

FORUM

Volume 12 - Issue 3 - March 2024



President's Message:



'March'ing Into Spring



Time to welcome March, the month of green beer, shamrocks and “the luck of the Irish” celebrations. March is also the month when Spring arrives and brings with it renewed optimism for warmer weather and lots of opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors again.

As we enter this exciting month please come out and enjoy the many activities that have been planned for your enjoyment. There is something for everyone!

I would like to take this opportunity to express a heartfelt “thank you” to **Simone Serra, Patrick Murphy** and **David Boss** who tirelessly and calmly work through the challenges we have with technical issues at some of our meetings. We are so grateful to have your professionalism and ability to sort out these issues and keep the sound and video systems working for us.

As our Recruitment launches for new members on the Management Team this month, please consider coming forward to fill the open spaces. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Club, meet some great people and contribute to the growth of Escarpment Probus. **WE NEED YOU!!!**

Let the spirit of community and camaraderie guide you as you continue your journey of exploration and enrichment. With determination and unity, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

As we embark on this new month together let us embrace the spirit of Spring and all the possibilities it holds.

Our next **General meeting is Wednesday, MARCH 20, 2024, 9:30 a.m. at the Connect Centre.** I am looking forward to seeing you then.

— *Maggie Boothe*

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Visit Probus Canada website: www.probuscanada.ca

Visit Our Website: www.escarpmentprobus.com

ACTIVITIES

Sign Up!

by *Ellen and Paul Crawford*

There is still time to sign up for activities. Spend a moment and consider joining in with other like minded Probians and possibly meet some new friends.

Please look at the activity information found on the main page of our Escarpment Probus web page. There you can find activities that are coming up with their release date to help with your planning. You can also register on this web page if you have missed the Wild Apricot invitation.

We would love to have more of our members partake in the activities that we provide. If there is an activity that you would like please send it along to us for consideration. If we run activities that generate a healthy wait list we will consider repeating the activity at a later time.

The Hockey Hall of Fame has a reputation of being a great place to visit, please consider joining us. We can help with car pooling to the GO train if necessary.

Mission Possible Escape Rooms was a previously-loved activity. Everyone works as a team using their puzzling minds to find ways through the room. Don't worry you won't be left inside forever! This is an activity that can be enjoyed by both men and women. We need lots of brain power to join in the fun! Our committee team continues to work behind the scenes discovering new activities for our club.

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

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 - 10:30 am, Tuesday March 26

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.



Please meet at 10:20 am in front of the Hockey Hall of Fame, 30 Yonge St., Toronto for your ticket.

Purchase a 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. Cost is \$16.

Kahoot Trivia Thursday March 28 at 5:00 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 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 for this event payable at the door.

APRIL ACTIVITIES:

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

5-7 pm April 2, at The Loft, Longo's Burloak, 3455 Wycroft Rd. Oakville

Convenor: Roy MacKay

There is absolutely nothing better than making and eating homemade Italian Food. Under the guidance of Chef John Bela, you can experience all the 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 Gnocci Gnudi for Dessert.

Please register and pay using Wild Apricot. The cost is \$70 per person.

Wine is available at \$12 per glass, please specify if you want red or white wine. Please pay for your wine at the door.



Jersey Boys - 2 pm, Wednesday April 10

Hamilton Family Theatre 46 Grand Ave. S.,

\$56 per person

Convenor: Kelly Ground

Join us for an afternoon musical, Jersey Boys. This international musical phenomenon takes you behind the scenes and 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! Please register through Wild Apricot.



Are You Up For The Challenge? Can You Escape?

Thursday April 11, 2024 at 11: 00 am

Champs 300 Bronte Rd S. Milton

\$33.50 per person

Convenors: Christine Taylor, Pam Grundie



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 sign up and make your selections on Wild Apricot. Please select your desired room: Wizarding World, Heros or Tomb Raiders. 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 at 12:30 Champs Sports Grill (lunch & drinks at your own expense).

Kahoot Trivia

5 pm April 18 at Ned Devine's

\$3 payable to Ruth at the door

Convenors: Kelly Ground and Ruth Gagnon



Whether you are a “regular” or wanting to try something new or you just want to get out for an evening, join us for a great social time!

We will have some twists (and turns) to Trivia that will tempt your tenacity, tickle your fancy, test your brain power and challenge your wits!

Register and pre-select your meal using Wild Apricot. Drinks and dinner at your own expense.

Registration opens March 25.

Spring Planter - 10 am April 19

Crawfords Garden Centre

\$36.50 per person

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

Spring is in the air and it is time to make a Spring Planter. Join us to make a beautiful Spring Planter to display in your front yard, on your patio/balcony or gift it to someone special. It is always a fun and creative time together so don't miss out! Please register and pay on Wild Apricot.



MAY ACTIVITIES:

Amazing Race - 2pm Thursday May 30th

\$10 per person

Ruth Gagnon and Kelly Ground, Convenors

Join us for Season 1 of The Amazing Race in “Probus Style”.

Coming to you for the first time, this adventure is reality competition in which teams of four people will race around Milton in competition with other teams. The race will start at Victoria Park in Milton.

Will you have a “detour”? Will you take a “penalty”? The first team to arrive at the end of the final leg wins the grand prize.

Sign up your team of four and let’s find out how competitive you really are?

Space is limited to 40 members so there will be no refund for this event. Registration will start on March 21st.

Note: This is an “amazing race” and therefore there will be a lot of walking and tasks to be completed.

Dinner to follow at Ned Devine’s. Please use Wild Apricot to pre-select your meal. Dinner and drinks at your own expense. As always, if there is something not being offered as a pre-selection, just let Ruth know what you want.

MARCH CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE		TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
Activities					
Rockwool Plant Tour	March	7	10:30 AM	805 Steeles Ave E	Paul + Ellen Crawford
Executive Meeting	March	13	7:00 PM	Zoom	Maggie Boothe
Celtic Tenors	March	14	8:00 PM	Burlington Perf.Arts Ctr	Roy MacKay + Jenny O'Brien
Escarpment PROBUS monthly meeting	March	20	9:30 AM	Connect Centre	Maggie Boothe
The Lunch Bunch	March	20	12:00 PM	Keenan's Irish Pub	Joy Castello
Hockey Hall of Fame	March	26	10:30 AM	30 Yonge Street	Paul + Ellen Crawford
Kahoot Trivia	March	28	5:00 PM	Ned Devine's	Paul + Ellen Crawford
Clubs					
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only				Cliff Read
Dining - Saturday Night Lives	March	2	6:00 PM	Shoeless Joe's	Ruth Gagnon
Mexican Train	March	4	1:30 PM	Grace Church Bsmt*	Jenny O'Brien
Crafts - Quilting - Piece Makers	March	6	9:00 AM	Comstock Home	Diane Comstock
Tastings - Whisky - <i>D'Stillers</i>	March	6	7:00 PM	Shermet Home	Chris Strachan
Crafts - Quilting - Piece Makers	March	7	9:00 AM	Comstock Home	Diane Comstock
Cards - Bridge	March	7	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Chris Lloyd
Music - Music Lovers	March	7	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Nosh & Natter	March	8	5:30 PM	TBD	Jenny O'Brien
Books – Trilogy	March	11	10:00 AM	TBD	Dawn Ross
Books – First Edition	March	11	1:00 PM	Grace Anglican Hall*	Diane A/Penny M
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	March	11	7:00 PM	Capper Home *	Martin Capper
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	March	12	2:00 PM	Capper Home *	Martin Capper
Movies - Oscar Nights	March	12	7:00 PM	Milton Cineplex*	Petra Halk
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	March	12	7:00 PM	TBD	Martin Capper
Games - Bee-Gees	March	13	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Diane Comstock
Games - Jokers	March	14	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Auriel Halliday
Books – Sequel	March	15	1:15 PM	Rumley Home	Carolyn Rumley
Cards - Euchre	March	18	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Lorrette Shermet
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	March	19	7:00 PM	TBD	Martin Capper
Cards - Bid Euchre	March	21	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Lorrette Shermet
Music Lovers	March	21	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Dining - <i>Skip the Dishes</i>	March	21	6:00 PM	TBD	Lorrette Shermet
Line Dancing with Tammy	March	22	12:30 PM	Grace Church Bsmt*	Ruth Gagnon
Nosh @ Nite	March	22	5:30 PM	TBD	Paul Crawford
Dining - Appy Hour	March	23	6:30 PM	Crawford Home	Mary Cousins
Cards -Canasta	March	25	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Lorrette Shermet
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	March	26	7:00 PM	TBD	Martin Capper
Friendship Club	March	27	10:00 AM	Seasons Retirement*	Judy Krauss
Games - Jokers	March	27	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Auriel Halliday
Temporary change					

MEETING: MARCH

Our next General Meeting will be held at 9:30 am on March 20 at the Connect Centre

Our speaker this month will be Debbie Bulten, mountain climber and endurance athlete. Debbie is the first female to complete a 200 mile Trail Ultra in Canada. In 2023 Debbie completed a climbing project known as the Seven Summits by climbing the highest peak in each of the seven continents around the world!

Through her journeys Debbie has demonstrated that when we put our mind to it, we are all capable to do more than we realize.

Debbie will be introduced at the meeting by her proud uncle, Ron Millichamp.



RECENT EVENTS

February General Meeting

Our general meeting was held on Wednesday February 20 at the Connect Centre with a great crowd. Ginny Johnson and Judy Wallace were the friendly greeters and Megs Shellard won the 50/50 draw.



Call for Participants

by Roy MacKay

In my two plus years as a member I have met many people from Probus with interesting stories and backgrounds. Our Management Committee believes it would enhance our General Meetings if from time to time we had a member speak about their backgrounds or relate an interesting story from their life or career. This is your opportunity to have a willing audience! This practice is common in other Probus Clubs.

If you would like to give a presentation of up to ten minutes at a future General Meeting kindly contact Roy at escarpmentprobusspeakerprogram@gmail.com

AWFULLY GOOD OXYMORONS, submitted by Fred Ground

original copy

clearly misunderstood

civil war

found missing

unbiased opinion

same difference

good morning

military intelligence

fight for peace

clearly confused

Speaker at February General Meeting

by Roy MacKay, Program Chair

Speaker Ryan Uytdewilligen- "Romantic Comedies-The Recipe"

In honour of St Valentine's Day, our speaker in February took us on a journey on how romantic comedies evolved and changed from the 1930's through the 1990's using a series of movie clips and anecdotes.

Ryan is an accomplished speaker and informed us what the "secret sauce" was that made many Romcom Movies so successful through the decades. Clever dialogue, with a preset formula of boy meets girl, conflict ensues and in the end the parties are reconciled was the formula. Some star power from the likes of Audrey Hepburn, Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart helped as well.

So, what is your favourite Romantic Movie of all time?



Lunch Bunch Banter

Joy Castello - Convenor

On Wednesday, February 21st, 26 Probus members went to Kelsey's for lunch. As usual, we had our own private dining space upstairs. Kelsey's



has an extensive menu featuring great food and the service has always been excellent.

On Wednesday, March 20th, the Lunch Bunch will be going to Keenan's Irish Pub. The address is 51 James Snow Parkway N, Milton. If you wish to look at the menu [click here](#).



MORE AWFULLY GOOD OXYMORONS, submitted by Fred Ground

new and improved

act naturally

student teacher

larger half

infinity and beyond

bittersweet

wireless cable

auto-correct

jumbo shrimp

virtual reality

plastic silverware

Microsoft works

bottom-up

cold as hell

only choice

old news

even odds

pretty ugly

humane slaughter

working holidays

true lies

parallel convergence

growing smaller

impossible solution

Halton Regional Police – Scams

By: Ruth Gagnon, Convenor



On Thursday, February 8th Constable Detective Mike and Constable Detective Krista from the Halton Regional Police shared an engaging presentation on crime prevention to 54 Probians. There was great participation in bringing up different situations as well as asking questions. They touched on a number of topics to bring awareness to us and how seniors are a targeted group. Here are some highlights:

- Thieves will scour obituaries for personal information. They can easily get your name, your date of birth and names of your family members,
 - While the police are seeing a decline in “dumpster diving”, consider this when you are putting things like bills and invoices into the recycle bin where personal information can be obtained. Think about shredding your personal information.
 - They stressed the importance of covering your PIN when using credit or debit cards. Thieves often work with a partner and are slick. Before you know it your wallet will be stolen and they will have your PIN.
 - They emphasized the risks associated with Apple Pay and cautioned us to NOT use it.
 - The CRA does not text you and also, there are no taxes on lotteries in Canada!
 - If you use Marketplace or Kijiji, make sure you meet the person during the day. A police station parking lot is an ideal meeting location. Public places where there are cameras are also good. They strongly suggested that we don't have individuals come to our homes to pick up their purchase.
 - Check your personal settings on platforms such as Facebook. It's amazing the amount of information that can be obtained about you, your family and your friends.
 - Don't click an unfamiliar link that you receive via text, email, or other channels. Clicking on sketchy links is like playing a game of internet roulette – and nobody wants to roll the dice with their safety.
 - They also strongly suggested that you ‘tap’ your card at gas stations. It's safer then entering your pin.
- = Don't leave your purse on the front seat while filling your gas tank. Put your purse in the back seat or even lock your car when you get out! It's a popular place for thieves – in partnership – to be watching out for you! We can call it gas station etiquette!

The presentation provided valuable insight about organized crime and how to stay safe and secure in various aspects of our daily lives. Detective Constable Mike was kind enough to offer to come back in another year so we didn't scare them off!

Finally, a BIG shout-out to Simone Serra! Thank you for all your help and especially with connecting the laptop with the projector.

Seniors in Pursuit of Trivia



By Ellen and Paul Crawford

The Pinophiles team of Norma and Martin Capper and Joanne and Ron Millichamp had the highest total score to win and were able to hold off the charge from the Poutine team of Ann and Roy MacKay and Nancy and Richard Lee who had a strong second half.



Mega Nosh Mania

Organizers : Pete Shermett and Jenny O'Brien

It was a cold February evening, but that didn't stop 80+ hungry Mega Noshers from gathering at the Milton Legion for a bonanza of culinary delights. From sandwiches to meatballs, salads to mushroom caps, lasagna to pinwheel pastries, corn dogs to chicken wings, deviled eggs to shrimp wheels, stuffed tomatoes to nachos and yummy dips ... there was something for everyone! There was even enough for some bagged lunches and snacks for the next day :)

But wait .. the foodfest didn't stop there! The dessert course was just as impressive with a delectable assortment of squares too many to count, whiskey cake, banana muffin cupcakes, cracker crack, vanilla cupcakes, cranberry lemon loaf, followed by coffee and tea.

As always, it was a noisy crowd with lots of chatter and laughter. It was wonderful to see so many people in attendance and having a good time and enjoying some delicious food.

The 50/50 draw saw three lucky winners take home money. Congratulations to Willie Ceelen, Simone Serra and Cindy Penfold for holding the winning tickets.

A BIG thank you to all who attended and cooked and baked their way into our hearts. And special thanks to all those who helped setup the room and put away the tables and chairs at the end of the evening. Same time next year?!?



Mega Nosh Mania (ctd)



Wind Chimes

by Marg Jones, Convenor

Twenty talented women attended the Wind Chimes activity at the Italian Cultural Centre of Milton on Tuesday February 27th. Everyone really seemed to enjoy the experience and the results were superb!

We may be hearing a lot of chimes around Milton this summer...and heaven knows it's windy enough here!



At PROBUS we want to keep in touch, we are all friends. If you know of anyone who is ill, moving away, lost a loved one, etc., or someone with a new grandchild, great grandchild or special anniversary, please let Lorrette Shermet know and she will gladly send a greeting card from PROBUS (contact lorrette@sympatico.ca or 905-878-1293).

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	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	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 at Nite

by Auriel Halliday

After the huge success of the Mega Nosh a week ago, it was a pleasure to host a Mini Nosh at our house on February 23rd. Our "Nosh at Night" is normally quite large, but many of our members are on holiday.

So, with a much smaller group we had a very enjoyable, but quieter, evening. Lots of great food and desserts. Quite a few of us are going on the Transatlantic cruise in April and we had fun chatting about that.

Our missing Noshers were, I'm sure, having fun in the sun and we look forward to seeing them next month.



Appy Hour

Appy Hour Switch Up

by Jenny O'Brien, Convenor

This month's Appy Hour was hosted by Jenny & Harold O'Brien, who 'switched it up' by offering a Stew & Slaw Fest for a hungry crowd of 20. Folks had a choice between beef or chicken stew (or both), coleslaw and 3 types of fresh bread. This was followed by a delectable selection of home made desserts. Attendees enjoyed the comfort food offerings and the opportunity to sit and chat with their friends around the kitchen (and dining room) tables. It's been a busy month for foodies in the group, with lots of dining options. With March upon us, we'll look forward to our next Appy Hour at the Crawfords, on Saturday, March 23rd.



D'Stillers

Chris Strachan, Convenor

Hello, fellow Probians, the February 7th meeting of the D'Stillers was held at the Strachan's. The whiskies were rated as follows:



1. The winning whisky of the evening was 'Dalwhinnie 15 yr old', a single malt Scotch with a score of 76.4% at a cost of \$139.95 with an ABV (Alcohol by Volume) of 43%.
2. 'Aberfeldy 12 yr old', a single malt Scotch with a score of 75.3%, cost of \$75.00 and ABV of 40%.
3. 'Bushmills 10 Yr Old', an Irish single malt with a score of 73%, cost of \$40.00 and ABV of 40%.
4. 'The Arran Malt', a single malt Scotch with a score of 71.2%, cost of \$83.00 and ABV of 50%.
5. 'Black Forest', a wild peaty single malt from Germany, with a score of 51.6%, cost of \$58.00 and ABV of 42%.

My thanks to Anna for hosting the DD's and the cakes she supplied after the tasting when we all got together. This month's Orphans were supplied by Pete, Wayne, Russ and Martin. 'Orphans' are leftover whisky from previous tastings. As always, thanks to the DD's for getting everyone home safe and sound. My thanks also go out to Pete, our resident photographer.

The March 6th meeting will be held at the home of Lorrette and Pete Shernet where the 'Orphans' will be supplied by Ted, Frank, Ron, and Bill.



Saturday Night LiveS at Keenan's Irish Pub

by Anna Strachan

On Saturday, the 3rd of February at 6 pm, I had the pleasure of hosting 22 happy SNL'ers at Keenan's Irish Pub while Ruth was on a much-needed, sunny vacation.

As the host, I thought I should arrive before the others. However, when I got there, I found out that Roy and Anne, being anxious to start the festivities, arrived at 5 pm. Luckily, Russ and Mary soon joined them. It seems that the out-of-towners like to make sure they get to the restaurant on time. Keenan's was pretty busy that night, so it took us a while to get our food, some longer than others. For the most part, the food was good with a couple of glitches. Thank goodness that the company is always great, as it made the wait time good for a few laughs.



I hope to see you at Shoeless Joe's 6 pm, March 2.



GrapeNuts

Wine Tasting at the Strachans

by Anna Strachan

Eight fun wine enthusiasts joined Chris and me for our wine tasting on 13th February. We had a most enjoyable group, including the Millichamp's Joanne and Ron, the Cousins Mary and Russ, Theresa Spano, Lorraine Randall, Marg Jones, and Frank Dawe. There was great conversation and lots and lots of laughter.

I started by stating that since we were Scottish and frugal, all the wines we chose were \$2 off at the LCBO, so we couldn't do much better than that. Not only that, but at the end of the day, the group more or less thought all the wines were quite nice and very drinkable, and the price point was very good at \$12.95 to \$13.95.

As usual, we drank the white wines first, in the following order, and of the three, the French wine came out on top. The Laroche Viognier De La Chevaliere scored 13.9, beating its rivals: the Santa Carolina Reserve Sauvignon Blanc from Chile, which scored 13.2, and the Folonari Pinot Grigio Delle Venezie DOC from Italy, which scored 12.6.

We then proceeded to the reds, which were drunk in the following order: Fat Bastard Shiraz Pays D'oc France with a score of 14.75. This was followed by Trivento Malbec Reserve from Argentina, which scored 14.50, and Terroir D'Altitude Cabernet Sauvignon from France at 15.75 points, clearly the winner of the evening. Little did I know we had kept the best till last.

No one guessed the correct location or varietal, except Ron, who guessed Argentina but did not guess that it was a Malbec.

Thanks to our guests for making this a very memorable evening.



Wine Tasting at the Crawfords

by Paul and Ellen Crawford

The highest priced white wine, Zephyr Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough, New Zealand, was rated as the best by our group. In contrast the "experts" rated the Rtelvisi Kisi from the country of Georgia with a 97 score over the score of 90 for the New Zealand wine. Ferzo Abruzzo Pecorino Superiore from Italy had an "expert" score of 90+.



Our group was consistent with the red wines as a San Pedro 1865 Selected Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon from Chile was rated as the best over the other reds. It had an "expert" score of 93 while Colombo Bianca Resilence Perricone from Italy had an "expert" score of 95 and the Merayo Las Tres Filas Mencia from Spain had an "expert" score of 97.

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Clubs: Books and Crafts

PieceMakers

WIP and QAYG

by Judi Jones - Correspondent

Six of our PieceMakers met on February 6, on a brilliant sunny day, at the home of Diane Armand. Our first item to discuss was the 2 day retreat being held on March 6 and 7 in the party room at Diane Comstock's. The girls will spend the 2 days immersed in their quilting. The focus will be on learning “paper piecing”, with a project to follow. Carol Ann will supply some patterns. Many will work to complete existing projects. Help is always available for those in need of guidance. To simplify things, it was decided that each one would bring their own “brown bag” lunch. Diane Comstock has offered to supply tea and coffee. She will also bring her ironing board, iron, and large cutting mat. Rosalind will bring a table top ironing board and iron. Bring an extension cord.

The next order of business was our show and tell:

- Rosalind shared her Sampler Quilt containing a variety of blocks. Each block was done separately, placed on a frame and quilted. This is called “quilt as you go”.

- Sandra showed us a completed table runner. She is also working on a panel from a kit. She added embroidery and will now quilt. To complete the panel she plans to “echo” around the pattern. - Sandra also found a pattern for a queen sized quilt that she liked. The fabric she chose is lovely. Hopefully we will see it develop at our quilt retreat in July.

- Carol Ann shared her “work in progress” from last year's Shop Hop. She has completed 13 blocks which will become a lovely quilt.

- Diane A. shared “The Quilting Bible.” A book she received as a gift and one she finds extremely helpful. She also showed us a block of a boxer dog that she appliqued for a pillow she will make.

- Louise surprised us all with “a give-away” box of fabric she no longer needed. Nothing can make a quilter happier. Needless to say, she went home empty handed!

- Judi J. shared her finished (finally) table runner.

Quilting Terms of the Month:

- Cutting mat: Surface used for rotary cutting that protects the tabletop and keeps the fabric from shifting while cutting. Often mats are labeled as self-healing, meaning the blade does not leave slash marks or grooves in the surface even after repeated usage.

- Echo quilting: Stitching multiple lines that follow the outline of an appliqué or other design element, echoing its shape.

Our next meeting will span 2 days, Wed-Thurs. March 6-7. Please register by Tuesday, March 5 so we know how many tables to set up. And don't forget your sewing machines and projects!

Anyone interested in quilting consider joining the group.





First Edition Book Club

Murder at the Book Club

By Ellen Crawford

Nine women meet for their weekly book club, however before any book discussion happens the women erupt in large arguments amongst themselves. None of the women are particularly likeable to the reader and they do not seem to like each other. The women begin to leave the meeting during the heated arguments. The next day one of the members is found murdered. No longer is the premise of the book about a book club meeting as it turns to a murder mystery. Detectives are called in and their investigation uncovers lies, volatile friendships and tensions all leading back to the book club members. There is a twist in the plot that throws off the detectives just as they think they have their killer. The characters seem shallow, self centred and very petty.

Two of our members enjoyed the book, the rest not so much. Ratings ranged from 2-7 out of 10. This is not a long book, thankfully, and an easy read. If you are looking for fluff and do not wish any deep meanings this book could be for you. This book did trigger discussion amongst our group.

It seems the library chose to include this book in their book club choices merely for the title.



Sequel Book Club

Honor by Thrity Unigar

by Lorene Rea

The Sequel book club had an in-depth discussion about Honor by Thrity Unigar.

One of our members had spent time in India, both in rural and urban settings and she helped us to understand that India is truly a land of great contrasts.

Honor is the story of a Hindi woman who falls in love with a Muslim man. This is not tolerated in the rural town in which they live and their punishment and subsequent events were shocking and difficult to read. Misogyny, public shaming, torture and eventually loss of life occur in this upsetting yet educational book.

The writing is well done and created many emotional reactions as one trauma and then another is shared. Unfortunately this is not all fiction as the author was born in India and lived there until she was twenty-one. She and her family were the recipients of mistreatment and hatred.

Thrity's education at several universities and training as a journalist have allowed her to create an excellent novel.

All members recommend this book.

Our next meeting will be hosted by Judy Nelson at the home of Carolyn Rumley.



Trilogy Book Club

What the Fireflies Knew

By Margaret Anne Fehr

Trilogy Book Club convened on February 12th thanks to Ella Dolan, who graciously hosted our discussion through Kai Harris's "What the Fireflies Knew". Set against the backdrop of the pre-digital summer of 1995, the narrative unfolds through the lens of Kenyatta Bernice (KB), an eleven-year-old Black girl navigating the intricate tapestry of life in the sweltering heat of Lansing, Michigan.



KB's world is shaped by the aftermath of her father's tragic overdose, leading to the forfeiture of their family home due to debts incurred from his addiction. In her pursuit of an idealized family, KB grapples with a mother, institutionalized for depression, a distant adolescent sister, a silent grandfather, and neighbors across the street whose lives are impacted by racial constraints and their own mother's prejudice.

While our book club appreciated KB's journey, a recurring sentiment emerged that "What the Fireflies Knew" might be more suitable for a Young Adult audience. Some members found it challenging to distinctly identify the portrayal of the Black experience, citing occasional awkward language choices such as the persistent use of 'ain't,' which felt forced and was not entirely authentic to KB's character who read prolifically.

Suggestions arose that a more pronounced focus on the Black experience and nuanced language choices could have enhanced the authenticity of KB's journey.

The discussion generated varied ratings, with members giving the book a score ranging from 5 to 6. Despite its commendable exploration of family dynamics and the universal theme of life's complexities, the novel fell short of earning a unanimous recommendation.

In conclusion, "What the Fireflies Knew" sparked a lively discussion among Trilogy Book Club, highlighting its merits in exploring family dynamics but also revealing areas where it may not fully resonate with readers seeking a more profound exploration of the Black experience.

Clubs: Games & Cards

Canasta

by Jenny O'Brien

We had 6 full tables + a spare out for this month's canasta games and there were some pretty serious cards going on in the room. We saw a major blowout at one table with Zella Bonin and Bill Turnbull scoring 7285 against their opponent's 2660 (names withheld to protect the innocent :) There were also some close calls with Barb Chliszczyk and Jenny O'Brien inching out Bob Stringer and Barb Campbell by 10 tiny points !! (3540 to 3530). And at another table Corinne Turnbull and Ita Sweeney took the checkered flag over Jim Campbell and Sharon White by a mere 100 points (3745 to 3645). Regardless of the outcomes, it was a fun afternoon of good gamesmanship and good sports, where everyone's a winner based on the camaraderie and laughter shared by all.



Cribbage

Queen of the cardsharps!

by Martin Capper

At the February meeting of the Cribbage Club Ellen Crawford surely earned the title Queen of the cardsharps. In an evening where winners stayed put and those not so lucky moved. Ellen managed to remain in the same place all night. Winning 6 out of 6 games. Barb Chliszczyk came close to emulating Ellen's achievement but fell at the last hurdle! 18 members turned out for a night of fun!

Members of the Crib Club should note that effective our March meeting we will be making full use of Wild Apricot for booking and confirming attendance. This should remove the need to search your spam folders for my Mailchimp emails!



Jokers

by Anna Strachan

On February 8th, Chris and I hosted six tables (24 players) of Jokers at Grace Anglican Church.

There were no big winners this time around, just a few players who won three games with two losses, or one loss depending on how many games were played.

That's the trouble with Joker; some games are long because players keep getting put back home, while others are fast games. This makes it hard to mix up groups, so some people need to keep switching partners among their groups of four. Thankfully, this does not happen too often.

We are indeed fortunate to have Grace Anglican as our venue host. It makes it so much easier to accommodate all our avid Joker players in one room, which we would not be able to do if held in someone's home as we did in pre-Covid days when we were limited to 3 or 4 tables.



Bridge

by Chris Lloyd

The Escarpment Probus Bridge club was joined by the Milton Probus Bridge Club on Thursday February 1st at Grace Church hall. Sixteen players from the combined clubs showed their skill in bidding and making their contracts over 4 rounds and congenial conversation. During the meeting it was agreed that the start time for the Thursday March 7th meeting would be moved to 1:00 p.m. from 1:15 pm.



Even though the Milton Probus Bridge Club has agreed to join us, we are still looking for more players interested in playing. If you are interested in joining please contact Chris Lloyd at cldmi95@gmail.com.

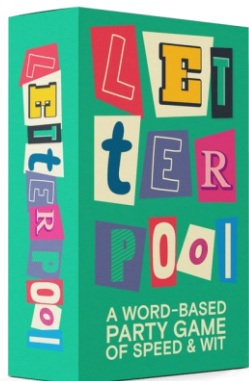


BeeGees

Letterpool

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

Five ladies played a new game on Feb. 14 called Letterpool. Letterpool is a fast-thinking word board game for 2-6 Players. The game consists of letter tiles and category cards. The idea is to think of a word or phrase starting with any of the 4 letters on the table that matches the category on current card. 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! It was amazing how many categories the words "umbrella" and "x-ray" match to. We also learned a few choice words. Some of the categories started conversations and we heard some interesting stories. Overall, Lorraine was the quick-thinker amassing 106 points after 4 rounds.



Our game on March 13th will be Splendor suggested by Marg & Beth. Splendor is a game of chip-collecting and card development. Players are merchants of the Renaissance trying to buy gem mines, means of transportation, shops—all in order to acquire the most prestige points. If you're wealthy enough, you might even receive a visit from a noble at some point, which of course will further increase your prestige.

Anyone interested in playing games, let me know and I will add you to the group.

Euchre

Family Day Euchre!

By Jenny O'Brien

Sixteen members of our Probus 'family' came together on Family Day to enjoy an afternoon of cards and friendship. For most, the cards were running cold, with few lone hands or high scores. But someone had to win, and congratulations go out to Ron Johnston, who after a sloooow start, ended up with a high score of 42 and 2 lone hands. Lois Oatman also had 2 lone hands and took home the money for this feat. Alas, some folks were running colder than others and Jenny O'Brien settled in the basement with a low score of 24. Thanks as always, goes out to Grace Church for allowing us to use their facilities, which were nice and warm in the upper hall. Cheers until next month Euchre enthusiasts!



Mexican Train

Rail Riders Love Their Mexican Train

by Jenny O'Brien

This month's Mexican Train Club saw 35 rambunctious members enjoy a fun afternoon of game play, with most in attendance getting in an amazing 9 games each. Some trains were moving faster than others and rumor has it that Wayne Heath never got out of his station resulting in a jaw dropping score of 311 (low scores are good; high scores are bad!). On another track, Sharon White had an impressive 3 game score of 17, taking low score honours for the day. Win or lose, the afternoon was enjoyed by all. Thanks to the Cappers for the setup and tear down support, as well as for providing us with treats.

Apologies for no pictures this month. This conductor was too busy playing to take pics (I'm fired! .. LOL).



Line Dancing

It Was Line Dancing Time

By Ruth Gagnon

We started the first of our next four sessions of Line Dancing on February 23rd with 13 cowgirls showing up. We strutted our stuff to Rock Me Mama, Hey Baby, Wagon



Wheel and a bunch more with our new favorite dance being "intoxicated". So until our next class on March 29th we will be remembering (maybe) to put the weight on our left foot and put your toe in and out and..... you get the picture.

There are still a few spots left if you want to join for the next three sessions. If you have signed up and can't make it to a session, please let Ruth know at gagnonruth@gmail.com



LINE DANCING

Pin Seekers

First Annual Pin Seekers Fall Scramble

by Roy Mackay

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.



Music Lovers

Music Lovers Chase Away the February Blues

Michael Hooker, Convenor

On a grey chilly February 1st, we Music Lovers listened to the songs of Jerome Kern, the perfect antidote for the weather outside.

Jerome Kern (1885 –1945) was one of the most successful American composers of musical theatre and popular music. A native New Yorker, in over four decades he wrote more than 700 songs that were used in over 100 stage plays and movies.

In May 1915, Kern was due to sail with the American impresario Charles Frohman from New York to London on board the RMS Lusitania, but Kern missed the boat, having overslept after staying up late playing poker. Frohman died in the sinking of the ship.

in 1927. Kern had been impressed by Edna Ferber's novel *Show Boat* and wished to present a musical stage version. He persuaded Oscar Hammerstein (a lifelong friend) to adapt it. The story, dealing with racism, marital strife and alcoholism, was unheard of in the escapist world of musical comedy, but despite the opening night audience's initial shock, "*Show Boat*" received an ecstatic reception. Its songs, like "Ol' Man River", "Why Do I Love You", "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man" may be Kern's greatest accomplishment.

Jerome Kern was nominated eight times for an Academy Award, and won twice – 1936 for "*The Way You Look Tonight*"; 1941 for "*The Last Time I Saw Paris*".

Here's two Jerome Kern classics from YouTube (each about 3 minutes):

- The Last Time I Saw Paris, sung by Kiri Te Kanawa - [click here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZLA7lutLDM)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZLA7lutLDM>
- Once in a Blue Moon, sung by Rebecca Luker - [click here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN2XQvnX_D8)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN2XQvnX_D8

Our second February Zoomer highlighted two pieces by the French composer Hector Berlioz (1803 – 1869). First was his *Symphony with viola* (larger cousin of the violin), "*Harold in Italy*", written for the famous violinist Niccolò Paganini, who owned a Stradivarius viola. However when Paganini saw the work he rejected it, supposedly saying "Too few notes!!". Paganini did not hear this work until several years after its first performance; but was so overwhelmed by it that he dragged Berlioz up onto the stage, knelt and kissed his hand before a wildly cheering audience, and the next day sent him a letter of congratulations and a bank draft for 20,000 francs. Berlioz was inspired by Lord Byron's poem "*Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*" to write the four orchestral scenes that attempt to capture the mood of the poem.

Then came the fourth act of Berlioz' monumental opera (in both scope and length – well over 4 hours) "*The Trojans*". The story was taken from the Roman poet Virgil's "*Aeneid*", which covers some of the same ground as Homer's "*Iliad*". Starts with the Trojan Horse and destruction of Troy by the Greeks, then the voyage of the Trojan hero Aeneas to found the City of Rome (an alternative to Romulus and Remus). Along the way, a military and romantic episode at Carthage (where the fourth act is set). Because of its length and singing and staging demands, it was never performed in full during Berlioz' lifetime. The first truly full performance that met the composer's intentions was in 1957, at The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, London. The famous Canadian tenor Jon Vickers sang Aeneas. I was living in London then, and saw this production three times – what an incredible experience!



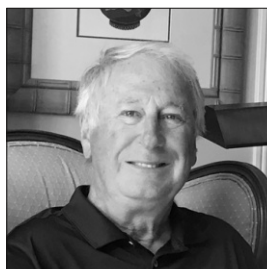
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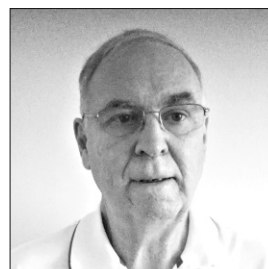
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