



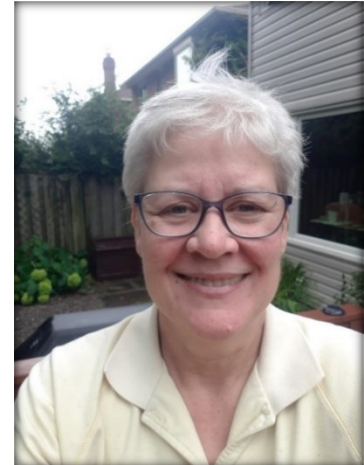
## The PROBUS Club of Durham West

Next General Meeting **June 8, 2023**, HMS Ajax Room  
South Entrance Ajax Community Centre,  
75 Centennial Road, Ajax, ON L1S 4S4

### President's Message for June 2023

My past month has been all about "Connections".

My daughter, Sarah, and I decided to take a vacation to the Netherlands. It was a time for us to connect with each other. The planning took place months ago. Air Line, Hotel/Staying with Relatives, Tickets to Museums and how to pack only 1 small carry-on bag plus a backpack for the plane. I had to check mine. At 22 lbs., I just couldn't see myself heaving it up into the overhead bins. Sarah kept hers so that she could get off the plane and bypass the whole baggage carousel situation.



We saw the Rijksmuseum, Museum Scheveningen and the Arnhem Open Air Museum. On May 5, we went to the Freedom Day Celebration at Wageningen and had our photo taken in front of the Hotel de Wereld, where Lt Gen Charles Foulkes CB CBE DSO, General Officer Commanding 1 Canadian Corps accepted the unconditional surrender of 25 German Army from Col Gen Johannes Blaskowitz, May 5, 1945. The parade was interesting and long. There were dignitaries and marching bands, bagpipes and rows of people standing along the parade route, clapping. When I saw the Royal Canadian Legion and the Canadian flag, I promptly embarrassed my child by whooping and cheering.

The rain held off until the three last groups were marching in t-shirts and pants. If they could march, we could stand under our umbrellas and wait until the end.

In the middle, there was a group, the "Bond van Wapenbroeders", that my father had served with in Indonesia from 1950-1952. There he was, in spirit, marching with the survivors. Another connection. Dad had PTSD and very seldom talked about the war. When he turned 65, the Wapenbroeders drove up the lane to our farmhouse. They had found their lost brother. Finally, he had someone to talk to about their shared experiences, to help him heal.

After Sarah flew home, the plan to rest on Mother's Day weekend got derailed. I forget that my cousins work all week (not retired like us) and they want to walk, talk, and eat together. I loved it. They want me to come back in 2024, to keep those family connections.

## SUPPORTING OUR TORONTO TEAMS

At our May General Meeting members wore blue in support of our Toronto Blue Jays and Maple Leafs. Unfortunately, the Leafs didn't make it to the next round so **"Let's Go Blue Jays"**.



## FATHER'S DAY – JUNE 18, 2023

***A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow.***

Happy Father's Day to all the Dads, Granddads, Stepdads, etc. out there.



## SOUND SYSTEM

The sound system issues at our General Meetings are here to stay. We will not be using the overhead speakers due to static issues. We have met with the Town and looked at various solutions. Our best available option, for now, is to use the single portable speaker at the front of the room. We encourage members to sit closer to the front to maximize their experience.

## COFFEE

This is a reminder that coffee/tea will not be served at our June, July and August meetings.

Please feel free to bring your own coffee or tea and we will revisit this in September.

## SUGGESTION BOX

Please also note that a Suggestion Box is available if you have any thoughts on how to make our club better. The box will be on the Membership Table at General Meetings. If you have any suggestions, please write them down and put them in the box.

Ada Larock  
[dwprobus.president@gmail.com](mailto:dwprobus.president@gmail.com)

## VOLUNTEERING FOR OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM POSITIONS

By Walter Matias – Vice President

We have a great club here at the PROBUS Club of Durham West. What keeps it great are all the volunteers within the Activity Groups, on the Social Committee and our Management Team.

As you know, we need volunteers to fill our current and future vacancies on the Management Team. Fear of the unknown may be what is keeping some members from volunteering.

For example, if you're looking at one of the vacancies, you may think to yourself – how would I even start? Am I alone in tackling this?

In this and upcoming newsletters, we will take a look at the various roles to help eliminate the mystery.

Our current Speaker Chair – Anne McKenzie – stepped into her role very quickly and she was able to give me some helpful information on how she accomplished the transition so smoothly. Anne's role will be one of the vacancies that we will need to fill for next year so it's a good time to start getting someone thinking about taking over this position.

Anne informs me that a Durham Regional Speakers Meeting is held quarterly. It comprises Probus groups in the Durham region - Whitby/Brooklyn, Port Perry, Ajax and Durham West groups, Pickering groups, Durham Central, Clarington and two Oshawa groups. They exchange speaker ideas and rate presentations according to audience enjoyment. They put out a District Speaker's Recommended List to which they collectively contribute.

Other ideas also come from monthly Probus Newsletters from other local clubs that get circulated within the Management Team. As well, some presenters make themselves



known to a PROBUS group and this information is then also shared with all the groups. Other ideas can also come by word of mouth from our members.

Once we get rid of the mystery, the prospect of volunteering becomes less daunting. One of the common aspects of this and our other roles is that we are never alone. We work as a team with other volunteers including our terrific Management Team.

If you have a few hours a month, we could use your help as next year's Speaker Chair. You can reach us at [durhamwestprobus@gmail.com](mailto:durhamwestprobus@gmail.com).

## JUNE SPEAKER

**June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### LYNDA QUIRINO – Ghosts & Hauntings: An Introduction

Our guest speaker this month is **Lynda Quirino** the founder and Executive Director of the Georgina Paranormal Society. Lynda also appears on the television show "Paranormal Survivor" as one of its Paranormal "Experts".



What is a ghost? Have you had an experience with one? How can you tell if you have a ghostly visitor? This presentation will discuss the several types of ghosts and hauntings, from "orbs" to "mists", and why ghosts may linger in a certain location. With pictures to illustrate the distinct types of ghosts and apparitions gleaned from actual investigations and haunted locations, along with eerie recordings of "electronic voice phenomena" and spirit box captures, this presentation will have you wondering if those creaks and scratches are more than simple house settling noises!

[Click here](#) for more information on Lynda Quirino.

### Important Information on our Speaker for July Elaine Charal – "Power of the Pen"

Come prepared to laugh and learn during Elaine's "Power of the Pen" presentation. Discover how to communicate even more effectively with family and friends by knowing what the strokes of handwriting mean. Everyone will learn about their strengths as reflected in the 'paper mirror' of their handwriting. Elaine will be e-mailing Handwriting Profiles to the Participants who fill out the Handwriting Form!



If you would like to find out some interesting things about yourself via your handwriting, plan on participating in this exciting activity at our July General Meeting. [Click Here](#) to access the form



needed to provide an example of your handwriting to Elaine. Print and complete the form then scan it or take a picture of it and email it back to Elaine.

For those who do not have access to a scanner or printer, the forms will be available in hard copy at the next **General Meeting on June 8**. Just fill in the form at the meeting and leave it behind. We will get them to Elaine for you. **Forms need to be completed by June 15**

Anyone who submits their handwriting will be provided with an analysis. Elaine will pick a few random samples for use in her presentation from those who have given their permission for her to use their writing as an example.

## MEMBERSHIP

We presently have 278 members.

Some of our newest members were presented with badges at the May General Meeting. Left to right are Judy Tonna, Erika Lilwall, Dorthe Matthews and Jo-Anne MacDonald



Something new; to speed up the process at the front registration desk, when someone is identified as a guest, they will be given a yellow lanyard to wear and will then be directed by our greeters to the Membership Desk. We will then record their sponsors or confirm Identification as required.

This is a reminder that guests may attend two meetings before deciding to join the Club.

Newer members can be identified by a blue lanyard, please ensure that we give them a special welcome as they get to know us better.

We will be asking you as members to volunteer to be a greeter at the entrance to the meeting room. It's a great way to get to know other members and will help the flow as name tags and badges are checked. Please remember to wear your PROBUS badge to all PROBUS events. You may purchase a replacement at the Membership Desk if yours has gone missing.

## NAME BADGES

Please remember to wear your badge at **every** PROBUS meeting and event. It helps identify you as a member and makes it easier for your fellow members to greet you and get to know you.

It also serves as a level of security.

You may purchase a replacement badge at the Membership Desk or contact us at [dwprobud.membership@gmail.com](mailto:dwprobud.membership@gmail.com) if yours has gone missing. The cost of a new badge is \$25.00.

Bev & Dave Bicknell [dwprobud.membership@gmail.com](mailto:dwprobud.membership@gmail.com)  
Membership Chair

## SHARE THE WEALTH

Past President, Ruth Bridge presented Geoff Cutten with Share the Wealth in the amount of \$67.75. Geoff generously passed his winnings over to Dr. Sharon Cohen, our speaker for May, for Alzheimer's Research.

Thanks and Congratulations to Geoff!

*At our next General Meeting and going forward, Share-the-Wealth tickets will be on sale at a table **inside** the HMS room. This will speed up the registration process and will allow additional tickets to be sold during the break.*



## SOCIAL

Please note, there are **NO REFUNDS** if you sign-up for an event and are unable to attend. You may have someone go in your place by getting payment from them and notifying the convenor of the event of the change along with the name and phone number of the person replacing you.

Be aware that many people are very allergic to scents so please **DO NOT wear perfume or aftershave** when attending gatherings.

Some of our members are unable to drive but would like to participate in social events. If you are planning on driving to an event and are willing to share your ride with someone unable to drive, please contact the event convenor and let them know. Likewise, if you need a ride, contact the event convenor so they can match you up with a driver.

Please use the suggestion box for feedback and ideas for social events.

## BRUCE BELL FINANCIAL DISTRICT TOUR

This exciting two-hour tour starts at Union Station and ends at City Hall on Bay Street. We have been assured that this tour is at a leisurely pace with places to sit while listening and washrooms available throughout.

Bruce Bell will walk us to different sites and provide historical information about each one. Check out his website at <http://www.brucebelltours.ca/>.

We will meet Bruce at 61 Front Street East (SE corner of Front and Bay).

This tour will cover the stunning 1920s skyscrapers built along Bay Street in downtown Toronto. It will also include visits to modern skyscrapers like the TD Centre built in 1966 by famed International Style architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Commerce Court built by IM Pei in



1972. Then we will discover some of the newest just-built skyscrapers as well as the stunning art deco Concourse Building 1929 with murals by the Group of 7.

We will end the tour at noon with lunch at Sap restaurant located at 401 Bay Street, (own expense).

Please be sure to indicate when registering if you will or will not be joining us for lunch.  
<https://www.saprestaurant.com/>

This will be a rain-or-shine event!

**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2023

**Transportation:** GO train (own expense - meet on the accessibility car – upper level)

**Time of Departure:** 8:52 a.m. leaving Ajax,  
8:57 a.m. leaving Pickering

**Cost:** \$26.00 Bruce Bell (tour only includes admin fees and tips)

**Lunch:** 12:00 p.m. at Sap Restaurant (optional – own expense)

To register for this event [Go to the Event](#).

Convenors: Lorna Smith [Lsmith1@bell.net](mailto:Lsmith1@bell.net)  
Bev Waite [bev.waite@outlook.com](mailto:bev.waite@outlook.com)

## LES MISÉRABLES IN CONCERT AT WESTBEN

Experience the music of one of the most moving musicals in history. An all-star cast assembles at The Barn to bring to life all the favourite musical moments from this international hit. Featuring Adam Fisher, Robert Longo, Caitlin Wood, David Michael Moote, Maher Pavri & Kim Dafoe.



This venue includes picnic grounds, a snack bar and the Milkshed Bar which serves beer and wine. The grounds open 90 minutes before each performance. You are asked to arrive at least 30 minutes before the show.

**Date:** Tuesday, July 25, 2023

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$52 (Concert only)

You may opt to join us for dinner at the Mill Restaurant at your own cost.

This is a self-drive/carpool event.

Please indicate if you will join us for dinner as we need a firm reservation number.

To register [Go to the Event](#)

CONVENORS: Maria Bawcutt [bamb63e@gmail.com](mailto:bamb63e@gmail.com)  
Sharon Fenn [slf809@hotmail.com](mailto:slf809@hotmail.com)

## LET'S GO BLUE JAYS!

The last exciting game of the season is taking place at the Rogers Centre on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and our club has secured 50 seats!

When every game counts, 50 lucky members will be there for the last deciding game of the season with the Blue Jays vs Tampa Bay Rays.

The seats are in the 200 Level on the west side of the ballpark between third base and home plate. To make it even more exciting it is Fan Appreciation Day and there will be two giveaways. These giveaways will be announced on the Blue Jays website. Watch for it!!



**Date:** Sunday, October 1, 2023

**Time:** 3:07 p.m.

**Cost:** \$59.95 including tax

**Location:** Rogers Centre

This is a GO train/carpool event (own expense)

To register [Go to the Event](#)

CONVENORS: Sharon Fenn [slf809@hotmail.com](mailto:slf809@hotmail.com)  
Sharon Marshall [oxford9390@gmail.com](mailto:oxford9390@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING EXCURSIONS

For any of the following excursions please contact **Shirley Van Putten** at [shirliavanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirliavanputten@rogers.com) or call **905-619-8583**.



## DAY TRIPS

### Tuesday, June 13 – Visit to the Royal Botanical Gardens & Whistling Gardens – Cost \$126

Royal Botanical Gardens (**RBG**) is the largest botanical garden in Canada. It is located at the western tip of Lake Ontario. Four distinct formal gardens are contained within 1100 hectares of a nature reserve, nestled into the slopes of the Niagara Escarpment.

Whistling Gardens Mission is: to establish an internationally recognized horticultural destination attraction, featuring exclusive contributions to our plant collections. Focusing on new and viable ornamental plants for today's gardens with a special emphasis on conifers, woody plants and peonies.

Your tour includes:

- Return transportation by motor coach;
- Guided Tours of both Gardens;
- Driver's Tip;
- 407 Toll.

## MULTI-DAY TRIPS

### June 7-10 – Louise Penny – Three Pines Tour - Cost \$1,159 + HST

Award-winning Canadian author Louise Penny has captivated the world with her compelling mystery novels set primarily in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Her wildly popular books from the Three Pines series have consistently topped the New York Times bestseller lists and have been translated into 29 languages, selling more than 10 million copies worldwide. Her recent collaboration, co-authoring the State of Terror with Hillary Rodham Clinton has cemented her as one of the mystery genre's all-time greats.

### July 14-24 – Newfoundland – Cost \$4,419 + HST (double), \$5,629 + HST (single)

Every Canadian should go at least once to Newfoundland to experience the people and see the magnificent scenery. This excursion includes 10 nights accommodation in Newfoundland, site seeing, boat cruises, etc.

### September 3-8 – New Orleans - Cost \$2,699

Your five-night stay in New Orleans is at the DRURY INN -Located in the historic Cumberland Phone Building just one block from the St. Charles trolley.

Your stay in New Orleans Includes:

- New Orleans City Orientation tour;
- Tour to the Houmas Plantation, including lunch;
- Bayou Swamp Tour.

**November 16-23 – King Meets Country – Memphis & Nashville – Cost \$3,700**

Your trip includes:

- Round trip direct airfare from Toronto to Nashville;
- Three nights in Memphis – downtown hotel including breakfast;
- Four nights in Nashville – downtown hotel including breakfast - also includes evening “Happy Hour” - snacks & drinks;
- City tours of Memphis and Nashville;
- Graceland - the “Elvis Experience” and Sun Studio;
- Country Music Hall of Fame + RCA Studio B;
- Grand Ole Opry and The Ryman Auditorium;
- **Performance at the Grand Old Opry - the highlight of the tour!!!**

## ACTIVITIES

The PROBUS Club provides its members with the opportunity to join a wide variety of Activity groups. If you are interested in joining a group, the activity leaders are looking forward to hearing from you, and their contact information is available on the webpage.

Certain activity groups have participant limits, due to the nature of the group, and there is a waiting list. If you have an interest in a particular group that is at capacity, please contact the Activity Chair ([bev.waite@outlook.com](mailto:bev.waite@outlook.com)), and your name will be added to a waiting list, or consider becoming an activity leader.

Tips and tricks are available for new group leaders to start a new group. Starting a new group provides you with an opportunity to meet like-minded people who enjoy the same activity as you.

If you are interested in joining a group, we are looking forward to hearing from you. Please reach out to our Activities Chair, Bev Waite at [bev.waite@outlook.com](mailto:bev.waite@outlook.com)

## APP-TEASERS

When our Nibbles group reached capacity, and in response to requests, a new “nibbles-type” group formed called App-teasers.

The plan is for it to be an informal afternoon gathering for conversation, snacks, and drinks. It will be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month and each month a member will host the group in their home/backyard.

The next App-Teaser will be on Tuesday, May 23rd. If you are interested in attending please email Roseann at [blakeroseann695@gmail.com](mailto:blakeroseann695@gmail.com), who will share more details.

## BILLIARDS

The PROBUS Club of Durham West has been invited to join two other PROBUS clubs to play billiards every other Friday.

**Where:** Petrina’s Billiards – 21 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax.  
(The entrance is on the north side of the building).

**When:** 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.  
**The dates for June 2nd, 16th and 30th.**

**Cost:** \$6.00 for two hours

The bar will be open but no food will be available.

This is a drop-in format and registration is not required.

If you have any questions please contact Bev Waite at [bev.waite@outlook.com](mailto:bev.waite@outlook.com).



## BOWLING

**The last game of the season will be on Thursday, June 22 at 2:00 p.m.**

We will meet for lunch at Kelsey’s, Highway 2 and Harwood at 11:45 a.m.

Bowling will resume in September.

Contact Bonnie each month to sign-up.

Bowling is once a month usually on the fourth Thursday afternoon.

**Location:** Ajax Bowling Centre, 172 Harwood Avenue South.

**Cost:** \$11.00 includes 2 games and shoes (\$2.00 for shoes)  
\$9.00 if you have your own bowling shoes. Payment at the bowling alley.

Please contact Bonnie **each month** if you would like to bowl at [bcutten0809@rogers.com](mailto:bcutten0809@rogers.com) or call 905-831-7489 for more information.

## BREAKFAST CLUB

On the first Tuesday of each month, a group of Probus members gather at a restaurant for breakfast.

Ajax has many wonderful restaurants open for breakfast.

There is lots of chatting over a nice hot coffee or tea and a good breakfast.

New members of the group are welcome.

For more information please feel free to contact: Linda Robbins at [Richard.robbins@sympatico.ca](mailto:Richard.robbins@sympatico.ca).

Looking forward to meeting new members.

## CINEMA CLUB NEWS

On Saturday, May 20, a group of us meet at Landmark Cinemas in Whitby and watched, *The Book Club: The Next Chapter*.

This movie was as good as the first Book Club, and the scenery was amazing. We all enjoyed it.



The next movie date will be Saturday, June 17, 2023, at Landmark Cinemas in Whitby.

If there is a movie you'd like to see, please let us know.

If you have any questions or would like to join us, you can contact me, Karen Dryden at [kdryden2852@gmail.com](mailto:kdryden2852@gmail.com) or Anne McKenzie at [annel.Mckenzie@gmail.com](mailto:annel.Mckenzie@gmail.com)

## CREATE AND CHAT

Our meeting on May 15th was lively and two new members were welcomed to the group. Quilting, quilling and embroidery, along with knitting and crocheting were some of the activities.

For our new location and to view more photos of our projects [Click here](#).

For more information on the group please contact: Sharon Marshall, at [oxford9390@gmail.com](mailto:oxford9390@gmail.com)

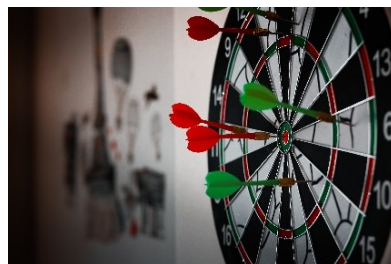


## DARTS

Darts are on hold for the summer months and will start again in the fall.

This is a drop-in format, and registration is not required, but members must bring their own darts.

For information contact: Ruth Bridge at [rbridge@rogers.com](mailto:rbridge@rogers.com)



## DINNER GROUP – “Dinner is Served”

A lucky 13 dined at Symposium Cafe in Ajax on May 25th. Another enjoyable evening of good food and fellowship.

For more information contact: Maria Bawcutt at [bamb63e@gmail.com](mailto:bamb63e@gmail.com)



## DURHAM WEST MARATHON BRIDGE CLUB

A great time was had by all at the end of the season Celebratory Lunch at the Mandarin Restaurant in Pickering.

The next Marathon Bridge session sign-up will be held in August.

For further information contact:  
Dave Powley at, [powleydi@gmail.com](mailto:powleydi@gmail.com) or (905) 683-1444



[Click here](#) for more pictures

## FRIENDLY EUCHRE

Euchre in June will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. We will not be playing during the summer but we will meet again in September.

Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. and Euchre starts at 2:00 p.m. and finishes at 4:00 p.m.

**Everyone is welcome.** If you are interested in joining us, please contact Ann Buffett at [annbuffett28@gmail.com](mailto:annbuffett28@gmail.com).

## GARDENING CLUB

Information on the Gardening Club will be coming shortly.

See you soon.  
Bev Waite at [bev.waite@outlook.com](mailto:bev.waite@outlook.com)



## LET'S EAT

A small number of the "Let's Eat" dinner group met at The Lake Grill restaurant in Whitby on May 18. This is a family-run business that serves a delicious meal.

There was good conversation and we solved many problems facing the club at this time!!

Hopefully, those who were not able to attend will be able to join us for dinner in June.

Contact Mary McFadden at [mcfadm2@gmail.com](mailto:mcfadm2@gmail.com) or Ada Larock at [larockgrada@gmail.com](mailto:larockgrada@gmail.com)



## NIBBLES AT NIGHT

Our May Nibbles at Night group was hosted by Tess and Walter Matias. The weather cooperated enough for us to enjoy our first outdoor nibbles this year in their beautiful backyard. We covered many subjects through dynamic conversations all the while nibbling on a wide selection of delicious appetizers.

Our Nibbles group is currently at capacity.

[Click here](#) to check out a variety of photos taken by our members.

For more information contact: Fran Griffin at [frangriffinhome@gmail.com](mailto:frangriffinhome@gmail.com)

## NORDIC POLE WALKERS

Walkers meet twice a week on Mondays and Fridays at 10:00 a.m.

Contact Eileen Nixon at [eileennixon8585@gmail.com](mailto:eileennixon8585@gmail.com) for information.



## NOVEL READERS BOOK CLUB

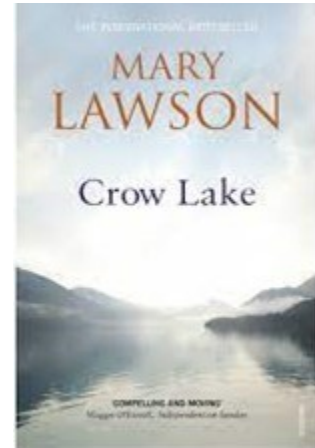
In June, the Novel Readers will be reading *Crow Lake* by Mary Lawson. The story centers on four siblings and is set in Northern Ontario. *Crow Lake* was Lawson's first novel and was published in 2002.

During our June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will also be drafting our reading schedule for the coming year.

The Novel Readers meet monthly, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. **We do not meet during July and August.**

We currently have full membership.

For more information, please contact Colleen Lea at 905-686-1629 or [colleenlea@hotmail.com](mailto:colleenlea@hotmail.com)



## OUTDOOR GOLF GROUP

The weather is getting warmer, and the greens are getting greener! Another season of outdoor golf has commenced at Hawthorne Valley on Tuesday mornings! If you are ready to Tee off, call Hawthorn and book yourself in (905-686-2028). You can book as a single, pair, triple or foursome. All members are welcome.

Let them know you are a PROBUS member, and you will get the special rate.

Hope to see you on the fairways!

If you are interested in joining us email Marcia Everitt at [marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca](mailto:marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca)

## SNAPPED CAMERA CLUB

The Snapped Photography group visited WindReach Farms on a beautiful sunny day in May. The weather was perfect to enjoy the outdoors along with all the sheep bleating (baa) to get our attention, the cows, miniature horses and some smaller animals like green beans the guinea pig indoors.

"WindReach Farm strives to enrich the lives of persons of all ages with disabilities and/or special needs by providing opportunities to enjoy experiences in farming, nature, outdoor recreation, and other activities, and to share those experiences with family and friends."



[Click here](#) to enjoy the many photos we took at WindReach and a variety of photos taken by the Snapped Camera Club on previous outings.

If you are interested in joining Snapped, please contact Lorna Smith at [lsmith1@bell.net](mailto:lsmith1@bell.net)

## UKULELE STRUMMERS

The ukulele strummers are having fun meeting twice a month. Here are some members playing together

Membership is currently at capacity.

For information contact Sue Porter at [s.e.porter@rogers.com](mailto:s.e.porter@rogers.com)



## WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Join us each Wednesday as we spend an hour walking along the paths in the area. We have walkers of all speeds from fast to snail-like. So, you are sure to find other people who are happy to walk at the same pace as you.

If you are interested in joining our Wednesday Walking Group [Click here](#) for more information or contact Bernice Pyke at [billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com](mailto:billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com)

## WORDS WORTH READING BOOK CLUB

This month the members will be reading and discussing the novel *The Spoon Stealer* by Lesley Crewe, a Canadian author living in Cape Breton. According to her website, she brings readers from WW1 England to 1960's Nova Scotia following a spoon-stealing chronicler who inherits the family farm and all the members of her family.

Emmeline never quite fit into this group and after dealing with multiple losses in the First World War she flees to England and makes her life there with her best friend Vera, a small white dog. She joins a memoir-writing group at the local library and through this group we learn about her life on the farm, her English friends and the jobs she held while living in Great Britain. Emmeline believes that a spoonful - perhaps several spoonfuls - of kindness can set to rights her family so broken by loss and secrecy.



Our book club meets monthly from January to June on the third Tuesday of the month. However, we will be taking a break over the summer so our next meeting will be in September.



Presently our book club is at capacity.

Contact: Jean Jackson at 905-420-6410 or [jeanej@rogers.com](mailto:jeanej@rogers.com)

# SHARING OUR RECIPE(S)

**All Hail to the Rhubarb!** I offer rhubarb recipes this month: A Muffin, A Torte, A Sauce and A Rhubarb Cake. Get ready to bake! These are recipes offered by a friend, my niece and my mother's handwritten recipe collection. **"The Big Guy"** was never a fan of rhubarb but he has agreed to grow the plant and is amazed when he gets Rhubarb Sauce spooned over Vanilla Ice Cream. I often clean and chop the rhubarb then freeze in large Ziplock bags. It breaks apart easily and can be measured even when it is frozen solid. You will have enough for many of these recipes when you are ready to bake!

**"The Big Guy"** likes his desserts with strong sweet and milky coffee or strong black coffee with a generous shot of one of the Irish Cream Liquors.

<p><b>Rhubarb Muffins</b></p> 	<p><b>Rhubarb Torte</b></p> 
<p>1 ½ cup brown sugar          ½ cup canola oil          1 egg          1 cup of milk          2 tsp vanilla</p> <p>1 ½ cups rhubarb, sliced or diced          2 ½ cups flour          1 tsp baking powder          1 tsp baking soda          ½ tsp salt</p>	<p>A Layered Dessert for a 9"x9" pan          This recipe is best made on the day you serve it!</p> <p><b>Crust:</b>          1 cup graham crumbs          4 Tbsp butter          2 Tbsp sugar          Mix and reserve just 2 Tbsp for topping. Pat into a 9"x9" pan and bake in a 350F oven for 10 minutes.</p>

**Topping**

1 Tbsp margarine, melted  
½ cup sugar  
2 tsp cinnamon

1. Mix the wet ingredients until blended and dissolved.
2. Mix rhubarb with the dry ingredients until just coated.
3. Combine wet and dry ingredients.
4. Spoon into greased muffin tins or muffin papers.
5. Spoon topping over each muffin.
6. Bake at 350F for 20 minutes.

**Filling:**

1 cup sugar  
3 Tbsp cornstarch  
4 cups diced rhubarb (if using frozen rhubarb do not add extra water)  
½ cup water  
Few drops of red food colouring or 2-3 finely chopped strawberries

In a saucepan, mix all ingredients and cook until thickened. Add chopped strawberries or red food colouring to brighten the colour of the rhubarb. Cool.

**Next Layer:**

1 pkg vanilla pudding and pie mix  
Prepare as directions on the box. Cool.

**Topping:**

Spread on a small container of Cool Whip.  
Sprinkle with reserved graham crust crumbles.



### Rhubarb Coffee Cake



### Rhubarb Sauce



Use a 9"x11" pan.  
Bake 30-40 minutes in 375F Oven

½ cup butter  
1 ½ cups brown sugar  
1 egg  
½ tsp salt  
1 cup sour milk (1 c. milk + 1 Tbsp vinegar)  
1 tsp vanilla

2 cups flour  
1 tsp baking soda  
1 ½ - 2 cups rhubarb, finely cut, raw or frozen

#### **Topping:**

¼ cup white sugar  
1 tsp cinnamon

1. Cream together butter and brown sugar.
2. Add egg, salt, sour milk and vanilla.
3. Fold in flour and baking soda then rhubarb last.
4. Pour into a 9"x11" greased and floured pan.
5. Sprinkle with topping then bake 375F for 30-40 minutes. Test doneness with a toothpick before removing it from the oven.
6. This recipe can be doubled but increase the size of your pan to 9"x13".

Use over Vanilla Ice Cream or as Jam on Toast

2 cups rhubarb, chopped or diced  
¼ cup water  
¼ cup of sugar

1. In a saucepan bring to a boil then turn down to a simmer for about 10 minutes. It can burn easily so you need to stir and judge the consistency as rhubarb sauce thickens as it cooks.
2. Sour rhubarb may need additional sugar.
3. Colour with a few chopped strawberries as rhubarb can be an unappealing pinkish-beige. Alternately, a few blueberries crushed and added to the sauce while cooking will make a purple colour.
4. Cool and refrigerate sauce for 2-3 weeks. Serve over vanilla ice cream or spread as jam on toast for breakfast.



For updates from the Town of Ajax, including the Library News please click on the link below:

[https://view.publitas.com/ajax/55plus-link\\_newsletter\\_spring-2023/page/1](https://view.publitas.com/ajax/55plus-link_newsletter_spring-2023/page/1)

SCWW (Seniors Centre Without Walls) operates Monday through Wednesday and provides free virtual programs in which older adults and seniors can participate in comfort from home.

To participate in the program via Zoom or call-in, contact [55plus@ajax.ca](mailto:55plus@ajax.ca) or call 905-619-2529, ext. 7243

## **55+ BBQ**

**Thursday, June 8 at 11:30 a.m. – Ajax Waterfront**

Come by the Ajax Waterfront (Rotary Park) to Celebrate Aging Well Month at the 55+ BBQ. There will be a free lunch, community vendors, entertainment and more! Seating will be limited so we recommend bringing a lawn chair.

For more information visit: <https://www.ajax.ca/en/play-and-discover/activities-and-recreation-programs.aspx#55-BBQ---June-8-2023> No registration is required (Drop in).

## **Library Bridge**

Library Bridge takes place in the Rotary Room at the library's main branch.

The following schedule is for bridge at the library for June.

Dates for June are:

Thursday, June 1, 2023, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Social Bridge

Thursday, June 8, 2023, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Social Bridge

Thursday, June 15, 2023, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Social Bridge

Thursday, June 29, 2023, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Social Bridge

If you have questions please contact Harvey Brodhecker, [hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca](mailto:hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca)