

PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



PROBUS Club of Ajax, Club # 82 Ajax, Ontario

Vol 23 Issue 2

February 5, 2020

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905-706-4626
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NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY 5th February – 10:00
HMS AJAX ROOM – SOUTH ENTRANCE AJAX COMMUNITY CENTRE
MEETING FEE \$2.00 PER PERSON

President's Message



Last week, I had dinner with my brother Harvey and we were reminiscing about growing up in the Beach area of Toronto, and how much life has changed since then. Perhaps some of the following memories are familiar to you as well.

When Harvey and I were young, milk was delivered door to door by a horse drawn cart, and the milk bottle put in a milk box in the side of our house. Bread and pastries were delivered by a horse drawn cart too. On occasion, a man would go up the street calling out "rags, used clothing" in an aging horse drawn wagon. And then there was a man on foot, who pulled a portable grinder behind him to sharpen knives and scissors.

In our childhood, nothing was ever thrown out that could be repaired. Tinkers repaired pots and pans. I remember our mother repairing holes in socks using yarn, a needle and a wooden ball over which she stretched the sock.

We had a tub washing machine with a hand operated wringer. All the wash was hung on a line outside to dry - winter and summer. When the bedsheets were brought inside in the winter, they would stand up on their own. Coal was delivered down a chute into our basement to operate our furnace. A block of ice was delivered regularly for our ice box. Salesmen for the Encyclopedia and Fuller Brush Company went door to door to sell their products.

We had one rotary dial phone in the house for everyone to use. Many of our neighbours had party lines. There were no calculators or computers.

We had a black and white television set with rabbit ears. Later we purchased an outdoor antennae so we could receive a total of six channels. We had to walk to the television set to change the channels. The television screen was approximately 15 inches square and was housed in a huge wooden cabinet. Dragnet, The Ed Sullivan Show and Hockey Night in Canada with Foster Hewett were popular shows.

Before television, we had a large wooden radio which we gathered around to listen to shows like Fibber McGee and Molly, Amos and Andy and Jack Benny.

That was then. Life is so different now. Sometimes I long for the simplicity of life in the 1940s and 1950s, but then I enjoy the advancements too, like central heating and air conditioning, automatic washers and dryers, and all the technological devices such as smart TVs, computers and cell phones. Either way life was, and is good!

Have a great day!

Joyce

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

We regret that Bev Smith has had to resign as Vice President of the Management Committee. We would like to thank Bev for her contribution to the committee and to our club.

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We are pleased to welcome David French to our Management Team.

David is a Charter Member of the PROBUS Club of Ajax. In addition, he is a longstanding member of the Rotary Club. David had a successful career in management with Sears Canada. We are very pleased and honoured that David is joining the Management Committee as Vice President.



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MEMBERSHIP

A reminder, please keep in mind that it is essential that I be told when you move, change your phone number or email address.

Also, we count on your cooperation to let me know when one of our members is in the hospital or when our members and their families are bereaved.

The Club wants to give our distressed members and their families our support but it can only happen if the Membership Coordinator is aware of serious issues troubling our members.



Tom Rosebush, Membership Coordinator
905-426-1598 tom.rosebush@gmail.com

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Each month our membership continues to grow. The Ajax PROBUS Management Team would like to thank you for joining our club.

Please welcome your new fellow member: **Ray Smith**

PROBUS SPEAKERS



Jerry Amernic is the author of *BABE RUTH – A Superstar’s Legacy*, the first book about the legacy of Ruth. Babe Ruth’s grandson Tom Stevens wrote the Foreword and his daughter Julia was also involved. This book goes far beyond baseball and sport, and gets into history, culture, the arts, business and marketing. Jerry did presentations at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, at the Babe Ruth Museum in Baltimore, and at the National Sports Collectors Convention.

For March our speaker will be Martin Franssen, a Detective with the Fraud Division of the Major Crimes Unit, Durham Regional Police. Martin will speak about the various types of fraud perpetrated on the public and how to prevent becoming a victim of fraud. He will also speak about safeguards when preparing a Power of Attorney.



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Our April speaker will be Dr. Doug Tozer from Long Point, Ontario. Doug is an Ontario Program Scientist with Bird Studies Canada. He is a specialist on the birds and wildlife of the great lakes, including migration and the impact of climate and human encroachment on wetlands where birds and wildlife are being displaced.

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Our May speaker is Eric Conroy who is the President of the organization that has salvaged and restored the SS Keewatin. This huge ship, the last of the Great Lakes steam ships, is presently lying at Port McNicoll and is undergoing work to restore it to its original condition. The Keewatin plied the Great Lakes back in the 1920's and 1930's and was built to emulate a smaller version of the Titanic. Many of the cabins display clothing and artifacts from the time period when the ship was operating on the lakes and the furniture and fittings throughout the ship are from that time period also. A day trip is planned to explore this historic ship in the summer. **You will find more information about this outing in the social announcements below (July).**



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We are currently working on speakers for the balance of 2020, June through November. **Possible speakers are as follows:**

- 1] The Bees Knees Apiary. This is a local apiary and is run by a mother and daughter who produce award winning honey. They will speak about the important role that bees have as pollinators together with interesting information on the life and habits of bees and how these small creatures impact our lives.
- 2] Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue, from Bowmanville. They rehabilitate injured and sick wildlife and release them back into the wild. This organization goes out to various schools and social clubs and is operated by a dedicated team of educators who travel across Ontario, spreading the word about the importance of backyard conservation and co-existence with wildlife.
- 3] We have also been investigating a speaker who is a local author. She has written some books on Princess Diana. She would be willing to do a presentation for us on "Princess Diana - her life and times".

SOCIAL REPORT

Reminder

Please bring your cheque book to the meeting to sign up for events



Sunday, February 9th – Herongate Theatre presents “The Love List” – Cost \$64

It's funny, sophisticated and sexy with just enough edge to keep you nailed to your seat! For his 50th birthday, Bill, a lonely Statistician is given a free session at a mate finding service. After drawing up a list of 'qualities' for the perfect woman he soon discovers 'Be careful what you wish for'...the old adage leads to hilarious results!

Includes:

- Delicious hot buffet lunch
- Ticket for the Show

Monday, March 30th -Niagara Wine Tour – Cost \$125

Niagara Wine Tour includes three Wineries and lunch at the Table Rock Restaurant. Situated on the upper level of Table Rock Centre, only steps from the brink of Horseshoe Falls, the all-new Table Rock House Restaurant offers locally sourced and internationally inspired menus. Enjoy lunch with an unbelievable view of Niagara Falls, Canada.

Includes:

- Three Wineries
- Plated lunch at Table Rock Restaurant
- 407
- Driver's Tip



Wednesday, May 13th – Greg Frewin Theatre in Niagara Falls – Cost \$124

The Greg Frewin illusion spectacle is a quintessential component of a Niagara Falls vacation. Our show is breath-taking with a Vegas style format and features illusions that are both one of a kind and internationally renowned, performed by the International Grand Champion of Magic, Greg Frewin. The perfect entertainment destination for any visitor to Niagara Falls, the show has been hailed as a jaw-dropping magic experience and a family friendly entertainment experience.

Includes:

- Return transportation by Motor Coach
- Lunch & Show at the Greg Frewin Theatre
- Sky Wheel
- 407; Driver's Tip



Thursday, June 18th – Spring / Summer Bloom Tour – Cost \$120

Visit Whistling Gardens & Hamilton Botanical Gardens to see the Spring and Summer Blooms. Whistling Gardens is home to North America's largest public Peony Collection! Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario is the largest botanical garden in Canada and one of the largest in the world. Celebrate the spring blooms with incredible displays of Peonies and Iris. Magnolia, Red Bud and many other flowering trees add to the magical renewal!



Includes:

- Return transportation by Motor Coach
- Picnic Lunch; Entrance to Whistling Gardens & Botanical Gardens
- 407
- Driver's Tip



Thursday, July 9th – Keewatin Tour – Cost \$99

Keewatin was one of six ships owned by Canadian Pacific Railways to sail the Upper Great Lakes. Begun in 1883 to link the eastern and western railheads, this line of ships populated the west and was specifically responsible for the economic development of Alberta and Saskatchewan that brought those provinces into Confederation in 1905 by providing vast numbers of immigrants plus equipment and supplies, and carrying millions of tons of grain to market in the east on their downward trips. S.S. Keewatin began her service in the Canadian Pacific Railroad Great Lakes Steamship fleet in 1907. Built in Glasgow, Scotland.

Includes:

- Return transportation by Motor Coach
- Tour of Upper Decks and Engine Room
- Picnic Lunch
- Driver's tip
- Return transportation by 407

August – Tall Ships – more information in at April meeting!!

To sign up for any excursions contact Shirlie at shirlievanputten@rogers.com or 905-619-8583

HOUSE

If you are able to help putting the coffee and tea out occasionally please email me at jw.003@sympatico.ca or speak to me at a meeting. I am usually at the back of the room helping with trip sign up. Please bring exact change (\$2) for the meeting fee and "share the wealth" (\$1 for one ticket or \$2 for three tickets). Help the environment by bring your own mug for coffee or tea.

Jane Wilson, House Coordinator jw.003@sympatico.ca



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AJAX PROBUS INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Groups Coordinator: Carol Breen – 905-839-7762					
RODEO (Ladies Lunch)	Dawn Thornton	905-683-6975	Dining Out	Carol Breen	905-839-7762
Bridge	Harvey Brodhecker	905-683-5778	Cribbage	Reg Lawrance	905-428-2663
Golf	Marcia Everitt Durham West	416-724-6355	Breakfast Club	Julie Mathewson	905-686-0803
Family History	Michael & Ann Reed	905-239-2909	Walking Club	Ron Mitchell & Maureen McVarish	905-683-5539 905-432-5469
Euchre/Scrabble	Julie Mathewson	905-686-0803	Book Club	Bernie Rosebush	905-426-1598
Billiards	Don Vorhees Pickering PROBUS	905-427-9653	Movie Club	Nancy Hobart	905-427-3746

PROBUS RODEO GROUP

Hi ladies, we will be going to Boston Pizza **February 19th**. I don't think we've had RODEO there before but it comes highly recommended.

The January lunch was at Michaels Eatery. The place was crowded but the wait staff were so efficient we were served really quickly and actually finished eating by 12:45. Barb Squires (for Dawn Thornton) 905-706-4626 stunikki@gmail.com



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BREAKFAST CLUB



The breakfast club will meet on **Tuesday, February 25** at 9:00 at Cora Breakfast and Lunch, 1755 Pickering Parkway in Pickering. Call Julie Mathewson at 905-686-0803 or email jmathewson@rogers.com to reserve your place.

Suggestions for other restaurants to try are welcomed.

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EUCHRE AND SCRABBLE

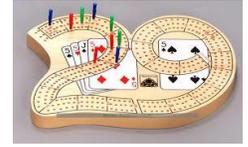


Pick your favourite game to play on the second and fourth Tuesday every month. Our next games afternoons will be on February 11th and 25th, from 2:00 to 4:00. We play at Chartwell Harwood Retirement Residence, 240 Old Harwood Avenue in Ajax. Limited parking is available behind the residence as long as you don't park in a reserved spot, and there is additional parking on the street. For more information, contact Julie Mathewson 905-686-0803 or jmathewson@rogers.com.

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PROBUS CRIBBAGE

The Cribbage Interest Group meets every Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4 PM. We have 14 members and about 10 attend on a typical afternoon for fun fellowship and cribbage. We take a short break at 3 for coffee, tea, sweets and a chat. We charge a loonie for the tea and coffee and we take turns bringing the sweets. We all have a good time and new members are welcome.



For more information contact *Reg Lawrance* at [905-428-2663](tel:905-428-2663), or email reglawrance@rogers.com

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PROBUS BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at St. Paul's United Church, 65 King's Crescent, at 1:30 p.m.

Our selection for February 26, 2020 is:

"They Left Us Everything" by Plum Johnson

Interested in reading, discussion, fun and fellowship, we welcome you to join our group.

For more information call or e-mail Bernie Rosebush at 905-426-1598 or bernie.rosebush@gmail.com



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FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

It is with regret that it was decided, by the four people attending the last meeting, to disband the Ajax PROBUS Family History Group.

The group was run by Arthur Fowler when Michael and Anne Reed joined in 2005. However, interest has gradually diminished over the years.

We feel we must recognize the enormous support given to the Group by the Ajax Main Library. We received a meeting room, coffee/tea, and occasionally speakers free of charge. Always guidance from the Library's Historian specializing in local history, Ms. Elaine Lievaart, who runs Family History Programmes at the Library at 1:00 pm on Tuesdays. Everyone is welcome.

Sincere thanks to all who gave support over the years.

Michael and Anne Reed - 905-239-2908, mandareed@bell.net.



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PROBUS WALKING GROUP



The walking group gets together on Wednesday mornings at 10:00, except on the first Wednesday of the month (because, of course, we all want to attend our PROBUS meeting). We walk for 1½ to 2 hours at an easy pace, covering 4 to 6 km in a variety of locations.

Come join us and discover some of the many walking trails Ajax and surrounding areas have to offer. *Contact Ron Mitchell at 905-683-5539 or mitchellmis@rogers.com to get on the mailing list*

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BILLIARDS CLUB



Billiards Club for all will meet Feb.14th and 28th. Same place - same time - Petrina's Taps and Billiards, 21 Harwood Ave. S at 11:00 a.m. The only change as of 2020, the fee has increased one dollar and is now \$5.00 per senior per day to play. **All PROBUS members are welcome.** *Parking is free East side parking lot. North entrance upstairs to second floor.*

Don Voorhees
(905) 427-9653

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PROBUS GOLF

See you at Hawthorne Valley in the spring. Next year we could add a course that has carts if there is enough interest. Contact me by email if interested. marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca.



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DINING OUT CLUB



Our next get together will be on **Feb.13th at 6 pm**. We will be going to Sauters Restaurant in Pickering Village on Kingston Rd.

Please let me know by Feb.10th if you are planning to be there be.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Carol Breen 905-839-7762 cbreen840@gmail.com

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MOVIE CLUB

Come join us for a movie **Thursday, February 20th at 2pm** at Chartwell Harwood Retirement Residence, 240 Old Harwood Avenue in Ajax. The movie we will be showing is "The Last Of The Blonde Bombshells". Starring Judi Dench.

If you haven't already put your name on the list Please contact Nancy Hobart 905 427 3746 email vinyl4me@bell.net. to reserve your place.

Any suggestions for the next movie are welcomed.

Hope to see you there.



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Membershare Board



Do you want to share information about a social event our members might be interested in? Can you offer someone a ride to meetings or need a ride yourself? Do you need a handyman but don't know who to call? Are you looking for someone to water your plants while you're away?

Post your notes on our Membershare Board to request or share information. Check out the board at meetings to see what might be of interest to you.

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For information on other PROBUS Clubs in Canada go to www.probus.org. Our Ajax PROBUS website: www.ajaxprobus.com
Many thanks for those who sent in items for this issue.

Comments and items are appreciated including photos of Club events. Please send to *Barbara Squires*, Editor stunikki@gmail.com or to ajaxprobus@gmail.com

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Don't forget to check your email if the weather is bad on a meeting day just in case we've sent a cancellation message. For those without email, someone will phone you. Emails will be sent and calls made before 9:00 a.m.

SOCIAL BRIDGE



FEBRUARY

SOCIAL BRIDGE on Thursdays at the Ajax Public Library – Main Branch, 55 Harwood Ave. South in the Rotary Room starting at ~2:30pm (A free will donation is taken for coffee and cookies.) Social bridge will be held on Thursday **February 6, February 13, February 20 and February 27**. This is social bridge so **HAVE FUN**.

FREE BRIDGE LESSONS There are no lessons in February.

Harvey Brodhecker

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February



2nd



14th

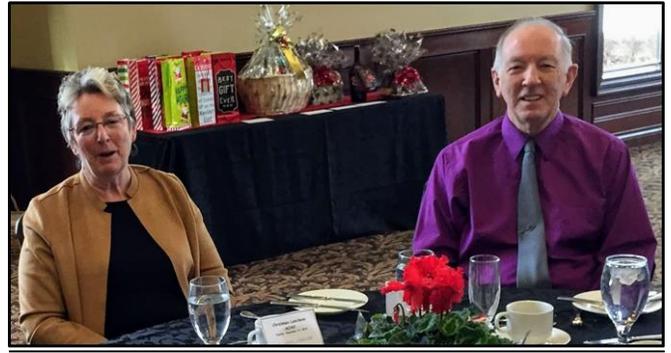
Happy Family day

17th



December 10, 2019 Christmas Luncheon





For more photos of the Christmas Luncheon go to www.ajaxprobus.com (control click)

Dec 11, 2019 – Cribbage



Congratulations to Julie who got a perfect hand – odds are 1 in 650.000 – Amazing!!

January 8, 2020 Meeting



Tom & Reg with new member Marie Dinelle

Discussion Groups at January 8, 2020 Meeting



AJAX PROBUS CALENDAR, FEBRUARY, 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2  1:30 - 3:30 Library Movie: Once Upon A Time in Hollywood	3	4	5 10 – 12 PROBUS Meeting 2-4 Cribbage	6 2:30 Social Bridge, Library	7	8
9 Herongate Theatre	10	11 2-4 Euchre	12 10-12 Walking Group 2 – 4 Cribbage	13 2:30 Social Bridge, Library 6:00 pm Dining Out	14 11:00 Billiards  Valentine's Day	15
16	17 	18	19 10-12 Walking Group 12:00 RODEO Lunch 2 – 4 Cribbage	20 2:30 Social Bridge, Library 2:00 Movie Club Chartwell	21	22
23 1:30 – 3:30 Library Movie: The Art of Racing in the Rain	24	25 9:00 Breakfast Club 2-4 Euchre	26 10-12 Walking Group 1:30 Book Club 2 – 4 Cribbage	27 2:30 Social Bridge, Library	28 11:00 Billiards	29