

FORUM



Volume 12 - Issue 2 - February 2024

President's Message:

Happy Valentine's Month!



As we close the month of January and dive into February, the month of hearts, chocolate and groundhogs I would like to thank a few people who have taken the time to contribute to our Forum over the months and years.

A big "THANK YOU" goes out to Alan Jordan, Ron Millichamp, Wayne Herder and Fred Ground. These gentlemen have given us a lot of laughs and insightful wisdom contributing to our enjoyment in the Forum newsletter. Thank you for all the hard work you put in to entertain and inform us.

As we *leap* through February this year, I encourage you to actively participate in our upcoming events and meetings. Your participation not only enriches our collective experience but also strengthens our Probus family.

In the spirit of February, let us also celebrate the love for learning and the joy that comes from connecting with one another. Reach out to fellow members, share your interests, and explore the wealth of knowledge that resides within our diverse community.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday, February 21st, 2024, 9:30 a.m. for our General meeting at the Connect Centre.

To all of our Probus members who are escaping to warm and far away places, safe travels and have a wonderful time!

— *Maggie Boothe*

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Visit Probus Canada website: probuscanada.ca

Visit Our Website: www.escarpmentprobus.com

ACTIVITIES

by Ellen and Paul Crawford

No need for the winter blahs to overtake you as there is lots to do with your friends at Probus. Our committee members are working hard behind the scenes pursuing a variety of activities that could be of interest to you!

As was mentioned at the January general meeting, several activities are released far in advance as numbers are required to guarantee the activity. Watch for the activity invitations and sign up using Wild Apricot.

Also included is the information that was discussed at the January general meeting regarding Wild Apricot and the cancellation policy.

Wild Apricot Information

Wild Apricot is an extremely useful application which has allowed the club to streamline and simplify what used to be a cumbersome, time-consuming process involving sign up sheets, rushing to sign up at break, cheques and oversight.

When we took over the Activity portfolio we had a few questions about the application of the Wild Apricot fees to Activity events but not to Social clubs. As a result of our inquiry we can share how it relates to all of us as we pay for the activities we attend.

There is an annual fee for the club to use Wild Apricot. The amount of \$1911.69 CAD was paid and is effective for two years June 14, 2023 - June 23, 2025. This allows the club to use Wild Apricot's functionality to operate.

In addition every time Wild Apricot is used for credit card transactions there is a fee which is charged by Wild Apricot to process your payment. It is a set percentage plus a flat rate of \$.30. Here are two examples to illustrate. An event costing \$10 has a Wild Apricot fee of \$.61. An event costing \$15 has a Wild Apricot fee of \$.76. We then round the charge to the closest \$.50 when the event is posted for payment on Wild Apricot, the \$10.61 becomes \$10.50 and the \$15.76 becomes \$16.00. The cost of the transaction fees was \$1725.58 in 2023. Transaction fees are charged at the beginning of each month. As activity co-chairs we along with our committee members in charge of an event do a reconciliation report for each event. In this report we track the over and under amount that is accumulated as a result of the Wild Apricot transaction fees. This is called the Slush Fund and right now it has a positive balance of \$127.09. An example of the use of the Slush Fund is that the 10 year anniversary cake was purchased for \$120 out of the slush fund.

NEW Cancellation Policy

At our last management meeting there was a discussion in regards to members cancelling registrations for activities and how the club should proceed with refunds. Wild Apricot charges the club for each transaction including refunds and we are following a process to acknowledge that. After dutiful consideration the process the club will follow when dealing with cancellations is described below.

If there is an activity with a fee, the member may cancel up to a week in advance. The member will advise the activity chair of their wish to cancel. If there is a waitlist the activity chair will cancel the registration and notify the treasurer who will refund the member. Example: bowling cancellations and refunds were given as there were members on the waitlist.

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

Continued >>>

NEW Cancellation Policy (ctd)

For activities with pre purchased tickets, eg. theatre tickets, it will be the responsibility of the member to sell their ticket. The member can notify the activity chair who can advise if there are any members on the waitlist. Example: This will apply to the Celtic Tenors.

With activities that require a set number of people to obtain the group rate, we need to be advised as soon as possible but no less than a week in advance of your wish to cancel, however money will not be refunded if another member cannot fill the spot.

Going forward there will be no refunds issued in the week prior to the event unless there is a waitlist.

February ACTIVITIES:

Halton Regional Police: Scams, Power of Attorney and Artificial Intelligence - 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!! on Saturday, February 17th 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 at the Canadian Legion Club, 21 Charles St. Milton.



All Probus members are welcome (to capacity limit). You do not need to belong to a Nosh/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, Wine \$5.75 glass / \$17 bottle, Mixed drinks \$5.75

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.



Create a Wind Chime - Tuesday February 27 , 1-3 pm

Convenor: Marg Jones

Learn how to create a wind chime with the artist Cara Duke. The cost is \$15. Water and Tim Horton's coffee will be provided.

Location: Italian Cultural Centre of Milton, 104 Tremaine Rd.



March ACTIVITIES:

Rockwool Plant Tour, Thursday March 7. 10:30 - 1:30 at 805 Steeles Ave. E. Milton

Convenors: Paul and Ellen Crawford

Join us for a free factory tour. Rockwool is a local insulation manufacturer.

10:30 Sign in at gatehouse, proceed to door 7 and then to 2nd level meeting room

11:00 Plant tour

11:30 Lunch

12:15 Presentation and questions

1:30 Departure



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.

The Hockey Hall of Fame, 30 Yonge St. Toronto on Tuesday March 26 at 10:30 am

Convenors: Paul & Ellen Crawford

The Hockey Hall of Fame is home of the Stanley Cup and the finest collection of hockey artifacts in the world. Engage in interactive displays to discover your latent hockey abilities. See the interesting stories about your favourite hockey players and teams. Cost is \$16.



Please meet at 10:20 am in front of the Hockey Hall of Fame

Purchase your own Go Train ticket, train leaves Bronte Station at 9:25 am arriving Union Station at 10:15 am, short walk across the road to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

If driving, parking lots are on the Esplanade approx. 5 min. walk

1:00 pm Lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory 54 The Esplanade

Lunch and drinks at your own expense. Please sign up on Wild Apricot.

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:

Ciao a Tutti - Cooking Class featuring 'Pasta and Pizza, The Joys of Italian Food'

Convenor: Roy MacKay

Join us on April 2, 5-7pm at The Loft, Longo's Burloak, 3455 Wyecroft Rd., Oakville. The cost is \$70 per person.

There is absolutely nothing better than making and eating homemade Italian food. Under the guidance of Chef John Bela, you can experience amazing flavours and aromas while learning how to create some of Italy's most famous culinary creations. The menu consists of Fresh Pizza and Pasta Dough, Lobster Ravioli with Lemon Cream Sauce, Fresh Fettucini with Tomato Sugo, Fresh Pizza (Pepperoni, Margherita and Truffle Mushroom) and Cinnamon Butter Gnocchi Gnudi for Dessert.



Register and pay using Wild Apricot. Wine is available at \$12 per glass payable at the door. Please specify if you want red or white wine.

Jersey Boys, Wednesday April 10 at 2 pm

Convenor: Kelly Ground

Join us for an afternoon musical, Jersey Boys at Hamilton Family Theatre, 46 Grand Ave. S., Cambridge. This international musical phenomenon takes you behind the scenes and behind the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. From the streets of New Jersey to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, this is the musical that's just too good to be true. Don't miss this award winning Best Musical!



Register through Wild Apricot. Cost is \$56.

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.

Kahoot Trivia at Ned Devine's - Thursday April 18, 5 PM

Convenors: Ruth Gagnon and Kelly Ground

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.



DID YOU GET ONE?

by Wayne Herder

According to legend, St. Valentine signed a letter “from your Valentine” to his jailer’s daughter whom he had befriended and healed from blindness.

Another common legend states that Valentine defied the emperor’s orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war service.

Did you make your own Valentine’s Day card or buy the huge bag of cut- outs or pre-made cards? Who received your first card? I think it was my mother, who else would have been my first love! Then it evolved to my brothers and sister. Did I ever give my dad one? If no, I regret not doing so.

What a challenge handing out cards in school was! How many kids in my class and how many cards did I have? Do I send one to my teacher or just the girls in my class? Finally, decision made! Everyone would get one but the ones who bullied me. That would save me lots of cards.

Over the years it became less popular at school and given only to the girls you liked. Did you count the cards you gave and the ones received? Were you a

winner or loser? It became very emotional and was finally discontinued as a class project.

Next came the more expensive cards and even a gift for your girlfriend. It had to be the largest card with a special note saying how beautiful and special she was. All the while, never forgetting to give one to your mom. Then came grandchildren and of course there had to be candy and special gifts for them.

Kids and grandkids used to make special cards for parents in school. Teachers liked this activity as there were many a chuckle with the drawings and comments.

Maybe we should make an effort this year and wish all a Happy St. Valentine’s Day. It may be the only wish a person gets and will brighten their day.

Remember St. Valentine for what he was. A healer, good friend to all and a man of peace.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

| EVENT | DATE | TIME | LOCATION | CONVENOR |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Police-Scams | Feb 8 | 10:30 AM | Grace Church Hall* | Ruth Gagnon |
| Executive Mtg | Feb 15 | 7:00 PM | Zoom | Maggie Boothe |
| MEGA NOSH | Feb 17 | 5:30 PM | Legion Hall | Pete Shermet, Jenny O'Brien |
| General Mtg | Feb 21 | 9:30 AM | Connect Centre | Maggie Boothe |
| Lunch Bunch | Feb 21 | 12:00 PM | Kelseys | Joy Castello |
| Kahoot Trivia | Feb 22 | 5:00 PM | Ned Devine's | Ellen/Paul Crawford |
| Wind Chime | Feb 27 | 1:00 PM | Italian Canadian Centre | Marg Jones |
| CLUBS | | | | |
| Probus Info Exchange-PIE | | | Online only | Cliff Read |
| Bridge | Feb 1 | 1:15 PM | Grace Church Hall* | Chris Lloyd |
| Music Lovers | Feb 1 | 2:00 PM | Zoom | Michael Hooker |
| Saturday Night | Feb 3 | 6:00 PM | Keenan's Irish Pub | Ruth Gagnon |
| Mexican Train | Feb 5 | 1:30 PM | Grace Church Hall* | Jenny O'Brien |
| Piece Makers | Feb 6 | 1:00 PM | Armand Home | Diane Comstock |
| D'Stillers | Feb 7 | 7:00 PM | Strachan Home | Chris Strachan |
| Jokers | Feb 8 | 1:30 PM | Grace Church Hall* | Auriel Halliday |
| Nosh & Natter | Feb 9 | 5:30 PM | TBD | Michael Boothe |
| Trilogy | Feb 12 | 10:00 AM | TBD | Dawn Ross |
| First Edition | Feb 12 | 1:00 PM | Grace Church Hall* | Diane A./Penny M. |
| Cribbage | Feb 12 | 7:00 PM | Capper Home * | Martin Capper |
| Grapenuts | Feb 13 | 7:00 PM | Strachan Home | Martin Capper |
| Oscar Nights | Feb 13 | 7:00 PM | Milton Cineplex | Petra Halk |
| BeeGees | Feb 14 | 1:00 PM | Grace Church Hall* | Diane Comstock |
| Sequel | Feb 14 | 1:15 PM | Rea Home | Carolyn Rumley |
| Bid Euchre | Feb 15 | 1:15 PM | Grace Church Hall* | Lorrette Shermet |
| Music Lovers | Feb 15 | 2:00 PM | Zoom | Michael Hooker |
| Euchre | Feb 19 | 1:15 PM | Grace Church Hall* | Lorrette Shermet |
| Grapenuts | Feb 20 | 7:00 PM | Crawford Home | Martin Capper |
| Line Dancing | Feb 23 | 12:30 PM | Grace Church Basement* | Ruth Gagnon |
| Nosh @ Nite | Feb 23 | 5:30 PM | TBD | Barb Finnie |
| Appy Hour | Feb 24 | 6:30 PM | TBD | Mary Cousins |
| Grapenuts | Feb 27 | 7:00 PM | Shermet Home | Martin Capper |
| Friends Club | Feb 28 | 10:00 AM | Seasons Retirement* | Judy Krauss |
| Jokers | Feb 28 | 1:30 PM | Grace Church Hall* | Auriel Halliday |

* Permanent location

MEETING: FEBRUARY

The February meeting will be at the Connect Centre on February 21, 2024 at 9:30 am. The speaker will be Ryan Uytdewilligen on the topic of “Romantic Comedies-The Recipe “.

RECENT EVENTS

January General Meeting

At January's meeting Josh Martin gave an inspring presentation titled 'Life is Awesome'. His website is www.BadgeOfAwesome.com.



Lunch Bunch Banter

Joy Castello - Convenor

On January 17th, 28 Probus members went to Swiss Chalet for lunch. Our only server said that the manager was scheduled to help out with our group. But the restaurant got busy and the manager was needed elsewhere so it took longer than usual for us to get our meals. Lively conversation helped pass the time while we waited.

On Wednesday, February 21st, the Lunch Bunch will be going to Kelsey's at 45 Chisholm Drive, conveniently next to the Connect Centre. The upstairs room has been reserved for us. To view the lunch menu go to kelseys.ca



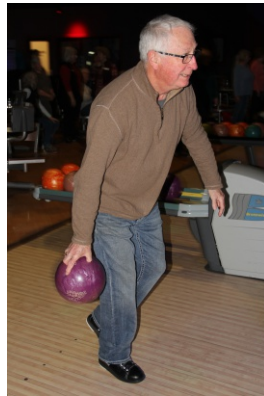
Bowling

by Ellen Crawford

The prowess of 40 Probus bowlers was on display at Champs on Thursday January 18. No one fell down throwing the ball although there were a few close calls with balls bouncing perilously close to toes. There were strikes, spares and gutter balls on display along with the usual Probus laughter and good natured ribbing that has come to characterize Probus events.



Kudos to Frank for his four strikes and team 5 consisting of Linda, Brenda, Judy, Sharon, Irene and Martin for the highest score and to the Best Sport, Carmela.



WORDS FROM SHAKESPEARE

Submitted by Fred Ground

"Audible" - in "All's Well That Ends Well."

"Time-honoured" - in "Henry VIII."

"Scuffle" - in "As You Like It."

"Puking" - in "As You Like It."

"Sanctimonious" - in "Measure for Measure."

"Lackluster" - in "As You Like It."

"Generously" - in "Henry V."

"Counterfeit" - in "Othello."

"Wearable" - in "Twelfth Night."

"Concord" - in "Henry IV, Part 2."

"Cowslip" - in "Henry IV, Part 1."

"Day's work" - in "Henry IV, Part 2."

Line Dancing

The Cowgirls Were Out

By Ruth Gagnon, Convenor



LINE DANCING



Tammy was back and we were ready to get going with a bunch of different line dances. I'd share the video of us dancing – and singing – to “Hey Baby”, but..... It was great to see a couple of newbies join in. I have a feeling that we will be “feeling it” over the next couple of days! It was great to have Melvin back to continue to help us out!

Of course I have to acknowledge that Rosalind is thinking that maybe we should consider pole dancing!!

If you haven't signed up yet, the next four sessions will be held on the fourth Friday of the month at 12:30 pm starting on February 23rd. Hope to see you there!



Kahoot Trivia

by Ellen and Paul Crawford, convenors

On Thursday January 25, 24 Probians came to Ned Devines to participate in a Kahoot trivia contest. They divided themselves into six teams named Three



Amigas, Five Alive, Mount Royaltogo, Three Amigos, Robbie Burns, and Lucky Ducks. In a two game total point contest the Three Amigos of Liz Reed, Gloria

Pennycook and Lorrette Shermet emerged victorious and were awarded the winner's prize. There is always lots of laughs at these events so consider coming next month and join the fun. It is on Thursday February 22 at Ned Devines at 5 pm. Register on Wild Apricot. Bring your cell phone as you need it to play the game.



MORE WORDS FROM SHAKESPEARE

Submitted by Fred Ground

"Eyelid" - in "Love's Labour's Lost."

"Eyeball" - in "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

"Faintness" - in "As You Like It."

"Frolic" - in "Hamlet."

"Heartsore" - in "King Lear."

"Ladybird" - in "Love's Labour's Lost."

"Marketable" - in "The Taming of the Shrew."

"Overshadow" - in "Hamlet."

"Pander" - in "Othello."

"Undress" - in "Troilus and Cressida."

"Foolish" - in "Twelfth Night."

"Majestic" - in "Henry VI, Part 1."

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 - 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 | mlcousins@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 | 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 | 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 | 2nd Tues. - 7 pm | Martin Capper | 905-693-0354 | martin@martincapper.com |
| Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts | 3rd Tues. - 7 pm | Martin Capper | 905-693-0354 | martin@martincapper.com |
| Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts | 4th Tues. - 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.

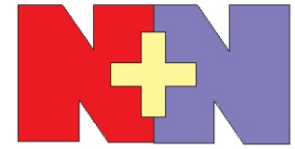
Remember: Under the Escarpment PROBUS Bylaws Article 2 – Membership – Members must not use other member's email addresses for their own personal use such as fundraising.

Clubs: Food and Drink

Nosh & Natter

by Michael Boothe

The January event, scheduled at Carole Pond's, was cancelled due to the inclement weather.



Nosh at Nite

by Ellen Crawford

Twenty Noshers enjoyed good food, good friends, good conversation at Paul and Ellen Crawford's on Friday January 26th. We are now at the top of our rotation finishing 10 years, onto the next 10!



Saturday Night LiveS at The Ivy Arms

By Ruth Gagnon

Dry, damp or moist – with the last one being Marg's preference. All of us were challenged on how we were going to treat January and beyond. Roy's interpretation of "dry" was decreasing to two drinks per day. Oh the laughter we had! And just check out the smile on Frank's face!! We had a few cancellations/no shows, but the 14 of us that went, enjoyed the food and the conversation, whether it was how we celebrated our Christmas and New Years or what is next for us. It looks like we all have plans!



Our next SNL will be at Keenan's Irish Pub at 6:00 pm. Anna Strachan will be hosting the evening!



Skip the Dishes

by Lorette Shermet

Skip the dishes will NOT be meeting this month as there are so many opportunities for dinner this month. On February 17th there will be a mega Nosh at the Legion and on February 22nd members will be at Ned Devines for dinner and playing Kahoots.

Skip the Dishes will be held again on March 21st.



D'Stillers

by Bill Willcocks

The January meeting was held at the home of Bill and Kathy. This month the orphans were supplied by Ted, Chris, Wayne & Ron. Orphans are leftover whiskies from previous tastings.



The following are the whiskies we tasted and their respective scores:

- 1) The winning whisky of the evening was "Chak De Whisky" a Canadian Whisky with a score of 75.4% at a cost of \$34.50 with an ABV of 45%.
- 2) Aberfeldy, a 12 year old Single Malt with a score of 74.4% at a cost of \$74.95 with an ABV of 40%.
- 3) Angels Envy Bourbon, finished with Port Barrels and a score of 73.9% at a cost of \$79.95 with an ABV of 43.3%.
- 4) Glenmorangle Single Malt with a score of 72.9% at a cost of \$109.00 and an ABV of 46%.
- 5) McClelland's Islay Single Malt with a score of 70.9% with a cost of \$55.00 and an ABV of 40.2%.

Many thanks to the hosts for supplying the deserts. As always thanks to the Designated Drivers (DD's) for getting everyone home safe and sound.

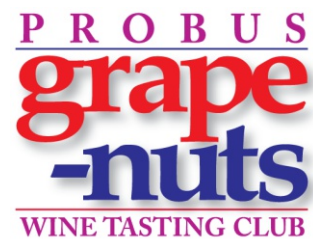
The next meeting will be on February 7th at the home of Chris and Anna Strachan. Orphans will be supplied by Pete, Wayne, Russ and Martin.



GrapeNuts

by Marg Jones

On Tuesday January 9th Marg Jones and Frank Dawe hosted a gathering of Grape-Nuts for an enjoyable evening of wine tasting. The event featured 3 white and 3 red samplings all of which were from Ontario's 13th Street Winery which is located just off the QEW in St. Catherines.



The white wines were all 2021 vintages consisting of a Chardonnay, a Pinot Gris and June's Vineyard Reisling. The prices ranged from \$21.95 to \$24.95. Although the white wines were enjoyable the Chardonnay was considered the group's favourite followed by the Pinot Gris and then the Riesling.

The reds were a 2021 Gamay, a 2021 Cabernet Merlot and a 2022 Cabernet Franc which were all priced at \$24.95 per bottle. The red wines were found to be slightly less enjoyable than the whites with the Cabernet Merlot, a blend, being the group's preference among the Reds. It was followed by the Cabernet Franc and then the Gamay.

The Chardonnay proved to be the night's overall favorite, narrowly edging out the Cabernet Merlot by a mere 0.5%.

It was noted that the price of the 13th Street Winery wines was not indicative of great taste for the participants. Many people noted other wines costing significantly less yet pleasing their palates more substantially. Marg agreed wholeheartedly with their comments and noted that she wouldn't be rushing down the QEW to buy another bottle of 13th Street Wine anytime soon.... but as for their famous "BUTTER TARTS", well that's another matter.



GrapeNuts (ctd)



Clubs: Books and Crafts

PieceMakers

Sales, Sales, Sales

by Diane Comstock - Convenor

The PieceMakers' January meeting was pushed back to the Jan. 9 because of New Year's Day. Six members braved the cold weather to meet at Sandi's home. We started off the meeting by discussing the various fabric sales we had attended over the holidays:



Sandi went to the Hobby Horse and purchased a panel and coordinating red and green fabric.

Carol Ann went to the Sewing Café and bought extra fabric to put aside for future projects. She told us that they had purchased the "Wall of Buttons" from the Oakville Sewing Centre that had recently closed their doors.

Diane C. visited the Mississauga Fabricland and purchased Christmas fabric and cording to make bags for her family to use for the holidays instead of wrapping paper.

We then started our show and tell:

- Dawn brought two winter placemats depicting a Snowman and a Santa. She also went to the Hobby Horse sale and purchased and completed a Hampton Bag kit that had multiple inside and outside pockets.

- Judi J. brought her diamond table runner she is working on and requested tips on completing the binding. Sandi had taken a class on "Irish Chain" and finished the resulting quilt using the stitch-in-the-ditch method. Carol Ann brought 3 projects: Joy and Trick or Treat pillows, and a quilt using her favourite method – applique.

- Diane A. is working on a Christmas gift table runner. She had received a "quilting bible" for Christmas so now she has a reference book for machine quilting.

- Diane C. brought her quilting Christmas gifts: a Stripology ruler and quilting magazines that contained various acrylic templates (house block, clam shell, and diamond). All are available to borrow.



PieceMakers (ctd)

Quilting Terms of the Month:

- Acrylic template: Thick, durable plastic pattern used to trace and/or cut around. Available commercially in a variety of shapes and patterns. Can be used with a rotary cutter.
- Irish Chain: A classic quilt pattern consisting of several variations but most commonly are diagonal squares that match up only at the corner points. It's generally all squares and strips, so it's a great beginner quilt pattern.

Our next meeting will be February 6th hosted by Diane Armand. After our usual show and tell, we will be discussing our upcoming March retreat.

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

Trilogy Book Club

Dreadful Waters by Thomas King

By Correspondent Margaret Anne Fehr

Trilogy Book Club convened for its January 8th meeting, graciously hosted by our newest member, Ginny Johnson. Seated in her expansive sunroom with a view of the vast backyard, the ambiance and healthy refreshments set the stage for our exploration into Thomas King's venture into the mystery genre with "Dreadful Waters."



Anticipation ran high as we delved into the work of Thomas King, a revered luminary in Canadian literature. Our expectations were rooted in the belief that King's trademark sly wit would seamlessly translate into this new genre. "Dreadful Waters", the inaugural entry in a mystery series penned in 2002, introduced us to Thumps Dreadful Waters, a Cherokee, past-his-prime, middle-aged detective and photographer. However, the reception within our club was notably lukewarm.

Thumps' intriguing back story, hinted at as a former California police officer/detective entangled in the Obsidian murders, held promise for a deeper narrative. Unfortunately, these facets remained largely unexplored, leaving readers craving more insight into Thumps' enigmatic past. The unique setting in Thump's apartment darkroom provided a distinctive touch but couldn't compensate for the overall lack of engaging complexity.

The early revelation of the first murder failed to captivate due to the lackluster portrayal of the victim, Takashima, reduced to the simplistic label of a 'computer geek.' Suspicion pivoted towards Stick Merchant, an anti-condo protester and the wayward son of Claire Merchant, head of the tribal council and Thumps Dreadful Water's occasional lover. Stick, portrayed as a smart young Aboriginal activist, was framed as the likely culprit, but the narrative lacked the subtlety and surprise crucial for an engrossing mystery.

A prevailing critique echoed through our discussions – most characters lacked depth. Despite the culturally rich setting on Aboriginal land, the characters fell short of the complexity needed for genuine engagement. Surprisingly, Freeway, Thump's cat, emerged as the only captivating character in our discussions.

The plot unfolded with few twists, offering only a single red herring. This simplicity facilitated an easy read but left our members unsatisfied, yearning for more suspense. King's ambition to create a series around Thump's adventures garnered minimal enthusiasm from our group. The unremarkable nature of "Dreadful Waters" failed to spark excitement for potential sequels.

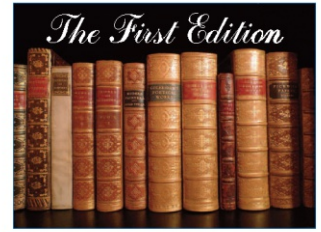
Earning a mediocre score of 5, "Dreadful Waters" fell short of our expectations, leading us to withhold our recommendation for pursuing the series. Despite Thomas King's reputation for sly wit, it regrettably did not shine through in "Dreadful Waters," contributing to our overall dissatisfaction with the novel. As the first book in a six-volume series, we can only hope that the suspense will intensify.

First Edition Book Club

We Were Dreamers, a Superhero Origin Story by Simu Liu

by Joy Castello

On January 15th, the First Edition Book Club met at Grace Church to discuss the book *We Were Dreamers, a Super Hero Origin Story*. Simu Liu's autobiography traces his family's journey from Harbin, China to Canada. Simu's parents left him in the care of his grandparents until they were able to bring him to Canada when he was five. Adjusting to a new country and culture was difficult for them all and Simu tried hard to please his parents in the beginning. As Simu grew up he felt the increased weight of their expectations. His parents, both engineers wanted Simu's future to be similar. When he was fired from the Deloitte accounting department, Simu lied to his parents and began looking for work in the entertainment industry. After his parents found out, their anger at Simu's deception led to a break in their relationship that took a long time to heal. Simu's determination to succeed in acting led to a role on CBC's *Kim's Convenience* and eventually to his starring role in *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*.



This book is geared to a much younger audience. There are many pop culture and super hero references. Despite the generation gap, our group generally enjoyed this book. The ratings ranged from 6-8, with an average of 6.8 out of 10. Simu narrates the audio book.

On February 12th, Ellen will lead us in the discussion of *Murder at the Book Club* by Betsy Reavley.

Sequel Book Club

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

by Joanne Millichamp

Our protagonist 35 year old Nora Seed lives in a small village in England. She has just lost her job, her cat has died and she is not sure that life is worth living. She suffers from situational depression and in her words "keeps having new situations". After taking an overdose of antidepressants she finds herself in the Midnight Library.



Between life and death there is a library, where every book gives you a chance to try another life you could have lived. Nora lives a whole spectrum of lives, some for minutes and some for months. Each time she tries an alternative life something doesn't seem quite right. She must search within herself to decide what is truly fulfilling in her life.

Nora's story is as challenging as it is life affirming. This book is not about regrets, rather about mistakes we all make in life, family pressures, what if's and other people's dreams for us. The story raises the big questions about what we value in ourselves and what are the markers of success we measure ourselves by.

Even though the book starts out with a very depressing subject matter this is a story of hope and dreams. As readers, books allow us to live multiple lives and enter different worlds.

Our group had a great discussion about the book and we would definitely recommend it.

The Sequel Book Club will meet at 1:15 pm, Wednesday, February 14th at the home of Lorene Rea.

Clubs: Games & Cards

Jokers

by Bonnie Chapman, Correspondent

We had a record turnout of 28 players (7 tables) for Jokers at Grace Anglican Church on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. It was obvious that fun was had by all, as the noise level was high-pitched with lots of “I’m Sorry” comments as bewildered players “lost their marbles” and were sent home to “Start”. We ended the day with three four-game winners: Danielle Bergeron, Doreen Chester and Bonnie Chapman.



Euchre

15 Lone Hands! Is that a Record?

by Diane Comstock, Correspondent

Thirteen members arrived at Grace Church Hall to play Euchre in January. Lois and Joe took turns playing so we could have 3 tables of four. During the afternoon, there



was no shortage of lone hands as Joe, Carol, Lynda, and Stephen successfully achieved 2 each while Cindy, Lorraine, Diane, Danielle, Ron, David, and Bob each scored 1. Stephen and Bob tied for high scorer of the day with 46 points while Cindy did her best.

If you like to play euchre, let Lorrette Shermett know and she will add you to the group.



Bid Euchre

Bid Euchre Bonanza

by Lorrette Shermet

Twelve members played Bid Euchre on January 18th. Only 3 games (8 hands each game) were played. Ev Zanata had a high score of 117 with a call one and a call two. She was followed by Petra Halk with a score of 111 with two call one and a call two. The most honest player was Reg Zanatta with a score of 43.

If you would like to learn to play bid euchre be in touch with Lorrette at lorrette@sympatico.ca or call 416-818-2624. We play the third Thursday of the month.



Canasta



Bridge

by Chris Lloyd, Convenor

On Thursday January 4th ten players gathered at Grace Anglican Church to test their Bridge skills. Over coffee and snacks 4 rounds of Bridge were completed. Wayne Heath emerged with the top score with 1110 points followed by Diane Thomson with 900 points. The group is always looking for more players interested in playing. Should you be interested in joining our group please contact Chris Lloyd at cldmi95@gmail.com."



Mexican Train



BeeGees - Who's a Millionaire?

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

Our game on January 10th was Cover Your Assets suggested by Jenny. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Grace Church Hall was unavailable, so the Comstocks hosted at their condo. Five players participated in this new game for the BeeGees club. In the first round, Diane took the lead amassing \$420K. In the second round, the players ganged up on Diane by constantly stealing her assets, leaving her with no \$s for the round, opening the door to Beth and Lorraine who ended with \$645K and \$580K respectively. In the third and final round, it was looking good for Marg and Stephen, but in the end Diane got her revenge and finished with \$1,185K.



In February, we will be playing "LetterPool" suggested by Diane. Letterpool is a Fast-Thinking Word Board Game for 2-6 Players. How to play: Place 4 letter tiles face up and reveal the first card of the deck. Think of a word or phrase matching the card and starting with any letter on the table. Be the first to yell it and pick up the corresponding letter for points. Continue until there are no more letter tiles to play. Tally the number of points from your collected tiles to see who WON!

We will bring dice to play as a second game if necessary. Anyone interested in playing games, let me know and I will add you to the group.

Other Clubs

Music Lovers Wish You a Happy New Musical Year!

Michael Hooker – Convenor

To get 2024 going in style, Jeanne Reid led us through a program titled “Unique Pianists”, including lots of Canadian (and Milton) Content! Five different pianists, playing works by Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Liszt, Grieg. A really entertaining program; we all loved it. Thank you, Jeanne!

One of the pianists was Johann Derecho, from Milton, playing Grieg’s piano concerto at the Burlington Centre for the Arts, with the Symphony on the Bay Orchestra. Johann was born in the Philippines and came to Canada with his family at age 3. When he was 5 his parents learned that he was autistic, but also a child prodigy. They settled in Milton and Johann went to High School here. In 2015 he was awarded a scholarship to the Glen Gould School of Music, considered one of the top Conservatories in North America, and graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance. A few years ago, Jeanne Reid and I heard him play a solo recital in Milton, and were both “blown away”.

Another of our “Unique Pianists” was the Canadian, Glen Gould – his performance of Beethoven’s 5th piano concerto with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in 1979 that was broadcast on CBC TV – when he stepped in, literally hours before the performance, replacing the scheduled pianist, who had fallen ill. This turned out to be his final “live” performance for an audience; after this he only made recordings.

Here's a YouTube taste: Lola Astonova (from Uzbekistan) playing the first part of Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata”. A treat for the ears and a surprise for the eyes! 4 minutes. [Click here to watch.](#)

Our second Zoomer: “Music and Art”; six musical gems inspired by paintings, old and modern. We started with Nat King Cole’s famous rendition of “Mona Lisa”, inspired by Leonardo da Vinci’s masterpiece. What a beautiful voice that guy had! Then as a classical balance, the 20th C Italian composer Ottorino Respighi’s “Three Botticelli Pictures”. Botticelli (1445 – 1519) was one of the greatest artists of the early Renaissance; his most famous work is “The Birth of Venus”.

Our major work for the afternoon was the Russian Modest Mussorgsky’s “Pictures at an Exhibition”, composed in 1874 originally for the piano, but orchestrated in 1922 by the French composer Maurice Ravel. Mussorgsky was inspired by an exhibition of the paintings of Victor Hartmann, a close friend who had recently died, and wrote musical depictions of ten of Hartmann’s paintings in this exhibition. Along with each section of the music we saw the painting that inspired it.

Your second YouTube musical and visual treat is Don McLean’s “Vincent”, about Vincent Van Gogh. McLean wrote the lyrics in 1971 after reading a book about the life of Van Gogh. (4 minutes)

[Click here to watch.](#)

Friendship Club

by Judy Krauss, Convenor

This is a comfortable way to meet and learn about your fellow Probus members. Gatherings are in the meeting room at Seasons Retirement Community, 760 Brontë Street South at 10:00 am on the 4th Wednesday of the month. This month it is on February 28. All you need to bring is yourself and your own cuppa coffee, tea or other. See you smiling! P.S. Telephone Judy at 416 698 4281 for more information.



Wanderlust

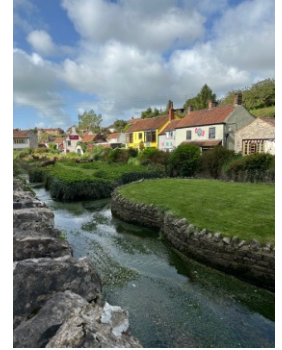
by Cliff Read

A trip to Devon and Cornwall was presented at January's Wanderlust Zoom meeting. Liz and Cliff Read travelled there on a guided bus tour at the end of September 2023.



Senior Discovery was a great way to travel as their service is door to door including airport transfers. A tour manager named Jason took care of any hitches on our trip starting with meeting us at Pearson Airport.

The Devon and Cornwall countryside was beautiful and time was spent on the coast and also inland on the famous moors right out of the Sherlock Holmes' novel, The Hound of the Baskersvilles, except that we had sunny and glorious weather. Many of our meals were in ancient pubs where we tried out local beers and ciders or enjoyed a cream tea. We visited interesting historical locations such as Bath, Salisbury and Winchester Cathedral. And fans of the TV series, Doc Martin, were delighted to visit the village of Port Isaac which is where the show was filmed. The narrow twisting lanes with their hedgerows were a challenge for the bus drivers and we stayed in older, small hotels that are typical for this region of England.



Pin Seekers Golf

by Roy MacKay, Convenor

April brings showers followed by May Flowers and Pin Seekers Golf. For prospective Members, we play 9 holes, ten times per season at Oakville Executive Golf Course, 4414 Fourth Line Oakville. The fee is \$40 per game and gas golf carts and hand carts are available for rental. There is also a Bistro open for those who might want to stay for Lunch. Play is open to all ladies and gentlemen members and available to all levels of play. Tee times are at 9 minute intervals starting at 10:30 am on various Wednesdays throughout the Season. You are welcome to join whether you play once or all ten times.

Here are the dates for this Season: May 1 and May 22, June 5 and June 26, July 10 and July 24, Aug 7 and Aug 28, Sept 11 and Oct 2 (Fall Scramble).

You should register in Wild Apricot each time you wish to play. Registration is open 7 days before starting times and you should confirm by Sunday at 5pm if you plan to play the following Wednesday. I will advise you usually Monday morning of your starting time. I keep a distribution list so if you are a new player kindly email me at roy@roymackay.ca to add you to the list.

I look forward to seeing you on the course.

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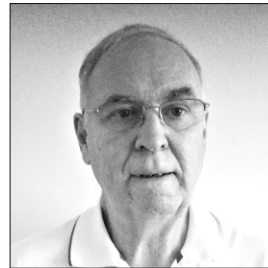
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FORUM - THE ESCARPMENT PROBUS CLUB OF MILTON NEWSMAGAZINE

This newsletter is published monthly in PDF format. If you know someone who you feel might be interested in joining the Escarpment PROBUS Club, please forward this publication with our compliments.

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