

# FORUM

Volume 10 - Issue 06 - June 2022



## *President's Message:*

### **May was a Wonderful Month!**



The birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming, and the PROBUS members are gathering. Kahoot went live, the Trail Walkers hiked, the Pin Seekers golfed, members gathered for the general meeting, the Lunch Bunch went to Swiss Chalet, and members finally got to board an airplane to whisk them away to the Mediterranean. I also hear through the grapevine that in June more social clubs will meet in person: Mozart and Friends will be listening to music, Card Sharks will be cribbing together, and Chicks with Sticks may meet to knit. If your social club is not yet active in person, consider starting - with the warm weather, it is nice to meet outdoors.

Speaking of outdoors, the Summer Picnic is a go for July 7th. Look for Marg's article further down in this Forum. Don't forget to register — and pray for SUNSHINE!

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

— Diane Comstock

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Visit Our Website: [www.escarpmentprobus.com](http://www.escarpmentprobus.com)

# Photo of the Month

This month's photo was contributed by Gillian Reynolds.

*How much longer do I have to wait for my worms?*

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



# ACTIVITIES

## June is Gonna Be a Very Active Month!

by Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

Okay Probians, we have six activities going on this month. No need for you to be idle, get out there and join us for some fun and socializing.

Sign up for **new** activities will be available the day of the General Meeting. I will give you the list of pre-registration codes and you will have **that day** to sign up. The day following the General Meeting the registration will be enabled for everyone.

At our May General Meeting I gave you a **Save the Date** for Tuesday, September 27th when we will be enjoying For the Love of Chocolate Tasting Experience! Check the details below. There are other **NEW** events that you can check out!

As always, be sure to check out the articles this month from past activities. I also want to give a shout out to Pete Shermet for writing the Orange Snail Beer Tasting article – especially as I only asked him after the event - and to Doreen Chester for helping me set up and serve the munchies to those who participated in this event.

A couple of friendly reminders... On Wild Apricot, a “guest” refers to another member. Our activities are reserved for members only. Nothing new for our group, just wanted to put it out there.

## JUNE ACTIVITIES:

Royal Botanical Gardens – Laking Garden - Tuesday, June 7th at 10 am

Convenor: Irene Hiebert

You may have been to the RBG, however have you been to their smallest garden, the Laking Garden, in the spring?

The Royal Botanical Gardens Laking Garden, features lots of fabulous irises and peonies galore! There is a spectacular display of irises--one of the largest anywhere--as well as a large collection of peonies. The colours are simply dazzling!

We will meet at the ticket kiosk of the Laking Garden on Tuesday, June 7th at 10:00 am. Entry fee is payable at the Kiosk and is \$16.50 for seniors 65 and over, and \$19.50 for adults 64 and under. Parking is included in your entry fee. RBG members are free, but you are reminded to put your parking pass on your dash.

There are two parking lots available, and details will be emailed to each attendee.

We will have a short drive to Easterbrook's for lunch at your own expense. This is a great little place that's been there for generations. It's a fun experience, stepping back in time, with thousands of business cards plastered all over the place along with old photos, and pictures of celebrities who have visited. They are known for their foot long hot dogs with numerous toppings, but also serve, veggie dogs, burgers, fries, chili fries onion rings, milk shakes, floats, sundaes and ice cream. Picnic tables are in the back for nice outdoor dining in shady area with trees.

They are located at 694 Spring Garden Road, directly across from RBG's main building.

[Click here to check out their menu.](#)

Activities Committee  
Members:

Ruth Gagnon

Anne Gibbard

Kelly Ground

Irene Hiebert

Ron Millichamp

Jenny O'Brien

Michelle Tschirhart



photo by Irene Hiebert

>>>>>>>>> *continued*



Sign up for RBG and lunch using Wild Apricot.

We will be monitoring for rain and the blooming stage, as it may be earlier or later than normal. If required, the date for this event may be rescheduled.

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## Backed By Bees – Tuesday, June 14th at 1:30 pm

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

Join us on Tuesday, June 14th at 1:30 pm for a hive tour and tasting. We will tour the bee yards where we will see an open hive and then we will cool down afterwards with a mead and honey tasting. Find the queen bee, workers and drones and hear how things are structured in the hive. We will also get to hear about 'a day in the life of a beekeeper'.



We will then head up to the main building and do a tasting of honey as well as a variety of meads. Lots of things that can be purchased as well – Natural Craft Mead, Raw Honey, Farm Fresh Eggs, Curated local foods and goods.

The cost for this activity is \$46.50/member and is limited to 20 members.

Please note that there is a component of walking along a wood chipped pathway back to the bees that may not be easily accessible for those in wheelchairs or issues with ambulation.

There are washroom facilities on site and the main building is accessible.

Rain Date: Thursday, June 16th at 1:30 pm.

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## Historic Main Street – Tuesday, June 21st at 10:00 am

Convenor: Kelly Ground

Explore our historic downtown on this guided tour of Milton's Main Street. A perfect introduction for new and older residents, as well as first time visitors to Milton.

The cost of this walk is \$10.50 and is limited to 10 members. This walk will take approximately an hour and a half long.



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## Car Rally – Wednesday, June 22nd at 2:30 pm.

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

It's time to get your wheels in motion. Join us for a fun afternoon that will have you travelling through Milton. Your destination will take you to Ned Devine's for dinner. Your starting point is to meet us at the GO Station parking lot.



There is no cost to participate in this event. However, we want to try something different and are going to ask each one of you - single or couple - to bring a bottle of wine to Ned Devine's. Be at Ned Devine's by 5 pm latest.

Dinner and drinks is at your own expense.



Historic Mill and Victoria Streets – Thursday, June 23rd at 10:00 am

Convenor: Kelly Ground

Join us as we explore one of Milton's oldest and most beautiful neighbourhoods on this guided tour of historic Victoria and Mill Streets. A perfect introduction for new and older residents, as well as first time visitors to Milton.



The cost of this walk is \$10.50 and is limited to 10 members. This walk will take approximately an hour and a half long.

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Adventure Village Mini Golf & Lunch – Wednesday, June 29th at 11:00 am

Convenor: Kelly Ground

It's been awhile since we have gotten out to play Mini Golf together! Join us for another round of fun! Check in will be at the Lighthouse (mini golf station). Lunch details to follow and will be at your own expense. Please use Wild Apricot to indicate whether you can drive or need a ride. We will do our best to accommodate.

Weather: Only closes if there is going to be a long period of rain.



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## JULY ACTIVITIES:

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**NEW!** Historic Martin Street – Tuesday, July 12th at 1:00 pm

Convenor: Kelly Ground

Explore one of Milton's oldest neighbourhoods on this guided tour of Historic Martin Street. A perfect introduction for new and older residents, as well as first time visitors to Milton. The cost for this event is \$10.50 and is limited to 10 members. This walk will take about an hour and a half.

Meet at Centennial Park at the Millpond.



**NEW!** Historic Victoria Park Square Area – Thursday, July 14th at 1:00 pm

Convenor: Kelly Ground

Explore the heart of Milton's civic precinct on this guided tour of the historic Victoria Park Square area. A perfect introduction for new and older residents, as well as first time visitors to Milton. The cost for this event is \$10.50 and is limited to 10 members. This walk will take about an hour and a half.

Meet at the parking lot on the corner of Mary and Brown Street by Town Hall.



**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.

## Tune In to Probus' Newest Scavenger Hunt – July 26th at 3 pm

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

Music makes the world go around. Whistle while you work, sing a little song, hum a little ditty. We all have our favourites and a few new ones too! Join us for a new downtown scavenger hunt a twist!

Tuesday, July 26th, at 3:00 pm we will be meeting at Victoria Park and then sent on our ways. Music will guide us and make us look for things with brand new eyes. Do it by yourself or on a team, it is bound to be a good time.

Kelly and Ruth will be waiting for you at Casa Americo at 5:30 pm for a preset dinner selection. Register your participation and make your meal selection using Wild Apricot. Casa Americo is located at 144 Main Street East.



## Muse Studio Workshop – Wednesday, July 27th at 10:00 am

Convenor: Kelly Ground

Join us for a morning of Musings! Enjoy a DIY Workshop. Come make a custom sign feel the pride of a job well done and the admiration of others for your creativity!

Make a basic 12 x 12 wooden sign board (extra costs for larger signs), more info available upon request.

[Check out this link \(on Pinterest\)](#) for more ideas. Choose one of their ideas or come with your favourite saying.

You can choose a design from the list or a custom stencil. Order ahead of time and everything is ready or you to come create! Colours are chosen at the studio.



## AUGUST ACTIVITIES:

### Kahoot! Trivia LIVE! – Thursday, August 4th at 5 pm

Convenor: Kelly Ground

Coming to you Live (again)!! May 4th was a great evening of fun so we hope you can join us again. We will meet at Ned Devine's for a couple of rounds of Kahoot Trivia and dinner!! Cellphones or iPads are still needed! There will be prizes for the top three on the podium. Play by yourself or make a team!

The cost is \$2 per player for this event payable the door (see Ruth). We will be having a preset menu so please make your selection using Wild Apricot. Drinks & Dinner at your own expense. For menu pricing, please check out Ned Devine's menu at <https://www.neddevines.ca/menu.html>.



## SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES:

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**NEW!** For the Love of Chocolate Tasting Experience – Tuesday, September 27th at 2:30 pm

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

For the LOVE of Chocolate is a FUN and INTERACTIVE chocolate education and tasting EXPERIENCE which includes a curated chocolate tasting kit provided to participants so they can experience the tutored tasting along with the host. The cost of this event is \$43 and is limited to 50 members. It will be held at Grace Anglican Church.

During the LIVE event you'll learn;

- *about the key ingredients in chocolate*
- *a brief history of chocolate*
- *how chocolate is made*
- *how to taste and evaluate chocolate through all your senses*
- *and finally, you'll be guided through a structured tasting of six different chocolates; both milk and dark.*



In the end you'll have a smile on your face and feel-good endorphins coursing through your veins.

Host Oliver Woodburn is your Tasting Tutor for this chocolate experience. With 20+ years in the chocolate industry both in North America and Europe, he has firsthand experience in the development of chocolate recipes, chocolate production and the global chocolate industry.

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### Familiar Expressions

Submitted by Fred Ground

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

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At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the term minding your 'P's and 'Q's



# ESCARPMENT PROBUS SUMMER PICNIC 2022



The Summer Picnic will take place at the Town of Milton Community Park - Site C  
- behind the Sports Centre on Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup>

Greetings, games and get togethers start at 11:00 am

Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm, with your choice of one Hamburger, Hot dog,  
Sausage in a bun or Veggie burger.

There will be freshly cooked French fries, Caesar salad and Garden Salad to  
accompany the meal, with an Ice Cream treat for dessert.

The luncheon will be catered by Troy's Diner for a cost of \$25 per person

We encourage you to bring your own chair so you can rest between games or  
watch other games in progress under the shade of our pop-up tents

Don't forget sunscreen and hats, but you can leave the water bottle at home  
because we will be providing lots of extra water

The registration will be sent out via Wild Apricot in early June.

Don't forget to register.....and pray for SUNSHINE!

# JUNE CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE		TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
<b>Activities</b>					
Royal Botanical Gardens – Laking Garden	June	7	10:00 AM	680 Plains Road West, Burlington	Irene Hiebert
Executive Meeting	June	8	7:00 PM	Zoom	Diane Comstock
Backed By Bees	June	14	1:30 PM	6214 Appleby Line, Burlington	Ruth Gagnon
Escarpment PROBUS monthly meeting	June	15	9:30 AM	Connect Centre	Diane Comstock
Historic Main Street	June	21	10:00 AM	16 James Street	Kelly Ground
Car Rally	June	22	2:30 PM	GO Stn parking lot	Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon
Historic Mill and Victoria Streets	June	23	10:00 AM	16 James Street	Kelly Ground
Adventure Village Mini Golf & Lunch	June	29	11:00 AM	Adventure Village	Kelly Ground
<b>Clubs</b>					
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only				Cliff Read
Crafts - <i>Craftoholics</i>	June	1	1:00 PM	CANCELLED	Dana Weatherell
Nosh & Natter	June	3	5:30 PM	Wallhouse home	Jenny O'Brien
Saturday Night Lives	June	4	6:00 PM	CANCELLED	Anna Strachan
Crafts - Quilting - <i>Piece Makers</i>	June	7	1:00 PM	CANCELLED	Diane Comstock
Trail Walkers	June	7	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read
Books – Sequel	June	8	1:15 PM	Leach Home	Carolyn Rumley
Games - Bee-Gees	June	8	1:00 PM	CANCELLED	Diane Comstock
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	June	10	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Books – First Edition	June	13	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall	Paul Crawford
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	June	13	7:00 PM	Zoom until spring	Martin Capper
Games - High Rollers (Yahtzee)	June	14	1:00 PM	Zoom	Pat Vogt
Movies - Oscar Nights	June	14	7:00 PM	TBD	Petra Halk
Trail Walkers	June	14	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read
Tastings - Whisky - <i>D'Stillers</i>	June	15	7:00 PM	Strachan Home	Chris Strachan
Cards - Bid Euchre	June	16	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall	Lorrette Shermet
Crafts - Knitting - <i>Chicks with Sticks</i>	June	16	10:30 AM	CANCELLED	Christine Willekes
Dining - <i>Skip the Dishes</i>	June	16	5:30 PM	Pretty RAD	Lorrette Shermet
Cards - Euchre	June	20	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall	Lorrette Shermet
Trail Walkers	June	21	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	June	22	2:00 PM	Michael H , Home	Michael Hooker
Friendship Club	June	22	10:00 AM	Zoom	Judy Krauss
Tastings - Beer - <i>Suds and Buds</i>	June	23	7:00 PM	Zoom	Pete Shermet
Nosh @ Nite	June	24	5:30 PM	Balfour Home	Paul Crawford
Cards -Canasta	June	27	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall	Lorrette Shermet
Games - High Rollers (Farkle)	June	28	1:00 PM	Zoom	Pat Vogt
Trail Walkers	June	28	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read

New information

Temporary change

\* Permanent location

# MEETING: JUNE



## Paul Dias on Rembrandt

Graduating from a Liberal Arts college sometime in the last century, Paul Dias is a former journalist as well as an avid student and teacher of the humanities. His main areas of interest include philosophy, history, literature, drama and art. He is delighted to promote these subjects with people of all ages as he believes they deepen and enrich the human spirit.

# RECENT EVENTS

## May Meeting

Our May general meeting was held Wednesday May 18th. Our speaker, Professor Mark Lector, told us about our brilliant Canadian inventors.

[Click here for a Zoom recording of the meeting.](#) Passcode: 2uX5L8^e

There are 2 recordings in this link. In the video control area at the bottom left, click the >| symbol to go to the next recording (our speaker).



## Tea for Nineteen

*by Kelly Ground, Convenor*

A lovely afternoon was had at the Robinson Bray Tea House in Streetsville. After perusing the extensive tea menu we were served our desired blend and a beautiful tiered tray of sandwiches, scones, and baked goods. Nothing beats scones, cream and jam!

The lunch was too much for most people to finish but surprising enough Richard amazed some of us with his extensive sweet tooth and his ability to do it justice!

Conversation was rampant as it usually is with our Probians but especially nice since we got to do it in person, face to face. That will never get old!





# A Devine Night of Trivia

*by Kelly Ground, Convenor*

Nineteen people were happy to get together at Ned's for a night of trivia, adult beverages and good eats! We learned that in 1969 Volkswagen Beetle came with an optional coffee maker, Elvis sold over 1 billion records, people in the Philippines drink more gin than anyone else and that the sun makes 35% of people sneeze.

Competition was tight as Liz and Cliff together were trying to live up to their reputation, as Escarpment Probus' trivia masters. We played two games of one hundred questions, one before dinner and one after. Winners' scores were tabulated from both games, so it made for an exciting finish.

Third place was won by the team The Good Guys who in both games battled fiercely for the lead. The team consisted of Fiona Christie, Asoka Yapa and Patricia Belvedere. They finished with a cumulative score of 121,419 points and 137 correct answers out of 200 questions.

Second place saw the Reads reunited as one team under the name Squeaky Monkey, they had 134 questions answered correctly but speed matters! They scored 131,179 points.

The big winners topping the podium after both games were Molly's Crew/Gull's Way, consisting of Paul and Ellen Crawford proving that speed and accuracy help reach the top, with 135 questions correctly answered but a points total of 132,202!

Hopefully you'll join us for another in person trivia night coming Thursday, August 4th.



# Orange Snail – Beer Tasting

by Pete Shermet, Correspondent

On Thursday May 12th we met at the Orange Snail Brewery at the corner of Steeles and Bronte for a tour and tasting. Damian, one of the owners, gave us a rundown of how they make their beers, describing how the various malts and hops impart different flavours into the beers during the brewing process. He described how their lagered ale brewing process gives a clean crisp flavour to the beer.

We started our tasting flights with Iron Pig a 5% abv (alcohol by volume), single malt with an IBU (international bitterness units) of 18. I found this to be a very drinkable beer with just a slight bitter aftertaste.

The next was a red beer called Rattlin Nemo, 5% abv and an IBU of 24. It is made with 5 different malts including chocolate malt which imparts a chocolate taste to the brew. I am not fond of beers with high IBU so Chris had a healthier sample and enjoyed it!

We wanted to try the Backstretch Cream Ale 4.8 abv, 15 IBU, but it was unavailable for tasting.



I opted for the Yukon Guld, a lager in the pilsner category, with an abv of 5% and an IBU of 18, I found it light and refreshing. I can't comment on the 16Jasper IPA 6.5% abv and 70 IBU. We tried a sour beer called the Guava had an abv of 5.6 and is a refreshing summer drink.

We were also able to have a pint of whatever was available on tap and many chose their favourites.

We were also able to purchase some for home consumption and Lorrette bought some stout and sours and I selected a Blueberry Kolsch 5.3 abv and an IBU of 15, this is a very nice beer but my palate did not detect the anticipated blueberry taste.

There were plenty of various salty snacks to complement the beers and I think everybody had a good time. Great Job!

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## Lexophilia

Submitted by Ron Millichamp

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 recognized 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 daycare center 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 gray 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 crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?



# Are we there yet?

by Jenny O'Brien, Convenor

On Thursday, May 26th, 13 hardy souls took to the trails at Hilton Falls, for an invigorating hike up the steep hill to the fire pit site. (steep is in the eye of the beholder :)

Early morning weather indications had us concerned, but it turned out to be a perfect day for a hike, overcast, with light breezes and temperatures in the mid 20's. The rain and the bugs held off, as we trudged (I mean skipped) up the trail, observing wild flowers, moss covered rocks and a large tin port-o-potty. At one point, the plaintive cry of "Are we there yet" could be heard from one of the newer hikers (no names included to protect the innocent).

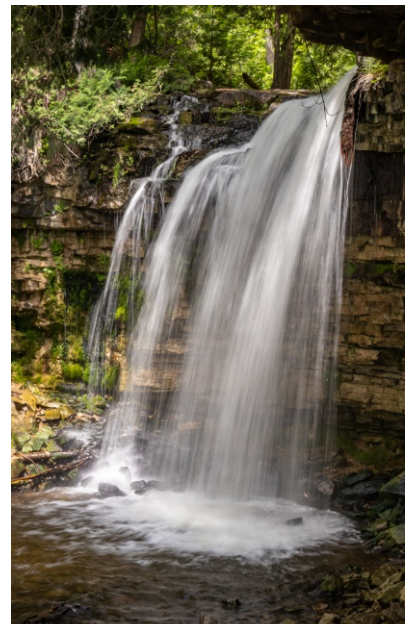
As we approached the falls and our designated picnic area, we could smell the welcoming scent of a camp fire, and were surprised to find several classes of high school students and their teachers, already enjoying the pit. To our delight, there was plenty of room for both of our groups and these young people turned out to be well mannered and most willing to share the space. We unpacked our bags of treats including hot dogs and buns, chips, marshmallows and cookies. Turned out the only thing we forgot was the sangria!

The hungry hikers eagerly grabbed the telescopic poles and proceeded to the fire pit, where their dogs cooked in record time and tasted extra delicious given the environment. There was discussion around why does smoke from a fire pit always seem to float in the direction you're standing? David Boss had recently read the scientific reasoning for this and it went something like this ...

"Campfire smoke follows you because the hot air rises above the fire, drawing cooler air towards it. However, your body blocks the cool air from accessing the fire. This lowers air pressure near you, and the smoke drifts towards that low pressure, and you." (tentcampingtrips.com)

After a second round of dogs, everyone displayed their grilling prowess, returning to the picnic table with charred marshmallows. Tiny chocolate chip cookies provided the perfect vehicle for s'mores. More than one hiker returned to the fire pit, intent on cooking a golden brown marshmallow. Alas, black was the colour of the day, but that didn't stop any one of us from devouring the entire pack of mallows. A few choruses of "Fire Burning" were attempted, but effort should never be confused for talent.

A quick view of the quickly flowing falls was enjoyed by all, before the trudge (I mean skip) back down the hill. Promises of a fall hike with (laced) hot chocolate and cider, could be heard by the happy and tired group as we returned to our cars.







## Brueckner Rhododendron Gardens

*by Irene Hiebert, Convenor*

It was a cool morning as we strolled through the Brueckner Rhododendron Gardens. It's always hard to predict how weather will effect blooms in the gardens, and we could see many petals on the ground after the strong winds that blew in over the weekend! We still all enjoyed our stroll through this free public garden by the lake, and enjoyed what blossoms there were. A lovely lunch was had on the patio at Snug Harbour down in Port Credit waterfront. It was a great time to get to see and catch up with friends we have not seen in awhile.





# May Meeting Photo Gallery



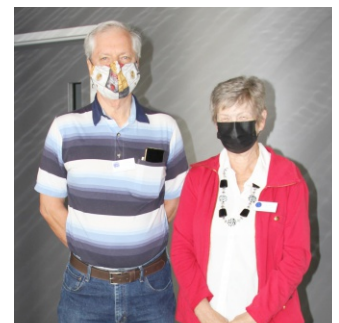
*Prof Mark Rector, our speaker*



*Patrick Murphy & Joe Oatman, tech team*



*Harold O'Brien, our 50/50 purveyor*



*Chris & Ellen Wallhouse, our greeters*



*Cindy Penford, 50/50 winner*



*Deb Harrold, Marg Jones & Frank Dawe*



# SOCIAL CLUBS

Club	Date/Time	Convenor	Telephone	Email
Book Club - First Edition	2nd Mon. - 1 pm	Paul Crawford	289-878-4968	paulellencrawford@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	paulellencrawford@gmail.com
Book Club - Sequel	2nd Wed. - 1:15 pm	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. - 1:15 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 Mon. - 1:15 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Classical Music - Mozart and Friends	2nd Fri - 2 pm & 4th Wed - 2 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 - Craftaholics	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	paulellencrawford@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	Petra Halk	647-913-6041	petra.halk@gmail.com
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: Crafts & Walking

## It was Supposed to be a Basket

By Dana Weatherell, Convenor



Our May 4th meeting saw seven crafty individuals weaving strips of material into what was supposed to be a basket. As you can see by the pictures, they looked more like pot holders due to a bit of a misread on the instructions! With determination and a few rereads, the correct starting point was figured out afterwards and an update was sent out to all who attended so we could correct it at home. Mine certainly now looks like a basket and we will finish them off in our next



meeting in July (due to unforeseen circumstances we had to cancel our June meeting sorry). Thank you Diane Comstock for donating the materials for this project!

Reminder to those finishing the baskets that you will need clothes pegs or wonder clips to hold the ends together while the glue dries.

Wanna join us for some giggles and crafts? You are welcome to come July 6th and bring along a craft to do while we finish up our baskets.



Lorrette and Liz



Sandra and Rosalind



Sharon

## Trailwalkers Starting Up Again

by Elizabeth Read, Convenor



The Trailwalkers club members are enthusiastic about walking again after years of being sidelined by Covid restrictions. Not even trees that fell during the storm on the May long weekend were a deterrent. We will now be walking on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30. Contact Cliff at [Cliff.read@cogeco.ca](mailto:Cliff.read@cogeco.ca) if you wish to be added to the weekly email informing walkers where we'll be meeting. We usually walk at a leisurely pace and our one hour walks are in conservation areas and local trails.



# New Quilters

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

On Tuesday, May 3rd, the PieceMakers met at Judy Nelson's home for their monthly meeting. We welcomed Auriel Halliday and Dianne Tomson to our quilting group. Auriel started quilting during covid and has made several bags and showed us an interesting Japanese Knot bag pattern. Dianne had made baby quilts many years ago and wants to make a quilt using African fabrics that she purchased during her time in Uganda. Chloe (Judy's dog) was very interested in her fabrics – maybe she has some pattern ideas! Dawn is ready to bind her Tulip mini-quilt and is working on a flower applique project. In between packing and apartment hunting, Judy N managed to start a red and white quilt of large squares and small cornerstones which ultimately will cover a queen-size bed. Louise had completed another of her half-square triangle blocks. Judy J did not have time to sew this month, as she was busy buying a house in Acton for her son. Such a nice MOM! Diane pieced the Pointing Quilted pillow project demonstrated during the Rebecca Page Online Summit.



After our show and tell, we descended to Judy's basement, where we rummaged through her stash and relieved her of several pieces. Less to move!

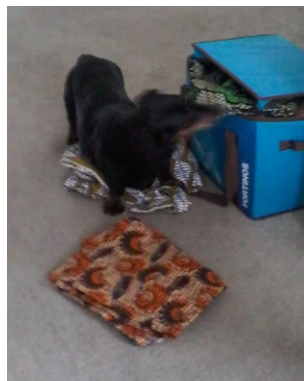
Quilting Terms of the Month:

**Cornerstones:** Squares of fabric pieced within sashing that align at the block corners.

**Chitenge:** Colourful pieces of batik fabric that contain a variety of patterns and designs and used as dress fabric in Uganda - comes in 3 or 6 yard lengths.

There will be no June meeting as some members will be attending a quilt retreat near Shelbourne. We will meet again in July at Carol Ann's home.

Anyone interested in quilting whether it is large bed-size quilts or small table runners, consider joining the group.



# Clubs: Food and Drink

## Hybrid Meeting Not a Hit

by Chris Strachan, Convenor



The May meeting of the D'Stillers was hosted by Frank Dawe.

The D'Stillers tried something different this time. Five of our group met on Zoom, with the other five meeting in person at Frank's place. I would love to say this worked out well, but unfortunately, that was not the case. The Home groups had more conversations going at once, as one does when visiting in person, so it was difficult hearing the scores. In the end, the five ladies on Zoom left the group and returned later. As for the men, they just had to work through it as best they could. Needless to say, we will not be trying that again.

Frank selected and delivered the five little bottles of spirits to the Zoom group, below are the tasting results.

The winning Whisky was '**Kirkland Irish Whiskey**' yes, a Costco brand from the US. The average score was 78.2, with an Alcohol by volume (ABV) of 40% at a cost of \$55 per Litre. This whiskey beat out some of the best.

Second of the evening was '**Cragganmore 12 Yr Old**' Single Malt Scotch. This is said to be one of the most popular Speyside malts. The average score was 76.2, with an Alcohol by volume (ABV) of 40% at a cost of \$99.95 per bottle.

Third was '**Hine Rare VSOP**' this is a Cognac from France. The average score was 73.0, with an Alcohol by volume (ABV) of 40% at a cost of \$110.45 per bottle.

Fourth was '**Redbreast Lustau Edition Irish Whiskey**' This whiskey is matured for an added year in first-fill sherry butts that are seasoned with Oloroso sherry from Bodegas Lustau. The average score was 72.4.0, with an Alcohol by volume (ABV) of 46% at a cost of \$89.95 per bottle.

Last but not least was '**Virginia Black**' American Whiskey. This whiskey was made in collaboration between the creator of DeLeón Tequila and the Canadian Rapper, Drake.

The average score was 71.7, with an Alcohol by volume (ABV) of 40% at a cost of \$49.25 per bottle.



Thanks to Marg for being such a gracious host, the coffee and goodies looked very tasty.

I am scheduled to host the June meeting of the D'Stillers but since so many of the D'Stillers are going on the Islands of the Med trip, the June 1st meeting had to be postponed to June 15th.

The July 6th meeting will be held at the Oakville home of Keith and Marion Flowers.



# Wine Tasting on Britannia Road

by Auriel Halliday, Correspondent

As our trying times are slowly returning to normal, Probus activities are becoming "live" again.

It was our pleasure to host a fun group of real people, drinking real wine and to have a really good laugh with friends. We had originally planned an outdoor event, but needless to say, the weather disappointed us once again!

We had chosen six wines for our tasting comparison. Two Pinot Noirs, two Pinot Grigios and two Roses. There was one Canadian and one American bottle of each wine, all of which were priced approximately the same. The idea was a blind tasting of each and to find out which countries wine came out on top. I was



pleasantly surprised to find that, after we had all tasted and scored, that Canadian wines were voted best in all three categories, Yeah! No one knew until after the scoring which wine was from the States or Canada. The top scoring wine was Pelee Island Pinot Noir. Next we gave our guests a crossword puzzle based on wine knowledge. The winners were Ellen and Paul Crawford who only failed to answer one clue. All the ladies received a prize of a Japanese Knot bag anyway.

After dessert, and a lot more chatter, our guests headed home.

Thank you all for coming. It was lovely to see *REAL* folk again.

PROBUS  
grape  
-nuts  
WINE TASTING CLUB



Submitted by Fred Ground

Two elderly men were having a conversation when Bob asked Fred, "how was the memory clinic you attended last month?"

"Outstanding", Fred replied. "They taught us all the latest psychological techniques, visualization, association. It was great."

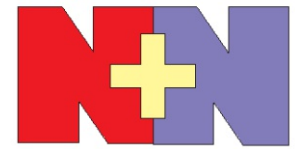
"Wow! What was the name of the clinic?", Bob asked. Fred went "blank". He thought and thought, but could not remember. Then he smiled and asked, "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?"

"You mean a rose?", replied Bob.

"Yes, that's it!". Fred turned to his wife, "Rose, what is the name of that memory clinic?"

# It was Worth the Drive ... to G'Town!

by Jenny O'Brien, Convenor



It was a pretty drive up the back roads of Milton, to the May 6th N&N at the lovely home of Russ and Mary Cousins! Extra points to the Cousins for having their own private parking lot that can accommodate 100+ cars, just beside their backyard. We entered their pretty gardens through a secret gate, to find the gentlemen outside chatting, and the ladies inside setting up a fine selection of appetizers and light dinner options, including pork tenderloin, sandwich buns, pizza, salad, dips with chutney, spring rolls and more!

If we weren't full after the first course, Mary dazzled us with her beautiful fruit tray and two delectable cakes. Luckily everyone came equipped with something to wash it down with, which helped ensure the conversation was kept lively throughout the evening. It was so nice to see everyone mingling and moving seats which enabled great opportunities to catch up.

We're already looking forward to our next Nosh, on Friday, June 3rd, when we'll gather in the country and be hosted by the Wallhouses and the Jordans! See y'all there!



# Skipping to "Pretty Rad"

by Lorrette Shermet, Convenor

For the month of May we ended up skipping "Skip the Dishes" altogether.

This month we are skipping to "Pretty Rad" on Main Street, Thursday June 16th at 5.30 p.m.

[Click here to see the menu with prices.](#)

Enter your menu choice when you register using Wild Apricot.

You must register no later than **Sunday June 12th**.

Now that everything is slowly opening up, If there are any restaurants you would like to skip to, please let me know.





## An Eclectic Mix

by Cliff Read, Correspondent

This last Wednesday Liz and Cliff hosted a wine tasting event with 12 people happy to get together.

Rather than choosing a theme for the wines to sample we were able to organize a curated event. Carolyn Evans-Hammond, the wine columnist from the Toronto Star, had an article explaining that she chose a total of six wines - two white, three reds and one bubbly.

The wines she selected were an eclectic mix from Argentina, Spain and Italy. They were seasonally appropriate and reasonable in cost. Some of these wines are not available at the LCBO so came directly from Noble Estates, a private wine distributor. Every wine we sampled scored well (in the 4.0 range out of 5) and our Grapenutters were so impressed that they were eager to investigate putting together an order on their own. The one wine that received the highest score was La Posta Estele Armando Bondarda from Mendoza Argentina. Tastings suggest a fruitiness with hints of smoke and chocolate. The good news is that this particular wine is available in Vintages for only \$15.95

Overall the night was indeed memorable - we had an opportunity to try some quite unique wines and were able to share this experience amongst friends!



PROBUS  
grape  
-nuts  
WINE TASTING CLUB

## Small Group Due to Travel

by Liz Read, Correspondent

A smaller than usual group met for Nosh at Night this month as many of our members were on the three islands tour with PROBUS. Cliff and Liz decided on hosting a potluck BBQ instead of the usual appetizers. Predicted rain held off and we were able to sit outdoors and catch up with news of what everyone has been up to now that Covid restrictions are lifted.

NOSH  
@NITE



To the left is a photo of a home made liqueur called a shrub that was tasted by the guests. A shrub is a nonalcoholic drink made from fruit, apple cider vinegar and sugar. It tastes great added to club soda and can be enhanced with a dash of vodka or gin on ice. Apple cider vinegar is said to stabilize blood sugar levels, aid in digestion, and fight free radicals to reduce aging. There are many recipes for versions of shrubs online.



# SNL at the Symposium

by Anna Strachan, Convenor



On May 7th the SNL group met at Symposium restaurant for some friendly conversation and hopefully a good meal. Some of our group had a wonderful experience while others found it was not so wonderful. Maybe that's why Symposium turned me down when I requested group bookings in the past. However, in true Probus fashion, we didn't let a few hiccups get in the way of some lively conversation and in the end, All had a good time.

Yeh! this time I remembered to take photos.

As I will be on vacation, along with quite a few of the SNL'ers, the June 4th get together has been cancelled. I shall book a place for the July 2nd get-together when I return.



## THIS IS HOW BAD INFLATION IS:

My neighbour got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.

CEOs are now playing miniature golf.

Exxon-Mobil laid off 25 Congressmen.

McDonald's is selling the 1/4 ounce.

Angelina Jolie adopted a child from America.

Parents in Beverly Hills fired their nannies and learned their children's names.

A truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.

A picture is now only worth 200 words.

When Bill and Hillary travel together, they now have to share a room.

The Treasure Island casino in Las Vegas is now managed by Somali pirates.

Called to get Blue Book Value on my car. They asked if gas tank was full or empty.

And finally...

I was so concerned last night thinking about the economy, wars, jobs, my savings, Social Security, retirement funds, etc., I called the Suicide Hotline. I got a call center in Afghanistan, and when I told them I was suicidal, they got all excited, and asked if I could drive a truck.

HAVE A GOOD DAY ANYWAY

## Language Issues

Submitted by Fred Ground

A European tourist had been travelling through Ireland, but he got lost and decided to stop in a village and ask for directions. He saw two old men sitting outside the village pub, enjoying a pint of Guinness.

"Parlez-vous Francais?", the European tourist asked them. The old men looked at each other and shook their heads. "Sprechen sie Deutsch?", the tourist tried. Again the old men shook their heads. Beginning to get

a little irritated, the tourist asked the old men "Habla Espanol?". The men once again shook their heads. Totally exasperated by now, the tourist asked "Parla l'italiano?". The men once again looked at each other and shook their heads in puzzlement. The tourist was so disgusted with this that he drove in a huff.

One old man said to the other "You know, Seamus, perhaps we should learn another language". Seamus replied "Ah get on with yeh. Look at him, he knows four languages and it didn't do him one bit of good".

# Clubs: Games & Books

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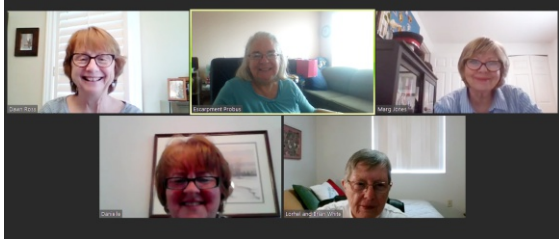
## High Rollers

by Pat Vogt, Convenor



### April Farkle Game

Danielle opened with three pairs for 1500 points. During the game, three more members rolled three pairs for 1500 points. Just to be different, Dawn scored 1500 points with a Four of a Kind and a Pair. In the ninth round, Marg scored 2600, passing 1 die to Danielle, who scored an extra 400 points, passing 2 dice to Lorhel, who rolled a one, passing 1 die to Diane. She rolled a five, then a straight, then an extra 250 points. But alas, Dawn could not capitalize on the 4900 points and she Farkled. In the 12th round, Diane's total was 10050 points, forcing everyone to one last round to beat her. Marg succeeded with a total of 10100. Danielle and Lorhel both Farkled, leaving Marg the winner for the day.



### May Farkle Game

Lots of Farkling this month with four players - Danielle (had the least Farkles), Lorhel, Diane and myself. We played 16 rounds with close scores until the last round where it was between Danielle and myself. I had a couple free rolls which helped to beat Danielle by 400 points. A nice afternoon Farkling!

### May Yahtzee Game



May brought out 3 players: Danielle, Diane and myself. This is the first time this year no one got a Yahtzee and only one player was able to scrap up a bonus in the "upper section"! The dice were not very favourable this month for us, we all had low scores with the winner having 239 points. A fun afternoon, looking forward to a full table next month.

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## Cards - Euchre

by Lorrette Shermet, Convenor

Twelve people played euchre in May. Reg rocked, not only did he have the highest score of 46, he also had three lone hands. Way to go Reg. Our newest member to the group Danielle was not too far behind with 38. Lorrette and Stephen were competing to be the most honest player but, of course Lorrette being the lady she is, she let Stephen be the honest player with a whopping score of 23. We play the third Monday of the month and are always open to new members and also willing to teach.



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 from PROBUS (contact [lorrette@sympatico.ca](mailto:lorrette@sympatico.ca) or 905-878-1293).



## Newbies!

by Diane Comstock, Correspondent

Eight members played Bid Euchre in May, including two newbies: Danielle Bergeron and Marie Mann. Jacqui/Cindy played against Diane/Marie in the first round, but despite winning a call 2, they were defeated because of two failed bids. Reg/Jenny played Danielle/Stephen but alas, their score sheets were not handed in.



In the second round, Danielle/Cindy won against Jacqui/Stephen, thanks to several 4 and 5 bids as well as a failed call 1 bid by their opponents. Jenny/Diane gave it their all, but could not overcome team Reg/Marie after they succeeded in both a call 1 and a call 2.

If you like bidding card games, let Lorrette know and she will add you to the group.



## Golf Anyone?

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

Beth had so much fun with the "Play Nine" game in March that she went out and bought it. The game is based on golf scoring with Pars, Mulligans, Birdies, and Hole-in-Ones. On May 11th, we had two tables of 4 each trying to obtain the lowest score. In their first game, Stephen beat out the ladies with a final score of 32 with the help of 0, -10, and -4 holes. They started a second game and after 4 holes, Jenny was the lowest with a score of 8 thanks to 0, -5, and -4 holes. Table 2 were obviously novice golfers as the lowest score was 84 played by Diane. This was higher than Table 1's highest score of 81. For their 2nd game, after 5 holes, Dana was in the lead with 45 points.



Due to unforeseen circumstances, our June meeting has been cancelled. Our July 13th game will be hosted by Dana who will bring the game of "Scattergories". If you enjoy playing/learning new games, send me an email and I will add you to our club.





## Four on the Floor

by Diane Comstock, Correspondent



Nine members played Canasta on the Monday of the long weekend. Jenny/Harold/Stephen played a very competitive game with final scores of 4680/5030/4600 respectively. Jenny has filed a formal protest as during one round she insisted she had seven 4s for a pure canasta - but the boys only counted six. She had to dirty it with a wild card. After the round she found the 4 on the floor. TOO LATE!

Diane had a lop-sided game against Patricia & Lorraine not even achieving 3000 points before Lorraine won with over 5000. Lorraine was fortunate to get all 4 red threes in one round, while Diane could not even get a canasta in two of the rounds.

At the third table, it was another lop-sided game, with Theresa winning with 5285 points while Ita and Zella had 2885 and 4650. Who had what! - I do not know as the scorekeeper did not put names on the scorecard - LOL.



## The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett by Annie Lyons

by Patricia Kotack, Correspondent



Eudora Honeysett lived a life with many heartbreaking events which have led to a lonely existence in her twilight years. At the age of 85 Eudora decides she has had enough of this world and she isn't going to leave her death to chance and wants the end to be on her terms. With one call to a clinic in Switzerland, a plan is set in motion however her plans go awry when she meets ten year old Rose, a pint-sized rainbow of colour and sparkling cheer. All Eudora wants is to be left alone to set her affairs in order. Instead, she finds herself embarking on a series of adventures with the irrepressible Rose and their neighbour, the recently widowed Stanley; afternoon tea, trips to the beach, birthday celebrations, pizza parties.

While the trio of unlikely best friends grow closer and anxiously await the arrival of Rose's new baby sister, Eudora is reminded of her own childhood—of losing her father during World War II and the devastating impact it had on her entire family. In reflecting on her past, Eudora realizes she must come to terms with what lies ahead.

This book is an easy and entertaining read covering a sensitive but otherwise important topic – “End of Life “ and certainly sparked an interesting discussion by our book club. Most of the members enjoyed the book and would recommend it as a simple Summer read despite the somewhat morbid subject there was still an ample supply of humour and an interesting story line.

The Sequel Book Club is no longer meeting on ZOOM, we are back to in person meetings. Our June meeting will be on Wednesday, June 8th, 1:15pm at the home of June Leach.

# And the Birds Rained Down by Jocelyne Saucier

by Joy Castello, Correspondent



On Monday, May 9th, the First Edition Book Club met at Grace Anglican Church to discuss the book *And the Birds Rained Down* by Jocelyne Saucier and translated by Rhonda Mullins.

This thought-provoking story explores themes of love and loss, ageing and self-determination, and the freedom to live life on one's own terms. Ted, Tom and Charlie, three men in their eighties, decided years before to live in a remote northern Ontario forest away from civilization. They each have a cabin of their own and live primarily off the land. Two younger friends, Steve and Bruno bring them supplies from town once in awhile. As the story begins Ted Boychuck has recently passed away. Tom and Charlie continue living their lives even as they prepare for death. Their lives are suddenly upended with the arrival of two women. The younger woman is a photographer who is searching for survivors of the Great Fire of 1916 but she was too late to interview Ted, who had survived the fire at the age of 14. Despite not being able to talk to Ted (also known as Ed and Edward), she continues to visit. The other woman is Bruno's 82 year-old aunt, temporarily released from a mental institution, where she has lived from the age of 16. She doesn't want to return to the institution so Bruno makes a last minute decision to bring her to the forest.

A narrator's voice occasionally breaks through the story to provide background information and one chapter is devoted to the Great Fire. Sections of the book are told from the main characters' points of view. Each section is like a bead on a string holding the story together. Our group gave this novel an average score of 7.5, with ratings between 5 and 9.5 out of 10. *And the Birds Rained Down* was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for French-to-English Translation in 2013 and was a CBC Canada Reads selection in 2015. The book was adapted for the screen and the movie premiered at TIFF in September, 2019.

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## More Familiar Expressions

Submitted by Fred Ground

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig.' Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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



# Clubs: Classical Music

## Mozart and Friends Dance the Sirtaki, then Lots of Other Dances

By Michael Hooker, Convenor



Our first May musical treat delved into the songs of the Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis, most famous for his music for the film “Zorba the Greek”. What most do not know is that he was also a well-regarded classical composer. In the 1960s and 70s, he led a revolution in Greek popular music, writing songs to words by the best modern Greek poets (including two Nobel Laureates), and influenced by the older Greek folk traditions; these songs took Greece by storm!

Theodorakis was also highly political (Communist), and several times he was arrested, imprisoned, tortured, exiled. When “the Regime of the Colonels” overthrew the government and took dictatorial power in 1967, they banned playing (and even listening to) his music. It’s incredible that he was able to survive and continue to compose: he died only a few months ago at the age of 96!

Here’s a taste: “Sto Perigiali (On a Secret Beach)” – [Click here for a video: 4 minutes.](#)

*Words by Giorgos Seferis (Nobel Laureate 1963)*

*Singer: Maria Farandouri*

For the Greeks, this is probably his most beloved song, almost guaranteed to produce tears!

*“On the secret seashore, white like a pigeon,  
We thirsted at noon; but the water was brackish.  
On the golden sand we wrote her name;  
But the sea-breeze blew and the writing vanished.  
With what spirit, what heart, what desire and passion  
We lived our life; a mistake! So we changed our life.”*

Asoka hosted our second Zoomer, a cornucopian musical delight of terpsichorean fantasy (or, for those of you who get bamboozled by these highfaluting words – a program of dance tunes), thirty-one short pieces by twenty different classical composers, all very easy to listen to. Many composers (like Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, Dvorak, Chopin) wrote short pieces using dance rhythms like Waltz or Polonaise, intended more for general listening rather than for ballet or dance (though many were used or adapted for this). Asoka’s program took us through a really wide range of different styles.

For a taste, [click here for a video: 1 minute.](#) This is Tchaikovsky’s “Chinese Dance” from “The Nutcracker” ballet; the performance used over 75 years ago in Walt Disney’s movie “Fantasia”.

# NEWS AND VIEWS



## Club Trip: ECUADOR NORTH TO SOUTH

*by Joanne Millichamp, Convenor*

As many of you know we had a trip to Ecuador planned in 2021 and that trip was cancelled due to Covid.

We have rescheduled the trip for this September, from the 7th to the 26th. (22nd for Ecuador only)

The trip starts in Quito where we will stay for 3 nights. This is the largest colonial town of the Americas. Our tour includes the main highlights, the Basilica, Independence Square, eclectic architecture from colonial facades to baroque art. Just outside the city lies the area known as “the middle of the earth”, the Equator, where you can have 1 foot in each hemisphere.

In the town of Mindo we will visit a cloud forest ecosystem where a brief cable car ride takes us to the top of the reserve where we have a view of beautiful mountain scenery and waterfalls.

We spend 2 nights in Otavalo, staying in a 400 year-old hacienda. We visit the craft market in Otavalo, the largest in all of South America. The next day we catch a train, for a 2-hour journey, passing through sugar cane plantations and different landscapes before descending into the warm, dry valley of Salinas. This ride ends with a unique lunch at an Afro-Ecuadorian community restaurant.

We will visit the area called the Avenue of Waterfalls, with its 5 spectacular falls, including the Devil’s Cauldron.

Our drive continues through the Andes Mountains before reaching our train station for a short ride that takes us to the Incan site of Ingapirca, the most important Incan ruin in Ecuador.

Our next stop is Cuenca, considered the most beautiful colonial city in Ecuador. We visit the Cathedral, the main square, and the flower market and a Panama Hat factory.

Our final stop is Guayaquil, where we stay for 5 nights. Guayaquil is situated on the Pacific Ocean and is



well known for its Malecon, with its restaurants and bars, where you can stroll along, watching the boats come in.

In the town of Salinas (there are 2 towns with the same name) on the Pacific Coast we will have a day visiting the beautiful beaches and a whale-watching cruise.

We also have a 5-day/4-night add on to the Galapagos Islands, one of the world's most unique destinations. If the Galapagos are on your bucket list, this is a great opportunity to see the islands, which are located 620 km from the coast.

We stay for 2 nights on Santa Cruz Island where we will see the giant tortoises, go through a lava tunnel and visit the Charles Darwin Research Station.

On Isabela Island, the largest island, we will have a wetland excursion, a short hike to Sierra Negra Volcano and an opportunity to swim or snorkel with marine animals.

There are no high-rise hotels in the Galapagos, and we will be staying in local lodges (with swimming pools) in both places.

I'm very pleased to tell you that Tour Design have been able to hold the price for this trip at \$5,549 for the Ecuador part and \$2,595 for the add on to the Galapagos.

We have a slide show that will be available on the Probus website after April 26th, so please have a look at that if you are interested. If you have any questions, please give me a call or email me and I will be happy to send you out a brochure.

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## MILTON'S GOT TALENT!

*by Wayne Herder, Past President*

That is right, Escarpment PROBUS Club of Milton has a lot of talent and we need some on our management team! We are looking for candidates to fill the following positions:

**Vice-President:** This a three-year term. (One year each as Vice-President, President and Past-President). As this position alternates between female and male, this year we are looking for a female candidate.

**Secretary:** Two-year term to record minutes of management meetings, general election, and various other correspondence as required.

**Program Chair:** Two-year term to source and arrange guest speakers and greeters.

**Social chair:** Two-year term with the fun job of organizing our annual picnic, anniversary dinner and dance and Christmas luncheon. As well to be the liaison with convenors of the social clubs.

Your talents will be enhanced with the help of out-going members. Help and guidance is there.

Any questions or concerns, please contact me or any other board member.

Wayne.herder@sympatico.ca or cell: 416.949.5015

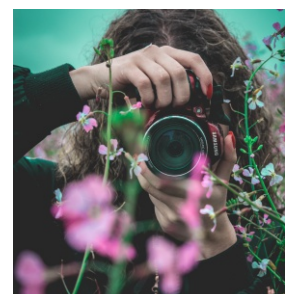
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## Looking for Photos

Lorrette, is working on a collage for our anniversary dinner in September.

We have had many events happen recently that photos may have been taken at, please share them with Lorrette.

These photos should have been taken from October 2021 to present, email the photos to [lorrette@sympatico.ca](mailto:lorrette@sympatico.ca).



# The Village of Probus

by Rosalind Jordan, Correspondent

I thought this photo was cute. My sister in law Helen Jordan sent it to us on their travels in Cornwall, England. She keeps up with our Probus events since she know some of our friends. She joined me on our bus trip to Ireland, so she reads the Probus Forum monthly and enjoys it greatly.



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## Membership Report for June

by Dawn Ross, Membership Chair

We currently have 207 Waiver forms on file.

We have 25 people on the wait list.

We had one member move away so we were able to welcome new member **Rick Pearen**.

New members have a red dot on their name badge. Now that we are having more in-person events, you will see more new members with the red dot. Please introduce yourself and maybe tell them about the clubs you belong to.

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### A Good Explanation of Politics

Submitted by Fred Ground

A Russian Jew was finally allowed to emigrate to Israel.

At Moscow Airport customs found a statue of Lenin in his baggage and asked, "What is this?"

The man replied, "'What is this?' Wrong question, comrade. You should have asked, 'Who is he?' This is Comrade Lenin. He laid the foundations of socialism and created the future prosperity of the Russian people. I am taking it with me as a memory of our dear hero."

The Russian customs officer let him go without further inspection.

At the Tel Aviv Airport the Israeli customs officer also asked our friend: "What is this?"

He replied, "'What is this?' Wrong question, sir. You

should be asking 'Who is this?' This is Lenin, the bastard who caused me, a Jew, to leave Russia. I take this statue with me so I can curse him every day."

The Israeli customs officer said, "I apologize, sir, you are cleared to go."

Settling into his new house, he put the statue on a table and to celebrate his immigration he invited his friends and relatives to dinner.

One of his friends asked, "Who is this?"

He replied, "My dear friend, 'Who is this?' is the wrong question. You should have asked 'What is this?' This is ten kilograms of solid gold that I managed to bring with me without paying any customs duty and tax."

**MORAL:** Politics is when you can tell the same story in different ways to fool a different audience and look good in every situation.

Please add your emergency contact(s) to your profile on our website. This will speed up notifications in case of an emergency. (Use the EDIT button on your profile page).



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*If you need help with using our website, feel free to contact a member of the Technical Support Group:*

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## FORUM - THE ESCARPMENT PROBUS CLUB OF MILTON 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.