



PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

CLUB **MARCH** **VOLUME**
82 **2026** **40**

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PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

Club 82

Volume 40

March 2026

In this edition,...

Management Team

President: Kathy Lennox

Interim Vice President: Jane Wilson

Past President: April Gilkinson

Treasurer: Murray Biel

Secretary: Erika Winfrow

Membership: Debbie Casquenette

Speakers: Marlene Rae

Socials: Shirly van Putten

Interest Groups: Julie Mathewson

Communications: Tina Gee

House: Erika Winfrow

Technical: Stewart Beatty

Newsletter: Lynne Stewart

Member-at-Large: Kevin Portener
Debbie Forrester

President's Message...

Let's Spring into Adventure in March!

Pete and I both admire Canadian singer, songwriter and author Jann Arden, the author of *The Bittlemores*, our first Book Club selection. Jann knows a thing or two about living! In her book *If I Knew Then*, she says:

"Getting older in this life is a privilege. It's not the enemy at all, it's a damn adventure. You've got a ticket to that adventure, so be brave, be daring and spontaneous. And if you can't be brave, be reckless." (Well, I'm not sure about that reckless part!)

That made me think about the wonderful opportunities we have in retirement to be adventurous, to challenge notions that getting older means slowing down. Rather, we now have time to explore talents and interests that we may have had to put aside to raise children and hold down a job. Let's go!

At Ajax Probus, we invite you to be adventurous by exploring something new, whether it's meeting at a new restaurant, or trying a new game like Mahjong, Bowling, Pool, Cribbage or Euchre. You can Move to the Music, go skiing, or choose from two walking groups. Try a theatre outing or a travel opportunity. Hey, in June you can even go on a Bush Camp Safari at Toronto Zoo with April! Won't the grandkids be impressed?

Is there an activity you've been wanting to try but don't see it offered? Take a moment to add your idea to our suggestion box or contact our Interest Group coordinator Julie. Why not offer to host an interest group? We can help you set it up. It's a great opportunity to discover people who like the same things you do!

Are you ready for your adventure? Let Probus be your ticket. Your challenge could be something as simple as introducing yourself to someone new during the break at our next meeting. So go ahead—be brave, daring, and spontaneous. But no, Jann, not reckless. We're too wise for that!

Kathy L.



PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

Probus Club of Ajax would like to acknowledge and thank the Town of Ajax and the Ajax Partnership Fund for their support of our Club's events and activities. We work together to make a meaningful impact for Ajax residents and the broader community.

PROBUS AJAX							
MARCH 2026 CALENDAR							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1	WALKING GRP 2 @ 10	2	3	4	5	6	7
		CRACK THE CASE @10 CRIBBAGE @ 2	PROBUS MEETING @10	WALKING GRP 1 @ 10 BRIDGE @ 2	ZOOM CHAT @ 1 MAHJONG @ 2		
8	WALKING GRP 2 @ 10 GOMEIO LUNCH @ NOON RODEO LUNCH @ NOON	9	10	11	12	13	14
		COFFEE & CHAT @ 10 CRIBBAGE @ 2	EUCHRE @ 2	WALKING GRP 1 @10 BRIDGE @ 2	POOL @ 11 ZOOM CHAT @ 1		
15	WALKING GRP 2 @ 10	16	17	18	19	20	21
		COFFEE TIME @ 10 CRIBBAGE @ 2 HAPPY ST. PATTY'S DAY	BOOK CLUB @ 10	WALKING GRP 1 @10 BRIDGE @ 2 DINING OUT @ 5:30	ZOOM CHAT @1 MAHJONG @ 2		
22	WALKING GRP 2 @ 10 MOVE TO THE MUSIC GROUP 2 @ 11 AM BOWLING @ 1 HAPPY HOUR @ 2:30	23	24	25	26	27	28
		BREAKFAST @ 9 CRIBBAGE @ 2	EUCHRE @ 2 MOVE TO THE MUSIC GROUP 1 @ 11 AM	WALKING GRP 1 @10 BRIDGE @ 2	POOL @ 11 ZOOM CHAT @ 1		
29	WALKING GRP 2 @ 10 SIP & CHAT BOOK CLUB @1 MOVE TO THE MUSIC GROUP 2 @ 11 AM	30	31				
		CRIBBAGE @ 2					

Take advantage of the **FACEBOOK** page for your **PROBUS Club of Ajax**. It is visible to our 100 members only. By joining, you will see what goes on at some of the interest group events. Don't forget to post your pictures too!





General Meetings

Will be held the first Wednesday of the month.

The March meeting will be March 4th at

Ajax Community Centre, HMS Ajax Room (south side of building) at 10 a.m.

Notices:

Reminder: In winter, please check your email before setting out for the Probus meetings or events, especially when heavy snow or ice conditions are predicted. If we have to cancel due to weather conditions, we will be sending you an email notice!

Membership

2025 was a year of great growth for our club and we are excited to welcome over 60 new members which takes our membership to 290!

We have been aware for a while that other clubs have capped their membership and we have been reluctant to follow suit since we believe a group like ours should be available to all retired and semi retired persons in Ajax. Keeping Ajax seniors in mind and remembering that we receive a lot of support from the Town of Ajax, we have made the decision that moving forward, new membership in the club will be restricted to those living in the Town of Ajax.

This wasn't an easy decision, especially since we have many longtime and valued members who live outside of Ajax. We want to assure existing non-Ajax resident members that this new policy does not affect you. You are already part of our family!

Thank you for understanding.



Speakers Corner



March 4th Speaker
John Baynahm
Retirement Income Management &
Wealth Management Services

John is an award-winning certified financial planner with over 10 years of experience. He started the Retirement Income Group in June of 2019 and leads a team providing wealth management services to families and businesses.

April 1st Speaker
Dan Carter
Mayor of Oshawa



Topic: Inspirational Message about Life

Courage, perseverance and the support of family goes such a long ways. For 17 years Dan Carter battled addiction while also struggling with severe dyslexia. His remarkable journey through life all the way to the office of Mayor in Oshawa was profiled in the New York Times prestigious “Saturday Profile” series, and in 2023, the story was honoured as one of the paper’s “12 Favourite Saturday Profiles of the year”.

As mayor of Oshawa, he has worked to humanize and address some of Oshawa’s toughest challenges. He is admired for his authenticity, compassion, and unshakable belief in the dignity of every person.



Socials and Tours



May 11th-May 17th

Discover Victoria vs. Vancouver

Details to follow



June 5th-June 11th

Discover Nova Scotia

Details to follow



Payments for events and membership may be made via e-transfer through your bank to:

probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com

Include your name and what the payment is for.

**For more information unless otherwise stated, contact Shirlie at 905-619-8583
or shirlievanputten@rogers.com OR visit the Website**



Upcoming Events



Back by popular demand!

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Join our reserved Probus tables for a fun evening of food, karaoke and dancing at

The Royal Canadian Legion, 111 Hunt St. Ajax

RSVP: april-ann@hotmail.com

Singing is not mandatory, membership is not required and there is no cover charge
Cash for food and drinks; Friday is fish fry night plus other menu items
Arrive at 6 if you are having a meal and Karaoke starts at 7.

March 21st - Scarborough Theatre Presents "Good People" Cost \$25

3600 Kingston Rd, Scarborough

Single mother Margie just fired from her job at the Dollar Store scrambles to find a way for her and her daughter to survive. She contacts an old fling in the hope that he can help her. As they reconnect, secrets and sacrifices are revealed.

Contact Shirlie at shirlievanputten@rogers.com



March 26th - Day at Niagara Casino Cost \$47 but receive \$35 in casino money

Probus Pickering Lakeside has invited us to join them for the day at the Niagara Casino. The Bus will pick us up at the back door of the Pickering Recreation Centre at 8:45 and leave Niagara for the return trip home about 4 p.m.

Contact Julie for more information: jmathewson@rogers.com

May 12th Stratford Presents "Guys and Dolls" Cost \$155

Enjoy the tale of Nathan Detroit, the organizer of the oldest permanent floating crap game in New York. He bets his fellow gambler Sky that he can't make the next girl he sees fall in love with him.

Considered to be the perfect musical comedy.

Includes: Return transportation by motor coach

Orchestra Level Ticket

407 toll and driver's tip

Contact: Shirlievanputten@rogers.com



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probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com

Include your name and what the payment is for.



Upcoming Events



**Toronto Zoo overnight Bush Camp Monday June 22nd
Cost \$165.**

Sleep in Authentic African tents and enjoy the behind the scenes experience.
In Brief you have overnight accommodations in tents with cots (sleeping bags required)

- Two Fully guided walking tours
- Buffet Dinner and Breakfast
- Evening Campfire (weather permitting)

Private Zoomobile tour to and from the campsite and much more!

I am running out of room so make sure you contact **Shirley at 905.619.8583 or shirlievanputten@rogers.com**



Let's Go Skiing!

Enjoy a day on the slopes of Dagmar.

The date will be determined once we have enough interested.

Contact Patsy for more information

**Home 905-686-4495; Cell 289-314-1655
patsyhandley55gmail.com**

The St. Francis Centre 78 Church St. South, Ajax

A PROBUS members special offer to see God of Carnage

This is an internationally acclaimed play -fast paced, smart, and full of sharp humour. It is the kind of evening that leaves people laughing and talking.

Buy one Ticket get one free for the Thursday **March 5** and Friday **March 6th** performances.

Senior Rate is \$20 and you can take advantage of the BOGO discount by

**Visiting: Tickets/Contact-Ajax Community Theatre
and enter the promo code: SCR2526**

For more information call 289.892.4132



Payments for events and membership may be made via e-transfer through your bank to:

probusajaxtreasurer@gmail.com

Include your name and what the payment is for.



Upcoming Events

Music4Life

Forest Brook Community Church 60 Kearney Dr., Ajax

On May Saturday May 9th at 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$20
Get ready for an afternoon of beloved Broadway music
Bold, familiar, and full of flair! With special guest star
Jeff Madden, singer, actor and educator, star of Jersey Boys
and Come From Away.

Contact Julie at: jmathewson@rogers.com



The Rolling Stones Experience

Saturday, May 23, 7:00p.m. at the St. Francis Centre

Tickets are \$34.20

Featuring the Blushing Brides. Don't miss the show that
keeps the spirit of
The Rolling Stones alive - louder, bolder and
more unforgettable than ever

Contact Julie,
jmathewson@rogers.com



Quizzes and Cocktails

Wednesday, May 27th at 7:p.m. at the St. Francis Centre

Tickets are \$5.00

This event is for supposed know-it-alls, intrepid quiz
masters, self-proclaimed professors of random
knowledge and those who just want to have a good
laugh. Join as an individual or with a team of up to 4
people.

Contact Julie,
[Jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)



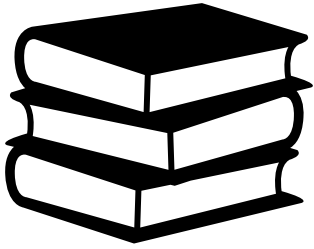
Payments for events and membership may be made via e-transfer through your bank to:

probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com

Include your name and what the payment is for.

Interest Groups

Book Club - Your Choice - The Third Wednesday of the Month



Next Meeting: Wednesday March 18th 10:00 a.m.

Do you have a favourite book? Did you read a couple of books that you enjoyed and would like to share with others? Join our Book Club-Your Choice where we will discuss books you wanted to read!

The February meeting was quite good! Don't miss the next one!
Please Contact Lynne: 912lynne@gmail.com or **905.839.8147**

Book Club - Sip and Chat



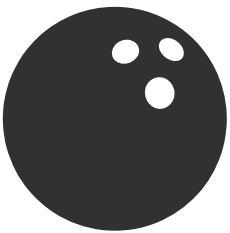
Reading Now: The Flight Girls by Noelle Salazar

Enjoy a cuppa and a fun chat about this book!

Next Meeting: Monday March 30th, 2026, 1 - 3 pm

For more details please contact Kathy at kathylennox@rogers.com

Bowling + Happy Hour



**This month bowling will be Monday March 23rd at 1 pm
AJAX BOWLING CENTRE - 172 Harwood Ave. S. Lower floor**

Please contact: [Kevin keportener@gmail.com](mailto:Kevin.keportener@gmail.com)
call or text 905.626.6303

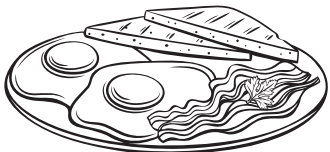
\$10 for two games plus \$2 for shoes

HAPPY HOUR

After bowling, at **2:30 pm**, we go to the **MACKENZIE PUB**
250 Bayly St. Unit 1, Ajax

Non-bowlers are welcome to join us.

Breakfast Club



The fourth Tuesday of the Month

**The next outing will be Tuesday March 24th at 9:00 am
At Westney Restaurant and Bar, 570 Westney Rd, Ajax
Please contact Lynne: 912lynne@gmail.com **905.839.8147****

Interest Groups



Coffee and Conversation

Next get together is Tuesday March 10- 10-12

Please Contact Marlene: marzrae18@gmail.com

This is for anyone who has joined our club in the last 12 months.
It is a great way to meet new people and learn more about how to enjoy
PROBUS.

Coffee Time

Tuesday March 17th at 10 am
at Petite Delight

20 Kingston Rd., Ajax

Don't miss this one! It comes highly recommended!

For information, contact Lynne: 912lynnne@gmail.com or
905.839.8147



Crack the Case

Tuesday March 3rd at 10 on zoom

Are you good at figuring out a mystery?
How about this?

The Case: A man is dead in a ring on a sunny afternoon. The man responsible for his murder is arrested nearby with a small object in his hand.

The Mystery: Who killed the man? What was the object, and what part did it play in his death?

for more info contact Lynne: 912lynnne@gmail.com

Cribbage

Every Tuesday 2:00 - 4:00 PM

At the Pickering Village Senior Centre

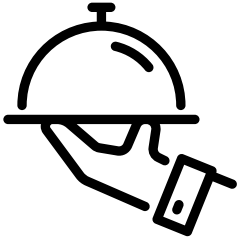
29 Linton Avenue north of Kingston Road, west of Church St.

Please Contact Wendy: wendysmith1@live.com



Interest Groups

Dining Out



Third Thursday of the month
Next outing will be on Thursday March 19th at 5:30

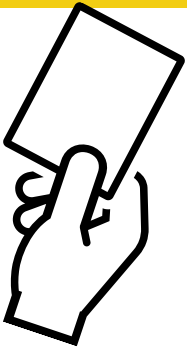
Location TBA

Please let Carol know if you are interested.

cbreen840@gmail.com

"I reserve the restaurant when I know how many people will be joining us. Let me know as soon as possible if you will attend."

Euchre



Second & Fourth Wednesdays of the month
Wednesday March 11th and March 25th from 2-4
To take place at the Pickering Village Senior Center
RSVP: Jane jw.003@sympatico.ca 905-619-6674

The Pickering Village Senior Center is at 29 Linton Ave, one block north of Kingston Rd, one block west of Church St. Hope you will attend.

Golf

Outdoor Golf is over for the season.

- If anyone wants to join us next year, email marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca

GOMEQ" Lunch Group"



"Great Old Men Eating Out"

Second MONDAY of the month at noon.
This month it will be **Monday March 9th**
at the MacKenzie Pub

250 Bayly St. West, Unit 1, Ajax

"Great Old Men Eating Out"

Please let Kevin know if you are attending
keportener@gmail.com 905.626.6303

Interest Groups

Happy Hour



Happy Hour will be on the third Monday of the month.

Next get-together: **Monday March 23rd.**

Please let Kevin know if you are attending

keportener@gmail.com 905.626.6303

We join the Bowling group at **MACKENZIE PUB**
250 Bayly St. West Ajax

Mahjong



First and third Fridays of the month 2:00 - 4:00 PM
at the **St. Andrew's Friendship Club, 46 Exeter Road in**
Ajax, .

Next games will be **March 6th and March 20th**
We are playing a simpler Chinese version of the game. New
players are welcome even if you've never played before.

Please let Julie know if you are attending

jmathewson@rogers.com



Move to the Music is back at
the Parkland Retirement Residence
3 Rossland Rd. West

Level 1 beginner classes start **Wednesday March 25th, 11 to noon**

Level 2 classes start **Monday March 23rd and Monday March 30th, 11 to noon**

Contact Patsy - patsyhandley55@gmail.com

Play Nine

On hiatus for month of March

There is a limit of six players

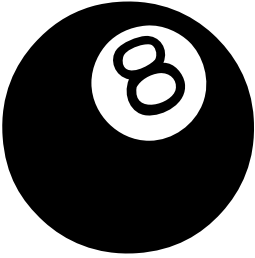
Draw, flip and discard cards to shoot the lowest score.

Contact Diane Sharp **dsharp0322@rogers.com**, for directions



Interest Groups

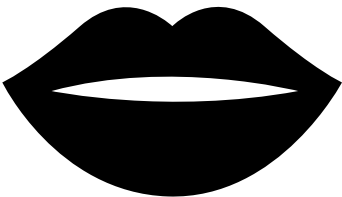
Pool



Second and fourth Friday at **Petrina Billiards**, 21 Harwood Ave. S
March 13th and March 27th

Everyone is welcome, no experience required. Probus members pay \$6.00 to Petrina's. Please remember to wear your Probus name tag.
Contact Don Voorhees, holdus1399@gmail.com or **905-427-7446**

"RODEO" Lunch Group



"Retired Old Dames Eating Out"
the Second Monday of the month at noon
Next get together is **Monday March 9th at Mandarin**
1725 Kingston Road, Pickering
Please let Anne know if you are attending
mandareed02@gmail.com

Walking Group 1



EVERY THURSDAY - AM 10 am
For more information, please contact:
Ron_mitchellmis@rogers.com or
maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca
Join us and discover many walking trails in Ajax and surrounding areas.

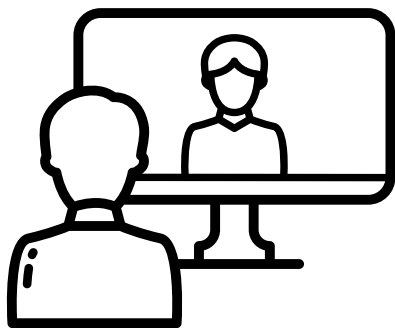
Walking Group 2



EVERY MONDAY - 10 AM
We meet at the **parking lot at Rotary Park on Lake Driveway**
Please contact: Julie - jmathewson@rogers.com

This group is for those members who prefer a shorter, slower pace.

Interest Groups



Zoom

EVERY FRIDAY - 1 p.m.

To join the Zoom chat contact: Stewart
ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com;
All Members are welcome
Keeps us connected!



If anyone has an idea for a one-time activity or a special interest group, let us know.

Contact Julie: jmathewson@rogers.com
or drop a note in the suggestion box at the next meeting.

For activities at the Pickering Village Seniors Centre and St. Andrew's Friendship Club (Currently Cribbage, Euchre, Mahjong) we're asked to join the Ajax Seniors Club (which gives you membership in both centers). Membership is \$20 a year plus \$1 activity fee when you play.

Random Acts of Kindness

If you are aware of anyone celebrating a special birthday or anniversary, or if you know anyone who is experiencing an illness or who has lost a loved one, please let Jane Wilson know so she can send a card on behalf of the club.

Please contact Jane at **jw003.@sympatico.ca** or **905-619-6674**

Members Corner

WELCOME TO FEBRUARY 2026 NEW MEMBERS!

Gerry (Geraldine) Bateman
Gabrielle Campbell
Kat Chisholm
Andrea Deason

Susan Dunn
Ivan Klyne
Erroll Lundy
Gay Magrath
Betty Walker

We are now 290 members strong!

Badges and packages still not picked up

If you are listed below, please pick up your packages with your name badge from the membership desk or call Debbie at 289.314.1990 to make arrangements for a special pickup. Wearing your badges at our outings and meetings is imperative. It makes it so much easier to get to know you when we can put a name and face together.

If you cannot make the March meeting and your name is listed below, please let Debbie know so she can make alternative arrangements.

Terry Beetham
Diane Beettam
Marion Winton
Ian Winton
Josie Beech
Jim Beech

Julie Jordan
Lindon Lowe
Cheryl Persaud
Laura McAloney
Susan Stocks



Photo Gallery

I think they might have left a few members out in the bush on their walk





Photo Gallery

Dinner at the Symposium February 19th



**February
Bowling**



February Happy Hour





Photo Gallery

Breakfast at King's Castle February 24th



Photo Gallery



Coming soon - March 20th!!

