

FORUM



Volume 9 — Issue 6 — June 2021

President's Message:

Party Time



Watching Midsomer Murders on Netflix, I never knew there were so many festivals that regretfully always ended in murder. Spring is the start of festival time in Canada, without the murders! We have just finished our Victoria Day holiday, often referred to as the “May 24” weekend although it seldom lands on the 24th. This year it did.

Victoria Day is the unofficial start of summer in Canada. Queen Victoria was born on May 24, 1819. Each May 24 her birthday was celebrated with fireworks, sport competitions, parades and cannon salutes. In 1901, upon her death, the Canadian Parliament named May 24 the Victoria Day Holiday. In 1952 it was decided to celebrate it on the closest Monday before May 24, regardless of the date.

Due to Covid restrictions, no huge outdoor celebrations were held. Milton did not disappoint however. Many neighbourhoods held their own fireworks throughout the weekend.

Canada Day is fast approaching. I know you all have different political affiliations but we all can agree that Canada is the best country in the world. Wear your red and white and help celebrate our birthday. Hopefully the strawberry season will be in full swing and we can enjoy strawberry shortcake with whipped cream (my favourite is with vanilla ice cream). Enjoy the outdoors with family and friends while following health regulations. This pandemic has been a devastating time in Canada. Let's celebrate wisely and kindly. We have a patriotic duty to do so.

Take care of yourselves and hope to see you soon.

— *Wayne Herder*

Annual Dues

by Penny McIlwaine, Membership Chair

Over the past months I have received calls and emails from Probians concerned about payment of annual dues and the status of their membership. Although we have not been able to meet in person since February 2020, the Management Committee has deferred collection of dues for the past year and all members remain in good standing.

At the General Meeting on Wednesday May 19th, Treasurer Ted Chliszczyk announced that we will be collecting annual dues in the next few months. The fee has remained the same since our inception in 2013 but due to increasing costs the renewal fee will be \$55.00 for the upcoming year. You will receive an email when your dues are payable. At the next General Meeting on Wednesday June 16th there will be further information. If you are unable to attend the June meeting you can listen to the recording using the link provided in the July Forum.

If you have any questions please email me at pennymcilw@gmail.com. Remember to keep safe and keep in touch.

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The Times they are a-Changin

by Diane Comstock, Vice-President

Over the last six months, the management committee has been reviewing our website and that of other PROBUS clubs and looking into membership management software. We noted that our website is very static - with changes to the activity and meeting pages, the Forum page, and a calendar page that have to be manually created every month. Other PROBUS clubs have very integrated websites with real-time information: events, member profiles with photos, club updates, and auto-generated calendars, news blogs, and member discussions.

We have decided to follow the times and implement a member management system complete with a robust interactive website and a mobile app for those who love their phones. Event invites, registration confirmations, and reminders via automated emails will be implemented, thus making the work required by the Activities and Social Chairs more efficient as well as there being potential to reduce certain aspects of their roles. Members will be able to renew their membership online and pay by credit card, reducing the number of cheques processed by event coordinators, the Membership Chair, and the Treasurer.

In order to do this, we have organized an implementation committee and need a technology committee. The first to help make content and implementation decisions during the next two months and the other comprised of tech savvy individuals willing to assist members to embrace this new technology. If you would like to help with the technology committee, please contact me (meljenscc@sympatico.ca) to discuss further.

Stay tuned for exciting changes!

Is it your time to step up to a management role?

by Liz Read

Our Escarpment PROBUS club has continued to be vital and vibrant due to members taking on the roles necessary to keep our club functioning.

Over the past eight years, there have been 36 people on the management team. Seven people have participated more than once. [This link to the management committee history chart](#) shows the members who have already contributed to our success as a club over the years.

It is time now to begin recruitment for the management positions that are due for replacement this fall. We are looking for a (male) vice-president, membership chair, treasurer, newsletter/website editor, and activities chair. A committee consisting of Martin Capper, Diane Comstock, Wayne Herder, Liz Read and Lorrette Shermet will be searching for people to take on these key roles.

Do not hide your light under a bushel – we need new faces, new ideas, and new enthusiasm. Contact Liz Read (elizaread@gmail.com) or anyone on the recruitment committee if you are interested in joining the team or want to learn more about one of the positions.

Escarpment Photo of the Month

This month we have a recent photo of the Mill Pond by Gillian Reynolds. If you haven't been there, check it out! A great place for a walk through the woods and it's right in the heart of Milton!

Send your photos to david@bosscommunications.com and I will select one for inclusion each month.



In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.'

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October) Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig.'

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.'

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

— Submitted by Fred Ground

ACTIVITIES

Live in the Moment

by Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

I have a pillow that says “Live in the moment”. Meaningful words! Challenging these days, but a good message! I think we can all use a little encouragement right now...

Life is short; don't ever waste it.
Life is sweet; take time to taste it.
Life is a journey; find the right path.
Life is entertaining; don't be afraid to laugh.
Life is for good times; make them last.
Life has its bad times; put them in your past.
Life is a chance; make sure to take it.
But most importantly, life is what you make it.

- Author Unknown

We again got lots of laughs at our Never Have I Ever event. Of course, there was also a lot of fun at our Zoom Musical Bingo. Check out the articles in RECENT EVENTS!

The winner of the May Monthly Meeting for their Spring Fling was Marion Flowers for her hat of flowers with its own watering can! You did an awesome job Marion! Marion's prize was a bottle of Lindeman's Sauvignon Blanc which will be delivered after we are out of our lockdown. Special acknowledgement to Pete Shermet's “spring” hat!

Our June monthly contest will be our finale and will be your dry run for Canada Day! Let's see some patriotism!

Unfortunately, provincial restrictions have resulted in us having to cancel our June 8th Eye Spy Scavenger Hunt. We will now be having a Zoom Scattergories on June 8th at 7 pm. We are also cancelling the Play Day as (currently) provincial restrictions may allow for a maximum of 10 people outdoors. So we will have another Trivia Night on June 22nd at 7 pm. See the details for both activities below.

JUNE ACTIVITIES:

Eye Spy Photo Scavenger Hunt – Tuesday, June 8th, 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 out your Eye Spy Photo Scavenger Hunt. Whether you go “hunting” by yourself in your “bubble” or make a team, come on out and see a few friends to explore Old Milton. See what you can accomplish in two hours!! Remember social distancing and bring a mask with you! Kelly and I will be waiting at Victoria Park to see what you accomplished!! We are working on heading to 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 as a “team” – kmgground@gmail.com or gagnonruth@gmail.com. Rain date will be Friday, June 11th at 2:00 pm.

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



NEW!!! ZOOM Scattergories – Tuesday, June 8th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon



It's time for another game of Scattergories! Join us on Tuesday, June 8th at 7:00 pm for a Zoom Scattergories. 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 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 an "answer sheet" that you can print off to use, but you can always use your own. Email kmground@gmail.com or gagnonruth@gmail.com to register!

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 22nd 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 determine who has the best hand and ultimately determine our first Play Day winner! Once we are done we plan to have a drink on the patio or terrace for a happy hour drink. Stay tuned for more details! Don't miss out! **Cost is \$5/member for park rental, supplies and prizes! Please bring your cheque to the park. This event is limited to 20 people and will be on a first come, first served basis.** To hold your spot, please register by sending an email to kmground@gmail.com or gagnonruth@gmail.com. Please indicate whether you are joining us for a drink or just working on a rain date as well.

CANCELLED

NEW!!! Zoom Trivia Night! Tuesday, June 22nd, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

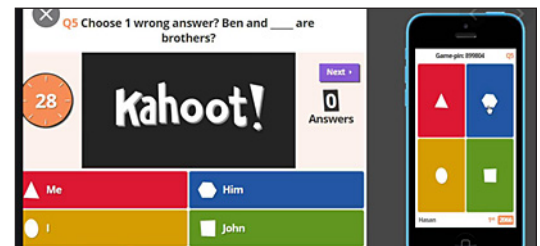
Well, our "Play Day" will happen sometime in the future and meanwhile we are coming back to you with another Zoom Trivia Night! Join us for some fun and laughter! We will be using the same interactive technology and again have planned some fun that you can participate in from the comfort of your home! You can join us for Trivia Night by yourself and even if you are a "couple" you can play 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 or gagnonruth@gmail.com to register!



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

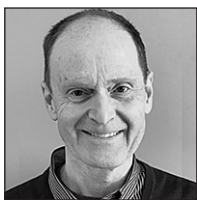
MEETING: JUNE



Artificial Intelligence

David Chandross (M.Sc., M.Ed., Ph.D.) is currently a senior scholar in residence at the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University. He has done pioneering work on the role of learning in the prevention of dementia in seniors and the use of technology such as virtual reality. He is also an expert historian in the field of women's studies, including the history of fashion and the scientific achievements of female scholars, and served as academic dean for the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine for 10 years.

MEETING: JULY



Glenn Gould

Dr. Chris Decker was born in 1952 in Toronto. After graduating from U of T Medical School in 1978, he went to Calgary, Alberta, and did residencies in Family Medicine and General Surgery. He returned to Ontario in 1987 and practiced General Surgery in Orillia, Thunder Bay and Parry Sound. He retired from full practice in 2016; lives in the Orillia area, and still works assisting in the ORs there.

He is a great lover of history and enjoys researching exceptional persons who have passed through the environs of central Ontario. He gives presentations on selected people who have added some colour to those communities.

JUNE CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
Activities				
Zoom Scattergories	June 8	7:00 PM	Zoom	Kelly Ground/Ruth Gagnon
Executive Meeting	June 9	7:00 PM	Zoom	Wayne Herder
Escarpment PROBUS monthly meeting	June 16	9:30 AM	Zoom	Wayne Herder
Zoom Trivia Night	June 22	7:00 PM	Zoom	Kelly Ground/Ruth Gagnon
Clubs				
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only			Cliff Read
Crafts - Quilting - <i>Piece Makers</i>	June 8	1:00 PM	Zoom	Diane Comstock
Board Games (Yahtzee) - <i>Bee Gees</i>	June 9	3:30 PM	Zoom	Diane Comstock
Book Club - <i>Sequel</i>	June 9	1:00 PM	Zoom	Carolyn Rumley
Travel - <i>Wanderlust</i>	June 10	7:00 PM	Zoom	Gloria Pennycook
Book Club - <i>First Edition</i>	June 14	1:00 PM	Zoom	Paul Crawford
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	June 14	7:00 PM	Zoom	Martin Capper
Dining - <i>Skip the Dishes</i>	June 17	6:00 PM	Zoom	Lorrette Shermet
Friendship Club	June 23	10:00 AM	Zoom	Judy Krauss
Board Games (Farkle) - <i>Bee Gees</i>	June 23	1:00 PM	Zoom	Diane Comstock
Tastings - Beer - <i>Suds and Buds</i>	June 24	7:00 PM	Zoom	Pete Shermet

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	lollipop@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) before planning your event.

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.

RECENT EVENTS

May Meeting

Our May Zoom General Meeting was held on May 19th. Here's the link to the recording of the meeting and guest speaker Dan Buchanan, who spoke about "The Wreck of HMS Speedy".

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kjQpQ0u0HL9vmUo2Fhw7XS8PWQWEf-S9NbXYVB3jor1UuAC3ZjxOth7AXTd40Wyv.jQGSevhxOD858KUX>

Passcode: 4j3+z=k8



Never Have I Ever

by Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

We had another night of laughter and fun finding out things about our fellow Probian that we didn't know. In fact, someone found out something they didn't know about their spouse – but we can't say who (or what)!!!

The member with the most "I Have" points was Joanne Millichamp with 83 (and Ron was right behind her with 82)! An adventurous couple!!! The member with the most "I Have Never" was announced as Jim Campbell but after carefully reviewing his score, it was determined that the winner was actually Nancy Lee with 43 points! Jim had 46 points. Both winners will receive an Ultimate Dining Card once we are out of our lockdown. Meanwhile, we always learn fascinating things about each other, especially with 46 participants! Here are some of these interesting facts:

Our group loves to travel and we have Christy Babcock who has been to 93 countries and the Millichamps who have been to 91. We are ALL still counting!!

Maggie Boss was involved in a protest about a traffic death on Prince Philip Drive at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland, that resulted in a walkway being erected as a result. Check out the article written about the anniversary of the protest: <https://www.saltwire.com/nova-scotia/opinion/letter-remembering-judy-lynn-ford-510130/#.YJNUt8QEctI>

Pete fell as a boy and cut off his nose! We all know Pete isn't a "nosey" person and if you feel you must, you can ask him for the details... Ev meanwhile had a ladder slice off the tip of her finger. We didn't ask which finger!!

A number of our members have eaten the "spicy little cricket". As good as that may sound to some – or even frog legs, I'll pass! Ted Chliszczyk even claimed that alligator was really good!!!

And a tip from Maggie Boss: When crossing the border from the US, it's best to claim that you spent \$89.43! This avoids having to get out of the car!!

The general consensus was that we are not fans of Justin Bieber and most of us are not fans of The Bachelor/ Bachelorette. Richard Lee has taken up the role of speed racer! Please note he was alone at the time! Just sayin'...

Of course we have to mention that Margaret Murphy did not fail to disappoint! You had to be there to understand!!!

Finally, Liz – who is still trying to find her mom's car keys – took careful notes of members who have never been on the PROBUS management team as she leads a team in their search to look for some committee replacements starting in October. (Emphasis added as per Liz's request... LOL.)

All in all, the evening was an opportunity to get to know each other better, but it was also a chance to get in a few much needed laughs! Hang on to those paddles for our next game!!



Musical Bingo

by Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

Eagles, Queen, CCR, and Del Shannon. What do these bands have in common? They were all part of our second Musical BINGO game. Twenty-eight people stretched their memories and tested their knowledge of music and most importantly had some fun.

Four games were played and we were surprised with six winners. Each winner was given a \$15 Tim Hortons gift card. Cliff Read won the four corners. In one game, Debbie Ceelan, Suzanne Greaves and Stephanie Hammett had a straight line in any direction. Martin Capper had the outside square, and pretty nearly the entire card! And Walt Ruediger had the small inside square. It was a a lot of fun.

Friendship Club May meeting

by Martin Capper, Correspondent

The 4th Wednesday in May saw 18 members get together for the regular monthly meeting of the Friendship Club. “Speed chats” lasted for ten minutes each with 5 or 6 people around each table! We started with a few topical surveys to help the participants get familiar with Zoom and then headed off to our rooms complete with a beverage and edibles of our choice!

So if you feel the need to have contact, albeit virtually, but are shy about participating in large sessions then the Friendship Club could be just right for you. Judy Krauss is the convenor and I am her assistant on matters Zoom! Just drop me an email at martin@martincapper.com and I will add you to my list and let Judy have the details.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am for an hour or so. Worried about Zoom? You really don't need to. I send out a reminder the day before the meeting with a link - just click on that link at the scheduled time and enter the passcode to catch up with friends old and new!



Clubs: Food and Drink

Grand Chalet

By Lorette Shermet, Convenor

In the month of May, 27 people participated in Skip the Dishes and supported Grand Chalet. The meal from Grand Chalet was plentiful and delicious.

This month we will order our meal from Ned Devine's Irish Pub for June 17th.

We place our orders several days ahead of time, pick it up around 5.30 p.m. on the designated day and enjoy a meal and conversation all together on Zoom.

If you would like to participate let me know (lorrette@sympatico.ca) and I will include you in the monthly emails.

It is a great way to support local establishments during these unprecedented times.



Oh... The Wonders of Zoom

by Ron Millichamp, Correspondent

The nosh at Night group met for our monthly get together via Zoom. The theme appetizer for the month was Mexican Spirals, washed down with the beverage of your choice. (mostly wine). We covered all the topics of the day but the key one was “when can we get to a barber/hairdresser”.

It wasn't a major problem for the men as it didn't apply to most of us (your correspondent included) but the ladies discussed their temporary solutions while awaiting the “day”. We all await the day when we have both shots and can meet again in person.



Irish Suds

by Paul Crawford, Correspondent

Ten beer lovers met virtually this month to sample three beers with old world charm and various levels of alcohol.

Okocim Jasne, a Polish beer with a nice light taste and 5% alcohol was rated the highest with an average of 80.4 points. It was well received and would be a great summer quencher. Holstein Festbock, from Germany, was a heavier beer with a robust taste and 7% alcohol. It was rated at 75.7 and was a favourite of those of us who like a more weighty beverage. Worsteiner Pilsener, also made in Germany, was third at 73. It has 4.5% alcohol and was considered not interesting enough compared to the others, although of course no one would refuse one if it was offered!



Clubs: Travel

Ecuador and Galapagos

by Gloria Pennycook, Correspondent

I think we are all dreaming of travelling once again!! We had 15 zoom screens with about 25 people who joined in to hear about Ecuador and Galapagos. As it turns out, this is a planned PROBUS trip now rescheduled to 2023! Bob and I went there in 2016 and it was one of the best trips we have ever had. We travelled with a Canadian company called Adventures Abroad. This company is excellent if you are looking for small group adventure travel. The trip was 22 days and we went from Quito, the capital, to the Amazon in the north, south through Volcano highway, Galapagos, Guayaquil and Cuenca. Our memories of Ecuador include beautiful, quaint colonial towns and amazing scenery, all clean and exotic, and wonderful people. We originally thought the Galapagos would be the highlight (it was quite amazing) but we really enjoyed mainland Ecuador just as well.

Next month Ellen and Paul Crawford will share their recent European river cruise trip.



Clubs: Books, Hobbies, Games

The Widow

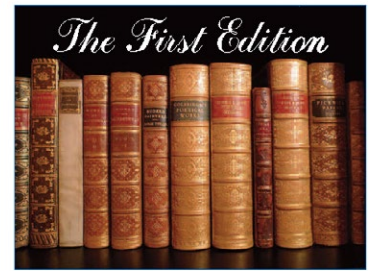
by Auriel Halliday, Correspondent

On May 10th, the First Edition Book Club gathered, via Zoom, to discuss our May selection, *The Widow* by Fiona Barton. Here is a summary of the book:

When police started asking questions, Jean Taylor turned into a different woman. One who enabled her and her husband to carry on with their lives. But Jean's husband died last week and now Jean can be herself again. Over the years she has not said much about the crimes her husband was suspected of committing. She was too busy being the perfect wife, standing by her husband, in spite of accusing glares and anonymous harassment.

Now there's no reason to stay quiet. People want to hear her story. What was it like to live with a suspected child abductor? Yes, there were secrets.....there always are in a marriage.

We all found this psychological thriller disturbing. It was hyped as being up to the standard of *Gone Girl* and *The Girl on the Train*. It was very well written, as a first novel, and the characters were really well developed. But the subject matter was disturbing, to say the least. Our scores, (out of ten), ranged from 3 to 8. I have recently read Fiona Barton's second book, *The Child*. I found that one a more entertaining read than *The Widow*.



The Henna Artist

by Gretchen Greene O'Brien, Correspondent

This novel by Alka Joshi is set in the early 1950s, when India gained independence from Britain. It was a chaotic time as India had to find ways to fund new schools, hospitals, roads, and bridges – at an unprecedented rate.

The heroine of the story, Lakshmi, has been taught by her mother-in-law to be a henna artist and also how to use various herbs to cure ailments. This is the key for her survival and she plunges in with all she has, despite the strict caste system she faces. Our heroine shows versatility and perseverance to gain her independence.

The author paints a vivid picture of India – from extreme poverty to extreme wealth. Her word pictures are very descriptive.

It is also interesting to learn the details of henna painting plus the application of various herbs used for medications.

Our Club members all expressed they were glad to have read this novel and recommended it to other readers.



More from George Washington's days:

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their face to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt . . . Therefore, the expression 'losing face.'

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced', wore a tightly tied lace.

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some ale' and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

Singers, Singers, Singers

by Michael Hooker, Convenor



Our first Zoom for May introduced us to songs by two of the great sopranos of the mid-20th century.

1. Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, German-born, British (by marriage) and Austrian (her full title: Dame Olga Maria Elizabeth Friederike Schwarzkopf, DBE.). Very well-known for her performances of opera, operetta, and songs. We listened to Elizabeth sing a program of German Operetta (the equivalent to a modern Broadway Musical), by composers including Franz Lehar and Johann Strauss II.
2. Victoria de los Angeles. Born in Barcelona in 1923. She had a great international career in opera (the title role in George Bizet's "Carmen" was her specialty), and in concert song performances, particularly Spanish/Catalan songs. In the BBC Music Magazine's list of "The Top Twenty Sopranos of All Times", she was ranked number 3 (after Maria Callas and Joan Sutherland). Victoria treated us to a varied program of songs by Schubert, Brahms and others, finishing with a set of songs by Spanish composers. She was paired at the piano by the top accompanist of her day, Gerald Moore, whose family emigrated from England to Toronto just before WW1. He received much of his musical training in Toronto, and his performing career as a pianist/accompanist really got going in Canada.

Afterwards we had an interesting discussion: Who of the two was best? We split down the middle, but all agreed that both were great! Here's a 3-minute YouTube sample for you: Elizabeth Schwarzkopf singing Rudolph Siczynsky's entrancing "Wien, du Stadt Meiner Traume" (Vienna, City of My Dreams):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ1fS2cvTFM&list=PLdxzX4OOQUYMjnFZJqGnDgdt7zualByGG&index=13>

Asoka Yapa surprised us with his May Zoom devoted to songs sung by Countertenors.

A countertenor is a classical male singer whose vocal range is equivalent to that of the female contralto or mezzo-soprano. Countertenors often are baritones or tenors at core, but only on rare occasions they use their lower vocal range, instead preferring their falsetto or high head voice.

In the second half of the 20th century, there was great interest in and renewed popularity of the countertenor voice, partly due to pioneers such as Alfred Deller, as well as the increased popularity of Baroque opera and the need for male singers to replace the castrati roles in these works (from Wikipedia)

If you've never heard a countertenor, the following 1 minute 20 second clip from Asoka's presentation will satisfy your curiosity. The singer is Dominic Visser and the song is "Je Suis Grise" from Offenbach's opera "La Perichole".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJsaihi31M>

Final item from George Washington's days, bet you didn't know this...

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' But brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you...).

— Submitted by Fred Ground

Rulers

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

On Tuesday, May 4th, the Piece Makers gathered together on Zoom for their monthly quilting meeting. Wendy showed us her square within a square quilt with sashing and cornerstones. Louise has been busy in her garden but managed to sew 12 half-square triangles together using scraps and leftover material – she is now looking for a bag pattern. Carol Ann made 3 pillows – 2 using the disappearing 4 patch pattern and one using a LOVE pattern. She is working on a disappearing 4 patch quilt using material from Barbara and her own stash. Judy Nelson is planning a scrappy quilt and more paper-pieced blocks. Dawn made 2 Tulip wall hangings. She is working on repairing a quilt for her son that she made over 20 years ago using the Jacob’s Ladder pattern and a Windmill pattern. Diane finished the binding on her red and green Rhapsody Table Runner.



After the show and tell, they watched a “How to Use Rulers Properly” video by National Quilters Circle. The video explained the various markings and how to use the 45° and 60° lines to square up blocks and cut triangles. The top 4 basic rulers are:

- A square up ruler (9.5", 6.5", 4.5", 2.5")
- A long ruler (at least 18"-24" long)
- A ruler for cutting wider strips (at least 8.5" wide)
- A smaller ruler for trimming up (3" x 7")

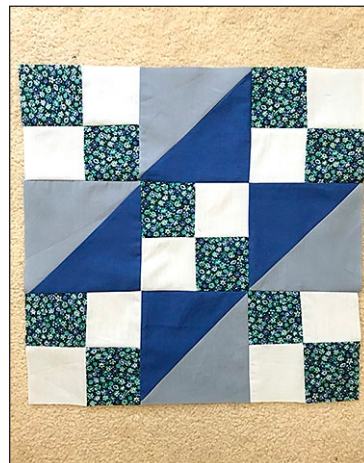


Quilting Term of the Month:

WISP – Work in Slow Progress – example: Diane’s Temperature quilts for her grandkids - LOL.

Our June meeting will be Tuesday June 8th, at which time we hope to be able to meet in person (respecting social distancing).

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.



Cribbage league Season 2!

by Martin Capper, Convenor

The second season of our Cribbage League is well under way with Ellen defending her “crown”! Here are a few comments from my inbox:



SHOCKING news from Milton - Jenny wins both games this week in surprise upsets against Barb C and Wayne 1.

123 to 98 (Jenny over Barb)

125 to 117 (Jenny over Wayne H)

Great games by most worthy opponents.

Just played Cribbage with Wayne2 ... and I WON !!! Score was 124 to 115. Could have gone either way - we were neck and neck for most of the game!!!!

I was scheduled to play games this week.

1. Won against Pat, score 124 – 109

2. Lost against Jenny, score 98 – 123

Well, the Zanatta's had a terrible afternoon of cribbage; we both lost!

Paul beat Reg -- 131 to 107

Diane skunked Ev -- 132 to 84

UGH!

Played Diane Comstock just now - and WON (score was 123 to 111). On to the next one.....!!!!

As you can see participants are enjoying the 10 minutes or so it takes for each game with no more than two games every week. If you are interested in participating please consider joining the cribbage club - just shoot me an email to martin@martincapper.com. If you haven't played cribbage in a while and want to try it out before jumping into cutthroat competition go to cardgames.io, click on cribbage and have a game with Bill the friendly robot - he even scores for you!

The cribbage club meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. Zoom is available for those who enjoy the craic but really isn't necessary to play. The app is freely available so you play on a smartphone, tablet or desktop/laptop!

Diane and Lorhel Take the Honours

by Diane Comstock, Correspondent

It was a Bee Gees full house for Yahtzee on May 11 with eight players online. Two players rolled a Yahtzee, Diane with ones and Barb with sixes. All but Barb achieved the top bonus, but thanks to her 3 of a kind, 4 of a kind, and Chance scores of 25, 29, and 25 respectively she ended with the second highest score of 279. Pat did her best, but was 3 points shy of Barb so ended in third place. Diane took top honours with a final score of 296 despite having to zero out her 4 of a kind and her low Chance score of 18.



On May 26, seven ladies each brought six dice to the screen to play Farkle. Lorhel was the first to open, followed quickly by Beth, then Marg out threw then both with three pairs to open with 1500 points. Unfortunately, her quick opening was not indicative of her game, as she proceeded to farkle 6 times. Lorhel was on a mission and rolled two triplets for 2500 points. Round 4 was very exciting, as five players were able to capitalize on the previous player's rolls starting with Barb with a score of 1750 and ending with Pat with a score of 3700 points. Lorhel was part of that group and then consistently rolled points to end the game with 10100 in the ninth round.



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

Strawberries

By Auriel Halliday

It's nearly time for local strawberries and I thought it might be nice to have a couple of different ways to use these delicious berries.

So first, we are going to make strawberry and cheese toasties. The recipe below makes three sandwiches. You can use six slices of any bread in your pantry, but I do like to use a crusty white bread or sourdough.

Spread goat cheese on 1 side of 3 bread slices. Spread red pepper jelly on 1 side of remaining 3 bread slices; layer with strawberries, basil leaves, and watercress. Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste. Top with remaining bread, goat cheese side down. Cook sandwiches in a large, lightly greased, nonstick skillet, over medium heat, 2 to 3 minutes on each side, or until golden brown.

And now on to a strawberry appetizer, or even dessert.

This is a simple recipe called Roasted Strawberry Goat's Cheese Squares. I think it is an unusual way to showcase delicious Ontario strawberries.

Ingredients:

One sheet of frozen puff pastry, thawed.
About one pound of cleaned strawberries.
One tablespoon of maple syrup.
One tablespoon of balsamic vinegar.
One tablespoon of olive oil.
Two tablespoons of honey.
Four ounces of soft goat's cheese.
One tablespoon of lemon zest.
Black pepper and salt to taste.
Mint leaves to decorate.

Instructions:

1. Allow puff pastry to come to room temperature. For most store-bought brands, this takes 30 to 40 minutes. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment and set aside.
2. Hull the strawberries and cut them in half lengthwise. If they're very large berries, you can quarter them instead. In a medium-sized bowl, combine the maple syrup, balsamic vinegar, olive oil, salt and pepper. Add 1 tablespoon of the honey and whisk to combine. Add the strawberries and toss until the berries are fully coated.
3. Turn berries out onto a baking sheet and roast until the fruit has softened and the juices are just beginning to thicken, about 40 minutes.
4. While the berries are roasting, in a small bowl, mix together the goat cheese, lemon zest and remaining tablespoon of honey. Set aside.
5. On a lightly floured surface, cut the puff pastry into roughly 3-inch squares. Place each on the parchment-lined sheet, about 1 inch apart. Score a quick square shape into the centre of each pastry, taking care not to cut all the way through.
6. Dollop a small spoonful of the goat cheese mixture onto each square. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, until golden. Let squares cool slightly, at least 10 minutes.
7. Place a small mint leaf on the center of each and top with a syrupy roasted strawberry.

Serve warm or at room temperature. Best served the day they're made.

Enjoy everyone. Treat the family to something a little different.



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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 or 905-878-1293).

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