



AUGUST 2026

**CLUB 82
VOLUME 45**

PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

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**Westben
Theatre
Go to Facebook for
comments**



PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER



Club 82

Volume 45

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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: Shirlie van Putten

Interest Groups: Julie Mathewson

Communications: Tina Gee

House: Erika Winfrow

Technical: Stewart Beatty

Newsletter: Lynne Stewart

Webmaster: Oankar Kundan

Member-at-Large: Debbie Forester
Janice Hutton
Kevin Portener

President's Message

Sometimes wisdom comes from where you least expect it. Driving home from a shopping trip at Durham Centre the other day, Pete and I noticed a sign on the front lawn of St. Jude Catholic School where I used to teach. "It is what it is but it will be what you make it." We hear the first part all the time, and now we were inspired by the second part. We can't always change what life throws at us, but somehow hopefully we can find a way to deal with it.

(Speaking of signboards, we both love the jokes on the one at the Active Green and Ross Auto at Kingston & Hwy 2 making us smile, groan or sometimes both.)

August is heating up in more ways than the temperature! Don't miss our Garden Club's tour of Rosetta McClain Gardens and visit to Soper Creek Wildlife Preserve. Also, be sure to sign up for the September trip to Famous People Players, and the upcoming Road Rally Scavenger Hunt when details become available. Don't forget that most of the activity groups run as usual throughout the summer!

We are busy getting ready for our Annual General Meeting in September to mark the start of a new Probus year. Thanks to April for organizing and recruiting our new slate of Management Team members!

This month we will be launching our new Wild Apricot website and application. Through this site you will be able to sign up for activities, receive reminders, make payments and keep up to date with what is going on with our Club. We will be helping you to get connected at the Aug 5 meeting and further information will be emailed to you. Thanks to Janice for her help in getting us going with Wild Apricot, and thanks to everybody for your patience as we move to the new program.

A reminder that renewal fees are due, and there will be extra volunteers at the membership table for you to pay at the meeting if you haven't yet done so.

The best part of being President is getting to know the members and being part of a fun management team. "It is what it is but it will be what you make it". That's PROBUS Club of Ajax— thanks to our collected efforts we are able to grow and thrive together with interesting and fun things to enjoy. Here's to another wonderful year ahead!

Kathy



PROBUS 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 AUGUST 2026 CALENDAR						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
						1
2	3 WALKING GRP 2 @ 9:30	4 CRIBBAGE @ 2	5 MONTHLY MEETING @ 10	6 WALKING GROUP 1 @ 9:30	7 ZOOM CHAT @ 1 MAHJONG @ 2	8
9	10 WALKING GRP 2 @ 9:30 BOOK SIP & CHAT @ 1 GOMEIO LUNCH @ NOON RODEO LUNCH @ NOON BRIDGE @ 2	11 COFFEE & CONVERSATION @ 10 CRIBBAGE @ 2	12 BIKE TOUR 9:30 EUCHRE @ 2	13 WALKING GROUP 1 @ 9:30	14 POOL @ 11 ZOOM CHAT @ 1	15
16	17 WALKING GRP 2 @ 9:30 BOWLING @ 1 HAPPY HOUR @ 2:30	18 CRIBBAGE @ 2	19	20 WALKING GROUP 1 @ 9:30 DINING OUT @ 5:30	21 ZOOM CHAT @ 1 MAHJONG @ 2	22
23	24 WALKING GRP 2 @ 9:30 BRIDGE @ 2	25 ROSETTA MCCLAIN GARDENS @ 10 CRIBBAGE @ 2	26 BIKE TOUR 9:30 EUCHRE @ 2	27 WALKING GROUP 1 @ 9:30	28 POOL @ 11 ZOOM CHAT @ 1	

Take advantage of the FACEBOOK page for your PROBUS Club of Ajax. It is visible to our 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!



Swing Easy Band





PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

Did you Know?

The PROBUS Club of Ajax is the first PROBUS Club formed in the Durham Region. We received our charter in 1998. There are now 11 Clubs in the Durham Region.

In addition, two new clubs will be opening soon:

Pickering Millennium has already had their information meeting and another new club will be opening in Whitby. If you would like information on either of these clubs for friends or family that would like to join, contact our Area Director for PROBUS Canada, Peter Green at peter.green@probuscanada.ca

Logging into ajax.ca/55plus is a quick way to get current information on activities being offered to seniors in Ajax. You can see upcoming events, the 55+ Recreation Guide (the Fall guide should be out shortly), Seniors Centre Without Walls (on-line activities), 55 + Lets Do Lunch Program, Ajax Seniors Club, PROBUS Clubs, Ajax Public Library, Indoor Walking Program, Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts, Volunteer Opportunities, Age-Friendly Ajax Community Resource Guide and the winners of the 55+ Poetry Contest (our member, Carle Mabey, won 1st prize)

You can sign up to receive email updates. At the moment, there are no seminars or lunch and learn activities, but check back in August.

If you have any ideas or facts you would like to share on our new "Did You Know" page, please place them in the suggestion box at the next meeting.



Speakers Corner



August's Speaker Raven Murphy

Raven Murphy is among other things an author. Having written *Shut Up and Listen: A No BS Guide to Unlocking Nature's Wisdom*.

Raven will help show us how to appreciate the benefits of nature.

"When you give nature your attention, it gives you back calm, clarity and a sense of belonging you can't find anywhere else"



September 's Speaker Brian Joyce Topic - Who's that Bird?

Brian holds a degree in ecology with one of his prime interests being in birds and bird banding.

In September, he will teach us some techniques on how to identify the numerous songbird species that visit this area during migration. He will also tell us about the challenges the birds face during their long journey.

He has recently started his own venture called Birds, Bees and Trees where he educates groups, families and seniors on different nature topics.



Upcoming Events



Date TBD

Contact Julie jmathewson@rogers.com



Annual BBQ Cost: \$25.

Thursday September 10th

at Kinsmen Park, 705 Sandy Beach Rd., Pickering

Come and join your fellow PROBUS members for our annual Summer BBQ!

Menu: Chicken Skewer, Corn on the Cob, Baked Potato, Dessert and Drink with Meal

If you haven't already paid, please bring your payment to the August 5th meeting.



Re-Launch of IMPROV for Beginners

You can sign up as a "participant" or "On the Fence" and just watch. You will discover this is a fun way to think, learn how to think on your feet and improve your confidence.

Join us at the theatre at

Chartwell, 240 Old Kingston Rd., Ajax

It will be the third wednesday of each month starting

Sept 16, from 1:30-3



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

Famous People Players - Cost \$153 Wednesday September 16th

This Electrifying musical experience will dazzle and inspire you - it is something you can only see in the dark! Our soccer ball will bounce right into your heart and leave you truly Star Struck - Go Games Go!

Included:

- Return transportation by motor coach
- Delicious lunch in dining room
- Performance at the World renowned Black Light Theatre
- Dessert is served in the dining room at intermission
- Driver's Tip

for more info contact Shirlie at: **905-619-8583 or shirlievanputten@rogers.com**

Peterborough Lift Lock Cruise and Canoe Museum Cost: \$143

Friday October 2nd

Bus, Lunch, Canoe Museum and Cruise included
see flyer

Upcoming Events - Details to follow

- October 28th - Halloween Party
- November 25th - St. Jacob's Market
- December 2nd - Christmas Luncheon
- December 11th - Parkwood Estates presents:
"Deck the Halls" -Cost \$26.
Tour of the Estate decorated for Christmas.

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.





Upcoming Events

Exploring the UK - October 3rd - 13th - Pick up Flyer!

Visit - Stonehenge - Torquay - Greenway - Bath - The Cotswolds - London

Your England adventure will include:

- Flight to Heathrow airport with Air Canada - direct/non-stop
- Three nights at the Hampton Inn, Torquay, UK - or similar
- Three nights at the Hampton Inn, Bath, UK - or similar
- Three nights at the Premier Inn County Hall, London - or similar
- Private highway motor coach transportation during your touring in the UK
- Private motor coast to and from Heathrow Airport
- Attractions mentioned in the itinerary - admissions and tours etc.
- Your package will include 48-hour London "Hop-on/Hop-off" bus ticket;
- Tickets to the Agatha Christie: Witness to the Prosecution
- Included meals - nine breakfasts; one High Tea; one dinner

Services of Shirlie, your HNA Tour Director



Sun and Fun - January 15th -26th, 2027 - see Flyer

Extra rooms have been booked this year to accommodate everyone!

This will be in the Adult Section of the hotel. Last year, we kind of took over the area. Our own pool, bar and lounging area.

Pick up your flyer today!

Interest Groups



Book Club - Sip and Chat

Reading now: **Spare by Prince Harry**

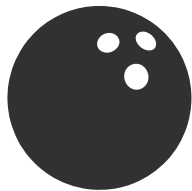
Enjoy a 'royal' cuppa and chat about this book.

Next meeting will be Monday Aug 10th at 1 pm

Books available for pick up.

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

Bowling + Happy Hour



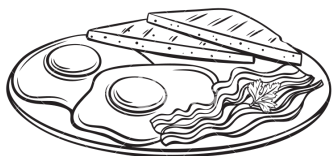
This month bowling will be **Monday, August 17 at 1 pm.**

AJAX BOWLING CENTRE - 172 Harwood Ave. S. Lower floor

Please contact: **Kevin keportener@gmail.com** call or text **905.626.6303**
\$10 for two games plus \$2 for shoes. Non-bowlers are welcome to join us.

Happy Hour

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



Breakfast Club

The fourth Tuesday of the Month

The next outing will be in September.

Please contact Lynne: **912lynne@gmail.com 905.839.8147**

Bridge



2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. 2-4 pm,
at **Chartwell Pickering City Centre Retirement Residence,**
1801 Valley Farm Rd on the lower level.

Bridge for Intermediate to advanced players. \$2 to play.

Must register in advance with Jacqueline, mjmollaret@gmail.com

Marathon Bridge - In Marathon bridge you play with the same partner all year, against other partners in their own homes. This is about fellowship and not competition, so abilities are from beginner to experienced.

The new season starts in September and goes until April.

Please register with Harvey by the end of August to get onto the schedule.

hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca

Interest Groups

Coffee and Conversation



Next get-together is **Tuesday August 11th 10-noon.**

Please Contact April, april-ann@hotmail.com

This is for anyone who has joined our club in the last 6 months.
It is a great way to meet new people and learn more about how to enjoy
PROBUS.

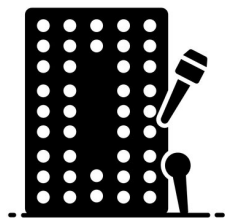
Coffee Time

Our Next meeting will be in September.



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

Cribbage



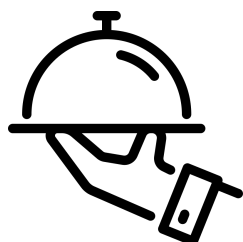
Every Tuesday 2:00 - 4:00 PM

at The Pickering Village Senior Centre

Contact Wendy: wendysmith1@live.com

The Pickering Village Senior Centre is at
29 Linton Avenue, one block north of Kingston Road, one block
west of Church Street

Dining Out



Third Thursday of the month
Next outing will be on Thursday,

August 20th at 5:30

Location TBA

The number of members attending is needed before
Carol can book a place.

RSVP Carol: cbreen840@gmail.com

Interest Groups

Electric Bike Touring

Wednesday August 12th @ 9:30 and Wednesday August 26th @9:30

On the 12th, we will meet at the foot of Harwood Avenue (Veterans' Point), trail ride TBD. Details for the 26th will be shared when available.

New riders are welcome.

Contact Marion MMullen for more information, doggieslive@rogers.com or 416-418-1378



Euchre

Second & Fourth Wednesdays of the month

**Wednesday August 12th and August 26th from 2-4 pm
at the Pickering Village Senior Center**

Contact 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.



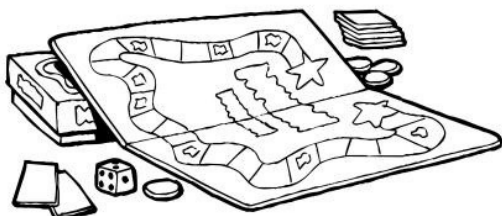
Games

First Monday of the month, however will be on hiatus until October.

**at the Pickering Village Senior Centre, 29 Linton Avenue,
Pickering.**

Bring your favourite game or play one of ours.

Contact Jacqueline: mjmollaret@gmail.com



Garden Club

We will be going to **Rosetta McClain Gardens on Tuesday August 25th** for a free self-guided tour of the gardens and observation of monarch butterfly tagging, followed by lunch.

Meet at the Ajax Community Centre at 10:00 to car pool.

For more information, contact Marlene; marzrae18@gmail.com



Golf

Golf is Back!

Email marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca to join



Interest Groups

GOMEO" Lunch Group"



"Great Old Men Eating Out"

Second Monday of the month at noon.

This month it will be **Monday August 10th**

at the MacKenzie Pub

250 Bayly St. West, Unit 1, Ajax

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

905.626.6303

Happy Hour



Next get-together: August 17th at 2:30.

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

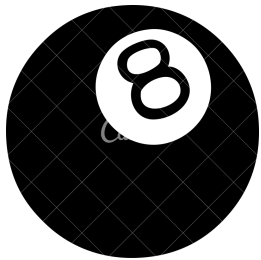


First and third Fridays of the month 2:00 - 4:00 PM
at the **St. Andrew's Friendship Club, 46 Exeter Road in Ajax, .**

Next games will be **Friday August 7th and August 21st.**

We are playing a simpler Chinese version of the game. New
players are welcome even if you've never played before.

Contact Julie for more information jmathewson@rogers.com



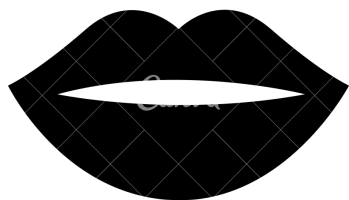
Pool

Second and fourth Friday at **Petrina Billiards, 21 Harwood Ave. S**
August 14th and August 28th. 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**

Interest Groups

"RODEO" Lunch Group



"Retired Old Dames Eating Out"
the Second Monday of the month at noon
Next get-together is **Monday August 10th at Mandarin**
1725 Kingston Road, Pickering
Please let Anne know if you are attending
mandareed02@gmail.com

Walking Group 1



EVERY THURSDAY - AM 9:30 am
For more information, please contact:
Ron mitchellmis@rogers.com or Maureen
McVarish maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca
Join us and discover many walking trails in Ajax and
surrounding areas.

Walking Group 2

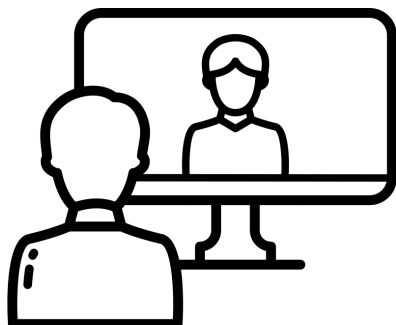


EVERY MONDAY - 9:30 AM
We meet at the **parking lot at Rotary Park on Lake Driveway**
177 Lake Driveway West, Ajax
Please contact: Julie - **jmathewson@rogers.com**

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

Zoom

EVERY FRIDAY - 1 p.m.



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

Member's Corner



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 (Cribbage, Euchre, Mahjong and Games). We are 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 jw.003@sympatico.ca or 905-619-6674

WELCOME TO JULY 2026 NEW MEMBERS!

Suzanne Bergeron de Go'mez
Linda Kells

Karen MacDonald
Denise Stuckless



Speaker Lianne Harris



Shirley receiving
Volunteer of the year
award



New members receiving
their packages

Member's Corner

Ajax Probus Membership is currently at 316. At our July 2nd meeting, we had 149 Ajax Probus members attend and four new members sign up. Our new members are Suzanne Bergeron de Gomez, Karen, MacDonald Linda Kells and Denis Stuckless.

Let's all welcome them to Ajax Probus. We hope to see you all at the next meeting in August.

Our memberships are up for yearly renewal. The new year starts in August and the the amount is \$45.00 per person. If you haven't already registered for next year, please come and see me at the membership desk if you would like to pay by cash or cheque. If you would like to do an e-transfer, here is the treasurer email address...

probusajaxtreasurer@mail.com



Members Corner

Calling All Members: Share your Love for PROBUS!

We are creating a video montage to celebrate PROBUS 40th anniversary and we want you to be a part of it!

All you need is your smartphone.

- **The Ask:** Record a quick video clip of yourself sharing what you love about PROBUS
- (Remember that by submitting a clip, you are giving permission for your images to be used in our video.)
- **The Length:** Keep it short- no more than **20 seconds!**
- **The Location:** Please shoot the video outside or at your club's venue or your favourite place.
- **The Deadline:** End of August.
- **The Reward:** Everyone who submits a clip will be entered into a draw for a **Dinner for Two Voucher (worth \$140)**

Quick Director's note: *While we'd love to feature everyone's Hollywood debut, we might not be able to squeeze every single clip into the final edit. However we promise to watch and enjoy every last one of them!*

Stuck on what to say: After starting by giving your name and your club's name, use **one** of the prompts to answer in your video:

- How did you first hear about PROBUS - and what made you decide to join?
- What's the one thing you look forward to most - an interest group, a speaker, or a social event?
- Finish this sentence: "The best thing about PROBUS is..."
- What would you tell a friend who has never heard of PROBUS?
- Tell us about a PROBUS moment - a trip, an event, a conversation- that is most most memorable.
- What does PROBUS mean to you - in one word or one sentence?

Ready to submit? Upload your 20-second clip directly to our special site here: **Submit Your Video**
<https://www.dropbox.com/request/3ttrex3ucrhf3qhlyyha>

Thank you for helping us celebrate 40 wonderful years!

Best regards,

Chuck Heroux and Pat Zrihen

for the 40th anniversary committee