

FORUM

Volume 11 - Issue 07 - July 2023



President's Message:

Summertime



As we enter the summer months our Escarpment PROBUS club is in good shape. Our picnic is just around the corner and all arrangements have been finalized. The Pin Seekers are in full swing. Some activities are planned for our pleasure. The recruitment for the management team is well under way but if you get the calling to help out please let us know.

Be happy and be safe
— Russ Cousins



Foto filler by David Marion

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Visit Our Website: www.escarpmentprobus.com

Photo of the Month

This month's photo titled "*A hike around Crawford Lake*", was contributed by Joanne Millichamp. Send your photos to peterlasota@gmail.com and I will select one for inclusion each month.



ACTIVITIES

Well, I don't have much to say!

by Ruth Gagnon, Activities Chair

Get a load of this! No activities in July! Not sure when that happened last. I'd say it's been close to 4 ½ years ... LOL! Our next 'activity' is on Thursday, August 30th where we will set sail on the Kajama. See details below.

Details on our Tuesday, September 19th Fall Planter will be shared next month.

Don't forget to put our next Kahoot Trivia on your calendar! It will be on Wednesday, September 27th at 5 pm at Ned Devine's.

Stay tuned for some "new" activities to be announced at our July General Meeting!

Activities Committee

Members:

Ruth Gagnon

Kelly Ground

Ron Millichamp

Jenny O'Brien

August ACTIVITIES:

Kajama Tall Ships (Toronto) – Thursday, August 30th at 3 pm

Convenor: Kelly Ground

Limited time offering! Don't miss out! Register by Friday, July 7th.

This event is non-refundable.

From the website:

This is your chance to get on board one of Toronto's best attractions and sail the Kajama, a traditional 165 foot three masted Schooner boat cruise. Toronto's only Tall Ship boat cruise attraction sailing daily from downtown Toronto. Sit back and relax with a cold drink from our fully licensed bar, as you set sail on Toronto Harbour and beautiful Lake Ontario. The best Toronto attraction.



What your day will look like:

3:00 pm Meet at 235 Queens Quay West, Toronto

3:30 pm Board the Kajama

4:00 pm Sail Away!

Once we're done Dinner to follow at the Amsterdam Brewery

Antique show

Contributed by Fred Ground

Paddy took two stuffed dogs to the Antique show.

"Ooh", said the presenter. "This is a very rare breed of dog, do you have any idea what they would fetch if they were in good condition?"

"Sticks", replied Paddy.

Graveyard

Reilly is walking through a graveyard, when he comes across a headstone with the inscription

"Here lies a politician and an honest man".

"Faith now", exclaims Reilly. "I wonder how they got the two of them in one grave".

Summer Picnic - It's Gonna Be a Ton of Fun in the Sun!

by Jenny O'Brien, Social Chair

Only a few days are left until this year's Summer Picnic on July 13, and in traditional PROBUS style, it promises to be a great day in the sun, with good food, fun games and super friends!

If you haven't registered yet, please do so soon, so we can get a good handle on numbers. We're excited to try something different this year, with catering by Firehouse Subs. You'll be treated to yummy deli subs, delicious kosher PICKLES, lots of cold drinks and sweet treat desserts!

We'll have some new games on the agenda, and I'd love some volunteer couples, or singles, to oversee the running of these games. If you can help out for an hour at the picnic, let me know and I'll make sure to hook you up with something that will be fun.

I'm also looking to borrow the following items:

Giant Jenga Block Set

Large Size Connect Four Game

Canopy Tents

Light weight folding tables

If you can assist with any of the items on the list below, please send me an email. For the games, I'd be happy to pickup before the picnic so we can get setup in advance of the members arriving. For the canopy tents and light weight tables, I'd appreciate you letting me know if you can bring over to the Sports Center on the morning of the picnic.

Remember .. the day starts by you registering. Looking forward to seeing many of you there and don't forget to wear **RED** in celebration Canada's July birthday!



Interesting Stuff

Contributed by Ron Millichmap

Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean.

The banana cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man.

Airports at higher altitudes require a longer airstrip due to lower air density.

The University of Alaska spans four time zones.

In ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.

Warner Communications paid 28 million for the copyright to the song Happy Birthday, which was written in 1935!

A comet's tail always points away from the sun.

Caffeine increases the power of aspirin and other

painkillers, that is why it is found in some medicines.

The military salute is a motion that evolved from medieval times, when knights in armor raised their visors to reveal their identity.

If you get into the bottom of a well or a tall chimney and look up, you can see stars, even in the middle of the day.

In ancient times strangers shook hands to show that they were unarmed.

Strawberries and cashews are the only fruits whose seeds grow on the outside.

Avocados have the highest calories of any fruit at 167 calories per hundred grams.

The moon moves about two inches away from the Earth each year.

The Earth gets 100 tons heavier every day due to falling space dust.

JULY CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE		TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
Activities					
Executive Meeting	July	12	7:00 PM	Zoom	Russ Cousins
Summer Picnic	July	13	11:00 AM	Milton Sports Centre	Jenny O'Brien
Escarpment PROBUS monthly meeting	July	19	9:30 AM	Connect Centre	Russ Cousins
The Lunch Bunch	July	19	12:00 PM	Keenan's Irish Pub	Joy Castello
Clubs					
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only				Cliff Read
Dining - Saturday Night Lives	July		5:00 PM	Resumes in Oct.	Ruth Gagnon
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	July	3	7:00 PM	TBD	Martin Capper
Trail Walkers	July	4	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read
Crafts - Quilting - <i>Piece Makers</i>	July	4	1:00 PM	TBD	Diane Comstock
Crafts - <i>Craftoholics</i>	July	5	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall	Dana Weatherell
Tastings - Whisky - <i>D'Stillers</i>	July	5	7:00 PM	Herder Home	Chris Strachan
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	July	6	7:00 PM	TBD	Martin Capper
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	July	6	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Cards - Bridge	July	6	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall	Chris Lloyd
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	July	10	7:00 PM	Capper Home *	Martin Capper
Books – Trilogy	July	10	10:00 AM	TBD	Dawn Ross
Books – First Edition	July		1:00 PM	Resumes in Sept.	Paul Crawford
Games - High Rollers (Yahtzee)	July	11	1:00 PM	Zoom	Diane Comstock
Movies - Oscar Nights	July	11	7:00 PM	Milton Cineplex	Petra Halk
Trail Walkers	July	11	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	July	11	2:00 PM	Capper Home *	Martin Capper
Pin Seekers	July	12	11:00 AM	Oakville Executive	Roy MacKay
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	July	12	7:00 PM	TBD	Martin Capper
Books – Sequel	July	12	1:15 PM	Strachan Home	Carolyn Rumley
Games - Bee-Gees	July	12	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall	Diane Comstock
Games - Jokers	July	13	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall	Auriel Halliday
Nosh & Natter	July	14	5:30 PM	TBD	Jenny O'Brien
Cards - Euchre	July	17	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall	Lorette Shermet
Trail Walkers	July	18	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read
Cards - Bid Euchre	July	20	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall	Lorette Shermet
Crafts - Knitting - <i>Chicks with Sticks</i>	July		10:30 AM	HIATUS	Christine Willekes
Dining - <i>Skip the Dishes</i>	July		6:00 PM	Resumes in Sept.	Lorette Shermet
Classical Music - <i>Mozart and Friends</i>	July	20	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Dining - Appy Hour	July	22	6:30 PM	TBD	Mary Cousins
Cards - Canasta	July	24	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall	Lorette Shermet
Games - High Rollers (Farkle)	July	25	1:00 PM	Zoom	Diane Comstock
Trail Walkers	July	25	1:30 PM	Various	Cliff Read
Pin Seekers	July	26	11:00 AM	Oakville Executive	Roy MacKay
Friendship Club	July	26	10:00 AM	Seasons Retirement	Judy Krauss
Games - Jokers	July	26	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall	Auriel Halliday
Tastings - Beer - <i>Suds and Buds</i>	July	27	7:00 PM	CANCELLED	Looking for new convenor
Nosh @ Nite	July	28	5:30 PM	Balfour Home	Paul Crawford
Line Dacing with Tammy	July		12:30 PM	Resumes in Sept.	Ruth Gagnon
Sports Club	July	TBD	1:30 PM	TBD	Garry Flemming

MEETING: JULY



Dennis Grimm - On starting a vineyard in Argentina

Before retiring from PriceWaterhouse Coopers, Denis went back to school to study wine. He became a Certified Sommelier, and in 2008 purchased land in the UCO Valley of Argentina, planted a vineyard and built a house at the foot of the Andes. He and his wife Candice split their time between Canada, Argentina and travel. His passions are his grandchildren, life learning, reading, golf and just enjoying life with his wife of over 50 years.

RECENT EVENTS

June General Meeting

Our general meeting was held on Wednesday June 21st. Our speaker was **John McDonald** who talked to us about ***The Temperance Movement in Halton*** (See following page for the article).

The meeting was not recorded.



Greeter Mogens Jensen chatting with Michelle



50/50 winner Ellen Wallhouse



Celebrating our current & past presidents



Our June speaker, John McDonald

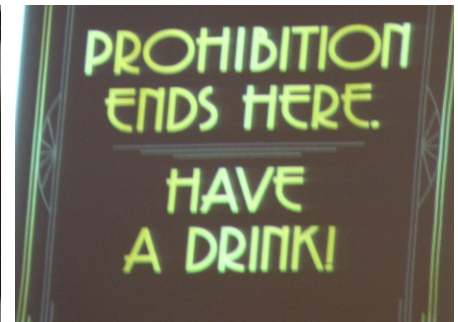
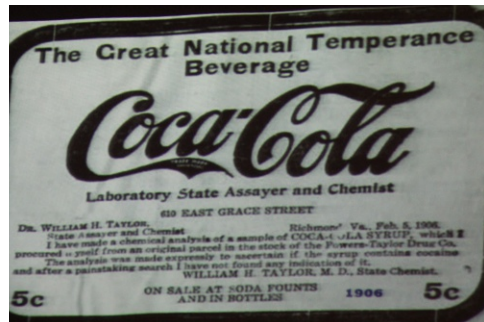
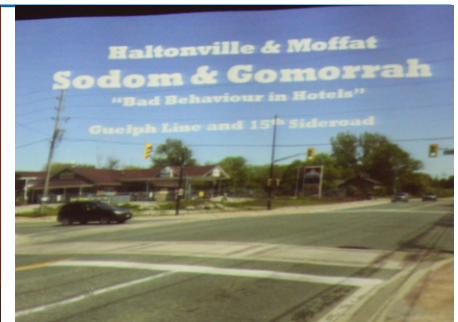
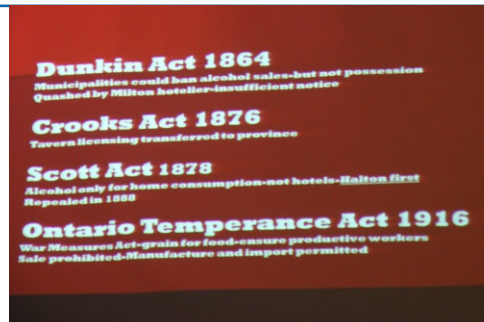
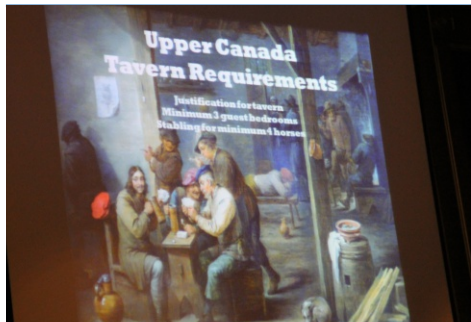
by Roy MacKay, Program Chair

John McDonald, who is a Member of our Club, gave an informative, well documented presentation on *The Temperance Movement in Halton*, with a lot of specific references to what was going on at that time in Milton.

The quality and quantity of the pictures and slides are a tribute to the amount of research John has put into depicting the History of Halton and Halton's Heritage.

Since the early 1970's John has diligently recorded many aspects of life in Halton over the last 250 years and our members were fortunate to have him share the fruits of his research with us.

In 2013 John was recognized for his community efforts and historical research when presented with The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.



Why English is tough

Contributed by Alan Jordan, Occasional Correspondent

Some reasons why English is hard to learn for both English speaker and foreigners.

1. The buck does funny things when does are present.
2. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
3. To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
4. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
5. After a number of injections my jaw got number.
6. Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
7. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
8. How can I intimate this to my intimate friend?

The Prom Musical - Delivers on the *Prom*-ise of a Great Afternoon!

by Jenny O'Brien, Convenor

What a fantastic way to spend the last day of May! A drive in the country, lunch with HUGE portions, superb service and great conversation, time to visit a lovely furniture shop, where pre-show relaxing (vs shopping) was enjoyed by many, and the pièce de résistance, a funny and touching play performance focused on the themes of inclusivity and empathy. 34 of our members enjoyed the trek to St. Jacobs where the musical "The Prom" provided a stellar cast of performers who sang and danced their way into our hearts. Their message of acceptance and tolerance was delivered with humour that had the whole audience laughing. This adorable little theater never fails to disappoint, with excellent seating options, affordable pricing and top notch talent. You can be sure ... we'll be back!



Seniors in Pursuit of Trivia

by Kelly Ground, Convenor

Who wrote: 'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all'?

- a) *William Shakespeare* b) *Robert Browning* c) *Alfred Lord Tennyson*
d) *DH Lawrence*

We were few in numbers but had treble the fun! Four teams constantly battled for the lead and the competition was fierce. The top spot turned over more than a stack of flapjacks on Shrove Tuesday! Most of the questions elicited audible “oos” and “ahs” as the answers were revealed. Some of the time the answers were split two and two between the four teams, and a few times everyone chose a different answer.



The first of the two games saw the three top teams each with 73 questions answered correctly, but again it was time being the dividing factor.

The winning team was Liz Read (no stranger to the top spot) with Anne and Roy Mackay with 147 questions answered correctly. Second place with 144 correct answers were Anna and Chris Strachan with Wayne Heath and Fred Ground.

We refuelled between games with a delicious dinner put on by Ned Devine's.

Stay tuned for the September 27th return of Kahoot Trivia after our summer hiatus.

Origins of idioms

Contributed by Fred Ground

Achilles heel

In Greek mythology, Achilles was a legendary hero of the Trojan War who was granted near invulnerability after his mother Thetis dipped him into the river Styx as an infant.

However, it was believed that Thetis held Achilles by one of his heels as she dipped him, and he was later killed after taking an arrow to this weak point.

Spill the beans

In ancient Greece, voting was actually conducted using beans. Candidates were each assigned a jar into which voters would place either a white bean in support or a black bean in disapproval.

While the jars wouldn't be emptied until the voting was over, clumsy participants would sometimes knock them over, thus "spilling the beans" and revealing the results.

Put a sock in it

Before we had iPhones, CDs, or even cassette players, people used gramophones to listen to their favorite tunes.

However, early models of this music player didn't have volume settings, so 19th-century listeners would often jam woolen socks into the horn to muffle the noise.

Crocodile tears

In his 14th-century book *The Travels of Sir John Mandeville*, the eponymous author claimed to have witnessed crocodiles shedding tears as they devoured a man.

Though completely untrue, Shakespeare eventually used Mandeville's account to coin the phrase "crocodile tears" as a show of insincere grief.

Within Range

By Kelly Ground, Convenor

The only drive of the day was to Burlington and after that it was all putting! The first full day of summer saw a crowd of 34 Probians gathered on the first tee at the Within Range Mini Putt course.

Cheers were heard throughout the course as many of our members bested holes. Congrats to Bonnie Walsh, Wayne Herder, Chris Strachan, Fred Ground, Pete Shermet, Wayne Heath, Doug Pritchard, Nancy Lee and Carol Windsor who all got a "Hole in One" Shrieks were also heard as balls vanished into the water and were whisked away at the various holes!

Congrats to Rick Pearen with the low score of 50! While Suzanne Herder took the prize for the Most Honest Golfer.

Cold beverages and a delicious lunch were enjoyed at Beertown in Burlington, where conversation and laughs were a great way to finish the day.



Continued >>>>



A Day of Play

by Liz Read, Correspondent

Rotary Park was the scene of shouts of triumph and cries of frustration at our Escarpment PROBUS play day on June 15. Fourteen teams of two tried their hand at seven different games including ladder golf and bowling. Nothing felt more exhilarating than throwing your beanbag through the 300 point hole and nothing was more annoying than having your axe whiz pass the target.

At each round at each event, a winning pair was determined. Jim and Michelle Tschirhart came out on top earning 6 ribbons in all. Three other prizes were given to participants as we drew cards to create poker hands. Joanne Millichamp was the top winner with a Flush, followed by Margaret Murphy with a Ace high straight and one card short of a flush! Carolyn Keyworth and Colin Fraser were also both winners with a straight. Well Done!

After the outdoor fun and games, Ruth arranged for us to enjoy dinner at Casa Americo and Lorrette's Skip the Dishes group joined us there where we surprised her with a rendition of Happy Birthday.

Much appreciation goes to Kelly Ground and Ruth Gagnon for all the hard work and planning that it takes to make a such an entertaining event happen. And thanks to Theresa Spano, Cindy Penfold and Lorrette Shernet who helped out at the last minute to 'play'.

Continued >>>>



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 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 Thu. - 1:15 pm	Chris Lloyd	416-402-7464	Cldmi95@gmail.com
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	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	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	paulellencrawford@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
Line Dancing with Tammy	Various Fridays - 12:30:00 PM	Ruth Gagnon	905-462-4740	gagnonruth@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
Sports - Sport Club	Special sports events	Garry Flemming	905-878-6738	danagarryflemming@gmail.com
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	Martin Capper	905-693-0354	martin@martincapper.com
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	1st Thurs. - 7 pm	Martin Capper	905-693-0354	martin@martincapper.com
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	2nd Wed. - 7 pm	Martin Capper	905-693-0354	martin@martincapper.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

SNL at Turtle Jacks

by Ruth Gagnon, Convenor

On June 3rd a bunch of Probians decided to be quite noisy! Twenty-one of us ended up enjoying a wonderful dinner with all of our meals coming out pretty much all at once, we had a great server and no complaints. There were some challenges made and we had the opportunity to catch up on what our summer is going to look like and of course, our travel plans!

The next few months the first Saturday of the months lands on long weekend so our next SNL will be held on October 7th. The restaurant will be announced closer to the date. We should have a lot to catch up on so Save the Date!



Wine tasting at the Fraser's

by Colin & Sharon Fraser, Correspondents

The theme for this tasting was a “trip around the world!” The whites included: a *Masi Pinot Grigio* from Italy, an *Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc* from New Zealand and a *Syncromesh Riesling* from Canada. The reds included: a *Cavaliere D’Oro Chianti Classico* from Italy, a *Novas Carmenere* from Chile and a *Kaiken Malbec* from Argentina. The winning white wine was the *Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc* from New Zealand with 15 points. The winning red was the *Novas Carmenere* from Chile with 15.9 points.

PROBUS
grape
-nuts
WINE TASTING CLUB



For those who asked, here’s the recipe for Cashew Cream Cheese:

Soak 2 cups of unsalted cashews in water overnight in the fridge.

Add to food processor along with 5 tbsp lemon juice and 5 tbsp nutritional yeast.

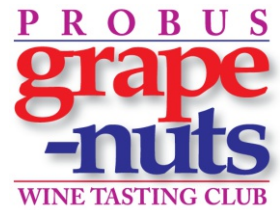
Process until smooth. If needed, add 1 to 2 tbsp of water for a smoother consistency.

This is especially delicious on crackers with Pinot Grigio.



Wine tasting at the Wallhouse's

by Chris Wallhouse, Correspondent



It was an entertaining evening sampling 3 reds and 3 whites which everyone enjoyed. The scoring was tight, with the whites served first and scoring in the teens and the reds in the 15 range. Winning wines were the Folonari Pinot Grigio for the white at \$16.00 5g/l sugar and the Fuzion Organic Malbec Cabernet at \$14.95 2g/l sugar. Our theme was wines we haven't tried and sugar content 5g/l or less. The other wines sampled were Latte Miele Pecorino IGT terre Di Chieti Abrizzo at \$14.00, Stoneleigh Latitude Sauvignon Blanc at \$19.70 for the whites and Tom Gore Cabernet Sauvignon at \$19.91, Straccali Chianti DOCG at \$ 12.50 for the reds.



Skipping July and August

by Lorrette Shermet, Convenor

Fifteen Members from the *Skip the Dishes* group met up with the activity group at 5 p.m. at Casa Americo.

There were 32 from the Activity group and 15 from *Skip the Dishes*. They had a great meal and celebrated Lorrette's birthday together.

Skip the Dishes will not meet in July and August but will reconvene on September 21st.

Have a great summer folks.



Noshing at the Finnie's

by Barbara Finnie, Correspondent



Despite the threat of rain that turned in to a washout, we moved indoors at the Finnie's and had a lovely evening. Even though we were a small group, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening catching up with everyone.

There was no shortage of appetizers and lots of desserts to fill any empty cavities that might have been unfilled. Cliff, so glad you enjoyed the date squares.

Although we missed a lot of our regulars, we had a few very welcome visitors, and a good time was had by all.



We're off to Keenan's Irish Pub this month

by Joy Castello, Convenor



After June's PROBUS meeting eighteen members went to The Rad Brothers for lunch (photos below). The owners, Roger and Janet, were very accommodating. Our Lunch Bunch group enjoyed our meals and had a good time. We might be able to go there again before the plaza is torn down and replaced by a condo.

On July 19th The Lunch Bunch will be going to Keenan's Irish Pub. The address is Maingate Plaza, 51 James Snow Parkway N (Main Street and James Snow Pkwy). You can check out the menu at keenansirishpub.ca



Two tastings for the price of one

by Chris Strachan, Convenor



Hello Probians, I was very tardy in reporting on the May 3rd meeting of the D'Stillers, so I'd like to thank Pete for sending pictures of the whiskies etc. to Peter for inclusion in the June Forum.

This time around, I will be reporting for May 3rd, hosted by me, and June 7th, hosted by Pete Shermet.

As mentioned in the May Forum, our format has changed. Instead of the host supplying five whiskies, we decided that the host would supply one new bottle of whisky and four of the other members would bring an "orphan." This is a leftover from previous tastings. It seems most of the D'Stillers have a few orphans sitting around, and this was a way to help use them up before purchasing more whisky.

The May orphans were supplied by Pete, Wayne, Russ, and Martin, and the June orphans by Ted, Frank, Ron, and Bill. I, not following our protocol, brought an orphan to Pete's, so we had an extra sample. Surprisingly, no one complained. LOL.

The May Whiskies score was as follows:

1 The winning whisky of the evening '**West Cork Rum Finish Cask**' is an Irish Single Malt with a score of 79.13 at a cost of \$58.40 with an Alcohol by Volume (ABV) of 43%.

2 Second was '**Royal Lochnagar 12yr Old**' Single Malt Scotch with a score of 78.5 at a cost of \$100.10 with an Alcohol by Volume (ABV) of 40%.

3 Third was '**Dewars Japanese Smooth**' a Blended Scotch with a score of 77.13 at a cost of \$39.20 with an Alcohol by Volume (ABV) of 40%.

4 Fourth was '**Mortlach 14 yr Old**' Single Malt Scotch with a score of 77.0 at a cost of \$128.62 with an Alcohol by Volume (ABV) of 43.4%.

5 Bringing up the rear was '**West Cork Calvados**' an Irish Single Malt with a score of 76.5 at a cost of \$58.17 with an Alcohol by Volume (ABV) of 43%

The June Whiskies scored as follows:

1 The winning whisky was '**Gooderham and Worts Canadian Whisky**' a Blended whiskey with a score of 76.4 at a cost of \$40.95 with an Alcohol by Volume (ABV) of 44.4%.

2 Second was '**Dewars Japanese Smooth**' a Blended Scotch with a score of 74.5 at a cost of \$39.20 with an Alcohol by Volume (ABV) of 40%.

3 Third was '**Graigellache 13 Yr Old**' Single Malt Scotch with a score of 73.5 at a cost of \$79.45 with an Alcohol by Volume (ABV) of 46%.

4 Tied for Fourth place was '**Johnny Walker Black Label**' a Blended Scotch whisky with a score of 72.4 at a cost of \$66.15 with an Alcohol by Volume (ABV) of 40%.

5 Last but not least '**Glendalough Double Barrel.**' a Blended Irish whiskey with a score of 66.1 at a cost of \$49.95 with an Alcohol by Volume (ABV) of 42%

Thanks to Anna (in May) and Lorrette (in June) for hosting the (DD's) Designated Drivers. The goodies in both cases were lovely. Thanks once again to the DD's for getting everyone home safe and sound.

The July 5th meeting will take place at the home of Wayne and Suzanne Herder where Pete, Russ, Martin and Chris will supply the orphans.

Since Martin will still be on vacation in July he and Ron will switch places.

Continued >>>>

The August 2nd meeting will be held at Russ and Mary Cousins where Ted, Frank, Ron and Bill will supply the orphans.



Clubs: Dance

One More Time!

by Ruth Gagnon, Convenor

It was hot, but we did it! Twelve members joined for a “freebie” class and two joined us to try it out. Shout out to Brenda Hicks who has the moves! Shout out to Ita Sweeney with the flashy outfit! Oh and it was more than the Electric Slide and All My Ex’s Live in Texas. It was laughter and simple fun!

Stay tuned for our next four sessions starting in September. Below are the dates to note in your calendar. **September 15; October 20; November 24 (4th Friday); December 15.** Watch for the Wild Apricot registration starting July 19th.



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).

Clubs: Books and Crafts

The Glass Hotel by Emily St. John Mandel

By Margaret Anne Fehr, Correspondent



Trilogy Book Club's selection for Monday, June 12th was *The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel. Thanks to Ella Dolan for hosting our meeting on a very rainy day that prevented us from viewing her beautiful garden. We all admire her gardening acumen and hope for sun the next time she hosts.

A book review by the publisher Knopf describes the *Glass Hotel* as a 'strange, subtle and haunting novel.' Most of our group had a difficult time engaging in the plot and the book was rated a mere 5 out of 10.

The book was a mish-mash of the life stories of various people, rich and poor. The main story revolved around a Ponzi scheme created by Jonathan Alkaitis who conned people of varying means to invest in his exclusive investment portfolio. The character is heavily based on the real-life story of Bernie Madoff and the crash of 2008 that caused Madoff to confess to his crimes and to be prosecuted for his duplicity.

Vincent Smith, the *Glass Hotel*'s bartender and Alkaitis, meet at the hotel and enter into a mutually beneficial transaction where she became his 'wife' and companion.

While the book didn't rate high in terms of reading enjoyment, there were a number of themes that came out during our discussion that deserved merit.

The concept of being wealthy as 'living in its own kingdom' was predominant. It includes not having to check prices, because if you have to ask, you can't afford it. The concept of mindless shopping not based on need but rather based on boredom was recurrent as we witnessed Vincent access her husband's credit cards in her role as his 'trophy wife.'

We also discussed the quiet luxury of the wealthy and a kind of nonchalance about money and what it can manifest. For those who followed *Succession* on HBO, there were many parallels.

When the financial bottom falls out, Vincent shows her ability to adapt and disengage by becoming a cook on a merchant ship.

The book follows the fate of others who invested in the Ponzi scheme and how some despaired and ended their lives, while others lost their homes and moved in with relatives because they had lost all means of providing for themselves.

Our group stopped short of recommending this book as the structure of the book was challenging with its many subplots scattered over multiple time frames.

Palindrome phrases

Contributed by Fred Ground

A palindrome is a word or phrase that reads the same backwards or forwards.

The following are phrase examples:

Madam in Eden, I'm Adam

Eva, can I stab bats in a cave?

Mr. Owl ate my metal worm

A Santa lived as a devil at NASA

Dammit, I'm mad!

Was it a rat I saw?

Do geese see God?

Never odd or even

Doc, note: I dissent. A fast never prevents a fatness. I diet on cod.

Fight Night by Miriam Toews

by Carolyn Rumley, Correspondent



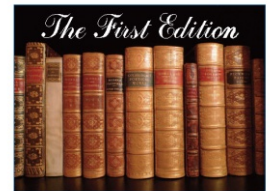
For our June Book Club meeting we read *Fight Night by Miriam Toews*. Toews is a Canadian Author of nine books and winner of a number of literary prizes including the Governor General's Award for Fiction. Recently her novel *Women Talking* was made into a movie.

The story revolves around three women, a grandmother, her daughter and her granddaughter and their struggles. The book is written as a letter to the absentee father of the 9 year old granddaughter who is wise beyond her years. The grandmother whose health is fragile is feisty with a lifetime of knowledge, experiences and wisdom. The mother an actress, is pregnant and dealing with depression. There are elements of the story that are both comedic and tragic, highlighting the fights in life that this family group is experiencing.

For the most part our group did not recommend this book. While some enjoyed the aspect of three generations coping in different ways, others found the story illogical and the reading difficult. It was felt that that many of the situations were not believable. At the same time it was recognized that each character had battles to fight and went about it in their own way.

The Boat People by Sharon Bala

by Penny McIlwaine, Correspondent



The First Edition book club read *Sharon Bala's The Boat People* for our June meeting. The author was born in Dubai and lived in the 905 area for several years before settling in Newfoundland. *The Boat People*, a novel, was inspired by the treatment of 600 Sri Lankan refugees arriving in Canada on the *Ocean Lady* and *MV Sun Sea* in 2010. The protagonists of the novel are mechanic and his son, an articling lawyer and an experienced lawyer/adjudicator.

When a rusty cargo ship carrying Mahindan and five hundred fellow refugees from Sri Lanka's bloody civil war reaches Vancouver's shores, the young father thinks he and his six-year-old son can finally start a new life. Instead, the group is thrown into a detention processing centre, with government officials and news headlines speculating that among the "boat people" are members of a separatist militant organization responsible for countless suicide attacks—and that these terrorists now pose a threat to Canada's national security. As the refugees become subject to prolonged interrogation, Mahindan begins to fear that a desperate act taken in Sri Lanka to fund their escape may now jeopardize his and his son's chance for asylum.

Told through the alternating perspectives of Mahindan; his lawyer, Priya, a second-generation Sri Lankan Canadian who reluctantly represents the refugees; and Grace, a third-generation Japanese Canadian adjudicator who must decide Mahindan's fate as evidence mounts against him, *The Boat People* is a spellbinding and timely novel that provokes a deeply compassionate lens through which to view the current refugee crisis.

Our club agreed that the book is well written and disturbing. The author was clear when providing flashbacks to develop the characters' backgrounds. The author and/or publisher made the decision to not use quotation marks for dialogue which made reading initially challenging. Members rated the book from 6 to 8 and it stimulated a thoughtful discussion.

Do realize that the last day of this year is

123123

Contributed by Alan Jordan

Bliss in New Hamburg

by Diane Comstock, Convenor



Six members of the PieceMakers journeyed to the Spring House Retreat outside of New Hamburg for four days of laughing, eating, talking, shopping, and of course quilting. For a group project, Carol Ann provided us with a pattern and batting for a microwave bowl cozy. Using the two fat quarters we were asked to bring and following her direction, we all completed our own bowl cozy.

In addition, we all brought our own WIP projects:

Carol Ann completed the quilting on her Stack 'n' Whack table runner and added the borders to her Star quilt

Sandi pieced the last of her Sisterhood blocks, added sashings, and joined them all together

Diane completed 3 blocks for her batik BOM and practised quilting using ruler templates

Dawn pieced and quilted her Bench Pillow

Louise worked on squaring up her half-square triangle blocks. Next step – sewing them all together.

Judi pieced together a pillow top to match the bed runner she completed last month. During one of our shopping trips, she purchased a table runner kit and proceeded to piece it together.

We all made progress on our WIP projects, helped each other with questions regarding our machines, colour choices, piecing and quilting techniques. We all raved about the accommodations. We enjoyed it so much, we booked for next year.

Quilting Terms of the Month:

WIP – Work In Progress; *BOM* – Block of the Month;

Squaring a block – Measuring and, if necessary, trimming a block to ensure that it is the correct size.

Carol Ann Currie will be hosting the group on July 4th! Carol Ann will demonstrate how to add a flange to your binding.

Anyone interested in quilting, consider joining our group. We love to see each other's projects, learn new techniques, and most of all socialize with each other.



Wall - Judi, Diane, Microwave Bowl Cozies



Carol Ann



Sandi



Judi - Table Runner *Cont'd* >>>>



Carol Ann - Kaleidoscope



Judi - pillow



Dawn

Craftaholics

by Dana Weatherell, Convenor

Our June meeting was cancelled at the last minute unfortunately. With our meeting space and most of our group not available, Auriel and I decided to head back home and do some gardening as it was a beautiful day!



Craftaholics



For our July 7th meeting, we will be trying a new to us craft called Diamond Painting. I have two remaining kits if you would like to join us and try it out too. The cost is \$8 for the kit which includes everything plus a \$2 donation for use of the church. Selection is on a first come, first serve basis. Please email me which one you would like at dweatherell@yahoo.com (or take your chances the day of). Hope to see you! Chicks with Sticks are welcome as well.



Oxymorons in everyday examples

Contributed by Fred Ground

Working vacation

Virtual reality

Alone together

Unbiased opinion

Minor miracle

Advanced beginner

Friendly fire

Plastic silverware

Controlled chaos

Original copy

Only choice

Act naturally

Old news

Approximate solution

Modern history

Near miss

Free trade

Minor catastrophe

Clean dirt

Small crowd

Silent scream

Clubs: Games & Cards

Visiting Europe

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

In June, a small group of BeeGees travelled Europe via the game Ticket to Ride. We were supposed to play the Africa version, but Lorrette couldn't make it so we will be playing that at a later date. Danielle brought the Europe version which her family had recently gave her. From the craggy hillsides of Edinburgh to the sunlit docks of Constantinople, from the dusty alleys of Pamplona to a windswept station in Berlin, Ticket to Ride Europe took us on an exciting train adventure through the great cities of turn-of-the-century Europe. We had fun learning the city names in their native languages as well as travelling under Tunnels, using Ferries, and building Train Stations. For a while, it looked like Lorraine would be the winner as she amassed a number of completed destinations. However, they were short rides and Danielle had the longest train and the a number of lengthy routes, culminating in a whopping 129 points.



Our game on July 12th will be Five Crowns provided by Jenny. Anyone interested in playing games, let me know and I will add you to the group.



No One Went to the Moon in June!

by Diane Comstock, Correspondent



There was stiff competition on June 15th, when 12 Phobians gathered to play Bid Euchre. Each played five rounds with different partners and opponents. The competition for most "lone hands" (i.e.. Shoot the Moon, Call 1, or Call 2) was fierce with 5 successful Call 1s and 7 Call 2s during the afternoon. Jenny and Diane tied with one Call 1 and two Call 2s apiece, however Diane took the prize for most points with 167. Barb Ch started and ended strong, but had 3 poor middle games (we will blame her partners!) resulting in her getting her loonie back.



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

Clubs: Classical Music & Movies

Mozart and Friends – “In Memorium – Gordon Lightfoot”



by Michael Hooker, Convenor

Gordon Meredith Lightfoot Jr (November 17, 1938 – May 1, 2023) was certainly one of Canada’s greatest singer-songwriter, achieving international success in folk, folk-rock, and country music. His songs have been recorded by some of the world’s most renowned musical artists. Bob Dylan called him one of his favourite songwriters and said, "I can't think of any Gordon Lightfoot song I don't like. Every time I hear a song of his, it's like I wish it would last forever". Lightfoot was a lifelong fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs, and was made an honorary captain of the team for the 1991-92 season.

In tribute to Gordon, Asoka Yapa zoomed us a full 100-minute program of his songs, twenty-eight in total, including many of his classics.

Here are YouTube links to three of his greats:

“The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald” commemorates the sinking of the bulk carrier SS Edmund Fitzgerald on Lake Superior on November 10, 1975. Lightfoot considered this song to be his finest work. (7 minutes) [Click here for YouTube video.](#)

“Christian Island” – an island in Georgian Bay close to the communities of Penetanguishene and Midland, Ontario. The island, with its neighbours Hope Island and Beckwith Island, is an Ojibwa Reserve. (4 minutes) [Click here for YouTube video.](#)

“Canadian Railroad Trilogy” - Commissioned by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation from Gordon for a special broadcast on January 1, 1967, to start Canada's Centennial year. Writing and composing it took him three days. (7 minutes) [Click here for YouTube video.](#)

For my June program, I presented a program on the music of Russia’s greatest composer, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. He’s best-known for his three great ballet scores, Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, which we’ve listened to in previous programs. So for something different, we heard his String Sextet, “Memories of Florence”; six extracts from his opera “Queen of Spades”; and his final symphony, the “Pathetique”. Tchaikovsky died nine days (November 1893) after conducting the first performance of this symphony. The cause of death was given as “cholera”; however more recent findings suggest it may have been a forced suicide, as Tchaikovsky was involved in a homosexual affair that offended some Russian aristocrats. We will never know the truth.

On Thursday 6th July at 2 pm I will be Zooming a special program to celebrate Canada Day 2023; 40 songs (100 minutes in total) about CANADA – West to East, North to South, everything in between. Not one classical note! Singers you know (Stompin’ Tom Connors), others you’ve never heard of (Stan Triggs). Every one interesting and entertaining. Quite a few are somewhat whacky! IF you would like to listen with us to this program, email me (mhooker10@bell.net), and I’ll send you the invitation to the program and log-in information, plus the full program details. We’ve love to have you join us and celebrate this wonderful country!

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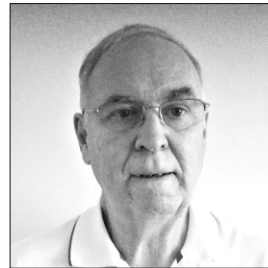
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