

FORUM



Volume 9 — Issue 1 — January 2021

President's Message:

A new (and hopefully better) year



Just had a piece of fruitcake. I am not sure if it was left over from last year or a new one. I do not know what is in them, but they last forever. I mention this because it reminds me of my PROBUS friends, they last forever. COVID did not cancel Christmas or New Year's, just made them different. Facetime, Zoom, telephone calls, distancing in person or just reading a book with a glass of wine, what a challenge it was to us all.

Ron Millichamp enabled us to relax and enjoy the season with his speaker, George Sanders. Music, history, pictures, and stories - what a way to end the year. Dave Boss has sent a copy of the presentation to all of you via email. If you have not watched it, pour yourself a coffee, hot chocolate or a glass of wine and enjoy. I watched it again just to catch some items I missed. Thanks to all of you who dressed up in your Christmas clothes, adding to the Christmas spirit. Liz initiated our meet and greet and breakout rooms before and after our meeting. What a great way to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.

We have continued with many of our clubs via Zoom and in person outdoors in small groups while social distancing. If you are looking for something to do, contact a convenor and find out if you can still participate in one of them. Ruth, our activity chair, has not only been thinking outside of the box but completely destroying it. What a great job by her and her team. All activities include the use of mask, where applicable, and social distancing as per health regulations.

Our general meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month via Zoom. If you need help getting on please contact us. If needed you can listen to us on a landline. This is your club and we would appreciate your ideas and comments. It is through submitting these that we remain vibrant. We can be reached at escarpmentprobus@gmail.com.

Wishing you a Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year.

— *Wayne Herder*

Editor's Note:

Happy New Year everyone!

This issue is even smaller than the previous COVID issues but hopefully December's lack of activity will not carry through into the new year. It's going to be a long winter folks, so let's continue to find new ways to (virtually) get together until we can meet again in person!

— *David Boss*

Contents:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Activities..... | 2 |
| January Meeting | 3 |
| Club List..... | 3 |
| Recent Events | |
| December Meeting..... | 4 |
| Clubs..... | 4 |
| Management Page | 8 |

ACTIVITIES

Bringing in the New Year!

By Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

After our meeting in December, I decided I was going to reach out to a few Probians just to say hi and I'm thinking about them. Well a few people ended up being ten! It felt good doing it, but it was also really nice to hear back from almost all of them!! I encourage you to reach out to your PROBUS family and start a conversation, especially during this "lockdown"! It brought sunshine to my day and maybe it will to yours too!

On December 9th, we had a Zoom Personal Fitness Training session with 11 members participating. The instructor (Eric Daw) was really good and there was great feedback. The session focused on balance, coordination, strength, flexibility and posture. Eric even included some cognitive exercises, which is really a good thing for "our" age group! There are lots of "free" exercises on YouTube that have been shared with me by friends and family. You can do things from Pilates to exercise classes to walking. Let's make sure we keep moving and stay fit!

Our monthly contest continues! Our theme for January is something for all of us to participate in...no prizes this time! Let's see how many of us can wear our PROBUS name badge! Do you know where yours is??

The winners of our December ugliest/nicest Christmas sweater contest (selected by Joanne Millichamp) were Theresa Spano and Ellen Wallhouse. Theresa has won two years in a row (with different outfits, I might add) so the competition is on for next year!! They were each given a couple of beautiful Christmas decorations made by our very own Kelly Ground!!

Check out our Zoom Scavenger Hunt@Home on January 28th. Details are below. Watch for info coming next month on our February Zoom Activity!

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

JANUARY ACTIVITY:

Zoom Scavenger Hunt@Home

Convenors: Ruth Gagnon and Kelly Ground

Join us for a Zoom Scavenger Hunt@Home on Thursday, January 28th from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. We will give you a list of items to find in your home and show us (Kelly and Ruth) on Zoom. Points will be counted for the number of items retrieved and whoever gets more items the quickest. Items will be given a few at a time so there will be some back and forth! Think of the steps you might be able to get into your day! There will be a prize for the couple with the most points and the fabulous single person to get the most points! This is an opportunity to get moving as well as have some laughs and see your friends!! The "hunt" will end at 4 pm with a happy hour drink - of your choice - at your home! Register by contacting gagnonruth@gmail.com. An email will be sent out a few days before with the Zoom information. Let's have some fun!!!

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

MEETING: JANUARY

We will hold our next Zoom General Meeting on January 20 at 9:30 am. This meeting will include a guest speaker (see below). You will receive a link to the registration form in an email in early January.

Harness racing in Canada



Anthony MacDonald is the Co-founder and President of TheStable.ca, horse racing's fastest growing fractional ownership operation and the largest harness racing stable in Canada. During the past five years, Anthony has spoken about horse racing at dozens of venues across North America plus New Zealand and Australia.

In February 2020, Anthony MacDonald was awarded the Cam Fella Award by Standardbred Canada, recognizing meritorious service to the Canadian harness racing industry and extreme effort and dedication to Canadian harness racing.

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

SOCIAL CLUBS

| Club | Date/Time | Convenor | Telephone | Email |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Board Games - <i>Bee Gees</i> | 2nd Wed. - 1 pm | Stephen Comstock | 905-876-4909 | scomstoc@sympatico.ca |
| Board Games - <i>Jokers</i> | 2nd Thurs. - 1:30 pm | Auriel Halliday | 905-336-2430 | aurielh@gmail.com |
| Board Games - <i>Jokers</i> | 4th Wed. - 1 pm | Auriel Halliday | 905-336-2430 | aurielh@gmail.com |
| Book Club - <i>First Edition</i> | 2nd Mon. - 1 pm | Paul Crawford | 289-878-4968 | pauellencrawford@gmail.com |
| Book Club - <i>Happy Bookers</i> | 4th Thurs. - 12:30 pm | Judy Wallace | 905-878-3374 | lollipops@sympatico.ca |
| Book Club - <i>Ravenous Readers Recycling</i> | 3rd Wed. - Probus meeting | Ellen Crawford | 289-878-4968 | pauellencrawford@gmail.com |
| Book Club - <i>Sequel</i> | 2nd Wed. - 10 am | Carolyn Rumley | 905-302-0442 | carolynrumley@sympatico.ca |
| Book Club - <i>Trilogy</i> | 2nd Wed. - 10 am | Linda Green | 289-851-8655 | 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 | mejenscc@sympatico.ca |
| Dining - <i>Appy Hour</i> | Last Sat. - 6:30 pm | Mary Cousins | 416-628-6275 | mlecousins@outlook.com |
| Dining - <i>Lunch Bunch</i> | 3rd Wed. - noon | Bonnie Lennox | 416-899-7727 | bblennox@live.ca |
| Dining - <i>Nosh 'N' Natter</i> | 1st Fri. - 5:30 pm | Gillian Reynolds | 905-878-1636 | gilliana@cogeco.ca |
| Dining - <i>Nosh 'N' Natter</i> | 2nd Fri. - 5:30 pm | Gillian Reynolds | 905-878-1636 | gilliana@cogeco.ca |
| Dining - <i>Nosh@Nite</i> | 4th Fri. - 5:30 pm | Paul & Ellen Crawford | 289-878-4968 | pauellencrawford@gmail.com |
| Dining - 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 | 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 | | | |

RECENT EVENTS

December Meeting

Our December Zoom General Meeting was held on December 16th. Here's the link to the recording of the meeting and guest speaker George Sanford's very entertaining Christmas presentation in case you missed the email distribution.

https://video.wixstatic.com/video/db9c0b_3f95fd7184cd40aba0d33df9bbab43c2/720p/mp4/file.mp4

Clubs: Books, Hobbies, Games

Around the World

by Michael Hooker, Convenor

As we've all been prevented from "in person" travel for most of this year, our two December Zoom Musical Offerings took us on an international odyssey.

Asoka Yapa presented "Dreaming of the Zambezi"* – Music by Hennie Bekker. Born in South Africa, Bekker, who is a self-taught keyboardist, moved to Canada in 1987 and became involved with Canada's music industry. He partnered with Canada's nature sound recordist Dan Gibson, and they have composed and produced many nature albums that are a staple of museum shops across North America. In this presentation, Bekker drew on his African roots to paint a vivid musical picture of the land, people, and wildlife, complete with lots of animal, bird, insect, and nature sounds of Africa. Fascinating! Asoka started with a six-minute video by Bekker "The Heart of Africa". Here's a link to the YouTube video, if you'd like to taste the waters!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UzG5VbddLw&t=2s>

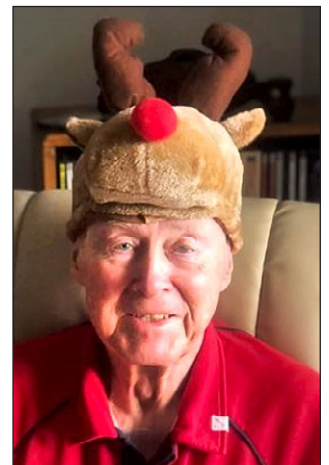
*At over 2500 km, the Zambezi River is Africa's fourth longest. It rises in Zambia, flows through Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique before emptying into the Indian Ocean.

I hosted our second musical travelogue, with music around Christmas as my theme. Most were from the British Isles; others from USA, Poland, Germany, and of course Canada. My objective was a musical picture of the whole Christmas season, both religious and secular (where all the fun stuff is!). And I surprised our listeners by staying away from most of the usual Christmas music, and concentrated on pieces that were "off the beaten track", e.g., Shape Note carol singing in Alabama, African-American song to greet the first light on New Year's Day, a carol composed by King Henry VIII (both words and music), a Wassailers' song in Welsh, the Carol "Silent Night" with its original accompaniment of guitar, horn and strings, a Quebec "Reveillon" dinner song, and a home-made video of Newfoundland Mummings singing and having a real blast!

The "mumming" bit inspired one cheeky lady to propose that Escarpment PROBUS would benefit from a Mumming Club! Here's the YouTube link to this clip, so you can see for yourself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqryeHRIOt4>

We had ten people (plus assorted cats and dogs) on the Zoom for this session, by far the most at any of our Zoom sessions to date. And judging by the comments at the end, I certainly achieved my objective of surprising everybody! We all left feeling very Christmassy.



Third Time's a Charm

by Diane Comstock, Correspondent

The BeeGees zoomed together three times in December, twice to play Farkle and once to play Yahtzee.

During the Farkle game on Dec. 8th, Beth opened on the first round with four of a kind for 1000 points. On her second round she rolled five of a kind for 2000 points. She continued to increase her lead with rounds of 500, 1300, 2550, 650, and finally after 9 rounds she rolled 3150 to finish the game with 11900 points. Not bad for only her third time playing the game. On the other hand, Marg gave herself the title of Farkling Queen after she farkled 7 rounds.

On Dec. 23rd, we welcomed Wendy to the group to play Yahtzee. In the first game, everyone had issues getting 3 of a kind in order to achieve the top bonus. Lorel and Diane scored very close in the lower section, but Diane won out with the help of a Yahtzee of 1s. In the second game, Lorhel rolled four of a kind thrice to help achieve the bonus in the upper section. She even rolled a Yahtzee and did not enter a zero in any of the lower section categories. She seemed to have first place locked up. But alas, despite not achieving the upper bonus and scoring zero for her large straight, Marg overcame these obstacles by rolling not one but two Yahtzees and finishing the game with 335 points. Sorry the dice were not kind to our first time player (Wendy). Hope this does not scare you away!

Seven players threw dice again on Dec. 30 in a Farkle game. Pat and Lorrette were quick out of the gate as both opened on their first throw. Five players earned 1500 points by throwing three pairs and 2 players earned 1500 points by throwing straights. Lorrette had the lead right up to the 11th round, ending with a score of 10200. Each player had one more turn to try and beat her score, so Diane rolled 1750 to end with 10600, then Marg rolled 1050 to up her score to 10700 and was crowned the winner.

In the new year, we plan to play on the second Tuesdays and the fourth Wednesdays. Anyone interested in joining our dice games, drop me an email (meljenscc@sympatico.ca).



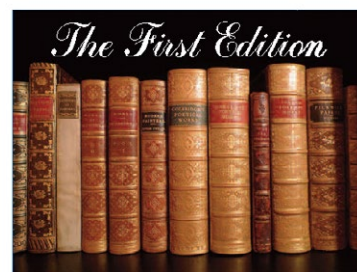
Night Tiger

by Penny McIlwaine, Correspondent

Author Yangsze Choo set this novel in 1930's Malaya which is now Malaysia. At that time Malaya was a British colony and a temporary haven for many Britons who left their native land to serve in a professional capacity or to escape from their families or indiscretions.

The novel pulls us into a world of servants and masters, superstition and dreams, sibling rivalry and forbidden love, among several other themes. The two protagonists are Ji Lin, a smart and ambitious young woman and Ren, an 11-year-old orphan and houseboy to the local physician. Each is searching for a place in a society that would rather they stay invisible and each is endearing in his or her own way. The other characters are well drawn; many were unlikeable or even abhorrent, which some of the members found disturbing.

The book has an uplifting "Hollywood ending" that all members agreed was entirely appropriate; not every author manages this so deftly. Members ranged in their rating of the book from 5 to 8.5 out of 10.



Tips and Tricks

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

On Tuesday, December 1st, the PieceMakers gathered together on Zoom for their monthly quilting meeting. Judy Osman joined us to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. She told us that her shoulder surgery went well and she is hoping to be able to quilt in the New Year. Wendy had completed the quilting of her Snowman table runner using fabric with Merry Christmas writing. Judy showed us a black/yellow/white top made from strip sets. She also showed us the fabric she is auditioning for her next project. Carol Ann showed us her pieced Cardinal table runner and completed cushion. She also showed us her pieced Ice Crystal blocks # 4, 5, 6, and 7. Louise told us that she now has an “Add-a-Quarter” ruler and hopes to start piecing the Ice Crystal blocks. Diane showed her completed placemat using the Ice Crystal block #2. She also showed the completed thermometers that will be part of her grandchildren’s temperature quilts. She then shared an article entitled “What can I do with a 5” square?”



Quilting terms of the month:

Auditioning – To try things out–to test, to consider–to see what will work the best and which choice will move you closer to your goal. It is recommended to use a design wall so that the choices can be viewed from a distance.

Design Wall – A vertical surface often covered with batting or felt used by quilters to lay out fabrics and blocks for a quilt before stitching them together. Design walls are an excellent way to try different layouts before making a final decision on your quilt.

Strip Piecing – A technique of sewing fabric cut into strips together accurately and quickly and then cutting those fabric strip sets into new blocks and designs. A classic version of this is Seminole Patchwork.

We will be starting the New Year with a meeting on January 5th via Zoom. We will start the meeting with our usual Show and Tell then Diane/Wendy will share a video showing the Disappearing Nine Patch Tips and Tricks by Deb Tucker. Anyone interested in quilting, consider joining the group.

~~~~~  
Answering machine message: “I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes.”

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

— Submitted by Fred Ground

# Escarpment Photo of the Month

This month's featured photo of the Mill Pond after our first snow was taken by John Flynn.

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



## SMILE OF THE DAY

A boy comes back from school, disappointed, because he got a zero on a geography exam. “The teacher gave me a zero because I couldn’t answer a question on Portugal,” he said.

His mother asked, “What was the question?” “Where’s Portugal.”

“The idiot teacher, I’m going to call the principal’s office. In the meantime we’re going to find where Portugal is.”

She gets a map of the state and can’t find Portugal. Then she gets a map of the region and still can’t find Portugal. She gets a map of the city and can’t find Portugal.

“I swear Portugal can’t be far. The maid is from Portugal and she comes here to work every day on her bicycle.”

— *Submitted by Fred Ground*

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 Lorette Shernet know and she will gladly send a greeting card (contact [lorrette@sympatico.ca](mailto:lorrette@sympatico.ca) or 905-878-1293).

# MANAGEMENT TEAM



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## Happy ZOOM Year!

Well 2020 turned out to be an amazing year for online connectivity. Who knew that 10 short (?) months ago, we'd be pegging our Crib boards, tasting our whiskey and quilting our blankets, all via the internet. A great big pat on the back to all who ventured onto this technology and embraced it to stay connected with family and friends.

It was a year of learning for all of us. If you haven't yet tried to Zoom with PROBUS, you'll have lots of opportunities in 2021. There's support resources available on our Escarpment PROBUS website, and as always, there's lots of folks around who would be happy to assist you ~~ just reach out and let us know you'd like a tutorial.

I'm also happy to share that Lorrette Shermet has assumed the role of Zoom Master, and is now available to schedule your club zoom bookings for 2021.

It's been a pleasure zooming with you over the past year. Until we meet again (in person), cheers to a wonderful New Year and many virtual connections still to come!

— *Jenny O'Brien, Outgoing Secretary/Zoom Co-ordinator*

### 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.