

FORUM

Volume 11 - Issue 01 - January 2023



President's Message:

OFF AND RUNNING



This time last year we were hoping to be able to get back on track with our activities and meetings. Well, that has all worked out and here we are. Let's hope we can keep all infections under control.

We want to thank Jenny and her committee for organizing a fantastic Christmas luncheon. This was a new venue and based on the participation, it proved to be most enjoyable.

We have great speakers, fun activities and meetings planned for Escarpment PROBUS for 2023.

Best of all, we can meet face to face again. We are looking forward to more members coming out to participate in our general meetings in the way we have had in the past.

This is Escarpment PROBUS' 10th year and it promises to be memorable.

Cheers to a Happy and Healthy New Year.

— Russ Cousins

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Visit Our Website: www.escarpmentprobus.com

Photo of the Month

This month's photo, "*Out of our back window*", was contributed by Liz Read.

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



ACTIVITIES

January – Hello 2023!

by Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

Happy New Year everyone! I wish you and your family a very happy and healthy 2023!

We are starting to line activities up for 2023 and have some exciting things planned. I hope to see you participating and continue to see some “new” faces having fun with some of our activities!

Just a reminder that Saturday Night LiveS is now a Social Club. The first announcement went out to all members – The Ivy on January 7th, but if you want to be on the email invite ongoing, please send an email to gagnonruth@gmail.com.

Activities Committee
Members:
Ruth Gagnon
Kelly Ground
Ron Millichamp
Jenny O'Brien

JANUARY ACTIVITIES:

Kahoot's Trivia Live – Wednesday, January 17th at 5 pm

Convenor: Kelly Ground

We just can't get enough Trivia! Join in on the fun for more Trivia! Make up your own team or we will put you into a team!

Join us a Ned Devine's for a couple of rounds of Kahoot Trivia and dinner!!

Cellphones or iPads are needed!

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>



Ali Hassan: Does this Smell Funny? – Thursday, January 19th at 8 pm

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

Are you ready for a laugh? Join us at the MinMaxx Theatre at FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton located at 1010 Main Street East, Milton. **Tickets are only available until October 20th and the cost is \$52/member.**

From the website: *Deconstructing a chef's journey from food to comedy Ali Hassan's career plans started off as simply as anyone's: become a chef, get a food show on television, get a second food show on television, be the face of the network and have oven mitts with his face on them. This show is a hilarious exposition of Ali's journey in and out of the culinary world in which he spent 12 years. Think Eat, Pray, Love. Minus the Prayer.*

ClearEstates – Estate Planning & Settlement - Tuesday, January 24th at 10 am

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

When was the last time you looked at your Will and POA? What is Probate anyway? Has someone named you as an Executor?

Who did you name as your Executor? Does it need to be updated? Maybe your favourite, you are named an Executor!! So what is your role? Did you know it typically takes 16 - 24 months to resolve an Estate? Get some expert guidance on Estate Planning and Settlement.



Continued >>>>>

Join us on Tuesday, January 24th, 2023 at 10 am at Grace Anglican Church as ClearEstates gives us a refresher on these topics and covers many more from foreign assets to assets / liabilities and their distribution, taxes and their clearances.

ClearEstates is going to help us to demystify the responsibilities of an estate executor and explain the process as painlessly and efficiently as possible. Settling a loved one's estate can be emotionally draining, time-consuming, and even expensive if you're not careful.

Heavy reliance on lawyers and accountants can add up quickly and eat away at a sizeable part of a loved one's estate. We will be given some guidance to empower you to settle a loved one's estate efficiently and confidently.

This is not a sales pitch, but for our awareness, ClearEstates will share how they can help to support grieving families by completely removing estate settlement from their concerns. ClearEstates will empower estate executors and pre-planners and serve as a helping hand through the all estate processes.

The cost for this event is \$5/member. We will head out for lunch at Ned Devine's after this session so please register and make your meal selection using Wild Apricot.

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES:

An Evening with Jann Arden – Friday, February 3 at 8 pm

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

Join us for a wonderful evening with Jann Arden at the FirstOntario Arts Centre in Milton. Here is what you can expect from their website:

Jann Arden is a multi-platinum, award-winning singer, songwriter, actor and author. Arden has released 15 albums with 19 top ten singles. Her most recent project, *Descendant* was released in January 2022 and features a 15-song collection representing the last 18 months of Arden's life and headspace. A bold, beautiful, and empowering sound of Jann Arden, *Descendant* signifies a return to form for the multifaceted artist, reflecting on where she came from and where she is headed.



VIP Bowling in partnership with Skip the Dishes! - Thursday, February 16th at 4:15 pm

Convenors: Ruth Gagnon (with the help of Cindy Penfold!) and Lorette Shermet (Skip the Dishes)

BOWLING (INCLUDING SHOES) IS \$10.50!

It is going to be a great afternoon/evening and what better way than combining a "VIP Bowling Activity" with "Skip the Dishes". Here is what your afternoon/evening will look like:



4:15 pm Head to Champs to get a drink and your bowling shoes on.

4:30 pm Be in the VIP Champs private bowling room.

6:00 pm Whether you have just finished bowling or are joining Skip the Dishes, head to Champs Sports Grill to enjoy preset dinner options

Champs is located at 300 Bronte Street in Milton. Please note that Champs doors only open at 4 pm.

We have 36 VIP Bowling spaces available. You will be randomly placed into a lane of six members. Prizes for those who make it to the podium!

You will be able to sign up for Skip the Dishes only when the announcement goes out.

NEW! Kahoot's Trivia Live – Thursday, February 23rd at 5 pm

Convenor: Kelly Ground

It's time to step out and challenge yourself! Do it on your own, join a team!
Come on out and join your fellow Probians.

We will be meeting at Ned Devine's for a couple of rounds of Kahoot Trivia and dinner!! **Cellphones or iPads are needed!**



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. New Items have been added to the meal choices! Drinks & Dinner at your own expense. For menu pricing, please check out Ned Devine's menu at <https://www.neddevines.ca/menu.html>

A Progressive Dinner Party Escarpment PROBUS Way! – Tuesday, February 28th at 5 pm

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

It's time to try something different! A new way to enjoy a dining experience at some of Milton's finest restaurants. Our progressive dinner party will start at 5 pm at Casa Americo for an appetizer. From there we will head over to La Toscana for 6 pm to enjoy an entrée. Wrapping up our evening we will head over to The Ivy (party room downstairs) for 8 pm for dessert and coffee and a couple of games. Maybe more! Of course drinks can be enjoyed throughout your dining experience.



Meal and drinks are at your cost and please make your meal selections using Wild Apricot. This event is limited to 30 members.

MARCH ACTIVITIES:

NEW! Minute to Winnit – Thursday, March 9th at 2 pm

Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

Are you ready for your next adventure?

Got a minute? You can Winnit! Come out for some side splitting laughter, fun and a little competition. No skill is required just good old fashioned sense of humour and fun. Teams of four will be randomly chosen, each team member will have an opportunity to best their competitors.



Pre-registration will start at our January General Meeting. This adventure costs ten non-refundable dollars for all the fun you could manage in an afternoon.

Upon the event's conclusion we will head for a fantastic preset dinner at Casa Americo. Please make your selections on Wild Apricot. Dinner and beverages are at your own expense.

This promises to be one of our best yet!

Ron James – Back Where I Belong - Wednesday, March 22nd at 7:30 pm

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

It's time to laugh with Ron James a Shantero Production coming to you at the FirstOntario Arts Centre. **Tickets for this event are only available until December 15th**, but please use the waitlist as I can always try and get more. The cost is \$68.50/member and tickets are non-refundable as they will be purchased well in advance of the show.

From the FirstOntario Arts Centre Website:

Canada's stand-out amongst 'stand-ups', award-winning comedian RON JAMES has been selling out theatres for over 20 years with his marathon, side-splitting performances.

Marshalling a comedian's eye for satire and a writer's ear for language, Ron takes his audience on a breathtaking, non-stop roller coaster ride, cutting a wide swath through contemporary culture with a razor-sharp wit, uncompromising standard and unique, poetically honed delivery.

Along with five seasons starring in his own series, "The Ron James Show", his record breaking nine critically acclaimed one-hour comedy specials fast became a New Year's Eve viewing tradition for millions of Canadians. Not to be sidelined by the pandemic, he capitalized on lockdown after lockdown and wrote his first book, 'All Over the Map: Rambles and Ruminations from the Canadian Road', released by publishing giant Penguin-Random House, September 28th. With the light looking brighter every day at the end of the tunnel, Canada's #1 road warrior is back where he belongs: live onstage delivering laughs face to face to audiences sitting shoulder to shoulder, coast to coast clear cross the Big Wide Open!

[Click here to check out some of his video clips.](#)



Drury Lane Music Hall – Sunday, March 26th at 2 pm

Convenor: Ron Millichamp

Join us for the FINAL show of the 42nd Annual Drury Lane Music Hall 2022. We will head back to Milton for dinner. Please let us know if you will join us for dinner. Details will follow at a later date.

From their brochure:

Venture out with the most entertaining, comedic and wildly outstanding annual variety comedy musical this side of the pond. Booing and cheering are positively encouraged! Medleys, feature songs, skits and a variety of specialty numbers are the hallmark of this variety show that both harkens back to the days of British and American Music Halls and Vaudeville, but also wows the audience with a modern twist including current music, dance, and comedy from a wide variety of styles.

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Parking is available on site. We will do our best to accommodate requests for carpooling.



JANUARY CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE		TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
Activities					
Executive Meeting	January	11	7:00 PM	Zoom	Russ Cousins
Kahoot Trivia Live	January	17	5:00 PM	Ned Devine	Kelly Ground
Escarpment PROBUS monthly meeting	January	18	9:30 AM	Connect Centre	Russ Cousins
The Lunch Bunch	January	18	12:00 PM	Swiss Chalet	Joy Castello
Ali Hassan: Does this smell funny?	January	19	8:00 PM	FirstOntario Arts	Ruth Gagnon
Clear Estates: Estate planning & Settlement	January	24	10:00 AM	Grace Church Hall	Ruth Gagnon
Clubs					
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only				Cliff Read
Trail Walkers	January	3	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read
Crafts - Quilting - <i>Piece Makers</i>	January	3	9:00 AM	Ross Home	Diane Comstock
Crafts - <i>Craftoholics</i>	January	4	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall	Dana Weatherell
Tastings - Whisky - <i>D'Stillers</i>	January	4	7:00 PM	Millichamp Home	Chris Strachan
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	January	5	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Dining - Saturday Night Lives	January	7	TBD	TBD	Ruth Gagnon
Books – First Edition	January	9	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall	Paul Crawford
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	January	9	7:00 PM	Capper Home	Martin Capper
Books – Trilogy	January	9	10:00 AM	TBD	Dawn Ross
Games - High Rollers (Yahtzee)	January	10	1:00 PM	Zoom	Diane Comstock
Movies - Oscar Nights	January	10	7:00 PM	Milton Cineplex	Petra Halk
Trail Walkers	January	10	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	January	10	2:00 PM	Capper Home	Martin Capper
Books – Sequel	January	11	1:15 PM	Parr Home	Carolyn Rumley
Games - Bee-Gees	January	11	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall	Diane Comstock
Games - Jokers	January	12	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall	Auriel Halliday
Nosh & Natter	January	13	5:30 PM	Boss Home	Jenny O'Brien
Cards - Euchre	January	16	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall	Lorrette Shermet
Trail Walkers	January	17	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read
Cards - Bid Euchre	January	19	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall	Lorrette Shermet
Crafts - Knitting - <i>Chicks with Sticks</i>	January	19	10:30 AM	HIATUS	Christine Willekes
Dining - <i>Skip the Dishes</i>	January	19	5:30 PM	Thai House on Main	Lorrette Shermet
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	January	19	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Cards -Canasta	January	23	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall	Lorrette Shermet
Games - High Rollers (Farkle)	January	24	1:00 PM	Zoom	Diane Comstock
Trail Walkers	January	24	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read
Friendship Club	January	25	10:00 AM	Seasons Retirement	Judy Krauss
Games - Jokers	January	25	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall	Auriel Halliday
Tastings - Beer - <i>Suds and Buds</i>	January	26	7:00 PM	CANCELLED	Looking for new convenor
Nosh @ Nite	January	27	5:30 PM	TBD	Paul Crawford
Dining - Appy Hour	January	28	6:30 PM	TBD	Mary Cousins
Trail Walkers	January	31	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read

New information

Temporary change

MEETING: JANUARY



Paul Dias — Famous Femmes Fatales in History

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

Getting into the Christmas Spirit

by Jenny O'Brien, Social Chair

—THE SOCIAL SCENE—

The sun shone brightly off the snow covered golf greens, as 140 members gathered at Granite Ridge to enjoy a lovely Christmas Luncheon. All the guys and gals were dressed in their finest holiday colours, and the happy chatter between guests, was indicative of good friends celebrating the season.

Our guest speaker / moodivator / humorist, Carole Bertuzzi Luciani, had us laughing with delight, as she shared with us some of the differences between how men and women communicate, how to be more discerning about how and who you spend your precious time with, the huge impact being KIND can have on both the giver and the receiver, and last but not least, how her Nonna taught her to 'let go' of all the baggage of the day. Pffffffftttt!

We then embarked on some fun Christmas Carol Puzzles and many tables shared their talents (or lack thereof) in bringing those songs to life. A delicious meal followed and was well received by all. After lunch a unique telling of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' had us going right and left until one lucky tablemate landed a trip to the LCBO. Hugs and waves and the bidding of good cheer to all, saw this happy group head home for the day, a little fuller, both in body and spirit.



More Photos >>>>>



Contributed by Fred Ground

It's a Man Thing

Wife "Could you please go to the store, and buy one carton of milk, and if they have eggs, buy 6".

A short time later, the husband walks in with 6 cartons of milk.

Wife "Why the heck did you buy 6 cartons of milk? "

Husband "They had eggs".

Missionary tale

A young missionary on his first term in Africa, was reading his bible in a clearing when a lion came up and laid down beside him.

As he quietly prayed for deliverance, another lion came out of the bush and laid down by his other side.

Convinced that this was a test of his faith, he returned to reading his bible.

As soon as he did, the two lions pounced on him and devoured him.

Moral: don't try to read between the lions.

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.



A Christmas Scavenger Hunt – Tuesday, December 6th

by Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

What do you get when you have laughter, competitiveness and a little strategy thrown in the mix? Six teams of four setting off for a different kind of a PROBUS scavenger adventure! It involved outdoor and indoor activity and the Christmas spirit!

The enthusiasm was very evident as the team set off with their clues to complete the tasks set out for them. Check out PROBUS' snow people! Of course we have to give a shout out to the "best"!

Best snowman: Ron and Joanne Millichamp and Martin and (a very pregnant?) Norma Capper

Best Gingerbread house: Cliff and Liz Read and Bob Findlay and Gloria Pennycook

Best Picture with the real Santa: Willy and Debbie Ceelan and Ron and Lynda Johnston

Puzzle Champions: Russ and Mary Cousins with David and Maggie Boss

Overall Winners: Russ and Mary Cousins with David and Maggie Boss

The participants had great comments about the clue that required them to purchase a gift for a child with all the presents donated to Miracle on Main Street for Halton children. (Note: A special shout out was delivered to Tiger Jeet Singh about the gifts donated by the Escarpment PROBUS group.)

We rewarded ourselves with a great dinner (and more conversation) at Casa Americo!

Thanks to all those who took pictures for us!

And for those of you who want to know where this idea came from, it was a Hallmark movie I watched called A Christmas Scavenger Hunt. From there, Kelly and I just took off and ran with it!

More Photos >>>>>



What a team!



Focus people, focus!



Need we say anything?



Yes, we're having fun!



Merry Christmas!



Looking good!



Also looking good!



Overall Winners: Russ and Mary Cousins with Maggie and David Boss



Best Gingerbread house: Liz and Cliff Read with Bob Findlay and Gloria Pennycook



Hmm ... a frosty relationship has a different meaning here



Oh Christmas Tree!



You are never too old to have your picture taken with Santa

SOCIAL CLUBS

Club	Date/Time	Convenor	Telephone	Email
Book Club - First Edition	2nd Mon. - 1 pm	Paul Crawford	289-878-4968	pauallengcrawford@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	pauallengcrawford@gmail.com
Book Club - Sequel	2nd Wed. - 1:15 pm	Carolyn Rumley	905-302-0442	carolynrumley@sympatico.ca
Book Club - Trilogy	2nd Mon. - 10 am	Dawn Ross	905-636-9838	sdawnross55@gmail.com
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. - 2:00 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	1st & 3rd Thu. 2:00pm. ZOOM	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	chrisswillekes@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	Joy Castello	416-844-9404	alegriav@cogeco.ca
Dining - Nosh & Natter	2nd 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	pauallengcrawford@gmail.com
Dining - Saturday Night Lives	1st Sat. - various times	Ruth Gagnon	905-462-4740	gagnonruth@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	Diane Comstock	905-876-4909	meljenscc@sympatico.ca
Games - High Rollers (Yahtzee)	2nd Tues. - 1 pm	Diane Comstock	905-876-4909	meljenscc@sympatico.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	Looking for new convenor		
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

A Star in the West led Noshers to the Country

by Jenny O'Brien, Convenor



It was a clear and cold December night, when a large group of Nosh & Natter members made the trek out to Chris and Anne Gibbard's beautiful home in the country. The house was ablaze in light, both inside and out, as Christmas sparkled from every corner. The evening was co-hosted by Maggie and Michael Boothe, but Michael was good enough to stay home with his sniffles, while Maggie made up for it with her indomitable good cheer.

Our Noshers really outdid themselves with a fantastic array of food offerings including hot lasagna, hot artichoke dip, shrimp and crab ring, charcuterie board, cheese trays, chicken caesar salad, smoked salmon, tortilla pinwheels and caprese skewers. But wait .. there was still a fantastic dessert bar, with apple crumble, cherry tarts, three kinds of squares, a stunning yule log, chocolate lace cookies and a healthy fruit tray!

Our group welcomed two new members to the Nosh scene this month - Karen Latremouille and Pam Grundie. We hope you'll come back soon, and often, as that's what these night are all about. New friends and old friends, coming together to share stories and laughter, and yes, even the occasional beverage!

Wishing Noshers a happy season of grazing. Remember, calories eaten standing up, don't count!



Saturday Night Live(S) at Ned Devine's – Saturday, December 3rd

by Ruth Gagnon, Convenor



Well we were supposed to be at the Lone Star Texas Grill, but I received a phone call from the General Manager just before 3 pm saying that due to a power outage since the morning, they weren't confident that the power would be back on for dinner service. A quick phone call to Ned Devine's and they were able to accommodate us at the last minute. We all enjoyed our meals and conversation! We will go to the Lone Star some time in 2023.



Lunch Bunch going to Swiss Chalet

by Joy Castello, Convenor

Happy New Year everyone! The Lunch Bunch will be going to Swiss Chalet on Wednesday, January 18th. The address is 50 Market Drive. If you have a \$10 Chalet Cash Voucher, use it for a discount with a minimum food order of \$40. If you'd like to, partner up to order and share the bill to use the discount. See you there!



TO ALL MY INTELLIGENT FRIENDS

Contributed by Fred Ground

Keep that brain working; try to figure this one out. See if you can figure out what these seven words all have in common?

1. Banana
2. Dresser
3. Grammar
4. Potato
5. Revive

6. Uneven

7. Assess

Give it another try. Look at each word carefully. You'll kick yourself when you discover the answer.

No, it is not that they all have at least 2 double letters...

Answer is below!

Answer:

In all the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word.

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 or 905-878-1293).

Skipping to the Thai House

by Lorrette Shermet, Convenor

It has been several months since we have been out with Skip the Dishes, but, I am sure everyone has had their share of meals during this busy season.

For the month of January we will be heading once again to the Thai House on Main Street, Thursday January 19th at 5.30 p.m. There are several choices of spring roll, soups, entrée and dessert.

The cost of this will be \$27 if you are paying by cash or \$30 by credit, either does NOT include gratuity or taxes. You will receive an invitation thru Wild Apricot and select your choices there.

For the month of February, Skip the dishes will be joining the activity group and heading to Champs. One can bowl first at 4.15 p.m. (you must pre-register) or just join us for dinner at 6 p.m.

You will receive an invite thru wild apricot. If you are NOT a member of skip the dishes on Wild Apricot and would like to be, be in touch with Lorrette Shermet or Diane Comstock.

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2023 when we start fresh again.



Wine party at Auriel & Don's - A photo gallery

PROBUS
grape
-nuts
WINE TASTING CLUB



D'Stillers at the Capper's

by Chris Strachan, Convenor



Hello Probian, the last meeting of the D'Stillers was held at the home of Norma and Martin Capper on 07th Dec 2022. Martin supplied five whiskies for our tasting pleasure. He purchased some of them while on vacation in Ireland, therefore they may not be available at the LCBO. They were rated as follows:

The winning whisky of the evening was '**Copeland Merchants Quay**' a blended Irish Whiskey. The average score was 79.4 with an Alcohol by volume (ABV) of 40% at a cost of 30 British pounds per bottle. This is not available at the LCBO.

Second of the evening was '**Yellow Spot Single Pot Still 12 yr Old Irish Whiskey**'. The average score was 78, with an (ABV) of 46% at a cost of \$120.25 per bottle. This is available at the LCBO.

Third was '**Jameson Bold**' a blended Irish Whiskey. The average score was 77.3, with an (ABV) of 40% at a cost of \$55 per bottle. This is not available at the LCBO as it is classified as a Travel Whiskey.

Fourth was '**Shortcross**' an Irish Whiskey made with Rye and Malt. The average score was 73.3 with an (ABV) of 40% at a cost of \$65 British Pounds per bottle. Not available at the LCBO.

Last but not least was '**The Hinch**' A Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey. The average score was 59.1 with an (ABV) of 43% at a cost of 45 British Pounds per bottle. Not available at the LCBO.

Thanks to Norma for keeping the DDs entertained and thanks also for the goodies we had as the evening progressed. As usual, we had a lovely time socializing over coffee etc. once the D'Stillers had finished their tasting. I'd also like to thank the DDs for getting everyone home safe and sound. It should be told that the DDs enjoy these get-togethers as much as the D'Stillers and always look forward to them.

Happy New Year to one and all as we head into 2023.

It was decided that the January 4th meeting will be hosted by Ron Millichamp.

Followed by Frank Dawe hosting the February 1st meeting and Ted Chliszczyk hosting the March 1st meeting.



Clubs: Books & Crafts

PieceMakers are Growing

by Diane Comstock, Convenor



On Tuesday, Dec. 6th, the PieceMakers gathered together at Diane C's condo for their monthly show and tell meeting. We welcomed two new members, Diane Armand and Sandi Gilbert to our quilting fold. Diane made quilts many years ago, and would like to start up again. She is interested in creating a pinwheel quilt and is taking a class tutorial. She does not have much of a stash and we told her we could definitely help her with that – LOL. Sandi started quilting to pass the isolation during Covid with help from a friend at the Hobby Horse. She brought a House table runner that she completed and a colourful Mochi quilt. She showed us pictures of other various projects, including a blue quilt as you go and a wall sampler. Carol Ann showed us a pumpkin pattern and the Pillow Talk magazine that she receives. She brought two pillows made with Half Square Triangles that she started during our 2022 June retreat. She also spoke about the upcoming 2023 Row by Row and the July Shop Hop (The Hobby Horse will be participating). Louise has been furiously working on her Half Square Triangle blocks. Really coming along, Louise. Judy N. brought several quilt tops: a Modern Chevron, red squares (this one she is keeping for herself), a yellow and black rail fence quilt, as well as another Fox Face quilt (I do believe this is a favourite pattern of hers). Diane showed bows that will be used as hair bows for her granddaughter and bow ties for her grandson and a 3D Pinwheel ornament all made from Christmas fabric bought during our November road trip.



Quilting Terms of the Month:

Mochi: A quilt made with rectangle strips. It can be made with a pretty simple colour recipe: neutral prints for the background, and colourful little prints for the mochi stripes. This quilt makes perfect use of those small scraps you just can't throw away, or that beautiful fabric you've been coveting at your local fabric store!

Rail Fence: This quilt is created by combining strips of fabric. You combine the strips of fabric to make quilt blocks and then connect the blocks together to create a unique quilt. Typically, you will create blocks that are four quadrants of two strips of fabric. Because of this, rail fence quilts require extensive measuring, cutting, and sewing, but they are manageable for beginners because of the straight lines.

Join us in the New Year at Dawn's home. Carol Ann will demo the use of the Twister Tool and Diane will show how to make 8 Half-Square triangles in one go.

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



More photos >>>>>



Furies & Fates – by Lauren Groff

by Joanne Millichamp, Correspondent

On Friday December 16th, the Sequel Book Club enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch at the home of Joanne Millichamp. It was wonderful to get together with everyone and catch up. We had a great afternoon talking about our lives, upcoming Christmas activities and we even talked about the book!

Unfortunately the book discussion was brief. Only two of our members read the entire book. Most people only read a few pages before giving up.

It's my job to write a critique about the book and without doubt, this is the worst book I have read in the 9 ½ years our book club has been active.

While the author has written two previous novels to much acclaim, this book has boring characters and plot. It is overwritten and tries to blend together episodes of Greek tragedy, children's fairy tales, and Shakespeare. The result is a jumble of confusion for the reader.

It was unanimous that we would not recommend this book.



Craftaholics

by Dana Weatherell, Convenor

We were the smallest group this month with people off doing holiday things. Auriel and I chatted away while she made some ornaments to surprise another group with. They were lovely and I hope the recipients loved them! Our next meeting is January 4th. Hope to see you there. In the meantime, Happy New Year!



Clubs: Games & Cards

Jokers

by Maggie Boothe, Convenor

On Thursday, December 8th the “Jokers” met to have some fun times playing three games of Jokers. We had six tables of four players at each table and the games began.

Around and around, we went, some stayed at their starting places on the board and some came out to play. The boards were heated up with marbles flying past each other and players racing to get safely tucked into their homes. With partners cheering each other on and laughter ensuing everywhere, the games were won.

The winners of three games each were Anna Strachan, Reg Zanatta, Chris Strachan and Maggie Boothe.

A big “THANK YOU” to Avril O’Reilly and Lorrette Shermet for stepping in at the last minute to replace some players who were not able to attend the games.

A good time was had by all and we look forward to the marbles flying again in January, 2023.

A very Happy New Year to all the players (no joking)! Have fun and enjoy!



20 – then 18 – then 15 – then 18 – finally 16

By Diane Comstock, Correspondent

On Monday, Dec. 19 we expected 20 players. Lorrette got notice that 2 were not coming due to sickness. Then 3 more cancelled. When we got to the hall, three members showed up that were not registered. Graciously 2 men opted out – so we had 4 tables of 4. After completing 6 games each, first time player Karen Latremouille won the day with overall points of 46. Ginny Galipeau took home the prize for most lone hands (3), while Lorraine Randall, who unfortunately never left her initial table, won her loonie back.



Escarpment PROBUS cribbage club gives back

by Martin Capper, Convenor



As a further nod to our return to normality the Cribbage Club resumed its December tradition of bringing donations to the Milton Food Bank. Both the Monday night session and the Tuesday afternoon one generously brought non perishable food items. The photograph of the Tuesday Group really doesn't do justice to the amount of food we gathered. Thanks to all the members of the Cribbage Club for their kind thoughts at this time of the year.



Clubs: Classical Music

Mozart's Final 2022 Zoomers — music for the Season

by Michael Hooker, Convenor



As Winter's Chill started to grip, Asoka Yapa warmed our hearts with the songs of Harry Belafonte. Harry was born in 1927 --- and is still very much with us, at a spry 95. His real name is Harold George Belafonte, Jr. and he was the child of Jamaican-born parents who had immigrated to Harlem in New York in the 1920s. At age 5 he was sent to live with his granny in Jamaica; the eight years he spent there honed the accents and intonation he used to good effect in his calypsos and it also imbued him with a love of West Indian music.

A man of many interests and talents, his first public music performances were with the Charlie Parker Band. But folk music beckoned, also his love of the lilt and melodies of the songs he knew as a youngster, so his first 'single' release was 'Matilda' in 1953, a song that was to become his signature tune at concerts for decades. His recording breakthrough was in 1956 with his album "Harry Belafonte – Calypso", an iconic recording that was the first PL to sell over 1 million copies worldwide in the space of one year. Here's your Belafonte YouTube tickler "Jump in de Line" (4 minutes). [Click here for the video.](#)

As a co-operative way to celebrate Christmas in our final 2022 Zoomer, each of us volunteered the titles and artists of a few of our favourite songs for this celebratory period. Then using the magic of YouTube, I stitched them together into a 90-minute playlist, which we all listened to on 15th December. Wonderful variety covering the full spectrum, from "Silent Night" to "Santa Baby"! Interestingly, each of us chose completely different pieces, no overlap. This incredible music put each of us into the right frame of mind for the upcoming Christmas period; we'll all be dreaming about Santa, The Christ Child, mistletoe, turkey and cranberry sauce for days to come!

Here's a sample to listen to: "O Little Town of Bethlehem", sung by Aled Jones (Boy Soprano). (4 minutes). [Click here for the video](#)

Megs Shellard contributed this choice; Megs had learned the song and melody (different from the usual one) growing up in England. The text was written by Phillips Brooks, Rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, who was inspired by visiting the village of Bethlehem in the Holy Land, in 1865. Three years later, he wrote the poem for his church. The melody in this recording is by Henry Walford Davies, written in 1922.

Oxymorons from literature

Contributed by Fred Ground

Sweet sorrow (Shakespeare, 1597)

Misshapen chaos (Shakespeare...again)

Terrible beauty (William Butler Yeats, 1916)

Deafening silence (Origin unknown, first seen in print 1830)

Cruel kindness (Source unknown; to be "cruel to be kind" first in Hamlet c. 1601)

Falsely true (Tennyson, 1862)

Melancholy merriment (Byron, 1819)

Scalding coolness (Hemingway, 1940)

Terrible beauty (Yeats, 1916)

Listen loudly (David Nour, 2017): Nour invented this oxymoronic phrase. It drives home the point of developing an intense level of listening to customers, employees, and others.

CLUB TRAVEL

Trip to Norway and Sweden

by Joanne Millichamp, Travel Convenor

The dates for our next PROBUS trip are September 8th to 21st, 2023, and we will be visiting the countries of Norway and Sweden.

We fly via Iceland Air to Bergen where we have a 3 night stay. A walking tour of the town takes in the colourful waterfront, the home of the composer Edvard Grieg (including a short concert) and a funicular ride up Mt. Floyen.

Norway is most famous for two things, their fjords and the Flam Railway trip and we will enjoy both on Day 4 of our trip. Sognefjord is the longest and deepest fjord and one of the most beautiful. During the 20 km. journey on the Flam Railway we will travel from the fjord up to snow covered mountains, passing by beautiful waterfalls and farms.

The second fjord we visit is called Lysefjord, where we will enjoy a cruise on an electric boat. The famous Preikestolen (Pulpit Rock) is located in this fjord, 604 metres higher than the boat.

A train ride takes us to Oslo, where we stay for 3 nights. The next day a city tour takes us to the many highlights, including Parliament, the Royal Palace, the Opera House and the City Hall. Afternoon visits include the Kon-Tiki museum and the Flam museum.

We visit the small town of Drobak in the countryside with its colourful houses and gardens. A visit to the Oscarborg Fortress is also on the agenda today plus a homemade lunch in a private home.

Next stop is Stockholm and a 4-night stay. We travel by high-speed train and our luggage goes by truck (same on the train ride to Oslo). This evening a Smorgasbord dinner is planned with Aquavit tasting.

Our tour of Stockholm includes a visit to Gamla Stan, the picturesque old town, plus the Royal Palace and the City Hall, where all the Noble prizes, other than the Peace Prize are presented. We also visit the Vasa Museum, home of the Vasa ship built in 1628. The afternoon takes us for a short cruise on Lake Malaren and a visit to Drottningholm Palace, a UNESCO world heritage site.

In the countryside we visit the picturesque town of Sigtuna, founded in the year 980. We see the town hall and have free time to wander around the cobblestone streets, markets, cafes, etc. The afternoon is at leisure back in Stockholm and that evening we will have our farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

The cost for this trip is \$6,980 per person and the single supplement is \$2,100. We are usually able to arrange for a room-mate for any singles so they don't have to pay the supplement.

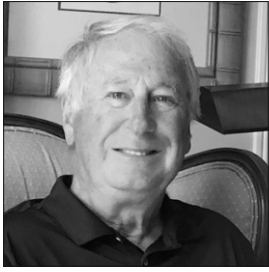
Exclusions are \$510 departure & fuel surcharges and travel insurance.

Included are round trip flights, accommodation, all meals as per the itinerary, all portage at hotels and all gratuities for local guides, drivers, waiters, etc.

I would be happy to drop off a brochure for anyone unable to make it to the meetings. If you have any questions, please contact me at 289/878-2969 or jmillichamp@hotmail.com



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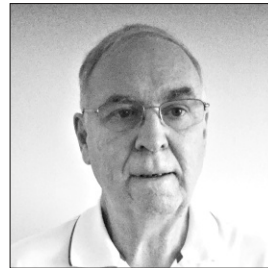
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