



PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

PROBUS Club of Ajax, Club #82 Ajax, Ontario

Vol 24 Issue 8

August 4th, 2021

**All PROBUS Club of Ajax In Person General Meetings
are CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm sure we're all tired of the social isolation we have endured in the past months due to the pandemic. With vaccination rates climbing every day and the Ontario Government's implementation of Step 3 of the re-opening, we are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel.



According to the COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker, as of July 21, 2021, more than 80% of adults (18+) in Ontario have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while more than 68% of adults (18+) in Ontario are fully vaccinated.

At the Management Committee meeting on July 16, 2021, a Protocol was developed and passed to begin a cautious re-opening of our PROBUS Club's meetings and activities. Our goal is to provide as safe an environment as possible for our members. This Protocol reads "For the foreseeable future, all in-person gatherings of the PROBUS Club of Ajax will require all participants to 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." To learn more about this Protocol, its' implementation and how it affects you, please read the actual Protocol on page #2 of this Newsletter.

With respect to a gradual re-opening, our Club is planning Hybrid meetings, to be implemented in the fall of this year. A Hybrid meeting allows in-person attendance at the meeting, as well as remote viewing of the meeting via Zoom. Our Club hopes to have our first Hybrid membership meeting on October 6, 2021 however, the timing will depend upon Province of Ontario Regulations and Public Health Guidelines for COVID-19, in effect at that time.

Hope you are enjoying our summer weather. It's hard to believe that we are approaching the end of July already. Wishing you an enjoyable Civic Holiday!

Stay safe and keep well.

Joyce



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. With this in mind, the Management Committee formulated the following Protocol:

For the foreseeable future, all in-person gatherings of the PROBUS Club of Ajax, will require all participants to 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.

This is how it will work:

- a) When you are vaccinated for COVID-19, you receive a Ministry of Health receipt for each shot. When you attend your first in-person membership meeting, bring the receipt for your second vaccine shot with you. Your name and the date of your second shot will be recorded, when you enter the meeting room. You will not need to show your vaccination receipt again. 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.
- b) This COVID-19 Protocol will be implemented at our Club's first in-person membership meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 6, 2021. This date gives Club members a two month period in which to become fully vaccinated, in order to comply with this protocol.
- 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. Please do not attend any in-person meetings, interest group activities or social events 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 gatherings 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.

I'm sure we're all looking forward to the opportunity of meeting again in-person. What a joy it will be to socialize with friends we haven't seen for many months.

Take care and stay safe.

Management Committee
PROBUS Club of Ajax
July 28, 2021



ZOOM INFORMATION

You do not need to download the ZOOM software to use the service. If you go to your internet browser (like Google) and go to website www.zoom.us look at the top right corner of the screen that opens up and you will see a button to click that says JOIN A MEETING. **(Use Control Click for Links)**

The diagram below appears



You can then enter the meeting ID number sent to you by PROBUS Club of Ajax in an email, and click JOIN. If there was a password also sent to you, enter it on the next page that opens up.

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TO CALL IN VIA PHONE TO THE MONTHLY MEETING

Local numbers:

647 374 4685

647 558 0588

Operator will welcome you, then you enter the meeting ID followed by the pound symbol: Meeting ID: 768 724 6025#

It will then ask for your participant code, just press the pound symbol: #

Then enter the meeting passcode followed by the pound symbol:

Passcode: 611220#

You will then join the meeting

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MEMBERSHIP

Your Annual PROBUS Club of Ajax membership fees are now due for the 2021/2022 year. The annual fee is now \$30.00 a year with the new member initiation fee also set at \$30.00". Renewals should be mailed to Tom Rosebush, 1612 - 44 Falby Court, Ajax, ON, L1S 3L1. As of July 20th, we have received 91 renewals or 44% of our membership. This leaves 116 members still to be heard from.

If for some reason you do not plan to renew your membership, please endeavor to notify us by email or phone so we can update our records. So far two members have done so and it is much appreciated. Also, to keep our records in order we ask that if you have any changes in your "email, phone number or residence address", you inform us via email to ajaxprobusmembership@gmail.com or by phone to 437 981-6719. Stay safe.

Tom, Membership Coordinator
ajaxprobusmembership@gmail.com



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Below is a recipe from one of the Management Team

Three Bean Salad

1 Can (19 oz) cut Green Beans
1 Can (19 oz) cut Yellow Beans
1 Can (15 oz) dark red Kidney Beans
¼ cup fresh lime juice
½ cup Chopped Green Pepper

Dressing:

½ cup Sugar
2/3 cup Vinegar
1/3 cup Salad Oil
Salt & Pepper to taste

Drain beans and combine with green pepper. Combine ingredients for dressing. Toss in large bowl and chill overnight. Serves 6 – 8

You can even add a can of chickpeas if you choose.

Can be kept in fridge for up to a month!

Shirlie Van Putten



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MEMBERS CORNER

A TRIP TO REMEMBER *by Sylvia Clark*

In the summer of 1970, my husband, my 3 children and myself were living in Montreal. Our extended families lived on Vancouver Island B.C. It was decided I would take the children (the youngest 3 years old, one 6 years old and the eldest 9 years old) out to Vancouver by train, then cross to the Island by ferry. We would stay one month with our parents. My husband would fly out for the last week and we would all return home together on the train.

We had a bedroom on the train and the children loved the freedom of moving back and forth between the train cars, being served fancy meals in the dining car and watching the scenery race by.

When we got to the ferry dock, I was delighted to see my parents had come over on the previous ferry to meet us. As we embarked on "The Queen of Victoria" I decided to use their phone booth and call Steve's parents to let them know the approximate time we would be arriving in Swartz Bay on the Island. Following that, the six of us went to the café, took a corner window and ordered lunch. As the ferry entered Active Pass my father looked out the window and exclaimed "That freighter is going too fast. It is going to hit us!" We each grabbed a child. I remembered shouting "Hold on to something, we are going to crash!" BEDLAM FOLLOWED.

The Soviet freighter 'Sergay Ysenin' hit us midship and was lodged tightly into the ferry inches from the phone booth I had previously used.

It appeared there were only a couple of officers dashing about hustling us into life jackets, none of which fit my 3-year-old. I had to hold her inside my life jacket. The next problem was trying to get the wooden lifeboats loose. When that didn't work, they resorted to the inflatables. A very slim Chinese kitchen worker was handed an oar and thrust into the inflatable with about a dozen of us, as we were very shakily lowered to the water.

Fortunately, nearby fishing boats came to our rescue and helped us climb up into their boats. After about an hour, when they realized the ferry wasn't going to sink, the freighter backed out and they instructed everyone to get back on the ferry. No one was happy about that! Police were helicoptered in. Everyone was questioned. Finally, the ferry slowly returned to Tsawwassen dock. Hours later they let us leave on a different ferry to make our way to Swartz Bay where my brother waited for us with open arms.

We later learned that three passengers had been killed. Since that date, August 2nd 1970, no freighters are permitted to travel through Active Pass. Plus, no passengers are allowed to remain in their cars during the crossing.

It was definitely a TRIP TO REMEMBER. On the ferry ride home on the "Queen of Saanich" both boys spent the whole trip outside at the rail watching out for possible danger.

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SPEAKERS



August 4th Speaker

Our August speaker is Lyn Philip Hodgson who will talk about Camp X and the who, where, why, when and how of the top-secret spy school in Canada during WW2.

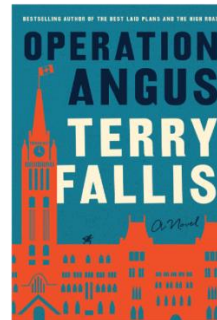
<http://www.camp-x.com> Use Control Click for Link 

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September 1st Speaker

Operation Angus is a follow up to my first two novels, **The Best Laid Plans** (Leacock Medal winner, CBC Canada Reads winner, CBC Television 6-part miniseries, and a stage musical) and **The High Road**. Yes, Angus McIntock is back 14 years after he first appeared in my debut novel. While Angus is a newly minted cabinet minister, this story is less about politics and more of a comic thriller as Angus and his Chief of Staff, narrator Daniel Addison must, on their own, thwart an assassination attempt on the life of the Russian President during a brief meeting with the Prime Minister in Ottawa.

In my talk, I'll share the roots of this novel and my own connections to the story.



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October 6th Speaker

Lianne Harris currently works as the Social Studies Resource Specialist Consultant with the Toronto Board of Education and curriculum adviser for Upper Canada College, having taught over 80,000 teachers and students (usually in authentic period clothing). She holds individual degrees in History, English and Fine Arts and using these disciplines, assists with entrepreneurial artists and business start-ups in leper colonies in India. In 2003, she was selected by W.O.M.A.D. as one of Toronto's Women of Influence and in 2009 was invited to be a contributing author of the Canadian best-seller business/self-help book, 'The Power of Women United'. Her artwork has been exhibited at the Royal Ontario Museum, Roy Thomson Hall, The I.D.A Gallery, and The Shaw Festival. Appearing on TV and interviewed many times on the radio, she always loves a live--and virtual! --audience.

Superstitions

We've all heard of witches and their black cats, unlucky number 13 and saying 'bless you' after a sneeze. Take a spooky 1-hour journey with Lianne Harris as we look at the fascinating history of witchlore and superstitions, their origins, their importance and why these ideas persist today.



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JULY 7, 2021 MEETING

Our general PROBUS meeting on July 7th had 49 people/screens in attendance. We had a short business meeting with reports from some members of the management committee. Tom reported that so far 81 people had renewed their membership.

Dr. Victoria Plaskett, who is a member of our club, gave a most interesting presentation along with a slide show about her experiences in Arviat, Nunavut. Instead of receiving an honorarium for speaking, Victoria requested that we purchase a bicycle for a child in Arviat.

Jane drew names at the end of the meeting. Congratulations to Donna Portener and Maria Schaaf who will receive gift cards from Shirlye.

Some Interest Group gatherings are cancelled until further notice.
Operating interest groups are Chat Rooms (Zoom), Euchre (Trickster)
Bridge (Trickster) and Golf

AJAX PROBUS INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Groups Coordinator: Nancy Hobart			
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	Nancy Hobart
Walking Club	Ron Mitchell & Maureen McVarish		

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PROBUS BRIDGE



JOIN US AND PLAY BRIDGE WITH TRICKSTER

During the past two 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, August 3 and Tuesday, August 17 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) 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

COVID and BRIDGE

BRIDGING the GAP

For the past four months we have been talking about some difficult hands to bid. These hands look straight forward but can trap you. This month we have another problem hand. Look at this innocuous hand. (Spades) 8, (Hearts) A43, (Diamonds) K1052, (Clubs) KQ1042. What do you bid? You have a 5 card club suit and a 4 card diamond suit. You have a basic opening bid (12 High card points plus one or 2 distribution points). Let's say you fall into the trap and open 1 club. Partner bids 1 spade. What do you bid now? A bid of 1NT would be difficult to play with a singleton in partner's suit. A bid of 2 diamonds is a reverse and promises 17 or more points. The problem was with the first bid. You should have opened 1 Diamond. Here is a rule. If you have 5 clubs and 4 diamonds and a singleton or void in a major suit always open 1 diamond. Remember Alvin Roth's advice from last month: Don't make your first bid until you know what your second bid will be. There seems to be a Murphy's Law in bridge that partner will always bid the suit that you do not want them to bid.

Harvey Brodhecker

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PROBUS RODEO GROUP

I do hope that as the vaccination program picks up speed we will get to enjoy some lunches together. As soon as it is possible we will make arrangements and resume our outings.

Have patience and take care.

Dawn Thornton (note new phone number) 289-989-0641 Please send your recipes and photos directly to Barb Squires at ajaxprobusnewsletter@gmail.com



LADIES WHO LUNCH

A group of 40-year-old girlfriends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed upon that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the waiters there had tight pants and nice bums.

10 years later at 50 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the food there was very good, the wine selection was good also, and the waiters were cute.

10 years later at 60 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they could eat there in peace and quiet, the restaurant had a beautiful view of the ocean, and the waiters were sweet boys.

10 years later, at 70 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the restaurant was wheel chair accessible, they even had an elevator, and the waiters were kind.

10 years later, at 80 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they had never been there before.

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BREAKFAST CLUB

EUCHRE & SCRABBLE (Julie)



BREAKFAST

What's the difference between white and brown eggs? How many eggs does a hen lay in a day? Why are some yolks more yellow than others? Find out the answers to these plus other questions you never even thought of asking at www.getcracking.ca. The website also has many great egg recipes including bacon and egg lasagna (yum!).

EUCHRE

Join us for euchre on Trickstercards.com. Our games this month will be on Tuesday, August 10 and Tuesday, August 24, starting at 2:00 pm. Since game tables have to be assigned in advance, let Julie know by noon the day before if you plan to play (ajaxprobussecretary@gmail.com). You will need to have the free Trickstercards app downloaded to your computer or tablet to play.



PLUS ONE

To each of these 26 words, add a different letter of the alphabet. Then rearrange the letters, if necessary, to form a different word. Cross off each letter of the alphabet as you use it. Each letter from A to Z can be used only once. (**Answers on page 19**)

Example: chat → add H → HATCH

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. rant + ____ = _____ | 14. chat + ____ = _____ |
| 2. limb + ____ = _____ | 15. read + ____ = _____ |
| 3. lock + ____ = _____ | 16. skin + ____ = _____ |
| 4. fast + ____ = _____ | 17. near + ____ = _____ |
| 5. zeal + ____ = _____ | 18. rest + ____ = _____ |
| 6. loch + ____ = _____ | 19. raze + ____ = _____ |
| 7. word + ____ = _____ | 20. code + ____ = _____ |
| 8. back + ____ = _____ | 21. pile + ____ = _____ |
| 9. minx + ____ = _____ | 22. roam + ____ = _____ |
| 10. suet + ____ = _____ | 23. crow + ____ = _____ |
| 11. axle + ____ = _____ | 24. axes + ____ = _____ |
| 12. sick + ____ = _____ | 25. spam + ____ = _____ |
| 13. meal + ____ = _____ | 26. ends + ____ = _____ |

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PROBUS BOOK CLUB



The Book Club **usually** meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at St. Paul's United Church, 65 King's Crescent, at 1:30 p.m.

During Covid19, of course, we are **not** meeting!!! However, when normalcy returns we shall continue our very interesting discussions on chosen book titles

Interested in reading, discussion, fun and fellowship, we welcome you to join our group. In the meantime, book suggestions you may wish to enjoy:

Book Suggestions:

“**The Forest of Vanishing Stars**” (★★★★ + rating) by Kristen Harmel;
release date – July, 2021; Historical Fiction – a story of survival in the forests of Poland.

“**The Cellist**”(★★★★ + rating) by Daniel Silva; *release date – July, 2021*; Suspense genre – exploring the corrupting influence of dirty money.

The Extra Tid-Bit:

On Reading and Books

*Reading is dreaming with open eyes.

*A good book is the best of friends.

*“Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary.” *Jim Rohn*

**“I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.” *Groucho Marx*

***“So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall.” *Roald Dahl*

***“Let's be reasonable and add an eighth day to the week that is devoted exclusively to reading.” *Lena Dunham*

***“That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet.” *Jhumpa Lahiri*

Bernie Rosebush - 905-426-1598 or bernie.rosebush@gmail.com



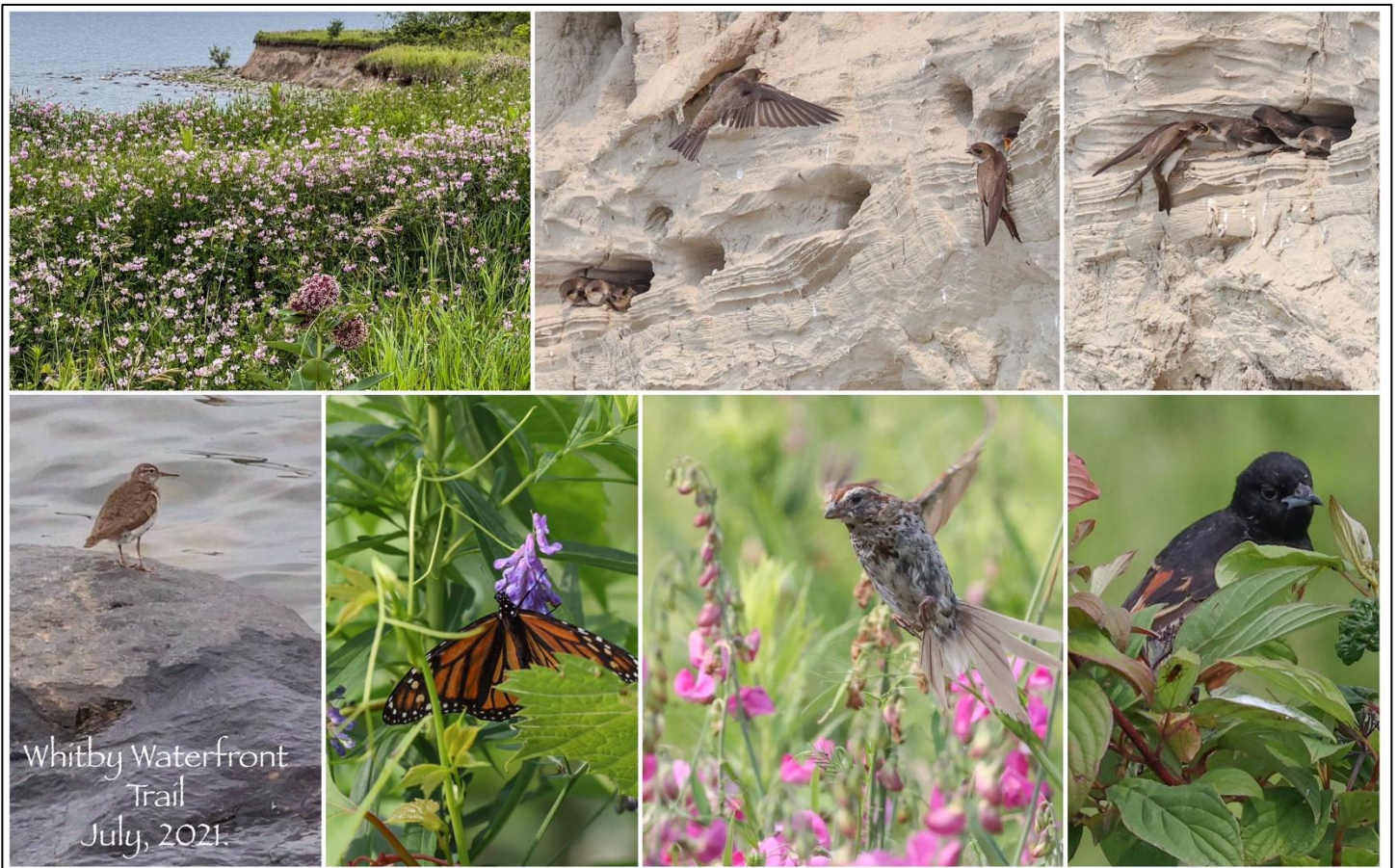
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Rambles with my Camera

Rambles with my Camera - Whitby Waterfront Trail

(Maureen McVarish)

One place I love to walk with my camera, especially at this time of year is the waterfront trail in Whitby between Blair Street south and Thickson Road. It had been closed since the spring and finally opened up a few weeks ago with newly paved trails and improved seating areas. The wildflowers during the summer months are spectacular and a favourite challenge is to see if I can catch the birds and butterflies landing in the wildflowers. I have included a few in this collage. Some know about the secret footpath that runs parallel with the paved trail. It has amazing views over the lake and down to the shore. I had walked this trail a few weeks ago and noticed throngs of swallows overhead catching beak loads of flying insects and swooping down the cliff side. I followed the trail until it took me to a spot that overlooked the cliff and I could see that it was dotted with small openings. The cliff swallows were momentarily disappearing into one of these openings and then out again. I returned to this spot wondering if I could see the chicks. I took more shots and concentrated my zoom lens on the swallows that were hovering in front of the openings hoping I might see something interesting when I download my pictures and I wasn't disappointed. Some of the baby swallows are getting big enough that they are reaching out of their cave nests trying to be the successful recipient. I have included 2 shots that I was especially happy with. Try to zoom in if you can to see the chicks.



MOVIE CLUB

Something to do until we get together again.

Thanks

Nancy



MOVIE TRIVIA

1. In Risky Business, what song did Tom Cruise famously lip-sync to in his underwear?
2. Who is the only actor to receive an Oscar nomination for acting in a Lord of the Rings movie?
3. Who took over the role of Bruce Wayne's love interest Rachel Dawes in The Dark Knight, following Katie Holmes's exit after Batman Begins?
4. What song plays over the opening credits of Guardians of the Galaxy?
5. For which 1964 musical blockbuster did Julie Andrews win the Academy Award for Best Actress?
6. What is the highest-grossing R-rated movie of all time?
7. What 1994 crime film revitalized John Travolta's career?
8. Who voiced the sultry Jessica Rabbit in Who's Afraid of Roger Rabbit?
9. Which movie was incorrectly announced as the winner of Best Picture at the 2017 Academy Awards, during the greatest Oscars flub of all time?
10. Which 1948 Alfred Hitchcock movie starred James Stewart and was shot to look like one continuous take?

(Answers on page 19)

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PROBUS GOLF



Good news! Golf courses are open! If you would like to be added to the golf list, contact Marcia Everitt by email at marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca or call (416) 724-6355. If you would like to book a time, contact Hawthorne Valley Golf Course directly at (905) 686-2028.

LIBRARY NEWS

"WHAT'S ON FOR AUGUST, 2021"

The link for What's On is: www.ajaxlibrary.ca and click on 'Programs'

We're excited to see you in person again. All branches are open for you to visit for study space, computer use, and to browse for books! Before you visit, please remember:

- Masks and social distancing are required;
- Food is not permitted; drinks are permitted;
- Gathering restrictions also apply in alignment with provincial regulations.

The Library will continue to offer curbside pick-up, along with extensive virtual services, programs, and collections. Our external dropboxes remain open 24/7 for Library material returns.

See more information and open hours on [our website!](http://www.ajaxlibrary.ca)

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A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

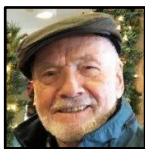


PROBUS Walkers, 2009



Ajax PROBUS 15th Anniversary

CARL'S CORNER



Carl Mabee
President (2013-2014)

Continuing from June's article and before leaving the hotel a group of Filipino VIPs came in and crossed in front of me, it was **President Marcos** and a number of other gentlemen and ladies on their way to some social function. What caught my eye were the outfits the men were wearing. It consisted of black slacks and shoes and a very nice cream coloured over blouse with discrete interwoven patterns or designs on the front panel. I asked someone and was told it was the Filipino equivalent to a tuxedo, very nice! and as it turned out one that I had to buy.

As an aside this is a new hotel built by the owners of the world-famous Hong Kong Peninsula and opened in 1976 in time to welcome the members of the International Monetary Fund.

I guess while we are talking about the government, I should mention that the Philippines is the world's twelfth most populous country with 90 plus million of which 72 million are Catholics. And get this; it's made up of over 7000 islands. (*I hope everyone learns to swim at an early age.*) Its biggest export (*reminds me of the Irish*) is people, with over 9 million people living abroad. The Philippines was a former colony of Spain for over 300 years. The official language is Filipino (Tagalog) and English. After the Spanish American war, the U.S.A. took control of the country and after independence the Philippines has kept a very close relationship with the U.S.A. **I cannot** and none of us should ever forget the atrocities committed by the Japanese against the Filipinos during the Second World War, with over one million dead and all the despicable things that were perpetrated against the civilian population.

Murphy met yours truly at the front entrance and off we went to dinner. What a nice gentleman! I would guess he would be about my age and had spent a considerable amount of time in the East and Far East training the Trainers on the various technical intricacies of our equipment. We had a long and rambling conversation that included what non-Muslims did for R and R when working in the Arab states and he said he went to this famous hotel in India. I said, "Really I had just finished a conversation with Rolly Nichol, Roy Hunts building buddy who told me the same story" Murph said "what is his name" and I told him, and he said he had met him there and had spent an evening together after Rolly found out he worked for Gestetner. **What a truly small world!** In any event we arrange to rent a car and spend Sunday exploring some of the countryside.



JEEPNEYS AND SUNDAY MORNING TRAFFIC CHAOS

Early Sunday morning I placed a call to Barb in London and as I was waiting for the call to go through I had to go to the bathroom and whilst sitting on the throne the phone rang, Oh! Oh! and then on the second ring I realised it was ringing in the bathroom and sure enough there was a phone right beside me, so two things struck me as odd, first a phone in the bathroom and the second was how fast the call went through. I picked up the phone and after saying hello I said "you will never guess where I'm sitting while talking to you on the phone". So after a chuckle and a chat with everyone I got ready to head out.

So Murphy picked me up early and off we went through Manila and the suburbs on our way to the top of a volcanic mountain called **Mayon**. Sunday rush hour? Well if not you could have fooled me. Cars and Jeepney's were abundant and I swear they were driving on the roads in any direction all at the same time



THE BOOKWORM



I've just rediscovered Barbara Kingsolver. One book led to another, and summer days slipped by as I happily read on my backyard swing surrounded by my flower garden.

In the summer of 1998, it seemed everyone in Toronto was reading bestseller, "The Poisonwood Bible" about a missionary family in Belgian Congo, tracing the Congo's struggle for independence. I loved it and was immediately drawn into the family dynamics and political turmoil of the story.

I followed that with, "Prodigal Summer" about a small Appalachian town during a single summer. The characters are Deanna, a solitary woman working as a park ranger, Lusa, a widowed entomologist, and Garrett, an old man with dreams of restoring the lineage of the extinct American chestnut tree.

Known for her historical fiction, Kingsolver explores themes of social justice, biodiversity, and the balance between the needs of individuals, their communities, and the ecosystem. Using beautiful prose and strong narrative, her books have been called a form of social activism. Her characters are often outsiders, and she questions, "How can the common person work so hard all their life and make so little progress and have so little to show for it?"

"Unsheltered" is her latest work, published in 2018. It follows two families in the same house at two separate time periods in Vineland, New Jersey. One family lived in the house in the 1800's when debates about Darwin's, "On the Origin of Species" prevailed and women were arrested for wearing trousers. Their next-door neighbour is Mary Treat, the real-life naturalist, botanist and entomologist. The modern-day family is writer Willa and her husband Iano, who struggle with finances and a stable home while raising their baby grandson, Dusty in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The two stories are woven together beautifully for a surprising conclusion.

"The Bean Trees," Barbara Kingsolver's first book, was published in 1988 and is now a classic. It's a coming-of-age story of Taylor Greer who leaves home, driving west from Kentucky to Oklahoma and Arizona. Along the way she finds herself in Cherokee territory when a woman approaches and leaves a child with her without any explanation. Taylor adopts three-year-old Turtle and with her mother Alice and boyfriend Jax, they become a family.

The sequel, "Pigs in Heaven" continues the story of Taylor and her daughter, with special attention to the customs, tradition, and history of the Cherokee nation in Oklahoma. Critics have said Kingsolver may have written the sequel to correct misconceptions in the first book about the disproportionately high rate of adoptions of aboriginal children into white families.

It's interesting to observe a writer's style as it evolves with different works. While "The Poisonwood Bible" remains my favorite of Kingsolver's books, I think "Unsheltered" places a solid second. There's a lightness and irony in her writing that had me smiling. Her characters are quirky and fun. Yet, she somehow seems to predict our current reality.

Kingsolver has received a number of awards and honors. In 2000, she was awarded the National Humanities Medal by US President Bill Clinton. She is the founder of the PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction.

Victoria Plaskett

Seniors Centre Without Walls: August 2021 Program Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Civic Holiday No Programming	3 1:30pm Fun: Short Stories – Callers Edition	4 1:30pm Fit & Fun: Tai Chi	5 1:30pm Information Highway: Recipe Exchange – Jams & Preserves	6 10am Fit & Fun: Fitness
9 1:30pm Worldly Wonders: Armchair Travel - Bermuda	10 1:30pm Fun: 52 Card Bingo	11 1:30pm Information Highway: Summi Siddiqui	12 1:30pm Fit or Fun: Fun Fact Frenzy – Crazy Canucks	13 10am pm Information Highway: Durham Storytellers
16 1:30pm Information Highway: Film Friends – From Broadway to the Silver Screen	17 1:30pm Challenge Accepted: Trivial Pursuit – Nightly News	18 1:30pm Information Highway: EAPO Frauds and Scams	19 1:30pm Information Highway: Local History Talk – The Villages of Pickering	20 10am Fit & Fun: Fitness
23 1:30pm Worldly Wonders: Book Chat – The Duchess of Cornwall's	24 1:30pm Challenge Accepted: Scattergories	25 1:30pm Fit & Fun: Tai Chi	26 1:30pm Challenge Accepted: You Be the Judge	27 10am Information Highway: Durham Storytellers
30 1:30pm Information Highway: Biographies –	31 1:30pm Fun: Fun – Finish the Line			

Let's get connected



To join using Zoom, use
the following requirements:


Meeting ID: 936 9272 5495
Passcode: SCWW55+001



To join by phone, use the
following requirements:

Dial: 647 558 0588
Meeting ID: 936 9272 5495#
Participant ID #
Passcode: 1409113169#

AJAX PROBUS CALENDAR, AUGUST 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Civic Holiday 	3 10 am PROBUS Golf 2pm BRIDGE Trickster	4 10am PROBUS General Meeting Zoom	5	6 2 pm Zoom Chat	7
8	9 11 am Zoom Chat	10 10 am PROBUS Golf 2pm Euchre Trickster	11	12	13 2 pm Zoom Chat	14
15	16 11 am Zoom Chat	17 10 am PROBUS Golf 2pm BRIDGE Trickster	18	19	20 2 pm Zoom Chat	21
22	23 11 am Zoom Chat	24 10 am PROBUS Golf 2pm Euchre Trickster	25	26	27 2 pm Zoom Chat	28
29	30 11 am Zoom Chat	31 10 am PROBUS Golf				

Answers to Plus One (page 10)

1. + i = train	14. + n = chant
2. + c = climb	15. + z = razed
3. + a = cloak	16. + g = kings
4. + e = feast	17. + v = raven
5. + h = hazel	18. + o = store
6. + t = cloth	19. + b = zebra
7. + s = sword	20. + y = decoy
8. + l = black	21. + x = pixel
9. + u = unmix	22. + j = major
10. + q = quest	23. + d = crowd
11. + r = relax	24. + m = exams
12. + k = kicks	25. + w = swamp
13. + f = flame	26. + p = spend

Answers to Movie Trivia (page 13)

1. "Old Time Rock and Roll" by Bob Seger
2. Ian McKellen
3. Maggie Gyllenhaal
4. "Come and Get Your Love" by Redbone
5. Mary Poppins
6. Joker
7. Pulp Fiction
8. Kathleen Turner
9. La La Land
10. Rope

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Durham Region Transit has made On Demand transportation available to residents travelling to vaccination clinics within their local municipality. The Regional Municipality of Durham website page has been updated with this information and streamlined: <https://www.durhamregiontransit.com/en/routes-and-schedules/bus-stop-and-route-information-for-covid-19-vaccine-clinics.aspx>. Individuals can also telephone a customer service representative at **1-866-247-0055** for trip planning assistance.

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AJAX PROBUS MANAGEMENT TEAM, 2021

President	Joyce Starkman	ajaxprobuspresident@gmail.com
Past President	Reg Lawrance	ajaxprobuspastpres@gmail.com
Treasurer	John Clark	ajaxprobus treasurer@gmail.com
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Zoom	Stewart Beatty	ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com
Newsletter	Barb Squires	ajaxprobusnewsletter@gmail.com
Guest	Rowena Burns	

August



Civic Holiday August 2nd

For information on other PROBUS Clubs in Canada to: www.probus.org . Our Ajax PROBUS website: 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