

FORUM



Volume 12 - Issue 1 - January 2024

President's Message:

Happy New Year and welcome to 2024!

We ended 2023 with a huge success at our Christmas Lunch, many thanks to Jenny O'Brien (Social Chair) and her committee for a wonderful time.

Looking forward, Activity Chairpersons Ellen & Paul Crawford have awesome activities planned for us during 2024. Come out and enjoy our bowling and dinner, Kahoot Trivia, Halton Police Scams and Mega Nosh, just to name a few of the upcoming activities. Don't be shy. Russ Cousins (Past President) will be looking for volunteers to join the Management Team for the 2024/25 term. WE NEED YOU!! Bring on your talents and share them with our Club. Don't wait, let Russ know you want to join the Team.

Our next General meeting is January 17, 2024, 9:30 a.m. at the Connect Centre. Looking forward to seeing you there.



January, is often considered a time of renewal and fresh beginnings and it also prompts us to set goals and pursue new challenges. For all of you who make New Year's resolutions, myself included, remember:



"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." — Winston S. Churchill

Wishing you the best year ever in 2024.

— *Maggie Boothe*

Visit Probus Canada website: probuscanada.ca

Contents:

Activities	2
November Calendar	5
November Meeting	6
Recent Events	6
Social Clubs	11
Management Page	20

Visit Our Website: www.escarpmentprobus.com

ACTIVITIES

by Ellen and Paul Crawford, Co-chairs

Happy New Year! We wish you a wonderful year ahead with many fun filled activities. We will do our best to provide activities to appeal to a variety of people. Our team is busy working on future activities. Please let us know if there is an activity that you would like us to consider.

Join in, meet new people, have fun!

January ACTIVITIES:

Bowling at Champs Thursday January 18 at 3:30 pm

Convenors: Ellen and Paul Crawford

We will have an afternoon of fun bowling followed by a meal in the restaurant.

You will be randomly placed in teams. Cost for this event is \$15 (shoes are included).

Dinner and drinks at Champs Sports Grille are at your own expense. Please pre-select your meal using Wild Apricot.

Skip the Dishes will be joining us for dinner at Champs. If you are only registering for Skip the Dishes please make your dinner selection using Skip the Dishes on Wild Apricot.

Activities Committee:

Ellen, Paul Crawford

Ruth Gagnon

Pam Grundle

Kelly Ground

Marg Jones

Karen Latremouille

Roy MacKay

Ron Millichamp

Jenny O'Brien

Pete Shermet

Christine Taylor



Calling All Cowboys & Cowgirls - Line Dancing with Tammy – Friday, Jan. 19th at 12:30 pm

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

Cowboys and Cowgirls! Get on those boots and come and shake your bootie! Tammy will be back leading us at the Grace Anglican Church. Meet up in the church basement.

Recently we have been offering these as a “social” with sign up for four sessions. We will once again do that for the February to May timeframe. This is your chance to see if you like it and want to sign up for more! It's a great exercise to enhance your coordination and balance. It is also good for your brain memory and heart health. Come on out and exercise your bones, get your heart rate up and get a good workout.

The cost for this one-time “activity” is \$12.50. More details will be coming soon on Wild Apricot about the sessions starting in February.



LINE DANCING

Kahoot Trivia at Ned Devine's - Thursday January 25, 5 pm

Convenors: Ellen and Paul Crawford

Play Kahoot Trivia. Enjoy the competitive spirit! Try it out! Play with a team or by yourself. Have some good food, fun and conversation!

Ned Devine's (575 Ontario St South) at 5 pm. Register and pre-select your meal using Wild Apricot. Dinner and drinks at your own expense. The cost is \$3 per player payable at the door.



February ACTIVITIES:

Halton Regional Police: Scams, Power of Attorney and AI - Thursday, February 8, 10:30 AM

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

The new Senior Liaison Officer for Milton and Halton Hills is going to update us on what is happening in the wonderful world of scams and will also be talking about issues with power of attorney. He will also touch on the possible impacts of AI (artificial intelligence).



These are always great sessions and there will be time for some questions. Plan on spending 1 1/2 to 2 hours getting informed and becoming more aware of scams that are happening right now! 10:30 am at Grace Anglican Church.

Mega Nosh - Saturday, February 17 at 5:30 PM

Convenors: Peter Shermet & Jenny O'Brien

Looking for a fun way to chase away those winter blahs? Join us for a MEGA NOSH on Saturday, February 17th at 5:30 pm at the Canadian Legion Club 21 Charles St. Milton.



All Probus members are welcome (to room capacity limit). You do not need to belong to a Nosh or Appy group.

What's a MEGA NOSH ? It's a gathering of all interested Escarpment Probus members, who enjoy eating and socializing. Register in Wild Apricot and bring an appetizer or dessert platter with approximately 2 dozen pieces of your favourite recipe. We'll set up buffet style and you'll get to enjoy finger foods galore!

Your \$5 registration fee will go towards the incidental costs of the evening like room rental, decor, paper plates, etc.

Cash bar : Beer \$5.50 Mixed drinks \$5.75 Wine \$5.75 glass / \$17 bottle

Kahoot Trivia at Ned Devine's - Thursday February 22, 5 pm

Convenors: Ellen and Paul Crawford

Play Kahoot Trivia. Enjoy the competitive spirit! Try it out! Play with a team or by yourself. Have some good food, fun and conversation!

Ned Devine's (575 Ontario St South) at 5 pm. Register and pre-select your meal using Wild Apricot. Dinner and drinks at your own expense. The cost is \$3 per player payable at the door.



Reasons why English is hard to learn for both English speakers and foreigners.

Submitted by Alan Jordan

1. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
2. There was a row among the oarsmen on how to row.
3. They were too close to the door to close it.
4. The buck does funny things when does are present.

5. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
6. To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
7. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
8. After a number of injections my jaw got number.
9. Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
10. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
11. How can I intimate this to my intimate friend?

March ACTIVITIES:

The Celtic Tenors LIVE! - Thursday March 14, 8 PM

Convenors: Roy MacKay & Jenny O'Brien

Just in time for St. Paddy's Day! Join us for a fun-filled evening and enjoy this charismatic, globe trotting trio, known as the most successful classical crossover act to emerge from Ireland. They just sing songs they love, but you will get more than a show from world class artists; you will enjoy an evening to savour, with a sparkling good humoured performance. It's all about the music, the harmonies and the fun. The Celtic Tenors will perform classical arias, a capellas, hauntingly beautiful Celtic harmonies, and popular contemporary songs.



Three unique solo voices, but when called upon - One Tenor Sound!

But wait .. there's more!! Why not come out and have dinner first (cost of dinner on top of concert) at the lovely Pepperwood Bistro in downtown Burlington. We'll meet at 5:30 pm and enjoy their scrumptious menu found at: <https://pepperwood.on.ca/dinner/>

There is ample outdoor public parking around The Burlington Performing Arts Centre and Pepperwood Bistro. There is also an Indoor Parking Garage right beside the BPAC. Parking is free after 6 pm, both in the indoor parking garage and outside parking spaces. For those who will go for dinner at Pepperwood Bistro, with a 5:30 pm reservation, the parking fee is only \$1.75 per hour and free after 6 pm.

Kahoot Trivia at Ned Devine's - Thursday March 28, 5 pm

Convenors: Ellen and Paul Crawford

Play Kahoot Trivia. Enjoy the competitive spirit! Try it out! Play with a team or by yourself. Have some good food, fun and conversation!

Ned Devine's (575 Ontario St South) at 5 pm. Register and pre-select your meal using Wild Apricot. Dinner and drinks at your own expense. The cost is \$3 per player payable at the door.



April ACTIVITIES:

Can You Escape? April 11, 11: 00 am

Convenors: Christine Taylor, Pam Grundie

Are you up for a challenge? You get one full hour in your designated room to search, solve and complete your mission. You will be randomly placed in teams to work together, to solve together, to win together. Please select your desired room: Wizarding World, Heros or Tomb Raiders using Wild Apricot. Limit of 12 people to a room. You may be assigned to another room if the room selected is full. Winners will attain bragging rights!



Lunch will follow at 12:30 in Champs Sports Grill. (lunch & drinks at your own expense) Please sign up and make your selections on Wild Apricot. Cost is \$33.50 per person.

Some oddities of the English language.

- 1) The two longest words containing only one of the six vowels (including y), are the fifteen letter defenselessness and respectlessness.
- 2) "Forty" is the only number with its letters in alphabetical order. "One" is the only number with its letters in reverse alphabetical order.

3) Bookkeeper is the only word that has three consecutive doubled letters.

4) "Ough" can be pronounced in eight different ways. The following sentence includes them all.

"A rough-coated, dough faced-ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough, coughing and hiccoughing thoughtfully."

JANUARY CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE		TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
Executive Meeting	January	10	7:00 PM	Zoom	Maggie Boothe
General Meeting	January	17	9:30 AM	Connect Centre	Maggie Boothe
Lunch Bunch	January	17	12:00 PM	Swiss Chalet	Joy Castello
Bowling	January	18	3:30 PM	Champs	Ellen/Paul Crawford
Line Dancing with Tammy	January	19	12:30 PM	Grace Church Bsmnt	Ruth Gagnon
Kahoot Trivia	January	25	5:00 PM	Ned Devine's	Ellen/Paul Crawford
Clubs					
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only				Cliff Read
Tastings - Whisky - <i>D'Stillers</i>	January	3	7:00 PM	Willcocks/Schmidt	Chris Strachan
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	January	3	7:00 PM	TBD	Martin Capper
Cards - <i>Bridge</i>	January	4	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Chris Lloyd
Music - <i>Music Lovers</i>	January	4	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Tastings - Wine - <i>Grapenuts</i>	January	4	7:00 PM	TBD	Martin Capper
Dining - <i>Saturday Night Lives</i>	January	6	5:00 PM	Ivy Arms	Ruth Gagnon
Books – <i>Trilogy</i>	January	8	10:00 AM	TBD	Dawn Ross
Games - <i>Mexican Train</i>	January	8	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Jenny O'Brien
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	January	8	7:00 PM	Capper Home *	Martin Capper
Crafts - Quilting - <i>Piece Makers</i>	January	9	1:00 PM	Gilbert Home	Diane Comstock
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	January	9	2:00 PM	Capper Home *	Martin Capper
Movies - <i>Oscar Nights</i>	January	9	7:00 PM	Milton Cineplex	Petra Halk
Games - <i>Bee-Gees</i>	January	10	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Diane Comstock
Books – <i>Sequel</i>	January	10	1:15 PM	TBD	Carolyn Rumley
Games - <i>Jokers</i>	January	11	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Auriel Halliday
Dining - <i>Nosh & Natter</i>	January	12	5:30 PM	Pond Home	Michael Boothe
Books – <i>First Edition</i>	January	15	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall	Diane A./Penny M.
Cards - <i>Euchre</i>	January	15	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Lorrette Shermet
Cards - <i>Bid Euchre</i>	January	18	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Lorrette Shermet
Music - <i>Music Lovers</i>	January	18	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Friendship Club	January	24	10:00 AM	Seasons Retirement*	Judy Krauss
Games - <i>Jokers</i>	January	24	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Auriel Halliday
Dining - <i>Nosh @ Nite</i>	January	26	5:30 PM	TBD	Barb Finnie
Dining - <i>Appy Hour</i>	January	27	6:30 PM	TBD	Mary Cousins

Temporary change

* Permanent location

Clubs on Hold seeking new convenors:

Trailwalkers, Beer Tasting, Club Francais, Chicks with Sticks, Bowling, Craftaholics, High Rollers, Farkle, Happy Bookers

MEETING: JANUARY

The January meeting will be at the Connect Centre on January 17, 2024. The speaker will be Josh Martin.

Enjoy a few laughs while revving up your resilience and problem-solving skills with Josh Martin: a cancer survivor, author and motivational speaker with a focus on overcoming obstacles. For more than a decade, he's been sharing the lessons he's learned from life's awesome and absurd moments. (He likes to think of it as self-help with a sense of humour.)

Over the years, Josh has delivered keynote presentations to national organizations. He has facilitated professional development workshops for educators, taught online classes for the Canadian Mental Health Association and partnered with therapists and other wellness experts across the country to share free resilience resources.



RECENT EVENTS

Christmas Luncheon was Merry & Bright!

by Jenny O'Brien, Activity Chair

It was a spectacularly sunny day when 136 members donned their finest red & green and arrived at Granite Ridge ready to enjoy the season. Upon arrival at our 10th Annual Probus Christmas Luncheon, all were treated to a complimentary beverage (sure to get any party going) and a great opportunity to mingle with friends. By the volume in the room, you could tell folks were enjoying this social time. The official part of our gathering was kicked off by Jenny O'Brien, who welcomed all in attendance, shared a quick story about how 'Grandma's beauty mask didn't quite do the trick' and then turned over the floor to our guest presenter, Angelica Ganea.

Angelica delighted and inspired us with her stunning voice and inspirational stories of Christmas in Romania. She reminded us to enjoy the little things and to embrace kindness in the world around us. Her touching performances of The Prayer and Hallelujah, generated a few tears among the crowd, but she finished up with a rousing rendition of Jingle Bells and Santa Claus is coming to town. We all got to join her and test out our own pipes as we warmed up for lunch.

By now, our group was good and hungry and ready for a delectable meal served by the very efficient team at Granite Ridge. Members enjoyed the option of Beef Tenderloin, Stuffed Chicken Breast and Salmon in Butter Sauce. The main course was followed by a yummy Chocolate Mousse cake with zero calories, because really, who counts calories at Christmas time?? By the looks of the finished plates going back into the kitchen, everyone thoroughly enjoyed their meals.

But the fun wasn't over yet. The entire audience got into the act, as we sang The Twelve Days of Christmas, with each table taking a verse and making it their own. We had maids a milking and calling birds and swans a swimming, and many tables really got into it, with both their volume and their actions. The participation level was fantastic and the laughter plentiful as we finally got to day 12.

Last but not least, we visited the North Pole with the Left / Right story, that saw Merci chocolate bars moving around the tables with great speed, as those little elves and reindeer looked for Santa's gift list. The lucky final recipient of the chocolate bar, was also the winner of a lovely bottle of red or white wine.

All too soon the afternoon came to a close, but not before many fond wishes for a safe and happy holiday season were extended. The Merriest of Christmas' was wished to one and all with great expectations for the New Year ahead!





Entertainer Angelica Ganea at Christmas Lunch

As all of us are aware, our Christmas Lunch, organized by Jenny O'Brien and her Event Team, was a great success. It was, therefore, appropriate we should have high quality entertainment to enhance the day. Angelica Ganea certainly provided a memorable experience for all. Angelica combined stories of her childhood in Romania and emigrating to Canada with Christmas songs and songs that inspire. We all enjoyed her rendition of Christmas classics such as "Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas". When she sang such uplifting songs as "The Prayer" and "All I Ask of You" many of us were filled with emotion by the power of her voice. She finished off her presentation by leading a singalong of some Christmas favourites to help us get in mood for the season. Angelica has a large library of her songs and stories on YouTube.

While it was not originally scheduled, Angelica added some humour to her presentation in her various references to the Program Chair.

Submitted by Roy (AKA as Russ, Ross, Ron, Roger and Rod, but not Farelli) MacKay, Program Chair.

Lunch Bunch Banter

by Joy Castello, Convenor

On December 13th, the Escarpment Probus Club celebrated the holiday season with our annual Christmas luncheon. The staff at Granite Ridge Golf Club served an excellent meal and Angelica Ganea captivated us with her wonderful songs and stories. Many thanks to the staff at Granite Ridge and to Jenny O'Brien and her committee for all their hard work. And thanks to Roy MacKay for inviting Angelica to entertain us.

On Wednesday, January 17th, the Lunch Bunch will be going to Swiss Chalet at 50 Market Drive in Milton. You can check out the menu by [clicking here](#).



Line Dancing

By ChatGPT AI (Artificial Intelligence) with input from Ruth

Fifteen enthusiastic Probian ladies attended the fourth session of line dancing, infusing the gathering with holiday cheer. Melvin stole the spotlight with his festive attire and showcased a lively dance, adding a rhythmic stomp to his steps. In a playful twist, the playlist underwent a seasonal makeover, with "Stand by Me" making way for the yuletide classic "Last Christmas," and the familiar "Wagon Wheel" being replaced by the spirited "Santa's Sleigh."



Amid the joyous atmosphere, a humorous touch was added when one participant commented, "We have the steps, but my knees don't," eliciting laughter from the group. Despite this light-hearted remark, the camaraderie was palpable as everyone enjoyed the music and dance, creating a sense of community.

As our recent line dancing session came to a close, we have an exciting update for all our attendees! Be sure to mark your calendars for a special one-off session scheduled for January 19th with the amazing Tammy. Get ready for an unforgettable experience filled with joy and fantastic dance moves!

Looking ahead, we encourage all future attendees to anticipate the next four lively sessions starting in February. The dance floor awaits, and we can't wait to continue the celebration of music, movement, and friendship.

Thank you for being a part of our line dancing community, and we look forward to seeing you on January 19th for the special session with Tammy and in the upcoming sessions in February!



Musical Bingo

By Kelly Ground

What do Lorraine's dinner group and the "New and Improved" Musical Bingo have in common? One skips the dishes and the other skips the music! Due to technical glitches and Murphy's Law (sorry Margaret) things did not go to plan. Everyone was snuggled up in close proximity and sang their hearts out as we played anyway. Thanks to Ruth's unwavering ability to bring a good time to all, the game went on with laughs included. We had many winners over the course of the evening, but judging by the laughter everyone was a winner.

Rock On!

One - liners

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) I told my girlfriend she drew her eyebrows too high. She seemed surprised. | 5) Just burned 2,000 calories. That's the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I nap. |
| 2) People who use selfie sticks really need to have a good, long look at themselves. | 6) Always borrow money from a pessimist. They'll never expect it back. |
| 3) Two fish are in a tank. One says, "How do you drive this thing?" | 7) I don't suffer from insanity. I enjoy every minute of it. |
| 4) I always take life with a grain of salt. And a slice of lemon. And a shot of tequila. | 8) Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation toward the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water. |

Christmas Centerpiece at Crawfords Garden Centre

By: ChatGPT AI (Artificial Intelligence) with input from Ruth

The gathering was an enchanting celebration of Christmas spirit, as we found ourselves immersed in a festive wonderland adorned with exquisite decorations. The highlight of the event was the collective effort of all 26 Probian ladies, including myself, who enthusiastically participated in crafting Christmas centerpieces. Each of us showcased our unique talents as we artfully arranged the festive displays, contributing to a vibrant and diverse collection. The joyous occasion extended beyond the creative endeavors; there was a heartwarming sense of camaraderie as we shared laughter and caught up with each other. Amidst the merriment, we took a moment to declutter our lives by placing unused items on the ground, symbolizing a collective act of letting go and embracing the holiday spirit.

During our second session, the atmosphere was elevated with the spontaneous eruption of holiday songs, with some ladies showcasing their vocal talents. The air resonated with the melodies of the season, adding an extra layer of joy to our festive gathering. As evidenced by the delightful pictures capturing our superlative designs, the event was a testament to the fun and unity shared among us retirees, making it a memorable and heartwarming experience.



SOCIAL CLUBS

Club	Date/Time	Convenor	Telephone	Email
Book Club - First Edition	2nd Mon. - 1 pm	Diane A. & Penny M.	416-574-9461	diane.armand@yahoo.ca
Book Club - Happy Bookers	4th Thurs. - 12:30 pm	Looking for new convenor		
Book Club - Ravenous Readers Recycling	3rd Wed. - Probus meeting	Lynda & Ron Johnston	905-875-4486	johnstonlynda50@me.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
Club Français	2nd Wed. - 10 am	On Hold	905-854-3781	anne@gibbard.net
Crafts - Craftaholics	1st Wed - 1 pm	Looking for new convenor		
Crafts - Knitting - Chicks with Sticks	3rd Thurs. - 10:30 am	On Hold	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	Michael Boothe	905-636-1564	124mcb@gmail.com
Dining - Nosh@Nite	4th Fri. - 5:30 pm	Barb Finnie	905-878-9188	suedawn4@yahoo.ca
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	judykrauss@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	On Hold	905-876-4909	meljenscc@sympatico.ca
Games - High Rollers (Yahtzee)	2nd Tues - 1 pm	On Hold		
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
Games - Mexican Train Dominoes	1st Mon - 1:30 pm	Jenny O'Brien	289-851-8477	jenny0103@rogers.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
Music - Music Lovers	1st & 3rd Thu. 2:00pm. ZOOM	Michael Hooker	905-878-8953	mhooker10@bell.net
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	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	1st 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 pm	Looking for new convenor		

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

Nosh & Natter

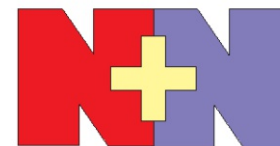
by Michael Boothe

With December 8th weather cooperating, a lively evening of good company and gourmet bites were enjoyed at the home of Maggie and Michael Boothe. The event was filled with laughter and clinking glasses. As always, a great variety of dishes were provided. Our new members, Sharon and Colin Fraser, were welcomed into our Nosh.

Thank you to all who attended. Your presence added to the evening and we're grateful for the shared camaraderie to usher in the Christmas season.

As your new Convener I am open to suggestions for themes and entertaining ideas for future events. Please contact me with your thoughts.

We look forward to seeing you all on January 12th at Carol Pond's home and here's wishing you a very Merry Christmas.



Saturday Night LiveS

by ChatGPT AI (Artificial Intelligence) with input from Ruth Gagnon

At Casa Americo, the Saturday Night LiveS social club gathered for its monthly feast, boasting 21 lively dinner guests. The aroma of delectable dishes filled the air as the renowned cheesecake took center stage, stealing the hearts of all fortunate enough to indulge. The attentive staff ensured the evening flowed seamlessly, providing a service as impeccable as the culinary delights.

Amidst the clinking of glasses and bursts of laughter, the atmosphere buzzed with the joy of camaraderie. The food, a symphony of flavors, lived up to its reputation, leaving everyone satisfied and eager for more. As the night unfolded, tales of the week's adventures were shared, turning Casa Americo into a haven for both exceptional cuisine and delightful company. Another Saturday Night LiveS dinner passed, leaving memories etched in the hearts of those who reveled in the perfect blend of good food, good service, and plenty of laughter.



Skip the Dishes

What's for Dinner?

by Wayne Herder

These three words always start an interesting discussion. In our home we have a rule that whoever cooks does not do the cleanup. Easiest rule to follow. However, there is no rule for deciding what to prepare.

Normal conversation:

“I made the choice last night!

What do we have to eat?

Did you take something out of the freezer yet?

What would you like to have?

I'm tired and feel like taking out money for dinner.

I am not really hungry right now.”

And the conversation goes on with various other options.

Finally, the decision is at a stalemate. I always come up with the best suggestion, should we go out to eat or order in? Well, that starts another round of discussions. Where shall we go? For the next half-hour we review all of the options for restaurants in town. Well, we were just there with Probus or we will soon be going there with them. That eliminates half the restaurants. We finally make a decision where to go. Next problem arrives. It's getting late and I don't feel like changing my clothes to go out and I don't want anyone to see me looking like this.

Well, that leaves the next option, ordering in. I pull out all the take-out flyers and slowly review the menus. Well, not to appear to be overly healthy, I'm prepared to bite the bullet and get my fix of grease. Pros and cons are evaluated and the conclusion is that most take-out food is normally cool or cold when it arrives. Time is ticking by and it is nearing my bed time.

I make the choice, leftovers again!

Grapenuts

Christmas Wine Party!

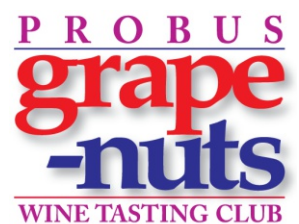
by Auriel and Don Halliday

Martin Capper (or should that be Corker!), runs the very successful Grapenuts wine tasting group. With three wine tastings monthly throughout the year, we did something a little different for December. We all got together and had a fun party evening. Don and I hosted at our house in the country, and were very pleased about the lack of snow. The evening, as usual, was a big success and certainly got us all into the Christmas spirit!

We tasted lots of different cheeses, pairing them with wine, of course. I had so much fun, (or was it wine!), that I forgot to give everyone the little gift I had made. My hours of cutting vinyl and threading in the string lights were in vain.

We wish everyone a healthy New Year, filled with many bottles of Vino. A huge thank you goes to Martin for organizing this group of Milton Winos.

Cheers, Auriel and Don



D'Stillers

by Chris Strachan, Convenor

The December 6th meeting of the D'Stillers was held at the home of Ron and Joanne Millichamp. This month, the orphans were supplied by Bill, Martin, Pete, and Frank. 'Orphans' are leftover whiskies from previous tastings.



Following are the whiskies we tasted and their respective scores:

- 1) The winning whisky of the evening was 'Dalwhinnie Winter's Gold' a single malt Scotch with a score of 77.6% at a cost of \$85.00 with an ABV (Alcohol by Volume) of 43%
- 2) 'Knappogue Castle' a 12 Yr Old single malt Irish whiskey with a score of 77.2%, cost of \$60.00 and an ABV of 43%
- 3) 'Johnny Walker Green Label' a 15 yr Old blended Scotch with a score of 75.3%, cost of \$110.00 and an ABV of 43%
- 4) 'John Powers' a blended Irish Whiskey with a score of 74.9% at a cost of \$77.00 with an ABV of 40%
- 5) Last but not least was 'Shortcross' a blended Irish Whiskey with a score of 72.0% at a cost of \$77.00 and an ABV of 40%.

Many thanks to Joanne for hosting the DD's and the delicious desserts she supplied once we all got together after the tasting. As always, thanks to the DD's for getting everyone home safe and sound.

The January 3rd meeting will be held at the home of Bill Willcocks and Kathy Schmidt, where the 'Orphans' will be supplied by Ted, Chris, Wayne, and Ron.

Clubs: Books and Crafts

Sequel Book Club

And the Birds Rained Down by Jocelyne Saucier

by Patricia Kotack

The December meeting of the Sequel Book club was held at the home of Joanne Millichamp where members enjoyed a delicious Christmas Luncheon. Many thanks to Joanne!



Our book of choice this month was "And the Birds Rained Down" by Jocelyne Saucier, translated from the French by Rhonda Mullins. It is a short novel about a photographer who encounters a group of aging recluses as she searches for survivors of the "Great Fires" in northern Ontario in the early 20th century. Saucier's novel is the story of two very senior citizens, living the life of hermits in the hopes of dying on their own terms. This was an interesting book with a lot of complex themes.

As always the book prompted a lively discussion which involved many social issues and opinions and a very enjoyable afternoon. This book received a wide range of reviews by the members of the club. Several members loved the book, others not so much!

The January meeting will be held at the home of Joanne Millichamp.

More one - liners

- 1) The easiest time to add insult to injury is when you're signing someone's cast.
- 2) Light travels faster than sound, which is the reason that some people appear bright before you hear them speak.
- 3) My therapist says I have a preoccupation for revenge. We'll see about that.
- 4) A termite walks into the bar and asks, "Is the bar tender here?"

First Edition Book Club

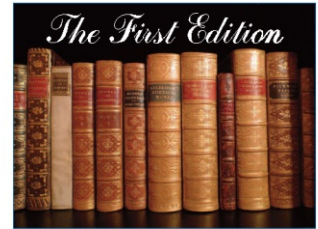
The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi

by Auriel Halliday

On December the 11th, The First Edition Book Club met at the Grace Church to discuss our latest read. *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi is an interesting story about a henna artist living in Jaipur, India during the post-independence era. Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950s pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist and confidante to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own.

Our club members had mixed reviews about this book. The average score out of 10 was about 7, ranging from 5 1/2 to 8. The afternoon ended with very authentic sweet cakes from a local Indian bakery.

Happy reading in the New Year everyone.



Trilogy Book Club

Psalm for the Wild-Built by Becky Chambers

By Margaret Anne Fehr

It appears to be our book club axiom that the less reading enjoyment we derive from a book, the more enriching our discussions become – and this held true for our December selection, "Psalm for the Wild-Built" by Becky Chambers.



The protagonists in the book are Sibling Dex, a tea monk, and a robot named Splendid Speckled Mosschap. Chambers invites readers into the post-apocalyptic Pangea moon where robots have been unleashed from factories, leaving the circumstances that led to this societal upheaval to our imaginations. The dialogue between human and robot within the sci-fi backdrop takes a philosophical turn, contemplating the potential trajectory of our future in a world shaped by artificial intelligence.

A central point of discussion was the unique perspective of referring to humans as 'they' throughout the book, revealing a universal shift in sexual identities.

Our conversation delved into the intricacies of A.I. and the kind of world it might shape. "Who's building who?" became a question that echoed through our discussion, especially considering the 'Wild-built' robots are constructed by their mechanical counterparts using an array of re-purposed parts. This sparked contemplation on whether these robots, while mirroring human appearance, could genuinely be considered alive or merely complex constructs.

"Psalm for the Wild-Built" left us with an unsettling vision of the future, prompting us to reflect on the fundamental needs of humanity. Is the pursuit of even more material possessions and productivity the answer, or does the path to fulfillment lie in a deeper, spiritual quest. The book's essence transcends the typical sci-fi narrative, challenging us to explore profound questions about our existence.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Kelly Ground, who hosted a delicious Christmas luncheon and elegant table setting. The spirited conversation added an extra layer of enjoyment to our extended time together.

While our individual ratings for reading the book ranged from 5 to 6, the discussion garnered unanimous acclaim, earning a resounding 10. Despite our varying sentiments about the book itself, the exploration of its themes sparked an intriguing dialogue that left us collectively pondering the potential futures that await us and upcoming generations.

PieceMakers

Christmas Quilting

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

On Tuesday, December 5th, the PieceMakers gathered together at Carol Ann's home for their monthly meeting. Dawn brought a Unicorn tote bag that she had made for her granddaughter. She also showed us a quilt top that she had pieced from a kit. Stay tuned to see how she will quilt it. Sandi showed us a half-square triangle wreath that she embellished with a red plaid bow, greenery, and silver balls and bells. This will look beautiful on her door! Rosalind impressed us all with a gorgeous t-shirt quilt that she made for her grandson. Her t-shirt choices represent the different aspects of his life – sports, theatre, and other interests. Diane A. has arranged her sewing room in her new home and is working on a table runner and placemats. The pattern she has chosen is called Holly Jolly. She also plans to make a wall hanging with fabric featuring beautiful red cardinals. Inspired by Sandi's gnome pillows, Carol Ann made a bench pillow with 3 Christmas gnomes. And do you remember the star quilt she worked on at our June retreat? Well, she decided to make a second star quilt and put them together to make a reversible quilt. Absolutely stunning! Diane C. brought Christmas ornaments (angel wings and stars) for everyone.



Quilting Terms of the Month:

- Continuous sashing: Strips of fabric that separate entire rows either vertically or horizontally.
- Reversible quilt: A quilt made using two pieced quilt tops instead of a single piece of fabric for the backing. Both quilt tops can use the same fabric line or different fabrics to represent different seasons or holidays.



We had a discussion regarding hostesses for the upcoming months and we decided our March meeting will be a mini 2-day quilt retreat at Diane's condo party room like we had in 2020 (before COVID hit us all). Details will be discussed during our February meeting. Next meeting will be on Jan. 9th (the 2nd Tuesday of the month) and will be hosted by Sandi Gilbert.



Clubs: Games & Cards

Euchre

by Jenny O'Brien

With seven sleeps to go before the 'big day', a hearty group of 20 came out on a rainy Monday, for one last euchre gathering in 2023. There were some early musical chairs, with Jenny, Lorrette and Lorraine swapping places, but soon things settled down and the serious cards began. Overall, the scores were lower this month, but a first timer to this group, Willy Ceelen, went home the big winner with a top score of 43. Lois Oatman was a winner with 2 lone hands, and rounding out the Winner's Circle was Ev Zanatta with a low score of 22, just beating out Harold Grace for the Toonie prize. There was lots of good cheer in evidence this month, with chatter about family plans for the holidays. As always, we welcome new euchre players to join us on the 3rd Monday of the month. For more info, contact Lorrette Shermet or Jenny O'Brien.



Bid Euchre

Thank You Partners!

by Diane Comstock

On December 21, a small crowd (12) played Bid Euchre. Big thank you to Bill and Corrine for filling in at the last minute. Even though Bill had 4 Call 2 successes, Ev earned top honors (\$6) with 2 successful Call 1s and 1 Call 2. Brenda would like to thank her partners, Ev, Diane, Carole, Bill, and Sharon for helping her to achieve a high score of 301 earning her \$5. Even though Bonnie had 3 Call 2s, she was in contention for low score, but Carole squeaked under her by 1 point, earning her loonie back.

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



Mexican Train

Another Full Train in Milton!

by Jenny O'Brien

Our December Mexican Train was once again full of happy riders, with 41 turning out to play. We had 8 tables going strong through 6 rounds of play with some truly notable low scorers, including the day's best, Barb Chliszczyk with 20 points, followed by Jim Campbell with 22 points and hot on their tracks, Cliff



Read with 23 points. There was one player who scored 0 in three games but still didn't manage to end up in the top three, and that was Jenny O'Brien. Sitting in the caboose this month, was Stephen Comstock with a whopping score of 230 points. Stephen couldn't start his own train, and none of the lovely ladies he was playing with, cared to help him out (no mercy at this table :) At the end of the day, everyone went home smiling, delighting in another fun afternoon, and already plotting their routes for next month, when we'll meet on Monday, January 8th at Grace Church. All Aboard !!



Popular Latin phrases and their meanings

Ad Hoc: for this purpose only.

Carpe Diem: seize the day.

Circa: around, approximately.

De Facto: from the fact.

Ergo: therefore.

Et Cetera: and the others.

In Flagrante Delicto: in the act of committing a crime.

Ipso Facto: by that very fact.

Mea Culpa: my fault.

Per Se: through itself.

Pro Bono: done without charge.

Status Quo: existing state of affairs.

Terra Incognita: unknown land.

Vox Populi: voice of the people.

Other Clubs

Music Lovers

by Michael Hooker, Convenor

For our final 2023 musical Zoomer, we put on a Christmas-themed program, with our members picking their favourite songs. A REALLY diverse extravaganza, different musical genres from around the world, old and new, in six different languages including Inuktitut.



Here are two samples (both videos).

“Fairytale of New York”, recorded at the funeral in Ireland of the composer, Shane MacGowan, of the Irish group, “The Pogues”, on 8th December this year. (5 minutes). [Click here to watch.](#)

“The Little Drummer Boy”, Drakensberg (South Africa) Boys Choir. (4 minutes). [Click here to watch.](#)

“Cole Porter” was the theme for our first December session. Cole Porter (1891 – 1964) wrote the words and music for many great stage musicals and movies (e.g. Kiss Me, Kate; Les Girls; Can-Can; Anything Goes), and many of his songs became standards, noted for their witty, urbane lyrics. He began his musical training early and wrote his first operetta at ten. By the 1930s he was one of the major songwriters for the Broadway musical stage.

We watched / listened to a great selection of Cole Porter’s songs. Most were stage or screen videos, several with great dance routines featuring stars like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, Red Skelton and Lucille Ball, Gene Kelly and Mitzi Gaynor. WOW – could those feet go!!! At the end our universal verdict was “Wow, Fantabulous!”

For your enjoyment, here are links to two of his best (both live videos). Hold on to your hats!

“Too Darn Hot” from “Kiss Me, Kate” – 2 minutes. [Click here to watch.](#)

“Anything Goes” from “Anything Goes” – 5 minutes. [Click here to watch.](#)

Famous Shakespearean quotes and the plays they are found in

- 1) The fault, dear Brutus, is not in the stars, but in ourselves. (Julius Caesar)
- 2) To be, or not to be: that is the question. (Hamlet)
- 3) The course of true love never did run smooth. (A Midsummer Night's Dream)
- 4) If I lose mine honour, I lose myself. (Antony and Cleopatra)
- 5) All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts. (As You Like It)
- 6) Now is the winter of our discontent. (Richard 111)

- 7) Brevity is the soul of wit. (Hamlet)
- 8) Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. (Twelfth Night)
- 9) Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none. (All's Well that Ends Well)
- 10) Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow. (Romeo and Juliet)
- 11) But I wear my heart upon my sleeve. (Othello)
- 12) There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy. (Hamlet)

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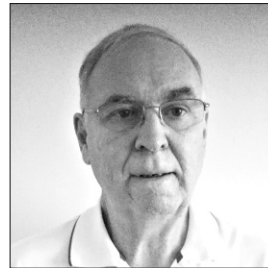
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