

PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



PROBUS Club of Ajax, Club # 82 Ajax, Ontario

Vol 23 Issue 12 & Vol 24 Issue 1

December 15, 2020 & January 8, 2021

All PROBUS Club of Ajax In Person General Meetings are CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

President:
Joyce Starkman

Past-President:
Reg Lawrance

Treasurer:
John Clark

Secretary:
Julie Mathewson

Social:
Shirley Van Putten

Membership:
Tom Rosebush

Speakers:
Barbara Provis
Gail Tays

House:
Jane Wilson

Website:
Maureen McVarish

Newsletter:
Barb Squires

Interest Groups:
Nancy Hobart

Members at Large:
Victoria Plaskett
Joan Ash

President's Message



On December 2nd, eighty PROBUS Club members attended our general membership meeting via ZOOM. Our thanks to Clarence Prins for sharing his experiences and photos from his cruise around South America. Thanks also to Paul Butler for entertaining us on the Keyboard with a variety of familiar and enjoyable melodies.

Our next general membership meeting via ZOOM is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6th, 2021**. This meeting will include an opportunity for members to socialize in small groups for a virtual coffee break. This will be accomplished through ZOOM Breakout Rooms where 6 to 10 members will gather together. The meeting will also include guest speaker Detective Martin Franssen, a draw for a \$25.00 Tim Horton's Gift Card and a brief business update.

Our Guest Speaker, Martin Franssen, is a Detective with the Fraud Squad, Major Crimes Unit, Durham Regional Police Services. Martin previously spoke to our PROBUS Club on March 4th of this year and was very popular. He is a charismatic speaker who blends humour and his experiences as a Detective into his presentations. Martin's topic this time will be "**Fraud Awareness and Prevention**". According to Martin, the major types of fraud perpetrated on the public include: Romance, Lottery, Emergency, Canadian Revenue Agency, Hacking, Internet, Bluesnarfing, Mortgage, Housing, Distraction and Charity frauds. And Martin says "the list goes on". In 2018, according to Martin, Canadians lost \$113,421,439.44 to fraudsters. Of that amount, Seniors lost \$28,710,720.00.



Be sure to join our next general membership meeting on January 6th. Entry into ZOOM will begin at 9:30am. Come early and visit with your friends. The meeting will officially start at 10:00am. In the meantime, on behalf of your Management Committee, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





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 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.

There are several videos on YouTube showing how to use Zoom. Here are two recommended by PROBUS Canada:

Joining a Zoom call for the first time, fun and easy online connection

Using Zoom on your iPhone or iPad

Enter YouTube.com in your browser (Safari, Google Chrome, Fire Fox - whatever you use). Click on the search tool on YouTube (magnifying glass). Enter the name of the video you want or type in Instructions for using Zoom to get all videos.

+++++

You will have noticed that we have combined the December, 2020 and January 2021 newsletters.

During the pandemic, we sent out the newsletter on the 15th of the month but would like to get back to sending it out a week before the general meeting. Now that we're again holding meetings (via Zoom), the next newsletter will be sent out on January 27th, which is a week before the February 6, 2021 General Zoom Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Normally, the PROBUS Club of Ajax would be collecting the 2020/2021 Membership Fee during the months of July and August. However, this year is far from normal, so at our Management meeting held on June 26, 2020 via ZOOM, a motion to suspend membership fees until July, 2021 was passed. Therefore, all 2019/2020 members are automatically members until July, 2021, when once again we will be asking you to renew your membership.

Our current membership count is 212. Once again we ask if you have changed your "email, phone number or residence address" you inform us via email to tom.rosebush@gmail.com or by phone to 437 981-6719.

Stay safe until we can meet safely once again.



Tom, Membership Coordinator



Joan Ash – Member At Large

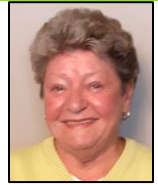
I have been a member of the Ajax probus since March 2019 and enjoy the meetings / getting to know everyone.

I was born in Hamilton and met my husband at summer camp when we were teenagers. We were married for 40 wonderful years before he passed away in 2013. I have a daughter and son and 3 granddaughters ages 21, 17 and 7. We moved to Durham area in 1988 and I was able to transfer to the Sears Pickering store as it was opening at the time we moved. I retired from Sears Canada 8 years ago after more than 25 years of service in various departments/locations.

I volunteer at the local food bank but I have cut back my hours since the start of Covid-19. I spend my free time at the trailer near Buckhorn in the summer and I currently am knitting hats in my free time to be donated to the families in need.

Thanks for inviting me to join as the Member-at-Large. I look forward to helping as needed

Below is a recipe from one of the management team



Coffee Cake *(Barb Provis)*

This is a fantastic recipe which I found on line and have made about 5 times now. It's so easy to make and the resulting coffee cake is absolutely delicious. It's described as a "one bowl" cake and I whipped it up in about 15 mins. I have received lots of praise for this one and it's fun to experiment with different fruit.

2 eggs
2 cups all purpose flour
2 tsp baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 cup sugar
1 cup sour cream - or you can use plain yogurt if you prefer or don't have any sour cream in your fridge
12 oz fresh strawberries (or you can use other fruit - I have used canned pineapple tidbits, canned mandarin orange segments, raspberries, blueberries. Whatever you fancy)
powdered sugar for dusting after cake has cooled after baking

Instructions:

heat oven to 350 degrees
beat eggs and sugar in bowl until they turn pale and creamy
add the sour cream (or yogurt), and oil and beat until well combined
sift in the flour, baking powder and salt.
Mix over low speed until batter is smooth

Grease and lightly flour spring form pan
pour half batter in pan and add half of the fruit
pour other half of batter over and top with rest of fruit
bake for 50 to 60 mins and test with small knife or toothpick to make sure all batter is cooked.
Depending on your oven you may need a few more minutes baking to make sure the centre of the cake is cooked. When knife comes out clean remove from oven and cool.
Sprinkle with confectioners (icing) sugar and serve and enjoy.

December 2nd, 2020 Zoom Meeting

Many thanks to the following people.

Clarence Prins, our speaker who gave us an interesting travelogue that included fabulous pictures of a cruise that circled South America. He managed to get home safely just at the beginning of the Covid-19 world lockdown.

Tom Rosebush who had to drive over to Clarence's place in order to get his Zoom presentation working properly. Apparently it had worked earlier in the week when they had a practice but technology being what it is, decided to play up on the day of the meeting

Also at our December 2nd Meeting was **Paul Butler** who entertained us with an assortment of delightful tunes.

Shirley drew names for prizes. Congratulations to all our winners.

Tim's Cards:

Gail Tays
Anne Reed
Harvey Brodhecker
John Floyd
Shirley Johnson

Cheese & Goodie Package:

Wilma Brown

+++++

All Interest Group gatherings are cancelled until further notice.

AJAX PROBUS INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Groups Coordinator: Nancy Hobart			
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	Nancy Hobart
Walking Club	Ron Mitchell & Maureen McVarish		

+++++

PROBUS RODEO GROUP

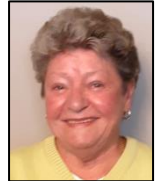
Hello Everyone, Just a reminder that for now RODEO Club is on hold. Hopefully in the not so distant future we will meet again on the third Wednesday of the month to enjoy a luncheon get-together.

Take care, Dawn



Below is a recipe from one of the ladies

Pecan tarts (makes 12) or pecan pie.



1 dozen small tart shells or 2 single pie shells.

Filling:

1/2 cup butter

1 cup packed dark brown sugar

2 large eggs

1/2 cup corn syrup

Dash salt

1/2 cup lightly toasted pecan pieces

1 tbsp lemon juice

1 tsp vanilla

Make it easy on yourself & cheat a bit by buying Tenderflake pie shells. They come in aluminum tart containers and you don't have to worry about sticking in pan. For those of you who are perfectionists you can make your own pastry but personally I just use Tenderflake.

Melt butter & brown sugar in pot over medium heat stirring till it bubbles. Remove from heat. In separate bowl whisk eggs with syrup, lemon juice & vanilla & salt, slowly pour in hot sugar mixture while whisking constantly until smooth. Put pecan pieces in bottom of each pie shell & pour in filling.

Bake for 10 mins at 400F then reduce heat to 375F for another 10 mins or until mixture in tarts is bubbling & pastry edges are browned. Cool & enjoy. If you don't like nuts you can use raisins or just have them plain.

Lovely for a Christmas dessert. Put whipped cream on the top if you really want to be sinful.

(Barb Provis)

+++++

This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore

BREAKFAST CLUB

(Julie)



ST. CLEMENT'S BREAKFAST PANCAKES

(Julie Mathewson)

4 tbsp golden caster sugar
2 eggs
25 g butter, melted but cool, plus more for frying
300 mL milk
225 grams plain flour
1 tbsp baking powder
4 mandarins
2 lemons
crème fraîche or yogurt to serve

Put 1 tbsp sugar, the eggs, melted butter, milk, flour and baking powder (in that order) into a blender and whizz until you have a smooth batter. (If you use a hand mixer, put the flour in the bowl first, then add the remaining ingredients.) Zest 2 mandarins and 1 lemon and add this to the mix. Leave the mix in the blender jug if it has a good pouring lip; if not, transfer it to another jug.

Put the remaining sugar in a small pan and squeeze in the juice from the zested mandarins and lemon, then heat gently until the sugar has dissolved. Cut the rind and pith from the other mandarins and lemon and cut out the segments, adding them and any other juice to the pan.

Heat a non-stick pan and brush it with butter. Pour enough batter into the pan to make a thick American-style pancake (about 10cm diameter). Wait for about a minute until the surface starts to show bubbles and has set, then flip the pancake over. Brush the pan with more butter and repeat with the rest of the pancake batter. (You might need to adjust the heat as you cook the pancakes.) You should get 3-4 per person out of the mixture. Serve with the oranges, lemons, citrus juices and crème fraîche or yoghurt.

prep time: 40 minutes

serves: 4

difficulty: easy



+++++



EUCHRE AND SCRABBLE



FESTIVE

"These are the tiles on your Scrabble rack. How many words can you make using these letters? Apparently there are over 50!

+++++

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:

"**How the Light Gets In**" by Louise Penny (mystery; suggested by Dawn Thorton)

"**Legacy of the Dead**" by Charles Todd; (historical mystery novel; Inspector Rutledge series)



HOPE is a light that shines in the dark.

Four candles alight in a room gave a soft ambience of light. They had been lit to represent Peace, Faith, Love and Hope. Three of these candles, Peace, Faith and Love, became discouraged. They felt that they had become passé and indispensable. Having no meaning to stay lit they slowly flickered out.

A little child came into the room and on seeing the candles had gone out began to cry.

The fourth candle said, "Don't be afraid, while I am still burning we can re-light the other candles, I am **HOPE.**"

With shining eyes, the child took the candle of **HOPE** and lit the other candles.

Let us not let the flame of **HOPE** go out of our lives and let each of us maintain **HOPE, LOVE, PEACE** and **FAITH** always.



A light *is* gleaming,
Spreading its arms throughout the night,
Sending a wish to all of you to share in the gladness of **HOPE,**
SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL!!!

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

+++++

MOVIE CLUB



I hope that everyone is doing well and keeping safe. I hope the following trivia will help pass sometime till we can get together again. All movies are on hold till further notice.

Thanks *Nancy*

OSCAR TRIVIA

1. WHY WAS THE 1968 ACADEMY AWARDS CEREMONY POSTPONED TWO DAYS?
2. HOW TALL IS THE OSCAR STATUE?
3. WHO HAS HOSTED THE OSCARS THE MOST TIMES (19 TIMES)?
4. WHAT WAS THE FIRST SEQUEL TO EVER WIN BEST PICTURE?
5. WHO IS THE YOUNGEST ACTOR/ACTRESS TO EVER WIN AN OSCAR?

(answers on last page)

+++++

BRIDGE AND COVID-19



I am playing some bridge online using BBO. If any of you would like to play against Rolly and myself online, please contact me and we can set up a time and date. I can walk you through registering and using BBO if required. I will then set up the table with you and your partner against Rolly and myself.

Harvey Brodhecker

+++++

Dear Santa,
I've been good
all year.
Most of the time.
Once in a while.
Never mind,
I'll buy my own stuff.

Dear alcohol,

We had a deal that
you would make me
prettier, funnier and
a better dancer.

I saw the video, we
need to talk.



NAME THAT CHRISTMAS CAROL

How well do you know your Christmas Carols?

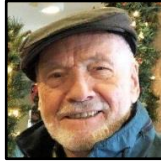
See if you can guess the correct titles from these clues.

**Email your answers to Julie Mathewson at jmathewson@rogers.com or send them by mail to
208-66 Falby Court, Ajax L1S 3L2**

Whoever gets the most correct answers will win a prize.

1. Bleached Yule
2. Castaneous-coloured seeds vesicated in a conflagration
3. Desire a pair of incisors on December 25
4. Righteous darkness
5. Arrival time 2400 hours – weather cloudless
6. Assemble, everyone who believes
7. Far off in a feeder
8. Adorn the vestibule
9. Bantam male percussionist
10. Monarchial triad
11. Nocturnal noiselessness
12. Jehovah deactivate blithe chevaliers
13. Red man en route to borough
14. Frozen precipitation commence
15. Proceed and enlighten on the pinnacle
16. The quadruped with the vermillion proboscis
17. Query regarding identity of descendant
18. Delight for this planet
19. Give attention to the melodious celestial beings
20. The dozen festive 24-hour intervals

CARL'S CORNER



*Carl Mabee
President (2013-2014)*



A Pioneer Christmas

My family celebrated Christmas on a
farm many years ago.
They travelled in by horse and sleigh
across the deepening snow.
It must have been exciting to come from
far and near to spend a rural Christmas
with happiness and cheer.
Great Grandma cooked the Christmas goose
puddings and the like
in a big wood stove with lots of chrome
that made the kitchen bright.
The Christmas tree had candles instead of twinkling lights
and decorated with popcorn strings
and other unusual sights.
The ringing of a sleigh bell and songs about the snow
reminds them of a rural Christmas
from years of long ago.

BY Carl G. Mabee

THE BOOKWORM

Hi PROBUS Bookworms,

I'm fairly new to PROBUS and was just appointed member at large. I'm really looking forward to meeting you either by phone, on Zoom or face to face, whenever that may be.

Meanwhile, as a certified introvert and "bookworm" I've enjoyed the past months meandering from one book, author and topic to another and I'm excited to share some of those discoveries with you.

I got totally caught up in the Jeanine Cummins controversy with "American Dirt" about Latino migration across the US border and her memoir, "A Rip in Heaven" about her cousin and friend murdered while walking across a US bridge late one night.

I love finding one book I enjoy and reading more on that topic. Lisa Wingate's "Before We Were Yours" is a true story of illegal child adoption in the southern US. "The Baby Thief" by Barbara Bisanz Raymond tells another part of the story made into a movie with Mary Tyler Moore. I was shocked by the elaborate scheme to steal babies from poor white families and sell them for the highest price to prominent families or movie stars. Because of the books, some of the children have now met and been united with estranged siblings and family.

Quirky, fun books were, "Eleanor Oliphant" by Gail Honeyman and, "Today Will Be Different" by Maria Semple.

I've read most of Anne Tyler's books but neglected her for a while, so I enjoyed, "Redhead at the Side of the Road" and "A Spool of Blue Thread." It felt like visiting old friends, cozy and heartwarming.

I have avoided reading Jodi Picoult for some reason, but a friend recommended, "Small Great Things" and I continued with, "Perfect Match" and "Nineteen Minutes." She uses fiction to deal with current, sensitive issues. It's fun to discover a new author who tells a good story that makes you think.

After the Christine Jessop murder was finally solved this summer, I revisited Kirk Makin's, "Redrum" and finally finished it. At over 700 pages, it certainly takes commitment. It was well researched and written, but needs tighter editing for typos and repetition. The author is a former Toronto crime reporter, and asks important questions about the police investigation.

I read all my books on Kindle, so I can download a sample and a book in one minute and carry them with me everywhere. Right now I'm trying to get into Barack Obama's, "A Promised Land," and "Beyond the Trees: A Journey Alone Across Canada's Arctic" by Adam Shoalts.

I'd love to hear from readers out there. What are you reading? What's your opinion? Any good books you can recommend? Let's get a conversation going, even if it's only by email for now.

Please email me and share some of your reading discoveries and suggestions, possibly to be included in future editions of, "The Bookworm" victoriaplaskett@sympatico.ca

Victoria Plaskett

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE



PROBUS Christmas Party, December, 2013



MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR



PROBUS Christmas Dinner December 6, 2011



PROBUS Christmas Luncheon, December, 2016



RECREATION CENTRE NEWS

Seniors Centre Without Walls: December 2020 Program Calendar | Space is limited.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14 1:30 p.m. Information Highway: Film Friends – Holiday Movies	15 1:30 p.m. Fit or Fun: Fun – 52 Card BINGO	16 1:30 p.m. Information Highway: Guest Speaker – Tim Westhead	17 1:30 p.m. Challenge Accepted: You Be the Judge	18 10 a.m. Fit or Fun: Fit – Exercise
21 1:30 p.m. Information Highway: Biographies – Santa Claus	22 1:30 p.m. Challenge Accepted: Name That Tune – Holiday Edition	23 1:30 p.m. Worldly Wonders: Holiday Traditions	24 Christmas Eve No Programming	25 Christmas Day No Programming
28 No programming	29 1:30 p.m. Information Highway: Story Time – Callers Edition	30 1:30 p.m. Worldly Wonders: New Year Traditions	31 New Year's Eve No Programming	1 New Year's Day No Programming

Let's get connected

1. Dial 1-866-279-1594

2. Enter the 6-digit PASSCODE 401402 then press #

3. Record your name or just stay on the line then press #

+++++

LIBRARY NEWS

AJAX LIBRARY IS FINE FREE

According to the Library, overdue fines will no longer be charged on Library items. Customers remain responsible for lost or damaged items. For more information on library loan periods and fees, please visit ajaxlibrary.ca

MOBILE HOTSPOTS

The Ajax Library has mobile Hotspots available, to borrow free of charge with your Library card. Customers must be 16 years of age or older. Mobile Hotspots provide WiFi for smartphones, tablets and computers through Roger's cellular network. For more information, contact the Library at (905) 683-4000

"WHAT'S ON" FOR DECEMBER 2020

The link for What's On is: ajaxlibrary.ca/?q=node/38

+++++

INCOME TAX CLINICS

Volunteers from the **Community Volunteer Income Tax Program**, trained by the Canada Revenue Agency, will be at the Main Branch of the Ajax Public Library on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00am to 2:00pm. They can help you complete your Income Tax Return and Benefit Return. The Program is only available for Ajax residents who have a valid Ajax Public Library card and have a modest income with simple tax situations. You can book an appointment by calling (905) 683-4000 Extension 8813.

+++++

Oscar Trivia Answers (From page 9)

1. MLK Assassination
2. 13.5 inches
3. Bob Hope
4. Godfather 2
5. Tatum O'Neal



First Day of Winter, Dec 21st



Christmas Eve, Dec 24th



Christmas Day, Dec 25th



Boxing Day, Dec 26th



New Year's Eve, Dec 31st



New Year's Day



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 probusnewseditor@gmail.com