FORUM



Merry Christmas

Volume 11 - Issue 12 - December 2023

President's Message:

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!



Wow – what a year! Can you even remember all the fun we had? Theatre, trivia, a dance, horse racing, alpaca farm, bowling, a picnic and line dancing, card games, board games, quilting, crafting, wine tasting, whiskey tasting, nosh nights, dinners out, book clubs, music club, movie nights, virtual travel, actual travel, lunch bunch etc., etc. Many thanks to Ruth Gagnon, Kelly Ground, Jenny O'Brien, all the dedicated committee members and convenors that made these venues happen. Congratulations to all of you!

Famous Femmes Fatales, Billionaire Murders, Milton & The Temperance Movement, just to name a few

of the great speakers we had this year. The speakers we enjoyed were interesting, informative and entertaining. Lots of variety, all thanks to Roy MacKay (Program Chair). Looking forward to the many surprises you have in store for us next year Roy. No time to hibernate this winter, Ellen & Paul Crawford (Activities Chairs) have lots of fun activities planned for us starting in January, 2024. Come out and join in the fun! Many compliments go to Roy Harrold (Vice-President) for his innovative way of asking

for Greeters for 2024. Thank you to all the volunteers that will be happily greeting us next year at our general meetings.

Welcome to all of our new members. There are lots of activities going on in our Club,

don't be shy, come out and meet some of your fellow Probians. Live, Laugh and Learn!

Please note: There will not be a General Meeting in December. (Next General meeting is January 17, 2024)

I am Looking forward to seeing everyone in January, 2024. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

— Maggie Boothe

Visit Probus Canada website: probuscanada.ca

Social Clubs...... 12

Visit Our Website: www.escarpmentprobus.com



'Tis the season to celebrate with good friends and there's no better place to toast the holiday season, than our annual Christmas luncheon. The festivities start at 11am on Wednesday, December 13th, at Granite Ridge Golf Course. We hope you'll enjoy the entertaining performance coming our way by Angelica Ganea**, singer, songwriter, author and accomplished speaker. Lunch will follow, and as always, great conversation and a perhaps a little fun thrown in for good measure.

I'd like to remind all attendees to ensure good health on the day of the luncheon. If in doubt leading up to the big day, please contact me. We have a growing waitlist for the luncheon, so remember these tickets are in hot demand!

We look forward to celebrating this joyful season with all of you!

Photo of the Month

Send your photos to patricia.belvedere@icloud.com and I will select one for inclusion each month.



ACTIVITIES

by Ellen and Paul Crawford

The holiday season is quickly approaching, with its ensuing hustle and bustle.

We wish to provide activities that will soothe your soul, energize your mind and activate your body for a well rounded experience.

We have highlighted events for the upcoming months. Stay tuned, more to come.

We wish all of you a joyous end to 2023 and a raucous start to 2024!

December ACTIVITIES:

Christmas Centerpiece at Crawfords Garden Centre

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

The smell of evergreens – pine, balsam, spruce.Bring these wonderful holiday smells into your home. Make your own Christmas Centerpiece to place on your dining room table or coffee table or even take it as a host/hostess gift. It's always a fun and creative time together so don't miss out!!

1st Session: Tuesday, December 5th at 10 am 2nd Session: Thursday, December 7th at 10 am

The cost for this event is \$45. These events are now full, but you can add your name to the waitlist.

Musical Bingo – Thursday, December 14th at 5 pm Convenors: Kelly Ground & Ruth Gagnon

An old game with a new twist. Come on out and try musical bingo! Join us at Ned Devine's for some Musical Bingo and good food! Instead of numbers on the card there will be some of the most recognizable and iconic songs you have heard throughout your life. With only seconds of play your musical knowledge will be tested. We will have the "music" cards and the bingo chips. Guaranteed laughter, fun and being together!



The cost for this event is \$5 plus your dinner/drinks. Please pre-select your meal using Wild Apricot.

January ACTIVITIES:

Bowling at Champs Thursday January 18 at 3:30 pm

Convenors: Ellen and Paul Crawford

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

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

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

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

Activities Committee:

Ruth Gagnon

Ellen, Paul Crawford



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

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

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

Recently we have being offering these as a "social" with sign up for four sessions. We will once again do that for the February to May timeframe. This is your chance to see if you like it and want to sign up for more! It's a great



LINE DANCING

exercise to enhance your coordination and balance. It is also good for your brain memory and heart health. Come on out and exercise your bones, get your heart rate up and get a good workout.

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

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

Convenors: Ellen and Paul Crawford

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

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



February ACTIVITIES:

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

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

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



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

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

Convenors: Peter Shermet & Jenny O'Brien

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



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

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

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

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

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

Convenors: Ellen and Paul Crawford

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

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



March ACTIVITIES:

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

Convenors: Roy MacKay & Jenny O'Brien

Just in time for St. Paddy's Day! Join us for a fun-filled evening and enjoy this charismatic, globe trotting trio, known as the most successful classical crossover act to emerge from Ireland. They just sing songs they



love, but you will get more than a show from world class artists; you will enjoy an evening to savour, with a sparkling good humoured performance. It's all about the music, the harmonies and the fun. The Celtic Tenors will perform classical arias, a capellas, hauntingly beautiful Celtic harmonies, and popular contemporary songs.

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

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

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

April ACTIVITIES:

Can You Escape? April 11, 11: 00 am

Convenors: Christine Taylor, Pam Grundie

Are you up for a challenge? You get one full hour in your designated room to search, solve and complete your mission. You will be randomly placed in teams to work together, to solve together, to win together. Please select your desired room: Wizarding World, Heros or Tomb



Raiders using Wild Apricot. Limit of 12 people to a room. You may be assigned to another room if the room selected is full. Winners will attain bragging rights!

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

DECEMBER CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE		TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
Christmas Arrangement	December	5	10:00 AM	Crawford's Garden	Ruth Gagnon
Probus Christmas Lunch	December	13	11:00 AM	Granite Ridge Golf	Jenny O'Brien
Executive Meeting	December	13	7:00 PM	Zoom	Maggie Boothe
Musical Bingo	December	14	5PM	Ned Devine's	Kelly Ground
Clubs					
Probus Info Exchange - PIE	Online only				Cliff Read
Dining - Saturday Night Lives	December	2	5:00 PM	Casa Americo	Ruth Gagnon
Games - Mexican Train	December	4	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Jenny O'Brien
Crafts - Quilting - Piece Makers	December	5	1:00 PM	TBD	Diane Comstock
Tastings - Whisky - D'Stillers	December	6	7:00 PM	TBD	Chris Strachan
Cards - Bridge	December	7	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Chris Lloyd
Music - Music Lovers	December	7	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Nosh & Natter	December	8	5:30 PM	Boothe Home	Michael Boothe
Books – Trilogy	December	11	10:00 AM	TBD	Dawn Ross
Books – First Edition	December	11	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Diane A./Penny M.
Cards - Cribbage - Card Sharps	December	11	7:00 PM	Capper Home *	Martin Capper
Cards - Cribbage - Card Sharps	December	12	2:00 PM	Capper Home *	Martin Capper
Movies - Oscar Nights	December	12	7:00 PM	Milton Cineplex	Petra Halk
Games - Bee-Gees	December	13	1:00 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Diane Comstock
Games - Jokers	December	14	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Auriel Halliday
Line Dancing with Tammy	December	15	12:30 PM	Grace Church Bsmnt*	Ruth Gagnon
Books – Sequel	December	15	1:15 PM	Millichamp Home	Carolyn Rumley
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	December	15	7:00 PM	Halliday/Evans home	Martin Capper
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	December	15	7:00 PM	Halliday/Evans home	Martin Capper
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	December	15	7:00 PM	Halliday/Evans home	Martin Capper
Cards - Euchre	December	18	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Lorrette Shermet
Cards - Bid Euchre	December	21	1:15 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Lorrette Shermet
Music - Music Lovers	December	21	2:00 PM	Zoom	Michael Hooker
Nosh @ Nite	December	22	5:30 PM	TBD	Barb Finnie
Dining - Appy Hour	December	23	6:30 PM	TBD	Mary Cousins
Friendship Club	December	27	10:00 AM	Seasons Retirement*	Judy Krauss
Games - Jokers	December	29	1:30 PM	Grace Church Hall*	Auriel Halliday

Temporary change

* Permanent location

Clubs on Hold seeking new convenors:

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

MEETING: DECEMBER

Because of the Christmas luncheon there will not be a December meeting.

RECENT EVENTS

November General Meeting

Our general meeting was held on Wednesday November 15 at the Connect Centre.

Ruth Gagnon was thanked for her amazing work of organizing activities for the past 5 years. Peter Lasota was thanked for his outstanding work of editing the Forum for the past 4 years.

The happy winner of the 50/50 draw was Maggie Boss.

























December 2023

Escarpment PROBUS Forum

Speaker at November General Meeting

by Roy MacKay, Program Chair

On November 15th, 125 Members had the pleasure of hearing Ted Barris speaking on "The Liberation of The Netherlands in WWII".

Backed up by video, slides and real-life stories, Ted gave an empassioned account of the horrors and bravery associated with the War. Ted paid special attention to the contribution of Canadian military personnel during the liberation of The Netherlands from Nazi occupation. Over 7600 Canadians paid the ultimate sacrifice on the mission.



Canada is so fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated chronicler of Canadian Service Personnel in past



wars and in doing so Ted pays great honour to their role and to preserve their memory. This is the third time Ted has spoken to our Club and his presentation was so well received, we have invited him back to speak on November 20,2024.

For those who may be interested, Ted is conducting a D-Day, 80th Anniversary Tour of France and Belgium from May 15-26,2024. Further information may be obtained from MeritTravel.com/ 1 866 341 1777. The Trip code is RM-1750.

Lunch Bunch Banter

Joy Castello - Convenor



After November's Probus meeting, 30 members went to Champs Sports Grille for lunch. Nikki, the assistant manager

had the tables set up and ready for us. She was on her own and it took a bit longer to serve everyone drinks and food but she was as efficient as

she could be. Her friendly demeanor made our lunch experience very pleasant.

On December 13th, many of us will

be going to Granite Ridge Golf Course for our Annual Christmas Luncheon. The address is 9503 Dublin Line, Milton. Luncheon begins at 11:00am.



PunchBunchBanter

Seniors in Pursuit of Trivia

By Kelly Ground

Who was chosen in 2008, as the new face of Louis Vuitton?

- a) George Michael
- b) Keith Richards
- c) Scarlett Johansen

d) George Clooney

What's chilly on the outside, warm, crowded and full of friends on the inside?

Why it's Kahoot trivia at Ned Devine's. The evening was shared with the Skip the Dishes crowd; thanks for coming Ella! The evening also saw four new players, Cathy Schmidt, Bill Willcocks, Evelyn Lim and Cindy Penfold. It's always a treat to see new faces come out!

The evening was characterized by competitive play, the lead quickly changed multiple times amongst a number of the teams. Last month's winners, Anna and Chris Strachan, Fred Ground and Barb Finnie were a respectable third place this month with 159 questions answered correctly.

*Continued**>>>



Second place with 158 correctly answered questions was Patricia Belvedere with teammates Bob Stringer and Doreen Chester. A strong finish

The evening's winners with 164 questions successfully answered were Liz and Cliff Read with Roy and Anne Mackay. Their usual impressive results!

Thanks again to Ned Devine's for their hospitality and delicious cuisine. Next trivia is Thursday January 25th Since it's multiple choice it is not as daunting as it could be, everyone is invited and encouraged to come out participate.



Don't Cry for Us, Probus Members

by Jenny O'Brien

It was a cool and drizzly afternoon, when 53 of us made our way to Cambridge's lovely Hamilton Family Theatre. Awaiting us was a sold out production of Evita! that would rival anything seen in downtown Toronto for 3 times the price. The stellar cast gave it their all, with fabulous costumes, energetic dance sequences and vocal performances that would bring a tear to your eye. I think it's safe to say, our members were awed by this dynamic and impactful story, and the wonderful venue that hosted us. After the show, 26 of us traveled back to Milton to enjoy dinner and conversation at The Rad Brothers. The only thing better than an afternoon of live theatre, is an evening where someone else does the cookin'!

Until next time Theatre Buffs ...



















Probus Goes to the Races

By Jenny O'Brien

It was a clear, cool evening on November 17th, when 72 Probus members descended on Mohawk Race Track to try our hand at wagering on the ponies, while enjoying dinner and beverages with friends. The hoots and hollers could be heard across the restaurant as we cheered on our favourite horses. It was fun to watch folks read the program and decide where to make their financial donations for the evening, and rumour has it some members even won paper money (vs coins). We all came away with a little more understanding around Exactas, Trifectas and Superfectas and some even dared to box their picks. A few adventurous souls took a stroll down to the paddocks and got a little horse love. Most of us went home a little lighter in the wallet, but full of another evening of great Probus memories.

























Me or You

by Kelly Ground

A tournament by any other name! Sixteen couples began the competition, then that was narrowed down to eight couples, then to four, the final two and then the grand prize winners with bragging rights of knowing each other best!



With thirty-two competitors and a dozen spectators, it was a bustling crowd. I don't think I've ever laughed as much, some of us laughed until we cried! I am also happy to report there are no divorces looming; at one point in time Margaret M took a quick survey to make sure she was indeed correct! Chris almost had the wrath of most of the women in the audience when instead of hearing the question "Who worries more?" he heard "Who weighs more"? The look on Anna's face!

Being married for a long time didn't matter much to the Cappers who faced off with the McKays. Both couples were married the exact same day fifty years ago, but Martin insists that due to the time difference they have actually been married longer!

Couples feel they know their spouses, sisters too, as Patricia Belvedere played with her sister and 'bestie' Fiona Christie. Perhaps they do know but the funny thing is each was so adamant that they were correct in their answerw that too was funnyas terrific and boosted by having two dedicated servers.





















SOCIAL CLUBS

Clude	Data/Time	Caminana	Talambana	Email
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	johnstonlynda 50@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		1,6 1, 11 1, 11
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	233 00003	9F 1 000 1/G 1010 00 0111

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 Chris Willekes



On Friday November 24, 17 erstwhile Probians trekked to Mississauga for Nosh at the Willekes household, and so began another memorable evening of social banter, entertaining stories of days gone by and a wonderful selection of foods.



This was followed by desserts tea and coffee with more conversation. A great evening was had by all and to all a good night.







Nosh & Natter

by Jenny O'Brien

It was a full house at the Milton Murphy's on Friday, November 10th, when the N&N group descended. Turns out it was the hottest ticket in town, and understandably so, with all the good eats we got to feast on!





From yummy dips to sensational sushi, creamy chicken pasta casear salad to home cooked ribs, three types of meatballs and marvellous mini quiche, succulent shrimp, sausage rolls and spanokopita, and delicious chinese chicken and rice and savory cheddar bacon truffles. Suffice to say, nobody left hungry.

In typical Irish fashion, our hosts delighted us with amazing desserts including bread & butter pudding, traditional trifle with just a touch of whiskey and delectable oatmeal, cranberry and white chocolate



cookies!

There was a buzz in the air from the first arrivals to the final goodbyes, but everyone agreed it was another fine evening of great food fellowship.







Continued >>>>









Saturday Night LiveS at Lone Star

Convenor: Ruth Gagnon

Shotgun did a great job serving 24 hungry and thirsty Probians. Frank was proof as to just how thirsty we were while a couple of us were disappointed in the wine selection. We never fail to have a good time so that was put aside and there were many conversations happening with a lot of laughter. The table across from us was celebrating a birthday so Roy was kind enough to point out just what they would look like in 40 years! Cheers until the next time!

Note: SNL for December 2nd will be at Casa Americo at 5 pm.











Skip the Dishes

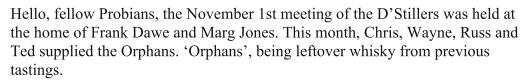
by Lorrette Shermet

Skip the Dishes will NOT be meeting in December, as it is too close to our big Christmas lunch.



D'Stillers

by Chris Strachan, Convenor





Following are the Whiskies we tasted and their respective scores:

- 1 The winning whisky of the evening was 'Courvoisier VS' a French Cognac with a score of 74.5%, cost of \$64.50 and an ABV (Alcohol by Volume) of 40%.
- 2 'John Walker & Sons Celebratory Blend" a blended Scotch with a score of 71.8%, cost of \$89.00 and 51% ABV.
- 3 'Waterproof' a blended malt Scotch with a score of 71.6%, cost of \$59.95 and 45.8% ABV.
- 4 'Glendalough Double Barrel' an Irish Whiskey with a score of 65.3%, cost of \$49.49 and 42% ABV.
- 5 'White Owl' a Canadian Whiskey with a score of 58.4%, cost of \$39.85 and 40% ABV.

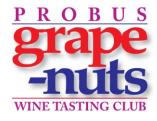
I thank Marg for hosting the DDs (Designated Drivers) and the yummy treats she supplied when we all got together after the tasting. As always, my thanks to the DDs for getting everyone home safe and sound.

The December 6th meeting will be held at the home of Ron and Joanne Millichamp where the 'Orphans' will be supplied by Bill, Martin, Pete and Frank,

Grapenuts

by Theresa Spano and Dawn Ross

On Thursday Nov. 2 we had our Grapenuts wine tasting. It was a wonderful evening that was full of conversation, laughter and of course wine drinking. The theme for our tasting was 'around the world with wines'. We served wines from 6 countries. The white wines came from Argentina, France and South Africa and the reds came from Chili, Australia and Greece.



There was a quiz at the end to see how much we 'really ' know about wine and if anyone could match the country with the wine. This was harder to do than any of us could imagine. A few tasters correctly identified 2 countries but the majority struggled to get one correct out of the six wines.

The highest rating wine of the evening was a surprise to everyone. It was a red wine from Greece, 'Alpha Estate Xinomavro' with 2g sugar/L and 14% alcohol . Upon the first sip everyone knew it was going to be the winner . We did go over budget on this one though at \$26.95 a bottle.

Who would have thought this Greek red wine would be ranked higher than some of our more popular well-known wine regions of Australia and Chile.

Until next month, keep enjoying your wine!

GrapeNuts

by Pete Shermet

Eight thirsty sippers gathered on November 1st at the home of John and Julie Flynn.

We tasted three Chardonnays from three different countries, and then three Cabernet Sauvignons, also from three different countries. It was interesting to compare them and note how much they varied. The top score overall went to Tête de Lion from South Africa.





GrapeNuts

Caristena/Serra Grapenuts

by Simone Serra

On November 6, our Grapenuts group gathered at the Caristena/Serra residence. The theme was "Everything New". We tasted new release wines under \$20.00, which were written up by Carolyn Evans Hammond from the Toronto Star. The three whites included a Pecorino (Latte Miele), a Chardonnay (One Pound Per Acre), and a Grillo (Doppio Passo). All the wines were well received. Special mention goes to the Chardonnay, One Pound Per Acre, from Australia. It's crisp and balanced flavour, along with a \$9.95 price tag, made it a big hit with the group! The reds, all from Italy, included a primitive (Zensa), a Montepulciano (Senzatempo) and a Cabernet Sauvignon (Eugenio

Collavini). The final score was very close, but Senzatempo was the group favourite red wine.

It was a great night filled with tasty wines and lively conversation!











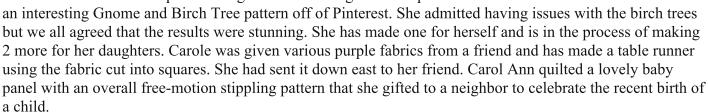
Clubs: Books and Crafts

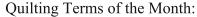
PieceMakers

Table Runners

by Diane Comstock - Convenor

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, the PieceMakers met at Dawn's house for their monthly meeting. In honor of Remembrance Day, Dawn had a poppy table runner on her coffee table that she had quilted using a cross-hatching diamond pattern. Sandi found





Cross-Hatching – Quilting in parallel lines—vertical and horizontal—and forming a grid of squares or diamonds.

Stippling: An allover quilting pattern characterized by a series of randomly curved lines that do not cross. Stippling is used to fill in background areas, which allows motifs to be more prominent. Also called allover meandering.

We will gather for the last meeting in 2023 at Carol Ann's home on December 5th.

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

group.







First Edition Book Club

by Julie Flynn

This month we read Five Little Indians by Michelle Good. The book follows five young people and how they deal with the trauma they experienced at a residential school. All of them are wounded in some way. Three of them - Lucy, Clara and Howie - are able to find their way after much time to a life of purpose and meaning. The other two - Maisie and Kenny - eventually succumb to drugs or drinking.



The book provoked a lot of discussion as it was a difficult read emotionally but overall scored fairly well: a low of 5 to a high of 7.5, for an average of 6.9.

Sequel Book Club

What Strange Paradise by Omar El Akkad

by Barbara Alderson, correspondent



This novel, the winner of the 2021 Giller Prize, is a compelling examination of a refugee story, as seen through the ordeal of a nine year Syrian child named Amir. In this beautifully written book the author presents an intimate and humanizing view of the plight of migrants.

It begins with the image of a child lying on a beach littered with the wreckage of a smugglers' ship. An image that is so reminiscent of the 2015 photo, that caused such outrage when published, of the drowned two year old refugee child named Kurdi. But in this novel the child Amir has somehow survived.

Amir's story is structured in alternating chapters titled Before and After, concluding with the final jarring chapter titled Now. Before recounts Amir's life as a Syrian refugee, his family's passage to Egypt and, what he experiences on the smugglers' vessel. After is set on the small island in the Mediterranean where he has washed ashore. Alone and unable to understand the local language he is helped by Vanna, a 15 year old islander, in his effort to reach a safe harbour. Other characters in the novel are often presented to voice varying attitudes towards migrants and the causes of this crisis.

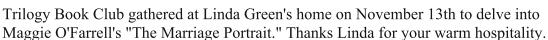
Our discussion of What Strange Paradise was very interesting given our club members had a such a wide variety of comments about this book. As so often happens these conversations can add so much to the understanding of a particular novel and, in this case, I wished I had time to re-read this selection. We agreed it was well written and would recommend it, while cautioning that the subject is difficult.

Our December meeting will be at the home of Joanne Millichamp and the selection is And the Birds Rained Down.

Trilogy Book Club

Marriage Portrait







Set in Renaissance Italy during the 1550s in Florence, the novel draws from real-life characters and events, focusing on Lucrezia de' Medici, the third and youngest daughter of the Grand Duke. Lucrezia's life takes an unexpected turn when her older sister, betrothed to the Duke of Ferrara, dies suddenly. This tragedy propels Lucrezia into an unfamiliar court, marked by opaque customs and mixed reception. Forced to marry Alfonso, her life becomes a whirlwind of mistrust and fear as she discovers different facets of his character. The tension escalates as Lucrezia grapples with her role, recognizing her duty to secure the Ferranese dynasty's future by providing an heir.

The narrative explores the halls of power and the challenges of maintaining noble lineages, vividly portraying the excesses of wealth.

A central theme is the portrayal of women as chattel, exemplified by 14-year-old Lucrezia being chosen solely for her child-bearing potential, underscoring her role as a pawn in the nobility's intricate games.

While the novel possesses merits, our group found the back-and-forth timelines disorienting, impacting our overall enthusiasm. While acknowledging the novel's attempt to portray the complexities of Renaissance Italy, our group found the execution hindered our overall enjoyment, prompting a mixed reception and lukewarm endorsement.

Despite the exploration of these themes, our group rated the book between 4 to 6 and we did not recommend it overall. The disorienting storytelling impacted our engagement, making it challenging to fully appreciate the historical intricacies and the emotional depth of Lucrezia's journey.

Clubs: Games & Cards

Jokers

by Ellen and Paul Crawford, Correspondents

Twenty-eight Probus members met for an exhilarating afternoon of Joker play. The usual boisterous level of laughter and good fellowship was in great supply. The trio of Michael, Ted and Bob were all undefeated.

The hosts were Ellen and Paul Crawford.















EuchrePhoto Gallery













BeeGees

Are You a Game Player?

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

The BeeGees is a social club that meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month to play games. Did you know that since we started in June 2016, we have played 35 different games, ranging from cards (Wizard, Phase 10, Play Nine, Rummoli, Five Crowns, Sequences), strategy (Catan, Ticket to Ride, Jamaica,

Splendor), dominoes (Chicken Feet, Mexican Train, Tri-ominoes), word (Balderdash, Code Words, Alphabet Dice), and dice (Yahtzee, Farkle, Yahtzee Showdown), just to name a few.

The club is a good opportunity to get out that game you have always wanted to play, but can't find enough willing players. Let me know if you are interested in the club and if you have a favourite game to play in 2024!

Our December get-together has been pre-empted by the Christmas Luncheon, but I hope to see more of you on January 10th.

Mexican Train

Inaugural Ride a Huge Success!

by Jenny O'Brien

A capacity crowd of 46 members boarded the inaugural ride of the Probus Express, with the kickoff of this new Club. It was a great afternoon, with lots of clatter and chatter and trains coming and going. Mexican train is much like dominoes, and requires players to lay tiles against corresponding numbered

and coloured tiles. The objective is to be the first one to play all your tiles and to have the lowest score. We played three games at each table and the best players of the day were Peter Shermett with a unbelievably low score of 4, followed by Harold O'Brien with an equally impressive score of 7 and then Lynda Johnson and Diane Comstock with a most admirable score of 14. At the other end of the spectrum, was Ruth Gagnon with a jaw dropping 166, followed by Joanne Millichamp with a staggering 188 and riding the caboose was Judy Kraus with painful 211. There were lots of first time players out to learn the game, but everyone picked it up quickly and had lots of fun. Next month we'll meet on Monday, December 4th at 1:30 pm, in the lower hall of the Grace Church station. Jim and Michelle Tschirhart will be our hosts. If you'd like to be added to the Mexican Train distribution list, please send an email to Jenny O'Brien.







Mexican Train



Continued >>>>





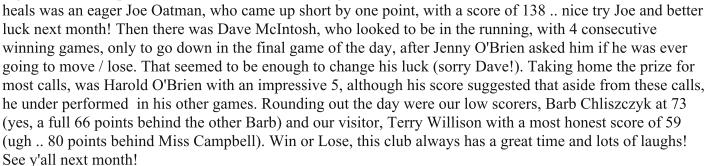
Bid Euchre

Bid Euchre Bonanza

by Jenny O'Brien

Our November Bid Euchre club saw some big winners and some big losers. We had 4 full tables and 1 training table that saw Lorrette pulled in many directions (shocker!), for a great turnout of 20 people.

A fairly new member to the game, Barb Campbell, took home bragging rights with a high score of 139 points, obtained with 4 calls throughout the afternoon. Hot on her



Line Dancing

The Cowgirls Were Out Again!

By Ruth Gagnon

Seventeen cowgirls strutted their stuff again on Friday, November 24th as we line danced our hearts out.

Melvin was an excellent encourager to us and is doing an awesome job continuing to teach us the steps to different dances. Most line dances are four steps over four beats of music, but Melvin challenged us once again to the waltz which is three steps. We did the grapevine, the "V", the slide, the drag, the brush, the rocking chair, the Charleston and more!

It's hard to believe that 2023 is almost gone! Our last Line Dancing class of 2023 is on Friday, December 15th.

Before we sign up for our next four sessions (February to May) we are going to offer Line Dancing as an "activity" and open it up to all members. This class will be held on Friday, January 19th at 12:30 pm and we will meet in the lower hall of Grace Anglican Church. Maybe some cowboys will give it a try! Check out Wild Apricot for the details!!





LINE DANCING





Other Clubs Music Lovers

Michael Hooker – Convenor

We have a new name – "MUSIC LOVERS"

We started, as Mozart and Friends, as a primarily "classical" group, but over time our interests have morphed into all spheres of music. So after discussion \mathbf{C} we agreed that our name should really represent the whole breadth of music,

or, in the words of Cole Porter, "Anything Goes". And by democratic nomination and vote we picked this name – "Music Lovers".

Asoka Yapa, just back from three of Europe's greatest musical capitals, Prague, Budapest, Vienna, played us a program called "Folk Impressions"; 28 short pieces by 20 different European composers.

Asoka wrote (in his program notes): "I can understand the inspiration that led composers to write what they did: from their own imaginations or from the countryside and culture they were immersed in. I'd like to think that the music we will hear today was the legacy of folk melodies that evolved from where the composers lived; the mountains, the rivers, village and town life, economic circumstances, culture, political developments".

For your listening pleasure, here's a link to Johannes Brahms "Hungarian Dance No. 5" - 2 ½ minutes.

Click here to see Youtube video.

For our second November program, Judy Osman played us a program of Choral Music; some classical / some not; some old / some modern; and for many of us, largely unfamiliar. But all really enjoyable.

Here's a 3-minute clip: Ladysmith Black Mambazo, an all-male choral group from South Africa, singing "Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrica" (Lord Bless Africa); a hymn originally composed in 1897 by Enoch Sontonga, a Xhosa clergyman at a Methodist mission school near Johannesburg. The traditional music sung by Ladysmith Black Mambazo was born in the mines of South Africa where black workers were taken to work far away from their homes and their families. When the miners returned to the homelands, the musical tradition returned with them.

Click here to see the Youtube video.

Our December Zoom sessions are:

7 December at 2 pm: Cole Porter - Words and Music, a Song and Dance Fest. 24 titles, mostly video clips from film and live events.

21 December at 2 pm: Our Christmas Program – "Members' Choice".

If you're interested in hearing either of these great programs, please email me (mhooker10@bell.net) and I'll send you the program notes and Zoom sign-in link. Everybody is welcome, music loving is UNIVERSAL.

Did I read that sign right?

1. TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW.

2. In a Laundromat:

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT.

3. In a London department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS...

4. In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN.

5. In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK, STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD.

Wanderlust

Gloria Pennycock - Correspondent

If you are interested in travel and would like to join Wanderlust, please let me know. We meet every second month usually by Zoom but sometimes in person.



The Wanderlust group were treated to a wonderful presentation by Michael and Maggie Boothe who shared their trips to Nottingham, Turkey and Palermo. Not only were the pictures great, they shared some very interesting information about the places that were visited. A big Thanks to Maggie and Michael for their presentation!!!

In January, Liz and Cliff Read will share their recent trip to Devon and Cornwall, England.

From Maggie & Michael:

One of the special places we visited was Wollaton Hall in Nottingham, England. This is a 16th century manor that was once the home of Sir Francis Willoughby. It was the place where the key scenes from the Batman movie, The Dark Knight Rises were filmed in 2011. It is now a fascinating museum that depicts life in those times. This museum displays the world-renowned works of Dr. Willard Wigan. He is the creator of tiny sculptures that can only be seen through a microscope. An example of this is a sculpture of Robin Hood in the eye of a needle.

The next stop on our trip was the ancient city of Ephesus, Turkey. The excavation of this city started in 1970. It now allows visitors to experience the world of Roman times. Cleopatra and Mark Anthony honeymooned there in the year 188 AD. One of the most fascinating structures was the Temple of Artemis were the famous library held between 12,000 to 15,000 scrolls.

Off to Palermo, Sicily where the beautiful streets offer many outside markets, stunning bakeries and cute little cafes. The official symbol of the city of Palermo is the elephant. According to legend, the elephant protected the first population from all fierce and dangerous animals as well as Mount Etna.

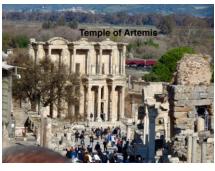
The Palermo Cathedral is a site worth visiting. This Cathedral has incorporated a varied style of architecture ranging from Gothic to neo classical. It offers visitors an opportunity to observe the best views of the entire city on the walkway at the top of the Cathedral.

Happy Travels everyone!











Escarpment PROBUS Forum

TRAVEL

Portuguese Transatlantic Voyage

by Joanne Millichamp, Convenor

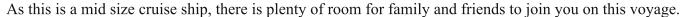
As our PROBUS Club is celebrating our 10th anniversary this October, I decided to offer two trips for next year. For the first time, we are offering an ocean cruise aboard the Norwegian Star, which was completely renovated in 2021. The cruise is called Portuguese Transatlantic Voyage and the dates are April 8th to 27th, 2024.

We fly into Rio de Janeiro and have arranged for a 2-night hotel stay, guided city tours plus two lunches and transfers. The itinerary includes 4 stops in Brazil, 2 stops in the Cape Verde Islands, 2 stops in the Canary Islands and a stop in Madeira.

Pricing is complex with ocean cruises as there are a variety of

cabin types at different price ranges. At the present time we are holding oceanview cabins with a picture window and balcony cabins, however inside cabins and other

categories are also available.



Brochures are available with all the details you need to know. Please call me — Joanne Millichamp at 289-878-2969 or email jmillichamp@hotmail.com for detailed pricing information.



by Joanne Millichamp, Convenor

Please note that there is only 1 single and 1 double room still available for this trip. If these rooms are still available in January we will open up the trip to family and friends.

Our second trip is called "The Flavours of Southern Italy", and is a much slower, more relaxed type of holiday than some of our previous trips. The main focus of the trip will be the food and wine of the two areas we are visiting, Puglia and Abruzzo. Dates of the trip are September 14th to 30th, 2024.



Christ the Redeemer,

Rio de Janeiro

Our first stop is in the Puglia region, located in the southeastern part of the country, part of the "boot" on the Adriatic Sea. We spend 4 nights in the town of Conversano. The town is a hidden gem with beautiful architecture, including a medieval castle. We will visit an olive farm on our first day there. Lecce, known as the "Florence of the South" for its distinctive Baroque architecture. We visit the 25,000-seat amphitheatre dating from the 1st century BC. One of the highlights of our trip will be a visit to Alberobello where we will see the Trulli houses, traditional dry-stone houses with cone-shaped roofs, made from local limestone. Some houses date to the 1500's. We will enhance our cooking skills and prepare a specialty lunch here.

From our base in Bari, we visit the coastal village of Polignano A Mare. Next is a private culinary journey through the town of Matera, visiting local restaurants and food shops for tastings of authentic local foods. In

Continued >>>>

Trani, a charming seaport town, we will enjoy a wonderful lunch accompanied by Moscato di Trani wine and figs. After lunch we visit a cheese farm and learn about the making of various cheeses from this region.

Then we move on to the Abruzzo area, known for its natural landscape, beautiful forests and gently rolling hills. In Vasto we have our second cooking class, "Chitarra pasta, polpette and tarallucci."

On the Trabocchi Coast, we will see the 'trabocco' the region's symbol and visit these fishing platforms as well as enjoy a seafood lunch. Our next stop is Sulmona, known for its age-old confetti production. Confetti is the name they give to sugared almonds and we will taste many of these varieties. Next is a day in the countryside visiting Scanno Lake, Sagittarius Gorge and the village of Bugnara, dating to the middle ages.

The next visit is to Cantina Mazzarosa, the most historic winery in the region, dating from 1863. We will tour their historic cellar and also have an olive oil tasting. Next, a delightful picnic lunch set among the olive grove's trees, a perfect blend of relaxation, culinary delights, nature, and of course wine.

We then travel to Rome where we will enjoy a farewell dinner before flying home the next day. Price for this trip is \$6,590 per person and the single supplement is \$1,250. There is also a 3-day optional add on in Rome at a cost of \$1,590 per person. This trip is restricted to 34 people only and everyone must be a member of our club. Please ensure you have insurance for trip interruption, cancellation and health.

For more information, please contact Joanne Millichamp - 289-878-2969 or email jmillichamp@hotmail.com.

NEWS AND VIEWS

NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION MEETING By Bonnie Walsh, Membership Chair

On November 22nd, several of our newer members gathered to hear about the many possibilities that membership in Escarpment Probus has to offer.

Carmela and Diego Cardillo, Eilish Anderson, Robert Lebret, Sandra and Arthur Smith, Polly Tan, Joan Davie Woodall and Margaret Hanna Dick were all welcomed in true Probus style and encouraged to sign up, join up, and step up to contribute to the club by sharing their interests and talents.

Many thanks to Russ Cousins, Roy Harrold, Jenny O'Brien, Kelly Ground, Joanne Millichamp, Judy Krauss and Dawn Ross for being wonderful ambassadors for Escarpment Probus with informative and interesting talks to accompany the slide presentation. We were all ready to party with Jenny, sign up with Kelly and travel with Joanne!

It was a great opportunity to make connections and familiarize themselves with our clubs, activities and social events. And of course coffee and treats are always the best icebreaker!

Many thanks to Lorrette Shermet for facilitating use of the Anglican Church.

For any newcomers who weren't able to attend, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or queries. There are always long-time members ready to answer your questions.



MANAGEMENT TEAM



President Maggie Boothe 905-636-1564 mbdice5@gmail.com



Vice-President Roy Harrold 905-876-3357 rharrold@sympatico.ca



Past-President **Russ Cousins** 647-221-4080 rrcousins@outlook.com



Treasurer Cindy Penfold 416-540-3712 cindy.penfold@hotmail.com kmground@gmail.com



Secretary **Kelly Ground** 905-339-6831



Activities Co-Chairs Paul & Ellen Crawford 289-878-4968 paulellencrawford@ gmail.com



Membership Chair Bonnie Walsh 905-878-0455 bonwalsh@hotmail.com



Social Chair Jenny O'Brien 289-851-8477 jenny0103@rogers.com



Program Chair Roy MacKay 416-953-0633 roy@roymackay.ca



FORUM/Web Editor Patricia Belvedere 905-699-4687 Patricia.belvedere@ icloud.com

If you need help with using our website, feel free to contact a member of the Technical Support Group:

Diane Comstock (meljenscc@sympatico.ca) – login, passwords, renewals, member applications

- website page errors, mobile app for admins

David Marion (DTMarion@hotmail.com) – events, online payments, mobile app for members

Bill King (gokingbee@gmail.com) - events, online payments, mobile app for members

Lorrette Shermet (lorrette@sympatico.ca) - events, Zoom, online payments

FORUM - THE ESCARPMENT PROBUS CLUB OF MILTON NEWSMAGAZINE This newsletter is published monthly in PDF format. If you know someone who you feel might be interested in joining the Escarpment PROBUS Club, please forward this publication with our compliments.

FORUM Deadline

The editor notifies the management team and all convenors of the deadline for articles and pictures for publication for each issue. Stories and articles may be emailed to the editor or submitted to any member of the management team. Escarpment PROBUS Club reserves the right to refuse, edit, or change any copy or image submitted.