

FORUM



Volume 9 — Issue 2 — March 2021

President's Message:

What happened to February!



I know February is a short month but it has gone by so quickly. What a great friendship month we had, Valentine's Day, Family Day, PROBUS meeting, Skip the Dishes, Friendship Club and more. PROBUS month used to be March but somehow this year it is in April. The confusion lies in when the first Canadian club was registered and when the first meeting was held. Perhaps in April we can have a contest for the most interesting decorated PROBUS celebration cake.

It has been an interesting winter thus far. First we started with really mild weather, then deep freeze and now a week of snow. Hopefully the ice and snow will be gone soon and we can get back to safely walking outside.

No longer do I wake up earlier than normal when there's a big snowfall to listen to the radio. "Schools closed today" used to be magic to my ears. The day turned out to be a play day and later an opportunity to earn pocket money shoveling driveways and paths. The magic of school closures returned with grandchildren needing a sitter. Sadly now, with the grandchildren grown, I don't even get a call to babysit. Take the time and enjoy the memories of your snow days as a child.

Ruth and the activities committee have a busy schedule for us including a St. Patrick's evening full of entertainment. If it were not for the Irish there would be no unicorns, green beer nor leprechauns. Interesting fact: Montreal was home to the largest St. Patrick's Day parade in Canada.

I would like to end this article with an old Maritime Blessing.

Here's to tall ships

Here's to small ships

Here's to all the ships on the sea.

But the best ships

Are friendships.

Here's to you and me.

Take care and keep safe!

— Wayne Herder

Editor's Note:

An exciting issue this month with a lot of submitted material and as more and more events and clubs come online. Is it spring fever? Or maybe cabin fever?

Don't forget to send in a short bio (see the first one published in this issue)!

— David Boss

Contents:

News	3
Activities	5
Upcoming Meetings	7
Club List	8
March Calendar	9
Recent Events	
February Meeting	10
Clubs	11
Views	17
Management Page	22

Escarpment Photo of the Month

This month's featured photo of Oakville Harbour was taken by Marion Flowers.

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



Wanderlust Resumes

by Gloria Pennycook, Correspondent

We have decided to restart Wanderlust as we are all looking forward to the days that we are able to travel again. Maggie and David Boss will kick us off with a tour of Newfoundland on Thursday, March 11th. As we might actually be able to travel close to home this summer, this seemed like the perfect destination. We have additional travel spots to view over the next several months.



Movie Night Resumes

by Theresa Spano, Correspondent

Start making the popcorn!

On Tuesday April 13th at 7:00 pm we will be resuming our Oscar movie night in the comfort of our own homes using Zoom.

More people than ever have been gravitating towards watching television more than they ever have in the past. We have been using platforms such as Netflix, Crave, Prime Video, Disney Plus and many more. Whatever platform you have been using, this will be your opportunity to recommend, review and have an excuse to get together with some junk food/drinks and share.

I will be starting fresh with a new Oscar movie list. I am requesting all new and old Oscar movie goers send me a email (1tspano@gmail.com) if this is something you wish to join.

Looking forward to seeing you on April 13th and don't forget the popcorn and movie snacks!



Supper Club Members (and others)

By Megs Shellard

Here is a ham recipe that could be used for Easter, together with a recipe for Simnel Cake. It is not known where the original Simnel Cake came from but it is used widely in Britain at Easter. The fruit cake has almond paste in the centre and is decorated with almond paste. The top is often decorated with 11 almond paste balls to represent the Apostles (minus Judas Iscariot) with a ball in the centre supposedly to represent Christ.

Hope you enjoy!

HAM WITH LEEKS AND CREAM SAUCE (Recipe is for 8 people but can be reduced by half for 4)

3 – 4 lb. ham	2 lbs. leeks
6 tbsp. butter, plus extra for top	3 tbsp. flour
2 ½ cups milk, warmed	2 cups dry vermouth, warmed
Salt and freshly ground pepper	1 cup whipping cream
½ cup grated Gruyère cheese	



Bake the ham slowly in a 275° oven for an hour in a covered pan (add ½ can ginger ale if desired)

Meanwhile, prepare the sauce. Wash, slice and finely trim the leeks. Melt the butter in a large saucepan and stew the leeks until tender. Add the flour and stir until well mixed. Add the warmed milk, little by little, together with the warmed vermouth, stirring continuously to make a smooth sauce. Season with a generous amount of freshly ground black pepper and very little salt. Simmer very gently for 20 – 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the cream and cheese, mixing well until the cheese has melted. Check the seasoning.

Carve the ham into thickish slices. Pour half the sauce into a large baking dish. Arrange the ham in overlapping slices on the sauce then cover with the remaining sauce. Dot with tiny bits of butter and heat in a preheated 350° oven for 10 minutes. Finish off under the broiler until the top is brown and bubbly. Keep warm until ready to serve.

SIMNEL CAKE

For the almond paste:

9 oz fine sugar	9 oz ground almonds
2 eggs, beaten	1 tsp almond essence

Place the sugar and ground almonds in a bowl. Add enough beaten egg to make a fairly soft consistency. Add the almond essence and knead for 1 minute until the paste is smooth and pliable. Roll out 1/3 of the paste to make a circle 7" in diameter and reserve the remainder for the cake topping.

For the cake:

6 oz butter or margarine	6 oz soft brown sugar
3 eggs, beaten	6 oz all purpose flour
pinch salt	½ tsp ground mixed spice (optional)
12 oz mixed raisin, currants, sultanas	
2 oz chopped peel	½ lemon zest
1 – 2 tsp apricot jam	1 egg, beaten for glazing

Preheat oven to 275°. Grease and line a 7" cake pan.

For the cake, cream the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Gradually beat in the eggs until well incorporated and then sift the flour, salt and mixed spice a little at a time. Finally add the mixed dried fruit peel and grated lemon zest and stir into the mixture.

Put half the mixture into the cake pan. Smooth the top and cover with the circle of almond paste. Add the rest of the cake mixture and smooth the top leaving a slight dip in the centre to allow for the cake to rise. Bake in the preheated oven for 1 ¾ hours. Test by inserting a skewer into the middle – if it comes out clean, it is ready. Once baked, remove from the oven and set aside to cool on a wire rack for at least 10 minutes.

Brush the top of the cooled cake with apricot jam. Divide the remainder of the almond paste in half. Roll out a circle to cover the top of the cake and form 12 small balls with the other half. Place the circle of paste on the jam glaze then crimp the edges and set 11 balls around the edge with the 12th in the middle. If you don't wish to only use 11 balls, then the cake can be decorated with some other Easter decoration.

Member Bio

Gillian Reynolds



I was born in Birmingham, England, during the war. I married my childhood sweetheart and we lived in a bungalow (which we helped build) near Coventry. I got divorced and four years later, in 1969, married Bryan and we immigrated to Canada. We lived for thirty years in a bungalow (that we helped build) on the Niagara Escarpment, where we owned horses and grew fruits and vegetables. We raised two children: Shawn (47) who lives in Guelph with his wife and 6 year-old son, and Tamra (49) who lives in Whitehorse, Yukon, with her 45 sled dogs. I worked mostly as a legal secretary. We moved to Drury Park in Milton in 2002. I enjoy writing, cooking, yoga, aerobics, hiking, biking, gardening, travel and just being outdoors. I also enjoy interacting with people, especially my fellow Probiens.

ACTIVITIES



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

By Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

To all the Irish Probians out there (and those who wish to be Irish), this is for you:

*I wish you health, I wish you well, and happiness galore.
I wish you luck, for you and friends; what could I wish you more?
May your joys be as deep as the oceans, your troubles as light as its foam.
And may you find sweet peach of mind, wherever you may roam.*

- Author Unknown

The winners of the February Monthly Meeting challenge (Valentine's Day theme) were Chris & Ellen Wallhouse. They received a bottle of XOXO Moscato wine to enjoy! Our contest for the March Monthly Meeting is St. Paddy's Day! Get your game on and your best outfit on!!

Our winners for Trivia night were Ron & Joanne Millichamp, Cliff & Liz Read and Paul & Ellen Crawford. They were all given a bottle of Novas Gran Reserva to enjoy! Maybe they will even rate the wine for you wine tasters out there! Check out Kelly's article on our Trivia night to get some inspiration on our next Zoom Trivia, April 20th at 7 pm.

And on another note, check out the upcoming activities and a new one – Scattergories – on Tuesday, April 6th at 7 pm. Remember to spring forward on Sunday, March 14th!!

MARCH ACTIVITIES:

Zoom "NEVER HAVE I EVER!!!" – Thursday, March 4th, 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 "E" rated activity!! Random items will be displayed and we will want you to indicate – Never Have I Ever!! or I Have!! This is sure to be an activity with loads of laughs and social interaction! You can register by email to gagnonruth@gmail.com.



An email will be sent out before the activity with the Zoom invite and additional information.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration! – Wednesday, March 17th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

While we may not be in Ireland, come and kick back with us in **The Suborp Kitchen Bar** to sit around the table and hear some jokes and some good ole Irish music. Bring your green beer and whiskey (Jameson's or Bushmill will do) for good old Irish cheer! Please register with Kelly at kmground@gmail.com or Ruth at gagnonruth@gmail.com. Let's have a few laughs together. Zoom info will be sent a couple of days before the event. Sláinte!



Activities Committee
Members:

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

Zoom Musical B-I-N-G-O – Tuesday, March 23rd, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

An old game with a new twist. Try musical bingo! Instead of numbers on the card there will be some of the most recognizable and iconic songs. With only seconds of play, your musical knowledge will be tested. You will need coins or buttons, so your card can be reused for the next game. You will also need a printer to print off your Bingo cards.

Email kmground@gmail.com or gagnonruth@gmail.com to register!

APRIL ACTIVITIES:

Zoom SCATTERGORIES – Tuesday, April 6th, 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 is a great way to pass time with your fellow Probian! Join us on Tuesday, April 6th at 7:00 pm for Zoom Scattergories. For this event you will need a partner. Hopefully COVID restrictions might be a 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 or I will roll the 20-sided die that shows each letter 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" document you can print off to use, but you can also use your own. Email kellyground@gmail.com or gagnonruth@gmail.com to register!

We're Back!! It's Trivia Night!! – Tuesday, April 20th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

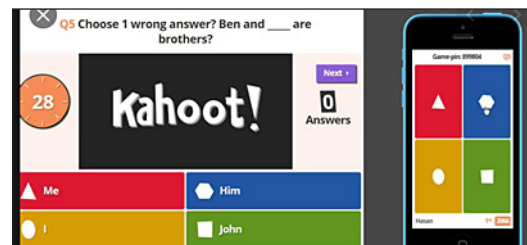
Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

We had a lot of fun and laughter at our February 25th Zoom Trivia night and received a lot of positive feedback, which we appreciate. So we are going to try again on Tuesday, April 20th, 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!!!

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 kellyground@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: MARCH

We will hold our next Zoom General Meeting on March 17th 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 February.



AstroGeoGuy

Chris Vaughan aka “AstroGeoGuy” is an astronomer and earth scientist. Since 1996, Chris has been delivering planetarium experiences, visiting classrooms, hosting science-themed assemblies, running science clubs, and holding stargazing parties for schools and groups in southern Ontario. He writes a weekly astronomy blog for non-astronomers called Astronomy Skylights; stories for SkyNews, Canada’s astronomy magazine; and columns and a monthly calendar of astro-events for the website Space.com. Chris’s content is used in the popular SkySafari 6 and Star Walk 2 smartphone apps and the Starry Night software package.

Chris is an operator and tour guide for the David Dunlap Observatory’s 74” (1.88 m) Great Telescope, presenter in their Skylab room, and a speaker at their public programs. He also presents The Sky This Month at the monthly Recreational Astronomy Night meetings of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Toronto Centre, and is an instructor in their public astronomy course. Chris is the recipient of the 2014 Bertram Topham Award for Observing; the 2013, 2014 and 2018 Andrew Elvins Award for Promotion of Astronomy; and the 2019 Ostrander Ramsey Award for Astronomical Writing from the RASC. In 2018, Chris was awarded the Reach for the Stars Award from the City of Markham, in recognition of his promotion of astronomy and fight against light pollution in Thornhill.

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.

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 Lorette Shermett (lorrette@sympatico.ca) before planning your event.

MARCH CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
Activities				
Never Have I Ever	March 4	7:00 PM	Zoom	Kelly Ground/Ruth Gagnon
Executive Meeting	March 10	7:00 PM	Zoom	Wayne Herder
Escarpment PROBUS monthly meeting	March 17	9:30 AM	Zoom	Wayne Herder
St. Patrick's Day Celebration	March 17	7:00 PM	Zoom	Kelly Ground/Ruth Gagnon
Musical BINGO	March 23	7:00 PM	Zoom	Kelly Ground/Ruth Gagnon
Clubs				
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only			Cliff Read
Crafts - Quilting - <i>Piece Makers</i>	March 2	1:00 PM	Zoom	Diane Comstock
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	March 4	1:30 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	March 6	7:00 PM	Zoom	Jim Tschirhart
Book Club - <i>First Edition</i>	March 8	1:00 PM	Zoom	Paul Crawford
Board Games (Yahtzee) - <i>Bee Gees</i>	March 9	1:00 PM	Zoom	Stephen Comstock
Book Club - <i>Sequel</i>	March 10	1:15 PM	Zoom	Catherine Parr
Travel - <i>Wanderlust</i>	March 11	7:00 PM	Zoom	Gloria Pennycook
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	March 13	7:00 PM	Zoom	Jim Tschirhart
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	March 18	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Dining - <i>Skip the Dishes</i>	March 18	6:00 PM	Zoom	Lorrette Shermet
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	March 20	7:00 PM	Zoom	Jim Tschirhart
Friendship Club	March 24	10:00 AM	Zoom	Judy Krauss
Board Games (Farkle) - <i>Bee Gees</i>	March 24	1:00 PM	Zoom	Stephen Comstock
Tastings - Beer - <i>Suds and Buds</i>	March 25	7:00 PM	Zoom	Pete Shermet
Dining - <i>Nosh@Nite</i>	March 26	5:30 PM	Zoom	Paul & Ellen Crawford
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	March 27	7:00 PM	Zoom	Jim Tschirhart

An invisible man married an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

I didn't think the chiropractor would improve my posture. But I stand corrected.

I took my new girlfriend out on our first date to the ice rink, and entry was half price. She called me a cheap skate.

Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It's a case of in one ear and out the udder.

I used to date a girl with one leg who worked at a brewery. She was in charge of the hops.

My cross-eyed wife and I just got a divorce. I found out she was seeing someone on the side.

My wife claims I'm the cheapest person she's ever met. I'm not buying it.

I told my carpenter I didn't want carpeted steps. He gave me a blank stair.

What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision? Suture self.

I just got fired, and as severance, my company gave me a bag of used coffee. They said it was grounds for termination.

— Submitted by Fred Ground

RECENT EVENTS

February Meeting

Our February Zoom General Meeting was held on February 17th. Here's the link to the recording of the meeting and guest speaker Steven Dengler's presentation on C150 Global Odyssey, the first Canadian helicopter circumnavigation of the world and first ever father/son helicopter circumnavigation.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Atnlft2HwFMZcAtAQyTYuVpGhNeCaSsmes_7cMhwGYWdFoBJtqv6O85843WXUKZI.hmtBW1kNdpN_Qclh

Passcode: 3Fu*v?QQ

In lieu of a fee for speaking, Mr. Dengler requested a donation to a local charity so \$200 was sent to The Milton District Hospital Auxiliary.

Zoom Trivia Night

by Kelly Ground, Activities Committee

Brain power, brain drain, brain cramps were all present for our first virtual trivia evening using Kahoot! Fifty Probian's making up 27 teams came out to test their knowledge of trivia.

After we all logged in and tested our tech skills we were off. Competition was stiff, laughs were plentiful, as were the frustrations, and even some good natured ribbing about duck hunting.

It appeared after a while that first place was captured early but with the last ten questions to go the lead was fought for. First place, Balanced Duck, aka Ron and Joanne Millichamp, won with 61% of the questions answered correctly beating the second place team by only 583 points. Both the second and third place teams answered 58% of the questions correctly, but speed mattered and delivered more points to Dynamic Urchin, aka Liz and Cliff Read. Paul and Ellen Crawford, or Mystery Wallaby followed in third a mere 665 points behind second place.

It was such a fun night we thought we'd do it again. Check out the April 20th Zoom Trivia activity!

I asked my husband if I was the only one he had ever slept with. He said yes, all the others were nines and tens. Give it a minute....

A cold seat in a public restroom is unpleasant. A warm seat in a public restroom is worse.

Don't irritate old people. The older we get, the less "life in prison" is a deterrent.

I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

It turns out that being an adult now is mostly just Googling how to do stuff.

I miss the 90's when bread was still good for you and no one knew what kale was.

Do you ever get up in the morning, look in the mirror and think "That can't be accurate."

As I watch this new generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of....it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.

My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants where they make food right in front of you. I took her to Subway.

I picked up a hitchhiker. He asked if I was afraid he might be a serial killer. I told him the odds of two serial killers being in the same car were extremely unlikely.

— *Submitted by Fred Ground*

Clubs: Food and Drink

Mardi Gras

by Norma Capper

Mardi Gras 2021 virtually, who thought we would be celebrating it this way!

We decided to get together via zoom for our dinner and had a lovely evening.

Great food and even better company
The recipe was delicious and leftovers today even better! Looking forward to seeing what the recipe for St Paddy's day will be.



Friendship club reconvenes after a year!

by Martin Capper

For the first time in a year, 26 members of the friendship club got together this month. We were no longer in the familiar space of Seasons Cinema Room nor was there the usual spread of cookies, cake or muffins, but the faces were familiar and included some folk who were new to the friendship club.

The chat involved catching up with friends in smaller groups using the breakout rooms feature of Zoom and members were able to express their opinions on various features such as length of time in the smaller groups, frequency of meetings and maintaining the name as "friendship club".

The friendship club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:00am and members can sign up by emailing me at martin@martincapper.com.



Skip the Dishes Reboot

By Lorette Shermet, Convenor

On February 18th, 26 participants met on Zoom for Skip the dishes and enjoyed a meal from "The Thai House Cuisine". Ron and Marianne Armstrong joined us from New Hamburg and ordered their meal from a local Thai restaurant in their town. It was our first get together since February 2020. I am sure most of us would have preferred an in person experience but this was a great way to stay in touch and support local.

As we meet the third Thursday of the month, our next get together will be March 18th at 6 p.m. and we will be ordering from Casa Americo on Main Street. I spoke with the owner Americo and he would prefer if we had a set meal. He is putting something together for us which I should have by the first week in March. One can still order of the menu, if that is what one prefers. Casa Americo is located at 144 Main St E, 289-878-4948 and their website is casaamerico.com If you would like to be included in the monthly distribution list, please email me at lorrette@sympatico.ca.



One Year Later

by Christine Willekes, Correspondent

It has been one year since the last face to face Nosh. February 28, 2020, a beautiful sunny winter day, Noshers travelled to Mississauga to the Willekes home. Almost as if it was a premonition, all of the group attended. What memories.



One year later February 26, 2021, another beautiful winter day, we turned on our computers. We started at 5:30 with appetizers. We munched, enjoyed our own refreshments and chatted.

Each month, one household emails a recipe to the group. This month's recipe was provided by Chris and Jack Willekes.

EGG SALAD BITES (makes approximately 40)

1/2 cup whipped salad dressing or mayonnaise
1/2 cup finely chopped fresh parsley
2 green onions, finely chopped
1 celery stalk, finely chopped
1/4 tsp each salt and freshly ground pepper
12 hard boiled eggs
Tostitos scoops

Stir the dressing with the parsley, green onion, celery, salt, pepper and chopped eggs.

Chill for 2 hours.

Divide evenly between scoops.



CLEVER WORDS FOR CLEVER PEOPLE

ARBITRATOR: A cook that leaves Arby's to work at McDonald's.

BERNADETTE: The act of torching a mortgage.

BURGLARIZE: What a crook sees through.

AVOIDABLE: What a bullfighter tries to do.

COUNTERFEITER: Workers who put together kitchen cabinets.

LEFT BANK: What the bank robbers did when their bag was full of money.

HEROES: What a man in a rowboat does.

PARASITES: What you see from the Eiffel Tower.

PARADOX: Two physicians.

PHARMACIST: A helper on a farm.

RELIEF: What trees do in the spring.

RUBBERNECK: What you do to relax your wife.

SELFISH: What the owner of a seafood store does.

— Submitted by Ron Millichamp

Zoom Beer Tasting

by Pete Shermet, Convenor

On Thursday February 25th we held our first Zoom Beer Tasting and all went relatively well with just a few minor technical issues at my end, thank goodness for back up plans!



There were 11 participants and we started our tasting with Ottakringer Helles, LCBO # 114124, \$2.70 (now discontinued at the LCBO), ABV 5.2 (no IBU rating but I found a reference of 18-21?). It was a very mild tasting European beer from Vienna.



This is from their web site “We have been brewing Ottakringer Helles since the brewery was established. It has been in a constant state of change and has developed its taste with time: The best hops and malt, and mild spring water from our in-house brewery well, provide an even balance between a light malt aroma with fruity notes and pleasant bitterness.”

Some of us were not able to find this beer due to it being discontinued. It scored reasonably well with an average of 67.5, some of the comments being “a very drinkable summer beer “ to” it doesn’t have much of a beer taste”. I personally did not detect a bitter aftertaste.



The next beer was Stiegl Bier, LCBO# 676106 \$3.05, ABV 4.9%, IBU 20.

LCBO describes it as “ Clear deep golden yellow colour with medium dense head; aromas of floral hops, grain/malt with grassy and lemon notes; dry, light to medium bodied, with flavours of floral/grassy hops and malt, with citrus and herbal notes; lightly bitter on the finish.”

On average this beer scored slightly higher with a 69.73, some of the comments being “ slight aftertaste I could not get used to”, “another European beer “ More enjoyable than the previous one” and yes it is from Austria! I did not find the aftertaste objectionable but it is present.



The last beer was Great Lakes Brewery Canuck Pale Ale, LCBO# 242545, \$2.90 , ABV 5.2%, IBU 35.

The LCBO describes it as ” Medium amber colour with thick head; aromas of fresh hops, citrus and tropical fruit with pine and roasted cereal notes; slightly bittersweet, medium bodied, rounded and refreshing, flavours of lemon zest, pine and grapefruit, with ripe fruit, earth and leafy notes on the dry finish.”

Our group certainly picked out the “grapefruit “ reference right away ,and some of the die hard IPA lovers enjoyed this but on average it’s score was lowest with 57.09. I personally don’t like beers with high IBUs (International Bitterness Units)

Between tastings we solved the problems of the world , rectified the vaccine roll out crisis and overall had a good time while munching on our favourite snacks.

One of our members (a baker supreme/ pastry chef) came up with a novel idea for leftover beer! BEER BREAD!

Our next tasting is Thursday March 25th (4th Thursday of the month, just like the in-person version) and will take on a St Patrick’s Day Theme with Maggie and David Boss as our hosts.



Beers in the spotlight are Harp Lager (\$2.70, #271619), Smithwick’s Ale (\$2.70, #270439) and Guinness Draught (\$3.00, #270447)

If you care to join us please drop me an email (peteshelmet@gmail.com) and I’ll add you to the list.

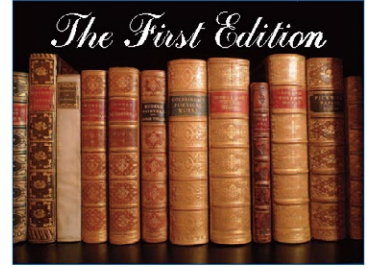
Sláinte

Clubs: Books, Hobbies, Games

An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth

by Cathy Brown, Correspondent

The First Edition Book Club met on February 8th to discuss Chris Hadfield's *An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth*. The group felt great pride in our "Milton Boy"; we admired his determination and positive attitude in all aspects of his life. Chris' stories of his journey to become an astronaut showed the absolute commitment required to achieve such goals. He trained in underwater labs, traversed blizzardy arctic trails, endured hours of "in-pool" training and extensive classroom sessions. Chris learned the Russian language and travelled the world to become the best he could be scientifically, technically, mentally and physically; All of this without any guarantee that he would ever make it into space. Our group was quick to recognize that he could not have achieved his goals without the complete and ongoing support of his wife and children for which Chris was very grateful.



Chris has a very easy to read writing style relating his personal stories to give some tips on how to approach life and stay positive.

This Milton musician, writer, educator and astronaut's book was rated, with one exception, 8-9 by our group. Members of Probus are encouraged to read this very uplifting book, as Chris writes: "The Sky is Not the Limit!"

Scarborough

by Patricia Kotack, Correspondent

At our February meeting the Sequel book club gathered via Zoom to discuss the novel *Scarborough* by Catherine Hernandez.



Scarborough is a low-income, ethnically and culturally diverse neighborhood east of Toronto, the fourth largest city in North America. Like many inner city communities, it suffers under the weight of poverty, drugs and crime. It is also the name and setting of Catherine Hernandez's deeply emotional novel.

This book tells a story through a variety of voices (including many young children) as we follow the lives of about a dozen people facing the diverse challenges of everyday existence. Although there are many lives that intersect throughout the novel, the story revolves around a literacy centre at a school, where a young Muslim worker has to negotiate the extreme poverty, hunger and violence affecting the community while managing the cold unfeeling demands of her supervisors. The story revolves mainly around three kids dealing with extreme challenges who work to survive a system that consistently fails them.

This book is not a light read as it contains some raw and distressing life situations which will not appeal to everyone. As always the book prompted an interesting and lively discussion among our members evoking a wide range of emotions. Most of the members would recommend reading this book and agreed that our eyes were opened to the diverse challenges faced by many individuals and made us all a little more grateful for our privileged lives.

Scarborough was shortlisted for the Toronto Book Awards, Evergreen Forest of Reading Awards, Edmund White Awards for Debut Fiction, Trillium Book Awards, and the 2016 Half the World Global Literati Award worth \$50,000 for the best unpublished manuscript. *Scarborough* was also longlisted for the 2018 Canada Reads.

Mozartians tangle with Beatlemania – Everybody Won!

by Michael Hooker, Convenor



Asoka got our feet tapping during our first February Zoomer, with his presentation “Five Songs by The Beatles”. The songs were: Ticket to Ride, Let It Be, Day Tripper, Norwegian Wood, and Life Goes On. To provide variety, each one was played first by The Beatles, then by two, three or four other artists, to show how one classic piece can be interpreted in amazingly different ways. As an example: Day Tripper by The Beatles, Mongo Santamaria, Ramsey Lewis Orchestra, and The Hollyridge Strings Orchestra.

The session almost became a disaster, as just before we started, my condo was hit with a momentary power flicker that took down my internet and needed five minutes or so to reboot before I could reopen my already-started Zoom session. However, due to the magnetic attraction of The Beatles, everything recovered and we were soon tapping our toes.

At the end we had an unexpected treat. Patricia Kotak revealed that she, while still a teenager in England, had attended a LIVE Beatles concert in 1963, and vividly described what it was like being immersed in such a fantastic experience.

Our second musical extravaganza was a YouTube video of the music that Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg wrote for Henrik Ibsen’s play “Peer Gynt”, first performed in Oslo in 1876. The play, which is in verse, very long (5 acts), complicated / almost surreal and supernatural in places, follows Gynt from adolescence to old age, through a rowdy life in many parts of the world and many strange involvements. One writer described it as the story of a life based on procrastination and avoidance. Grieg wrote 30 musical items for the play, all very melodic and beautiful, capturing it’s many moods and events. Grieg is seen as Norway’s greatest classical composer, and this music is certainly his best.

Grieg later put together two sets of music from Peer Gynt, containing some of the best pieces, for publication, and this music became very well-known and performed all over the world (and still is). However, the complete score used in the play was only discovered in the 1980s, and this is what we listened to – the first COMPLETE recorded performance, all one hour and forty-five minutes! Many of the new items are real gems.

February was Pat’s Month!

by Diane Comstock, Correspondent

Four BeeGees played Yahtzee on Tuesday, Feb. 9th. It would have been five, but Lorrette “forgot” her dice at home. Pat was the #1 winner with 320 points thanks to a Yahtzee, and high points (25, 22, 25) for her ‘3 of a kind’, ‘4 of a kind’, and Chance respectively.



On Feb. 24th, eight BeeGees played Farkle. We considered breaking into two rooms, but decided to keep the group together. Pat started off strong with a straight worth 1500 points. In the 3rd round, Beth scored 1150 to take a 50 point lead. Pat quickly regained her lead by scoring 1050 and 1900 in rounds 4 & 5. Meanwhile, Marg was quietly amassing points by taking advantage of free throws and was able to take the lead in the 6th round. Pat took over the lead in the 8th round and reached a score of 10100 in the 10th round. We all did our best to beat Pat, especially Lorhel who rolled 5 5s (2000 points) but, alas, we all farkled in the 11th round.



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

Row by Row

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

Four members of the PieceMakers gathered together on Zoom for their monthly quilting meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd and welcomed new member Dawn Ross to the fold. Wendy had finished her coffee cup table runner and showed us the progress on her Square in a Square quilt. She also said she had been online shopping and got herself a wool pressing mat, a ¼ inch ruler, and some heat-erasable pens. Carol Anne had pieced three more row by row kits: “At the Beach”, “Whale Tails”, and “Dancing Bears”. Diane pieced and quilted her Ice Crystal Block #4 placemat and played with a Disappearing Half-Square Triangle Four-Patch pattern, creating 3 different layouts. Stay tuned for more layouts next month. Carol Anne and Diane talked about the 2021 Quilting Sewing Summit that they were attending virtually from Feb. 1-5. Carol Anne showed the Rhapsody Table Runner that she had completed based on one of the lessons and Diane showed a Trapunto shell based on a different lesson.

Quilting Terms of the Month:

Row by Row Quilting Experience –

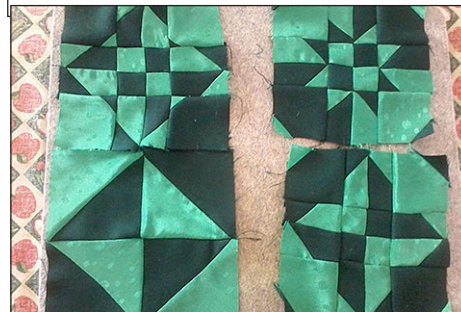
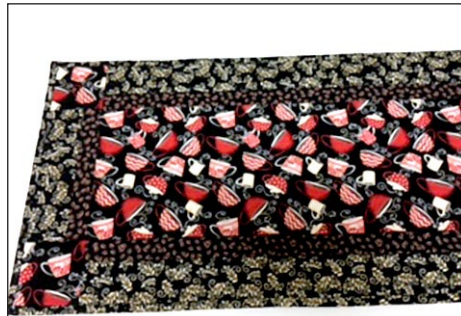
Quilt shops register to join a Row by Row Quilting Experience and create a fun pattern for a “row” in a quilt, generally 9.5” by 36”. Each shop creates a unique in-store experience to go with the theme and that’s part of the fun! Shoppers (aka Rowers) visit participating

quilt shops throughout the summer to receive one FREE copy of the shop’s RxR pattern. Rowers then combine the row patterns to make a quilt that represents their summer travels. This could just be traveling around to your local shops, too! The first quilter in each shop to present a finished quilt using at least 8 different row patterns receives a prize!

Trapunto quilting – A technique used to add another dimension to a quilt. Puffy, raised areas of quilting add a unique texture to a flat piece of art. Italian for embroider, this is also known as the “stuffing technique” because specific parts of the quilt are filled.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 2nd at 1pm on Zoom where Carol Anne and Diane will share some of the techniques learned in the summit.

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



Iguazu Falls, Argentina

By Joanne Millichamp

Anyone who knows me knows that I love to travel and have been to many wonderful places around the world. However, the best-laid plans don't always work out and here's my story of a day that didn't.

Several years ago, Ron and I did a cruise around South America. We went in five days prior and spent a few days in Buenos Aires before going on to Iguazu Falls.

We flew into the small town of Puerto Iguazu on December 31st and stayed at a beautiful hotel, arriving in the morning. We took a walk around the town, which is quite small and poor. That afternoon we lazed around the gorgeous swimming pool while awaiting what was expected to be a wonderful New Year's Eve. We heard so much from people we met about how it's such a big celebration in South America.

The weather was gorgeous, warm and humid and cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served around the pool at 7pm. Around 8 pm we were ushered into a separate restaurant building. The décor was minimal with plastic poinsettas and candles on the tables and white tablecloths and chair coverings. A small group of musicians was playing quietly in the corner and the wine was flowing freely. Several hours went by without any food appearing and everyone was really hungry.

The first course appeared around 10:30pm and it was a mushroom vol-au-vent appetizer. Because it was a warm, muggy evening and I expect the pastry was sitting out the pastry became very hard and it was difficult to cut it and even more difficult to eat it, so most people sent it back. The second course appeared, a pasta dish and it was raw! No one could eat that either and so back it went and more wine was consumed. The main course appeared at 11:30pm.

The description on the menu was 'beef steak' and if you have ever been to Argentina, you know that their beef is superb. Well, this wasn't like any beef I had ever seen. The only way I can describe it is that it looked like a cow's knee. It was a huge roundish bone with gristle, fat and hardly any meat on it. Then just before midnight there was a little excitement as our table centerpiece caught on fire. As it started to spread and we are all madly looking for the exits, several other table centerpieces started on fire (no one was paying any attention to the candles which had burned down by this point and set the plastic flowers on fire). Luckily all the fires were put out and we all went back out to poolside where we were going to bring in the New Year by watching what was supposed to be a spectacular fireworks display. This was another disappointment as the fireworks were in nearby Paraguay, and were so far away we couldn't see most of them.

Everyone decided to call it a night around 12:30 and go off to bed as we had an early start the next day to see the Falls. When I tried to unlock our door, my key card wouldn't work, so I went downstairs to the Front Desk to get a new one. Up I went again and that card wouldn't work either. Down I went again (did I mention it was 5 floors up?). This time, there was a crowd of people around the desk. It turned out that everyone's key card wouldn't work because it was now a different year, so only those who went to their rooms before midnight were able to get in.

Much yelling and gesturing ensued at the desk as the young man on duty just kept shrugging his shoulders and didn't know what to do. Finally the manager was called; he was at a party in no condition to drive and said he would be there sometime after lunch. I ran back upstairs to tell Ron this news and found him fast asleep on a sofa in the hallway. He said he had been over-served at dinner and needed a little nap, lol.

One of the guests was a computer specialist and was able to re-jig the system somehow and get all the keycards working one at a time with a manual machine. They started on the first floor. Did I mention I was on the 5th floor? so by the time they got up there it was almost 4 am. We had to be downstairs for breakfast at 6:30am.

We spent the next day at Iguazu Falls, which was magnificent. The Falls are the largest in the world and span 2.7 km. They are made up of 275 separate waterfalls or cataracts, with the tallest being 108 metres. We took a speedboat under the Falls wearing our bathing suits. The water was shockingly cold. Iguazu Falls are truly a spectacular sight to see. Our wonderful day here more than made up for our previous evening's disappointment.

Music and Civil Rights Tour

By John Flynn

We need to start by confessing that we thought we didn't like country music. That all changed when we decided on a whim to stop in Nashville on our way home from Florida in 2014. We soon discovered that we do like country music, and have returned to Nashville four times since then!

On that visit we learned that there are two styles of Country music: Nashville and Bakersfield. The Bakersfield style is the twangy one, which we still don't care for. Nashville style includes singers such as Elvis Presley and Roy Orbison, Jim Reeves and Waylon Jennings.

On our first visit in 2014, we went to the Grand Ole Opry and really enjoyed it. We found out you have to book well ahead so you don't end up in the gods as we did.



We also went to the Country Music Hall of Fame, where we learned so much, and Studio B, which has been in use since 1957, has produced 35,000 recordings, and is still an active recording studio. Elvis did most of his recording there, and the Steinway piano he used to rehearse is still there. Excellent tour - not to be missed.

Fast forward to 2016. We left the Airstream factory in Ohio on April 1 and drove into spring on the way to Nashville.

The following day, we did the backstage tour of the Opry. You do it at your own pace, with guides along the way, and get to visit all the dressing rooms (each with a distinctive decor) before ending up on the Opry stage.



After the tour, we walked through the Gaylord Opryland Hotel - huge and amazing. We had dinner before the show at Opry Mills Mall, then walked over to the Opry. Once again, thoroughly enjoyed it, in spite of never having heard of any of the singers!

The next day, we set off on the Natchez Trace toward Tupelo. The Trace was originally used by Native Americans. It became a major commercial route. For a time, it was used by men heading home on foot after delivering goods to Natchez by flat boat from Nashville and as far north as Pittsburg. They had built flat boats up north and in the spring they loaded them with goods (lumber, etc.) and went down to Natchez on the Mississippi. There they sold their cargos, took the boats apart and sold the lumber. They walked more than 500 miles back on the Trace. In 1810 it's estimated 10,000 men walked back up the Trace. Today, the Natchez Parkway is a 440 mile paved road without a stop sign or traffic light.

Next day, we rode our bikes into Tupelo on the Trace. Bicycles have right of way, and drivers always gave us lots of room. We walked around Elvis Presley's birthplace, a tiny two room house that his father had built, and saw the church his family attended.



Day 5 we left the Trace and drove to Montgomery, Alabama, then the next day set out to "do Montgomery". We started with Old Alabama Town, which reminded me of Black Creek or Upper Canada Village, except that the buildings are on city streets. Most of it we visited on our own, but did a tour of a large house furnished in period pieces and decor that reflected the Darwinian era. The Hank Williams Museum told the story of his all too brief life - he was only 29 when he died, but accomplished a lot in a short time. The last stop was the Rosa Parks Museum. Very well done! It covered the story of her refusal to give up her seat on a bus to a white person, through the 13 month bus boycott in 1955-1956 that led to the desegregation movement.

The next day we were back on the road heading to Florida near Pensacola for a bit of a rest, then we took two days to visit the Naval Air Museum. Without going into detail, it was very interesting - and too much to do in one day.

Leaving Pensacola, we made our way to Lafayette, Louisiana, hoping for some Cajun and Zydeco music. During the day we went on a Cajun swamp tour where we saw lots of wildlife, including, of course, alligators of varying sizes. In the evening, we went to a restaurant for Cajun food and music. We think we had enough crawfish to last a lifetime! But the music was disappointing. Perhaps it is better on the weekend. Oh well, we had to try it.



The next day we drove to Natchez, the southern end of the Natchez Trace, and the following day, we began with the Museum of African History and Culture - small but great information and displays - and finished at the William Johnson House. Johnson was a freed slave who became a prosperous businessman. The Parks employee who worked there was extremely knowledgeable and passionate about his subject: not just William Johnson, but the Natchez Black community. The 1957 decision to integrate schools was not brought into force in Natchez till 1988, 31 years later! A new school was built to keep the community quiet.

Leaving Natchez, we turned back up the Trace toward Vicksburg. Along the way we stopped to see a section of the original Trace where it had been pounded down by the many people walking on the soft loess (look it up!) soil. It is 8 feet lower at that spot than elsewhere.

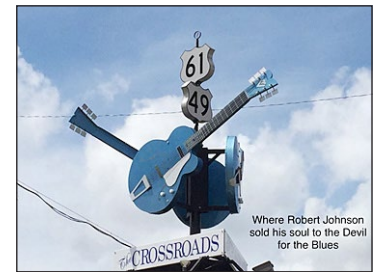


We spent a couple of days in Vicksburg, including touring the National Military Park, then continued along the Trace back to Tupelo. On the way, we passed the highest point (603 feet). We have done the Natchez Trace from end to end!

On then to Memphis and the Graceland RV Park, a short walk to Graceland itself.

We visited the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, founded by Clarence Saunders, the founder of Piggly Wiggly, the first self-serve grocery store in the US. The museum traced the history of Memphis from dinosaurs through Native Peoples, pioneers, the Civil War, and right on up to 1960. There was a life size replica of the first Piggly Wiggly. Neither music nor civil rights but fun!

Day 3 in Memphis took us to Clarksdale MS to visit the Delta Blues Museum. We had lunch at Abe's BBQ, right at the crossroads of highways 49 and 61, where Robert Johnson is said to have sold his soul to the devil for the blues. Exhibits at the museum told the history and development of the blues.



The next day we visited Graceland. The tour was interesting and we learned a lot about Elvis. After visiting the house where he was born and the little church where he learned to sing, it was an incredible contrast. It was clear what was important to him: family, friends, faith, as well as his music and the many charitable organizations he supported generously. Some rooms were quite ordinary, though large. Others were something else!



The last day in Memphis, we went to the highlight of our civil rights tour, the National Museum of Civil Rights. The museum was built around the Lorraine Motel where Martin Luther King Junior was shot.

The museum began with a presentation on slavery and its importance to the American economy. It took several hours to go through this museum - there was so much detail, a lot of it disturbing. Our tour ended in Martin Luther King's room and the room across the hall used by his supporters. The rooms were as they had been when he was shot. A wreath hangs on the balcony where he was shot as he stood speaking.

The last few days of our trip were spent back in Nashville. That visit included the Johnny Cash museum. He reminded us of Elvis in his support of various charities, among them an SOS Children's Village in Jamaica. He always wore black to remember the underdogs of society. We also went to the Ryman Auditorium again but were disappointed in the quality of the sound. The music was good but we could not understand the lyrics.

And so all good things come to an end. On April 28 we started towards home. What a great trip - we've only touched the surface here.

Can you remember your first?

By Wayne Herder

I was only sixteen, inexperienced and a typical male. Yes, I wanted it so bad that it was on my mind 24/7. Finally, the time came when the opportunity of a lifetime appeared. I could not believe it, a 1950 Dodge four door sedan for only \$50. The body was in perfect shape with three on the tree manual transmission. A square box with low mileage. I had now reached manhood but not maturity. All my friends thought I had won the Irish Sweepstakes. (Tickets were sold in Quebec but illegally, nor could I afford one.)

I went to a weekly farm market and auction in Lachute. I was on a winning streak. The horse auction was on and they were auctioning off early spring foals. I fell in love with a beautiful six-week old colt. They must have seen me coming as the average price was 16\$ but I bid 32\$ and was the winner. How to get him home. Easy answer with my new car purchase. Took the back seat out and stored it in the trunk. Then I lead the colt through the back door and left him where the back seat was. I was so happy and pleased with myself but the poor colt cried all the way home. He sure missed his mom. Home happened to be at a farm in our neighbouring town. Somehow, someone named him after my personality, Stormy.

I still have fond memories of both.

Do you remember your first? You can write about it for the Forum or make a short presentation at one of our general meetings. Hope to hear from you soon!

A Moving Experience

By Gillian Reynolds

When we moved from rural to urban Milton nearly twenty years ago, we had accumulated a lot of stuff over the thirty years, especially if you are packrats like us, and worse still, if you have the room to store it. And we did: a four-stall barn (horses long since gone), a large shed, and half of the large basement. Then there was the old car and snowmobile our son intended to fix up one day. Both children had left home. Most of their possessions had stayed. "You have lots of room," they said.

I had tried to get motivated to purge some of our surplus stuff by reading books like "Clear your Clutter with Feng Shui," but my half-hearted attempts to minimize met with minimal success, even though I understood how Feng Shui works: "Holding on to unwanted or unneeded possessions keeps us stuck in life."

The task of sorting through stuff is daunting and draining, physically and emotionally - and having allergies didn't help either. Plus, making decisions has never come easy to me. The secret, I found, was to take a break now and then to clear my head. I would go outside and watch the birds feeding or an ant crawling along the deck.

"Give and it will be given to you." (Luke 6:38). As we started giving things away, amazing things began to happen. Prosperity came into our lives from various sources and in different forms - an inheritance, gifts, rebates, refunds, etc. My health supplement business started to prosper. One day I went to the bank to draw out some money. Examining my passbook, I noticed a large deposit in my account. I told the teller that the bank must have made an error. Upon checking she said: "It's from Fred Smith, Esquire. He must be a lawyer." I replied "Fred Smith's my brother in England, and he is certainly no lawyer." When I got home, I phoned him to thank him for his generosity. He told me that he had decided to give away part of the proceeds of sale of a business. "I thought it would be a nice surprise," he said.

As it turned out, it took us a year to sort out all our stuff. It wasn't supposed to, but having the luxury of time, we decided to do it the hard way. Being "environmentally friendly" there would be no dumpsters for us. Every single thing we owned had to be picked, packed, pitched or parted with in some other way. Apart from some large objects like machinery and furniture that were sold by auction, we managed to give away most of the things we didn't want to someone who did. The problem was finding that certain someone. I lost count of how many trips we took to Goodwill shops and the dump.

Our "new" small suburban house with its cabbage patch garden has very little storage space, but it's funny how stuff expands to fill the space available.

Tattoos as a statement

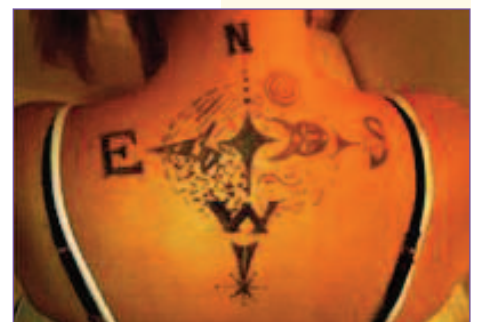
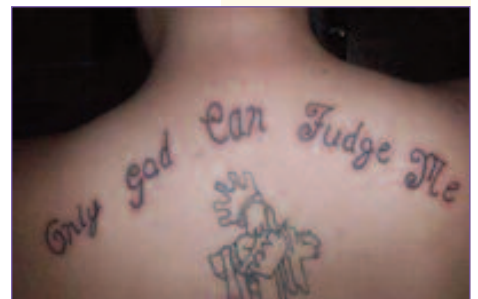
By Alan Jordan - OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT

Tattooing has been practiced across the globe since at least Neolithic times, as evidenced by mummified preserved skin, ancient art and archaeological records.

The practice of creating and displaying tattoos in a prison environment may convey gang membership, code, or hidden meanings of origin or criminal deeds.

Tattooing was somehow “reintroduced” to the Western world following European voyages to Polynesia is a myth. Tattooing has been consistently present in Western society from the modern period stretching back to Ancient Greece. Captain James Cook’s voyages to the South Pacific imported the Polynesian word “tatau” (as “tattow”, later changed to “tattoo”), tattooing was not at all novel at that time.

Today, Tattoos are endemic among the younger set in Canada and around the world, generating millions of dollars. Some of the spelling or grammatical errors shown in these pictures are not only laughable but also lamentable.



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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).

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.