the right time and had your camera ready? The best things happen when the timing surprises you – and you couldn't have planned them, even if you tried.

Such is the case with these pictures, all of which were taken at the exact right moment. If you asked the photographer of any of these photos to do this again, they more than likely couldn't. Whether it's a matter of depth of field, perspective, or just an awkwardly placed body part, these photos are once in a lifetime.



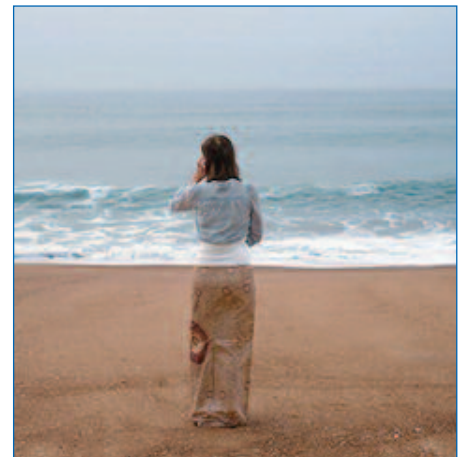
Mummy told me where babies came from.



Tai Che makes me look human.



Is someone watching us?



Now you see me, now you don't.



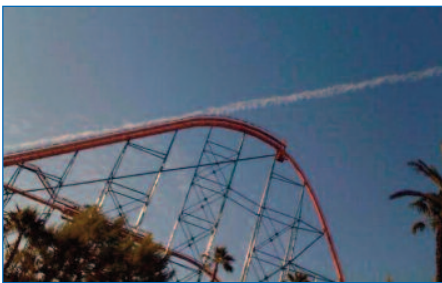
This new ice cream flavour is rubbish.



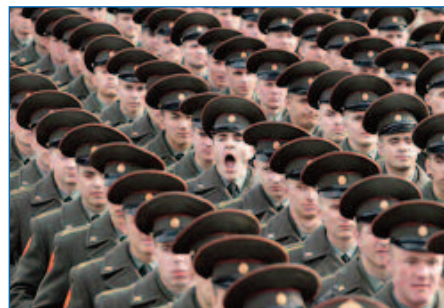
Catch me if you can!



Beware of supersonic eagles.



The new jet powered roller coaster.



Looks like I will be on KP tomorrow.



I lost my head during this floor exercise.



Obama forecasting the future, not good.

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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.