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Thank you to the members who contributed to this issue.

Please send comments, articles and photos of our events by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to Newsletter Editor, Hetty Shapiro. <u>hettyisnow@gmail.com</u>

Ajax PROBUS website: www.ajaxprobus.com

Canada PROBUS website: www.probus.org

See what's on in the Town of Ajax: <u>http://www.ajaxlibrary.ca/</u>

# PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

**Club 82** 

Vol 25 Issue 12

December, 2022



### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Today we got our first snowfall of the season. It looked lovely this morning. I am sure that feeling will wear off in the coming months, but right now it put me in the Christmas spirit.

It was wonderful to see so many members at our November meeting. The speaker was very entertaining.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to organize the various activities offered to our members. Without you, we would not have a successful club.

We had a great response for our Christmas Lunch at Herongate Barn. As in past years, we will not have a general meeting in December. I look forwarding to seeing everyone at our next meeting on January 4, 2023.

I hope everyone has a healthy and happy Holiday Season. Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Jane Wilson

The Ajax Public Library is looking for volunteers for their Older Adults Advisory Committee to fill spots for their next two-year term (2023-2024). The Committee meets on the last Tuesday afternoon of every month to discuss the programs and services the Library offers to their older adults, offers suggestions for improvements and works on projects which would benefit the community. If you would like more information or would be interested in volunteering, please contact Elaine Lievaart. The deadline for applications is **Friday, December 2, 2022.** 

Elaine Lievaart Community Engagement Associate Ajax Public Library, Main Branch 55 Harwood Ave. S., Ajax, ON L1S 2H8 <u>elaine.lievaart@ajaxlibrary.ca</u> 905-683-4000 ext. 8806

# **DUR TEAM**

### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

President	Jane Wilson
Vice President	Jim Meek
Past President	position vaca
Treasurer	Rowena Burr
Secretary	Bernie Roseb
Member-at-Large	Kevin Porten
Member-at-Large	Terri Stewart
Communications Coordinator	Barb Squires
House Coordinator	Margaret We
Interest Groups Coordinator	position vaca
Membership Coordinator	Tom Rosebu
Newsletter Editor	Hetty Shapir
Social Coordinator	Shirlie Van Pu
Speakers Coordinator	April Gilkinso
Technical Coordinator	Stewart Beat
Website	Maureen Mc

Meek ition vacant wena Burns nie Rosebush in Portener ri Stewart b Squires rgaret Wells sition vacant n Rosebush tty Shapiro rlie Van Putten ril Gilkinson wart Beatty ureen McVarish



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### INTEREST GROUP COORDINATORS

Billiards	Don Vorhees (Pickering) <u>holdus1399@gmail.cor</u>	
Book Club	Jane Armstrong <u>armstrongjane@roge</u>	
Breakfast Club	Julie Mathewson	jmathewson@rogers.com
Bridge	Harvey Brodhecker	hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca
Cribbage	Reg Lawrance	reglawrance@rogers.com
Dining Out	Carol Breen	cbreen840@bell.net
Euchre	Julie Mathewson	jmathewson@rogers.com
Golf	Marcia Everitt (Durham West)	marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca
Movie Club	Not meeting during Covid	
RODEO (Ladies Lunch)	Dawn Thornton	dthorn000@gmail.com
Walking Club	Ron Mitchell & Maureen McVarish	mitchellmis@rogers.com maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca

### **DECEMBER CALENDAR** If an event has to be cancelled, you will be notified by email on the day of the

event, before 9:00 am. Members who do not have email will be phoned.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 2:30 pm SOCIAL BRIDGE	2	3
4	5 11:00 am ZOOM CHAT	6	7	8 2:30 pm SOCIAL BRIDGE	9	10
11 11:30 am CHRISTMAS LUNCH	12 11:00 am ZOOM CHAT	13 10:15 am FAMOUS PLAYER'S 2:00 pm EUCHRE	14 10:00 am BOOK CLUB	2:30 pm SOCIAL BRIDGE	16	17
18	19 11:00 am ZOOM CHAT	20	21	2:30 pm SOCIAL BRIDGE	23	24
Merry 25 Christmas!	Boxing Day!	27 9:00 am BREAKFAST CLUB 2:00 pm EUCHRE	28	2:30 pm SOCIAL BRIDGE	30	Happy 31 New Year!



It was decided at the June 2022 Management Team Meeting that we will continue to require Proof of Vaccination for all indoor in-person activities. Once you show your proof of vaccination at the first in-person meeting you attend, you will not have to show it again. It will be up to each member if they choose to wear a mask or not (except when the majority of an interest group feels more comfortable with masks being worn). A detailed Protocol is on our website at <u>www.ajaxprobus.com</u>.

# DECEMBER EVENTS

Note that there will not be a General Meeting in December.



### PLAY: "FUNNY MONEY

Who wants to be a millionaire? Everyone does! Henry A. Perkins, a mild-mannered C.P.A. picks up the wrong briefcase and it happens to be full of money!

### FAMOUS PEOPLE PLAYERS THEATRE NEW MUSICAL "SLEIGH BELLS RING"

Tuesday December 13, 2022

Bus leaves at 10:15 am from Walmart, Ajax

Famous PEOPLE Players - Glow in the dark Dine & Dream Dinner Theatre. From Broadway, to Radio City Music Hall and around the World – FPP is Where Special Happens!" All year long. This group mounts unique, visually fantastic "black light" shows. Famous People Players is renowned not just for the quality of its shows, but also for bringing out the creative potential in performers with disabilities.

Diane Dupuy, the company founder, is an outstanding motivational speaker who spoke along-side former Vice President Al Gore at the Alliance for a New Humanity. With five honorary doctorate degrees, she was awarded the Order of Canada and the Queen's Jubilee medal for her work in Theatre and her dedication to the integration of PEOPLE with disABILITIES.

### \$69 per person

includes Buffet Lunch and Theatre RSVP: <u>shirlievanputten@rogers.com</u> 905-619-8583

Contact Shirlie if you need a lift to the theatre or you can provide a lift.



### \$120 per person

includes 3-course lunch, return transportation by coach, driver's tip and 407 toll.

RSVP: shirlievanputten@rogers.com 905-619-8583



# **COMING SOON**

Wearing your name badges at our events helps us recognize each other and makes photo identification easier!



GENERAL MEETING with Guest Speaker Wednesday, January 4 10:00 am Ajax Community Centre HMS Ajax Room

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

#### **THE STORY OF THE RICHMOND HILL DAVID DUNLAP OBSERVATORY (RHDDO)** with Guest Speaker: Maggie MacKenzie

The RHDDO has been a centre for astronomical research in Canada and a well-known attraction since its opening on May 31,1935. It houses the largest telescope in Canada. A number of important studies have taken place here, including providing the first direct evidence that Cygnus X-1 was a black hole, pioneering measurements of the distance to globular clusters and the discovery that Polaris was stabilizing. But did you know this site was a family farm throughout the 19th century?

"We've got a story to tell" about the people that played an instrumental role in the development of the property. Join Maggie MacKenzie from Richmond Hill Heritage Services for a visual presentation to learn about the history of the land and how it became the David Dunlap Observatory.

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



#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11 - 1:30 pm Matinee The Princess of Wales Theatre

This irresistible musical, is based on the biblical story of Joseph's "coat of many colors" from the Book of Genesis. Presented by Mirvish, it comes to The Princess of Wales Theatre for a limited premiere engagement in North America.

The lavish new production, called the definitive one for this generation, comes to Toronto from the legendary London Palladium where it was a smash-hit. With all its technicolor bells and whistles, it is a production not to be missed. Its star is the thrilling new discovery, Jac Yarrow, who was chosen by Andrew Lloyd Webber to play the titular role.

\$150 per person

Includes show, return transportation by coach and driver's tip.

RSVP: shirlievanputten@rogers.com

905-619-8583



# **COMING SOON** continued

GENERAL MEETING with Guest Speaker Wednesday, February 1 @ 10:00 am Ajax Community Centre HMS Ajax Room

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



#### FROM A MAZE TO AMAZING – UNDERSTANDING ONTARIO'S PERSONAL INCOME TAX, CREDITS & BENEFITS FOR SENIORS with Guest Speaker: Jeremy Bertrand

Jeremy Bertrand is a Tax Advisory Specialist at the Ontario Ministry of Finance. He will explain which credits and benefits can save you taxes.

The last time I heard Jeremy speak at an event, I learned that I could claim expenses that I was unaware of before. I'm sure we would all like to save some taxes, so do attend. You never know what you may learn. Jane Wilson

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



Speakers Coordinator, April Gilkinson, has been busy planning a very interesting guest speaker line-up for future General Meetings.

More information will follow in subsequent newsletters but, in the meantime, please save the dates on your 2023 calendars.

April welcomes your suggestions for speakers or topics. Contact her at april-ann@hotmail.com

#### GENERAL MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKER, NEIL CRONE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 @ 10 AM - AJAX COMMUNITY CENTRE



As a performer in dozens of television and radio commercials, TV shows, a Second City veteran improvisor, host, and stand-up comedian, Neil Crone is sure to entertain us at our general meeting. He has won a Canadian Comedy Award, and is also an award-winning newspaper columnist and children's author.

#### TO BE CONFIRMED: GENERAL MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKER, TIM BURROWS. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 @ 10 AM - AJAX COMMUNITY CENTRE



Tim Burrows is a member of the Electric Vehicle Society – a non-profit organization promoting the understanding of electric mobility in Canada. He will address all your questions about electric cars.

#### TO BE CONFIRMED: GENERAL MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKER, EVE SMELTZER. WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 @ 10 AM - AJAX COMMUNIT CENTRE



If you have difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep, this intriguing presentation is for you. **"Counting Sheep"** will be the topic of discussion by Eve Smeltzer. Her research shows how sleep differs across the animal kingdomand how choosing a good place to snooze can have an enormous impact on health.

# COMING SOON continued



Albufeira, Portugal

Costa del Sol, Spain

### PORTUGAL & SPAIN February 9 – March 1, 2023

Portugal's Algarve province, is one of Europe's most picturesque holiday destinations. The white-washed villages cascade into the sea. Cobblestone streets are lined with outdoor cafés, bistros, wine bars, and fruit and vegetable markets.

The Costa del Sol region of southern Spain is remarkable for its diverse landscapes, fabulous beaches, and coastal sites as well as a wealth of small villages that dot the shoreline. It is one of Europe's most popular holiday destinations.

Prices range from **\$3,699** for double occupancy to **\$4,899** for a single Studio at <u>Hotel Brisa Sol</u> (pool view) and 1 bedroom at Sunset Beach Resort. Prices include:

**Transportation:** Coach to Montreal; direct nonstop flight from Montreal to Malaga, Spain; transfer from the Costa del Sol by coach to Albufeira, Portugal, and direct non-stop flight from Faro, Portugal to Toronto.

**Accommodation:**12 nights in Albufeira; one dinner and boat ride, and 8 nights at the <u>Sunset Beach Resort</u>, Benalmadena, Spain in a one bedroom apartment.

#### PORTUGAL February 28 – March 22, 2023

Albufeira is the largest, liveliest and most energetic of the resort towns that line southern Portugal's beautiful Algarve coastline, with stunning beaches, and a vast selection of restaurants. Within the charming and historic streets of the "Old Town" there are over one hundred restaurants and bars.

Cost is **\$3,449** double occupancy - One Bedroom Apartment: Poolview; (Single price is **\$4,499**) Prices include:

**Transportation:** Round trip direct flights from Toronto to Faro, Portugal; coach transfer from Faro airport to your hotel in the Algarve; transfer from your hotel to the airport, and flight from Faro to Toronto.

Accommodation: 21 nights with kitchen at the <u>Hotel Brisa Sol</u>, Albufeira, Portugal and one dinner and boat ride.

Services of an HNA Travels Tour Director are included with both tours.

Tours presented by HNA Travels. For booking or more information contact: Shirlie van Putten 905-619-8583 or email <u>shirlie@hnatravels.com</u>

# **INTEREST GROUPS**





#### **BOOK CLUB**

Next meeting is on

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14 10:00 am

3 Kemp Drive, Ajax

The book we selected is "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus You do not have to have read the book to attend the meeting.

We welcome new members to join our group.

RSVP: to Jane Armstrong armstrongjane@rogers.com 905.683.2069

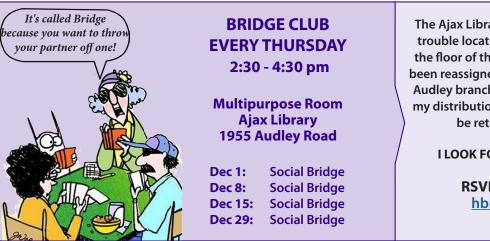
### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

9:00 am

SUNSET GRILL 235 Bayly Street West Ajax We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at various restaurants.

RSVP: to Julie Mathewson jmathewson@rogers.com 905-686-0803



The Ajax Library main branch continues to have trouble locating the source of the water leak in the floor of the Rotary Room. We have therefore been reassigned to the Multipurpose Room in the Audley branch of the library. For those of you on my distribution list, I will email you when we will be returning to the main branch.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL!

RSVP: Harvey Brodhecker hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca 416.894.5778

# **INTEREST GROUPS** continued



#### **DINING OUT CLUB**

As there is a Christmas party in December, we will not be going out for dinner. We will get together again on <u>Thursday, January 19th</u>. I will send out the info in the New Year. Thanks to the great group that came out for dinner in November. It was a fun night.

Merry Christmas to you all and see you in January.

Carol Breen cbreen840@bell.net 905.839.7762



We meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month

RSVP: to Julie Mathewson by noon the day before

jmathewson@rogers.com 905-686-0803

### **RODEO LUNCH CLUB** (Retired Old Dames Eating Out)

The Rodeo Club will not be meeting in December. The first meeting of the New Year will be on <u>Wednesday, January 11th.</u> Details will follow in the next newsletter.

Merry Christmas everyone! Dawn <u>dthorn000@gmail.com</u>

289.989.0641

# **INTEREST GROUPS** continued





- Would you like to join the Management Committee as the Interest Groups Coordinator?
- Do you have an idea for a new Group that you would like to organize?
- Would you like to help plan an event?
- Are you willing to help on the day of a program or event?
- If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, **Jane Wilson** would love to hear from you. <a href="mailto:ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com">ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com</a>



## MEMBERS' CORNER MAUREEN'S CAMERA RAMBLES

#### LEN CULLEN AND HIS GARDENS

I'm sure everyone living in this area over the last 50 years will remember Len Cullen. First Weall and Cullen Nurseries and Cullen Country Barns, then most of us can remember visiting Cullen Gardens and Miniature Village – now a distant memory. But Len Cullen, who died in 2006, now overlooks the site of his former dream property in the form of a life size bronze sculpture by the artist Ruth Abernathy. The bronze Len Cullen stands at the entrance overlooking the valley venue of his former miniature village and the Park of Reflection, a recent addition.

The Cullen property was sold to the Town of Whitby and in 2008, Whitby council voted to set aside the majority of lands as public open space. Two buildings on the property also belonged to the Cullen family – their family summer home and a log cabin bought by the Cullens and moved to the property.

Our Probus walking group has used this lovely property as a walk venue or a meeting spot to begin our walk towards and into the adjacent Heber Down Conservation Area.



Maureen McVarish



## MEMBERS' CORNER continued POETRY BY CARL



Carl G. Mabee

#### POMPEII

I wonder: As I walk down this old street And feel the cobble stones beneath my feet Of centuries that have come and past Although I'm the one who walked here last, Can you imagine who walked before? On streets that span the rise and fall Of cultures who have seen it all.

These stones have felt the Legions march Down narrow lanes to city square With throats that felt the dusty parch To quench their thirst upon release At wine shops here and there.

It's sad to think that people strived To make this place like home. And then one day from far away Vesuvius blew her dome. And gas and trash came tumbling down And buried everyone alive.

For 2000 years those that died remained Under ash and long forgotten And then one day people came to dig And found the city still intact and took Some items misbegotten. And now the city is slowly emerging To see again the light of day To give insight to how the wealthy lived In a holiday spot, called Pompeii.

By: Carl G. Mabee



### "PASTA" WITH OLIVE OIL SAUCE (Keto)



 package of any <u>NuPasta</u> Konjac noodles (zero net carbs) - serves 2
 cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil
 chopped garlic cloves & 1 tbsp oregano
 cup chopped fresh parsley or 1/2 cup dried parsley
 cup crumbled parmesan or feta
 Whatever you have on hand, such as:
 onions, mushrooms, roasted peppers, asparagus, snowpeas, anchovies, capers, and kalamata pitted olives.

- 1. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Lower the heat and add garlic, oregano and a pinch of salt and pepper. Cook for a minute.
- 2. Sauté the onions until softened and then add the remaining ingredients.
- 3. Add the NuPasta (rinsed very well and drained) and heat through.
- 4. To serve, add more olive oil if required and sprinkle with red pepper flakes to taste.

#### **NOTES:**

This recipe is great for diabetics, or for anyone watching their carb or gluten intake. It can be served as a main dish or side. It goes particularly well with wild salmon or rainbow trout, cooked whole, or cut into bite-size pieces and added to the mixture in the pan. Don't be put off by NuPasta's smell. Rinsing it well will remove it. NuPasta is pre-cooked and the texture is a bit more chewy than regular pasta. It can be used in any pasta recipe.

### **HEALTHY BLUEBERRY MUFFINS**



2½ cups fine grind Almond Flour (such as President's Choice)
½ cup milled flax seeds
½ cup sugar substitute such as Monk Fruit/Erythritol blend
1½ tsps baking powder (non-GMO, aluminum-free, such as Bakers)
¼ tsp salt

1/2 tsp of pure vanilla extract

½ cup virgin coconut oil or butter (measured solid) then melted & cooled.
½ cup unsweetened almond milk or regular milk at room temperature.
3 large eggs at room temperature (beaten until light and frothy)
2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries

- 1. In a large bowl, stir together all the dry ingredients.
- 2. Beat in the melted coconut oil/butter, milk, beaten eggs and vanilla. The batter will be fairly thick.
- 3. Fold in the blueberries.
- Transfer the batter to baking cups and bake until the tops are golden and an inserted toothpick comes out clean - about 35 minutes, depending on the size. Makes 9-12 muffins. Keeps very well in the freezer.

## EMBERS' CORNER continued **CHUCKLES & GROANS**

"You don't stop laughing when you grow old. You grow old when you stop laughing." - George Bernard Shaw



The brain at 3 am: I can see you're trying to sleep, so I would like to offer you a selection of every memory, unresolved issue, or things you should have said or done today, as well as in the past 50 years!

I'm so old that I have dialed a rotary phone; recorded a song that I loved off a transistor radio onto a tape recorder; watched a black and white TV; taken a long walk without counting the steps, and eaten food that I didn't take pictures of.

The most expensive vehicle to operate is the Costco shopping cart.

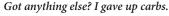
Self-checkout should include an employee discount.

I bought a new pair of slippers with memory foam insoles. No more forgetting why I went into the kitchen!

"I'm at an age when my back goes out more than I do." – Phyllis Diller

"Inside every 70-year-old is a 35-year-old asking, 'What happened?'" – Ann Landers







## **MEMBERSHIP & PAYMENTS**



We are delighted to welcome new members pictured above with Jane Wilson. Hyacinth Gibson, Bernadine Taylor, Janice and Ken Lepper.

#### How to Make an e-transfer to Ajax Probus to pay for membership fees or events

Please advise the Social Chair, Shirlie Van Putten or Membership Chair, Tom Rosebush that you are making an e-transfer.

Each bank has a slightly different system, however the steps are the same, but may be in a different order.

- 1) Sign in to your online banking account and select "Interac e-Transfer"
- 2) Select "Send Money" or whatever name your bank calls it.
- 3) Select the account that the funds are to be withdrawn from.
- 4) In the Amount field, enter the amount you are sending.
- 5) Enter the recipient: (each bank is slightly different in the way this works).
  - Select: Enter New Recipient (if Probus Club of Ajax isn't already listed as a recipient).
  - add the name: Probus Club of Ajax
  - enter the email address: probusajaxtreasurer@gmail.com
- 6) In the Comments box, enter
  - Your name (and other names if it is for more than one person).
  - What the money is for. *If you do not put anything in the comments, we won't know what the funds are for.*
- 7) Review and Finish Transaction. The funds will be in our account immediately.

#### Updating our records

Please advise Tom if you have moved or changed your email address/phone number.

Tom Rosebush, Membership Coordinator ajaxprobusmembership@gmail.com 437.981.6719 Rowena Burns, Treasurer probusajaxtreasurer@gmail.com 289.482.1800

## **PHOTO GALLERY**

#### OCTOBER 31 - PROBUS CLUB OF ONTARIO DISTRICT #2 MEETING

The PROBUS Club of Ontario District #2 meeting was held at the historic Aurora Armoury on October 31. This was the first time that a meeting had been held in three years and several hundred guests attended from the district. District #2 is the largest in Canada with 33 Clubs.

Brenda Andrews, the President of PROBUS Canada, and Director of Ontario District #2, together with Bob McNair, Past President, chaired the meeting. It was noted that the majority of Clubs have the same major issues: how to attract new members and how to retain them. A maximum of five members from each club's Management Team were invited to attend as delegates. Our President, Jane Wilson represented the PROBUS Club of Ajax with Vice President, Jim Meek, Treasurer, Rowena Burns and Newsletter Editor, Hetty Shapiro. Social Coordinator, Shirlie Van Putten attended on behalf of Ajax and Pickering.

Delegates were assigned to tables with other members who held the same role within their respective clubs. Ideas and suggestions were exchanged and, later, a representative from each table shared the main ideas that came out of their discussions. It was an excellent networking and communications event which resulted in some very good ideas and suggestions.



# **PHOTO GALLERY** continued

#### **NOVEMBER 2 - GENERAL MEETING**

We had a full house at our November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to hear guest speaker, Daniel Aonso, explore the significance of music in motion pictures. His presentation, *The Sounds of Hollywood*, took us from the first talking picture, Al Jolson's "The Jazz Singer" to the scares and screeches of Bernard Herrmann's "Psycho" to John Williams' "Star Wars" soundtrack.

















