



# PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

Club 82

Vol 26 Issue 7

July, 2023

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer has officially arrived. Many people are off on vacation or to their cottages, but our club's meetings and activities, with a couple of exceptions, continue through the summer.

The Club is looking for volunteers for the 2023-24 year to organize the Breakfast Club and the Euchre Group. Two or more people could share the responsibility for these positions. Most importantly, we need someone to take on the position of Vice-President.

Most members of the Management Team are willing to continue in their present positions, but if anyone would like to run for a position, we would have an election.

We welcome anyone who would like to assist or shadow a position on the Management Team. It is the volunteers that keep organizations like ours successful.

Thanks to Hetty Shapiro's creativity and funding from the Ajax Partnership Fund, the Club now has a sandwich board to use at Club and Town activities.

*Jane Wilson*

Thank you to the members who contributed to this issue.

Please send articles and photos of our events by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to [ajaxprobuseditor@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobuseditor@gmail.com)

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

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



*Barb Squires, Jane Wilson & Jim Meek represented the Probus Club of Ajax at a lunch hosted by MPP Patrice Barnes on June 22.*

See what's on in the  
Town of Ajax:

<http://www.ajaxlibrary.ca>



# OUR TEAM



## MANAGEMENT

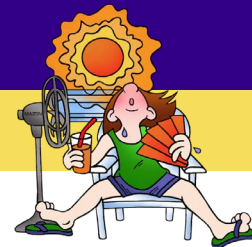
President	Jane Wilson	<a href="mailto:ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com">ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Jim Meek	<a href="mailto:jimtmeek@gmail.com">jimtmeek@gmail.com</a>
Past President	position vacant	
Treasurer	Rowena Burns	<a href="mailto:probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com">probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Bernie Rosebush	<a href="mailto:ajaxprobusecretary@gmail.com">ajaxprobusecretary@gmail.com</a>
Member-at-Large	Kevin Portener	<a href="mailto:kdportener@rogers.com">kdportener@rogers.com</a>
Member-at-Large	Terri Stewart	<a href="mailto:terri.stewart@sympatico.ca">terri.stewart@sympatico.ca</a>
Communications	Barb Squires	<a href="mailto:stunikki@gmail.com">stunikki@gmail.com</a>
House	Margaret Wells	<a href="mailto:ajaxprobushouse@gmail.com">ajaxprobushouse@gmail.com</a>
Interest Groups	position vacant	
Membership	Tom Rosebush	<a href="mailto:ajaxprobusmembership@gmail.com">ajaxprobusmembership@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Hetty Shapiro	<a href="mailto:ajaxprobuseditor@gmail.com">ajaxprobuseditor@gmail.com</a>
Social Events	Shirlie Van Putten	<a href="mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com">shirlievanputten@rogers.com</a>
Speakers	April Gilkinson	<a href="mailto:april-ann@hotmail.com">april-ann@hotmail.com</a>
Technical Support	Stewart Beatty	<a href="mailto:ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com">ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com</a>
Website	Maureen McVarish	<a href="mailto:maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca">maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca</a>

## INTEREST GROUPS

Billiards	Don Vorhees (Pickering)	<a href="mailto:holdus1399@gmail.com">holdus1399@gmail.com</a>
Breakfast	Julie Mathewson	<a href="mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com">jmathewson@rogers.com</a>
Bridge	Harvey Brodhecker	<a href="mailto:hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca">hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca</a>
Cribbage & Euchre	Julie Mathewson	<a href="mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com">jmathewson@rogers.com</a>
Dining Out	Carol Breen	<a href="mailto:cbreen840@bell.net">cbreen840@bell.net</a>
Garden	Jane Armstrong & Sylvia Clark	<a href="mailto:armstrongjane@rogers.com">armstrongjane@rogers.com</a> <a href="mailto:travelsylvia52@gmail.com">travelsylvia52@gmail.com</a>
Golf	Marcia Everitt (Durham West)	<a href="mailto:marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca">marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca</a>
Men's Lunch	Kevin Portener	<a href="mailto:kportener@gmail.com">kportener@gmail.com</a>
RODEO (Ladies Lunch)	Dawn Thornton	<a href="mailto:dthorn000@gmail.com">dthorn000@gmail.com</a>
Walking	Ron Mitchell & Maureen McVarish	<a href="mailto:mitchellmis@rogers.com">mitchellmis@rogers.com</a> <a href="mailto:maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca">maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca</a>
Zoom Chat Room	Stewart Beatty	<a href="mailto:ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com">ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com</a>

# JULY CALENDAR

Please remember to wear your name badge at all meetings and events. It helps identify you as a member and makes it easier for other members to get to know you.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4 10 am GOLF — 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	5 10 am GENERAL MEETING	6 10:00 am WALKING GROUP	7 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	8
9	10	11 10 am GOLF — <u>NO CRIBBAGE TODAY</u>	12 12 noon RODEO LUNCH — 2:00 pm EUCHRE	13 10:00 am WALKING GROUP	14 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	15
16	17	18 10 am GOLF — 12 noon MEN'S LUNCH — 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	19	20 10:00 am WALKING GROUP — 5:30 pm DINING OUT	21 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	22
23	24	25 9:00 am BREAKFAST — 10 am GOLF — 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	26 2:00 pm EUCHRE	27 10:00 am WALKING GROUP	28 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	29
30	31					

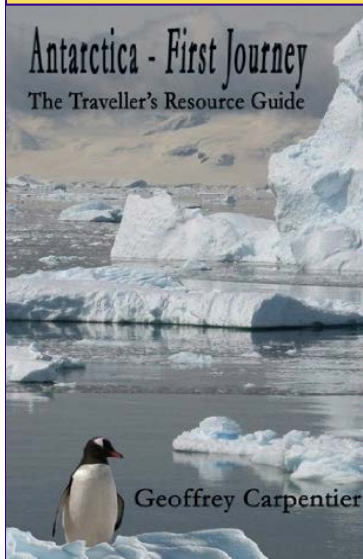
# GENERAL MEETINGS

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 5 - 10:00 am**

Ajax Community Centre, HMS Ajax Room  
(entrance at south side of building)

Meeting fee: \$2

Optional "Share the Wealth" draw:  
Tickets \$1 each or 3 for \$2  
(exact change appreciated)



## **JOURNEY TO ANTARCTICA**

with Guest Speaker: **Geoff Carpentier**

A published author, ecotour guide and environmental consultant, Geoff Carpentier will take us on an amazing journey through the SubAntarctic and Antarctic regions he knows so well.

Geoff's latest book - "Antarctica - First Journey" is a complete traveller's guide to Antarctica. It includes information on planning the trip; packing; where you will go; what you will see; the history and sites to visit; ice and snow morphology; superstitions; mammals; plants, and birds.

Geoff has lived in Durham Region since the early 1990s. He has served as a member of the Durham, Ajax and Scugog Environmental Advisory Committees. He is also a former member of the Lakeridge Citizens for Clean Water and is a current technical advisor to the Lake Scugog Stewards. Geoff Carpentier is a proud recipient of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for his service to the Durham community and to Canada.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR LUNCH AT THE PORTLY PIPER PUB AFTER THE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2 - 10:00 am**

Ajax Community Centre, HMS Ajax Room  
(entrance at south side of building)

Meeting fee: \$2

Optional "Share the Wealth" draw:  
Tickets \$1 each or 3 for \$2  
(exact change appreciated)



## **SHOULD YOUR NEXT CAR BE ELECTRIC?**

with Guest Speaker: **Tim Burrows**

Tim has owned and driven battery-electric cars for the past 10 years and has logged over 300,000 kms. He now enjoys sharing his EV experience with others and breaks down many myths and misconceptions about EV ownership. Tim also touches on the state of self-driving technology and what autonomous cars could mean for the future.

Join Tim as he explains why we've reached a 'tipping point' where electric cars are replacing those powered by gasoline. Tim is a board member of the Electric Vehicle Society ([www.EVSociety.ca](http://www.EVSociety.ca)) a non-profit organization which works to promote the understanding and adoption of electric mobility in Canada. In his role there, he produces a monthly webinar called "Canada Talks Electric Cars".

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR LUNCH AT THE PORTLY PIPER PUB AFTER THE MEETING**



# GENERAL MEETINGS *continued*

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 - 10:00 am**

Ajax Community Centre, HMS Ajax Room  
(entrance at south side of building)

Meeting fee: \$2

Optional "Share the Wealth" draw:

Tickets \$1 each or 3 for \$2

(*exact change appreciated*)



## WHAT'S NEW IN ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH?

with Guest Speaker: **Sharon Cohen, MD, FRCPC**

An explosion of research in Alzheimer's disease has moved the field closer to effective treatments. This presentation will provide updates on evolving information with respect to diagnostic biomarkers and the Alzheimer's drug development pipeline.

Dr. Sharon Cohen is a behavioural neurologist and the medical director of Toronto Memory Program, a community-based medical facility which she established in 1996 for the purpose of enhancing diagnosis and treatment for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. Her memory clinic and dementia research site are among the most active in Canada.

Dr. Cohen has over 30 years of experience in clinical research and has been a site PI for over 180 pharmacological trials in dementia, including phase 1 trials. She represents Canada on international advisory boards and steering committees and is a consultant to a wide range of stakeholders including government organizations and patient advocacy groups. She is a frequent lecturer and contributes to media events including those on medical ethics. She is known for her advocacy of individuals with neurodegenerative diseases.

Despite academic and hospital appointments, Dr. Cohen has always chosen to practice in the community, in keeping with her belief that dementia care and clinical research are best offered in the real-world setting.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR LUNCH AT THE PORTLY PIPER PUB AFTER THE MEETING**



Some of our members were interested in hearing more from Nicole Countway, the Curator of Wildlife Rehabilitation at Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue, who gave a short presentation at our June meeting. She may be contacted direct for information or help in arranging visits to the wildlife centre.

email [rehabilitation@sopercreekwildlife.com](mailto:rehabilitation@sopercreekwildlife.com)

905.442.1648

[www.sopercreekwildlife.com](http://www.sopercreekwildlife.com)

# DAY TRIPS & TOURS



**TUESDAY, AUGUST 1**  
**WESTBEN BARN THEATRE**  
presents  
**"Les Misérables"**  
in Concert



Experience the music of one of the most moving and beloved musicals in history. An all-star cast assembles at The Barn to bring to life all the favourite musical moments from this international hit. Set in early 19<sup>th</sup>-century France, Les Misérables is the story of Jean Valjean, a French peasant, and his desire for redemption, released in 1815 after serving 19 years in jail for stealing a loaf of bread for his sister's starving child.

Cost \$124 includes: return transportation by coach, picnic lunch, ticket for show & driver's tip.

**NOTE:** This is a concert version of the music from the show and not a fully-staged production.  
To book or for more information: [shirlievanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com) 905-619-8583

## **HIGH TEA - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16 @ NOON** **AT THE OLD CURIOSITY TEA SHOP (LIMITED SPACE)**

*Did you always want to attend a Victorian High Tea and see what it is all about? The Old Curiosity Tea Shop is a traditional tea room where you can come for a quiet, relaxing, enjoyable time and savour the ambiance of Victorian comfort. We start with two tiers of freshly made dainty sandwiches. Next, another two tiers of warm scones, clotted cream, preserves, English cakes, cookies and a pot of loose-leaf tea.*

**Where:** 91 Main Street North in Markham

**Cost \$36.00 (includes tax and gratuity) Only 22 spots.**

**Sign up now!** [shirlievanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com) 905-619-8583



## **NEW ORLEANS: SEPTEMBER 3 - 8**

**\$2,699 includes:**

- ♦ City orientation tour
- ♦ Tour & lunch at the Houmas Plantation
- ♦ Bayou Swamp Tour

Your five-night stay in New Orleans is at the Drury Inn located in the historic Cumberland Phone Building just one block from the St. Charles trolley.

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



# DAY TRIPS & TOURS *continued*



**ANNUAL BARBECUE**  
**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 14**  
Greenwood Conservation Area  
on Westney north of Taunton

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

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



## **COST \$168 INCLUDES:**

Return transportation by coach  
Driver's tip  
BBQ Chicken & Ribs Dinner  
Music & Dancing

## **"GEORGIAN SPIRIT" SUNSET CRUISE** **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

From Beausoleil Island to Honey Harbour, Georgian Bay offers more than 30,000 islands. Experience the history of the region and the spectacular Fall colours aboard the "Georgian Spirit" while enjoying the sunset; a delicious BBQ dinner; music, and dancing.

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



## **PICTON WINE TOUR** **IN OCTOBER**

*Date and more details will be  
announced at the July 5  
general meeting.*

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



## ST. JACOBS FARMERS' MARKET - THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9

**Cost: \$125**

*Kick off your holiday shopping season with a visit to St. Jacobs Farmers' Market. Explore 250+ vendors with fresh produce, international cuisine, artisans & more! The tour also includes Picard's Peanuts, the Village of St. Jacobs, return transportation by coach and dinner at the Jacobs Grill.*

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



## THE KING MEETS COUNTRY! MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA TOUR NOVEMBER 16 - 23, 2023

From Blues to Rock 'n' Roll to Country!

**COST: \$3,7000 per person double occupancy  
\$5,200 single) Same price as 2022**

A non-refundable deposit of \$600 is due upon booking.  
Balance due September 10, 2023.

### Cost includes:

- ◆ Direct round-trip flight Toronto/Nashville.
- ◆ 3 nights in downtown Memphis.
- ◆ 4 nights in downtown Nashville.
- ◆ Breakfast daily.
- ◆ Tours include: Graceland; Country Music Hall of Fame; Grand Ole Opry performance; Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum; Memphis Music Hall of Fame, and Loretta Lynn Ranch.
- ◆ Transfers from airport to hotel.
- ◆ Coach transportation during tours.
- ◆ Services of an HNA Travels Tour Director.

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



## A CHRISTMAS CAROL



**SHAW 20  
FESTIVAL 23**



## NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13**

**Ebenezer Scrooge is back!**

**Nestled in the heart of the ultimate Christmas village, the charming holiday favourite, "A Christmas Carol", returns to the Shaw Festival's Royal George Theatre. It's the perfect annual reminder of what Christmas is all about. Arrive feeling "Bah, humbug!" and leave full of warm, fuzzy Christmas spirit.**

**Cost: \$150 includes return transportation by coach and orchestra level ticket.**

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



**DETAILS OF THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON  
WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE  
AUGUST 2 GENERAL MEETING.**



# INTEREST GROUPS

## BREAKFAST

We meet on the last **TUESDAY** of every month.

Next breakfast: **JULY 25 @ 9:00 AM**

**SUNSET GRILL**  
235 Bayly St. West

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



**NOTE: MARATHON BRIDGE WILL START AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER.  
THE LIBRARY HAS BRIDGE EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON.**

## CRIBBAGE & EUCHRE

**CRIBBAGE: Every TUESDAY (EXCEPT JULY 11) 1:30 - 4:00 pm**  
**EUCHRE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 & 26- 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

**PICKERING VILLAGE SENIOR CENTRE, 29 Linton Avenue**  
One block north of Kingston Road & one block west of Church St.  
(next door to the Ajax Creative Arts Club)

The Senior Centre requires club membership of **\$15/year**  
which includes full access to their other activities and programs.  
There is also a **\$1** activity fee each time you play to cover  
tea/coffee and cookies.

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



## DINING OUT

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> **THURSDAY** of the month.

Next dinner: **JULY 20 @ 5.30 PM**

*Will advise you when I have confirmed our reservation.  
In the meantime, please mark the date on you calendar.*

Carol Breen [cbreen840@bell.net](mailto:cbreen840@bell.net)



## GARDEN

If anyone in our Group or other Probus members are interested in a visit to **GUILD INN PARK & ROSETTA MCCLAIN GARDENS** please contact Jane or Sylvia or speak to us at the July 5 meeting.

**POSSIBLE DATES – JULY 11 OR 18**

Jane Armstrong [armstrongjane@rogers.com](mailto:armstrongjane@rogers.com)

Sylvia Clark [travelsylvia52@gmail.com](mailto:travelsylvia52@gmail.com)



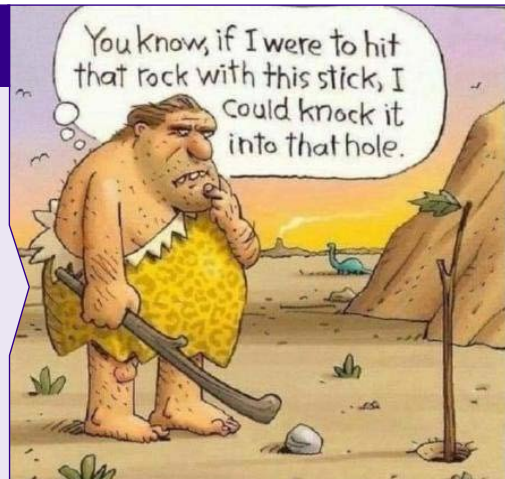
## GOLF

**9-HOLE GOLF** (walking only)  
**EVERY TUESDAY - Tee Time starts @ 10:00 am**  
(Try to arrive 30 minutes before)

**HAWTHORNE VALLEY**  
3470 Salem Road, Pickering

Reservations to Hawthorne Valley up to a week ahead:  
**905-686.2028**

Let me know if you would like to join us.  
Marcia Everitt (Durham West) [marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca](mailto:marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca)



## MEN'S LUNCH

Every **3<sup>rd</sup> TUESDAY** of the month

Next lunch: **JULY 18 @ Noon**

**MACKENZIE'S PUB & RESTAURANT**

250 Bayly St. West, Ajax

RSVP: Kevin Portener [kportener@gmail.com](mailto:kportener@gmail.com)





## "RODEO" LADIES LUNCH

*(Retired Old Dames Eating Out)*

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> WEDNESDAY of the month

Next lunch: JULY 12 @ Noon

**WESTNEY RESTAURANT & BAR**  
570 Westney Road South, Ajax

Please let me know by Friday July 7 if you would like to join us. Anne Reed  
[mandareed02@gmail.com](mailto:mandareed02@gmail.com)



## WALKING GROUP

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

**EVERY THURSDAY @ 10:00 AM**

For more information contact:

Ron Mitchell [mitchellmis@rogers.com](mailto:mitchellmis@rogers.com)  
or Maureen McVarish [maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca](mailto:maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca)



## ZOOM CHAT ROOM

**EVERY FRIDAY @ 1:00 PM**

To join the Zoom Chat contact:

Stewart Beatty [ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com)  
or Barb Squires [ajaxprobus@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobus@gmail.com)

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



# MEMBERS' CORNER



Welcome to the new members pictured with Jane Wilson (left). Diane Fleming, Janet & John Hildyard and Sharon Leung. Absent from the photo: Janine Muller.

## MEMBERSHIP & PAYMENTS

Membership fees have increased for the 2023/2024 year to **\$45** and are due on **August 1<sup>st</sup>**. The \$10 increase is necessary in order to cover the higher cost of renting the HMS Ajax Room at the Ajax Community Centre, and increased costs for our guest speakers. The new member one-time administration fee remains at **\$30** which covers the cost of the name badge.

### Making an e-transfer to the PROBUS Club of Ajax

Membership fees and social events may be paid electronically through your bank. If using this method, please let Membership Coordinator [Tom Rosebush](#) or Social Coordinator [Shirlie Van Putten](#) aware that you will be making an e-transfer. Then, sign in to your bank online and follow these steps. The wording and sequence may differ slightly:

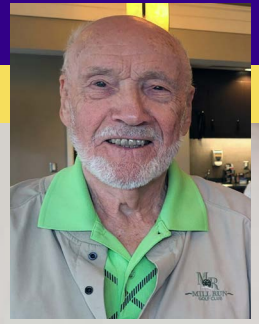
1. Select Interac e-Transfer.
2. Select "Send Money" or the name used by your bank.
3. Select the account from which you are sending the funds.
4. Enter the amount you are sending.
5. Enter the name of the recipient - PROBUS Club of Ajax.
6. Enter the email address: **probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com**.
7. Enter in the "**Comments**" box: Your name(s) and what the money is for.
8. Double-check that everything is correct, **especially the email address**.
9. Review and finish the transaction.

The PROBUS Club of Ajax is using the safest method of e-transfer which is recommended by TD Bank. When you hit "send", the money will go directly in the Club's account and cannot be intercepted.

Tom Rosebush, Membership Coordinator  
[ajaxprobusmembership@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobusmembership@gmail.com)

Rowena Burns, Treasurer  
[probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com)





Carl G. Mabee

### ROCKING CHAIR

The house is abandoned, looking sad and forlorn.  
There's no-one left here and nothing's reborn.  
The parlour is empty and it seems to be bare  
Except in the middle, sits an old rocking chair.

That old rocking chair has some stories to relate  
So sit back on the staircase as I tell you its fate.  
This room has felt sorrow and laughter for sure  
From people who lived here and the life they endured.

Unlike the barn, this was Grandma's great hall  
And family got welcomed with a hug one and all.  
Now it seems so empty with no-one left to share  
In the tales from the past of that old rocking chair.

A long time ago she would sit on her throne  
And rock all the young ones who were crying alone.  
And not just young babes but little lambs too  
Who needed a loving mom and a bottle, perhaps two.

She wore a plain apron to keep her dress clean  
With her hair in a bun, there was no time to preen.  
At the end of a long day with her chores now at end  
She would sit in her chair and find something to mend.

Summer was chaos with kids running in and then out.  
She would tell them to be quiet, and they'd sit with a pout.  
At Christmas, the grandkids would come from near and from far  
And she would hand out tasty treats from a big cookie jar.

Grandma would read children's stories from a book on her lap  
As we sat by the Christmas tree that smelled of pine sap.  
That old chair had a crack and when it moved, a small squeak,  
And flecks of paint on the floor made its white coat look bleak.

That chair was her favourite and she rocked over there  
To some inner song, although it needed repair.  
Now the days have gone by in the blink of an eye  
And the years that have passed seem to fly.

Grandma's long gone but the memories live on  
And we'll keep them safe 'cause we care.  
I can still see the past and I hope it will last  
Of Grandma and that old rocking chair.





### SANDHILL CRANES AT HILLIARDTON MARSH

Last fall, my two photo buddies and I drove up to Cochrane in our near Ontario northland to participate in an OFO (Ontario Field Ornithologists ) outing. On the way up, we decided to stop by Hilliardton Marsh, an 1,800 acre provincially significant wetland wildlife area and education centre.

The centre was closed but we were able to walk around some of the ponds and photograph the water birds. It was exciting to see and shoot several flocks of Sandhill cranes flying overhead. However, none landed in the marsh or surrounding fields.

We set off again on our journey to Cochrane, happy with our "photo catches". We were admiring our photos on the camera screens when our driver pulled over on the side of the country road and said "GIRLS ! LOOK TO YOUR LEFT!!!" There, on the farm fields, were hundreds of Sandhill cranes! Sandhill cranes feeding on the remnants of that year's grain crop, cranes flamboyantly interacting with each other and all the time newly-arriving flocks descending on the fields to join the throng. What a sight!



Maureen McVarish





## JUNE 7 - 10: LOUISE PENNY & THE THREE PINES TOUR

Probus members and friends from more than six Durham clubs, enjoyed a four-day bus tour through Quebec's Eastern Townships, which inspired almost all Louise Penny's 19 "Inspector Gamache" novels. Since 2005, Penny has managed to release an "Inspector Gamache" book every year, in addition to a 2021 collaborative political thriller with Hillary Clinton.

We stayed at the 4-star Hotel Chateau Bromont, visiting local towns and villages, shops, stores, restaurants and churches – given other names – used by Penny in her novels.

Sharman Yarnell was our very knowledgeable tour guide – a close friend of Penny – and she shared some interesting stories that aren't found on the internet.

Penny has a house in Knowlton, aka Three Pines. She moved to the village in 1999 after her marriage to Dr. Michael Whitehead, whom she met on a blind date. The peaceful surroundings of Knowlton provided the inspiration for her first "Three Pines" book, "Still Life", published in 2005. Knowlton is home to the Brome Lake Book Store and Lac-Brome Museum in "Still Life", and the "Sapin Bistro", from "The Brutal Telling".

Georgeville, where Louise and Michael lived briefly, is home to Mr. Belliveau's General Store. (Trivia – Donald Sutherland has a house in Georgeville). Near Georgeville, is the impressive Abbaye St. Benoit du Lac which is featured prominently in book #8, "The Beautiful Mystery", about the death of a Benedictine monk. "Sara's Boulangerie", a delightful bakery (from "the Cruellest Month") is in the town of Sutton.

This is a great tour, not only for Louise Penny's ardent fans, but casual readers would also find much to enjoy about the background to the writings of Canada's premier author of the past 18 years or so. A reason for celebration, indeed.

Visiting the various small towns, which appear in Louise Penny's books, gave us a wonderful opportunity to gain understanding and insights into daily life in "La Belle Province".

**Ken Lehan-Port**  
(PROBUS Club of Ajax member)



*Abbaye St. Benoit du Lac - Georgeville*



*Mr. Belliveau's General Store - Georgeville*



*Three Pines Bistro - Knowlton*



### POTATO EGG SALAD



5-lbs Yukon Gold potatoes (*not new potatoes*)

**Dressing:**

2 cups mayonnaise  
½ cup sweet pickle relish  
2 tbsps yellow mustard  
4 diced hard boiled eggs  
3 diced celery stalks  
Chives, diced sweet onion or scallions to taste  
Salt & pepper to taste

**Garnish:** fresh or dried dill & paprika

1. Cut the potatoes into bite-size chunks and bring to a boil in a large pot of salted water.
2. When the water is at a rolling boil, remove the pot from the heat and leave with the lid on for 5 minutes or until the potatoes soften. Unless you like the potatoes mashed, they should still be firm.
3. Rinse the potatoes in cold water to cool down so they don't continue to cook.
4. Combine all dressing ingredients and mix into the cooled potatoes.
5. Refrigerate for a few hours or overnight for flavours to combine.
6. To serve, sprinkle with paprika and fresh or dried dill.



### "OLIVE GARDEN" SALAD

**For the salad:** iceberg or romaine lettuce, tomatoes, red onion, pepperoncini peppers, black olives, croutons & parmesan.

**For dressing:** whisk by hand or in blender:

¾ cup olive oil  
½ cup mayonnaise  
¼ cup white wine vinegar  
1 tbsp sugar  
2 tsps Italian seasoning  
½ tsp onion powder + ½ tsp garlic powder  
½ tsp salt + ¼ tsp pepper  
(adjust seasonings to taste).

**Garnish:** more grated parmesan if desired.



### CREAMY COLESLAW DRESSING

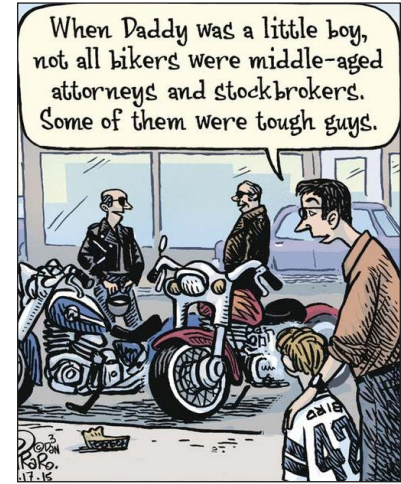
**Whisk until blended:**

1 cup mayonnaise  
¼ cup sour cream  
1½ tsps any mustard  
3 tbsps sugar  
1 tsp celery seeds  
1 tsp onion powder  
¾ tsp salt  
½ tsp pepper

Add to coleslaw mix & refrigerate for a few hours or overnight for cabbage to soften & flavours to combine.

**Garnish:** dried or fresh chopped parsley.





*We had social networking back in the day. It was called "go outside and play" - Unknown*

*Experience is not what happens to you; it is what you do with what happens to you - Aldous Huxley*

*Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow; it only saps today of its strength - A.J. Cronin*

*Happiness often sneaks in through a door you didn't know you left open - John Barrymore*

*It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone - Andy Rooney*

*We are always the same age inside - Richard Gere*

*Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened - Dr. Seuss*

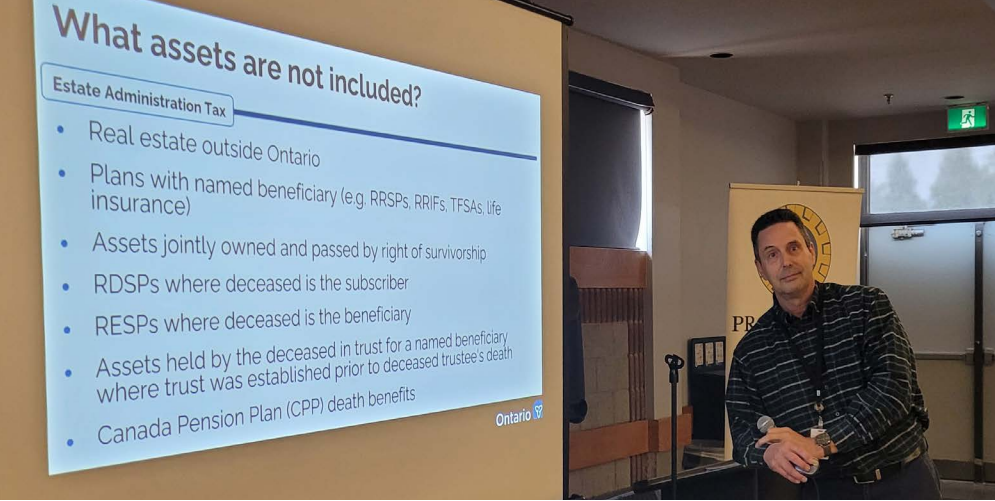
*We can't always choose the music life plays for us but we can choose how to dance to it - Unknown*





# PHOTO GALLERY

## JUNE 7 - GENERAL MEETING



*The very entertaining guest speaker, Jeremy Bertrand*



*Sharon Leung & Maureen McVarish*



*Geraldine Amyot & Heike Vezina*



*Anne MacInnis, Ann Tyas & Anne Reed*



*Joan Westwood, Tish Meek, Cecelia Kearns, Jim Meek, Janice & Ken Lepper*



# PHOTO GALLERY continued



*Freda Cureton & Judy Mitchell*



*Margaret & George Espley & Bernadine Taylor*



*Harvey Brodhecker & Carl Mabee*



*Allan Westwood, Clarence Prins & Ron Mitchell*





# PHOTO GALLERY continued





# PHOTO GALLERY continued



*June 13 - Town of Ajax 55+ Barbecue at the Audley Recreation Centre - l-r: Stewart Beatty, Barb Squires & Jim Meek*



*June 13 - Botanical & Whistling Gardens - photos submitted by April Gilkinson*

