

# THE AJAX PROBUS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



PROBUS Club of Ajax, Club # 82 Ajax, Ontario

Vol.21 Issue 12

December 4, 2018

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## NO MEETING THIS MONTH Tuesday, December 4, 2018 – 12:00 Deer Creek Golf & Country Club Christmas Lunch

### President's Message

#### A Christmas Memory

One Christmas that I remember vividly happened in the year 1944. My family had moved from Nova Scotia and we had arrived in Scarborough Ontario on "D" Day in June of that year. At that time it was a place of gardens and farm animals. We lived in a flat on second floor of an old house on Danforth Road..



That December found my family facing Christmas without money for food or rent, let alone for Christmas gifts or a turkey for dinner and definitely no hope for a Christmas tree. My mother had applied for social assistance for food and for money to pay the rent.

At that time I was 9 and in grade 3 at Kennedy Road Public School and we had a caring teacher by the name of Mrs. Everest. One morning she asked our class if we would like to have a tree in our classroom that we could decorate for the Christmas season. Of course we were all excited and put up our hands in approval. She went on to explain that in the last snow storm a car had slid off Kingston road and had knocked down an evergreen tree near her house. She had checked with the town and was told that our class could have it but we would have to move it to the school by ourselves. Two other boys and myself carried the tree it back to our school to the glee of our classmates. We had a wonderful time making decorations.

On the last day of school before Christmas, Mrs. Everest asked if there was anyone in that class that did not have a Christmas tree at home. Another boy and myself raised our hands and the teacher asked us to write our name on a piece of paper and give it to her. She then folded them up, put them in a hat, and to my surprise drew out my name.

My friends helped me carry the tree and decorations home where my sisters and mother cried with joy when they learned that after all we were really going to have a Christmas tree. My sisters and I decorated the tree that evening.

A couple of days before Christmas there was a knock on our door and we were greeted by two smiling members of the Salvation Army. They were loaded down with a complete Christmas dinner and all the trimmings. On top of that they had a Christmas present for each of us.

That is a very special Christmas in my memory that I will never forget.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Reg

Please note that there will not be a PROBUS meeting in December and that our January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 NOT the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Check out our new website!**

We're excited to announce the launch of a website for the PROBUS Club of Ajax. If you haven't already, go to <http://www.ajaxprobus.com> and check it out. You'll find information here about social events, interest groups, and upcoming speakers as well as a gallery of photos of past events. This is a work in progress so your comments and feedback are greatly appreciated. Please note that unless you let us know in writing that you don't want your photo included in the photo gallery, your permission is implied.

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**MEMBERSHIP**

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to one and all. May you all have a lovely Holiday Season in the company of your loved ones.



Edna Martiniello, Membership Coordinator  
905-239-5644  
[martinielloedna@gmail.com](mailto:martinielloedna@gmail.com)



Each month our membership continues to grow. The Ajax PROBUS Management Team would like to thank each of you for joining our club.

Please welcome your new fellow members: John Floyd, Sharon Piecowye, Susan Phillips and Jean Wing.

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## PROBUS SPEAKERS

**January** - Renae Jarrett, a thought provoking columnist with the Durham publications, The News Advertiser and This Week.



**February** - Cathy McWatters, an astronomer and member of the Royal Astronomical Society, who will take us on a journey into the night sky.

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### SOCIAL REPORT

#### Reminder

Please bring your cheque book to the meeting to sign up for events



**Friday, December 7th – Christmas in Toronto - \$72**

Enjoy the stunning poinsettia display at the Allan Gardens; enjoy entertainment, music, restaurants, food - and shop at the Distillery District's Christmas Market.

**Includes: CALL FOR LAST MINUTE SEATS!!**

- Guided Tour of Allan Gardens
- Includes admission to Distillery District to enjoy the Friday evening Jazz, have dinner (on your own) and walk around
- Driver's Tip

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**Sunday, January 20th – Come from Away – Limited tickets – Cost \$185**  
Please call Shirlye directly for availability! 905-619-8583



**Wednesday, February 27th – Murder Mystery at the Old Mill Inn – Cost \$125**



While attending the Chelsea Scientific Symposium on Time Travel, Sherlock Holmes and his trusty partner Dr. Watson are counting down the seconds, in anticipation of the arrival of Professor Chronos, for the unveiling of his much-heralded time machine. But, when the Professor is discovered dead and the time machine missing, there's no time to lose! Together they must unravel the mystery before it's too late!

Includes:

- Return transportation to the Old Mill
- Ticket to see "No Time to Kill"
- Buffet Lunch
- Driver's Tip

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**Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – Ripley Aquarium & Tour of Steam Whistle – Cost \$119**

Traveling on moving glide paths, visitors enter the ocean realm and come face to face with thousands of fascinating fishes and menacing sea creatures, everything from barracudas, to rays, to jellyfish, octopi, moray eels and giant sharks!

Includes:

- Return transportation to downtown Toronto
- Entrance to Ripley's Aquarium
- Tour & Tasting at Steam Whistle Brewery
- Lunch at the House Café
- Driver's Tip

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**For information on long stay in Portugal and/or Canary Islands, please contact Shirlie for complete details!**

**For information on any of the excursions offered, please contact Shirlie at 905-619-8583 or [shirlievanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com)**

## AJAX PROBUS INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Groups Coordinator: Carol Breen – 905-839-7762					
<b>RODEO (Ladies Lunch)</b>	<i>Position Vacant</i>			<b>ROMEO (Men's Lunch)</b>	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Bridge	Harvey Brodhecker	905-683-5778		Cribbage	Reg Lawrance
Golf	Marcia Everitt	416-724-6355			905-428-2663
Family History	Michael & Anne Reed	905-239-2908		Walking Club	Marjorie Middleton & Ron Mitchell
Euchre/Scrabble	Julie Mathewson	905-686-0803		Book Club	Bernie Rosebush
					905-427-3004
					905-683-5539
					905-426-1598

### PROBUS RODEO GROUP

A great time was had by all 13 of us who went to lunch at the Casino. I told the ladies 13 was my lucky number and it was as I came home with 57.55 OF THE CASINO MONEY and I never spent a cent of my own.

December 19th we are getting together for lunch again at Chucks Roadhouse. It is a new restaurant on the south side Kingston Rd Right across the street from Walmart. Hope to see a few more of you there. Please let me know if you are planning to attend so I can make the reservation.

Thanks

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



### PROBUS ROMEO GROUP



I have the names of five people that would like to go for lunch. If you are interested in getting together please let me know. I will even book a place for you if you would like me to.

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

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## EUCHRE AND SCRABBLE



Since Christmas falls on the fourth Tuesday, there will only be **one euchre/scrabble afternoon in December, on the 11th**. We play from 2:00 to 4:00 at Chartwell Harwood Retirement Residence, 240 Old Harwood Avenue in Ajax. Limited parking is available behind the residence as long as you don't park in a reserved spot, and there is additional parking on the street.

For more information, contact Julie Mathewson 905-686-0803 or [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)

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## PROBUS CRIBBAGE

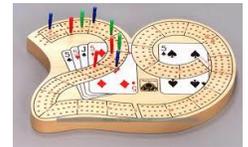
The Cribbage Interest Group meets every Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4 PM. We have 14 members and about 10 attend on a typical afternoon for fun fellowship and cribbage. We take a short break at 3 for coffee, tea, sweets and a chat. We charge a loonie for the tea and coffee and we take turns bringing the sweets.

**We are playing cribbage up to and including Dec 19 and will break until January 9.**

We all have a good time and new members are welcome.

Reg Lawrance  
Cribbage Co-ordinator

For more information contact Reg Lawrance at [905-428-2663](tel:905-428-2663), or email [reglawrance@rogers.com](mailto:reglawrance@rogers.com).



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## PROBUS BOOK CLUB

**There will be no Book Club meeting in December.**

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.

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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## FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The first meeting for 2019 of the PROBUS Family History group will be Wednesday, 16th January 2019 at 10.00am - noon, at the Ajax Library Main Branch. I will send out another notice close to the date.

**There will be no meeting in December (too close to Christmas).**

In the meantime, all the very best for the holidays to you and yours.

And best wishes for an excellent New Year.

Michael and Anne

905-239-2908 [mandareed@bell.net](mailto:mandareed@bell.net)



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## PROBUS WALKING GROUP

The walking group gets together on Wednesday mornings at 10:00, except on the first Wednesday of the month (because, of course, we all want to attend our Probus meeting). We walk for 1½ to 2 hours at an easy pace, covering 4 to 6 km in a variety of locations.

Come join us and discover some of the many walking trails Ajax and surrounding areas have to offer. Contact Marjorie Middleton to get on the mailing list, [905-427-3004](tel:905-427-3004) [marj@xxvii.net](mailto:marj@xxvii.net)



### DO YOU PLAY POOL?

Pickering PROBUS is welcoming more members to their Pool Club. They meet every second Friday starting August 3rd. They start at 11:00am at Petrina's Billiards. Address is 24 Harwood Ave South. Cost is \$4.00 for Seniors. (please park on east side of building). ALL WELCOME!!

## SOCIAL BRIDGE AND BRIDGE LESSONS



1)  
SOCIAL BRIDGE on Thursdays at the Ajax Public Library – Main Branch, 55 Harwood Ave. South in the Rotary Room starting at ~2:15pm (A free will donation is taken for coffee and cookies.) Social bridge will be held on Thursday December 6, 13 and 20. This is social bridge so HAVE FUN.

2)  
FREE BRIDGE LESSONS - There are no bridge lessons in December.

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Bridging the Gap – Rebids by Opener

You opened 1 Heart and partner responded 1 NT. What would you bid with the following hand?

Spades K6 Hearts QJ7643 Diamonds AK104 Clubs 9

You have 16 points. You do not want to play this hand in NT. (It is a distributional hand with 10 cards in two suits.) Here you have a 6 card heart suit but it is weak (You know partner has at most 2 hearts. If they had 3 or more, they would have raised your hearts.) Rather than rebidding the heart suit, it is better to mention the diamond suit. Bid 2 Diamonds. Partner knows you have 16 to 18 points and a 4 card diamond suit or 13 to 15 points and a 5 card diamond suit. They will place the contract based on this information.

*Harvey Brodhecker*

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Seasons  
Greetings



## MOVIES AT THE AJAX LIBRARY



MOVIES AT THE MAIN – Enjoy great movies at the **Ajax Library Main Branch Rotary Room**. Free of Charge. **Please note: Our movie titles may change at any time. For the most up-to-date information, please visit [www.ajaxlibrary.ca](http://www.ajaxlibrary.ca) or call any of our branches.**

Doors open at 1 p.m. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis

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### **Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again (Rated PG)**

Five years after the events of Mamma Mia! (2008), Sophie prepares for the grand reopening of the Hotel Bella Donna as she learns more about her mother's past.

Sunday, December 9, 2018 - 1:30pm - Running Time: 2 Hours

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### **The Holiday (Rated PG)**

Two women troubled with guy-problems swap homes in each other's countries, where they each meet a local guy and fall in love.

Sunday, December 16, 2018 - 1:30pm - Running Time: 2 Hours

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### **The House with a Clock in its Walls (Rated: PG)**

This magical adventure tells the spine-tingling tale of 10-year-old Lewis (Owen Vacaaro) who goes to live with his uncle in an old house with a mysterious tick-tocking heart. His new town's sleepy facade jolts to life with a secret world of warlocks and witches when Lewis accidentally awakens the dead.

Sunday, December 30, 2018 – 1:30pm – Running Time: 2 Hours

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

Comments and items appreciated including photos of Club events. Please send to **Barbara Squires, Editor**  
[stunikki@gmail.com](mailto:stunikki@gmail.com) or to [ajaxprobus@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobus@gmail.com)



November 7, 2018 Meeting



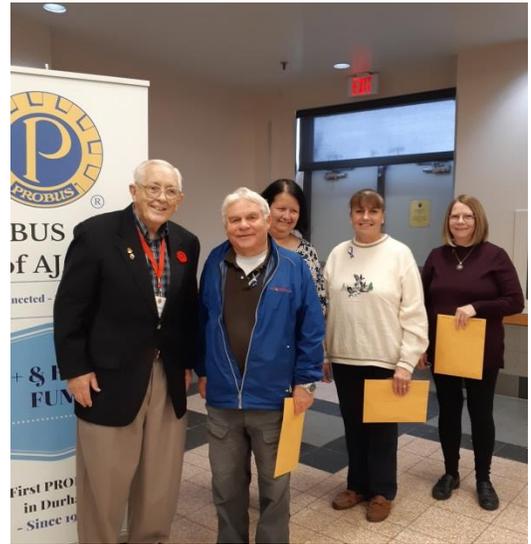
Barbara with Nov 7 speaker, Amy Barron



Amy Barron



Brenda Andrews, District 2 Director



Reg welcoming new members

RODEO Group at the Casino, November 21st



November Walkers



Bird Feeders



Beach



Turkeys



Feeding Chickadees



Walking Group

## AJAX PROBUS CALENDAR DECEMBER, 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4  <b>Christmas Lunch</b>  	5  <b>No PROBUS Meeting this month</b>  10 - 12 Walking Group  2 – 4 Cribbage	6  2:30 Social Bridge, Library	7  <b>Christmas in Toronto</b>  	8
9  1:30 - 3:30 Library Movie: <b>Mamma Mia – Here We Go Again</b>	10	11  2 - 4 Euchre & Scrabble	12  10-12 Walking Group  2 – 4 Cribbage	13  2:30 Social Bridge, Library	14	15
16  1:30 – 3:30 Library Movie: <b>The Holiday</b>	17	18	19  10 - 12 Walking Group  12:00 RODEO Lunch <b>Chucks Roadhouse</b>  2 – 4 Cribbage	20  2:30 Social Bridge, Library	21  <b>Winter Begins</b>  	22
23  ----- <b>30</b> 1:30 – 3:30 Library Family Movie: <b>The House with a Clock in its Walls</b>	24   <b>Christmas Eve</b> ----- <b>31</b> <b>New Years Eve</b>  	25  <b>Christmas Day</b>  	26  <b>**Boxing Day</b>  	27	28	29

\*\*Why do they call Boxing Day?

The moniker comes from the tradition of "**Christmas boxes**," gifts of money or goods given to tradespeople and servants on the **day** after **Christmas**.