



# PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

PROBUS Club of Ajax, Club #82 Ajax, Ontario

Vol 24 Issue 12 & Vol 25 Issue 1

December 1, 2021 & January 5, 2022

**The PROBUS Club of Ajax is slowly resuming in-person activities. Anyone attending an in-person event will have to show proof that they are fully vaccinated as well as photo identification. Check the newsletter and our web site to see which activities are meeting in-person and which activities are still virtual.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Despite Covid time seems to be moving very quickly. It is almost December and Christmas will be here before we know it. Some of my neighbours have their Christmas lights on. It adds some well needed cheer. Hopefully for many of us Christmas will be a little more traditional than last year. For us last Christmas day was porch visits with our children and grandchildren. I am looking forward to our PROBUS Christmas lunch and theatre presentation at Herongate Barn on December 12. Thank you Shirly Van Putten for arranging this. On January 5, if all goes well with Covid numbers, we will be having our first in-person General Meeting in almost two years. This will be a hybrid meeting that will be in-person and on Zoom. Our Breakfast Club will be meeting on November 30 and hopefully the RODEO (ladies lunch group) and the Dining Out group will resume in the new year. No matter how or what holiday you celebrate at this time of year, I wish you and your family a happy, joyful, and safe holiday.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay healthy and safe.

*Jane Wilson*

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## FRAUD ALERT – BE AWARE

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre has received reports of a text message scam tied to COVID-19 vaccines. The text message claims to be from the BC Ministry of Health and will say that your third COVID-19 vaccine has been scheduled. The fraudulent text message then asks you to click on a malicious link. After clicking on the link, you are asked to download software that contains malware. Malware can infect your device and can put you at risk for identity fraud by exposing your personal information, banking details and online account credentials. Do not click on the link!

**COVID-19 PROTOCOL**  
**PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX**

The PROBUS Club of Ajax is a private social club for seniors. Given the ages of our members, it is imperative that safety be our highest priority. Our Club must manage the risk of COVID-19, as we re-introduce in-person meetings and activities. With this in mind, the Management Committee formulated the following Protocol:

**For the foreseeable future, all in-person gatherings of the PROBUS Club of Ajax, will require all participants to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. In addition, a minimum of two weeks must have passed since the second shot was administered. These vaccination requirements include, but are not limited to, our monthly membership meetings, interest group activities, and social events.**

This is how it will work:

- a) When you are vaccinated for COVID-19, you receive a Ministry of Health Vaccination Receipt for each shot. When you attend your first in-person membership meeting, bring the Receipt for your second vaccine shot with you. Your name and the date of your second shot will be recorded, when you enter the meeting room. Admittance to the room will not be allowed if your Vaccination Receipt is not provided. The Social Co-ordinator, Interest Group Co-ordinator and House Co-ordinator for membership meetings, will have access to a list of fully vaccinated Club members, and use this list when approving attendance at their respective activities. Please note, when the Ontario Government Vaccine Certificate is introduced, it will replace the Vaccination Receipt, as proof of full vaccination against Covid-19.
- b) This COVID-19 Protocol will be implemented at our Club's first in-person membership meeting. If there are any interest group activities or social events sanctioned by the PROBUS Club of Ajax, which occur prior to the first in-person membership meeting, then you must provide proof of vaccination at that time in order to participate in same.
- c) If you decide not to be vaccinated for COVID-19, you may attend any virtual events offered by the PROBUS Club of Ajax. This includes our Hybrid membership meetings, and Interest Groups provided on Zoom and Trickster. If you are not vaccinated, do not attend any in-person meetings, interest group activities or social outings etc. held by the PROBUS Club of Ajax.
- d) All COVID-19 Province of Ontario Regulations and Public Health Guidelines in effect at the time of the PROBUS Club of Ajax in-person gathering will prevail, including group size, physical distancing, mask requirements etc.

As stated above, member safety is of paramount importance within our Club. If you have any questions, please email them to [ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com)

I'm sure we're all looking forward to the opportunity of meeting again in-person. What a joy it will be to socialize with friends we haven't seen for many months.

Take care and stay safe.

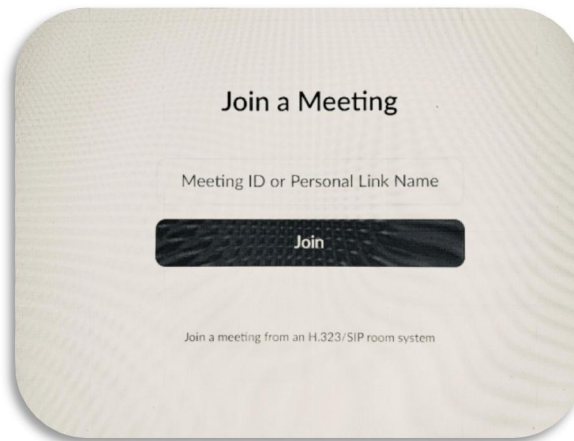
Management Committee  
PROBUS Club of Ajax  
September 24, 2021



## ZOOM INFORMATION

You do not need to download the ZOOM software to use the service. If you go to your internet browser (like Google) and go to website [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) look at the top right corner of the screen that opens up and you will see a button to click that says JOIN A MEETING. **(Use Control Click for Links)**

The diagram below appears



You can then enter the meeting ID number sent to you by PROBUS Club of Ajax in an email, and click JOIN. If there was a password also sent to you, enter it on the next page that opens up.

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### TO CALL IN VIA PHONE TO THE MONTHLY MEETING

Local numbers:

647 374 4685

647 558 0588

Operator will welcome you, then you enter the meeting ID followed by the pound symbol: Meeting ID: 768 724 6025#

It will then ask for your participant code, just press the pound symbol: #

Then enter the meeting passcode followed by the pound symbol:  
Passcode: 611220#

You will then join the meeting

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## MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to report that our current membership has improved to 168 members. Although this number is less than we had at the start of the pandemic it is significant in that we continue to receive new applications almost daily. In this newsletter you will find two new members, Nancy Cameron-Oates and Maureen Pitkethly. In addition, we have had two enquires via our Website that we have responded to that should result in further applications. As you get out-and-about never fail to talk up PROBUS, word of mouth is always the best advertisement.

If anyone would like a copy of the membership, please call or email me and I will provide.

**Tom, Membership Coordinator**

[ajaxprobusmembership@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobusmembership@gmail.com) or 437 981-6719.



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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 members: Nancy Cameron-Oates and Maureen Pitkethly



New Member, Nancy Cameron-Oates

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## WE NEED YOUR HELP

When we start having meetings again, they will be hybrid meetings – partly in person, partly on Zoom. In order to do this, we need assistance from someone with IT experience. We would really appreciate it if you could step up and help us out.

Please contact one of the Management Committee or email [ajaxprobus@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobus@gmail.com).

### **NOVEMBER 3, 2021 PROBUS MEMBERSHIP ZOOM MEETING**

There were 46 attendees at our meeting. Some screens were more than one person, so the count would be higher.

- Victoria gave a report on the January 5<sup>th</sup> speaker, Mitchell Daniels from the Bata Shoe Museum.
- Stewart reported that the chat rooms were continuing and how nice it is to meet and chat with people from the club.
- Julie reported that the Trickster Euchre is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. She also mentioned that the Breakfast Club will start up again on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House on Harwood Avenue in Ajax.
- Harvey reported that Trickster Bridge is going well on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, but that Marathon Bridge is still currently pending.
- Tom said that the membership is up to date and that we currently have 163 members.
- Shirlie spoke about the upcoming Christmas Luncheon which will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> at Herongate Barn Theatre. She asked that people get in touch via email if interested. Upcoming social outings are November 14<sup>th</sup> at Famous People Players and November 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Jacobs.

Our speaker was Amy Barron, an Archeologist who gave an interesting presentation about Archeologists who worked undercover as spies during the First World War.

Congratulations to Harvey Brodhecker and Marilyn Mason whose names were drawn by Shirlie to receive gift cards.

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### **Senior of the Year**

We are very proud to announce that the Town of Ajax has chosen our Past President, Joyce Starkman for the Senior of the Year Award. The Mayor will be presenting this award in December. Congratulations Joyce.



## MEMBERS CORNER

### MY MUSICAL HOBBY.

Like many others I have discovered that the time wasted on the interests of a misspent youth was actually a benefit and the activity never went away. In my case music was my interest. There being no TV as a child, the radio was always on and the, to my ear, bland post-war slow and smoochy music did not penetrate my skull. Then one day a tune came on the BBC that turned on the musical lights in my head. It was a traditional New Orleans jazz band playing an ear wormy song in a very bright and happy tempo.

At around the same time my father gave me a cornet and took me for lessons to the brass band at his army regiment. There I got to know the classical music of Beethoven, Rossini etc, operatic pieces, marches, and movie and Broadway tunes of the period. This did not last as along came skiffle and rock'n roll and peer pressure demanded I leave the band and get a guitar. This did not last long either as along came the Trad Jazz craze that swept the USA, UK, Europe, and Japan. So, it was back to playing trumpet in a school jazz band.

As university, work and family took over the music took a back seat. Although my jazz record collection continued to grow, and I learned about ballet music and classical piano music which my wife collected. By this time Trad Jazz was popular in Toronto and Harbourfront and Ontario Place were frequently visited to hear the Trad Jazz music and give my family a day out.

After 30 years away from playing music, I chanced upon the Whitby Brass Band. I joined and learned to read music for the first time. I played and organized many concerts and Santa Claus and baseball parades, even playing the Sky Dome for the Blue Jays. As time went by the sight reading got more challenging as the eyes suffered the ravages of time. Being retired I decided to try a new venture and started my own Traditional New Orleans Dixieland Band which performs from memory and by ear, no music reading needed.

The Lakeridge Dixie Stompers was formed in 2014 to play a wide repertoire of music from the jazz age, country and western music, blue grass, tin pan alley, gospel, marches and so on, always in the happy, upbeat and swinging New Orleans style. Until the plague caused the hiatus, we regularly played Seniors Residences, LTC facilities, church services and even St Andrew's Centre. During the warmer weather in 2020 and 2021 we have played weekly on the street to bring open air, covid spaced live music to neighbours, passersby, and our supporters.

I would be interested to know if there are others in Probus who have an interest in music. Perhaps a Music Interest group could be formed to listen to music or to form some sort of performance group? If you are interested, you can email me at [leestd@gmail.com](mailto:leestd@gmail.com).

*Tony Lees.*



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## POTATOES FOR CHRISTMAS



During the Covid pandemic, I've been ordering my groceries for home delivery. Needing potatoes this week, I ordered 10 loose potatoes, priced by the kilogram. My groceries were delivered on Thursday afternoon and put into the back of my SUV. Upon retrieving my groceries from the car, I was shocked by the number of bags. As I began to open the grocery bags, I noticed that many of them contained 10-pound bags of potatoes. Instead of 10 potatoes, the merchant had delivered 100 pounds of potatoes to me (ten 10-pound bags). I called the merchant and asked them to come back and collect 9 of the bags. They said they couldn't accept return products because of Covid. They were willing however, to credit my account for all ten bags. It's been suggested that I put bows on the potato bags and distribute them to family and friends for Christmas. I've decided to give a gift-wrapped bag to a couple of friends who laughed the most at my predicament. The remainder, thanks to the merchant, will be donated to the local food bank.

Merry Christmas all

*Joyce Starkman*



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## CHAT ROOMS

We are still having chat rooms on Monday at 11:00 a.m. and on Friday at 2:00 p.m. The notice is sent out via email the day before. Usually about 8 people attend but we have room for more. We'd love to see some new faces. Please join us for some friendly conversation.



**Below is a recipe from one of the Management Team**

**Chocolate Mint Square**

*(Bernie Rosebush)*



½ c. butter or margarine  
2 oz. (8 – ¼ oz. pcs.) unsweetened chocolate  
2 eggs  
1 c. sugar  
½ tsp. Peppermint extract  
½ c. sifted all-purpose flour

Melt butter and chocolate in saucepan. Cool. Reserve.  
Beat eggs in mixing bowl. Add sugar. Beat well. Blend  
in reserved cooled mixture and peppermint extract.  
Add flour. Mix thoroughly. Spread evenly in buttered  
8-inch square pan. Bake in 350 degree F. oven for 30 min.  
Cool. Frost with Mint Frosting.

**Mint Frosting**

2 tbsp. butter or margarine  
1 tbsp. milk  
1 c. icing sugar  
1 tsp. peppermint extract  
4 or 5 drops green food coloring  
Cream butter in bowl. Add milk, sugar, extract and food coloring.  
Mix thoroughly. Ice square.

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1. The recipe said, "Set the oven to 180 degrees." Now I can't open it, as the door faces the wall.
2. I found a new bread recipe where you don't have to get your hands messy by mixing the dough.....It is kneadless, to say.
3. I tried a vegan recipe book last night, and I was pleasantly surprised. It was much better than any of the recipes in it.
4. I thought the recipe was for making margarine, however...It churned out to be butter.



## SPEAKERS



### January 5<sup>th</sup> Speaker

Bata Shoe Museum, "All About Shoes: Footwear Through the Ages."

Important Note: This virtual tour will either be hosted in person with **Mitchell Daniels** or hybrid or via Zoom, depending on our circumstances in January, 2022. Stay tuned.



### All About Shoes

Take a fascinating virtual journey and experience the many facets of footwear: its evolution and symbolism through the ages, the methods and materials of its manufacture and its place in our imaginations.

The BSM's flagship exhibition, "All About Shoes: Footwear Through the Ages," is a voyage through four and a half millennia of shoes. As well as presenting an engaging overview of the history of footwear, "All About Shoes" also explores the wider context of our fascinating collection.

### Mitchell Daniels-Our Guide & Host

A graduate of Centennial College's Museum and Cultural Management Post-Grad program and a recipient of the Peter Dickinson Award, Mitchell has been working in the Museum and Heritage sector since 2015 at a variety of different institutions including- Fort York National Historic Site, The Toronto Railway Museum, Heritage Toronto and most recently, at the Bata Shoe Museum as the Digital Programming and Tours Coordinator. In addition, Mitchell also serves as a Board Member for the Whitby Historical Society, Volunteer Historian for the 6th Toronto Scout Group, and Volunteer Historic Cook with the Fort York Historic Foodways Program.

Mitchell also works as a vocalist specializing in Broadway, Jazz, and Opera and has performed at numerous conferences, galas, Government, and sporting events. Mitchell received the Lieutenant Governors Volunteer Award, the Accessibly Community Volunteer Award and is also a recipient of the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal.



Image © 2021 Bata Shoe Museum, Toronto, Canada.

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## SOCIAL

The following trips are planned but may have to be cancelled if the Covid numbers worsen.



**December 12th** - Christmas Luncheon.

Space still available. Deadline will be Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

Venue is Herongate Barn Theatre. Cost is \$60 (includes show and lunch)

Please contact Shirlie at [shirlievanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com) OR 905-619-8583 to sign up. We have some members who need a lift to the Theatre. If you can provide a lift or need a lift, contact Shirlie.

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**December 14<sup>th</sup>** – Famous People Players: Lunch and Show with transportation. Cost is \$115

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**January 26<sup>th</sup>** – Come from Away at the Royal Alex Theatre: Evening performance. Theatre Ticket and transportation (drop off and pick up right at the theatre). Cost is \$159

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Stay tuned for Niagara Festival of Lights in early **January**, with lunch at the Skylon.

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**Government regulations will be in place. Only 40 allowed on the bus. You must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask.**



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**Some Interest Group gatherings are starting up again with some restrictions**

**Zoom and Trickster Groups are: Chat Rooms (Zoom), Euchre (Trickster)  
Bridge (Trickster)**

**AJAX PROBUS INTEREST GROUPS**

RODEO (Ladies Lunch)	Dawn Thornton	Dining Out	Carol Breen
Bridge	Harvey Brodhecker	Cribbage	Reg Lawrance
Golf	Marcia Everitt Durham West	Breakfast Club	Julie Mathewson
Euchre/Scrabble	Julie Mathewson	Book Club	Bernie Rosebush
Billiards	Don Vorhees Pickering PROBUS	Movie Club	
Walking Club	Ron Mitchell & Maureen McVarish		

**In-Person Activity Guideline**

As we begin to resume in-person activities, we would like to remind our members that there is always a possible risk involved when socializing. Your personal decision to participate in any PROBUS in-person activity should be made knowing you are taking full responsibility for that decision. The PROBUS Club of Ajax cannot be deemed responsible for the decision of individual members. Your own personal health and safety should be your first concern. For everyone's safety, participating in a PROBUS Club of Ajax in-person activity will require you to be fully vaccinated and follow all Health Department and Provincial guidelines.

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**DINING OUT CLUB**

Hi everyone....

I am planning a Dining out evening on **January 20th** in the new year at 6 pm. If there are no restrictions or changes in our current Covid rules I would like to book a reservation at Amicis restaurant in Pickering. If you would like to go please reply to me directly by phone at **905-839-7762**. If I am not home to take your call, please leave a message with your phone number so I can contact you. Should I have to change the venue, I will let you know.

Look forward to seeing you all. Have a Merry Christmas.

*Carol Breen*



## **PROBUS BRIDGE**



### **LOOKING FOR INDOOR ACTIVITIES - JOIN US AND PLAY BRIDGE WITH TRICKSTER**

During the past three months we have been playing Bridge on Trickster. We have had a lot of fun. It will be more fun if you join us! The days will be Tuesday, December 7 and Tuesday, December 21 starting at 2:00 pm (The first and third Tuesdays of the month). January dates will be Tuesday January 4 and Tuesday January 18 at 2:00 pm. If you are NOT a present participant, please contact Harvey either by email ([hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca](mailto:hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca)) or phone (416-894-5778). He will forward to you information on Trickster and playing bridge on Trickster. We will play with partners. If you have a current partner, please let me know. If you need a partner, let Harvey know and he will attempt to get you a partner. As with Marathon Bridge, these Trickster games are for fun and socialization.

*Harvey Brodhecker*

### **BRIDGING THE GAP BRIDGE**

Last month I started a series on Modern Walsh-style Bidding. This approach occurs when partner opens 1 club and you have a two suit hand (a 5 card diamond suit and a 4 card major suit). Last month, I covered responding with a minimum hand where you jump over the 5 card diamond suit and bid your 4 card major. This month, I will cover responding with a strong hand. Next month, I will cover responding with an invitational hand.

With a strong hand (13 or more high card points) bid the 5 card diamond suit followed by bidding the 4 card major on responders second bid. This is like a reverse by responder. It is the opposite to your bid with a minimum hand. Your 1 diamond response forces partner to bid and your subsequent bid of a major is forcing for an additional round. On your third bid you can set the contract to the appropriate game.

(Spades) 3 (Hearts) A1084 (Diamonds) AK932 (Clubs) Q86 – Bid 1 Diamond and on your second bid Hearts

(Spades) KQJ6 (Hearts) A6 (Diamonds) K10986 (Clubs) 43 – Bid 1 Diamond and on your second bid spades

In these hands, you are telling partner that your diamonds are longer than your major (With 5 diamonds and 5 spades and you bid spades). This is Modern Walsh-style bidding.

*Harvey Brodhecker*

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## BREAKFAST CLUB



## EUCHRE & SCRABBLE (Julie)

### BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club meets on the last Tuesday every month at 9:00.

Join us over the holidays. On December 28, we'll meet at Angelique's Family Restaurant, 31 Barr Road in Ajax.

To start the New Year, we'll go back to a favourite at Sunset Grill, 235 Bayly Street West in Ajax, on January 25.

Call Julie Mathewson at 905-686-0803 or email [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com) to reserve your place.

Suggestions for other restaurants to try are welcomed.

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### EUCHRE

Join us for euchre on Trickstercards.com, on the second and fourth Tuesday every month at 2:00.

In December, we'll play on the 14<sup>th</sup>, but the game on the 28<sup>th</sup> is cancelled. January's games will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Since tables have to be assigned in advance, email Julie at [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com) by noon the day before if you plan to play. You will need to have the free Trickstercards app downloaded to your computer or tablet.

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### WORD GAMES

**4 Pics 1 Word** is a game that's free to download onto your tablet or phone. In it, you're shown 4 pictures and you need to figure out 1 word that connects them all. As clues, you're given 12 letters to choose from and are told how long the word is. Try this sample. (Answer on last page)



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## PROBUS RODEO GROUP

Hi Everyone,

One constant with the pandemic is the endless waiting, wondering what will come next. When will it happen? Will it ever happen?



I never dreamed going out for lunch would be such a big deal!! Where we can go for lunch may be affected by the removal (or not) of space restrictions. 5 people sent me their names indicating an interest in going out for lunch. I will receive names with e-mail address & phone numbers until mid-December. The first of January I will look at how many contacts I have, the situation for restaurants re: dining, and Barb will send out an E-blast to bring you up to date. The "roll out" will happen maybe in January, FOR SURE in February. I would love to get some suggestions as to where you would like to go.

I hope you are all able to do and see what you have been waiting so long for. Best wishes to all of you. Keep safe. Enjoy the holidays. Dawn

Dawn Thornton [dthorn000@gmail.com](mailto:dthorn000@gmail.com) 289-989-0641

### Here is a recipe from one of the ladies

#### **Peanut Brittle:** (another Christmas favourite)

*Shirley Van Putten*



1 cup White Sugar  
1/2 cup Corn Syrup  
1 cup Peanuts (unsalted)  
1 tbsp Butter  
1 tsp Vanilla  
1 tsp Baking Soda

- In a 8 cup glass measure with a handle, combine sugar and corn syrup. Microwave uncovered on High 4 - 5 minutes. While syrup is cooking grease a cookie sheet and set aside.
- Stir in peanuts and microwave an additional 3 - 4 minutes or until syrup turns to a golden colour. Add butter and vanilla to syrup. Microwave an additional 1 - 2 minutes.
- Add baking soda and gently stir until candy is light and foamy. Pour onto cookie sheet and cool. Break into pieces with your hands.

Enjoy!

## **BILLIARDS CLUB**

John Cox would like to organize a get together at Petrinas. In the following message, he provides dates, time and rules for participation in Billiards during the Covid period. Covid safe play rules are still in place. Masks are required during play. You must be double vaxed. It will be great to get back together with friends after a long absence. Looking forward to seeing you again soon.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas. Don Voorhees – [holdus1399@gmail.com](mailto:holdus1399@gmail.com) – 905-427-9653

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Ladies and Gentlemen

I am going to start this activity up and when Don Voorhees is available, he can take over the Lead Role.

In this note, I will cover off 2 aspects of this Activity:

1. Go Forward Plan
2. Description of playing Billiards in the Covid Period that we are in now. The objective is to make you feel comfortable that you can safely participate in this activity. This is based upon my experience of convening a small group at Petrinas a couple of weeks ago.

### **1. Go Forward Plan**

Dates - Wednesdays for the next 2 months

- December 1st
- December 22nd
- January 5th
- January 19th
- February 2nd

Start Time - 1030 AM until when you want to leave

Place - Petrinas Billiards on the east side of Harwood, first light south of #2 (Same Place as Usual)

Cost - \$5.00 (Unchanged from Pre-covid) (i.e. Good Deal)

### **2. Recent Experience at Petrinas**

A few weeks back, several friends and I met up at Petrinas to determine whether it was a good time to start back with this activity. Overall, our group was quite pleased with the experience. It reminded us of old times - lots of laughs and catching up on how everyone was doing given the Covid time gap.

Frank (Proprietor of Petrinas) checked to make sure all patrons are double vaxed and were masked. Aside from our group of 4, there were 2 other gentlemen playing at a far-off table. The facility felt largely empty for our stay i.e., no crowds beyond our own group. We played the usual Poker Pool format as we had done Pre Covid. The main rule for Masking was that when you were shooting, it was necessary to wear your mask. My personal interpretation of that rule was to prevent any potential contamination of the table for other players. Once your shot was complete, you could step back and remove your mask. This made it convenient to carry on a conversation.

I hope the above addresses any questions you may have had.

Closing

I hope you will come out and give this activity a try. All of us are social players that do not take the game seriously and are out for a social event to interact with people i.e., no skill required.

If you have any questions, please feel free to let me know. I will send out reminders when we near each of the above dates.

Cheers, *John Cox*



## A TRIP DOWN MEMORY



LANE

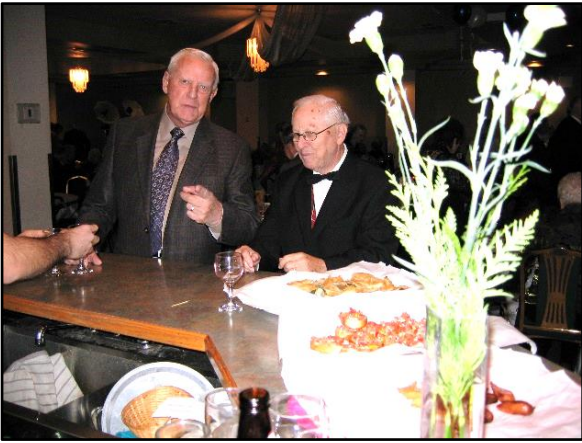
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
*and*  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**PROBUS Christmas Party, December 2017**







**PROBUS Christmas Party, December 2012**



**PROBUS Christmas Party, December 2018**



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## LIBRARY NEWS

### “WHAT’S ON FOR DECEMBER, 2021

The link for What’s On is: [www.ajaxlibrary.ca](http://www.ajaxlibrary.ca) and click on ‘Programs’

We're excited to see you in person again. All branches are open for you to visit for study space, computer use, and to browse for books! Before you visit, please remember:

- Masks and social distancing are required;
- Food is not permitted; drinks are permitted;
- Gathering restrictions also apply in alignment with provincial regulations.

The Library will continue to offer curbside pick-up, along with extensive virtual services, programs, and collections. Our external dropboxes remain open 24/7 for Library material returns.

See more information and open hours on [our website!](#)

### **Free Printing for COVID-19 Vaccine Receipts**

Starting September 7 you can print your COVID-19 vaccine receipt for free at any Library branch.

For more details, and to stay up-to-date on COVID-19 Library service updates, visit

[ajaxlibrary.ca/COVID-19](http://ajaxlibrary.ca/COVID-19).

### “WHAT’S ON FOR JANUARY, 2021

The link for What’s On is: [www.ajaxlibrary.ca](http://www.ajaxlibrary.ca) and click on ‘Programs’

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## PROBUS BOOK CLUB



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

During Covid19, of course, we are **not** meeting!!!

However, when normalcy returns, we shall continue our very interesting discussions on chosen book titles.

Interested in reading, discussion, fun and fellowship, we welcome you to join our group. In the meantime, book suggestions you may wish to enjoy:

### Book Suggestions:

**The Scribe of Siena** (★★★★) by - *Melodie Winawer*; published May 2017. A Historical Mystery which blurs the line between past and present when a 14<sup>th</sup> century journal unites two people across six centuries.

**Never** (★★★★) by – *Ken Follett*; published November 2021. A complex International Thriller, that so absorbs one in the story threads that you'll follow them anywhere.

**The Christmas Promise** (★★★★ + rating) by - *Richard Paul Evans*; published 2021. Genre -Seasonal Christmas story to enjoy. Movie also available in the Hallmark series.

### The Extra Tid-Bit:

A Tree of Seasonal Thoughts  
(Margareth Thomas)

Give  
Believe  
Sparkle  
Be Joyful  
Sing Carols  
Party, Party  
Deck the Halls  
Be Merry and Bright  
Kiss under the Mistletoe  
Be with your loved ones  
Indulge in holiday treats  
Dream of a White Christmas  
Miss those who are far away  
Hug your loved ones a little tighter  
Create memories for years to come  
Reflect on the year that is behind us

Bernie Rosebush - 905-426-1598 or [bernie.rosebush@gmail.com](mailto:bernie.rosebush@gmail.com)



## **Rambles with my Camera – Amazing Migrating Snow Geese!**

*(Maureen McVarish)*

On this past November 7 my photo friends and I went on an outing hosted by the OFO (Ontario Field Ornithologists). The purpose of the outing was to view migrating waterfowl in the Ottawa area. The highlight of the trip was witnessing the amazing migrating Snow Geese!

These are large white geese with black wing tips seen when in flight. There is also a blue morph which has blue/grey underparts. Snow geese breed in the Arctic regions and spend winters in the warmer US state and Gulf coasts. Snow geese migrate in huge flocks funneling down to their wintering grounds through eastern Ontario and western Quebec, a staging area where they rest and fatten up for the next leg of their journey. The geese are often found on farm fields eating waste grain, grasses, stems, etc. and in small bodies of open water to feed and rest up on their way south.

Our OFO guide timed it just right. The group had to climb up a slight incline to a fence where they were dazzled with the sight of two large lagoons totally covered in mostly snow geese. More and more long strings of geese continued to arrive and had to find space amongst the ever-increasing throngs. Then, all of a sudden, something spooked them and about 10 thousand snow geese lifted up in noisy waves above our heads! What an unforgettable experience!!!





## THE BOOKWORM



Ajax author Rabindranath Maharaj has written seven novels and three short story collections. His fifth novel, “The Amazing Absorbing Boy” was mostly written in the “Coffee Time” in space shared by the wonderful “Captain William’s Fish & Chips” across from the main library on Harwood Avenue South. It won the Toronto Book Award and the Trillium Fiction Prize. I was first introduced to Maharaj at the “Writers Community of Durham Region” breakfasts where he generously encouraged me to continue with my writing goals.

Born in Trinidad in 1955, Maharaj moved to Ajax in 1999 where he worked in a factory with many over-skilled immigrants. This became the basis of his first novel, “Homer in Flight” about a discontented Trinidadian immigrant who dreams of becoming a writer. Homer trades a basement in Ajax for a Dixie high rise, a factory job for a position as a Hamilton school librarian, marries and starts a family. But it does not bring instant happiness. Homer has exited Trinidad only to find Canada and its problems similar to those he left behind. It was short-listed for the Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel Award.

In 1998, Maharaj and fellow Durham writers co-founded and co-edited the, “Lichen Literary Journal” to showcase talents of regional artists. He later worked as a high school teacher in Ajax, while continuing his writing career.

“The Amazing Absorbing Boy” uses humour to portray both the hope and uncertainty of the immigrant experience. We follow the journey of a young protagonist in his escape into the imaginary world of comic book superheroes and villains. The narrator is 17-year-old Samuel, who recounts his struggles on arriving in Toronto from Trinidad upon the death of his mother. He is sent to live with his “nowhereian” father, who abandoned him and his mother 10 years earlier in search of a better future. Sam struggles to adapt, but after meeting a man who threatens to kill him for \$40, decides he’s tired of being cooped up in his father’s run-down apartment and ventures out to explore his new neighbourhood.

Samuel meets a range of people who help him navigate his new life. But his time at a local coffee shop sets the tone for racism and he identifies with the struggles of indigenous populations. The novel focuses on the day-to-day problems of Sam, but also the fears of older Canadians that their culture is being ‘stolen.’ The real-life struggles facing many immigrants, their hopes and dreams of a better future are portrayed beautifully in this book of a boy turned superhero.

Maharaj has taught and mentored young writers through the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies, Toronto Reference Library, Humber School for Writers, and Diaspora Dialogues, while also holding seminars and workshops. He has contributed to several literary magazines and anthologies, co-written a screenplay, and a play for CBC radio. He writes about real people with real problems with gentle humour, honesty and insight. On June 30, 2011, he presciently wrote in the Globe and Mail of his love of Ajax and the disappearing small-town way of life in, “On Communities: My Waterfront Haven”.

“Now, as I walk along the cycling paths, or gaze at the shoreline bluffs and the nuclear plant in neighbouring Pickering, I pretend that this perspective offers a guarantee that some things will never change. And so, while the farmland is converted into housing developments, the strip malls replaced by big box stores and the once leisurely drives give way to miserable gridlock, I pretend that, even as the land around is remodelled, the waterfront, with its marshes and beaches and trails will stand as it always has. A sanctuary of sorts in a world so fast-paced and fickle, it’s easy to forget the events of yesterday.”

His novel, “Adjacentland” was shortlisted for the 2019 ReLit Award for fiction and his newest novel, “Fatboy Fall Down” was published in 2019.

On communities: My waterfront haven - The Globe and Mail

<https://www.google.ca/amp/s/www.theglobeandmail.com/amp/news/national/on-communities-my-waterfront-haven/article557188/>

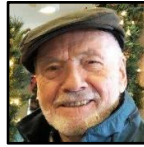
(use ctrl click for link)

*Victoria Plaskett*

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## CARL'S CORNER



*Carl Mabee  
President (2013-2014)*

For a change of pace and its Christmas. And so its England and Christmas morning **1976** and a whole lot of unkind things were said about Barb's friend **Lynne White** who sent Adele a toy trumpet and Craig a set of drums, ***can you imagine!*** And for the life of us we could not think of what bad things we might have done to earn this gotcha! Moving on we all enjoyed (most) of the morning and then it was time for the Smiths to arrive, a little eggnog and dinner to be served. We gave thanks to God and enjoyed a wonderful meal with some very nice friends from Australia.

*Looking at the pictures Barb made mention that some of the dishes used for both the party and Christmas dinner were ours, namely the big antique fruit bowl.*

*Gee we really have had some interesting excursions into the land of antiques. One day in a small town north of us we took a walk down the high street and during our wanders found an interesting antique store. I guess on balance all antique stores are interesting but this one was housed in a very old building with a low-beamed ceiling. The store itself was an antique. So, ignoring the moans from those in tow we went in just to marvel at the ambience. Now the consummate shopper is not enthralled with old guns, swords and the like but she can sure spot a deal if there's something she likes, and she did. The fruit bowl went for something around three or four pounds. Back to the story!*

We had the whole week off and as everyone is busy doing something with or going to visit family we decided to take a trip and stay in a Canadian Holiday Inn. That's right, the Holiday Inn in Bristol is Canadian owned, and the little touches are all Canadian, as an example face cloths in the bathrooms. *(As an aside face cloths are a North American feature, how one washes without one is beyond me)* We booked a large room with two double beds for three nights and will use this hotel as our base of operations. This is our second time in Bristol but the first time at this Hotel, so we spent part of this very sunny day looking around Bristol and then back to the hotel for a fun time swimming in the pool. We could have found a restaurant in town but dinner in the hotel dining room looked promising and a whole lot easier than driving around in the dark. It gets dark early in December in this neck of the woods. As it turned out dinner was very nice as I'm sure breakfast would have been given half the chance. Let me expand. We had just sat down, ordered breakfast (before heading out to Wales) when an announcement came over the P.A. system to leave the building now in an orderly fashion.

Although they didn't announce the reason everyone knew it must be a bomb scare so out the door and wait in the garden or parking lot for the all clear. Now it's eight in the morning and its December and we are all coatless, Adele is freezing because it's getting dam cold. The IRA are not winning any friends with this Bull S..t I can tell you that! Eventually we can go back to the restaurant and finish/start breakfast however it has taken the shine off the morning, to say the least!



**THE BACK OF THE HOTEL FROM THE LAKE**

Continued next page



## Carl's Corner – continued from previous page

This is turning out to be one of the few bad trips we've had since our stay in England. The further we drove into Wales the more treacherous became the roads. Black ice and sleet were the order of the day. No traffic, good thing as I did a 360 after braking on a little grade covered in said black ice and it scared the heck out of yours truly and all. We finally called it a day and headed back to Bristol and our hotel, didn't see much of Wales. The next day on our way back to London we stopped in Bath and had tea in Sally Lund's Tea Room, and after... **things seemed all right with the world.** The 31<sup>st</sup> of December was a blur of activity, hair appointments, a little shopping, some tidying up to do after Christmas, like taking down that rather *large tree*. 1977 is but a few hours away and we plan to have a few drinks with our friends and neighbours to welcome in what will most likely be "another exciting year across the pond!"

More on my Asian trip in February

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## Community Care Durham

CCD is looking for new volunteers and we are asking YOU to **spread the word**. Do you know someone who would enjoy the rewarding experience of volunteering? Here's your chance to recruit a friend, family member or neighbour and be eligible to win prizes! Please refer interested candidates to the Volunteer Coordinators at **905-668-6318** or **905-668-1653** or email us at **[volunteer@communitycaredurham.on.ca](mailto:volunteer@communitycaredurham.on.ca)**.

All CCD programs and services remain unchanged and will continue to run as usual in order to provide vital services that help our clients remain safely at home. To inquire how we can help you, visit our [COVID-19 page](#) or call us at 1-888-255-6680.

 <p><b>Share Your Time with Us</b> Volunteer Recruitment Campaign September - November</p>	<p><b>Marcy Marchuk</b> Volunteer Coordinator <b>Community Care Durham</b> 20 Sunray St., Unit #1 Whitby, Ontario L1N 8Y3</p> <p>Office: 905-668-6318 Cell: 905- 718-0716 <a href="http://www.communitycaredurham.on.ca">www.communitycaredurham.on.ca</a></p>
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# **AJAX PROBUS CALENDAR, DECEMBER 2021**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b>  10:30 am <b>Billiards</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  2 pm <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  11 am <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>7</b>  2 pm <b>Bridge</b> Trickster	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  2 pm <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>  12 pm <b>Christmas Luncheon at Herongate Barn Theatre</b>  	<b>13</b>  11 am <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Famous People Players</b>   2 pm <b>Euchre</b> Trickster	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  2 pm <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  11 am <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>21</b>  2 pm <b>Bridge</b> Trickster  <i>Happy First Day of Winter!</i> 	<b>22</b>  10:30 am <b>Billiards</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  2 pm <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>25</b>   <b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>26</b>  	<b>27</b>  11 am <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>28</b>  9 am <b>Breakfast Club</b> Angeliques	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  2 pm <b>Zoom Chat</b>  	

# **AJAX PROBUS CALENDAR, JANUARY, 2022**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> 
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11 am Zoom <b>Chat</b>	<b>4</b> 2 pm <b>Bridge,</b> Trickster	<b>5</b> 10 am <b>PROBUS</b> <b>General Meeting</b> – Zoom  10:30 am <b>Billiards</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 2 pm Zoom <b>Chat</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 11 am Zoom <b>Chat</b>	<b>11</b> 2 pm <b>Euchre,</b> Trickster	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 2 pm Zoom <b>Chat</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 11 am Zoom <b>Chat</b>	<b>18</b> 2 pm <b>Bridge,</b> Trickster	<b>19</b> 10:30 am <b>Billiards</b>	<b>20</b> 6pm <b>Dining Out</b> Amicis	<b>21</b> 2 pm Zoom <b>Chat</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 11 am Zoom <b>Chat</b>	<b>25</b> 9 am <b>Breakfast</b> <b>Club</b> Sunset Grill  2 pm <b>Euchre,</b> Trickster	<b>26</b> <b>Come from</b> <b>Away</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 2 pm Zoom <b>Chat</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 11 am Zoom <b>Chat</b>		<i>(Feb 2<sup>nd</sup></i> <i>10:30 am</i> <i>Billiards)</i>			

## **AJAX PROBUS MANAGEMENT TEAM, 2021/2022**

President	Jane Wilson	ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com
Vice President		
Past President		
Treasurer	Rowena Burns	ajaxprobustreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary	Bernie Rosebush	ajaxprobussecretary@gmail.com
Social	Shirlie Van Putten	shirlievanputten@rogers.com
Membership	Tom Rosebush	ajaxprobusmembership@gmail.com
Speakers	Victoria Plaskett	ajaxprobusspeakers@gmail.com
House	Margaret Wells	ajaxprobushouse@gmail.com
Website	Maureen McVarish	ajaxprobuswebsite@gmail.com
Interest Groups		
Member-at-Large	Ray Smith	ajaxprobusmemberatlarge1@gmail.com
Member-at-Large		
Technical Coordinator	Stewart Beatty	ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com
Newsletter	Barb Squires	ajaxprobusnewsletter@gmail.com

**If you have a problem reaching a Management Team member at any of the above email addresses, send your email to [ajaxprobus@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobus@gmail.com) and it will get forwarded to the correct person**

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Answer to Word Games from page 13: **Train**

For information on other PROBUS Clubs in Canada to: [www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org) . Our Ajax PROBUS website: [www.ajaxprobus.com](http://www.ajaxprobus.com).



Many thanks to those who sent in items for this issue

**Comments and items are appreciated including photos of club events. Please send to: [ajaxprobusnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobusnewsletter@gmail.com)**

		
<b>First Day of Winter, Dec 21st</b>		<b>Christmas Eve, Dec 24th</b>
		
<b>Christmas Day, Dec 25th</b>	<b>Boxing Day, Dec 26th</b>	<b>New Year's Eve, Dec 31st</b>

- What do reindeers say before they tell you a joke? This one's gonna sleigh you!
- How do snowmen get around? They ride an icicle!
- What do you call Santa when he takes a break? Santa Pause.
- What do you call a broke Santa? Saint Nickel-less
- What did the beaver say to the Christmas Tree? Nice gnawing you!

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<b>New Year's Day</b>	

- May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions?
- My New Year's resolution is to help all my friends gain ten pounds so I look skinnier.
- Was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.
- What happened to the man who shoplifted a calendar on New Year's Eve? He got 12 months!
- A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.