



# PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

Club 82

Vol 26 Issue 12

December, 2023

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many of us are wondering where 2023 has gone! This year has flown by. Was it because we were able to move around freely again or have we just moved on from the pandemic?

We have put away our lawn mowers and leaf rakes and winterized our homes and gardens as we ready ourselves for a Canadian Winter. Snow tires are on the car and the snowblower and shovels are at the ready. As I write this message, it is dark and raining hard. I am thankful it is not snow! We are fortunate

that we have an excellent facility for our general meetings and great activities to keep us busy through the long winter.

We had a busy 2023. We welcomed many new members this year. Shirlie, Julie and April, with their volunteers, planned and implemented trips, theatre, spa days and speakers for our entertainment. The volunteers in the kitchen kept us supplied with coffee and cookies which are always welcome.

We still have many activities coming up in December. Check your calendar to remind yourselves what you have signed up for! December 6<sup>th</sup> is our Christmas lunch at the Ajax Convention Centre, starting at noon. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Some of us celebrate Christmas, others celebrate Hanukkah and Kwanzaa and some don't celebrate at all this time of year. For some, it will be their first Christmas without a loved one. Many new Canadians will be spending their first holiday season away from home and family. Keep these people in your thoughts; offer comfort or an invite in the true spirit of the holiday season of giving and receiving.

I take this opportunity to wish happy holidays to all members of Ajax Probus, and their families. I hope the New Year brings Peace to the world and a healthy and prosperous 2024 to you all.

Jean Wing  
[jeankelly263@gmail.com](mailto:jeankelly263@gmail.com)

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

**President:** Jean Wing

**Past President:** Jane Wilson

**Vice President:** April Gilkinson

**Treasurer:** Rowena Burns

**Secretary:** Bernie Rosebush

**Communications:** Barb Squires

**House:** Margaret Wells

**Membership:** Tom Rosebush

**Newsletter:** Hetty Shapiro

**Socials:** Shirlie van Putten

**Speakers:** April Gilkinson

**Interest Groups:** Julie Mathewson

**Technical:** Stewart Beatty

**Website:** Maureen McVarish

**Member-at-Large:**  
Kevin Portener

Thank you to the members who contributed to this issue.

Please send submissions by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to:

[ajaxprobuseditor@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobuseditor@gmail.com)

PROBUS Ajax website  
[www.ajaxprobus.com](http://www.ajaxprobus.com)



Ajax  
Partnership  
Fund

PROBUS Canada website  
[www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)

# DECEMBER CALENDAR

IF AN EVENT HAS TO BE CANCELLED, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY EMAIL ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT, BEFORE 9:00 AM. MEMBERS WHO DO NOT HAVE EMAIL WILL BE PHONED.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	2 2:30 pm FITZGERALDS 
3	4	5 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	6  CHRISTMAS LUNCH Noon	7 JACK & THE BEANSTALK 10:00 am WALKING GROUP 2:30 pm SOCIAL BRIDGE	8 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	9
10	11	12 10 am COFFEE 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	13 A CHRISTMAS CAROL 2:00 pm EUCHRE	14 10:00 am WALKING GROUP 2:30 pm SOCIAL BRIDGE	15 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	16
17	18	19 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	20	21 10:00 am WALKING GROUP 2:30 pm SOCIAL BRIDGE	22 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	23
24 	25 	26 BOXING DAY 	27	28 10:00 am WALKING GROUP	29 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	30
31 New Years Eve DANCE Party						

# GENERAL MEETINGS

JOIN US FOR LUNCH AT THE PORTLY PIPER PUB AFTER THE MEETINGS.



**LUG-A-MUG** TO CUT DOWN ON THE USE OF DISPOSABLE CUPS, WE HAVE RE-INTRODUCED "LUG A MUG". DISPOSABLES WILL BE AVAILABLE BUT IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF YOU WOULD BRING YOUR OWN MUG TO THE MEETINGS.

**NOTE THAT THERE IS NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER**

<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3 - 10:00 am</b> <b>Ajax Community Centre, HMS Ajax Room</b> <b>(entrance at south side of building)</b>	<b>Meeting fee: \$2</b> <b>Optional "Share the Wealth" draw:</b> <b>Tickets \$1 each or 3 for \$2</b> <b>(exact change appreciated)</b>
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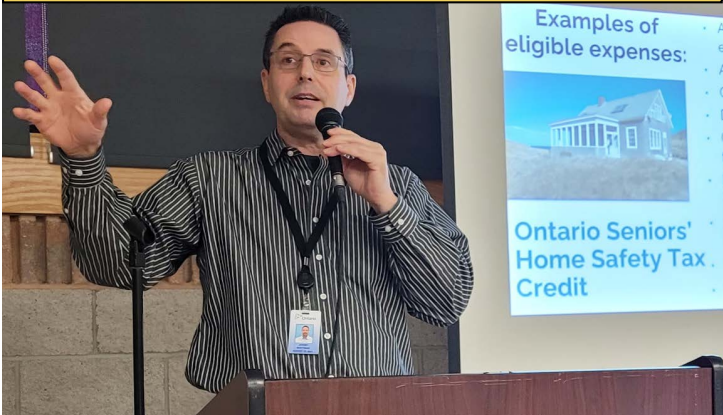
**DOLLY PARTON: BEYOND THE RHINESTONES**  
with Guest Speaker: **Daniel Aonso**

Join Daniel Aonso for a captivating journey into the life and legacy of country singer Dolly Parton – her iconic music career, philanthropy, and undeniable influence on American culture.

Daniel studied piano from an early age. He then went on to complete a Bachelor's and later Master's degree in music from York University with Classical Piano as primary instrument. His main areas of interest are in Popular Music and Film Music. He currently teaches piano, guitar, percussion and music theory at PAVAS music school in Mississauga.



<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 - 10:00 am</b> <b>Ajax Community Centre, HMS Ajax Room</b> <b>(entrance at south side of building)</b>	<b>Meeting fee: \$2</b> <b>Optional "Share the Wealth" draw:</b> <b>Tickets \$1 each or 3 for \$2</b> <b>(exact change appreciated)</b>
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**ARE YOU READY FOR TAX SEASON?**  
with Guest Speaker: **Jeremy Bertrand**

Don't miss this one if you want to save money! Our favourite tax advisory expert, Jeremy Bertrand, from the Ontario Ministry of Finance, will explain which credits and benefits can save you taxes in a fun and interesting presentation. You will also have an opportunity to ask him questions.

# SOCIALS & TOURS



## New Years Eve DANCE Party

Don't spend New Year's Eve alone  
spend it with us at  
**THE EDGE LOUNGE**

Mackenzie Pub Plaza (Harwood & Bayly)  
dancing to the great sounds of  
**RACHEL & AYDEN**

*Watch them perform*



**\$60 p.p includes:**

Sit-down buffet dinner (8 - 9 pm)  
live band, DJ and party favours.  
**Suggested attire: Semi-formal**

We have a reserved seating area for our group.  
Space is limited. If you would like  
to join us for a really fun evening, contact:

April [april-ann@hotmail.com](mailto:april-ann@hotmail.com)  
or Hetty [ajaxprobuseditor@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobuseditor@gmail.com)



## THE GRAND PALLADIUM PUNTA CANA RESORT & SPA DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**JANUARY 6 - 14, 2024 (8 NIGHTS)**

**This 4.5 star all-inclusive hotel has six amazing pools  
13 restaurants • 23 bars • Fitness Centre • 24-hour drinks &  
snacks In-room safe • Waterpark • WiFi**

**Deluxe Garden View Room (11 rooms): Double \$2,149  
Single \$2,655**  
**Deluxe Room Poolside (11 rooms): Double \$2,249  
Single \$2,755**

Price includes all meals, drinks, airfare, daily activities,  
nightly entertainment, all taxes and gratuities,  
and the service of a Tour Director (Shirlie and Paul).

**\$250 deposit on booking**

Contact Shirlie: 905.619.8583 or [shirlie@hnatravels.com](mailto:shirlie@hnatravels.com)

# SOCIALS & TOURS

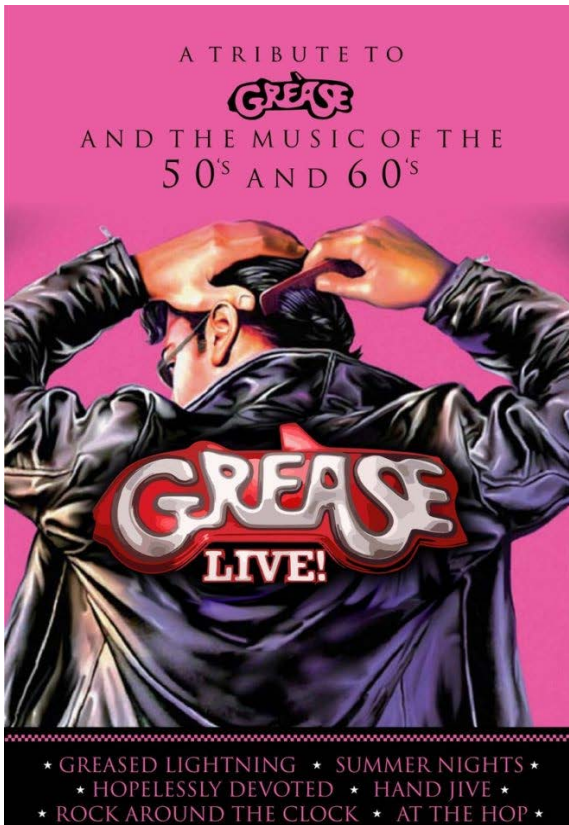
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024 - 3:00 PM**  
**A VALENTINE'S TRIBUTE**  
**TO FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS**  
**REGENT THEATRE OSHAWA**



Jersey Nights is an incredible musical tribute to Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons featuring their many hits and outstanding accapella sound. The show captures the showmanship, energy and music of these great artists and includes eight performers, four vocalists and four talented musicians.

**\$53 PER PERSON (TICKET ONLY)**

RSVP Shirlie: 905.619.8583  
[shirlievanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com)



A TRIBUTE TO  
**GREASE**  
AND THE MUSIC OF THE  
50'S AND 60'S

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024 - 8:00PM**  
**REGENT THEATRE, OSHAWA**

**\$45 PER PERSON (TICKET ONLY)**

A Tribute to Grease features a superb Canadian cast and a repertoire that covers some of the greatest songs of the 50's and 60's. This company of talented singers, actors and comedians will leave you spellbound with their uncanny portrayal of "Grease" and the Music for the 50's and 60's.

This exciting live musical stage show will take you back in time to those memorable days etched in our lives by the tunes and stars of a legendary era. Who knows you just might find yourself on stage with us doing the hand jive.

RSVP Shirlie: 905.619.8583  
[shirlievanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com)

\* GREASED LIGHTNING \* SUMMER NIGHTS \*  
\* HOPELESSLY DEVOTED \* HAND JIVE \*  
\* ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK \* AT THE HOP \*

# SOCIALS & TOURS

## NCL "NORWEGIAN JEWEL" ALASKA CRUISE

AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2024 CRUISE + LAND

AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2024 CRUISE ONLY



Start your amazing adventure in Seward, Alaska. View the awe-inspiring Hubbard Glacier and spy brown bears, whales and eagles in Icy Strait Point. Explore the former gold-rush towns of Juneau, Skagway and Ketchikan. End your experience with a tour of the vibrant city of Vancouver.

**Cruise Cost:** Double occupancy. (Call for single occupancy).  
Balcony - \$4,299; Oceanview - \$3,199 Inside Cabin - \$2,799  
Four-day pre-cruise land package – additional \$1,720 per person. (Call Shirlie for land package details).

Group shore excursions, will be available for purchase prior to departure.



### **7-Day / 6 Ports - Cruise cost includes:**

- All meals onboard, premium beverage package & WiFi. Specialty restaurants excluded.

### **Land portion includes:**

- Return Airfare from Toronto to Anchorage & Vancouver to Toronto
- All connecting transfers between airports & Anchorage, Seward, and Vancouver
- City Tour of Vancouver

### **Not included:**

- Luggage handling; Seat Selection on flights; meals not stated in itinerary.
- Gratuities for the NCL crew and land portion.
- Customary gratuities to local guides, drivers and your HNA Tour Director

A non-refundable deposit of \$250 is due upon booking. Balance due April 1, 2024

Contact Shirlie: 905.619.8583 [shirlie@hnatravels.com](mailto:shirlie@hnatravels.com)

# INTEREST GROUPS



**THE FOLLOWING GROUPS WILL NOT  
BE MEETING IN DECEMBER:**

- BREAKFAST CLUB
- BRIDGE (DEC 28 IS CANCELLED)
- CRIBBAGE (DEC 26 IS CANCELLED)
- DINING OUT
- EUCHRE (DEC 27 IS CANCELLED)
- LADIES LUNCH (RODEO)
- MENS LUNCH (GOMEO)

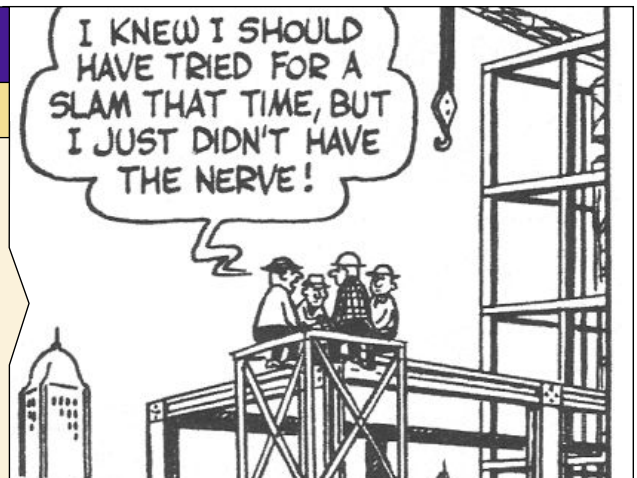
## BRIDGE

**EVERY THURSDAY FROM 2:30 - 4:30 pm**

**ROTARY ROOM, AJAX LIBRARY**  
55 Harwood Ave. South

<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>Social Bridge</b>
<b>Dec 14</b>	<b>Social Bridge</b>
<b>Dec 21</b>	<b>Social Bridge</b>
<b>Dec 28</b>	<b>No Bridge</b>

**RSVP:** Harvey [hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca](mailto:hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca)



## COFFEE & CONVERSATION

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 @ 10:00 am**

**EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY - FOR NEW MEMBERS**

*Members who joined our club in the last 12 months  
are invited to an informal get-together  
at the home of Jane & Bob Wilson.  
(address will be provided when registering)*

**RSVP by Dec 9 to**  
April [april-ann@hotmail.com](mailto:april-ann@hotmail.com) or  
Hetty [ajaxprobuseditor@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobuseditor@gmail.com)



# INTEREST GROUPS

## CRIBBAGE

EVERY TUESDAY 1:30 - 4:00 pm (EXCEPT DEC 26)

### PICKERING VILLAGE SENIOR CENTRE

29 Linton Avenue (one block north of Kingston Road  
& one block west of Church Street)  
(next door to the Ajax Creative Arts Club)

*We have a novice's table at our card games for those  
who want to learn how to play the game  
or who need to refresh their game skills.  
Feel free to join us even if you've never played before.*

RSVP: Wendy [wendysmith1@live.com](mailto:wendysmith1@live.com) 905-686-1490



## EUCHRE

EUCHRE: WEDNESDAY, DEC 13 2:00 - 4:00 pm

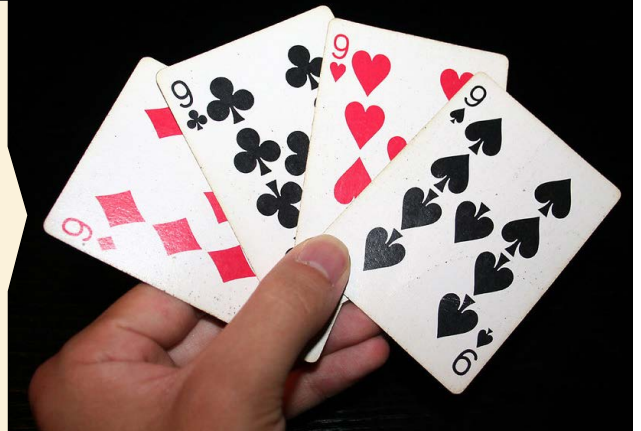
### PICKERING VILLAGE SENIOR CENTRE

29 Linton Avenue (one block north of Kingston Road  
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*We have a novice's table at our card games for those  
who want to learn how to play the game  
or who need to refresh their game skills.  
Feel free to join us even if you've never played before.*

RSVP: Jane [jw.003@sympatico.ca](mailto:jw.003@sympatico.ca) 905-619-6674

I DON'T OFTEN GET 4 NINES BUT  
WHEN I DO, I'M PLAYING EUCHRE!



COMING  
SOON



## SALSA FOR BEGINNERS

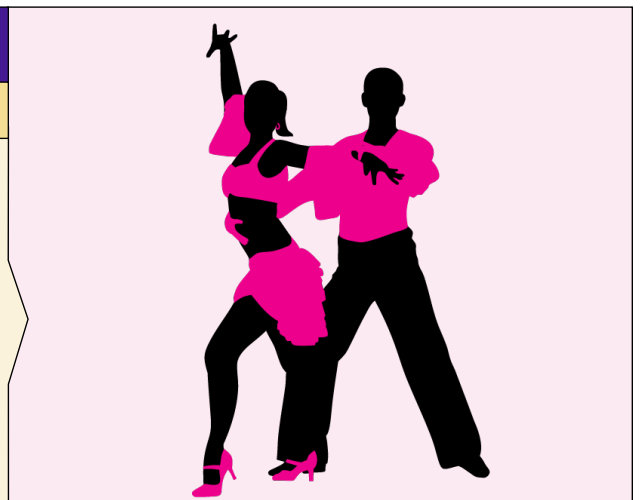
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16 10:30-11:30 am

DATE AND TIME TO BE CONFIRMED  
PARKLAND LIFESTYLE RESIDENCES  
3 Rossland Road W, Ajax

Salsa is fun so if you're up to having a good time,  
then this is for you.

**SINGLES AND COUPLES WELCOME.**

For more information or to register, contact:  
Maureen Adams [mauwa111@rogers.com](mailto:mauwa111@rogers.com)





# INTEREST GROUPS

## WALKING CLUB

EVERY THURSDAY @ 10:00 am

Come join us and discover some of the many walking trails in Ajax and surrounding areas.

For more information contact:  
Ron [mitchellmis@rogers.com](mailto:mitchellmis@rogers.com)  
or Maureen [maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca](mailto:maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca)



## ZOOM CHAT ROOM

EVERY FRIDAY @ 1:00 pm

All members are welcome to join us for a discussion on general topics of interest.

To join the Zoom Chat contact:  
Stewart [ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com)  
or Barb [ajaxprobus@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobus@gmail.com)



### 3 REASONS TO WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE

1. Let's face it, most of us are terrible with names. Having name badges helps us to recall and remember your name.
2. It helps with photo identification for the newsletter.
3. They are good conversation starters.

**If you keep your name badge next to your house keys,  
it will help you to remember to put it on  
before you leave the house.**



# MEMBERS' CORNER



*Welcome to the new members pictured with president, Jean Wing (left).  
Margaret Wilson & Brenda Vaughan*

## *Lakeridge Dixie Stompers*

*The Lakeridge Dixie Stompers play authentic happy New Orleans music featuring a gumbo of Blues, Marches, Ragtime, Hymns, Country & Western and Gospel on:*

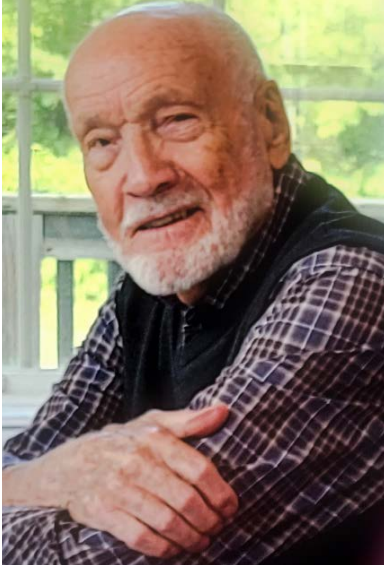
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7  
CLOUD NINE BAR & GRILL  
368 BAYLY ST. WEST, AJAX  
5:00 - 7:00 PM**

**THERE IS NO CHARGE TO SIT AND ENJOY THE MUSIC**

*Tony Lees (band member)  
Probus Club of Ajax member*

# MEMBERS' CORNER

POETRY BY CARL



Carl G. Mabee



## TEDDY BEAR

A teddy bear from Harrods  
Is a treasure one must keep,  
But a Christmas bear from Harrods  
Makes little children weep.

Not just little children but  
Children still at heart.  
They will keep this friend forever  
And never let it part.

It brings joy to any household  
And smiles to every face,  
Dressed in brown and red,  
It lights up every place.

This Christmas, Ted is ready  
For somewhere on your bed.  
It will rest upon your pillow  
Or any place instead.

It has its winter cap on  
And a scarf around its neck.  
It's more for show than comfort  
And says, Oh! What the heck.

He never goes to bed  
Without his little friend,  
A little Christmas mouse  
On whom he can depend.

Now everyone is yawning.  
It's time to go to sleep.  
So hush now, little bear,  
Not another peep.



# MEMBERS' CORNER

## MAUREEN'S CAMERA RAMBLES

### LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

Long Point is a favourite destination for my bird photographer friends. While there, we have visited the Long Point Bird Observatory a few times during different migration seasons.

Long Point extends 32 km into Lake Erie, attracting large numbers of birds, bats and insects during migration. An ideal location to monitor birds during spring and fall migration as well as during the breeding season.

Bird Studies Canada conducts research, education and training programmes at Long Point including public education, allowing visitors to watch the process from capturing the birds in mist nets, banding, examining, weighing and documenting the bird and it's condition and then release. Most of this is carried out by volunteers and researchers and groups of young birders in training.

In my photos, the young birders were assigned to show visitors the banded bird and to release it. These are the biologists and bird researchers of the future.

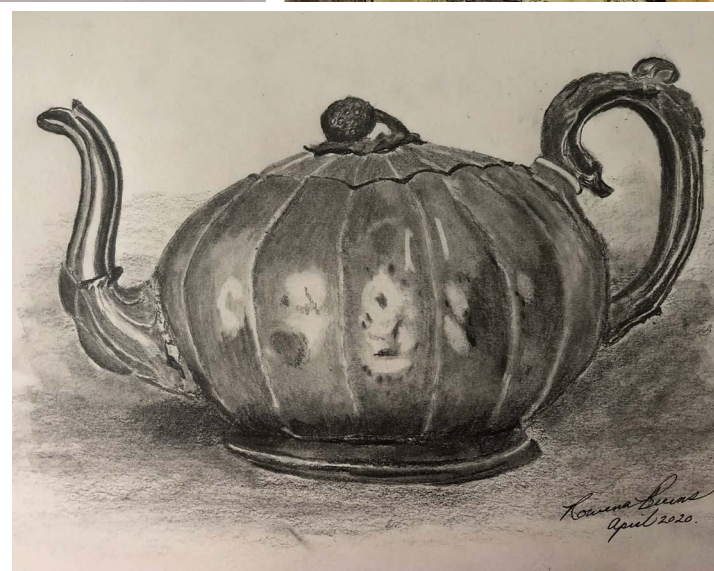
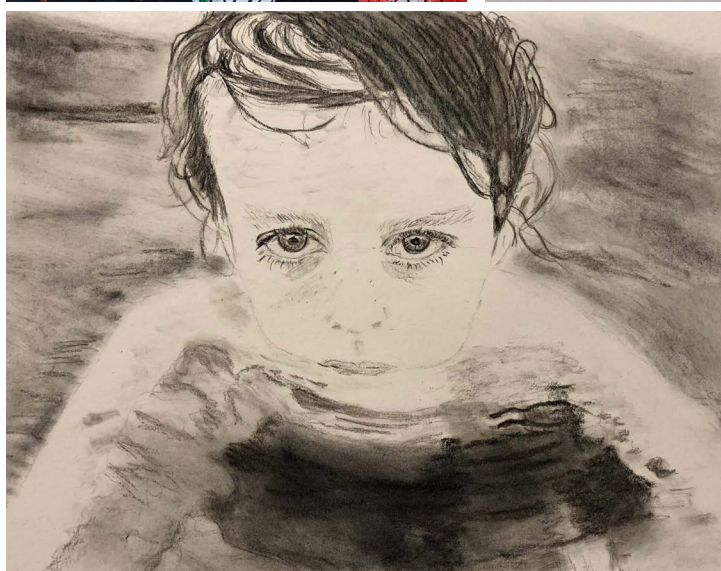
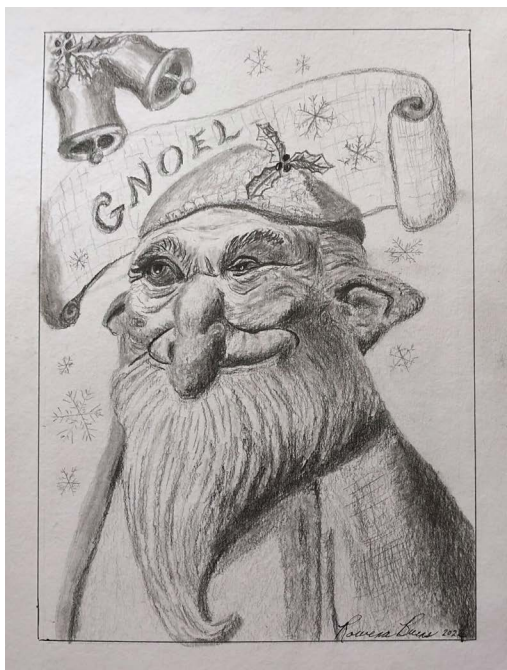
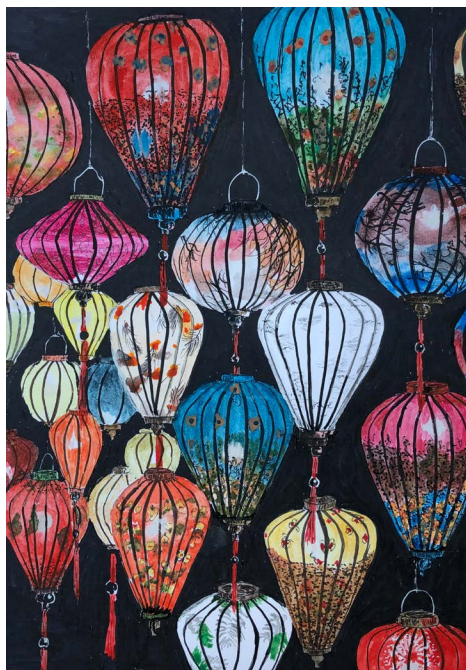


Maureen McVarish



# MEMBERS' CORNER

ART BY ROWENA



Rowena Burns

**Top left:** *Night Delight - 12x9 Pen & Ink & Watercolour wash*

**Top centre:** *Time for Christmas! 12x9 Graphite drawing*

**Top right:** *Around the Corner - Pen & Ink & Watercolour Wash 12x9*

**Bottom left:** *Just a Minute Longer! 9x12 Graphite drawing*

**Bottom right:** *A Long Hard Life Well Lived - Graphite 9x12*

*This was my great Aunt Edith's pewter teapot. She was ladies' maid to Mrs Vanderbilt at Biltmore, for a time, in the early 1900s. I loved the teapot as a small child and inherited it when I was seven. My brother and I inflicted various indignities on it – hence the dents and amateur repairs*



### FESTIVE BRUSSEL SPROUTS



- 3 lbs fresh Brussel Sprouts  
or 2 ½ bags frozen (500 grams each)
- ½ cup olive oil
- ¼ - ½ cup sugar to taste } *or use store bought*
- 1 cup balsamic vinegar } *balsamic glaze*
- 1 cup dried cranberries, rinsed in hot water to soften

1. Preheat oven to 375. Trim/clean the Brussels sprouts, then cut them in half and toss with olive oil.
2. Arrange on 2 baking sheets lined with parchment and roast until brown, 30+ minutes. (Cooking time will depend on the size & whether they are fresh or frozen).
3. Mix the balsamic vinegar and sugar in a saucepan. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer until a thick glaze. (Don't make glaze ahead of time as it will get thicker the longer it stands).  
***If using bottled balsamic glaze, no need to heat it.***
4. Drizzle the balsamic glaze over the roasted sprouts, sprinkle with dried cranberries and serve.

### TRADITIONAL ENGLISH TRIFLE



***Halve the ingredients for a smaller trifle***

- Jelly roll or pound cake, cut into thick slices, or whole lady fingers.
- 3 tablespoons sherry or sweet wine, optional
- 4 cups fresh raspberries or strawberries or mixture of both (do not use frozen)
- 4 cups red Jell-O made to pkg instructions
- 4 cups thick homemade Bird's custard or 4 cans of Ambrosia or PC Devon Custard  
***(Note that canned custard will not be as thick as Bird's custard)***
- 4 cups softly whipped cream
- Garnish with raspberries and/or strawberries.

1. Place lady fingers, jelly roll or cake slices to cover the bottom of a large glass serving bowl.  
Can also place the cake on the sides of the bowl.
2. If you are using sherry or wine, brush it on the cake and let it soak in for 10 minutes.
3. Cover the cake with the raspberries and/or strawberries, leaving a few for garnish.
4. Slowly and gently pour over one-third of the liquid jello and put into the fridge to set.
5. Once this layer is set, pour over the remaining jello and put in fridge to set completely.
6. When completely set, pour the cooled custard over the jello.
7. Top with whipped cream and additional raspberries or strawberries.

***Leftovers will keep for up to three days in the fridge. The cake will be a bit soggy but will still taste good!***

# MEMBERS' CORNER

## SMILES & CHUCKLES



*The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important. - Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time. - Abraham Lincoln*

*Life is but an endless series of experiments. - Mahatma Gandhi*

*I'm not overweight. I'm just nine inches too short. - Shelley Winters*

*Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer you get to the end, the faster it goes. - Unknown*

*Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 10 feet through shag pile carpet to change the TV channel. - Unknown*



# PHOTO GALLERY

## OCTOBER 30 - DURHAM REGION EUCHRE TOURNAMENT



To mark Probus month, a Durham Region Euchre Tournament was organized. Five Clubs participated in the tournament: Ajax, Durham Central, Oshawa, Pickering and Pickering Lakeside.

**Congratulations to Probus Club of Ajax members, Bob Wilson and Sharon Leung who came in 2<sup>nd</sup> with a score of 71.** Valerie Rodrigues and Wendy Swerbrick from Lakeside were 1<sup>st</sup> overall with a score of 76. The four Ajax teams scored a combined 227 points for top spot and the Lakeside teams scored a combined 226 for 2<sup>nd</sup> spot.

*Photo credit: Peter Green, President, Probus Pickering Lakeside*





# PHOTO GALLERY

## NOVEMBER 1 - GENERAL MEETING



*Jim Meek and April Gilkinson*



*Betty Grant & Debbie Casquenette*



*Maureen McVarish & Tish Meek*



*Anne MacInnis & Jill Mason*



*Bob & Jane Wilson*



*Victoria Plaskett*

# PHOTO GALLERY

## NOVEMBER 1 - GENERAL MEETING



*Ken & Janice Lepper with Carl Mabee*



*Hetty Shapiro & guest speaker, Terry Fallis*



*Lorraine Delmonte & Bernadine Taylor*



# PHOTO GALLERY

## NOVEMBER 1 - GENERAL MEETING



# PHOTO GALLERY

## NOVEMBER 1 - GENERAL MEETING

