

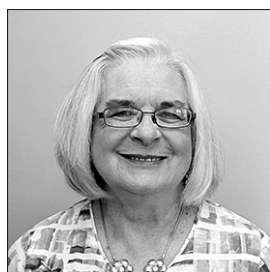
FORUM



Volume 10 - Issue 02 - February 2022

President's Message:

COVID Did NOT Stop Us!



Although in-person activities were postponed in January, members still enjoyed each other's company on Zoom. The High Rollers played dice, the Piece Makers shared their sewing accomplishments, the Friendship Club shared stories, the Card Sharks played crib, book clubs read and discussed their monthly tome, and Mozart and Friends listened to great music. The tasting groups found a way to enjoy and rate their beverages on-line and the members of the Nosh@Nite club shared two appy recipes while conversing on-line. Yes, Ruth's in-person activities were postponed, but Ruth and Kelly hosted a great Trivia Night and plan to do the same in February.

During our general meeting, we heard from two members who have volunteered to convene new social clubs. Dana Weatherall spoke about her passion for crafting and would like to meet other members with similar interests. Send her an email if you are interested (dweatherell@yahoo.com). Roy MacKay is interested in restarting the Pinseekers. If you like to golf, contact Roy for the details (roy@roymackay.ca).

Ontario has lifted some of its restrictions and now small groups of 10 people can meet indoors. If your club decides to meet in-person this month, please abide by the government's restrictions and ours regarding vaccinations, waiver forms, and screening questions. David Boss has been successful in purchasing the equipment required for hybrid meetings and is planning on testing the setup this month. Keep our fingers crossed that we can invite a portion of our membership to attend our March general meeting in person.

Let's continue to foster our friendships and stay safe!

— Diane Comstock

Contents:

Activities.....	3
February Calendar.....	7
February Meeting.....	7
Recent Events.....	8
Social Clubs.....	9
News and Views.....	18
Management Page.....	19

Visit Our Website: www.escarpmentprobus.com

Membership Report for January

by Dawn Ross, Membership Chair

I have received 113 completed Waiver forms and online acceptances. I have 8 Waiver Forms that still need the online Waiver acceptance box checked. This seems to be the part a lot of people miss. Here are the steps to complete this part.

To do this you will need to go into your Probus online Profile page.

If you sign into the Probus website you will see on the top right side corner a Blue box with a white icon in it. Click on this blue box and you will see View Profile.

Click it and then you will see EDIT PROFILE. Now click it.

Scroll down below your address you will see the Waiver box you need to click and then go back to the top and Save.

On your profile page you can also go in and make any changes needed to your address, phone number and email address.

Photo of the Month

David Marion took this shot from the bowels of the Devil's Punchbowl in Hamilton.

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



ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY FORUM

by Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

Postponed is not my new favourite word, but I seem to be using it a lot! It looks like things will be starting to open up (again) so I am hopeful that we will be able to announce new dates for our postponed activities by March. In the meantime, I only have one new activity to announce which is Zoom Trivia on Tuesday, March 15th. And on that note, for our Zoom Trivia on Tuesday, February 22nd we are encouraging couples to use their own phones so we can create a bit of a (friendly) challenge!

A quick reminder: if you sign up for an event – even a Zoom one – and can't make it, kindly let the convenor know so that we aren't waiting for you to join us. Much appreciated!

Check out Kelly's article about our last Zoom Trivia.

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

POSTPONED! V!VA Life – Retirement Communities (Nutrition, Mental Health & Wellness) – Tuesday, January 11th at 11 am (**NEW DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**)

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

We have postponed this event and a new date will be advised soon. At this point we will not be refunding members who have registered. If the new date doesn't work, we will refund you at that time!

It's a new year! Have you made a new year's resolution to lose weight? How are you feeling about your mental health and wellness? Start the year off right with some gentle reminders on nutrition, mental health and wellness!

Join in as Amanda from the V!VA Retirement Community shares how a proper diet and your mental health and wellness go hand in hand, especially for our age group! Eating a nutrient-dense diet can prevent degenerative disease, cancers, micro-nutrient deficiencies, and most importantly support one's vitality! This is an interactive session, with our facilitator (Amanda - see bio below) walking us through 6 key nutrients to be mindful of when planning your meals. Walk away with a healthy mind and feeling equipped and energized to start prepping, cooking, and enjoying your fully satisfying meal!

Let's lose some of those pounds we have put on in the past two years! Start 2022 off in a healthy way! Challenge yourself! The cost for this event is \$5/member and is limited to 50 members.

Amanda Li is a Toronto-based Registered Dietitian, owner of Wellness Simplified, Instructor at George Brown College and a foodie at heart. Upon completing a culinary arts diploma she knew she wanted to bring together her dietetic experience to create a nutrition coaching philosophy that is food-centric and grounded in teaching individuals a basic life skill - nourishing their body, mind and soul. >>>

Activities Committee
Members:

Ruth Gagnon

Anne Gibbard

Kelly Ground

Irene Hiebert

Ron Millichamp

Jenny O'Brien

Dawn Ross

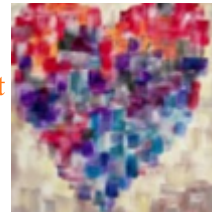
Michelle Tschirhart

She has helped hundreds of individuals and families by encouraging, educating, and equipping them with hands-on food skills to make healthy eating the easier choice! Amanda loves learning new skills and approaches, and strives to provide the most up-to-date, evidenced based recommendations. She is currently pursuing a Certificate in Integrative and Functional Nutrition. When she's not working with clients, students, or attending class herself she can be found in the kitchen whipping up a new recipe, or choreographing a new dance routine! Amanda looks forward to meeting you soon!

**POSTPONED! Paint & Cocktails at Shoeless Joes – Tuesday, January 15th at 4:00 pm
(NEW DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE)**

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

We have postponed this event and a new date will be advised soon. At this point we will not be refunding members who have registered. If the new date doesn't work, we will refund you at that time!



It was January 28, 2019 when a bunch of us headed over to Shoeless Joes to have a Paint & Cocktail session with our instructor, Gary, followed by a wonderfully fun dinner! Well, we are going back! Do you have an "Open Heart"? Yes or no, you can join us to make your very own. Grab a paintbrush, have a drink and enjoy the socializing! We will be painting from approximately 4 - 6 pm and then enjoy a dinner of your choice.

The cost for the painting portion of this activity is \$41/member and is limited to 12 members. Drinks and dinner are at your cost! Let's see how artistic you are!



POSTPONED! Tea for Two...or actually 16! - Wednesday, January 26th at 1:00 pm (NEW DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE)

Convenor: Kelly Ground

We have postponed this event and a new date will be advised soon. At this point we will not be refunding members who have registered. If the new date doesn't work, we will refund you at that time!

What's better than a warm pot of tea on a cold January afternoon?

Join us for Afternoon Tea at the Robinson-Bray House Tea Room in downtown Streetsville. This landmark building, built in 1885, stands on the corner of Queen Street and Mill Street as a constant and elegant reminder of yesteryear.

Your afternoon tea will include a garden salad, a platter of assorted sandwiches, a mini quiche, a scone with jam and clotted cream and a trio of desserts, and of course a pot of tea.

The cost is \$41/member, it includes, lunch all taxes and gratuities. All you have to do is sit and relax!

The Tea Room is located at 223 Queen Street South in Mississauga. Join us Wednesday, January 26th at 1:00 pm.

We are anticipating that we will be able to open this up to more members so make sure you sign up even if your name is added to the waitlist!

POSTPONED! Fred Astaire Private Dancing Lesson – Tuesday, February 8th at 3 pm **(NEW DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE)**

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

Ladies and Gentlemen - get on your dancing shoes! Join us on Tuesday, February 8th at 3:00 pm for a private double lesson at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Oakville.

Our afternoon will be a mix of popular dances. So whether you are "single" or a "couple" come on and shake what you have!

From the Fred Astaire website....

"Your whole being will explode with confidence, fun, creativity and fitness as you experience the exciting Fred Astaire teaching method taught by the very best dance instruction in the world."

The cost for this event is \$53/member and is limited to 29 members. We will be placing a deposit to hold the studio for our private lessons so no refunds will be made after Wednesday, December 29th.

Dinner will follow at a local Milton restaurant. Details will be shared shortly.

POSTPONED! Muse Studio workshop for a candle making session –Thursday, February 10th at 1:30 pm **(NEW DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE)**

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

We are having lots of fun at these workshops. This one is on Thursday, February 10th at 1:30pm. You will be given the option of making eco soy candles, or a beautiful dough bowl candle. Made with your choice of essential oils.



Make two glass jar eco soy candles for \$55 (plus tax) or one dough bowl candle for \$65 (plus tax). Feel free to repurpose your grandma's tea cups, when the candle is done your tea cup is back!

This event is limited to 10 members. Register on Wild Apricot so we know you're coming, but pay at the door based on your selection.



REMINDER: Please wear your PROBUS badge at events. This will let members know that you are part of our group and will make it easier for us to introduce ourselves to each other.

**POSTPONED! Orange Snail Brewery – Beer Tasting - Thursday, February 17th at 2:00 pm
(NEW DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE)**

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

We have postponed this event and a new date will be advised soon. At this point we will not be refunding members who have registered. If the new date doesn't work, we will refund you at that time!

Calling all beer tasters, it's time to get out and have a flight of beer and some munchies! Added to this enjoy a 12 oz glass of one of Orange Snail's beers! Enjoy some social interaction with your fellow Probiants!

Join us at the Orange Snail Brewery for a tour of their facility and some beer!

Beer will also be available for purchase!

Orange Snail Brewery is located at 32 Steeles Avenue East, #1 in Milton. The cost for this event is \$25/member and is limited to 40 members. Register and pay using Wild Apricot.

Zoom Trivia - Tuesday, February 22nd at 7:00 pm

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

Are you up for our another game of Zoom Trivia? Join us on Tuesday, February 22nd 7:00 pm. There is no cost for Zoom Trivia, but please register using Wild Apricot. If you are doing Zoom Trivia with your spouse/partner/friend try using your own phone. Are you up for the challenge?.



MARCH ACTIVITIES:

Zoom Trivia - Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 pm

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

Are you up for our next game of Zoom Trivia? Join us on Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 pm. There is no cost for Zoom Trivia. Don't forget to sign up on Wild Apricot. Let's have some fun and see how we can challenge ourselves!



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

MEETING: FEBRUARY



Lessons from Adventures with Dogs

22 years ago Tanya and her husband Hank, quit their jobs in engineering and agriculture and left their home in the city to move to Ontario's wilderness. With their beloved huskies they started a business, family and lifestyle. Their company Winterdance Dogsled Tours now welcomes over 3000 guests every winter to experience dogsledding. Hank & their huskies have competed in 6 – 1000 mile races in Alaska & the Yukon and they have written 2 books — the latest an international best seller. Tanya shares stories and lessons from their adventures with their dogs around leadership, teamwork and overcoming challenges to international audiences. They share their lives with their 4 children, 5 cats and large husky family.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
Activities				
Executive Meeting	February	9	7:00 PM	Zoom Diane Comstock
Escarpment PROBUS monthly meeting	February	16	9:30 AM	Zoom Diane Comstock
Zoom Trivia	February	22	7:00 PM	Zoom Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagr
Clubs				
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only			Cliff Read
Tastings - Whisky - <i>D'Stillers</i>	February	2	7:00 PM	TBD Chris Strachan
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	February	3	2:00 PM	Zoom Michael Hooker
Nosh & Natter	February	4	5:30 PM	TBD Jenny O'Brien
Saturday Night Lives	February			CANCELLED Anna Strachan
Crafts - Quilting - <i>Piece Makers</i>	February	1	1:00 PM	Comstock Home Diane Comstock
Books – First Edition	February	14	1:00 PM	Grace Church Paul Crawford
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	February	14	7:00 PM	Zoom until spring Martin Capper
Games - High Rollers (Yahtzee)	February	8	1:00 PM	Zoom Pat Vogt
Books – Sequel	February	9	1:00 PM	Zoom Carolyn Rumley
Games - Bee-Gees	February	9	1:00 PM	O'Brien Home Diane Comstock
Crafts - Knitting - <i>Chicks with Sticks</i>	February			CANCELLED Christine Willekes
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	February	17	2:00 PM	Zoom Michael Hooker
Dining - <i>Skip the Dishes</i>	February	17	6:00 PM	TBD Lorrette Shermet
Friendship Club	February	23	10:00 AM	Zoom Judy Krauss
Games - High Rollers (Farkle)	February	22	1:00 PM	Zoom Pat Vogt
Tastings - Beer - <i>Suds and Buds</i>	February	24	7:00 PM	Zoom Pete Shermet

New information

Temporary change

* Permanent location

RECENT EVENTS

January Meeting

Our January general meeting was held Wednesday January 19th. Our guest speaker, Magician Chris Pilsworth, dazzled us with his magic. [Click here for a Zoom recording of the meeting.](#)

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It's Trivia Time Again!

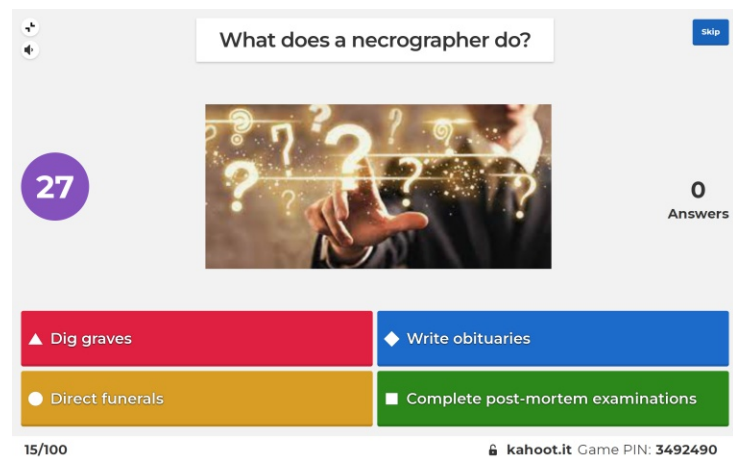
By Kelly Ground

What was the cowardly lion's costume made from in the 1939 film The Wizard of Oz? a) Potato skins b) Cannabis hemp c) Lions d) Children's hair.

That is just one of the one hundred questions our quizzlers had to answer after a technical glitch delayed the start of our game. Twenty-nine people vied for the chance to top the podium. Again second and third places had the exact number of correct responses, 70 out of the 100, but it was the speed with which the answers came that separated second and third place. Honest Leopard, aka Frank Dawe and Marg Jones beat out Andrea and Walt Ruediger, aka Smooth Rhino, by only 1,667 points. Topping the podium was the Balanced Sloth aka Team Read – Cliff and Liz, with 72 of the 100 questions correct and a total of 68,537 points, beating second place by 4,814 points, proving once again they are a force to contend with.

We have scheduled our next two trivia games and we encourage spouses to add a little bit of competition to the game by playing separately! Let's have some fun. We hope to see you on February 22nd and March 15th.

The answer to the above question was Lions!



SOCIAL CLUBS

Club	Date/Time	Convenor	Telephone	Email
Book Club - First Edition	2nd Mon. - 1 pm	Paul Crawford	289-878-4968	pauellencrawford@gmail.com
Book Club - Happy Bookers	4th Thurs. - 12:30 pm	Looking for new convenor		
Book Club - Ravenous Readers Recycling	3rd Wed. - Probus meeting	Ellen Crawford	289-878-4968	pauellencrawford@gmail.com
Book Club - Sequel	2nd Wed. - 10 am	Carolyn Rumley	905-302-0442	carolynrumley@sympatico.ca
Book Club - Trilogy	2nd Wed. - 10 am	Linda Green	289-851-8655	kgreen@sympatico.ca
Cards - Bid Euchre	3rd Thurs. - 1:15 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Cards - Bridge	1st Tues. - 1 pm	Looking for new convenor		
Cards - Canasta	4th Mon. - 7 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Cards - Cribbage - Card Sharps	2nd Mon. - 7 pm	Martin Capper	905-693-0354	martin@martincapper.com
Cards - Cribbage - Card Sharps	Tues. after the 2nd Mon. - 1:30 pm	Martin Capper	905-693-0354	martin@martincapper.com
Cards - Euchre	3rd Tues. - 1 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Classical Music - Mozart and Friends	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 - Crafting	1st Wed - 1 pm	Dana Weatherell	905-875-9064	dweatherell@yahoo.com
Crafts - Knitting - Chicks with Sticks	3rd Thurs. - 10:30 am	Christine Willekes	905-820-0269	chriswillekes@gmail.com
Crafts - Quilting - Piece Makers	1st Tues. - 1 pm	Diane Comstock	905-876-4909	meljenscc@sympatico.ca
Dining - Appy Hour	Last Sat. - 6:30 pm	Mary Cousins	416-628-6275	mlecousins@outlook.com
Dining - Lunch Bunch	3rd Wed. - noon	Bonnie Lennox	416-899-7727	bblennox@live.ca
Dining - Nosh & Natter	1st Fri. - 5:30 pm	Jenny O'Brien	289-851-8477	jenny0103@rogers.com
Dining - Nosh@Nite	4th Fri. - 5:30 pm	Paul & Ellen Crawford	289-878-4968	pauellencrawford@gmail.com
Dining - Saturday Night Lives	1st Sat. - 6 pm	Anna Strachan	905-878-0812	annastrachan1945@gmail.com
Dining - Skip the Dishes	3rd Thurs. - 6 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Dining - Supper/Dinner Club	Scheduled by convenor	Auriel Halliday	905-336-2430	aurielh@gmail.com
Friendship Club	4th Wed. - 10 am	Judy Krauss	289-878-8194	judyckrauss@gmail.com
Games - Bee Gees	2nd Wed. - 1 pm	Diane Comstock	905-876-4909	meljenscc@sympatico.ca
Games - High Rollers (Farkle)	4th Tues. - 1 pm	Pat Vogt	905-877-2495	pvogt@cogeco.ca
Games - High Rollers (Yahtzee)	2nd Tues. - 1 pm	Pat Vogt	905-877-2495	pvogt@cogeco.ca
Games - Jokers	2nd Thurs. - 1:30 pm	Auriel Halliday	905-336-2430	aurielh@gmail.com
Games - Jokers	4th Wed. - 1 pm	Auriel Halliday	905-336-2430	aurielh@gmail.com
Movie Club - Oscar Nights	2nd Tues. - 7 pm	Looking for new convenor		
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only - no meetings	Cliff Read	905-864-1565	cliff.read@cogeco.ca
Sports - Bowling - 10 Pin	Shut Down	Looking for new convenor		
Sports - Golf - Pin Seekers	TBA	Roy MacKay	416-953-0633	roy@roymackay.ca
Tastings - Beer - Suds and Buds	4th Thurs. - 7 pm	Pete Shermet	905-878-1293	peteshermet@gmail.com
Tastings - Whisky - D'Stillers	1st Wed. - 7 pm	Chris Strachan	905-878-0812	strachan.chris1944@yahoo.ca
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	1st Mon. - 7 pm	Jim Tschirhart	647-648-8231	jim.tschirhart@gmail.com
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	1st Thurs. - 7 pm	Jim Tschirhart	647-648-8231	jim.tschirhart@gmail.com
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	2nd Wed. - 7 pm	Jim Tschirhart	647-648-8231	jim.tschirhart@gmail.com
Travel - Annual Trip	Scheduled by convenor	Joanne Millichamp	289-878-2969	jmillichamp@hotmail.com
Travel - Wanderlust	2nd Thurs. - 7 pm (bi-monthly)	Gloria Pennycook	905-659-7789	gpennycook@icloud.com
Walkers - Trail Walkers	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.

Remember: Under the Escarpment Probus Bylaws Article 2 – Membership – Members must not use other member's email addresses for their own personal use such as fundraising.

Clubs: Food and Drink

Tears of Whiskey

by Chris Strachan, Convenor

Happy New Year Probians. The first meeting of the D'Stillers was hosted by Ted Chliszcyk. As per the last meeting we met on Zoom. We each received five little bottles of whiskies, selected by Ted. Below are the tasting results.



The winning whisky of the evening was '*Writers Tears Copper Pot*' a Single Malt Irish Whiskey.

Ireland has been blessed with great poets and playwrights down through the centuries. However, most, if not all of our great writers suffered from writer's block. Many sought comfort and inspiration from "The water of Life"... Whiskey. It was said that when an Irish writer cried, he cried tears of Whiskey.

Writers Tears is a salute to these great writers with a style of Whiskey that was popular in Joyce's Dublin.

Second was '*Té Bheag*' a blended Scotch Whisky. 'Té Bheag' pronounced 'chey vek', not 'tea bag', is bottled without filtration, thus preserving the flavours that are often stripped away when wines or spirits are over-filtered. 'Té Bheag', or 'The Little Lady', is the name of the boat on the label and the colloquial Gaelic expression for a 'wee dram'.

Third was '*Roe & Co.*' a blended Irish Whiskey. When Alfred Barnard chronicled The Whisky Distilleries of the United Kingdom, in 1887, he visited 28 Irish distilleries, many of which were among the largest in the world. At the time, Irish distillers controlled about 70 percent of the world whiskey market. Two out of every three bottles of whiskey sold in London were Irish. It was the best-selling imported whiskey in the United States, second only to bourbon. Even in Scotland, Irish whiskey outsold Scotch whisky.

The Fourth Whiskey was '*Craigellachie 13 Yr Old*' Single Malt. Craigellachie was built in 1891. The founding members included Peter Mackie whose name is inseparably associated with White Horse Distillers and the World Famous White Horse blend.

Last but not least was '*Glengoyne 10 Yr Old*' Single Malt. This is the taste of distilling slower than anyone else in Scotland, of barley, dried by air – never peat – and of oak casks selected by hand. Just as they've always done. Glengoyne is considered the southernmost of the Highland distilleries. The whitewashed buildings are grouped around a small pond fed by a lovely Waterfall. Glengoyne is certainly one of the most beautiful distilleries in Scotland.



As usual, we had a lovely chat over our whiskies as the ladies met in a separate Zoom room before coming together at the end of the evening.

Our February 2nd meeting will be hosted by Martin Capper. We'll still be Zooming until the weather warms up or we feel safe enough to meet in person.

FYI, the March 2nd meeting will be hosted by Frank Dawe.

Let's Try for the 5th of March

by Anna Strachan, Convenor

Happy New Year SNL'ers, when last we met I had mentioned, for obvious reasons, that I wanted to forego our 1st January get together. Little did we know then, that Covid would also step in and rear its ugly head. Since we have just been informed by the province, that there are plans afoot to open Restaurants, at half capacity, I think it would be foolish to try to meet on the 5th February as tentatively planned. Circumstances permitting, I shall try to meet on 5th March, if everyone is ready for indoor dining. In the meantime, stay safe.



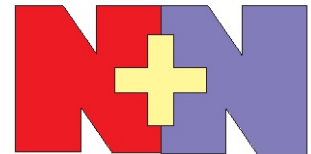
Pot of Gold in Sight

by Jenny O'Brien, Convenor

Mmmm ... check out the yummy charcuterie board we shared ... oh wait .. we haven't shared anything since early December! Like all other in-person Probus groups, N&N has been on hiatus, with most of our members enjoying fun in the



sun. Oops, make that snow. Oops, make that who's having fun?! But, the pot of gold is in sight dear Noshers. With luck, our group will be able to reconvene in early March, when we'll regale each other of the new skills and fun activities we've filled our days with during these quiet winter months. Until then, watch for my email in early February, asking you to share your favourite pandemic dinner recipe. Meal planning burnout is alive and well in all our homes these days, so maybe we can spice up each other's dinner plates, until we meet again!



Suds and Buds

by Pete Shermet, Convenor

Just a quick note to you all. Based on the few responses I received, the consensus is to suspend beer tasting until such time as we can resume in person tasting safely within guidelines, at a comfort level that is acceptable.

Covid has really put a damper on many activities and I am hopeful that once we are able to resume, the enthusiasm that we had when the group started will return.



Skip The Dishes

by Lorrette Shermet, Convenor

Even though restrictions are lifting we still are not at a comfort level to meet together dining inside.

Keeping our fingers crossed that things keep improving, we will meet the third Thursday, March 17th (St. Patricks Day).

Restaurant TBA in the March FORUM.

Keep smiling.



Virtual Meetings, Real Appetizers

by Paul Crawford



Nosh at Night still meets virtually through Zoom. The hosts provide recipes for appetizers that the group will try that evening. Last month Pete and Lorrette Shermet provided the appetizer recipes, which follow:

Stuffed Mushroom Caps

Ingredients:

12-20 mushrooms 1-1/2" in diameter

4-6 slices bacon

1 pkg cream cheese

(Vegetarian version) 1 pkg Knorr French onion soup mix

Preparation:

Wash mushrooms gently, pat dry and remove stems

Microwave bacon until crispy, chop finely

With a fork mix bacon with softened cream cheese

(Vegetarian version) mix 1/2 pkg of dry soup with softened cream cheese

Fill the mushrooms with cream cheese mixture

Place under broiler until cheese starts to brown

Serve hot

Devils on Horseback

Ingredients:

1 pkg lean bacon

1 pkg blue cheese

1 pkg dried figs or majool dates

Toothpicks

Preparation:

Cook bacon partially in the microwave must be pliable

Remove the stem from the fig and slice in half

Spread the fig half open to form a cavity for the cheese

Spoon the blue cheese into the fig

Wrap the blue cheese stuffed fig with 1/2 strip of partially cooked bacon and secure with a toothpick

Place on cookie tray lined with parchment

Broil until the bacon is cooked to your liking but not so long that the blue cheese disappears.

Enjoy!

Clubs: Classical Music

One-Hit Wonders and Back to Bach

by Michael Hooker, Convenor

Our first 2022 Zoom gala was called “One Hit Wonders”, three well-known pieces by three composers known for virtually nothing else.



- Johann Pachelbel, and his famous “Canon in D Major”. Everybody’s heard this one; it’s played in a zillion different arrangements. A “Canon” (in musical terms) is music that is played, starting the same melody at intervals. Think: “Row row row your boat”; that’s a Canon.
- Alfredo Catalani – the aria “Well, I shall go far away”, from his opera, “La Wally”; a great song, often performed (used in the movie “Diva”). Apart from this beauty, almost entirely ignored.
- Carl Orff – Carmina Burana. Orff was a 20th century German composer who set to music some poems of a large collection from around the 11th century, written in Latin and High German, and discovered in 1803 in the Benedictine monastery of Benediktbeuren. They’re very down to earth; the overall theme is the Wheel of Fortune, turning from happiness and love to drunkenness and disaster. This is Orff’s only music to be part of the standard classical repertory; I’ve heard some of his other works, and to sum them up: “BORING!!!”

[Here’s a YouTube link to “O Fortuna”](#), the opening (and closing) of Carmina Burana (3 minutes):

And the words:

*“O Fortune, like the moon
you are changeable, always waxing or waning
hateful life first oppresses
and then soothes as fancy takes it;
poverty and power
It melts them like ice”*

Zoomer Number 2: Introduction to the music of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750).

Bach was both the greatest composer of his times, and one of the few “Giants” in the history of Western classical music. He came from a musical family in Eisenach, Germany, and several of his sons also became well-known composers (though none coming close to their father). After he died, his music was almost forgotten till the mid-19th Century. When it was rediscovered by Felix Mendelssohn and other composers, Bach’s music was finally given the recognition it deserved, as one of the greatest glories of Western music.

We listened to a broad selection of his music, solo instrumental works (piano, harpsichord, cello), plus orchestral, choral works. All of us enjoyed the program, though some found one or two pieces more difficult than others (Bach does take some getting used to!).

We Mozartians were hoping to resume some “in person” listening in January; however, the abrupt arrival of that unwelcome gate-crasher Omicron put paid to that hope, at least for a few months. So, it’s “Polish up our Zooming skills, and fire up the computer” – again!

Clubs: Sports & Games

Nine Hole, Mixed Golf League, New Activity

by Roy MacKay, Convenor

Ladies and Gentlemen- Spring is around the Corner and with it comes the fun of getting out and playing a round of golf with fellow Probus Members.

We have arranged with Oakville Executive Golf, located at 4414 Fourth Line, Oakville, for Tee Times on Bi-Weekly Wednesdays starting at 11am. We will be playing on the 9-hole Angel's View Course which is a regulation, Par 36 and friendly for the occasional and more experienced golfer. There will be ten dates between Late April and Late September and there is no conflict with dates of Probus General Meetings.

Green Fees are \$37.00. Power carts are available for \$13 per rider. Pull carts are available for \$7.00. All Fees are tax inclusive.

Oakville Executive has an Indoor Bistro with a varied menu and serves adult beverages. A patio is also open, subject to weather.

Dates will be published under Social Scene/Calendar on the PROBUS website. Invites will be sent via Wild Apricot a week in advance and golfers should register on Wild Apricot at least 72 hours in advance if they plan to play the coming Wednesday.

We will have to advise Oakville Executive Golf by February 15th if we will go ahead. If you are interested in participating kindly refer to the web site and email Convenor Roy MacKay at roy@roymackay.ca. **Fore.**



Farkle - a Slow Start

by Pat Vogt, Convenor

Our New Year of Farkle started with six players, Danielle, Dawn, Diane, Lorhel, Marg and myself. We all had a slow start with our rolls, Diane was

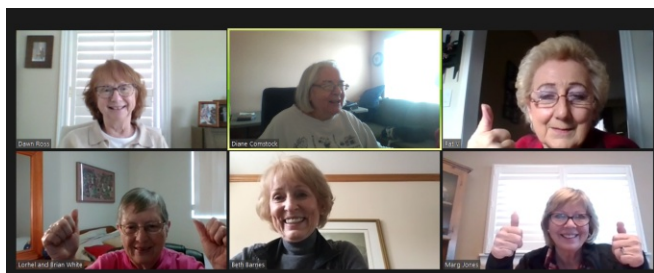


leading with a score of 7000 in the ninth round and Farkled 6 times in a row (we thought it was so we could catch up LOL) with all the Farkles she still ended up with the second highest score. Pat was lucky the last two rounds to have two free rolls to only beat Diane by 200 points. Lots of laughs and silent cursing for a fun afternoon.



Yahtzee in First Throw

by Pat Vogt, Convenor



We started off the new year with six Yahtzee players, what a start some had. Lorhel got a Yahtzee in her first throw, Marg got the second Yahtzee followed by Pat. Near the end of the game Marg got her second Yahtzee which gave her the winning score of 384, hurrah for Yahtzees. Way to go Marg with first win of the year.



Clubs: Crafts

Holiday Quilting

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

On Tuesday, January 4, the Piece Makers gathered together on Zoom for their monthly quilting meeting. Carol Ann had finished her Santa's Magic quilt which she had embellished with buttons, pearls, and a beautiful fake beard. She also showed us her Gogglesy Doll modelling a new modern outfit courtesy of Ev Zanatta. And what is she standing on – a Lil' Twister Christmas Wreath table topper. Dawn showed us her Christmas table topper that she completed. Judy N has been busy de-cluttering as she is getting ready to move. Diane, Louise, and Judy J were busy over the holidays so nothing new to show off, although Judy J had worked on a 1000+ puzzle depicting quilt patterns.



We then had a discussion of how long each of us had been quilting, Judy N and Carol Ann have been quilting 50+ years, Diane for 11-12 years, Louise had quilted many years ago and then took it back up 4 years ago, Judy J quilted back in 2002-2010 and wants to start up again.

Quilting Terms of the Month:

Embellishment - The process of adding decorative items or stitches to a quilt top to decorate it. Common types are charms, buttons, beads, heavyweight threads, trimmings, etc.

Medallion Quilt – A series of decorative borders that surrounds one central block or design.

Our February meeting will be at Diane's condo on February 1 at 1pm. Looking forward to seeing your quilts up close.

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.



New Social Club - General Crafts

by Dana Weatherell, Convenor

Are you artsy or crafty? Do you want to get together with like minded people? Whether your hobby is paper crafting, crochet, needlepoint, drawing, painting, sewing or other, this club may be for you. There are already separate clubs for knitting and quilting so this is for any other type of craft/art. You will bring your own supplies and socialize while you craft. You may also learn a new one!



We will meet the *1st Wednesday of every month at 1:00 pm starting in March* in the lower level of Grace Anglican Church. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, contact Dana Weatherell – dweatherell@yahoo.com

Word Games

Contributed by Fred Ground

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

This girl today said she recognised me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.

I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.

I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

Police were summoned to a day-care centre where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.

When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.

Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

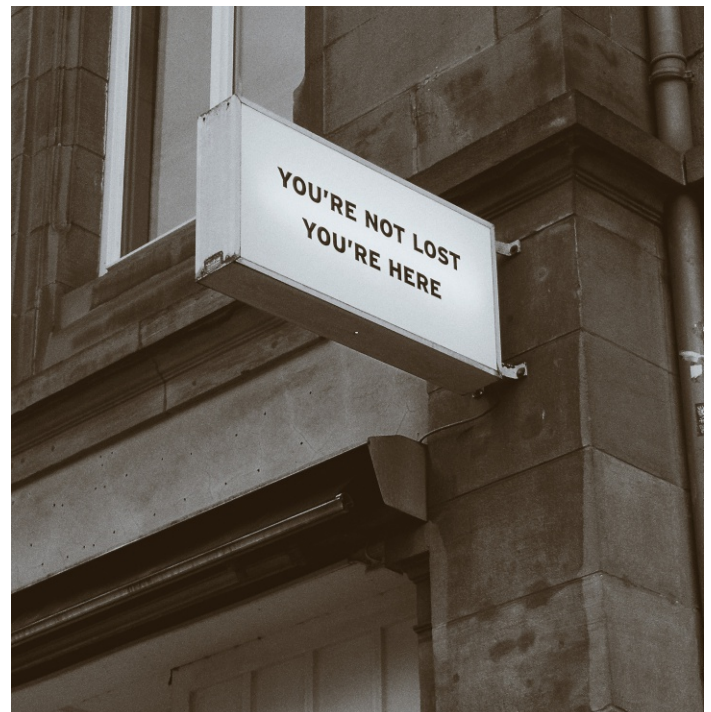
When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.

When chemists die, they barium.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.



Clubs: Books

***Dirty Birds* by Morgan Murray**

by Catherine Parr, Correspondent

An interesting title. An intriguing summary. Good reviews. Canadian author. Won Canadian awards. Leonard Cohen is in it! The library acquired it for our Book Club kits. It must be a good read. Wrong.

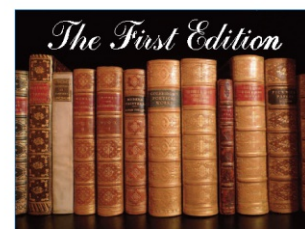


Dirty Birds is a nonsensical tale of a young Prairie man named Milton Ontario. Yes, his name is Milton Ontario. Milton's dream of becoming a poet has him taking a bus to Montreal in search of both fame and his idol, Leonard Cohen. The rambling text, amply laden with profanity, contribute to a disappointing book. Only a few of our readers managed to read it to the bitter end. This was an impressive feat and I sincerely applaud them. The majority of us struggled through as much as we could before closing the book and questioning why it received accolades leading to its Library acquisition. It is clearly not worthy of such acclaim. Our unanimous assessment of *Dirty Birds* is that no one would recommend this book to anyone. Save yourself from disappointment.

***Brother* by David Chariandy**

by Paul Crawford, Convenor

Our group read the book *Brother* by Canadian author David Chariandy which is set in the Scarborough area of Metro Toronto and it does little to debunk the media image of an urban wasteland where youth face large obstacles in reaching their dreams. The story line is of two brothers and a single mom who is working herself to the bone in order to provide for them. They are visible minority immigrants from the Caribbean Islands. The plot revolves around a sad event where the older more dynamic brother is killed by a police officer during an altercation that is in the boy's mind totally unnecessary and he is letting them know it when he is shot. The mother, brother and his friends try to keep his memory alive but do not have the means to challenge the police version of the events. The remaining brother narrates the end of the book and you can feel his hopeless take on the circumstances that he finds himself.



It is very well written as the author who grew up in Scarborough is now a University professor of writing in British Columbia.

Our group had a varied response to the book with ratings from a low of 6 to a high of 8.5. The book did spark conversations about the immigration experience that some of the members had and how they could not relate to the characters in the book. Teachers in the group could relate to the practice of streaming students in high school effectively cutting them off from the higher pay/status careers and how those classes were loaded with visible minorities. A good book for conversation and reflection.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

Why Sail?

By Alan Jordan - Occasional Correspondent

Since publishing our story, "The Long, Long Way Home" in the recent edition of the FORUM, I have been asked by several people, "Why sail?" Here is my answer.

What is it about sailing that grabs our attention, fires our enthusiasm and turns us into lifelong, passionate devotees of the pastime?

Sail boats have often been characterized as (and there is a lot of truth in this) "A hole in the water, surrounded by wood and filled with money!" My personal definition is: "The fine art of getting wet and becoming ill while slowly going nowhere at great expense."

As compared to other methods of transport, the uncertainty of sailing is part of its charm.

Motor boats, or "stink pots" as we sailors call them, are tantamount to sitting in a SUV on the Don Valley Parkway in rush hour, why bother! With gas or diesel at \$1.80 per litre at the marina, it takes serious wealth to move the motor boat with its fuel guzzling engines. We have often noticed that many "pots" rarely leave their slip for the duration of the summer. Sitting idly in the sun, pulling at their mooring lines in anticipation of some lake time.

The fact that skill and attention are required during every instant of the sailing journey makes it more satisfying than any other means of travel.

Sailing is a game in which the mental power and physical activity of the sailor are pitted against the



forces of nature. All other games are essentially rivalries between opponents in the exercise of a skill. But all of life is not combat; it is often the exercise of our ingenuity in dealing with natural forces over which we have no direct control. So sailing gratifies one of our deepest human instincts: it mimics the struggle of humanity to progress by taking advantage of the forces of the natural world. Plus, it's lots of fun!

Sailors use their skills and intelligence to beat against the wind, an apparently impossible act to the uninformed landlubber. Just as in life, the lazy person will drift with the wind and be buffeted wherever life takes him; but the smart, diligent person finds a way to make progress in life "against the wind".

My favourite quotation about sailing is by James Boswell (1740-1795): "No man will be a sailor who has contrivance enough to get himself into jail; for being in a ship is being in a jail, with the chance of being drowned."

So, cast off, raise the main and jib and let's go sailing. Well, until the snow flies anyway!

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