

# PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



PROBUS Club of Ajax, Club # 82 Ajax, Ontario

Vol 23 Issue 3

March 4, 2020

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## NEXT MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> March – 10:00**  
**HMS AJAX ROOM – SOUTH ENTRANCE AJAX COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**MEETING FEE \$2.00 PER PERSON**

### President's Message



**An early spring!!!** At least, that's what "Wiarton Willie" predicted. Did you ever wonder how a hibernating rodent became a meteorologist, predicting the weather?

Groundhog Day is a popular American and Canadian tradition observed on February 2<sup>nd</sup> of each year. It derives from a Pennsylvania Dutch superstition. The first Groundhog Day was celebrated in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania in 1886. Every year 40,000 people converge on this town of 5,000 to see "Punxsutawney Phil" emerge from his burrow. In Canada, there are several Groundhog Day celebrations. Due to Nova Scotia's Atlantic Time zone, "Shubenacadie Sam" of Lunenburg makes the first Groundhog Day prediction in North America. In Quebec "Fred la Marmotte" of Val D'Espoir has been the forecaster since 2009.

Wiarton Willie of Ontario is the most famous groundhog in Canada as well as the only albino weather prognosticator in the world. Each year, media from around the world converge on Wiarton to hear Willie make his famous prediction. On February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 at 8:07am, Willie predicted an early spring.

Some other furry prognosticators in the United States include "Milltown Mel" of New Jersey fame. Each year coffee and doughnuts are donated by the event's sponsor Bronson and Guthlein Funeral Home.

In 2015, "Jimmy" the weather predictor for Sun Prairie, Wisconsin bit the ear of the then Mayor Jon Freund. The next day a mayoral proclamation absolved Jimmy of any wrongdoing.

In Washington DC the Groundhog Day event features "Potomac Phil" who in 2019, according to Wikipedia, not only predicted the weather but also predicted two more years of political insanity.

Groundhog Day in New York City features "Staten Island Chuck". "Dunkirk Dave" predicts the weather in Western New York.

In the southern United States, "Sir Walter Wally's" predictions in Raleigh, North Carolina are 58% correct. Elsewhere in the American South "General Beauregard Lee" makes predictions from Lilburn, Georgia.

So that's the story about the origin and history of Groundhog Day. Let's hope Wiarton Willie is correct and we see an early spring this year. Frankly I've had enough winter.

Joyce

## MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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



*Tom Rosebush, Membership Coordinator*  
905-426-1598 [tom.rosebush@gmail.com](mailto:tom.rosebush@gmail.com)

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

Please welcome your new fellow member: **Victoria Plaskett**

## PROBUS SPEAKERS

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



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

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

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

1] The Bees Knees Apiary. This is a local apiary and is run by a mother and daughter who produce award winning honey. They will speak about the important role that bees have as pollinators together with interesting information on the life and habits of bees and how these small creatures impact our lives.

2] Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue, from Bowmanville. They rehabilitate injured and sick wildlife and release them back into the wild. This organization goes out to various schools and social clubs and is operated by a dedicated team of educators who travel across Ontario, spreading the word about the importance of backyard conservation and co-existence with wildlife.

3] We have also been investigating a speaker who is a local author. She has written some books on Princess Diana. She would be willing to do a presentation for us on "Princess Diana - her life and times".

*Barbara Provis, Speaker Coordinator - 905-240-4545 or [leedle@rogers.com](mailto:leedle@rogers.com)*

## SOCIAL REPORT

### Reminder

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

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

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

Includes:

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



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

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



Includes:

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

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### **Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – Chicago at Stratford – Cost \$170**

Aspiring chorus girl Roxie Hart and vaudeville star Velma Kelly, two murderesses as sexy as they are cynical, compete for the skills of shady lawyer Billy Flynn and the media celebrity he has promised them both. With its killer score and knock-'em dead dance numbers, this deliciously lurid tale of murder, greed, adultery – and all that jazz – packs some serious heat.

Includes:

- Return transportation by motor coach
- Centre Stage Balcony Ticket / Warehouse Tour
- Lunch at Queen's Inn
- Driver's Tip / 407 transportation



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### **Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> – Spring / Summer Bloom Tour – Cost \$120**

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

Includes:

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



### Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> – Keewatin Tour – Cost \$99

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



Includes:

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

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

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**To sign up for any excursions contact Shirlie at [shirlievanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com) or 905-619-8583**

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### HOUSE

Thank you to everyone who has exact change for the meeting fee (\$2) and the Share the Wealth draw. It makes the attendance process much quicker. Keep up the good work.

Jane Wilson, House Coordinator [jw.003@sympatico.ca](mailto:jw.003@sympatico.ca)



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### **AJAX PROBUS INTEREST GROUPS**

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



## PROBUS RODEO GROUP

On **March 18th** we will be lunching at Applebees Grill & Bar, 155 Kingston Road East, Ajax at 12:00 noon.

All ladies are welcome, please join us.

The February lunch was at Boston Pizza. It was a small group this time but the food and conversation were great.

Barb Squires (for Dawn Thornton)

905-706-4626

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



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## BREAKFAST CLUB



Join us for breakfast on **Tuesday, March 31st** at 9:00. This month we are going to K's Grill Breakfast and Lunch at 279 Kingston Road East in Ajax (in the Whitetail Centre). Please let me know by March 27th if you plan to join us.

Suggestions for new places to try are welcomed.

Julie Mathewson 905-686-0803, [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)

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## EUCHRE AND SCRABBLE

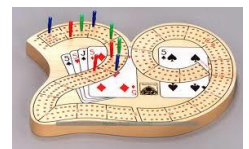


Pick your favourite game to play on the second and fourth Tuesday every month. Our next games afternoons will be on March 10th and 24th, from 2:00 to 4:00. We play at Chartwell Harwood Retirement Residence, 240 Old Harwood Avenue in Ajax. Limited parking is available behind the residence as long as you don't part in a reserved spot, and there is additional parking on the street. For more information, contact Julie Mathewson at 905-686-0803 or [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com).

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## PROBUS CRIBBAGE

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



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

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### **PROBUS BOOK CLUB**

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

Our selection for **March 25, 2020** is:

**"Ripper" by Isabel Allende**

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

For more information call or e-mail Bernie Rosebush at  
905-426-1598 or [bernie.rosebush@gmail.com](mailto:bernie.rosebush@gmail.com)



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### **PROBUS WALKING GROUP**

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

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



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### **BILLIARDS CLUB**

**NEW:** For February and March. PROBUS Billiards clubs meet at Petrina's Taps and Billiards **EVERY** Friday at 11:00 AM.

Seniors pay \$5.00. (2019 cost was \$4.00 for seniors).

At the end of March we will discuss whether to continue with every Friday, or every other Friday for the Summer months.

Thank you.

*Parking is free East side parking lot. North entrance upstairs to second floor.*

Don Voorhees  
(905) 427-9653



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### **PROBUS GOLF**

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



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### DINING OUT CLUB



Our next get together will be on **Thursday, March 12th** at 6 pm. We will be meeting at Finn McCool for dinner which is located on Kingston Rd. E. in Ajax. Please let me know if you are planning on attending.

Thanks.

Carol Breen 905-839-7762 [cbreen840@bell.net](mailto:cbreen840@bell.net)

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### MOVIE CLUB

Please join us at Revera Westney Garden 1010 Westney Rd. **March 7. at 2PM.** The Movie will be Downton Abbey.

**Also** please join us at Chartwell 240 Old Harwood Ave. **March 19 at 2PM.** The Movie will be The Book Thief starring Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson and Sophie Nelisse.

Please join us at Revera Westney Gardens 1010 Westney Rd **April 4 at 2PM.** The Movie will be Seabiscuit.

Please let me know if you will be attending any or all of the above movies.

My contact information is 905 427 3746 or [Vinyl4me@bell.net](mailto:Vinyl4me@bell.net). Hope to see you there.

Nancy Hobart



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### FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Michael and Ann Reid for all the time and work they put into the Family History group. They did a great job and we were lucky to have them in that position.

Carol Breen, Interest Group Coordinator

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## Membershare Board



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

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

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

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

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**Be sure to check your email if the weather is bad on a meeting day just in case we've sent a cancellation message. For those without email, someone will phone you. Emails will be sent and calls made before 9:00 a.m.**

**DON'T FORGET TO LUG A MUG**



## SOCIAL BRIDGE



### March

SOCIAL BRIDGE on Thursdays at the Ajax Public Library – Main Branch, 55 Harwood Ave. South in the Rotary Room starting at ~2:30pm (A free will donation is taken for coffee and cookies.) Social bridge will be held on **Thursday March 5, March 12, March 19 and March 26**. This is social bridge so HAVE FUN.

FREE BRIDGE LESSONS There are no lessons in March.

### **Marathon Bridge Year End Luncheon 2020**

The year-end bridge luncheon is scheduled for **Friday May 8, 2020** at 12 noon at the Mandarin in Pickering. Year-end prizes and door prizes will be given out at this time. You have paid for the lunch when you registered for the Marathon Bridge last fall. Cost of alcoholic beverages will be extra but tea coffee and gratuities are included. The luncheon will be followed by social bridge. If you have not already, could you please confirm your attendance 1) no attendance, 2) lunch only, or 3) lunch and social bridge. If you are playing social bridge after lunch would you please bring playing cards. Thank you for a great season of bridge.

**Please complete all of your games by April 30.**

*Harvey Brodhecker*

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8th



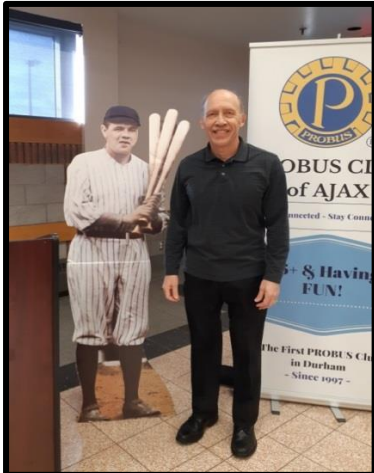
17th



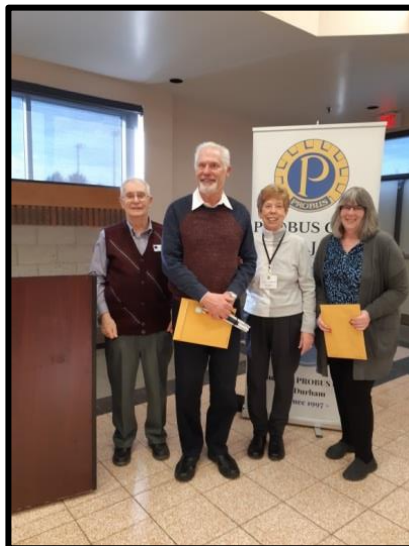
19th



## February 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting



**Jerry Amernic, Feb 5th Speaker**






**Tom & Joyce with new members Ray & Karen**



**February 25<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Club at Cora Breakfast & Lunch**

# AJAX PROBUS CALENDAR, MARCH, 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 10 – 12 <b>PROBUS Meeting</b> 2-4 Cribbage	5 2:30 Social Bridge, Library	6 11:00 Billiards	7 2 pm Movie Club Westney
8 1:30 - 3:30 Library Movie Ford vs Ferrari 	9	10 2-4 Euchre	11 10-12 Walking Group 2 – 4 Cribbage	12 2:30 Social Bridge, Library 6:00 pm Dining Out	13 11:00 Billiards	14
15	16	17 	18 10-12 Walking Group 12:00 RODEO Lunch 2 – 4 Cribbage	19 2:30 Social Bridge, Library 2 pm Movie Club Harwood  <i>Spring</i>	20 11:00 Billiards	21
22	23	24 2-4 Euchre	25 10-12 Walking Group 1:30 Book Club 2 – 4 Cribbage	26 2:30 Social Bridge, Library	27 11:00 Billiards	28
29	30 Niagara Wine Tour	31 9:00am Breakfast Club				