



**PROBUS CLUB  
OF AJAX  
NEWSLETTER**

**APRIL 2026**

**CLUB 82  
VOLUME 41**

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# PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

Club 82

Volume 41

April 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 Casquenet

**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...*

April is for volunteers—and poetry!

“Don’t let the old man in”, is what Stewart said to Pete (two of the many Probus volunteers we honour this month), as they were setting up the equipment for the March meeting. I wasn’t sure exactly what he meant—should I arrange for a bouncer at the door? No, I later learned it’s the title of a Toby Keith song from 2019 that also contains this haunting line: *Ask yourself how would you be / If you didn't know the day you were born*. Would we act the same or differently if we didn’t know our actual age? Thanks for sharing, Stewart!

What a great introduction to what is also poetry month, and the power of songs, words, and stories to guide and comfort us through life’s ups and downs. I love poems of all shapes and sizes, from nursery rhymes to the great classics.

Stewart’s song suggestion reminded Pete and me of the great Tennyson poem, “Ulysses”, in which the hero returns from the Trojan War after 20 years. Back home after a lifetime of adventure and noble deeds, he wonders what to do with himself. Haven’t we all struggled with this same question in retirement? The poet inspires us to keep going:

Some work of noble note, may yet be done,  
Not unbecoming men that strove with Gods....

We at Probus Club of Ajax have our own poet in the membership! We congratulate Carl Mabee, who placed second in the Ajax 55+ contest last year for his poem “Starry Starry Nights”. Another of his poems, “Ode to Volunteers”, is featured in this month’s newsletter. Such a fitting tribute to volunteers and poetry! Well done, Carl!

Celebrate poetry month by sharing a poem or song or even a line that resounds with you. Here’s a refrain that echoes in my heart, from Leonard Cohen’s 1992 song Anthem. It reminds me that it’s okay not to be perfect, and even more, that mistakes can lead to clarity:

Ring the bells that still can ring / Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack, a crack in everything  
That’s how the light gets in.

Thanks to the poets and volunteers among us! May they continue to light up our lives.

*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 APRIL 2026 CALENDAR						
SUNDAY	M ONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30 WALKING GRP 2 @ 10	31 CRIBBAGE @ 2	1 PROBUS MEETING @10	2 WALKING GRP 1 @ 10 BRIDGE @ 2	3 GOOD FRIDAY ZOOM CHAT @ 1	4
5	6 EASTER MONDAY WALKING GRP 2 @ 10	7 CRIBBAGE @ 2	8 EUCHRE @ 2	9 WALKING GRP 1 @ 10 BRIDGE @ 2	10 POOL @ 11 ZOOM CHAT @ 1	11
12	13 WALKING GRP 2 @ 10 GOMEO LUNCH @ NOON RODEO LUNCH @ NOON	14 COFFEE & CHAT @ 10 CRIBBAGE @ 2	15 BOOK CLUB @ 10 IMPROV @ 1:30 PLAY NINE @1:30	16 WALKING GRP 1 @10 BRIDGE @ 2 DINING OUT @ 5:30	17 ZOOM CHAT @1 MAHJONG @ 2	18
19	20 WALKING GRP 2 @ 10 BOWLING @ 1 HAPPY HOUR @ 2:30	21 COFFEE TIME @ 10 CRIBBAGE @ 2	22 EUCHRE @ 2	23 WALKING GRP 1 @10 BRIDGE @ 2	24 POOL @ 11 ZOOM CHAT @ 1	25
26	27 WALKING GRP 2 @ 10	28 BREAKFAST @ 9 GARDEN CLUB @ 11 CRIBBAGE @ 2	29	30 WALKING GRP 1 @10 BRIDGE @ 2		

Take advantage of the **FACEBOOK** page for your **PROBUS Club of Ajax**. It is visible to our 103 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 April meeting will be on April 1st at the Ajax Community Centre, HMS Ajax Room (south side of building) at 10 a.m.

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## Notices:

### Membership

2025 was a year of great growth for our club and we are excited to welcome many new members. Our membership will probably tip 300 this month. Thanks to all of you for sharing your experience with friends and relatives. We have been so successful that we will now be limiting new members to people living in Ajax.

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## March Meeting

From the picture below, I cannot read anyone's name tag but if I was at the March meeting, I would have had no problem saying hi to "Ann" and asking "How are you?"

It is important that you wear your name tag!





## **An Ode to Volunteers by Carl G. Mabee**

**Our town is a vibrant living thing  
Brought to life by volunteers, who made the whole thing sing.  
It started back when pioneers came to clear the land  
And when it came time to harvest, they gave each one a hand.**

**Perhaps a hundred years has passed when the call went out again.  
Our mother land was threatened and the King must keep his reign.  
So they built this massive factory, it didn't take them years  
To stave off the heartless enemy that was causing death and tears.**

**The Ladies came from far and near to answer to the call  
And so the bomb girls covered up their hair and did it one and all.  
And when the war was over many people wished to stay  
So they name our little town Ajax and kept it to this day.**

**How to get the district started as this was something new  
Unlike other places, with time just slowly grew?  
Good people were appointed to lead this daunting task.  
To find this needed talent all they had to do was ask.**

**With the population exploding some volunteers ask those around  
if we should ask the municipal board to declare this place a town.  
Ajax then became a Town and strong Mayors followed suit.  
Each one brought something special; now results are somewhat moot.**

**The growth was carefully managed and results are plain to see.  
This town has something for everyone included you and me.  
It takes a dedicated team of experts to keep this town A plus  
And others to handle the expansion with very little fuss.**

**We have a resort on our doorstep and it's beauty to behold.  
Our lakefront is one to envy and has a story to be told.  
There's walking or some activity for everyone to partake  
Or just enjoy its natural beauty as you sit down by the lake.**

**This town of ours keeps humming thanks to all the volunteers  
Who keep us involved in everything, to them we throw out Cheers.  
They run the clubs and man the booths and keep us entertained  
Thank you one and all for the benefits we have gained.**



# Speakers Corner

## **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”.

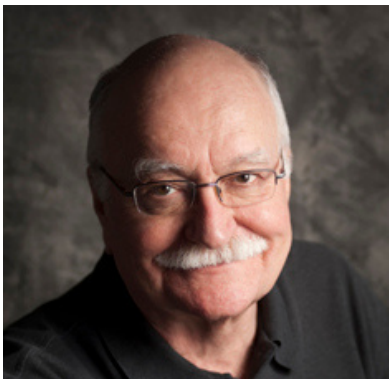
As mayor of Oshawa, he has worked to humanize and address some of Oshawa’s toughest challenges. He is admired for his authenticity, compassion, and unshakable belief in the dignity of every person.

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## **May 6th Speaker**

**John Harquail**

### **“On the Road Again” - 25 years of Annual Report Location Photography on four Continents”**



For over 40 years John provided professional location photography services for major Canadian and multinational corporations etc

John is a past-president of the Professional Photographers of Ontario and past-president of the Canadian Association of Photographers and Illustrators in Communications.

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## **June 3rd Speaker**

**Mark “Hebsy” Hebscher**

### **The Rise and Ruin of Sports Media**



As Co-anchor of the show Sportsline and Global TV, Mark helped revolutionize the way sports are presented on TV. Mark is a true sports historian and a foremost expert on on everything sports. He lives in Toronto where he enjoys golf, music and gardening.



# Socials and Tours



**June 5th-June 11th**

**Discover Nova Scotia and Cape Breton**

**Package costs:**

**\$3,999.07 per person/double occupancy, HST included**

**\$5,083.07 single occupancy, HST included**

**Package includes;**

**Flight to Halifax, direct/non stop**

**2 nights in Baddeck Bay, 3 nights Halifax, Overnight on "The Ocean" sleeper plus of Via Rail - Halifax to Montreal**

**Private motor coach from Montreal train to the GTA**

**6 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners**

**NOTE: Due to fluctuating airline costs, this price is subject to change**

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**October 3rd-13th  
- Exploring the UK**

see Shirlie for more info

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

[probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto: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

CES PTA  
PRESENTS

## LIGHT UP THE NIGHT GLOW DANCE

### Light up the Night - Glow in the Dark Dance

Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the  
**St. Francis Centre Tickets Cost \$5 and will be available**  
at our April meeting. Get your flow on as you dance the night  
away in a vibrant neon and multi-coloured lights.

Contact April: [april-anne@hotmail.com](mailto:april-anne@hotmail.com)

### Music4Life



### 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](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)

### May 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Shirlievanputten@rogers.com)



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Include your name and what the payment is for.



# Upcoming Events

## 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](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)



**Our tickets have sold out. If you haven't paid yet, please do at the next meeting April 1st.**

## 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)



**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](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com)

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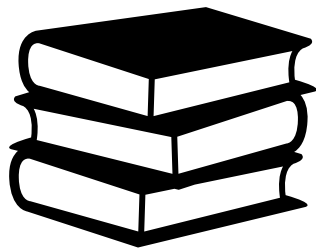
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[probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com)

Include your name and what the payment is for.

# Interest Groups

## Book Club - Your Choice -



The Third Wednesday of the Month  
Next Meeting: **Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> 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!  
Please Contact Lynne: [912lynne@gmail.com](mailto:912lynne@gmail.com) or **905.839.8147**

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## Book Club - Sip and Chat

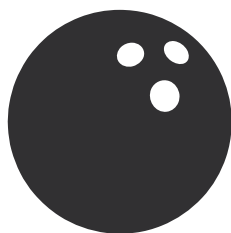


Reading Now: The Midnight Library by Matt Haig  
You do not have to purchase your own book. We have a partnership with the Ajax Library who provide kits. Books available for pick-up April 13th. Contact Kathy  
Enjoy a cuppa and a fun chat about this book!  
Next Meeting: **Monday May 11th, 2026, 1 - 3 pm**

For more details please contact Kathy at [kathylennox@rogers.com](mailto:kathylennox@rogers.com)

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## Bowling + Happy Hour



This month bowling will be **Monday April 20th 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**

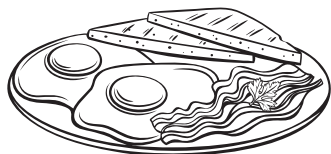
\$10 for two games plus \$2 for shoes

### 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.

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## Breakfast Club



The fourth Tuesday of the Month  
The next outing will be **Tuesday April 28th at 9:00 am**  
**At Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House,**  
**280 Harwood Avenue, Ajax**  
Please contact Lynne: [912lynne@gmail.com](mailto:912lynne@gmail.com) **905.839.8147**

# Interest Groups



## Coffee and Conversation

Next get-together is **Tuesday April 14th, 10-12**

**Please Contact Kathy: [kathylennox@rogers.com](mailto:kathylennox@rogers.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.

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## Coffee Time

**Tuesday April 21 at 10 am**

**at Vandermeer Nursery & Garden Centre**

**588 Lakeridge Rd, Ajax**

For information, contact Lynne: [912lynnegmail.com](mailto:912lynnegmail.com) or  
**905.839.8147**



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## Cribbage

**Every Tuesday 2:00 - 4:00 PM**

**To take place at The Pickering Village Senior Centre**

**RSVP Wendy: [wendy.smith1@live.com](mailto:wendy.smith1@live.com)**

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



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## Dining Out

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

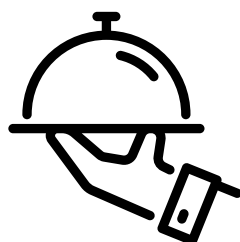
**April 16th at 5:30**

**Location TBA**

Please let Carol know if you are interested.

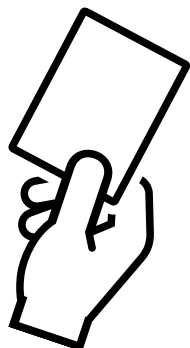
**[cbreen840@gmail.com](mailto:cbreen840@gmail.com)**

“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.”



# Interest Groups

## Euchre



Second & Fourth Wednesdays of the month

**Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>th</sup> from 2-4**

**To take place at the Pickering Village Senior Center**

**Contact Jane [jw.003@sympatico.ca](mailto: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.



## Garden Club

Our first outing of the season will be to **the Oshawa Museum, Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.** This will be a Tea and Talk - Cost \$15

This includes tea and scone, a 45 minute talk (Oshawa Then and Now) plus a 45 minute tour of the buildings.

We will meet at the Ajax Community Centre at 10:15 am, and carpool to the museum. If people are interested, this outing can be followed by a lunch together.

**RSVP: Marlene Rae: [marzrae18@gmail.com](mailto:marzrae18@gmail.com)**



## Golf

Outdoor Golf is over for the season.

- If anyone wants to join us soon, email [marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca](mailto:marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca)

## GOMEO" Lunch Group"



### **"Great Old Men Eating Out"**

Second Monday of the month at noon.

This month it will be **Monday April 13<sup>th</sup>**  
at the MacKenzie Pub

250 Bayly St. West, Unit 1, Ajax

Please let Kevin know if you are attending  
**[keportener@gmail.com](mailto: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 April 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:30.**  
Please let Kevin know if you are attending [keportener@gmail.com](mailto:keportener@gmail.com)  
**905.626.6303**  
We join the Bowling group at **MACKENZIE PUB**  
250 Bayly St. West Ajax

## Improv



The Improv group is back for another season of fun and laughter.  
Meeting the third at  
**Chartwell Retirement Residence, 240 Old Harwood Avenue, Ajax,**  
**in the theatre on the lower level.**  
Next meeting will be **Wednesday April 15th**  
Contact April for more information  
[april-ann@hotmail.com](mailto:april-ann@hotmail.com)

## Mahjong

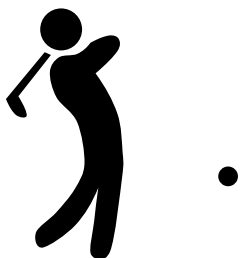


First and third Fridays of the month 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
at the **St. Andrew's Friendship Club, 46 Exeter Road in Ajax, .**  
Next game will be **April 17th**  
We are playing a simpler Chinese version of the game. New  
players are welcome even if you've never played before.  
Contact Julie for more information [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)



**Move to the Music is on hold until our instructor  
is back on her feet after a skiing injury**

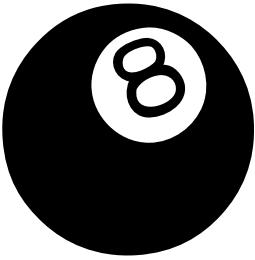
## Play Nine



The next game will be **Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30**  
There is a limit of six players  
Draw, flip and discard cards to shoot the lowest score.  
Contact Diane Sharp [dsharp0322@rogers.com](mailto:dsharp0322@rogers.com), for more details

# Interest Groups

## Pool

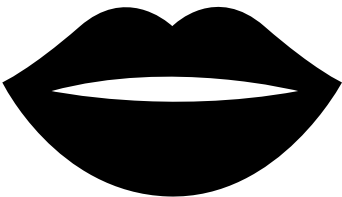


Second and fourth Friday at **Petrina Billiards**, 21 Harwood Ave. S  
**April 10<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>**

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](mailto:holdus1399@gmail.com) or **905-427-7446**

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## "RODEO" Lunch Group



**"Retired Old Dames Eating Out"**  
the Second Monday of the month at noon  
Next get-together is **Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> at Mandarin**  
**1725 Kingston Road, Pickering**  
Please let Anne know if you are attending  
[mandareed02@gmail.com](mailto:mandareed02@gmail.com)

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## Walking Group 1



**EVERY THURSDAY - AM 10 am**  
For more information, please contact:  
**[Ron\\_mitchellmis@rogers.com](mailto:Ron_mitchellmis@rogers.com) or**  
**[maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca](mailto:maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca)**  
Join us and discover many walking trails in Ajax and surrounding areas.

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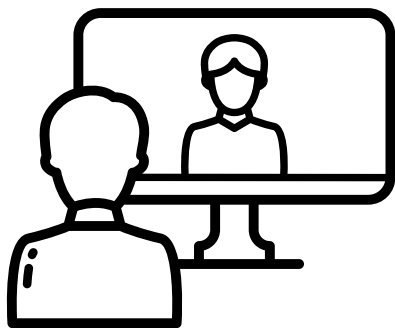
## Walking Group 2



**EVERY MONDAY - 10 AM**  
We meet at the **parking lot at Rotary Park on Lake Driveway**  
Please contact: Julie - [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jw003.@sympatico.ca) or 905-619-6674**

# Members Corner

## WELCOME TO MARCH 2026 NEW MEMBERS!

Peggy Luet  
Kathleen McCullough  
Mona Rizzo

Sharon Seidel  
Michael Seidel  
Steve Truax  
Cathy Truax

We are now 297 members strong!

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### 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 April 1st meeting and your name is listed below, please let Debbie know so she can make alternative arrangements.

Gerrie Bateman  
Terry Beetham  
Diane Beettam  
Susan Dunn  
Julie Jordan  
Ivan Klyne  
Lindon Lowe

Eroll Lundy  
Gay Magrath  
Laura McAloney  
Cheryl Persaud  
Susan Stocks  
Marion Winton  
Ian Winton



# Photo Gallery

## New members receiving their packages



## New members coffee and chat





# Photo Gallery

## March Dinner Out



## GOMEO





# Photo Gallery

## KARAOKE



## HAPPY BOWLERS WEARING THEIR NAME TAGS





# A few of our Volunteers

**DID YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE MORE THAN 50 VOLUNTEERS!**

