

### PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PERRY MANAGEMENT TEAM

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# PROBUS Club of Port Perry BROADCAST

**APRIL, 2021** 

Club Website: portperryprobus.com

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# IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CLUB MEMBERS

OUR NEXT ONLINE GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON ZOOM
APRIL 20th

FROM 10:00-11:45 a.m.

REGISTRATION IS NOT NECESSARY
IN ORDER TO ATTEND.
SEE INFORMATION FURTHER
IN THE NEWSLETTER.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone,

Spring is here!! And that's both in the weather (wonderfully warmer than usual) and in the greening of everything (early spring and hopefully no late frost). We've got ducks and geese all over the waterfront (and, unfortunately, on the lawn), muskrats still in the bulrushes offshore, chatty squirrels and chippies everywhere, and birds dive-bombing the feeders en masse. A little early for them to move into our bird houses, but I'm now seeing "for sale" signs on those backyard bird houses trying to take advantage of the rising house values (I think it's the ravens doing that – they're pretty smart).

The Management Committee is in the process of planning for our Annual General Meeting in June and the elections for about half of the Committee members. The membership renewal season is well underway and we already have a waiting list of new members wanting to join. The Committee is also starting the preliminary planning for when we can resume our in-person meetings and activities. And to help ensure we keep all of our members and guests safe in this COVID environment, we're going to be requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for all members

and guests attending our in-person meetings and events (more on this later in the newsletter).

But in the meantime we'll still be doing our **ZOOM** meetings. And even after we start the in-person membership meetings, we'll still be having the meetings transmitted over **ZOOM** for those who cannot attend in person.

As I noted last month, if you haven't checked out the Club website (portperryprobus.com), definitely give it a look. And our newsletter this month should also have a lot of interesting, educational and fun things.

We've also got some quite interesting membership meeting speakers lined up for the coming months. And we're bringing on some more online experiences that groups of our members can enjoy. Remember the Club's Facebook group has a lot of fascinating and fun stuff every day. So there's still a lot to see and do with the club even if we can't meet in person at this time.

Enjoy the spring and let's get out there and have a great time.

Tim Casey, President, PROBUS Club of Port Perry president.portperryprobus@gmail.com 905-985-3991

**APRIL, 2021** 

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

# TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE ON THIS YEAR'S RENEWAL FEES with our

Pank ONE-TIME SPE





The month of June is renewal month for your PROBUS membership. This year your committee has decided to make a one time offer of a renewal discount for our loyal members who stuck with us through this past year and reduce your membership by \$10.00. Therefore, the cost for the year of 2021 - 2022 will only be \$20.00 for those members who paid their fees last year. Your fees are payable before **June 30th**. As of July 1st we will accept new applications from those people on our waiting list but will hold our membership to 350 for this next year.

Please mail your cheque in the amount of \$20.00 per person made out to PROBUS Club of Port Perry and send to:

Linda Parry, Membership Chair, 2481 Ashbridge Rd., Port Perry, ON L9L 1B4

or you can make a bank e-Transfer. You need to send the e-Transfer to the following email address:

#### memberfees.portperryprobus@gmail.com

Interac e-Transfers often require a question and answer to be exchanged by the sender and the recipient of a payment, but that

is not required with e-Transfers to PROBUS, since we have an Autodeposit service, which puts the payments directly into our account at the credit union. In the process of making the e-Transfer, your online banking service should indicate that the recipient has Autodeposit service, and will ask you to check a box to acknowledge that service. You have to check that box. If there is a question and answer format, the funds will not go into the account, and we have no ability to direct them in..

If you have any questions, please phone Linda at **905-985-8602**. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the PROBUS Club of Port Perry.

We would also like to ask all existing members to advise our membership chairperson of any changes to your home address, email address or telephone numbers. Please send an email with the changes to Linda Parry at <a href="mailto:portperryprobus@gmail.com">portperryprobus@gmail.com</a> so that we can avoid anyone missing out on our club activities or social events.

Linda Parry, Membership Chair, PROBUS Club of Port Perry

### **SOME QUICK REMINDERS**

# LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

We need your input for the newsletter, website and Facebook pages. So if you come across interesting websites, recently reopened shops, restaurants or places to visit, or future scheduled events of interest, please email us at <a href="mailto:portperryprobus@gmail.com">portperryprobus@gmail.com</a>

# PROBUS CHALLENGE - ASSISTING FELLOW MEMBERS

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You are challenged to consider fellow PROBUS members who live alone or may be having trouble throughout this lengthy period of social distancing. This may be coping with day-to-day living or isolation. They may not wish to reach out for help. Give two members a friendly call to brighten their day. If you don't have their contact information, email Judy Spring at <a href="mailto:judith.spring@outlook.com">judith.spring@outlook.com</a>

and the information will be provided. And if you're feeling isolated or need some assistance, please reach out to us.

# CLUB FACEBOOK GROUP

If you haven't done so already, please consider joining our club's new Facebook group. We have around 110 members now in the group and are looking for more to join. There's no obligation to input anything if you don't want to, but you'll find a lot of good information, inspiration and laughs on the site from those who do. The

only rules are that posts must not be political, religious, or offensive. No fundraising except as approved by the management committee. For any issues or to get assistance with joining the Facebook group, feel free to email judith.spring@outlook.com

**APRIL, 2021** 

#### **CLUB NOTICES**

#### NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON APRIL 20th

Our next online general membership meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 20th, from 10:00 - 11:45 a.m.

As with the last membership meeting, we'll be using the **ZOOM** virtual meeting platform. Many of you may already be familiar with it. It allows you to attend the meeting using either a computer, an iPad, a tablet, a smartphone or simply a telephone.

You'll receive your invitation at the email address you have on file with the club. We'll send it out about 10 days before the meeting with the connection information and again just before the meeting as a reminder. Remember that the meeting is always the 3rd Tuesday in the month.

If you're not familiar with **ZOOM**, you can look at the document in your email from us of August 27th or check out the **ZOOM** tutorial on the Club website. Please also feel to contact any of the individuals listed below for assistance signing up for **ZOOM**, simply connecting to it or using it.

#### NEW BREAKOUT ROOM OPTION

Our use of Breakout Rooms within **ZOOM** during the membership meetings will be reduced to one in the 20 minutes before the meeting starts and one after the meeting plus a Breakout Room after the meeting where you can meet the main speaker.

When you're in the Main Room for the meeting with everybody else, have a look on your screen for an icon labelled "Breakout Rooms". Click on it, and you will find a list of the rooms available.

Click on the room, and you will find yourself "moved" to that room. If you're the first one in the room, you will have to wait for others to join you. You may want to pre-arrange with a friend to meet in the room.

You can leave the room at any time by just clicking the icon :

"Leave", and then you will be returned to the Main Room. When it's time to begin the meeting, Breakout Rooms will close and you will be returned to the Main Room automatically. The same process will be used at the end of the meeting for Breakout Rooms.

Don't be shy – give it a try. It can be fun.

#### zoom

We <u>really</u> want you to be familiar with **ZOOM** since it's being used for not only the membership meetings (while we cannot meet in person), but it will also be used for numerous interest group meetings and fun online group social activities over the next 5-6 months. Plus it's a great platform to visit with families and friends. So please take the opportunity to learn **ZOOM** through any of the opportunities noted above or simply contact our **ZOOM** mentors listed below who are waiting for your call or email.

#### **ZOOM MENTORS:**

Brian Davidson

(vicepresident.portperryprobus@gmail.com or 905-985-4670)

Tim Casey

(president.portperryprobus@gmail.com or 905-985-3991)

**Judy Spring** 

(judith.spring@outlook.com or 905-447-4557)

**Barb Sinclair** 

(barbarasinclair18@gmail.com or 905-985-7998)

**Janet Casey** 

(janet.casey88@gmail.com or 905-985-3991)

Sue Merriman

(susan.j.merriman@gmail.com) or 416-892-2127

### NOTICE: VACCINATION REQUIREMENT FOR FUTURE IN-PERSON CLUB MEETINGS

With the current COVID-19 situation, we obviously are not yet near to starting in-person club meetings and events. But as we start to turn our attention to that eventuality, the Management Committee wants to give the membership early notice of a key safety precaution we will be taking.

Given the age profile of our members, it's critical that
we do whatever we reasonably can to
protect their health and that of guests
during Club activities. COVID-19
vaccinations significantly reduce
the risk of infection as well as
the negative health impacts if
a person is infected. And such

vaccinations possibly contribute

to reducing the chance of virus transmission to others.

Consequently the Club's Management Committee has determined that the Club will require full vaccination against the COVID-19 virus as a requirement for attendance at in-person Club meetings and events for the foreseeable future. In-person meetings and events include membership meetings, social activities and interest groups. Those members not fully vaccinated are welcome to still attend remotely any activities for which that option is available (for example, in-person membership meetings will simultaneously be broadcast on **ZOOM** when we return to in-person meetings).

As we get closer to the time of in-person meetings and events, we'll provide more information as to how we will be administering this vaccination requirement policy.

Protect your community and the ones you love. Let's get better, together.

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#### THIS MONTH'S SPEAKERS

#### Main Speaker – April 20 **GEOFF CARPENTIER**

#### "Sharing Your Garden With Nature"



Geoff Carpentier

We all love to be near nature but do we do the correct things to live with nature. So many times we do what we think is right to help and encourage wild things that share our spaces, but are we doing the right things at the right times?

Join Geoff Carpentier as he will discuss attracting and feeding birds and other animals, pollinators care, lawn care and maintenance

with nature in mind, natural foods vs bagged seeds, windows, nest boxes, bat boxes, bee hotels, pets and water features.

#### **About Geoff:**

Geoff Carpentier's interest in nature began in childhood when he wandered through the woods and countryside near his Canadian home, learning about nature first hand. From the time he went to university to study wildlife to when he worked for Parks Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, he has dedicated his life to protecting and studying wild things – be they birds, mammals, insects or plants.

After his retirement in 2006 Geoff headed off on a new career path where he put his lifelong studies to work - he became an expedition and interpretive guide. He has led numerous trips to Antarctica, Svalbard, Russia and Alaska, Eastern Europe, Cuba, Borneo and Tanzania.

A prolific author, Geoff wrote a previous book on mammals, is widely published in nature magazines and newspapers including the Port Perry Standard.

He is also a member of the PROBUS Club of Port Perry.

#### PROBUS Club of Port Perry **ZOOM** Meetings **UPCOMING SPEAKERS**

"Smile" with Judy Suke

In this extremely humorous presentation, Judy shares her ideas for handling the stress of our restrictive lives.

#### Short Presentation – April 20 DR. SHILPA DOGRA

#### "Age-Friendly University and Community Initiatives"



Dr. Shilpa Dogra

In her talk, Dr. Shilpa Dogra, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health Science at Ontario Tech University, explains various initiatives aimed at creating an age-friendly environment that supports active aging and intergenerational collaboration. She also shares her research which is used to inform decision making and promote an age-friendly community for all.

#### About Dr. Dogra:

Dr. Dogra is an Associate Professor and Researcher in the Faculty of Health Sciences in Kinesiology, and the Chair of the Committee for an Age Friendly University. She is an exercise scientist with expertise in active aging, sedentary behaviour, and age-friendly environments. She has published over 60 peer-reviewed scientific papers in academic journals.

#### Did you miss our March **ZOOM** Meeting?

The March speaker was Sue Williams, who with her husband David, and without any real blue water experience, cast off in their 37 foot sailboat from Hamilton, and completed two transatlantic crossings spending a total of 86 days on the high seas. Sue read from her compelling memoir, "Ready to Come About", and David presented a slide show of their life-altering journey.

Sue kindly donated two copies of her book which were won by Doreen Buchan and Sarah Atkinson.

To watch the March meeting, click on this video link:

https://youtu.be/9k04TQSKXK8

#### March ZOOM Meeting **LUCKY PRIZE WINNERS**

At our March membership meeting we gave away four memberships. The prize draw winners were:

Irene Blain **Rejane Ross** 

**Kay Notman Maggie Williams** 

Congratulations to our four winners!

I've finally lost my mind. If found, don't bother returning it. It wasn't working right anyway.



Some days I amaze myself. Other days I look for my phone while I'm talking on it.



Remember when you could refer to your knees as right and left instead of good and bad?

Ah, good times, eh!

**APRIL, 2021** 

#### **ART LIFE**



Whether dealing with the stresses of COVID isolation or simply looking for something relaxing and interesting to do, creating arts or crafts is a wonderful escape. More than just a hobby, they can enhance your imagination, exercise the mind, improve dexterity, and enrich the soul. We have no shortage of artists in the club and presently

have three interest groups dedicated to arts or crafts activities. Margaret Adamson, the coordinator of the Art-PROBUS Open Studio interest group, will periodically be providing some contributions in this section of the newsletter along with some of her fellow interest group members. And you'll have the opportunity to see just how talented this group of artists are as photos of some of their works are published here.

Here's Margaret's article for this month which is great for those considering giving painting a try:

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#### THINKING OF PAINTING?

So often in life we ask ourselves what other interests or challenges could lead to new joys or help fill our need to be creative or productive. Members of the PROBUS Open Studio group regularly invite others to join us in our ongoing pursuit to paint as much as we can or as little as we want to.

We often are asked for help to buy paint supplies, especially which colours to buy. Over the years I have met many artists who have helped me to better understand **single pigment colours** and how to read the tubes. With a list of warm and cool primaries, it is not near as overwhelming or costly. Art stores can be like candy stores!

#### Firstly, drawing supplies:

Buy a sketch pad (about 6" x 9" – packs easily), a graphite pencil, pencil sharpener and good eraser.

Drawing can be an enjoyable way to start painting. Your collection of sketches later can become subjects to paint. It is also such a transportable form of art, should you like to go for walks or simply sketch still life objects around your home. You don't need to set aside a lot of time to do it, or you can get lost for hours. No muss or fuss.

#### Secondly, deciding on your medium:

Deciding on what medium to buy can depend on a lot more than which might be considered the easiest to use. I have used watercolour, oil and acrylic and view each one as different, with it's own properties and feel. So, I think it's about the person you are – your personality. You might like to control your paint or like it to flow, sometimes into satisfying accidents. You might like softer, transparent colours or bolder, thicker colours. Some are more flexible than others, all require special techniques, etc.

Many people say that the hardest medium is watercolour and the easiest is acrylic. That being said, I'd suggest acrylic, because it has less of a smell and is easiest to clean up. I also suggest buying artist quality, rather than student quality – buy less, but better.

#### Thirdly, heading out to buy your supplies:

**Look for only single pigment paints.** (These will give you cleaner colours and enable you to more easily learn to mix other colours. Check for the pigment codes on the tubes of good brand products.)

#### Here's a guide or list (thanks to one of my favourite artists, Colin Whitebread):

Buy a warm and a cool colour of each primary. This means 6 tubes, each serving a different, multiple purpose.

PRIMARY	WARM	COOL	Also buy: Titanium White (PW6) - It is more opaque.
RED	Naphthal Red (Med.) PR170 Pyrrole Red (Med.) PR 254 Cadium Red (Med.) PR108	Alizarin Crimson PR83 Quinacradone Magenta PR122	Do not buy: Zinc White (PW6) - It is transparent, better used with a glaze.
BLUE	Phthalo Blue 15:1 (Red Shade) Ultramarine Blue PB29 French Ultramarine PB29	Phthalo Blue 15:3 (Green Shade) Cobalt Blue PB 28	Also buy these "cheaters": Yellow Ochre (PY42) and Burnt Sienna (PBr7) and a COLOUR WHEEL or CHART.
YELLOW	Cadium Yellow (Deep) PY35 Hansa Yellow (Deep) PY65 Arylide, Azo - (Deep) PY65	Cadium Yellow (Light) PY35 Hansa Yellow (Light) PY3 or PY74 Arylide, Azo (Light) PY74	Do not buy: Black - You can mix it. Google for various artist's mixes.
For the sake of try	ring to be brief, I hope this helps y	ou find your way through an art buyi	ng spree.

Margaret Adamson

**APRIL, 2021** 

Art Life continued ......

#### WHY DO I PAINT?

Meet Barbara Elliott, a member of the Art-PROBUS Open Studio Interest Group, and enjoy reading about her involvement with painting and photos of some of her art work.





"I started painting in the 80s with a wonderful watercolour teacher at Soper Creek Art Gallery and Studio. Watercolour is my usual medium, but from time to time acrylics draw my attention. Lately I have been enjoying more of a realistic approach, especially focusing on the features of birds and other animals. Since COVID-19, I have a lot more concentrated time to work on painting, and I feel a lot more productive. I miss the PROBUS Art Group Open Studio at the Prince Albert Hall and look forward to resuming when things open up again. "

Barbara Elliott







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### **WEBSITES OF INTEREST & SCHEDULED EVENTS**

#### WildEarth

#### WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Here's an interesting website that offers free access to live African safaris where you can ask questions and talk with the guides (but you'll have to register to ask questions). The site describes the safari as: "WildEarth's daily LIVE safaris are award-winning, expert-hosted LIVE experiences that are broadcast from the African wilderness into your home in real-time. This show enables you to interact with an expert game ranger in Africa while you watch. Authentic and Real."

They have sunrise and sunset safaris. I imagine most of you will want to do the sunrise safari which goes from 12:30 a.m. (after midnight) to 3:30 a.m. our time. But for those of you who prefer to sleep in a bit, the sunset safari starts at 9:30 a.m. EDT. https://wildearth.tv/wildearth-channel/

CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION

# NOW'S THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR GARDEN "WILDLIFE FRIENDLY"

The Canadian Wildlife Federation has a free online course – Gardening for Wildlife. It consists of online videos, supporting resources and an optional chat room and runs from April 21st thru May 19th, with access continuing until June 10th. If you click on "Learn More", it will take you to a page which shows the weekly program information (when you click on a week, you need to page down to see what the description is.)

https://cwf-fcf.org/en/explore/gardening-for-wildlife/action/workshops-events/course.html



#### MORE RESOURCES FOR GARDENING TIPS

Here's another website that lists gardening events – many of which are virtual – for the Ottawa area (you need to look at each one – some have a little flag that shows "virtual event", but some without the flag are online as well.) They are hosted by various different groups, and some have a cost while others do not. Look under Ottawa Area Events to see the full listing of what they have beyond May. They also have a few items listed for outside of Ottawa. There is one on Orchids from the Toronto Botanical Gardens.

https://gardeningcalendar.ca/

# O Hawa Grassroots Festival OTTAWA GRASSROOTS FESTIVAL

The Ottawa Grassroots Festival is on "virtually" during April 23rd to the 25th. They appear to have some wonderful music and other activities to participate in.

http://ottawagrassrootsfestival.com/



#### **OSHAWA NOT OTTAWA**

And if you don't want to travel all the way to Ottawa on your computer for some fun activities and stuff, how about Oshawa? Take a look at all the online events that the Parkwood National Historic Site has in line for this month and next (and beyond). Various gardeners' workshops, the history of tea, and making a spring wreath are just some of the opportunities.

https://www.parkwoodestate.com/events/



#### TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF

This author, Anne Bokema from Hamilton, ON, has online workshops for writing memoirs. There is one – The 6 Minute Memoir – that is 3 online sessions that teach how to write a story from your life in 1,000 words. Cost is \$169. There is also a 75 minute online workshop to help familiarize you about memoir writing and to help you select a story from your life. Cost is \$49. https://www.annebokma.com/6-minute-memoir-writing-workshop-series



#### WRITING FOR FUN OR PROFIT

For people who like writing, there's the Writer's Community of Durham Region (WCDR) which is a network of writers from all genres and all levels of writing. They offer some classes and networking events. While the organization has a membership subscription, some of the events are for non-members as well.

https://www.wcdr.info/



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# WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN FASHIONABLE IN THE 1800s?

The Pickering Museum Village has a series of YouTube presentations on historic fashion. These are short presentations but quite interesting. The link is to one of the presentations, but others are shown on the same page.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0L24ALjRnE&list=PL0szvyciEChabaujLMDpJBVvVIFsUYWfh&index=1

..... continued next page

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Websites of Interest continued ......

#### The Science Times

#### A WONDERFUL ENDING

OK, here's a cute nature video from the Antarctic with some great suspense. The photography is wonderful, especially some of the underwater video with orcas, and you really grow to love them as characters. But loyalty can be fleeting, and another character soon enters the scene. The chase is on and is hair-raising, but the ending is out of Hollywood. Go to the site and scroll about 3/4 way down the first page to find the video titled "Great Escape" (it's not the first video on the page).

https://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/30119/20210314/ penguin-saves-himself-from-killer-whale-by-jumping-itselfonto-boat-full-of-cheering-tourists-in-antarctica-watch.htm



#### MORE FASCINATING HISTORY **OPPORTUNITIES**

For those who enjoy the lectures from the Royal Oak Foundation (about historic Britain and its people, castles, gardens, etc.), see the online lectures for April and May.

https://www.royal-oak.org/events/spring-2021-online/

Our thanks to Joyce Svedberg for finding this month's website opportunities.

Please let us know at portperryprobus@gmail.com

if you have other websites, podcasts, webinars or videos to recommend to our members.

Remember, you can see many of the websites that were shown in past newsletters and more on the Club website at:

https://www.portperryprobus.com/learning-entertainment





#### DIGITAL COMMUNICATION TIPS

We will be providing a monthly series of tips on using your tablet and computer. Our first one is on the basics of .....

#### **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Electronic mail, or Email, is one of the most important methods of communicating these days.

An email address consists of a unique combination of letters, some symbols, and numbers that identifies the address as yours, and then the @ symbol, followed by the email provider you have chosen. I will get into "extensions" on email addresses and websites in another exciting series.

Gmail is the most popular email service around the world, but there are many others such as Hotmail, or Yahoo Mail, or an email service that is offered by the organization that you buy your internet service from. For example, Bell Canada offers their subscribers a sympatico.ca address or a bell.net address and Rogers offers their customers a Rogers.com address.

One drawback with using a Bell or Rogers or other internet provider address is that if you leave one provider and go to another, your old email address is no longer available to you. Hence the popularity of the Gmail and Hotmail type of email providers.

Email addresses are NOT case sensitive. For example, John. Doe@gmail.com is exactly the same email address as john.doe@ GMAIL.COM or JoHN.Doe@gMaiL.coM.

Passwords to access your email are usually case sensitive. The password BIGfoot is a different password than bigfoot, which is different from bigFooT.

Your email address is unique to you. When choosing an email address, your email provider will not let you choose an email address that is already taken by someone else. That's why you see a lot of email addresses that have a combination of letters and numbers and certain symbols because the simpler email address you may have wanted was already taken.

Email addresses never contain certain symbols. For example, you cannot have a semi-colon in an email or website address. That is because in the computer world, the semi-colon performs a very important programming function so it was decided a long time ago to only allow certain symbols in an email address.

Next month, I will write a bit about email "etiquette", including how to reply to or forward an email properly and how to edit the subject line of an email. I will also discuss the importance of using bcc (blind carbon copy) versus cc in the event that you wish to protect the privacy of the people you are emailing.

Jayne Rees

**APRIL, 2021** 

#### **MEET OUR CLUB MEMBERS**

We have 353 members in the club, and most of us aren't necessarily familiar with all of those individuals. And each member in the club has led a fascinating life. So in this newsletter and future issues we will bring you the biographies of some of your fellow members so you get the chance to know them better and what they've been up to all these years. This month's profile is:

#### **Phil Wooding**

Phil has provided us with his brief biography as shown below.

As a child in Liverpool in pre-war England, I had no conception of the harsh realities that our parents faced. Little work to be found and not a lot of hope, but still, we had many happy times. Our mother kept us healthy, while our father took any work available to provide for us.

I was six when WWII broke out. We had moved closer to London where my father was employed in an aircraft factory, as well as serving in the Home Guard. A typical school day during the war often consisted of

relocating several times to the newly built bomb shelters when the air raid sirens went off. My schooling had its problems. Being a "lefty" was caned out of me. The subject I enjoyed most was the history class, which gave me and another boy from Poland the opportunity to draw many historical figures

My brother Pete and I used to collect shrapnel and watch the fighter planes in combat. During the night raids, our family took shelter in a section of the house that dad had fortified. One night, I helped mum put out a fire that started in the front garden of our house. Each night we sat by the radio to hear Winston Churchill's updates. Nobody ever talked about losing the war, only when it would be over.

My father headed to Canada ahead of the rest of the family.

We boarded the Aquitania in March 1948. We endured a crossing so rough that by the third day only my twin sister and I were showing up for meals in the large dining room. After landing in Halifax, we headed by train to Toronto. When we arrived in Lansing—now called North York—and saw what was to be our home, we



were shocked. Our father had purchased a basement with no house on top on a 50 x 125-foot lot, four blocks from Yonge Street for \$950. The six of us lived in that basement with water and electricity, courtesy of our neighbour, and used the outhouse until our father finished the house.

About a year later our father was injured while working on construction. My twin sister and I were told to find jobs to help support the family, we were only fifteen years old.

I began apprenticing to be an electrician. Everything was done by hand, there were no power tools. The owner of the company taught me how to drive the 1939 Diamond T truck and arranged for my driver's test. That night I drove the truck home, and the next day picked up the driving examiner at his home. He had to sit on a coke box as there was only the driver's seat. After the test, I drove him home, where he presented me with my Chauffeur's Licence. After 12 years working on electrical construction, and now married with a daughter, I needed more security and took a job with the Etobicoke Board of Education. I decided to improve my education and took the grade 12 courses at night studying at the kitchen table with my children. I was promoted to Manager of Facility Maintenance and retired

at age 62.

In 1979 when my first marriage ended, I took a drawing course at Humber College. It was there that I met Barbara, now my wife. I continued in art, joining the Franklin Carmichael Art Group, and later the East Central Art Association and Ajax Creative Arts. Now I mostly paint landscapes and abstracts.



Painting the beautiful landscape in the Haliburton area.

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#### TAKE A HIKE IN YOUR DREAMS!

Bill Morrison, who is coordinator of the Hiking Interest Group and an expert in hikes all around Durham Region, has been presenting a favourite hike each month that you can do on your own or with our group when COVID restrictions are lifted. Bill is already planning some hikes in preparation for when we are able to get out and get hiking again – something we are all looking forward to. Here's this month's submission:

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#### **EXPANDING HORIZONS**

It's spring! That makes me want to expand my horizons. I'm drawn to look for more hiking opportunities. The pandemic still poses some restrictions on our going out to a lot of new places, and that will probably continue for several months. We can, however, still daydream about getting out beyond the horizon. And we can also think about it, make inquiries and maybe even do a bit of future planning.

I have a list in my mind of locations I hope to visit for future hikes, and I expect that most of you do too. Sometimes we go out for a walk, and encounter other hiking possibilities that we'll want to pursue, or someone else tells us about a place they have hiked. But if you're interested in searching out more options, there are some handy places to look:

#### ONTARIO TRAILS COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Ontario Trails website lists trails in all parts of the province - over 60 trails in Durham Region alone. Although some are duplications, you may find some hiking or multi-use trails that you have not heard of before. Or be reminded of some that you've known about, but haven't visited. Expand your search beyond Durham, and there are scores of possibilities. The site includes a broad range of information on trails, including a little section titled "Today's Feature Trails" with links to specific trails in various parts of Ontario. <a href="https://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/">https://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/</a>

#### THE ALL TRAILS PHONE APP

The version that I have was downloaded (through Google Play, I believe) for free. Wherever I am, if I open the app it will tell me what trails I am closest to. It offers the location of the trail, a text description, a rating on a 5-point scale, and a map of the trail. There is also a pay version that costs about \$30/year.



AllTrails







**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES** 



#### **CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WEBSITES**

You can look up individual conservation areas on these sites, and access a map/brochure document that shows the trails in individual conservation areas. Locally, the most relevant conservation authorities are:

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA). Some local favourites managed by CLOCA are Long Sault and Crow's Pass. <a href="https://www.cloca.com/">https://www.cloca.com/</a>

Kawartha Conservation Authority. The East Cross Forest is in the eastern part of Scugog Township. Kawartha's Ken Reid Conservation Area, just north of Lindsay, has a series of enjoyable trails, many close to the shore of Sturgeon Lake. https://www.kawarthaconservation.com/en/index.aspx

Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). Many of the popular hiking locations in Uxbridge Township are managed by the TRCA, including the Walkers Woods and Glen Major tracts within the East Duffins Headwaters protected area. https://trca.ca/

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. Durham Forest is managed by the Lake Simcoe Region C.A., as is the Beaver River Wetlands Conservation Area in northern Scugog and Brock Townships. https://www.lsrca.on.ca/

Ontario Parks website. Individual parks can be looked up, and maps are generally available on those pages showing the hiking trails, as well as details on how to access them. https://www.ontarioparks.com/

I hope you find this beneficial; I thoroughly enjoyed just putting it together



#### **BRIDGE BASE ONLINE**

If you have a bridge foursome, and you would like to learn to play bridge on line while chatting with one another on a conference call, please contact Judy Spring at: Judith.spring@outlook.com

### Hold the DateS! (and cross your fingers)



#### **BARBECUE!**

at Wooden Sticks Golf Course **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16** 

### **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON!**

at Wooden Sticks Golf Course **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16** 



**APRIL, 2021** 

#### PROBUS INTEREST GROUPS

#### **New Interest Group Opportunities**

If you would like to coordinate a new remote group or shared experience, please let us know at <a href="mailto:interest.portperryprobus@gmail.com">interest.portperryprobus@gmail.com</a>.

#### **Remote Group Get Togethers:**

Our club has a corporate **ZOOM** account should you wish to set up a virtual meeting, and it has no time restraints! Just contact Tim Casey at <a href="mailto:president.portperryprobus@gmail.com">president.portperryprobus@gmail.com</a> or 905-985-3991 to use it.

We are here to help should you want to try a meeting virtually!

#### **CURRENT INTEREST GROUP UPDATES**

NOTE - in the case of all Interest Groups, if you have questions or wish to join, please contact the Coordinator.

#### **GROUPS REQUIRING A COORDINATOR**

These times are challenging for sure. That said, with not much going on, keeping our interest groups going can provide an outlet for sharing like interests. Please consider volunteering for one of these groups:



- 1. Bridge Beginner/Intermediate
- 2. Gardening Bloomers
- **3. Golf -** With the weather changing for the better and golf being one of the only things we are allowed to do in the lockdown, it would be great if someone would take this group on for the season. We would be happy to put any interested parties in touch with someone to help you get it going.
- **4. Jazz -** Coordinator required once Jazz nights resume at Jester's Court.
- **5. Model Boats** A great hobby where like minded people can share tips and advice.

#### **ACTING FOR FUN**

Evelyn McKenzie evsurfing@gmail.com • 905-985-2587

The Acting For Fun Interest Group is continuing to practice our lines for a show we are looking forward to performing for the PROBUS group hopefully when we re-open.

# ART – PROBUS OPEN STUDIO

**Margaret Adamson** 

madamson905@gmail.com • 905-773-2878

This past month this group had our first **ZOOM** meeting, which gave attendees a chance to catch up on life since we last met at the Prince Albert Hall on March 9, 2020. Seems like forever ago.

Most of the members of this group have managed to paint since then, so we had a show and tell opportunity on **ZOOM**.

Time to talk and share often provides support, encouragement and affirmation for typically a solitary activity. Art is often thought of as easy for someone with a given talent, but most artists work hard to hone their skills and may have to push themselves to work on new art works and new ideas. Often the mood has to be right or sometimes it is a wonderful way to lose oneself for hours working with the medium or composition.

Our next virtual meeting is scheduled for April 26 at 1:30 p.m. At this time, we will again share what we are individually working on.

We continue to invite new members to join, as it is a way to form close friendships with people who enjoy creating and experimenting.

# BOOK CLUB – THE BOOK WORMS

Brenda Manns mannsx2@sympatico.ca and Agnes Shaw

theshaw@sympatico.ca • 905-982-1558

Due to the new lockdown and weather permitting the Bookworms are hoping to meet outdoors at the end of May to discuss *The Giver of Stars* by JoJo Moyes.



This was an excellent book about the Packhorse Librarians in Kentucky in the 1930s.

#### **BOOK CLUB - THE PAGE TURNERS**

### Kathy McLeod kbmcleod24@gmail.com

Last month we discussed *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes. Some of us had read this book last year and looked forward to sharing it with the group.

In 1935, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt brought the Pack Horse Librarians to Kentucky. These strong, brave women overcame



many obstacles to bring literacy to the families of the remote mining areas of Appalachia.

We all agreed this was another good read.

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**APRIL, 2021** 

PROBUS Interest Groups continued ......

#### **CRIBBAGE**

# Barb Rootham brb.rootham@gmail.com • 905-985-9066

"The Fifteen For Two Crew" meets bi-weekly on Thursday afternoons at alternating members' homes. Cribbage can be played with 2, 3, or 4 players, so there is never a challenge of not enough players to enjoy the afternoon games. We currently have nine members.

Most of the group has an App where they play against a computer opponent. Barb reports that the computer has NO interesting stories to tell! Contact Barb for more information.

#### **CURRENT EVENTS**

#### Linda Schell

#### lindaschellconsulting@gmail.com • 905-242-8877

Our last meeting was Thursday, March 18, at 1:30 p.m. The topic was: "Act Local" and help our Environment. We addressed the frustrations that I am sure we all have as to what to do and how to do it, and what happens after that! This was the first of a number of informative discussions over the year from the homeowner/

consumer point of view, along with resources available and even some speakers. We may be tired of hearing about the 3 "R"s but we need to "refuel" our motivation as it becomes more important to our families and the planet as a whole! So easiest route: help each other and "Act Local"!



Participant information will be sent the week before our meeting. If you are not on our invite email list please feel free to send me your email so I can forward the link. New members very welcome.

# EUCHRE – AFTERNOON

### Jayne Rees rees.jayne@gmail.com • 905-852-4997

We have twelve members of the Euchre group playing on-line on Friday afternoons. The program we are using is called Trickster Cards, and it has a video chat feature that allows us to "see" and speak to each other while we are playing. It is free, so if anyone would like to join us for some on-line games, just let me know!

# FOODIES!

#### **Melodie Scott**

#### bmgscott101@gmail.com • 905-767-1505



We are looking forward to a virtual get-together on April 17th. We are all ordering Take Out from our restaurant of choice and will then eat and share our opinions of our dish/s with the group. It should make for some lively discussion.

#### GENEALOGY

#### WELCOME TO OUR NEW COORDINATOR!



Neil Kilmartin neilmkilmartin@gmail.com • 289-388-8039

Hello to one and all in the genealogy group! My name is Neil Kilmartin. My wife Carol and I joined PROBUS, just before COVID came into our lives. Along with my love for gardening, family history has been a passion of mine for over two decades.

You may have seen my two postings in the most recent newsletters. Heather Hill-Gibson is stepping aside, and I will be taking on the responsibility as coordinator for the genealogy group. I know we will all have varying degrees of experience in this pastime, some, perhaps with little at all. For those who are not that comfortable with computer and internet skills, I am happy to take on genealogical research for fellow members. I will also do what I can to provide guidance towards doing your own explorations if you're up to it.

It will take me a while to understand the individual and overall needs of the group, and I welcome hearing from each of you regarding your own expectations for the group as well as anything you might want personally.

You are welcome to contact me by any way you're comfortable with, though email is my preferred method of communication. I will provide contact info' here.

Hopefully, we'll get this challenging time of our lives behind us soon enough, and I look forward to us getting together as a group.

## MOVIE GROUP 1202

### kanopy

Denise Throp deniset1954@gmail.com

Kanopy movies through the Ajax and Lindsay libraries; virtual movie discussion at the Scugog library April 28 at 2 p.m. – the Grand Seduction. Pre-register with Kyle.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP**

Jim Wakeford

jrwakeford@yahoo.ca • 905-985-2030

Nothing is astir with the Camera Club, other than the occasional sharing of spectacular photos taken from around our world. We are all looking forward to seeing COVID-19 in the rear-view mirror when we can once again meet and enjoy our common interest.

#### **SINGLETONS**

Denise Throp deniset1954@gmail.com and Cathy Jeffrey: cjef@bell.net

There are virtual events available through the Scugog library.

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**APRIL, 2021** 

PROBUS Interest Groups continued ......

#### **TOWN HALL THEATRE**

Judy L. Anderson ukeladyjudy@gmail.com 905-985-4257

The Town Hall 1873 Theatre information has not changed. SCS is still hopeful that The Little Mermaid will be performed in November. No other groups or entertainers have been booked.

#### **WINE TASTING I**

Jim Adamson jim.adamson07@aol.com • 905-773-2878

As stated in last month's newsletter, our wine tasting group held a virtual tasting comparison of a wine from an older country as compared to a wine from a newer country. The older country, France, featured a white burgandy from a Beaune region winery tracing its existence back over 8 centuries when the monks used to produce wines for the churches. Indeed the Maison Jaffelin winery is closely linked to the Notre Dame collegiate Church in Beaune. The new(er) country, South Africa, produced a wine from the KWV winery that began in 1918 or just barely 1 century ago! The KWV winery began as a co-operative that united the struggling

wine growing farmers of South Africa in the very early days.

There were no losers in this comparative tasting, and the whole group definitely won by spending a most enjoyable time together enjoying each others companionship. If anyone were to hack in to one of this group's virtual **ZOOM** tastings, they might well mistakenly assume that its not a very serious tasting group based on the amounts of laughter floating about. We all agree that wines, good company, and laughter make an enjoyable combination.

Many of us are exhibiting varying degrees of impatience with being cooped up by the COVID-19 virus. Hopefully, the advent of warmer weather offers some relief, but perhaps this might bring a smile. After offering to drop off the wines for Mary and Bill Morrison prior to the scheduled tasting, Mary responded with:

"Yes thank you, any time would be fine and feel free to bring Margaret along - you both are welcome to stay the week. We have found ourselves quite talkative lately...holding up drive through lines for long periods of time and the delivery lady at curb side at Vos's knows the names of our kids, pets and where we have vacationed for the past 25 years. Next week we will tell her all about our medical histories. I have booked a 3 hour pick up time slot. That \$9 pick up fee is a great value!"

The following interest groups have suspended operations during the COVID-19 crisis. However, please stay tuned because some of these groups might find other methods to re-start in the coming months.

#### **BOARD GAMES**

Bill Morrison billandmaryare@gmail.com • 905-985-2624

#### **BOWLING FOR FUN**

Ann Skinner skinntj@gmail.com Pat McDougall

patmcdougall@yahoo.com

#### **BREAKFAST CLUBS**

Mary-Anne Unwin interest.portperryprobus@gmail.com

## BRIDGE – BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE

**COORDINATOR NEEDED!** 

Contact: Melodie Scott interestgroups.portperryprobus@gmail.com

#### **CREATE & CHAT**

Lou Ellen Clement-Hobbs chichi@persona.ca • 705-432-3229

#### **DARTS FOR FUN**

John Leahy jleahy6@gmail.com 905-982-2695

Ken Crossley magentis@checkmail.ca 705-786-1707

#### DINNER - GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER (GWCTD)

Carole Matthews dandcm43@yahoo.ca • 905-982-2702

#### **DINNER - THE MUNCHKINS**

Marg Miller margandrodmiller@gmail.com 226-229-9073

> Marilyn Hanna jf.hanna@powergate.ca 905-985-6322

#### **BID EUCHRE - AFTERNOON**

Jayne Rees rees.jayne@gmail.com • 905-852-4997

### EUCHRE - THE TABLE TALKERS - AFTERNOON

Barb Rootham
brb.rootham@gmail.com • 905-985-9066
Susan Merriman
susan.j.merriman@gmail.com • 416-892-2127

#### **EUCHRE - EVENING**

Margaret Adamson madamson905@gmail.com 905-773-2878



#### GARDENING – BLOOMERS!

#### COORDINATOR NEEDED!

Contact: Melodie Scott interestgroups.portperryprobus@gmail.com

#### **GOLF**

#### **COORDINATOR NEEDED!**

Contact: Melodie Scott interest.portperryprobus@gmail.com

#### **HIKING**

Bill Morrison billandmaryare@gmail.com • 905-985-2624

#### **JAZZ**

**COORDINATOR NEEDED!** 

#### **LAWN BOWLING**

Dennis Bayley dennis.bayley@icloud.com • 289-989-0178

#### **LUNCH MEETUP**

Melodie Scott interest.portperryprobus@gmail.com

#### THE LUNCH BUNCH

Susan Barber susan\_barber\_4@live.com 905-854-5771

#### **TRAVEL**

Judy Spring

| Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | Judy Spring | J