

FORUM



Volume 9 — Issue 2 — April 2021

President's Message:

PROBUS at Work



Escarpment PROBUS management has been very active during this pandemic. PROBUS Canada has been offering us Zoom meetings on how to function during these difficult times. I am pleased to see our District 4 Chair, Martin Capper, being a co-host in these meetings. The last meeting was about hybrid gatherings and options that are available to us. We are restricted to whatever the provincial government dictates. This is confusing and ever changing, which makes it difficult for us to make any long-term plans.

Our only option at this time appears to be limited attendance in person with a simultaneous Zoom meeting, however it is too soon to put a firm plan in place as it is an ever-changing environment.

This is a difficult position to be in as there are many factors to consider. How many members can attend in person? Would there be enough interest in attending? If more people register than capacity permits, who gets in first? What safety measures need to be put in place? And the list goes on and on. I am sure we all would like to get back to normal, whatever that will be, when the time is right and regulations permit.

On behalf of all the management team, we would like to thank you for attending our Zoom meetings and on-line activities, and viewing the Forum. We are a strong club because of you!

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Out of sight but not out of mind!

— *Wayne Herder*

PROBUS Information Exchange (P.I.E.)

by *Cliff Read*

At the last general meeting I gave a short talk about PIE. It acts as a helpful referral service among PROBUS members who have agreed to receive occasional recommendation requests. In the past this has averaged about one or two mailings a month. Please note that PIE is not intended as a means of selling items or services.

Some recent examples of requests include referrals for physiotherapists, fence repairs, animal removal, furnace installation, and window replacements. Most often members deal with local businesses.

The way it works is that you receive an email request. If you have a shop or individual you have dealt with and were satisfied with their work you contact the person looking for the service with the name and number of that business.

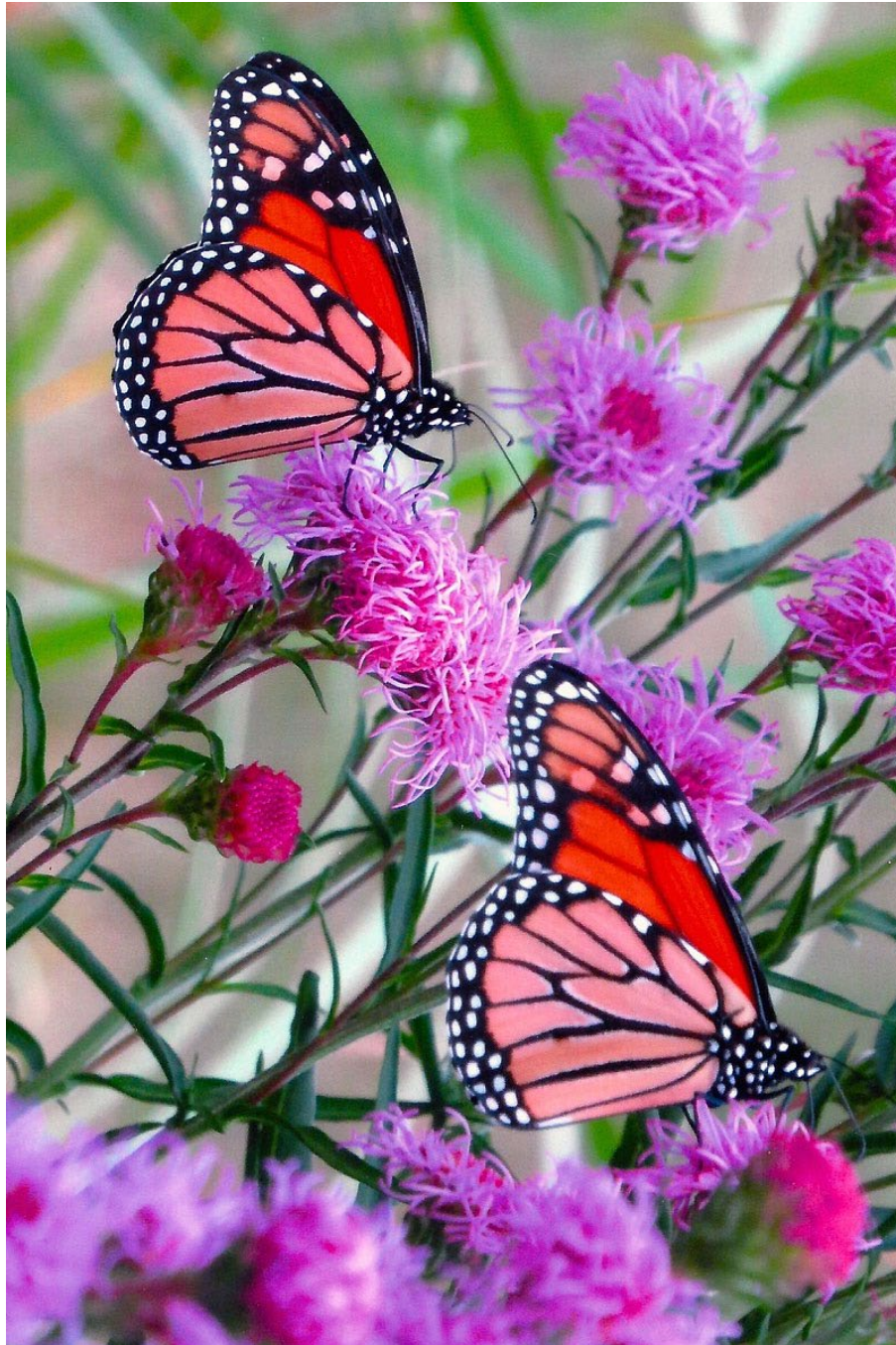
Presently about 100 of our PROBUS members already belong to PIE. If you are not on the list and you would like to get involved, please contact me at cliff.read@cogeco.ca and I will add your name to the list.

Contents:

Activities.....	3
Upcoming Meetings	4
Club List	5
May Calendar	6
Recent Events	
April Meeting and Events	7
Clubs.....	8
News and Views.....	13
Management Page	15

Escarpment Photo of the Month

This month we have two Monarch butterflies on a Meadow Blazing Star plant, a taste of spring captured by Beth Barnes. Send your photos to david@bosscommunications.com and I will select one for inclusion each month.



ACTIVITIES

May Flowers

By Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair



I can't say I'm enjoying lockdown and I am counting down the days to get out and be with people – fingers crossed - but in the meantime, I'm appreciating the flowers that are budding and the many different shades of green that are coming to life! So it is spring cleaning, yard work, getting tasks done around the house and adding to my ever growing list of things I want to do when this is over!

Our Scattergories evening was high energy with a lot of laughs and fun from 33 of us! Check out my article. Also check out Kelly's article about our Trivia night! We had 37 members participating. Find out the pseudonym name of the winners who made it to the podium. All will be given a Tim Horton's card of varying amounts once we are done with this shutdown.

The winner of the April Monthly Meeting for their Easter outfit was Margaret Murphy, who won a bottle of Casillero del Diablo (Pinot Grigio) to be delivered soon. Honorable mention to Jean George! Way to go ladies! Thanks to Martin Capper for choosing this month's winner. Let's see who is going to put forth their best for a Spring Fling!

You will note that our June activities are both "outdoors". In the event that provincial regulations prohibit us from meeting, we will change these to a different activity via Zoom and move the time to 7 pm. An email will be sent out to ALL members not just those registered.

Activities Committee
Members:

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

MAY ACTIVITIES:

Zoom Never Have I Ever!! - Tuesday, May 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 Probiana a little better. This is an activity for everyone! Random items will be displayed and we will want you to indicate – Never Have I Ever!! Or I Have!! Hear some interesting stories about your fellow Probiana as we go through the evening! You can register by email to kmgground@gmail.com or gagnonruth@gmail.com. This is sure to be an activity with loads of laughs and social interaction!



Please email Kelly or myself if you can no longer play.

Zoom Musical B-I-N-G-O – Wednesday, May 26th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

We are back with an old game with a new twist and a new playlist. 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 card. **Please note that each Bingo card is unique!**

Please email kmgground@gmail.com or gagnonruth@gmail.com. to register!

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

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

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon



Join us for an action packed Play Day! Let’s bring out that youthful side of you and see how you roll. We will meet on Tuesday, June 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 see who has the best hand and ultimately determine our first Play Day winner! Once we are done we plan to head to an outdoor terrace for a happy hour drink. Stay tuned for more details! Don’t miss out! **Cost is \$5/member to cover the park rental, supplies and prizes! Please bring your cheque to the park. This event is limited to 25 members and will be 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. Note we are working on a rain date as well.

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

MEETING: MAY



The Wreck of HMS Speedy

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

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.

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 Français	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.

MAY CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
Activities				
Zoom Never Have I Ever!	May 4	7:00 PM	Zoom	Kelly Ground/Ruth Gagnon
Executive Meeting	May 12	7:00 PM	Zoom	Wayne Herder
Escarpment PROBUS monthly meeting	May 19	9:30 AM	Zoom	Wayne Herder
Zoom Musical B-I-N-G-O	May 26	7:00 PM	Zoom	Kelly Ground/Ruth Gagnon
Clubs				
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only			Cliff Read
Crafts - Quilting - <i>Piece Makers</i>	May 4	1:00 PM	Zoom	Diane Comstock
Tastings - Whisky - <i>D'Stillers</i>	May 5	7:00 PM	Zoom	Chris Strachan
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	May 6	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Book Club - <i>First Edition</i>	May 10	1:00 PM	Zoom	Paul Crawford
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	May 10	7:00 PM	Zoom	Martin Capper
Board Games (Yahtzee) - <i>Bee Gees</i>	May 11	1:00 PM	Zoom	Stephen Comstock
Book Club - <i>Sequel</i>	May 12	10:00 AM	Zoom	Catherine Parr
Travel - <i>Wanderlust</i>	May 13	7:00 PM	Zoom	Gloria Pennycook
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	May 20	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Dining - <i>Skip the Dishes</i>	May 20	6:00 PM	Zoom	Lorrette Shermet
Friendship Club	May 26	10:00 AM	Zoom	Judy Krauss
Board Games (Farkle) - <i>Bee Gees</i>	May 26	1:00 PM	Zoom	Stephen Comstock
Tastings - Beer - <i>Suds and Buds</i>	May 27	7:00 PM	Zoom	Pete Shermet
Dining - <i>Nosh@Nite</i>	May 28	5:30 PM	Zoom	Paul & Ellen Crawford

Grand Chalet

By Lorrette Shermet, Convenor

We will be ordering from “Grand Chalet” for our May 20th zoom get together at 6 p.m. An email will be set to all participants with the menu.

If you would like to participate and support a local restaurant, please email lorrette@sympatico.ca.



Now That I'm Older...

If you can't think of a word say "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below freezing outside they closed school? Yeah, Me neither.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

I see people about my age mountain climbing; I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

I'm at that age where my mind still thinks I'm 29, my humor suggests I'm 12, while my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.

— Submitted by Fred Ground

RECENT EVENTS

April Meeting

Our April Zoom General Meeting was held on April 14th. Here's the link to the recording of the meeting and guest speaker Nora Polley, who spent 56 seasons with the Stratford Festival.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/gOS07r4OM-bXf_Wyne0V4VqNZZGqWm8d_L1a0qG-OY_-cuwO3sNQfQVCwFUqN1s9.udyCewTICTvj27ev

Passcode: ir@vdtR7

Scattergories

by Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

Well we had another evening of laughter with 33 members playing Scattergories. We also experienced truth in the fact that great minds think alike. While there were lots of creative responses to the items presented, there was also a lot of duplication with some members being challenged to come up with more unique responses. We do have a competitive group!! The winners for the evening, coming in with first place and 41 points, were Cliff & Liz Read! Second place went to Richard & Nancy Lee with 33 points. Both couples will receive a \$15 Indigo gift card once we are through this lockdown! Honorable mention goes to Martin & Norma Capper coming in third with 32 points. So close!! We will be back...



Trivia Part II - All for Fun

by Kelly Ground, Activities Committee

To whom is this quote attributed: "Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens."

- Mahatma Gandhi
- Hilary Clinton
- Jimi Hendrix
- Winston Churchill

This was one of the most difficult questions of the evening but our 37 players were not stumped for long. Fifteen of the nineteen teams got 50% of the 100 questions correct. Using Kahoot, not only does the correct answer gives you points, but also the speed to which you answer contributes to your total points, and it came down to speed to determine our winners.

Our third place finishers, Genius Oryx, Susanne and Ian Greaves, led with 69% of questions answered correctly, but lacked the points being 2,606 points behind first place. Well done!

Second place finishers are familiar to the trivia winner's circle. The Rocky Chicken team of Paul and Ellen Crawford answered 65% of the questions correctly with a total of 51,294 points, 2,586 behind our first place finishers. Great competitors as per usual.

The winning team with first place points of 63,880 and 68% of the questions answered correctly was Rational Badger, aka Liz and Cliff Read. The lead shifted a bit but they held on for the most part.

It was a great turnout and really nice to see familiar faces, and especially nice to see new participants join us! Stay tuned for more trivia in the upcoming months.

[Editor's note: Answer to Kelly's question is...believe it or not... Jimi Hendrix!]

Clubs: Food and Drink

Surprise Reunion

by Peter Lasota, Correspondent

We really miss our “no distance” get-togethers but these Zoom noshes are still a lot of fun. We all still sip our favourite drinks and share a common appetizer and good conversation. We started our session by asking for a hands-up from all who had their Jab. Everyone did a happy thumbs up. One couple was sitting outdoors in the cold and another looked like they were lying back in a bed. When asked about this, they replied they were babysitting grandchildren and had to find a spot for a short while of peace and quiet. We also had a little surprise for the group. Joining us were our old PROBUS friends Ann and Ron DuPont, who moved to London, Ontario, a few years ago. It was a cheerful reunion.

Our monthly “Solidarity” appetizer recipe, chosen by Josie and myself, follows.

Chicken & Bacon Roll-Ups

Ingredients:

- 1 can (9-3/4 ounces) chunk white chicken, drained (or your own home cooked chicken, chopped up)
- 1 carton (8 ounces) spreadable cream cheese
- 1 cup salsa, divided in half
- 4 pieces ready-to-serve fully cooked bacon, crumbled
- 6 flour tortillas (8 inches), room temperature

Directions:

Mix chicken, cream cheese, 1/2 cup salsa and bacon; spread over tortillas. Roll up tightly; wrap in plastic. Refrigerate at least 1 hour. Just before serving, unwrap and cut tortillas into 1-in. slices. Serve with remaining salsa.



All Good Things Come to an End

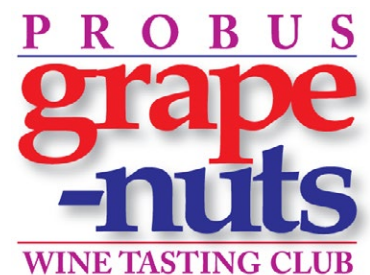
by Jim Tschirhart, Convenor

Well, our Winter Wine Tasting has come to an end after 21 weeks of tasting everyone’s submissions. Some sent in their favourites, others sent in wines that they thought would be a contender; and oh, did the numbers vary!

The winning red wine was Josh Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon with an overall score of 16.23, submitted by Mary and Russ Cousins. The winning white wine submitted by Liz and Cliff Read was Stoneleigh Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc scoring 16.08.

Thanks to all who participated!

What lies ahead for Grapenutters has yet to be determined as there are many more considerations to be decided as we hope to hold them in person, social-distanced of course.



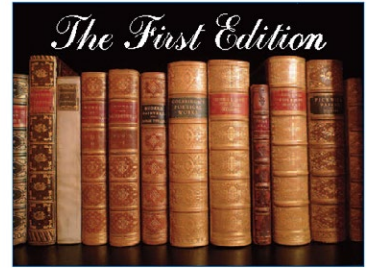
Clubs: Books, Hobbies, Games

The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty

by Julie Flynn, Correspondent

The First Edition book club met via Zoom (how else?) on April 12th. Our book this month was *The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty* by Vendela Vida. The book takes place in Casablanca where the main character, whose name we never learn, has travelled to get away from events in her life that we only find out about near the end of the book. When her backpack is stolen along with her money, credit cards and identity, she takes on new names and characters. Most of us found it unsettling that the book ends before we find out what eventually happened to her. No neat ending here!

This was an easy, quick read but overall not very satisfying. Two people gave it 7 out of 10, while the rest felt it deserved only 5 or 6.



Black Rabbit Hall

by Carolyn Rumley, Correspondent

Black Rabbit Hall, also known as Pencraw Hall, is the crumbling ancestral home of the Alton family, located on the Cornish coast of England and used by the family as a holiday retreat. It is a magical place for children with overgrown gardens, forests and the sea. The story revolves around the lives of two women, Amber and Lorna, and how they are each connected to the house a generation apart.

The novel, by Eve Chase, is part mystery, part fairy tale and part historical fiction, always with a sense of malice and danger. The story includes family secrets, forbidden love and heartbreaking loss. There are twists and turns as the story unfolds.

There were mixed reviews from the members of our group. Some referred to it as a “summer read” and enjoyed the descriptive language, the setting and the plot, which tied up nicely at the end of the book. A couple of our members with Cornish and or British backgrounds particularly liked the local language and geography. Other members of our group were less impressed.

Overall it was felt that the book would appeal to a specific audience and they gave it a 5/10.



Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal, they lay down for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. Holmes said: “Watson, look up and tell me what you see”.

Watson said: “I see a fantastic panorama of countless stars.”

Holmes: “And what does that tell you?”

Watson pondered for a moment: “Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow.”

“Why? – What does it tell you, Holmes?”

Holmes was silent for a moment then spoke: “My good Watson... someone has stolen our tent.”

— Submitted by Ron Millichamp

PROBUS Mozartians take a Sea Voyage to China

by Michael Hooker, Convenor



Well, not literally (not just because of Covid). But in musical terms, we covered both musical bases in a single month.

Asoka started our virtual wanderings with a fascinating introduction to Chinese western-influenced classical music (not pure Chinese music). So, for us the music was easily understandable, but with definite Chinese characteristics – in melodies, harmonies, and through the use of Chinese musical instruments integrated into the western-style orchestras. Asoka was working from experience; he has been interested in this particular genre for many years.

His program included orchestral pieces (e.g., “The Yellow River Piano Concerto”, arranged by a collaboration between several Chinese composers, including Yin Chengzong and Chu Wanghua, and based on the Yellow River Cantata by composer Xian Xinghai), and solo piano pieces, mostly based on traditional Chinese melodies and played by Chinese pianists such as Lang Lang (who is also famous in the West).

For a three-minute example of what we heard, click on the YouTube link below, to hear Lang Lang play Lu Ting’s “The Cowherd’s Flute”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZP53HkuzYk>

If this intrigues you, try this link also: Yundi Li playing “Colourful Clouds chasing the moon (4 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-EZTdVJmVQ>

Now, The Sea Voyage. I presented a Zoomer of Sea Songs from the days of sail, when the work of getting a ship to its destination came from the wind and from human sweat. Conditions for the crews were terrible (by our standards): dangerous work, (often in terrible weather), ferocious discipline, poor food, low pay. For the whalers, there were added dangers: boats overturned by harpooned whales, ships crushed in the ice, pay dependent on the voyage’s success, and for whalers in the Pacific, voyages that could last years. The crew made their entertainment, and songs were a big part.

There are two types of songs: “Shanties”, which are always work songs, to make backbreaking jobs go smoothly, and “Forebitters”, songs they wrote and sang for their own entertainment. The songs are really “down to earth”, and talk about things like longing for home, battles with pirates, battling ice and whales off Greenland, the “benders after the voyage end” – when booze and prostitutes could waste all their pay in days, and anything else they felt like. The singers all have a “feel” for their material; one of them, Bert Lloyd, shipped as a seaman on a British Antarctic whaler in the 1930s.

Sampler Time. Here’s a couple from the program (both from YouTube).

“Little Sally Racket” – 1 ½ minutes. A Halyard Shanty (Halyard: line to raise / lower sail). Singer: Ewan MacColl.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3o5jfJ6P2w&list=PLdxzX4OOQUYPPKdNA81hngTc_5cS8Oozh&index=5

“The Sperm whale Fishery” - 3 minutes. The best-loved and most sung of all British whaling songs. Sung by Bert Lloyd. This is a Forebitter.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJNCvYAIzKE&list=PLdxzX4OOQUYPPKdNA81hngTc_5cS8Oozh&index=3

Continuous Bias Binding

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

On Tuesday, April 6th, the PieceMakers gathered together on Zoom for their monthly quilting meeting. Everyone had a show and tell:

- Diane had finished a Basket of Tulips door hanger – a present for her sister’s birthday using raw edge applique.
- Wendy had completed her Christmas runner and showed us a Yellow Tulip block and a Pumpkin door hanger.
- Carol Ann’s Row-by-Row quilt complete with scalloped border is now ready to grace her outdoor chairs along with two pillows: Singing in the Rain and Musical Notes.
- Louise overcame the challenge of both inside and outside corners to finish her Rhapsody table runner.
- Dawn showed us a Cardinal pillow completed 15 years ago along with her current striped placemats; she noted that she prefers hand sewing the binding.
- Judy is planning two more baby quilts using Mix and Match blocks by Tilda World. She showed us patterns for a bird, a flower, a bee, and a leaf. She is looking for more patterns.

We then watched a video on creating continuous bias binding. The advantage of making your own over store bought is it can be made from matching fabric. Carol Ann noted that she was able to get 170" of 2.5" tape from a 22" square of fabric.

Quilting Terms of the Month:

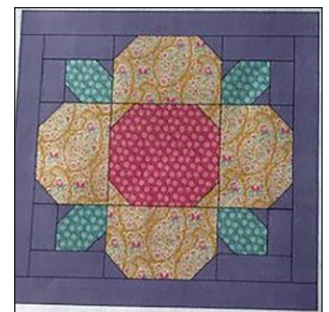
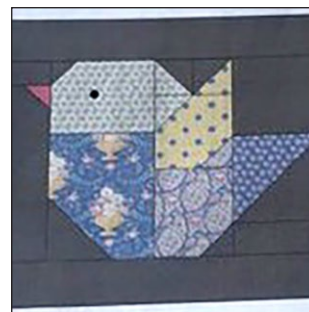
FOB – Fear of Binding.

Machine Appliqué – The process of attaching fabric motifs onto fabric using a sewing machine.

Raw Edge Appliqué – Technique where the raw edge of the applique fabric is left exposed. After washing this produces a frayed appearance.

Next meeting will be held May 4th and again, due to provincial guidelines, will be hosted on Zoom.

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.



Beth and Pat All The Way!

by Diane Comstock, Correspondent

On April 20th, eight BeeGees played Yahtzee on Zoom. On her first turn, Beth rolled 5 twos, earning her first Yahtzee. On her turn, Pat also rolled 5 twos. On another turn, Beth rolled 5 ones for her second Yahtzee and 100 points. Barb tried to keep up by rolling her own Yahtzee. But Beth was not finished, on another turn she rolled 5 more twos to earn her a third Yahtzee and another 100 points, finishing the game with a whopping 513 points. She attributes her dice win to her hot tea travel mug!



YAHTZEE		Beth	
Upper Section	Value	Roll	Score
Aces	1	5	5
Twos	2	5	10
Threes	3	2	6
Fours	4	4	16
Fives	5	3	15
Sixes	6	3	18
Total Score:			70
Bonus:			35
Total Upper Section:			105
Lower Section	Value	Roll	Score
3 of a kind	1	21	21
4 of a kind	1	28	28
Full House	25	1	25
Sm Straight (4)	30	1	30
Lg Straight (5)	40	1	40
Yahtzee (5same)	50	1	50
Chance	1	14	14
Yahtzee bonus	100	2	200
Total Lower Section:			408
GRAND TOTAL:			513
			1

On April 28th, five BeeGees played Farkle on Zoom. Lorhel started on her first roll with 3 pairs earning herself 1500 points. On her second turn, Pat rolled 4 fours for 1000 points. The game progressed slowly, until the 6th round, at which time Lorrette passed 1100 points to Barb who in turn passed 1500 to Lorhel. Lorhel was kind enough to pass 1800 to Diane, who then passed 2000 to Pat. Pat passed 2100 to Lorrette, who unfortunately farkled. On her next turn Pat rolled 3 pairs to give herself a substantial lead. In round 15, Pat achieved 11200. We all tried to beat this score, especially Barb who rolled 4 fours, and managed to accumulate 2750 points, but alas fell short.

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

Clubs: Travel

Wanderlust Resumes

by Gloria Pennycook, Correspondent

A huge thanks to Liz and Cliff Read who lead us on a wonderful journey to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. They shared some great stories about their first visit to PV in 2019 and then the aborted (due to COVID) visit in 2021. We all wished that we were there walking the beautiful beaches and enjoying the sunshine. Liz and Cliff really experienced the local food scene, being brave to try “street food” as well as taking some cooking classes. Liz assured us the vendors are exceptionally clean because there is so much competition for the spots that they can’t afford to have people get sick and then be shut down. Bright colours is what we saw in the photos - markets, buildings, clothing, drinks - all bright colours!!! Liz and Cliff are not the only PROBUS folks who love PV as at least 7 other Probians were there as well. Hopefully our travels south to the sunshine will resume next year.

Next time, May 13th at 7:30, Gloria and Bob will share their trip to Ecuador and Galapagos. If you are interested in joining Wanderlust, please let me know. As we are doing this via Zoom, the more the merrier!!!



Blue Cheese and Bacon potato crisps

by Pete Shermet, Correspondent

Ingredients:

4-5 small (2") red potatoes
1/4 tsp coarsely ground black pepper
1/2 tsp olive oil
4 slices of cooked bacon crumbled
2 oz blue cheese crumbled
6 grape tomatoes
2 tbsp sour cream
2 tbsp snipped fresh chives (if desired)

Use silicone muffin pan, non stick muffin pan or muffin tin sprayed with non stick cooking spray or lined with parchment (cut squares of parchment and use an appropriate sized glass to form them into the muffin tin).

Peel and slice the potatoes (I used a mandolin). Combine pepper, olive oil and potato slices, toss to coat.

Microwave the bacon until crispy then crumble it.

Place a potato slice in the bottom of each muffin form, then sprinkle some cheese and crumbled bacon. Continue layering until all used up. Press the layers together slightly.

Preheat oven to 450°F. Bake 12-14 minutes or until edges are browned and crisp. Remove crisps from pan.

Place sour cream in a zip lock bag and cut the corner off. Pipe the sour cream on to the crisps and put 1/2 of a sliced grape tomato on each one. Sprinkle with chives.



CHOCOLATE BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING

By Megs Shellard

This recipe originally came from Delia Smith, an English cookbook writer and TV cooking show presenter who offered a no-nonsense style of cooking. It is best to prepare 24 to 48 hours ahead of time so that all the flavours will be absorbed.

9 slices good quality, day old white bread, crusts removed and cut into triangles.
5 oz (150g) dark chocolate – with 75% cocoa solids if possible
15 oz (425 ml) whipping cream
4 tbsp dark rum
4 oz (110 g) sugar
3 oz (75 g) butter
pinch of cinnamon
3 large eggs

Put chocolate, cream, butter, rum and cinnamon into a large bowl over a pot of simmering water. This is to melt the ingredients without them getting too hot. When melted remove from the heat and stir until all are well blended.

In a separate bowl, whisk the eggs well and then add slowly to chocolate mixture, continuously beating.

Lightly butter a 7x9x2" baking dish. Pour in 1/2" of the chocolate mixture, add half of the bread, more chocolate mix, the rest of the bread, and the remaining chocolate mixture. Gently push any exposed bread under the surface. Cool for 2 hours at room temperature. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 24 – 48 hours (the longer the better).

When ready to cook, preheat the oven to 350°F. Remove the plastic wrap and bake for 30 to 35 minutes until the top is crunchy. Allow to stand for 10 minutes before serving. Serve with whipped cream or fresh fruit.

Hope all you chocolate lovers out there enjoy. I would love to hear what you think.



Telecommuting

By *Beth Barnes*

Telecommuting or 'Working from Home' is thought to be a new way of working and continues to be the way of the world for many during this pandemic. I worked this way for three years way back in the 1990s (1997 to 2000), although for a different reason, and at this time, it was regarded as a first in my profession.

In 1993, I was hired by QLT PhotoTherapeutics Inc., a biotech company in Vancouver, to set up and develop a Corporate Library to support their growing company of 60 employees. This company began in 1981 as Quadra Logic Technologies, founded by five scientists from University of British Columbia (UBC) with the idea of developing photodynamic therapeutic drugs. As my son and daughter were both educated, into their careers and married, moving to Vancouver was not an issue for my family but, they said, a nice place to come for a visit!

In the early 1980's, the Canadian Biotechnology Industry was mostly ideas and QLT was many years away from success. Needing to move their rented laboratory space out of UBC, they found space in a building on 6th Avenue and had grown into a 60-person laboratory when I was hired in 1993. Their compound benzoporphyrin derivative was patented and they were concentrating on a drug to treat cancer. In 1995 Photofrin®, to treat esophageal cancer, was approved by the Food and Drug Association (FDA) and Health and Protection Branch (HPB). By now QLT was developing another drug to treat age-related macular degeneration in the eye. With this condition, blood vessels rupture in the retina/macula of the eye causing bleeding and then blindness. To treat it, the light-sensitive drug is injected into the arm of a patient and 15 minutes later, it's activated at the site with a nonthermal laser light that stops the bleeding and saves the patient's sight.

By 1995, QLT had expanded to 150 staff and had run out of space. With the purchase of a new multi-story building on Great Northern Way, we proceeded to make our move. In our new building, one floor was dedicated space for my department. Planning began for needed journal and book shelving, a proper reference unit, retractable wall storage shelving for back issues plus work stations for three more staff I needed to continue with the development of an inhouse Intranet with a growing company database of QLT published papers, patents, journals held, book holdings, conference papers and other items of interest. My idea to develop an Intranet for staff to access our collection from their laboratories and offices actually made it easier for me to telecommute later when this was offered.

By 1997, QLT was in clinical trials for our second drug, Verteporfin (better known by its trade name Visudyne®), and we had expanded to 360 staff. Life was good at QLT! However, my life changed with a family crisis that prompted me to hand in my resignation. After discussion, the QLT executive offered me the alternative of telecommuting from Ontario so that I could be close to my family but remain on staff. They asked if I could be in the QLT offices one week each month to connect in person but continue to manage my department remotely. My library staff was excellent at the daily functions of a corporate library such as circulation, interlibrary loans and ordering required books and conference papers. As much of my work was accessing online databases such as chemical and biological abstracts, Medline, World Patents Index to conduct literature searches and teleconferencing for meetings was already in place, this was doable.

I purchased a house in northwest Mississauga, close to my daughter in Streetsville, and set up an office. I could support my family and still keep my position by telecommuting with a trip to Vancouver to work at the QLT location every few weeks. Telecommuting worked well (even without Zoom) for 3 years until a medical condition happened to me. One day while working online, I noticed blurred vision in my right eye and after rinsing with eye drops, no improvement. My concern turned to panic when there was a sudden flash of light! Ironically, I was working for a company that researched retinal issues and I had one. I knew I was in trouble and needed to see a retinal specialist as soon as possible. After laser treatment later that night to suture around the detachment to stop further tearing of the retina, the retinal specialist advised me to stop the combination of daily computer screen work coupled with flying to Vancouver regularly or I would very likely have further retinal detachments. I handed in my resignation and this time QLT accepted!

MANAGEMENT TEAM



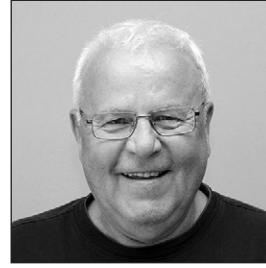
President
Wayne Herder
905-864-1424
wayne.herder@sympatico.ca



Vice-President
Diane Comstock
905-876-4909
meljenscc@sympatico.ca



Past President
Liz Read
905-864-1565
elizaread@gmail.com



Treasurer
Ted Chlischczyk
416-705-5947
tchlisz@gmail.com



Secretary
Barbara Campbell
905-875-2847
campbelljb@cogeco.ca



Activities Chair
Ruth Gagnon
905-462-4740
gagnonruth@gmail.com



Membership Chair
Penny McIlwaine
905-876-1963
pennymcilw@gmail.com



Social Chair
Marg Jones
905-876-4357
margjones@hotmail.com



Program Chair
Chris Wallhouse
905-854-9970
chris@wallhouse.ca



Forum/Web Editor
David Boss
905-858-3975
david@bosscommunications.com

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.