

FORUM

Volume 12 - Issue 4 - April 2024



President's Message:



HAPPY APRIL FOOLS DAY!!



Tulips blooming, trees budding and birds singing, the wonderful signs of Spring. Here comes April! As our Club continues to flourish with many enjoyable activities, come out and experience the Hockey Hall of Fame, Trivia, Longos cooking class, Escape Room and many more fun and entertaining venues.

With longer days and warm weather coming our way let's take this opportunity to expand our horizons and have some fun!

As our Recruiting efforts begin under the leadership of Russ Cousins, I would like to reiterate the fact that you are never alone in performing a Management role. We have a wonderful membership of fabulous people in our Club who are willing to step in and help. How about you?

I would like to thank Bonnie Walsh and Barb Campbell for filling the role of Secretary while Kelly was away. I would also like to thank Roy Harrold for filling in for me at the March General meeting. These are prime examples how we all work together and "get the job done". Please consider stepping up to take on a Management role.

We are always open to new ideas and suggestions from our members. Don't be shy, let's hear from you!

Our next General meeting is **Wednesday, APRIL 17th, 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*

Spring has sprung! Come out of hibernation and join in the many activities that we are providing. Please look at the activity information found on the main page of our Escarpment Probus web page. You will also find this information on the Wild Apricot App, click on events and you will find all of the upcoming events with their date for registration. This is to help with your future planning.

When registering on Wild Apricot please click through all of the pages, even after it says “done”, click “next” and you will see the “confirmation” of your registration. You will immediately receive an email confirmation. If you do not receive an email confirmation, you have not completed your registration.

In regards to registering non-members, the process we will follow is **you may not register a non-member unless it is announced that the activity is open for non-members**. You must go through the chair to have the non-member registered. This follows the process that has been established with our club’s travel trips.

To register a non-member for an activity please contact the activity co-chairs at escarpmentprobusactivities@gmail.com

To register a non-member for a social club, eg. SNL, cards, picnic, dinners, etc., please contact the social chair at escarpmentprobussocial@gmail.com

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.

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! You will be out in time to enjoy lunch in the restaurant on site at Champs. This is an activity that can be enjoyed by both men and women. Non-members can also participate. We need lots of brain power to join in the fun!

At times you may feel inundated with Wild Apricot invitations. Some of our activities require a specific number of people and we often need to have those numbers confirmed well ahead of the date.

We look forward to your participation.

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

APRIL ACTIVITIES:

Ciao a Tutti - 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

\$70 per person

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 and pay for your wine at the door.

This activity is **now open for non members**. Contact escarpmentprobusactivities@gmail.com to register your guest.



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. This activity is full with a waitlist.



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).

This activity is **now open for non members**. Contact escarpmentprobusactivities@gmail.com to register your guest.



Kahoot Trivia

5 pm April 18 at Ned Devine's

\$3 payable 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.

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:

Butterfly Conservatory

Tuesday, May 7: Meet at The Butterfly Conservatory at 10:30 am

Location: 2500 Kossuth Rd. Cambridge

Cost: \$18

Convenors: Ellen and Paul

The Butterfly Conservatory is situated on a 107 acre site which includes the environmentally sensitive Kossuth Bog. The 25,000 square foot facility includes a 10,800 square foot indoor tropical garden featuring thousands of free-flying butterflies. The conservatory also hosts a variety of tropical plants, birds, and animals, along with several water features. Witness butterflies emerge from their chrysalis and take their first flight. You are free to wander in and out of the Conservatory as often as you wish. Lunch is available in the Chrysalis cafe at your own expense. Please register and pay on Wild Apricot.



Amazing Race - 2pm Thursday May 30th

Victoria Park, Milton

\$10 per person

Convenors: Ruth Gagnon and Kelly Ground

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**.



Dinner to follow at Ned Devine’s. Please use Wild Apricot to pre-select your meal. Dinner and drinks at your own expense.

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

JUNE ACTIVITIES:

Grapenuts Meet Skip the Dishes

Location: The Grand Chalet, 324 Steeles Ave.E. Milton

Date: Thursday June 20, 2024

Time: 6pm

Cost: \$70 per person including taxes and gratuities

Convenors: Martin Capper and Ron Millichamp, Lorrette Shermet



Join us for a four course meal. All Probus Members welcome! Specially selected wines will be paired with each of the first three courses (2 with the entree). Grand Chalet's wine expert will give us a description of each wine, what we can expect from its bouquet, from its taste and the reasons for the choice as well as answering your questions.

Menu

Course 1: Garden salad

Course 2: Prosciutto, melon, Bocconcini, Giardiniera & Olives

Course 3: Choice of:

- a) Roast of Baby Beef expertly seasoned and slow oven roasted au jus with oven roasted potatoes and seasonal vegetable medley
- b) Chicken Parmigiana with oven roasted potatoes and seasonal vegetable medley
- c) Grilled Salmon with oven roasted potatoes and seasonal vegetable medley

Course 4: Crepe a la Mode with Coulis Sauce

Please register and select your entree choices on Wild Apricot.

Summer Fun Theatre Series

Date: Thursday June 27

Lunch: 11:45 am Jack's Family Restaurant 20 Benjamin Rd.E. Waterloo

Showtime: 2 pm St. Jacobs Country Playhouse 40 Benjamin Rd.E. Waterloo

Cost: \$54

Convenor: Jenny O'Brien

Join us for a summer of fun theater excursions, at the first of three offerings, Doris & Ivy in the Home. For this first outing we'll be headed to St. Jacobs Country Playhouse where the theme of the play may hit close to home, but in a funny way.

Life – or at least a second chance at it – begins at age 70+, as Norm Foster tackles with his typical wit and wisdom in this comedy about love and friendship among those in their twilight years. Retired prison guard Doris Mooney has just moved into Paradise Village, a retirement home in Canmore, Alberta. She quickly befriends Ivy Hoffbauer, a former champion skier who's taken aback by Doris' cheerful brashness. Rounding out the trio is dapper Arthur Beech, who has designs on Ivy. What follows is a riotous tale that will shatter your preconceived notions of what "senior living" ought to be. A mirthful and thoughtful companion piece to the widely acclaimed Jonas and Barry in the Home, this refreshing comedy is a testament to living each day to the fullest – regardless of your age or stage in life.

We'll first meet for lunch and then saunter to the theatre to enjoy an afternoon of hilarity and fun. Make sure to indicate your interest in lunch so we can book accordingly. Tickets are in demand so sign up quickly!

APRIL CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE		TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
Activities					
Italian Cooking Class	April	2	5:00 PM	Longo's Burloak	Roy MacKay
Jersey Boys	April	10	2:00 PM	Hamilton Family Theatre	Kelly Ground
Executive Meeting	April	10	7:00 PM	Zoom	Maggie Boothe
Escape Rooms	April	11	11:00 AM	Champs	Pam Grundie,Christine Taylor
Escarpment PROBUS monthly meeting	April	17	9:30 AM	Connect Centre	Maggie Boothe
The Lunch Bunch	April	17	12:00 PM	Shoeless Joe's	Joy Castello
Kahoot Trivia	April	18	5:00 PM	Ned Devine's	Ruth Gagnon, Kelly Ground
Spring Planter	April	19	10:00 AM	Crawfords Garden Ctre	Ruth Gagnon
Clubs					
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only				Cliff Read
Mexican Train	April	1	1:30 PM	Grace Church Bsmt*	Jenny O'Brien
Crafts - Quilting - <i>Piece Makers</i>	April	2	1:00 PM	Jordan Home	Diane Comstock
Tastings - Whisky - <i>D'Stillers</i>	April	3	7:00 PM	Shermet Home	Chris Strachan
Cards - Bridge	April	4	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Chris Lloyd
Music - Music Lovers	April	4	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Dining - Saturday Night Lives	April	6	6:00 PM	Kelseys	Ruth Gagnon
Books – Trilogy	April	8	10:00 AM	TBD	Dawn Ross
Books – First Edition	April	8	1:00 PM	Grace Anglican Hall*	Diane A/Penny M
Cards - Cribbage - <i>Card Sharps</i>	April	9	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Malcolm Rea
Movies - Oscar Nights	April	9	7:00 PM	Milton Cineplex*	Petra Halk
Games - Bee-Gees	April	10	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Diane Comstock
Books – Sequel	April	10	1:15 PM	Rumley Home	Carolyn Rumley
Games - Jokers	April	11	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Auriel Halliday
Nosh & Natter	April	12	5:30 PM	Cousins Home	Michael Boothe
Cards - Euchre	April	15	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Lorrette Shermet
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	April	16	7:00 PM	Capper Home	Martin Capper
Cards - Bid Euchre	April	18	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Lorrette Shermet
Music Lovers	April	18	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Dining - <i>Skip the Dishes</i>	April	18	6:00 PM	TBD	Lorrette Shermet
Cards -Canasta	April	22	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Lorrette Shermet
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	April	23	7:00 PM	Ross Home	Martin Capper
Friendship Club	April	24	10:00 AM	Seasons Retirement*	Judy Krauss
Games - Jokers	April	24	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Auriel Halliday
Line Dancing with Tammy	April	26	12:30 PM	Grace Church Bsmt*	Ruth Gagnon
Nosh @ Nite	April	26	5:30 PM	Sindu/Lasota Home	Barb Finnie
Dining - Appy Hour	April	27	6:30 PM	TBD	Mary Cousins
Temporary change					

NOTICES / REQUESTS

Afternoon Card Games Time Change

Jenny O'Brien, Social Chair

The start time for all afternoon card games will now be 1:30 PM.

Milton's Got Talent!

Jenny O'Brien, Social Chair

You might be surprised at how early the planning starts for the many and varied events hosted by your Escarpment Probus Club. In particular, we're looking for help in identifying a great talent to perform and / or speak at this year's Christmas Luncheon on December 11th. If you know of such a talent, I'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to

escarpmentprobussocial@gmail.com (also known as Jenny O'Brien), with your ideas and suggestions.



Call for Participants

Submitted 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

Travel Survey

Submitted by Joanne Millichamp

The travel company used for previous Probus trips would like our input into what trips they should offer to our club. The survey aims to gather preferences for the trips planned for 2025, and we value every member's input.

Please click on the survey link shown: [click here](#)

We kindly ask that all members please **complete the survey by April 15th.**

MEETING: APRIL

Our next **General Meeting will be held at 9:30 am on April 17** at the Connect Centre. Our speaker this month will be Tom Herstad. Tom Herstad has always been a forward thinking, person always up for any challenge life may throw at him. Throughout the last 25 years, Tom has had a profound impact on the people he has dealt with in business and in his personal life.

His book, 2nd Line West, is about a lady who has "A Message For Us All". It also contains stories reflecting what he has learned over his 5 decades. He would like to see more people look deeper into their own lives and see what they can do to experience more happiness and fulfillment.

In this book you can find a treasure trove of possibilities and how they can impact and inspire you to pursue a more gratifying life experience. See how readers have been impacted by these stories with their posted reviews: [click here](#)



RECENT EVENTS

March General Meeting

Our general meeting was held on Wednesday March 20 at the Connect Centre with a great crowd. Dawn Ross and Theresa Spano were the friendly greeters and Paul Crawford won the 50/50 draw.



Speaker at March General Meeting

Submitted by Roy Harrold



Members were awed by tales of Debbie Bulten's adventures and accomplishments. Her determination, perseverance, strength, stamina, courage, and confidence were all very evident in her descriptions of her numerous climbs and endurance races. The photos accompanying her talk were awesome on their own. The equipment she displayed on stage was amazing. One wonders how anyone could carry that amount of equipment as well as food and water required for survival under the most harsh conditions on earth.

Debbie's presentation was inspiring and interesting which led to many questions from a captivated audience seeking even more details of her experiences and challenges.

Many thanks to Debbie's uncle, Ron Millichamp, for arranging to have Debbie speak at our meeting and for his introduction.



Lunch Bunch Banter

Joy Castello - Convenor

On March 20th, 39 Probus members and guests went to Keenan's Irish Pub for lunch. The kitchen and wait staff did their best to serve our large crowd in a timely manner.

On Wednesday, April 17th, the Lunch Bunch will be going to Shoeless Joe's. The address is 800 Main Street E, Unit 3, Milton L9T 0J4. Shoeless Joe's is in the Milton Common Mall and is located near the Bulk Barn, TD Bank and the LCBO. If you wish, check out the menu: [click here](#)



Rockwool Tour

Submitted by Ellen and Paul Crawford, Activity Co-chairs

An eager group of Probus members met at the Rockwool plant on Steeles Avenue to learn about a long standing industry here in Milton. The tour was very interesting and informative as we were able to walk along a production line to see the Rockwool product from its beginning as it comes from the furnace area on the pendulum to its final form. It is cut and packaged into either insulation or plant-growing medium used in the agricultural sector in greenhouses. The difference in the products was explained to us. It all starts with basalt rock from Ontario which is mixed with rock slag from the steel industry and melted. The staff who led the tour were very knowledgeable. A delicious lunch catered by Mint Leaves was provided by Rockwool. A very enjoyable day!

The Celtic Tenors and Pre-Show Dinner

Submitted by Roy MacKay

In order to get into the Spirit of St Patrick's Day, on March 14th, thirty Club Members headed to The Burlington Performance Arts Centre to see the group, The Celtic Tenors.

The three tenors have magnificent voices and thrilled us with a wide range of songs from operatic arrangements such as "The Prayer" and "Nella Fantasia" to popular songs such as "The Boxer" and "You Needed Me".

While most of us would have preferred even more Irish tunes, our Gaelic senses were enhanced by such Irish Classics as "Song for Ireland", "Carrick Fergus" and a rousing rendition of "Whiskey in the Jar".



Continued >>>>

The Celtic Tenors and Pre-Show Dinner (ctd)

Prior to the performance we all attended a pre-show dinner at the nearby Pepperwood Bistro. We had a private seating area, and all reported a delicious meal, with very good service and reasonable prices

Many thanks to our Irish Colleen, Jenny O'Brien for all her work to make this such an enjoyable evening.



Hockey Hall of Fame

Submitted by Paul and Ellen Crawford

Ten adventurous Probians visited the Hockey Hall of Fame in downtown Toronto. We wandered in and out of various exhibits showcasing memorabilia, trophies and stories. The Esso Great Hall features all of the major NHL trophies including the most famous and coveted of them all, the Stanley Cup. It also contained hand-drawn portraits of all the inductees into the Hall. This hall was originally built in 1885 as a bank and the Stanley cup rings are on display in the old bank vault. The room rises to a 45' high stained glass dome. One soul attempted his scoring attempts but was thwarted by the goalie.

After our visit we walked a short distance to enjoy lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory.

We had a seamless ride using the Go train.



Kahoot Trivia

submitted by Ellen Crawford

Twenty-five knowledgeable Probians met at Ned Devines on Thursday March 28 to test their knowledge of arcane facts and information on a host of topics. The contest was lively and kudos to the new participants for giving it a try. The mood was light with much laughter usually directed at themselves for missing an easy one. Martin, Norma, Marg and Frank, the “Brasilnots” won the day.



Puns and Groans

submitted by Beth Barnes

I once dated a guy who broke up with me because I only have 9 toes. Yes, he was lack toes intolerant.

Did you know ants never get sick? It's because they have anty bodies.

You can't blame anyone else if you fall in your driveway...it's your own asphalt.

I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness.

Scientifically, a raven has 17 primary wing feathers, the big ones at the end of the wing. They are called pinion feathers. A crow has 16. So, the difference between a raven and a crow is only a matter of a pinion.

I tried to come up with a carpentry pun that woodwork. I thought I nailed it but nobody saw it.

The Black-Eyed Peas can sing us a song but the chick peas can only hummus one.

Then there was the time Fruit of the Loom took Hanes to court... it was a brief case.

How much does a chimney cost? Nothing, it's on the house.

My friend said she wouldn't eat cow's tongue because it came out of a cow's mouth. I gave her an egg.

Once upon a time there was a King who was only 12 inches tall. He was a terrible King but he made a great ruler.

Ran out of toilet paper and now using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg, and tomorrow romaines to be seen.

My friend Jack says he can communicate with vegetables. That's right...Jack and the beans talk.

I was struggling to understand how lightning works and then it struck me.

Six cows were smoking joints and playing poker. That's right. The steaks were pretty high.

I went to the paint store to get thinner. It didn't work.

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. - 1:30 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Cards - Bridge	1st Thu. - 1:30 pm	Chris Lloyd	416-402-7464	Cldmi95@gmail.com
Cards - Canasta	4th Mon. - 1:30 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Cards - Cribbage - Card Sharps	1st Tues after 2nd Mon. - 1:30 pm	Malcolm Rea	905-699-8213	
Cards - Euchre	3rd Mon. - 1:30 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	mejensccc@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	mejensccc@sympatico.ca
Games - High Rollers (Farkle)	4th Tues - 1 pm	On Hold	905-876-4909	mejensccc@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 at Nite

by Pete Shermet

Well Mother Nature had a slight impact on the attendance at our nosh at the Shermet house and we certainly support the decision of not travelling in the storm. Some of the local brave souls did venture out and we sampled a variety of different appetizers.

Ann and Rod Dupont, former members of the club, now living in London, were in the area and we invited them to join us and acquaint with the group.

We were all so involved in conversations that it totally slipped our mind about taking some photographs throughout the evening.

Good friends, food and conversations seemed to make the evening go quickly and soon it was time for homemade pies from the church, and assorted baklava, tea and coffee.

By the time the evening came to an end the snow had stopped but the first morning chore would be shoveling.

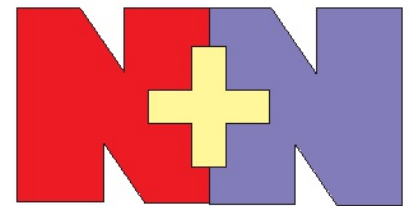


Nosh'n'Natter

submitted by Michael Boothe



Thank you Kate and Chris for hosting the March Nosh at your home. Eighteen members of the group attended to enjoy a variety of foods and lively conversations. The atmosphere was great and we all had an entertaining evening. Even the weatherman cooperated this time.



We look forward to the next Nosh on April 12th at Mary and Russ Cousins home.



Grapenuts at the Shermet's - February

(Article appears later in Newsletter)



D'Stillers

submitted by Frank Dawe

On the 6th of March 2024, Marg Jones and Frank Dawe hosted a gathering of the D'Stillers whiskey tasting enthusiasts. The evening commenced with a 10-year-old single malt Scotch Whisky called Robert Burns which originates from the Isle of Arran Distillers, in Scotland. It sells for \$60.25 per 700ml bottle and has 43% alcohol. It scored 77.9 out of 100.

Secondly we tried Jameson Black Barrel a 12-year-old Irish Blended Whiskey which sells for \$58.00 per 750 ml bottle and has an alcohol content of 40%. It scored 73.3 out of 100.

The third tasting was Chivas Regal a 12-year-old blended scotch whisky from Scotland. It sells for \$65.95 per 750 ml bottle and has an alcohol reading of 40%. It scored 70.9 out of 100.

Fourthly we sipped Glenlivet Master Distiller's Reserve which is a 12-year-old single malt scotch. This is a limited production whiskey and not sold in Canada. A one-liter bottle sells for \$82.50 and has an alcohol content of 40%. Fortunately, we were all blessed with a dram of the golden highland nectar and as luck would have it, I was the benefactor of a second dram of the Master Distiller's Reserve. It scored a 73.9 out of 100.

The final sampling of the evening was Chivas Regal 18-year-old Gold Signature, a blended scotch whisky, which sells for \$149.95 per 750 ml bottle and has 40% alcohol. It scored 73.3 out of 100.

The evening's preferred whisky proved to be the 10-year-old Robert Burns provided by Bill Willcocks which received a top score of 77.9 while second place went to Ron Millichamp's Glenlivet Master Distiller's Reserve at 73.9.



Third place was shared between Jameson Black Barrel, the 12-year-old Irish blended whiskey, and the 18-year-old Gold Signature Chivas Regal at 73.3.

What an arduous task it proved to be in appraising the evening's potions, but the results prove yet again, that the Probus D'Stillers are not swayed or influenced by advertising or price but judge their whiskies with integrity and honesty, by the glass!



Grapenuts

Kathy takes home the gold!

by Martin Capper



March 19th, two days after St Patrick's Day and the Cappers were still celebrating - this time with wine tasting. Tasters faced 3 challenges - match the price with the wines; solve 5 anagrams; and finally find the Irish connection to the wines and win a pot of gold!.

All six wines were from South Africa, 3 Chenin Blanc white wines averaging scores between 13.1 and 13.9, 2 Cabernet Sauvignon scoring 12.6 and 14 respectively and the wine of the night a Cab Sauvignon/Merlot Blend scoring 15.7.

The Irish connection - that was easy - they were all bought by me! With three tied on 7 points out of a total of 11 after the first two rounds Kathy broke the tie by getting that one right!

For bragging rights only we tried guess the grape for the white and spot the blend for the red - suffice to say all 9 guests went home without any bragging rights.

PROBUS
grape
-nuts
WINE TASTING CLUB



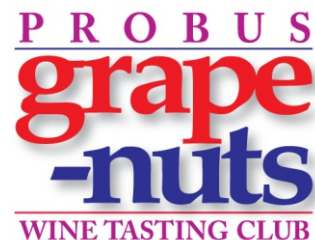
Grapenuts

A quick trip to Italy!

by Auriel Halliday

On the 28th of March, thirsty wine tasters gathered at Don and Auriel's house for a very fast and hilarious trip to Italy. We first tasted three, pleasant, but ordinary white wines from various regions of Italy. Nothing outstanding, but all very drinkable. Especially as they were all priced under \$15.00 per bottle. What followed next was a little different and broke some of the rules.

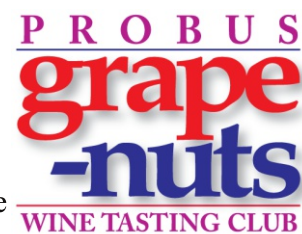
We were given a bottle of Amarone for Christmas, the value of which was \$90.00. We decided to donate it to the Grapenuts and create an unusual wine tasting experience. We bought one bottle of a less expensive Amarone (\$37-00) and then we added a bottle of home-made Amarone worth about \$7.00. It was really interesting to see how the three bottles compared to each other. The overall scores for those three bottles were as follows. The \$37.00 bottle received 14.2 overall. The home made bottle scored 12.2. The expensive bottle came out at 16.1. Moral of the story....the price is not always relevant .



Wine Tasting at the Millichamps

by Ron Millichamp

Ten hardy souls gathered at the Millichamp's for the first of March's wine tastings. There were two themes at play . The first being that the three white wines were all the same variety but from 3 different countries. The wine was Pinot Grigio. The first wine was Two Oceans from South Africa. The second wine was Jacobs Creek from Australia and the third wine was Mezzacorona from Italy. Interestingly the Jacobs Creek and Mezzacorona tied although they were quite different with one being quite sweet and the other, the Italian wine being quite dry. For the red wines we again sampled wines from three different countries. First was a Trivento Malbec Reserve from Argentina, second was Las Mulas Merlot Reserva from Chile and the third was Terrior D'Altitude Cabernet Sauvignon from France. They were all priced within a dollar of each other so one assumes, according to the LCBO that they were of equal value. One of our tasters guessed the correct variety of each red wine. The winner was the Malbec with the three reds scoring higher points than any of the whites. Obviously a red wine group. We had a lot of fun trying to come up with the correct answers. I must say that our taste buds have improved and we are getting quite good at picking out or having discussions on the various wines.



Grapenuts at the Shermets

by Pete Shermet

On February 27 at the Shermets the tasting had kind of an obscure theme, "Wines under \$20.00 that scored high with wine critics! (88 or better)"

There were 11 wine aficionado's in attendance and as usual we started off the evening with the whites.

The first white was Ken Forrester Old Vine Chenin Blanc from South Africa at 13.5% abv and sugar at 2g/l. \$18.95. (critics score 92). Tasting notes indicated it was bone dry, floral and rich, with concentrated honeyed stone fruit and citrus, zesty acidity and underlying minerality. It scored 13.3 / 20.

The second white was The Ned Sauvignon Blanc, from New Zealand at 13% abv and sugar at 5g/l \$19.20. (critics score 90). Tasting notes say clear pale lemon colour, pronounced aromas of quince, citrus, herbs and spice; on the palate extra dry with medium-munus acidity and medium -plus body, flavours of quince, citrus and herbs with a mineral note. It scored 12.2 / 20.

The third white was Zenato San Benedetto Lugana from Italy at 13% ab and sugar at 6g/l \$18.95 (critics score 91). Tasting notes revealed that this fresh, juicy white wine shows hints of tropical fruit under the richly defined apple, peach, honeysuckle and citrus. A characterful minerality provides added depth and distinction. It was the highest score in the white category with 13.3 / 20.

The first red was Montes Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon, from Chile at 14% abv and sugar at 4g/l \$14.95 (critics score 88+). Tasting notes said dark ruby red colour; aromas of chocolate, prune, smoke with nuts and jam notes; dry, medium to full bodied, well balanced acidity and ripe tannins, with rich chocolate, prune, smokey oak flavours, notes of nuts and jammy fruit on the long finish. It scored 15 / 20.

The second red was Colossal Reserva 2019 from Portugal at 13.5% abv and sugar at 8g/l \$14.95 (critics score 90). Tasting notes say, walnuts, black and blue berry fruit, roasted sage and olives on the nose. It's medium bodied, fleshy and meaty, with ripe tannins and tasty finish. ready to drink now through 2025+. It scored 15.4 / 20.

The third red was Luccarelli Primitivo Puglia IGT from Italy at 13.5% abv and sugar at 11g/l. \$13.95 (critics score 88+). Tasting notes highlighted deep ruby colour, fruit forward bouquet of dark fruit- black plum/prune, spice, lifted chocolate and chestnut notes; medium to full bodied and dry with flavours that follow the nose, plus dark berry cocktail, and medium tannins that add balance. It was the highest score in the red category with 15.6 / 20.

It was interesting to note that the higher scoring reds were all under \$15.00 compared to the more expensive whites that came in just under the \$20.00 mark.

Saturday Night LiveS

by Ruth Gagnon

There was lots of chatter as 14 Probians gathered around the table at Shoeless Joe's on March 2nd. Besides the fact that we all enjoyed our meals, there was some reminiscing going on about trips gone by.



Most notable (to me and not the first time I heard the story) is realizing that when you are going on a hike, an "E" doesn't always mean "easy" and it looks like we had a few expert hikers! Martin enjoyed his Caesar with his grand appetizer floating in it!

Stay tuned next month when we will go to Kelseys at 6pm.



Clubs: Books and Crafts

PieceMakers

All Day Quilting

by Diane Comstock

Five members of the PieceMakers went on a mini retreat in March. We gathered at Diane's condo party room for 2 days of quilting and took the opportunity to work on unfinished projects and to learn new techniques.

For Show and Tell, Sandi brought a wall hanging made from a panel. She first embellished the candles, flowers and leaves with hand stitched embroidery, then machine echo quilted around the candles, flowers, and leaves.

The first day, Carol Ann demonstrated the foundation paper piecing (PP) technique using the word LOVE. Sandi and Dawn started their paper piece project using a star pattern that Carol Ann had previously sent to the ladies. Rosalind worked on a tree table runner that she wanted to finish quilting. Since Diane already knew how to paper piece, she took the opportunity to work on an unfinished Ice Chrystal placemat using the paper piecing technique but with freezer paper.



On the second day, Diane spoke about Stack and Whack (SnW) and demonstrated how to arrange fabric, cut identical triangles, and then sew multiple hexagons to make a One Block Wonder (OBW) quilt. Rosalind started her paper piece star, and Sandi and Dawn completed their stars. Isn't it amazing how different fabric, border, and sashing choices makes each block unique!

All in all, it was a great two days! Looking forward to our July 4-day retreat!

Quilting Terms of the Month:

- Foundation Paper Piecing - Technique of machine stitching your fabric directly onto paper. You can achieve perfect points if you position your fabric correctly and sew perfect straight lines.
- Freezer Paper Piecing - Technique of folding and ironing freezer paper to fabric and sewing beside the freezer paper. This ends up with perfect points (same as foundation paper piecing) but instead of having to rip paper from the seams, the freezer paper peels off the fabric and you can reuse the template.

Rosalind Jordan will be hosting our next meeting on April 2nd. Anyone interested in quilting whether it is large bed-size quilts or small table runners, consider joining the group.



Sequel Book Club

DreadfulWater by Thomas King

Correspondent Judy Nelson



For our March meeting the book selection was *DreadfulWater*, the first installment of a mystery series written by Thomas King. Mr. King is a winner of the Governor General's Award and the RBC Taylor prize among other awards. He is also a recipient of the Honour of Canada which celebrates his contributions to the country.

The main character is a former LA homicide detective named Thumps *DreadfulWater* who has retired from police work to be a photographer. He now resides on a First Nations reservation that is in the process of developing a new condo project. It is at this site that the first of a series of murders occur. Despite his attempts to stay uninvolved, he finds himself immersed in the investigation. This leads to some complications as his girlfriend's son is one of the suspects. His investigative skills and unusual strategies enable him to navigate the complexities of the crimes and personalities to eventually solve the mysteries.

There are many humorous expressions and incidents in the book and it is an easy read. Mr. King is able to deal with the stereotypes regarding First Nations people and their community in a positive way. While the writing style is unique, at times it was difficult to keep all of the characters straight and the plot was somewhat convoluted. Overall our group found the book to be entertaining and it generated a good discussion. We would rate it a 5 out of 10.

Trilogy Book Club

Betty by Tiffany McDaniel

By Margaret Anne Fehr



Trilogy members met on March 18th to discuss our selection, *Betty* by Tiffany McDaniel. Thanks go out to Linda Green for hosting and also for her thematic St. Patrick's Day and Easter refreshments! YUM! Without question, *Betty* is a challenging read. Readers are immersed in a narrative that blurs the boundaries between fiction and memoir, offering an intimate glimpse into a family grappling with generational incestuous trauma. Spanning nearly 500 pages, this novel delves deep into the complexities of familial relationships, sexual abuse, racism, poverty, and the profound legacy they leave behind.

At its heart, "*Betty*" revolves around its eponymous protagonist, the second youngest in a family of eight children, four of whom tragically passed away as infants. The story unfolds from the 1950s and subsequent decades, chronicling *Betty*'s family's struggles and triumphs as they navigate the turbulent waters of their existence. *Betty*'s mother, Akla, burdened by the trauma of past sexual abuse from her father, finds solace in a chance encounter with Landon Carpenter, a Cherokee man. Their union becomes a refuge from Akla's painful past, though it is not devoid of challenges. As *Betty* matures amidst racism, poverty, and the loss of siblings, she becomes the custodian of her family's stories, eventually choosing to embark on a journey of self-discovery after graduating from high school, the first in her family to do so.

Throughout the novel, McDaniel's prose shines with poetic descriptions, showcasing *Betty*'s own talents as a writer. Each family member is rendered with depth and complexity, enriching the narrative with their individual stories and struggles. However, despite these strengths, "*Betty*" proves to be a demanding read, with its dense prose and weighty subject matter. While the novel offers a cathartic exploration of the ambiguous nature of dysfunction, it falls short in providing a clear moral or resolution. Additionally, some readers may find the length of the book excessive, feeling that the story could have been effectively conveyed in a shorter format.

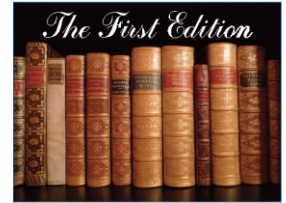
"*Betty*" is a commendable exploration of generational trauma, illuminated by McDaniel's skillful storytelling. However, its challenging nature and length may deter some readers, earning it a moderate rating of 5 or 6 out of 10 and preventing it from receiving Trilogy's full endorsement.

First Edition Book Club

Bath Haus by P.J. Vernon

submitted by Patricia Flanagan

The First Edition Book Club met March 11 to discuss this book. This book was classified as a “thriller” and considering the topic it was not very well received: average score of 4.4 The group felt the writing was good , but the felt the characterization of the gay community was demeaning. The group consensus was that they would not recommend this book to another reader.



Clubs: Games & Cards

Canasta

by Lorette Shermet

Twenty Four people played Canasta on Monday at Grace Church. We play for two hours and we are lucky if we can complete a game. Sometimes a full game to 5,000 points only takes an hour but msy take 2 ½ hours.

Lorette partnered with Ev against Penny and Ita. Not once but twice Lorette and Ev had a minus score as large as 520 as they did not make a meld so the red threes counted against them.

Canasta is played the 4th Monday at Grace Church. Lorette is willing to teach anyone who would like to learn how to play,



Mexican Train

Spring Weather Welcomes the Mexican Train

by Jenny O'Brien

It was a glorious, sunny day when 31 members converged on Grace Church to board the Mexican Train. We had 4 tables of 6 and 1 table of 7, and all were intent on winning their games, by shedding tiles as quickly as possible. There were times when some passengers couldn't open their own train, and other games where everyone wanted to ride the Mexican Train, but regardless of how they traveled, the smiles and laughter prevailed. In a game where high points make you the 'biggest loser', highest score of the day, but good sport honours, go to Doreen Chester with 185 points over 3 games. Lowest score honours go to John Flynn with 6 points, Evelyn Zanatta with 8 points and Kathy Schmidt with 14 points. We'll be back at the station next month, on Monday, April 1st, (no Joke :).



Cribbage

Hello seekers of the 29!

by Jenny O'Brien



The Cribbage Club will now be meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm in the Grace Church Hall and using the WA invite/registration process. The invite email will be sent out a week in advance. New registrations and cancellations will be accepted up to the day before. Malcolm Rea is the new convenor.

The capacity has been set to 20 players. When you register, you will receive a confirmation email. If the limit has been reached, add your name to the waitlist. If someone cancels, the next person on the waitlist will be automatically registered. If we get 4 members on the waitlist, we will up the registration limit to open another table of 4.

Please bring your own beverages and snacks and a toonie (\$2) for the church!

Jokers

by Maggie Boothe

Twenty eight people came out to join in the fun on Thursday, March 14, 2024. With each twist and turn, we shared unexpected laughter and camaraderie.



Friend or foe? One never knows in these exhilarating games. One of my opponents seemed to be printing Aces as he always had one to block my moves. Still we went round and round trying to get "home" before our opponents sent us back to "start". All in good fun!



Judging by the wonderful laughter and conversations everyone had a great time and we all look forward to racing for "home" next month."



BeeGees

Did the Nobles Visit?



by Diane Comstock, Convenor

Our March game was Splendor provided by Beth and Marg. Stephen, Beth, and Danielle played two games, the first won by Stephen (who was wealthy enough to receive a visit from a Noble) and the second by Beth. The other table, consisting of Marg, Jenny, Lorraine, and Diane, also played two games with Marg and Jenny taking top honours but no Nobles visited.

What do I mean by Nobles - you have to join us to play the game to find out.

Our game on April 10th will be Frustration suggested by Stephen. This game is similar to Phase 10 but played with two standard card decks. Anyone interested in playing games, let me know and I will add you to the group.



Euchre

By Jenny O'Brien

Our March Club gathering saw 20 euchre enthusiasts brave a cold and rainy day, to tackle the card tables and fight for bragging rights. As always, there was fun at every table, with the eventual high point score of 51 coming from the lovely Patricia Kotack, and most lone hands went to the lucky Diane Comstock, who racked up 3 loners in her final game of the day. Other notable high scores were turned in by Carol Marion (49), Danielle Bergeron (43) and Sharon White (42). Taking home the low rung on the ladder was the always dapper Wayne Herder, who slipped out before collecting his Loonie prize! Don't forget to join us next month, on Monday, 15th - remember to register in Wild Apricot.



Bid Euchre Sees Second Moon this Year

by Jenny O'Brien

With the return of winter and cold temperatures (both outside and in :), this month's Bid Euchre Club saw some really HOT hands. Top score in March resulted in a tie between Dave MacIntosh and Jenny O'Brien with 126 points each. Dave took home the prize money for this feat, while Jenny collected the cashola for 3 Call Two hands and 1 Shoot the Moon (her first ever). Rumor has it that this was the second Shoot the Moon hand this year, with Steve Comstock racking one up last month. (This author maintains that this is just a rumor as she was not there to authenticate .. LOL). Notable mention also goes to Cindy Penfold with a score of 120 and Marg Jones with a score of 117. Low point honours were also split this month, between Barb Campbell and Harold O'Brien. Remedial training is in the future for both of these card buffs. There'll be more fun on tap next month, on Thursday, April 19th at Grace Church. Some of our regulars will be 'cruising' so if you know how to play Bid Euchre and would like to give this Club a try, April is the time to do it!



Clubs: Sports & Dancing

Line Dancing

It Was Line Dancing Time

By Maggie Boothe



As the snow fell and the wind swirled outside, fifteen of us ladies were dancing up a storm at Grace Anglican Church. Line dancing that is!

We were taught how to do the “step and rumba and rockin-the-wagon-wheel”. We all had a great time and lots of laughter and clapping ensued.

Ita Sweeney and Evelyn Lim were the ones for me to watch as they both do all the steps perfectly.

Looking forward to next month’s new steps and fun times.

Let’s hope the sun is shining and the daffodils are blooming. See you then!!



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.



Mark Twain Quotes

submitted by Fred Ground

Distinguished American humorist Mark Twain is renowned for his various quotes-below are some of his funniest and insightful.

Never put off till tomorrow what may be done the day after tomorrow just as well.

The more I learn about people, the more I like my dog.

I was educated once-it took me years to get over it.

Get your facts first, the you can distort them as much as please.

We ought never to do wrong when people are looking.

No amount of evidence will ever persuade an idiot.

Never have a battle of wits with an unarmed person.

A clear conscience is the sure sign of a bad memory.

Laughter without a tinge of philosophy is but a sneeze of humor. Genuine humor is replete with wisdom.

To eat is human; to digest, divine.

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

There is no sadder thing than a young pessimist, except an old optimist.

If voting made an difference, they wouldn't let us do it.

Out of all the things that I have lost, I miss my mind the most.

Never argue with stupid people. They will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience.

Don't part with your illusions, When they are gone, you may still exist, but have ceased to live.

Clubs: Music

Music Lovers

Music Lovers Meet Irving Berlin!

Michael Hooker, Convenor



For our first March Zoomer, we listened to the timeless songs of Irving Berlin. Born in Russia in 1888, he arrived in America at age 5. He published his first song, "Marie from Sunny Italy", in 1907, receiving 33 cents for it!

He was known for writing music and lyrics in the American vernacular: simple and direct; songs like: "White Christmas", "Alexander's Ragtime Band", "God Bless America", with his stated aim being to "reach the heart of the average American," whom he saw as the "real soul of the country". During his 60-year career he wrote an estimated 1,500 songs, including the scores for 20 original Broadway shows and 15 original Hollywood films, with his songs nominated eight times for Academy Awards. Berlin died in 1989 at the age of 101.

His best-known musical was "Annie Get Your Gun", based on the real-life characters of Annie Oakley (1860–1926), a sharpshooter who starred in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, and her romance with sharpshooter Frank E. Butler (1847–1926). Jerome Kern had agreed to write the music for "Annie Get Your Gun", but died before he even started. Irving Berlin originally turned down the opportunity to replace Kern, but was persuaded by Oscar Hammerstein to take on the job, writing both words and music. Thank goodness he changed his mind!

Here's a 3-minute number from the film of "Annie Get Your Gun"- "Anything You Can Do", with Betty Hutton and Howard Keel: [click here](#)

Our second March program, called "Hungaria", featured Johannes Brahms' Hungarian Dances and Franz Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodies. Both Brahms (German) and Liszt (Hungarian) were heavily influenced by Hungarian folk and popular melodies and musical styles (often referred to as "Gypsy" music). The pianist for the Liszt Hungarian Rhapsodies, Gyorgy Cziffra, had been imprisoned by the Hungarian Communist authorities for attempting escape, but was able during the chaos of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution to slip across the border into Austria with his family, for a life in the West. In 1957 I saw him at his first London concert, playing Liszt's piano music – what an experience!

Here's a Brahms tickler – his 6th Hungarian Dance, played by the Budapest Symphony Orchestra conducted by Istvan Bogar. (3 minutes) : [click here](#)

Clubs: Travel

Travel Survey

Submitted by Joanne Millichamp

The travel company used for previous Probus trips would like our input into what trips they should offer to our club. The survey aims to gather preferences for the trips planned for 2025, and we value every member's input.

Please click on the survey link shown: [click here](#)

We kindly ask that all members please **complete the survey by April 15th**

Wanderlust

by Gloria Pennycock

Lorrette and Pete Shermet shared a wonderful presentation on Africa at Wanderlust. Not only was this an amazing journey through Tanzania and Zanzibar, it was a heart felt family vacation that brought Lorrette back to her roots. Here is their story:

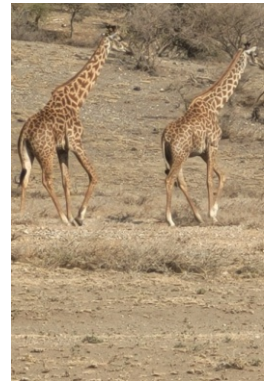
I immigrated to Canada at the age of 17 and never thought of returning to my birthplace. When I turned 60 Peter asked me what should we do for our 60th birthday (we are the same age) without hesitation I said "I would like to return to my birthplace." My grandparents immigrated to Tanzania in 1902 as Lutheran missionaries. Back then it was German East Africa, in 1920 it became Tanganyika and in 1964 Tanzania.

Going back, I saw things with a different set of eyes. My family had quite a history there. I made a promise to myself that when I turned 70 in 2021, I would take my whole family back. COVID happened, so I did it in 2023. Eight of us, my two daughters two son in laws 2 grandsons (14 and 10) Pete and myself.

We spent 19 days in Tanzania. The very next day of our arrival the kids tracked Mount Kilimanjaro. We stayed in a variety of unique lodges, in a wilderness camp, a Masai village, we visited Mbo Wamtu (River of Mosquitoes), Ngorongoro crater and Serengeti Park. We saw many exotic birds and wildlife. We saw the big 5, the black rhino through a spotting scope. We went on a hot air balloon ride over the Serengeti, flew from Arusha to Zanzibar where we spent four days and toured stone town, visited a spice farm had a dhow cruise.

Our last destination, my birthplace Dar-es-Salaam, we arrived at by a 12-seater plane. I visited my public school, high school, the house my grandfather built, St. Alban's the church I attended and was baptized in, beaches, my grandparents' grave site and many other sights. The very last night I connected with old school friends whom I had not seen in 53 years. I spent the night reminiscing the many good times. The next day we headed home to Canada. This was a trip of a lifetime and will firmly plant memories of My Heritage in my grandsons for future generations to understand.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining Wanderlust, a travellers dream team!!! We meet every second month via Zoom or in person. I am looking for interesting presentations for the second half of 2024.





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