



# PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

PROBUS Club of Ajax, Club #82 Ajax, Ontario

Vol 25 Issue 4

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The April 6 meeting will be hybrid (in person at the Ajax Community Centre and on Zoom).

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has finally officially arrived. The robins are back, and the weather is warming up. Along with the return of Spring our club is resuming in-person meetings. The RODEO Group met for lunch last week and the Dining Out Group is meeting on March 24.



On April 6 we will be having our first in-person General Meeting in over two years. This will be a hybrid meeting (both at the Ajax Community Centre and on Zoom). I ask for your patience with this meeting as it is our first hybrid meeting. For those who feel comfortable attending in person, it will be so nice to get together after so long. Even though the Province of Ontario has lifted Proof of Vaccination and masking requirements, **for the safety of our members we will require both for anyone attending the meeting in person. Please remember to bring your proof of vaccination to the meeting with you. If you do not have it, you will not be allowed to attend in-person.** Coffee and tea will not be served at this meeting, but the management committee understand that it is a long time to go without something to drink. You are welcome to bring your own beverage and lift your mask to take a drink and then replace it. Our speaker, Marnie Bickle, will be at the meeting in person. There will be a draw for her book.

If anyone is in need of a ride to the General Meeting, or any other activity, please let me know and I will try to put you in touch with someone who can help. If you are able to help by giving another member a ride, please let me know as well. I can be reached at [ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com) or 905-619-6674.

Like all PROBUS Clubs, our club is run completely by volunteers. At the moment we are without a vice-president, interest group co-ordinator and one member-at-large. We are looking for someone to take over the positions of Speaker Co-ordinator and Newsletter Co-ordinator in September. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at [ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com).

*Jane Wilson*



**Revised: COVID-19 PROTOCOL**  
**PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX**

The PROBUS Club of Ajax is a private social club for seniors. Given the ages of our members, it is imperative that safety be our highest priority. Our Club must manage the risk of COVID-19, as we re-introduce in-person meetings and activities. **Even though the Province of Ontario has lifted Proof of Vaccination and masking requirements, the Management Committee has decided to still require proof of vaccination and ask that masks continue to be worn for the foreseeable future for all in-person gatherings of the PROBUS Club of Ajax.**

**All participants must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. In addition, a minimum of two weeks must have passed since the second shot was administered. These vaccination requirements include, but are not limited to, our monthly membership meetings, interest group activities, and social events. We ask that masks be worn at the General Meetings and any in-door activities other than when meals are served.**

This is how it will work:

- a) When you attend your first in-person membership meeting, bring your proof of vaccination (either the receipt you were given when you received the vaccination or the Ontario Government Vaccine Certificate). Your name will be recorded as having shown proof of vaccination when you enter the meeting room. **Admittance to the room will not be allowed if your Vaccination Receipt is not provided.** The Social Co-ordinator, Interest Group Co-ordinator and House Co-ordinator for membership meetings, will have access to a list of fully vaccinated Club members, and use this list when approving attendance at their respective activities so you will not need show your proof of vaccination after your first in-person meeting.
- b) This COVID-19 Protocol will be implemented at our Club's first in-person membership meeting. If there are any interest group activities or social events sanctioned by the PROBUS Club of Ajax, which occur prior to the first in-person membership meeting, then you must provide proof of vaccination at that time in order to participate in same.
- c) If you decide not to be vaccinated for COVID-19, you may attend any virtual events offered by the PROBUS Club of Ajax. This includes our Hybrid membership meetings, and Interest Groups provided on Zoom and Trickster. If you are not vaccinated, do not attend any in-person meetings, interest group activities or social outings etc. held by the PROBUS Club of Ajax.
- d) All COVID-19 Province of Ontario Regulations and Public Health Guidelines in effect at the time of the PROBUS Club of Ajax in-person gathering will prevail, including group size, physical distancing, mask requirements etc.

As stated above, member safety is of paramount importance within our Club. If you have any questions, please email them to [ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com)

We are all looking forward to the opportunity of meeting again in-person.

Take care and stay safe.  
Management Committee  
PROBUS Club of Ajax  
March 2022

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## MEMBERSHIP

We welcome one new member this month, Marlene Liberatore. Our membership currently stands at 169. Please email or call me if you would like a copy of the membership list. Also, please keep in mind that our list is only as good as the information I receive, so if you have changed your personal information in any way please let me know.

**Tom Rosebush, Membership Coordinator**

**437 981-6719 or [tom.rosebush@gmail.com](mailto:tom.rosebush@gmail.com).**



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## MEMBERS CORNER

We have decided that even after we return to normal activities, that we would like to continue with the Members Corner. It's a great way for us to get to know our fellow Ajax PROBUS members. Keep those articles coming. If they're not used immediately, they will be filed for future newsletters.

Thanks to everyone who have sent contributions so far. We've really enjoyed reading them.

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**April 1<sup>st</sup> April Fools Day**



**April 17<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday**



**April 15<sup>th</sup> Good Friday**



**April 23<sup>rd</sup> St. George's Day**

## PROBUS SPEAKERS



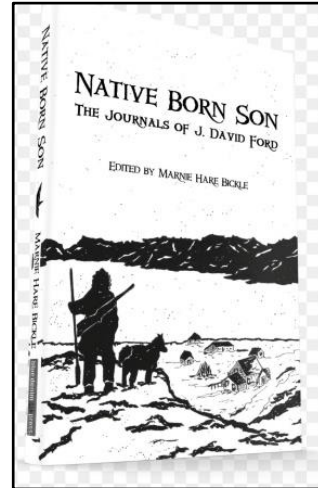
### April 6-Marnie Bickle

#### **Speaker Introduction:**

Author/editor of a book, "Native Born Son" which is available from Amazon. "Native Born Son" is J. David Ford's first-hand telling of his suspenseful exploits while growing up in the eastern Arctic during the 1920's and 1930's. He was born into a multi-generational line of traders, trappers and Hudson's Bay Company employees who, since the late 1700's, lived alongside and sometimes intermarried with indigenous people. This social history depicts life at the end of an era-before radio communication, snowmobiles or power boats - a nomadic life on the verge of extinction. An account of early colonialism in the Arctic, working for Hudson's Bay, and how their son grew and became integrated into the Arctic life.

#### **Speaker Bio:**

Marnie Bickle worked most of her career in music academia and lives in Port Hope with her husband and two cats. Marnie found journals in her attic, and now, 100 years after the eight-year-old David Ford first set foot on Coats Island at the top of the Hudson Bay, those journals have been given new life in her edited book, "Native Born Son." Always a writer at heart, she also combined her interest in music and history to write, "Opera and the University of Toronto 1972-1996" and other articles to promote and showcase classical musicians. She looks forward to finding new stories that need to be told.



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## **PROBUS SPEAKERS (continued)**



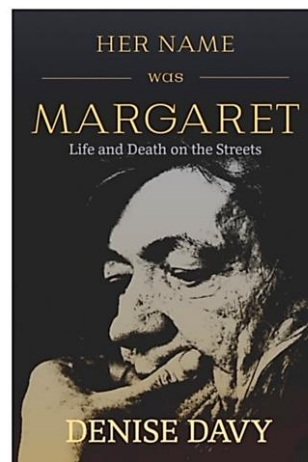
### **May 4-Denise Davy**

#### **Speaker Introduction**

Denise Davy's book, "Her Name Was Margaret-Life and Death on the Streets" explores the tragic life of a homeless woman and exposes the flawed plan that led to today's homelessness epidemic. Her book was included in the Toronto Star's "must read" book for 2021 and has gone into a third printing. You can watch her interview with TVO's Steve Paikin. Denise started, "Purses for Margaret" with donations of gently used purses to help provide vulnerable women with hygiene necessities.

#### **Speaker Bio:**

Denise Davy is a nationally recognized award-winning journalist and author of, "Her Name Was Margaret-Life and Death on the Streets." Denise worked at the Hamilton Spectator for 26 years where she won a National Newspaper Award, was twice honoured with Journalist of the Year by the Ontario Newspaper Awards and received four national journalism fellowships which allowed her to write and travel around southeast Asia.



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## **AJAX PROBUS INTEREST GROUPS**

RODEO (Ladies Lunch)	Dawn Thornton	Dining Out	Carol Breen
Bridge	Harvey Brodhecker	Cribbage	Reg Lawrance
Golf	Marcia Everitt Durham West	Breakfast Club	Julie Mathewson
Euchre/Scrabble	Julie Mathewson	Book Club	Bernie Rosebush
Billiards	Don Vorhees Pickering PROBUS	Movie Club	
Walking Club	Ron Mitchell & Maureen McVarish		

### **In-Person Activity Guideline**


As we begin to resume in-person activities, we would like to remind our members that there is always a possible risk involved when socializing. Your personal decision to participate in any PROBUS in-person activity should be made knowing you are taking full responsibility for that decision. The PROBUS Club of Ajax cannot be deemed responsible for the decision of individual members. Your own personal health and safety should be your first concern. For everyone's safety, participating in a PROBUS Club of Ajax in-person activity will require you to be fully vaccinated and follow all Health Department and Provincial guidelines.

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### **SOCIAL**

	<p><b>May</b></p> <p>3- Day - Ottawa Tulip Festival Stay tuned for more details!</p>
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<p><b>June</b></p> <p>The Royal Botanical Gardens and see the Peonies in Bloom!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stay tuned for more details!</p>	
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**July 26<sup>th</sup> – August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Newfoundland – please contact Shirlie for all the details. Amazing Tour! Every Canadian should visit Newfoundland as least once.**

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**August –**

If all goes well, we will be having a BBQ this year!  
**YEAH!**



Please contact Shirlie at [shirlievanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com) or 905-619-8583  
For more information!



**NIAGARA TRIP MARCH 22.**



*photos courtesy of Ken Lehan-Port*

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## PROBUS BRIDGE



Unfortunately, I have decided to cancel Marathon bridge until the fall of 2022. It is my opinion that the uncertainty with the virus makes this the prudent decision. Sorry for any disappointment that this has caused you.

### LOOKING FOR INDOOR ACTIVITIES - JOIN US AND PLAY BRIDGE WITH TRICKSTER

During the past months we have been playing Bridge on Trickster. We have had a lot of fun. It will be more fun if you join us! The days will be Tuesday, April 5 and Tuesday, April 19 starting at 2:00 pm (The first and third Tuesdays of the month). If you are NOT a present participant, please contact Harvey either by email ([hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca](mailto:hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca)) or phone (416-894-5778). He will forward to you information on Trickster and playing bridge on Trickster. We will play with partners. If you have a current partner, please let me know. If you need a partner, let Harvey know and he will attempt to get you a partner. As with Marathon Bridge, these Trickster games are for fun and socialization.

*Harvey Brodhecker*

### BRIDGING THE GAP BRIDGE

What does it mean when dealer opens 1 diamond and the next player bids 2 diamonds? This is called a cue bid. For the next few columns, I will be discussing two types of cue bids called "Michaels" and "Unusual No Trump".

Here is an example. Opener bids 1 club or 1 diamond. Bid openers suit with hands like these. (Spades) KJ965 (Hearts) A96432 (Diamonds) 5 (Clubs) 4 OR (Spades) AKJ96 (Hearts) AQ964 (Diamonds) A5 (Clubs) 3. If they bid 1 diamond bid 2 diamonds. If they bid 1 club bid 2 clubs.

Note that each hand has 5 or 6 cards in each of the major suits. This is called "Michaels" cue bid. Although each hand is similar in distribution having at least 5 cards in each major suit, they are different in high card points. The first hand has 8 High Card points and the second hand has 18 high card points. Also note that in the first hand with a few High Card points the points are concentrated in the two major suits. You would not make a cue bid with a hand like this: (Spades) J9652 (Hearts) 98643 (Diamonds) K5 (Clubs) A.

How do you know if the cue bidder has a weak hand or strong hand? With a strong hand he will bid again. With a weak hand he will pass.

*Harvey Brodhecker*

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### DINING OUT CLUB



We had our first dinner out last Thursday and it certainly was fun and so nice to see everyone. There were 17 of us and we are looking forward to the next get together which will be on April 21st. Will let you know where at a later date. Be sure to mark it on your calendar for next month. Hope to see some more of you out with us

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





## BREAKFAST CLUB

## EUCHRE & SCRABBLE (Julie)



## BREAKFAST CLUB

I'm happy to report that our breakfast club is starting up again this month. Join us at **Sunset Grill, 235 Bayly Street West in Ajax**, on Tuesday, April 26 at 9:00 am. Please let Julie know by April 22 if you plan to join us; [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com) or phone 905-686-0803.

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## EUCHRE



Join us for euchre on Trickstercards.com. Our games this month will be on **Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** starting at 2:00 pm. Since tables have to be assigned in advance, let Julie know by noon the day before if you plan to play, [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com). You will need to have the free Trickstercards app downloaded to your computer or tablet.

We are looking for one or two more players to act as occasional table hosts so we can avoid having to cancel games or limit players. Hosting is simple and it only takes a few minutes to send the invitations out to the others playing at your table. Let Julie know if you're interested.

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## SCRABBLE

**Wordle** is a daily word game you can find online at [nytimes.com/games/wordle](https://www.nytimes.com/games/wordle). It's fun, simple and, like a crossword, can only be played once a day. Every 24 hours there's a new word of the day, and it's up to you to figure out what it is.



WEARY

The letter **W** is in the word and in the correct spot.

PILOT

The letter **L** is in the word but in the wrong spot.

VAGUE

The letter **U** is not in the word in any spot.

To play, you have to guess the word in 6 or fewer tries. After each guess, the colour of the tiles will change to show how close your guess was to the word.

If you have the right letter in the right spot, it shows up green. A correct letter in the wrong spot shows up yellow. A letter that isn't in the word in *any* spot shows up gray.

Simple stuff, but also incredibly compelling

## **PROBUS RODEO GROUP**



Happy Days!!!! We finally got to hold a luncheon gathering. It was good to see friends again and Symposium is maintaining its high standards. We are planning to go to The Villa in Whitby for Teppanyaki next month. We did this a few years ago and it was a fun experience. The address is 813 Dundas Street West Unit C-2. I will need to make our reservations at least a week ahead. Please contact me on or before April 20<sup>th</sup>. If I checked your Vax Document last month, I won't need to see it this month. If you aren't on my list - **please bring proof.**

### **IMPORTANT PLEASE READ AND REMEMBER!!!!**

We are changing our start time permanently. Starting this month our beginning time will be **1 p.m.** Several members requested this as there is a conflict with the Pickering Club. If talking to friends who didn't attend our first meeting perhaps you could mention this to them. Looking forward to our next dining out at **The Villa on Wednesday April 20 at 1 o'clock \*\*\*\***

Dawn Thornton [dthorn000@gmail.com](mailto:dthorn000@gmail.com) 289 989 0641

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## **PROBUS BOOK CLUB**



***"IT'S TIME TO RE-ESTABLISH PROBUS BOOK CLUB!"***



**Meeting:**      **Date:** Wednesday, April 27, 2022  
                    **Time:** 1:30 p.m.  
                    **Place:** St. Paul's United Church, 65 Kings Cres., Ajax  
                                    (Entrance – West door off parking lot)  
                    **Ajax PROBUS Club and Church Covid Protocols will be effective.**

**Book for discussion:**    **"Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine"** by Gail Honeyman (available at Ajax library via shelf copy and e-book)

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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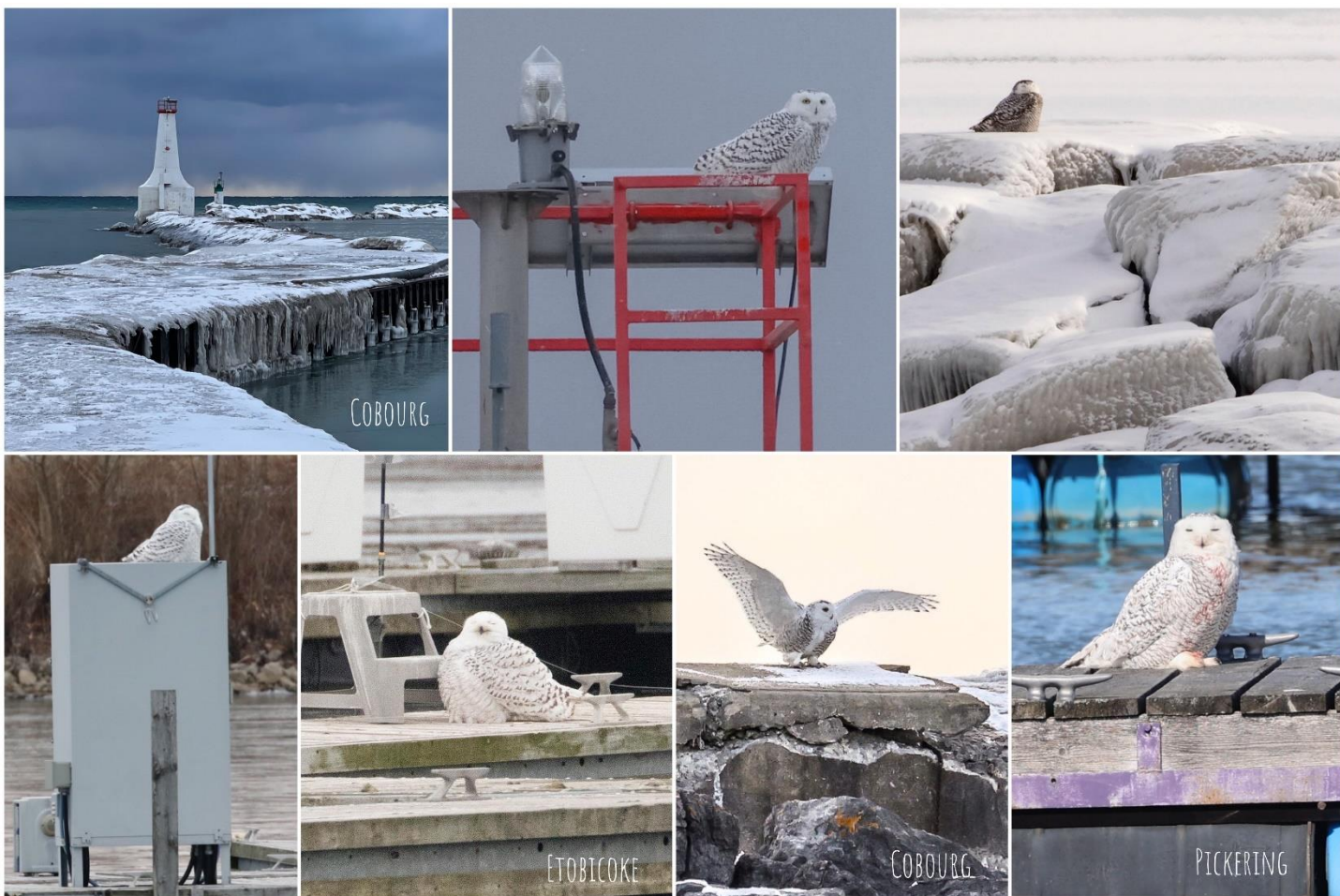
## **Rambles with my Camera – Snowy Owls**

*(Maureen McVarish)*

A prize for any bird photographer, well any birder, any photographer, or anyone for that matter, is to see a Snowy Owl in Southern Ontario. What a treat to see this magnificent white bird so far from home! The year-round home of the Snowy is mainly on the tundra of North America but they may spend some winters in southern Canada and northern United States, especially when food sources are scarce during Arctic winters.

In our area, they may be seen in a variety of places wherever they can search for a meal of rodents and small mammals such as fields and highways. However, a favourite spot for this opportunistic bird has consistently been along shorelines and boat marinas where there is some open water and ducks for lunch.

My first Snowy owl was at the Colonel Samuel Smith Park marina, Etobicoke. It was a barely recognizable lump on the dock which didn't seem to move. The next one was on an icy breakwater in Cobourg Harbour on a frozen New Year's Day. It is still one of my favourite photographs. Since then, I have spotted a Snowy two more years in a row sitting on the same lighthouse in Cobourg harbour. One would hardly notice without binoculars or a long lens, the two whitish lumps sitting atop the lighthouse, a lamp, and an owl. The closest to home was during one of our PROBUS walks at the marina at Frenchman's Bay. She was sitting on a dock looking like she had just enjoyed lunch.



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## THE BOOKWORM



Ten years ago, I trekked the Himalayas in Nepal on a route known as the “Annapurna Sanctuary.” Starting and ending in the capital of Kathmandu, we drove to Pokhara to climb eight hours a day for ten days up and down stone mountain steps to a height of 4,130 metres to Annapurna Base Camp (ABC) with a spectacular view of the snow-covered mountain peaks.

Before the trip I was inspired reading Conor Grennan’s memoir, “Little Princes-One Man’s Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal” (2011). A 29-year-old University of Virginia graduate looking for fun and adventure, Conor decided on a year of travel beginning with a three-month volunteer stint at an orphanage in Nepal, mostly to impress women friends with his altruistic spirit. At first Conor is uncertain of his skills or passion to really get involved in the lives of these rambunctious children in a developing country in the midst of civil war. But he is soon challenged and rewarded by his work. With simple meals of rice and dal, wearing the same clothes every day, their resilient spirit soon wins Conor’s heart.

But slowly he learns the unthinkable truth, that these children are not in fact orphans at all. Child traffickers were promising families in remote villages to protect these children from the civil war for a huge fee by taking them to safety. They would then abandon the children far from home in Kathmandu.

Conor leaves the orphanage at the end of his three months, but his heart soon leads him back with a commitment to reunite all the lost children with their families. That decision means he will risk his life while travelling through the mountains of Nepal, facing dangers of the civil war and suffering a debilitating injury. Waiting for him back in Kathmandu and hopeful that he will make it out of the snow-covered mountains alive is a woman he met once, a woman who shares his passion for the lost children, a woman that he loves.

“Little Princes” is an adventure story, a survival story, a story of how love can open doors, and how one person can make a difference faced with seemingly insurmountable odds.

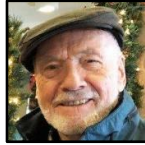
My trip to Nepal began in Kathmandu at Monkey Temple and I retraced Conor’s steps to the local coffee shops and *momo* or beef dumpling shop where he met his contacts. After my trek I wandered the maze of lanes behind the temple and found, “Umbrella” a small house, a secret haven to protect young victims of Nepal’s sex trafficking rings described in Conor’s book.

Our group ate dinner at, “Rum Doodle,” a restaurant in the heart of Kathmandu where mountain trekking history is literally written on the walls. Sir Edmund Hillary’s signature is there. At “Rum Doodle” the ceiling is hung with thousands of paper footprints signed by trekkers, including mine, with my proud little drawing of the red and white maple leaf.

I’ve followed Conor Grennan’s path over the years, how he went on to start the NGO, “Next Generation Nepal” and how the love story turns out. But to find out about that, you’ll have to read the book yourself.

*Victoria Plaskett*





**SPRING**

The sound of icicles dripping from eaves  
brings a promise of warmth yet to come.  
And soon the sun will melt all the snow  
and new life will start with a hum!

April showers will have come and gone  
sometimes, more than showers.  
They often flood the fields and soak  
the ground that grows the yellow flowers.

Daffodils and Crocus are harbingers of spring  
pushing their heads through the ground.  
And robins arrive, flitting across the lawn  
is it far too early for sound?

Patches of green will show among the dead grass  
while a touch of frost brings worry and fright.  
A cloud scuttles across the sky throwing a brief shadow  
causing one to sigh and then it's gone from sight.





Pussy willows come at last, and Lilacs burst  
into bloom and the smell ride along on the breeze.  
Ash and Oak trees shed their tassels and folks  
with allergies, start to sneeze.

Spring is a lovely time of year when  
everything gets reviewed.  
Nature prepares for new life and by  
summer, all will be renewed.

**ENJOY!**

**By: Carl G. Mabee**

# AJAX PROBUS CALENDAR, APRIL, 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b>  April Fool's Day   2 pm <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  11 am <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>5</b>  2pm <b>Bridge</b> Trickster	<b>6</b>  10am <b>PROBUS</b> <b>General Meeting</b> Hybrid (part Zoom/part in person	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  2 pm <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  11 am <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>12</b>  2pm <b>Euchre</b> Trickster	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Good Friday  	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>  Easter Sunday  	<b>18</b>  11 am <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>19</b>  2pm <b>Bridge</b> Trickster	<b>20</b>  1pm <b>RODEO</b>	<b>21</b>  6pm <b>Dining Out</b>	<b>22</b>  2 pm <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>23</b>  St. George's Day  
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  11 am <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>26</b>  9am <b>Breakfast</b> <b>Club</b>  2pm <b>Euchre</b> Trickster	<b>27</b>  1:30 pm <b>Book Club</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  2 pm <b>Zoom Chat</b>	<b>30</b>

## LIBRARY NEWS

### “WHAT’S ON FOR APRIL, 2022

The link for What’s On is: [www.ajaxlibrary.ca](http://www.ajaxlibrary.ca) and click on ‘Programs’

*(ctrl click for link)*

### AJAX PROBUS MANAGEMENT TEAM, 2021/2022

President	Jane Wilson	ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com
Vice President		
Past President		
Treasurer	Rowena Burns	ajaxprobustreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary	Bernie Rosebush	ajaxprobussecretary@gmail.com
Social	Shirlie Van Putten	shirlievanputten@rogers.com
Membership	Tom Rosebush	ajaxprobusmembership@gmail.com
Speakers	Victoria Plaskett	ajaxprobusspeakers@gmail.com
House	Margaret Wells	ajaxprobushouse@gmail.com
Website	Maureen McVarish	ajaxprobuswebsite@gmail.com
Interest Groups		
Member-at-Large	Ray Smith	ajaxprobusmemberatlarge1@gmail.com
Member-at-Large		
Technical Coordinator	Stewart Beatty	ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com
Newsletter	Barb Squires	ajaxprobusnewsletter@gmail.com

If you have a problem reaching a Management Team member at any of the above email addresses, send your email to [ajaxprobus@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobus@gmail.com) and it will get forwarded to the correct person

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

Comments and items are appreciated including photos of club events. Please send to: [ajaxprobusnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobusnewsletter@gmail.com)