



# PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

CLUB

82

VOLUME

38

JANUARY

2026

**In this edition...**  
**President's Message**  
**January Calender**  
**General Meetings**  
**Upcoming Events**  
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**and Photo Gallery**



**Three of our winners at the Christmas Party**



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***In this edition,...***

## Management Team

**President:** Kathy Lennox

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Past President:** April Gilkinson

**Treasurer:** Murray Biel

**Secretary:** Erika Winfrow

**Membership:** Debbie Casquenette

**Speakers:** Diane Sharp and Marlene Rae

**Socials:** Shirlie van Putten

**Interest Groups:** Julie Mathewson

**Communications:** Tina Gee

**House:** Erika Winfrow

**Technical:** Stewart Beatty

**WebMaster:** Oankar Kundan

**Newsletter:** Lynne Stewart

**Member-at-Large:** Kevin Portener

## *President's Message...*

What a busy December for PROBUS Club of Ajax! There was a great turnout at the fabulous Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 3 at the Ajax Convention Centre! Thanks very much to our Social Coordinator Shirlie, along with Julie and Jane and all the volunteers who helped make this event so special. Speaking of Shirlie, she and the late Julien LeBourdais, both from our Club, were honoured at the Ajax Community Awards on Dec. 11, each receiving the 2025 Senior of the Year Award. We are so proud of you!

Probus is a volunteer-run organization, which means everything that we are able to do as a Club is because of members like you--all the members of the Management Team, and the countless volunteers who help at monthly meetings, events, trips, and activities. I invite all members to keep our club vibrant and strong by contributing something you are able to do for fellowship and friendship.

Our friendly, warm and welcoming Club helps us to discover the joy of retirement, of taking the time to have fun and get to know people. It's a way to connect with others and with community activities.

I had no idea I would become President when I joined, and there is a lot that's new to me! But you know what? It's good for us at every age to learn new things and stay active and engaged. And here's a little secret: the more you participate, the greater the sense of your belonging and enjoyment. Remember—you're among friends here. Consider saying yes in 2026!

*Kathy Lennox*



**Take advantage of the FACEBOOK page for your PROBUS Club of Ajax. It is visable to our 94 members only. By joining, you will see what goes on at some of the interest group events.**

**PROBUS AJAX  
JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 LUNCH AT STATE & MAIN @NOON	2 ZOOM CHAT AT 1 MAHJONG AT 2
4 WALKING GRP 2 @ 10 SIP & CHAT BOOK @1 0	5 CRACK THE CASE @ 10 CRIBBAGE AT 2	6 MONTHLY MEETING @10	7	8 WALKING GRP 1 @ 10	9 POOL AT 11 ZOOM CHAT AT 1
11 WALKING GRP 2 @ 10 RODEO LUNCH AT NOON GOMEO LUNCH @ NOON	12 CRIBBAGE AT 2	13 EUCHRE AT 2	14	15 WALKING GRP 1 @ 10 DINING OUT @5:30	16 ZOOM CHAT AT1 MAHJONG AT 2
18 WALKING GRP 2 @ 10	19 BOOK CLUB YOUR CHOICE -ZOOM @10 CRIBBAGE AT 2	20 COFFEE TIME @10 PLAY NINE @1:30	21	22 WALKING GRP 1 @ 10	23 POOL AT 11 ZOOM CHAT AT 1
25 WALKING GRP 2 @ 10 BOWLING AT 1 HAPPY HOUR AT 2:30	26 BREAKFAST AT 9 CRIBBAGE AT 2	27 EUCHRE AT 2	28	29 WALKING GRP 1 @ 10	30 ZOOM CHAT AT1



# General Meetings

The first Wednesday of the month  
Ajax Community Centre, HMS Ajax Room (south side of building)

Meeting Fee \$2  
Optional Share the Wealth  
\$1 each or 3 for \$2



**January Speaker**  
**Paul Oliver, lifelong bird enthusiast**  
**January 7 2026**  
**Topic: How to Attract and Enjoy Your Local Backyard Birds**

With over 20 years of experience in the lawn and garden industry, Paul is the founder of Urban Nature and managing partner of TreeHelp.com. His love for birding began at an early age, inspired by his mother, and it's a passion he still nurtures today, both personally and professionally, as he leads the operations at Urban Nature Store.



**February Speaker**  
**Steve Chapelle**  
**February 11, 2026**  
**Topic: An Overview of Artificial Intelligence**

Steve Chapelle has been providing information privacy and security education to Canadian professional, parent, student and retiree organizations since 2006. Prior to that he spent over 20 years in information technology management, analysis and customer service, primarily in the financial services sector. Experience has included security, availability and disaster recovery planning. He is also an instructor and developer at the Udemy online course platform, and the author of 'No Decision: The 1919 Stanley Cup Final' about the Spanish Flu pandemic.



# PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

Community Senior of the Year Awards 2025 presented to two of our members- Julien LeBourdais (presented posthumously) and Shirlie Van Pouten

Julien LeBourdais was a remarkable individual, known for his kindness, warmth and commitment to the community. He first came to our club as a speaker in August 2024, with his captivating presentation of highlights of his career in photojournalism. Julien passed away in January 2025, while serving as Speaker Coordinator and newly appointed Vice President. Besides his contributions to Ajax PROBUS, Julien showed dedication to the community as Executive Director to Feed the Need in Durham and Joanne's House. In 2023 Julien, leading with passion and vision joined the Age-Friendly Ajax Steering Committee and was elected chair the following year. His lasting legacy of service, leadership and compassion continues to inspire others, making him a truly deserving recipient of this honour. His wife Anne, also a member of our Club, accepted the award on behalf of Julian.

Rest in peace dear friend.





# PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

Community Senior of the Year Awards 2025 presented to two of our members- Julien LeBourdais (presented posthumously) and Shirlie Van Pouten

Shirlie Van Putten - If you ever attended a meeting at Ajax PROBUS, or gone on a vacation with the Club, whether to Port Hope or Portugal, then you surely know Shirlie! She is the longtime Social Coordinator, not just for PROBUS Ajax but other clubs as well. She has worked tirelessly to enrich the lives of older adults in our community by coordinating group trips both locally and internationally. Her planning includes annual events such as the Christmas Luncheon and the summer BBQ. She has also taken us along for trips to theatre productions, historic sites, concerts and art galleries. Known for her warm welcoming smile, zest for life and keen sense of humour, Shirlie plans every event with consideration for accessibility, comfort and a sense of adventure.

Upon presentation of the award, Eric Berkleman of the Town of Ajax said "Through her leadership, enthusiasm and unwavering commitment to others, Shirlie has inspired and encouraged countless seniors to stay active, engaged and connected. She is an exceptional community builder whose dedication, creativity and countless volunteer hours make her deserving of the Senior of the Year Award.





### New Year's Day Lunch

**Join us at the State & Main restaurant for lunch at noon on January 1st  
Located at the Pickering City Centre next to the movie theatre  
Please RSVP to Julie - [jmathewson@rpgers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rpgers.com)**

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**For more information contact Shirlie at 905-619-8583 or  
[shirlievanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com) OR visit the Website**



Payments for events and membership may be made via e-transfer through your bank to:  
**[probusajaxtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:probusajaxtreasurer@gmail.com)**  
Include your name and what the payment is for.

### Fun and Sun in the Republic - January 13-23 - Pick up flyer

Emotions by Hodelpa Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic is a 5 star all Inclusive Hotel right on the beach. It has 5 pools, 7 restaurants, 4 bars, WiFi, Fitness Centre, 24 hour drinks/snacks and an in-room safe.

- Adult only section: Room (only 10 singles available) Single \$2,799.
- Adults only Jr. Suite (17 available) - double occupancy \$2,599. each.
- This tour price includes all meals, drinks, airfare, daily activities & nightly entertainment.

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### February 24 - March 18, 2026 - Portugal - pick up flyer

Portugal's Algarve Province, with its magnetic Moorish appeal has become a Mecca for Snowbirds. It is one of Europe's most picturesque destinations. Cobblestone streets are lined with outdoor cafes, bistro's, wine bars and markets full of fresh fruits and vegetables. The weather is wonderfully spring-like and invigorating.

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**For more information contact Shirlie at 905-619-8583 or  
[shirlievanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com) OR visit the Website**

Payments for events and membership may be made via e-transfer through your bank to:

**[probusajaxtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:probusajaxtreasurer@gmail.com)**

Include your name and what the payment is for.



# Save the Date for:



Beat the Blahs Beach Party  
Friday February 20  
Tickets \$5



Motown Mania - A tribute to Motown  
Saturday March 28th,  
Tickets \$38



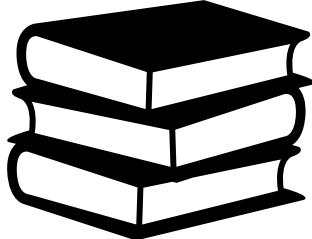
The Rolling Stones Experience  
Featuring the Blushing Brides  
Saturday May 23rd  
Tickets \$38



Quizzes and Cocktails  
The Series  
Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup>  
Tickets \$5

# Interest Groups

## Book Club - Your Choice - (formerly Not a Book Club)



Next Meeting: Tuesday January 20th **10:00 a.m.**

Do you have a favourite book? Did you read a couple of books that you enjoyed and would like to share with others? Join our Book Club-Your Choice where we will discuss books you wanted to read!

**Contact Lynne:** 912lynne@gmail.com or 905.839.8147

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## Book Club - Sip and Chat



**Reading Now:** *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman

Enjoy a cuppa and a fun chat about this book!

**Next Meeting: Mon. Jan. 5 2026, 1 - 3 pm**

For more details **contact Kathy** at kathylennox@rogers.com

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## Bowling + Happy Hour

**This month bowling will be Monday @ Jan 26th at 1 pm (The fourth Monday of this month)**

**AJAX BOWLING CENTRE - 172 Harwood Ave. S. Lower floor**

**RSVP: Kevin keportener@gmail.com**

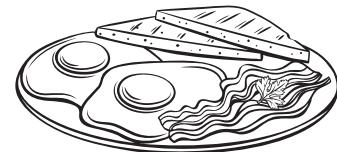
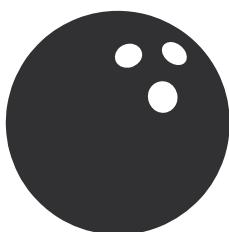
call or text 905.626.6303

**\$10 for two games plus \$2 for shoes**

### HAPPY HOUR

After bowling, at 2:30 pm, we go to the **MACKENZIE PUB.**

Non-bowlers are welcome to join us.



Next get together: **Tuesday, January 27th at 9:00 am**

**At Michael's Eatery, 44 Commercial Ave, Ajax**

**RSVP Lynne:** 912lynne@gmail.com 905.839.8147

# Interest Groups

## Coffee and Conversation



**There will be NO Coffee and Conversation in January**

**RSVP: Marlene: marzrae18@gmail.com**

**This is for anyone who has joined our club in the last 12 months.**  
It is a great way to meet new people and learn more about how to enjoy PROBUS.

## Coffee Time



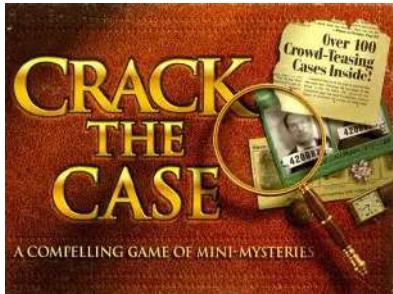
**Wednesday January 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 am  
at Biscuits to Baskets**

**109 Kingston Rd., Unit 9, Ajax**

This is a new location in the Village of Pickering

**For information, contact Lynne: 912lynne@gmail.com or  
905.839.8147**

## **Coming January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 on zoom Crack the Case**



Are you good at figuring out a mystery?

How about this?

The Case: A woman in a white dress is found dead. Near her body is a broken teacup.

The Mystery: Who was the woman, who killed her, how and why?  
join us on zoom in January and figure it out!

**for more info contact Lynne: 912lynne@gmail.com**

## Cribbage



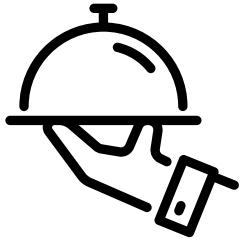
**Every Tuesday 2:00 - 4:00 PM**

**At the Pickering Village Senior Centre**

29 Linton Avenue north of Kingston Road, west of Church St. 11

**Contact Wendy: wendysmith1@live.com**

# Interest Groups



## Dining Out

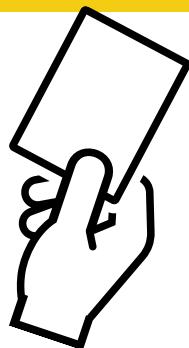
**Every 3rd Thursday - 5:30 PM**

**Next outing will be on Thursday Jan 15th**

**Location TBA**

**RSVP: Carol** [cbreen840@gmail.com](mailto:cbreen840@gmail.com)

"I reserve the restaurant when I know how many people will be joining us. Let me know as soon as possible if you will attend."



## Euchre

**EVERY 2nd & 4th Wednesday from 2:00 - 4:00 PM**

**Wednesday January 14 and 28th**

**To take place at the Pickering Village Senior Center**

**RSVP: Jane** [jw.003@sympatico.ca](mailto:jw.003@sympatico.ca) 905-619-6674

The Pickering Village Senior Center is at 29 Linton Ave, one block north of Kingston Rd, one block west of Church St. Hope you will attend.



## Golf

Outdoor Golf is over for the season.

If anyone wants to join us next year, email [marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca](mailto:marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca)



## GOME" Lunch Group"

"Great Old Men Eating Out"

**2ND MONDAY of the month at noon.**

**This month it will be Monday January 12th**

at the MacKenzie Pub and Restaurant

"Great Old Men Eating Out"

**RSVP: Kevin** [keportener@gmail.com](mailto:keportener@gmail.com) 905.626.6303

# Interest Groups

## Happy Hour



**4th MONDAY of the month this time at 2:30 PM**

**Next get-together: Monday January 26th.**

**RSVP: Kevin keportener@gmail.com 905.626.6303**

We join the Bowling group at **MACKENZIE PUB & RESTAURANT**

250 Bayly St. West Ajax



## Mahjong

First and third Fridays of the month 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
at the St. Andrew's Friendship Club, 46 Exeter Road in Ajax, .

**Next games will be Jan 2nd and Jan 16th**

We are playing a simpler Chinese version of the game. New players are welcome even if you've never played before.

**Contact Julie**      [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)



## Move to the Music

**Move to the Music will be on hiatus for the months of January and February**



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## Play Nine

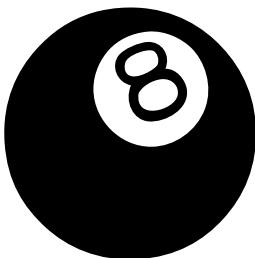
Next meeting Wednesday January 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30

There is a limit of six players

Draw, flip and discard cards to shoot the lowest score.

Contact Diane Sharp [dsharp0322@rogers.com](mailto:dsharp0322@rogers.com), for directions

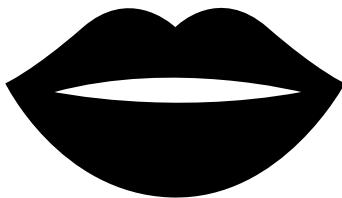
# Interest Groups



## Pool

Second and fourth Friday at **Petrina Billiards**, 21 Harwood Ave. S  
**January 9 and 23rd**

Everyone is welcome, no experience required. Probus members pay \$6.00 to Petrina's. Please remember to wear your Probus name tag. Contact Don Voorhees, [holdus1399@gmail.com](mailto:holdus1399@gmail.com) or 905-427-7446



## "RODEO" Lunch Group

**"Retired Old Dames Eating Out"**  
**the Second Monday of the month at noon**  
**Next meeting Monday January 12<sup>th</sup> at Mandarin in**

**Pickering**

**RSVP: Anne** [mandareed02@gmail.com](mailto:mandareed02@gmail.com)



## Walking Group 1

**EVERY THURSDAY - AM 10 am Next walk**  
**Thursday January 8th**

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

Join us and discover many walking trails in Ajax and surrounding areas.



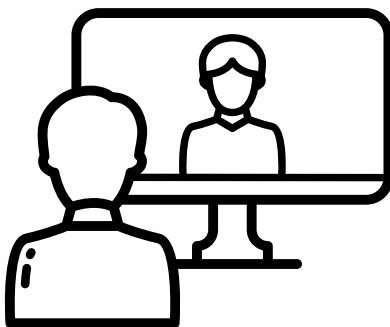
## Walking Group 2

**EVERY MONDAY - 10 AM**  
We meet at the parking lot at **Rotary Park on Lake Driveway**

**Next walk Monday January 5th**  
**RSVP: Julie** [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)

This group is for those members who prefer a shorter, slower pace.

# Interest Groups



## Zoom

**EVERY FRIDAY - 1 p.m.**

**Next chat Friday January 2nd**

To join the Zoom chat contact: Stewart

ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com;

All Members are welcome

Keeps us connected!

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**If anyone has an idea for a one-time activity or a special interest group, let us know.**

**Contact Julie: [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)**

**or drop a note in the suggestion box at the next meeting.**



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**For activities at the Pickering Village  
Seniors Centre and St. Andrew's  
Friendship Club (Currently Cribbage,  
Euchre, Mahjong) we're asked to join the  
Ajax Seniors Club (which gives you  
membership in both centers).  
Membership is \$20 a year plus \$1 activity  
fee when you play.**

# Members Corner

## Random Acts of Kindness

If you are aware of anyone celebrating a special birthday or anniversary, or if you know anyone who is experiencing an illness or who has lost a loved one, please let Jane Wilson know so she can send a card on behalf of the club.

Contact Jane at [jw003@sympatico.ca](mailto:jw003@sympatico.ca) or 905-619-6674

## DO NOT MISS THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY!

Volunteer to be our the Vice President starting January 1, 2026. You will work with a great management team, help your club and get to know some fantastic people.

**Job Description:** -One year term, after which the president's position is taken over. Attend monthly Management committee meetings. Perform duties of the President when they are absent. Support the president whenever needed. May act as a signing officer for the club.

Jane Wilson [jw.003@sympatico.ca](mailto:jw.003@sympatico.ca)

905-619-6674



# Photo Gallery

## Coffee and Chat for New Members



## Bowling Fever



# Photo Gallery



2025 Christmas Lunch



# Photo Gallery





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