



The PROBUS Club of Durham West

Our Annual General Meeting is on **January 11, 2024**, at **10:00 a.m.**
in the HMS Ajax Room, South Entrance, Ajax Community Centre,
75 Centennial Road, Ajax, ON L1S 4S4

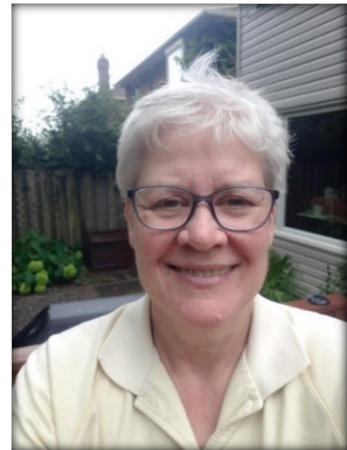
December/January 2024 President's Message

Thank you for supporting our Management team this year. We had an interesting year, with lots of guest speakers, monthly activities and social events.

Our club is growing. For many people, the lonely days of COVID are past. It is so important to reach out and connect with people. Retirement can be a blessing when we are prepared with plans and friends to share them with. We have an effective team and we work well together. We can do more.

We still need new ideas and places for new members to belong. Won't you share your hobbies, interests and talents with us?

This is my final President's Message. The year has just flown by. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your PROBUS experience. My role as President has stretched my mind and opened up new friendships. I look forward to the coming new year and supporting our next President, Walter Matias.



Condolences

Judy Feeney, a long-time member of the PROBUS Club of Durham West, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 19th surrounded by family.

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family.

Ada Larock
President

Annual General Meeting

January 11th, 2024 will be our Annual General Meeting (AGM), and club members will be asked to approve the following officers for the 2024 Management Committee of the PROBUS Club of Durham West.

If any other member wishes to put their name forward for any position, you will need to let us know up to 14 days prior to our General Meeting by e-mailing us at: durhamwestprobus@gmail.com.

2024 PROPOSED MANAGEMENT TEAM	
Past-President	Ada Larock
President	Walter Matias
Vice-President	Alan Lemay
Activities Chair	Laura Lemay
House Chair	Gillian Martin
Membership	Beverley and David Bicknell
Newsletter	Ena Shaw
Secretary	Frances Griffin
Social Co-Chairs	Maria Bawcutt/Bev Waite
Speaker Chair	Donna Castanheiro
Treasurer	Liz Ryan
Web Lead	Walter Matias
Webmaster	Ena Shaw

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2024 MANAGEMENT TEAM

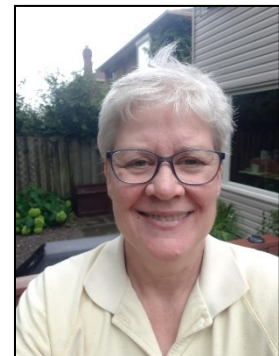
Every January we confirm the Management Team positions for that year. We thought we would do something a little different this year by telling you a little bit about the individuals behind these volunteer positions. We wanted to share what industry they retired from, what their job title/role was when they joined our club and what attracted them to their role.

Ada Larock – President 2023/Past President 2024

Ada worked in the IT industry and then in sales for an insurance company. She retired early to stay home to raise her two children.

She volunteered with her children’s school and local Church.

Ada joined the PROBUS Club of Durham West to make friends and learn more about the Ajax community. She served as Newsletter Editor for Durham West Probud 2019-2022. She then moved into the role of President in 2023 when the club’s immediate future looked to be in jeopardy.



Walter Matias – Vice President 2023/President 2024

I worked in the utility industry in a marketing and market development capacity and retired in February 2019 a couple of weeks after my wife Tess retired. In late August of that year, we moved to Whitby to be closer to our daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

We were introduced and sponsored to the club through my sister and brother-in-law (Maria and Bob Bawcutt) in November of that year. Having pulled up roots and moved to a new community and being in our first year of retirement, we joined Probus as a way to make new friends, join new activities and keep busy.

In 2022 I took on the task of Webmaster and enjoyed re-building our web experience and later led the clubs' adoption of Wild Apricot. I volunteered to support Ada Larock in the role of Vice President when the long-term outlook for our club looked problematic. I just had to help to keep things going. It's great to see the progress we have made this year towards becoming a growing club again.

Looking ahead to next year, we have a great management team in place and I look forward to working with each of them in my new role.



Alan Lemay – Vice President 2024

We are pleased to announce that Alan Lemay will be the incoming vice-president-elect for next year. He's a lot of fun with some great ideas. Several of us on the Management team have come to know Alan through our time together in one of our Activity Groups and we look forward to working with him. You may remember Alan from doing our financial audit last year.

Alan retired in June 2021 following a career within the investment management industry of a major Canadian Bank as a senior manager of business finance teams.

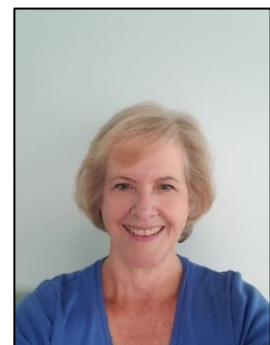
He joined the PROBUS Club of Durham West in 2021. Alan is interested in the role of vice president as it provides an excellent opportunity to become more involved within Probus, supporting the management team.



Laura Lemay – Activities Chair 2024

Laura's career focused on human resources management, originally working for corporate organizations and then transitioning to a nonprofit. She retired as a Human Resources Manager in 2021 and joined Probus at that time.

Laura has enjoyed becoming involved with several Probus activities and looks forward to supporting these groups.



Gillian Martin – House Chair 2024

I grew up and was educated in North East England at an all-girls school before going on to become a teacher. A lovely summer vacation in Canada and the offer of a teaching position convinced me to emigrate. After teaching in all the primary grades, I found my calling in kindergarten where I was able to apply my creative skills in all areas of the program until I retired in the year 2000.



A friend invited me to attend a Probus meeting this past January and I discovered a whole new plethora of interesting activities to be explored and friends to be made! I and two friends happily took on the “kitchen” duties at our General Meetings. Ruth Bridge approached me and suggested that I might like to take on the House Chair role which seems to be running efficiently.

Being a “volunteer” with Probus is a most rewarding experience and I urge others to discover this too.

Beverly and David Bicknell – Membership Co-Chairs 2023/2024

We both have similar Career-related backgrounds. We started with banking in the early 70’s but our paths did not cross until later. Then we each made the transition to working in Accounts Receivable (Credit and collections) in various industries.



We both hold a Professional Designation (FCI) from the Credit Institute of Canada and Dave was a Founding Member and Past President of the Atlantic Canada Chapter. Dave retired in 2015 as a Credit Manager and Bev in 2019 as a Credit Specialist. We both joined PROBUS upon retirement.

There was a call to replace the outgoing Membership Chair role, which had previously been filled by a couple. Since we both have had experience in administrative positions and taken on leadership roles in the various organizations and groups that we have belonged to and have a firm belief that what you get from membership in such organizations is as much as you are willing to contribute, we answered the call.

Ena Shaw – Newsletter Editor/Webmaster 2023/2024

I officially retired in May of 2022 having worked for 47 years for an Architectural/Engineering Consulting firm. The firm started with 40 people (professional and administrative) and ended up with 3000 employees worldwide.



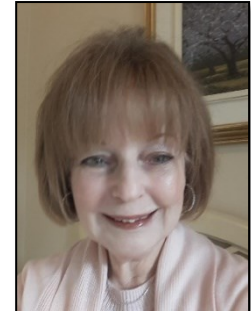
As an Administrative/Executive Assistant, I worked for many of the Directors in varying departments. Once we developed to the point of needing an IT Department I became a guinea pig for new editing software, before its distribution to the firm in general.

I joined the PROBUS Club of Durham West in 2016 but wasn’t able to participate fully until I retired.

At a Probus get-together in 2022, I mentioned that I was bored and everyone pounced and said “Join the Management Team”. **I am no longer bored!!!!** I find my role within Probus challenging and interesting and very similar to the work I used to get paid for. LOL.

Frances Griffin – Secretary 2023/2024

During my 45-year working career, I held many roles starting as the executive secretary for the Dean of Education at a major university and ending with my last role in 2015 in Marketing Communications for a multinational technology company in Whitby, working with clients in Canada and the United States.



I joined the PROBUS Club of Durham West in August 2014. Being a member of PROBUS has brought me much enjoyment through the years, not simply by being a member but by joining and leading some of the activity groups, going on day and extended day trips, as well as participating in many social events.

In April 2022, I signed on as a member of the Management Team putting to use my experience from many of my roles throughout my working career. This position on the Management Team has afforded me so much enjoyment and satisfaction that I have signed on for 2024.

Being part of a Club like ours is a wonderful way to meet interesting people and make new friends. The best way to enjoy and get the most out of your club is by being an active and contributing member in any way you can.

Maria Bawcutt – Social Co-Chair 2024

I took early retirement from municipal government, where I was an HR Assistant. My duties included co-ordination of recruitment and facilitation of the staff Benefits Program.



Bob and I joined Durham West PROBUS in 2012 and served as Membership Chairs from August 2015 to July 2018. I was previously a member of the Garden Club and am currently involved with the Pole Walking Club and Nibbles at Night, and lead the Dinner is Served group. Having been a member of the Social Committee for several years and enjoying many social activities, I will be co-chairing the Social Committee with Bev Waite.

Bev Waite – Social Co-Chair 2024

You all know me as the one who wears two hats, but what you may not know is that I am a Registered Nurse of 33 years. I worked in one of the large teaching hospitals in Toronto in various roles ranging from providing direct patient care on an in-patient unit to caring for the sickest of the sick in a large Critical Care Unit. While working in the Critical Care Unit I was seconded to work for one of the community colleges to teach other nurses to become critical care nurses. After teaching critical care for close to 14 years, I took on a variety of leadership roles in both education and management.



I officially retired in July of 2020, after the first wave of COVID as the Education Lead for Nursing. Three months later I un-retired to assist with the work of nurses providing direct patient care and to work with the College of Nurses to fast-track internationally trained nurses to become registered in Ontario. One of the highlights of my “un-retirement” was organizing the setup and running of the COVID vaccine clinic at the hospital where we administered vaccines to the staff, patients and the public for over 14 months. I re-retired at the end of April 2022.

I joined the PROBUS Club of Durham in April of 2021 and when I initially joined, I didn't realize there were other groups in Durham. Durham West was the first PROBUS group that came up on my Google search, and I haven't looked back. I remember joining the walking group, and I recall how friendly and welcoming Bernice Pyke, Lorna Smith, June Booth and others were, and I knew I had found a place to belong.

Donna Castanheiro – Speaker Chair 2024

The greater part of my working life has been in the business world. What I liked most about working was the learning process, and as a result, I was attracted to a variety of industries. When business bored me I decided to go back to school and eventually into teaching.

I have a degree in Education and have worked mostly at the high school level. As I like learning, I have developed a wide repertoire of hobbies. My most important job, however, is the role played within my family.



In 2020 I decided to retire from teaching as well as to join the PROBUS Club of Durham West. In January I will be assuming the Speakers Chair role. I look forward to being a more active member and booking speakers with interesting, educational, and motivational information to share with the group.

Liz Ryan – Treasurer 2023/2024

I have lived in Ajax for the last 52 years. During that period, I have been active in three local charities and my local Church.

My work experience was in the accounting field doing everything from Payroll to Accounts Payable and Receivable as well as submitting Government remittances.



I have been retired for the last 15 years and after being a Probus member for a few years decided to volunteer as Treasurer of the Club. I have met many new friends and am enjoying my time on the Executive.

SOUND SYSTEM

At our last General Meeting, we were able to use the Town's speakers from their Special Events Team. It is a significantly better sound system. We will continue to ask for this system when it is available. Because we can't guarantee when we get to use these, we encourage you to sit at the front of the room, just in case we have to use the single speaker system.

COFFEE BREAK

Coffee and tea are being supplied at our General Meetings, during the break, by Calvert Catering. They are very reliable, have been in business for 70 years, and are anxious to please their clients. To satisfy everyone's taste they will supply two types of coffee, regular and bold. There will be brochures and business cards available for anyone who may wish to use their services in future.



DONATIONS

Many thanks for all your donations which were used to fill toiletry bags or mugs. These will be added to Christmas hampers and Food Bank donations. Larger toiletry containers will go to House of Refuge along with woollen hats, scarves and mitts received from another donor.



Due to COVID, two of our veteran helpers were unable to join us this year. Fortunately, a non-PROBUS friend stepped up as well as the daughter of another member.

What a treat to see all the supplies... people must be travelling again. Hopefully, you'll continue to save these little toiletries to be gifted (and very much appreciated) for Christmas 2024.

For more pictures [click here](#)

Blessings. Sandy

Thank you all again. Sandy Clarke sandyc2640@gmail.com

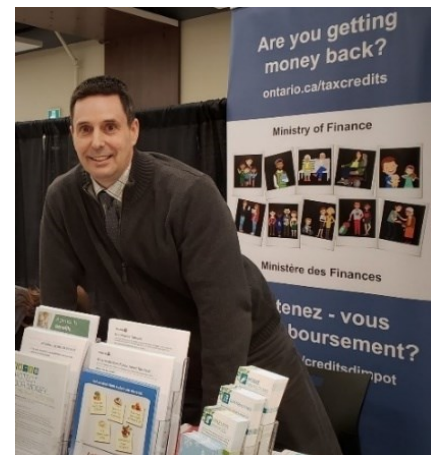
JANUARY SPEAKER

January 11th, 2024

JEREMY BERTRAND– Senior Program
Advisory Specialist | Ministry of Finance

**Understanding Ontario's Personal Income Tax – From a
Maze to Amazing**

Do you find the thought of filing your personal Income Tax and Benefit Return stressful, confusing, or overwhelming? Well come out and listen to Jeremy help you to understand the importance of increasing your knowledge of the personal income tax system.



Find out which tax credits and benefits you and your family may qualify for. Jeremy will help demystify these programs. Jeremy delivers his seminars with humour and enthusiasm.

MEMBERSHIP

We presently have 293 members.

Renewal for the 2024 Membership was sent to you by email on November 17. The e-mail has a link which allows you to log in and pay online. The renewal fee is \$50.00 as was projected in our notification at the end of August.

A reminder that the Suggestion Box and the Buddy sign-up sheet for computer-related assistance can be found at the Membership Desk.

If you arrive late to a meeting (after the front desk greeters have moved into the meeting room) please stop by the Membership Desk to be checked in.

Guests may attend up to two meetings before deciding to join the Club.

New members can be identified by a blue lanyard and guests by a yellow lanyard. Please ensure that we give them a special welcome, so they get to know us.

NAME BADGES

New member Terri Sullivan received her badge at the November General Meeting.

Welcome, Terri!

Please wear your name 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 dwprobus.membership@gmail.com if yours has gone missing. The cost of a new badge is \$25.00.

REMINDER

This is a reminder to members that you can update your Profile and Privacy settings by logging into Wild Apricot and clicking on your profile. If you need help with this please use the sign-in sheet for the Buddy System for assistance. You can also find a link there under "Invoices" to renew your membership if you misplaced your renewal email.

Bev & Dave Bicknell dwprobus.membership@gmail.com
Membership Co-Chair

SUGGESTION BOX

If you have any suggestions, please write them down and put them in the suggestion box.

The Management Team will review any suggestions received in the suggestion box that month at their monthly management meeting and post a response in the following month's Newsletter



November Suggestions

There were no suggestions received at the November GM.

Suggestions from prior months are saved on the Members Only page of our website. [Click here](#) to see past suggestions.

SHARE THE WEALTH

The Share the Wealth draw at our November GM was won by Marilyn Brown.

Marilyn is shown here with President Ada Larock and November speaker Amy Barron, receiving her winnings of \$77.00.

Congratulations Marilyn!



2024 Proposed Budget

The proposed 2024 Budget has been posted on the Members Only page for your review. If you have any questions please contact us at durhamwestprobus@gmail.com.

To access the document [Click here](#).

SOCIAL

Please note that 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 convener of the event of the change, along with the name and phone number of the person replacing you.

If registration for an event is currently at capacity, please feel free to join the waitlist. If someone has already registered but subsequently finds that they can't attend, you can purchase their

ticket. In this case, the Convenor will contact the first person on the waitlist. This is done on a person-to-person basis. Wild Apricot is not involved.

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.

NOTE: We have had several complaints lately from people who are allergic to scents so we would like to emphasize that in consideration of those who suffer from these allergies, you **DO NOT wear perfume or aftershave** when attending PROBUS gatherings.

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

[Click here](#) For information and pictures relating to past events.

2023 ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE HOLIDAYS – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

The celebrations will begin at Ajax Convention
Centre, 550 Beck Crescent, Ajax, at 11:30 a.m.

11:30 to 12:30 p.m. - Social Hour
12:30 to 2:00 p.m. – Lunch



Please note that registration is now closed.

A PREMIUM CASH BAR will be available as well as non-alcoholic cold beverages including assorted pop, assorted juices, and non-alcoholic beer.

There will be raffle prizes and Deidrey Francoise, a well-known entertainer, will lead us in a sing-along.

CONVENORS: Lorna Smith lsmith1@bell.net
Liz Ryan mikelizyan50@rogers.com

HOLIDAY LUNCH – SPECIAL RAFFLE

Mary Mullen, a member of Durham West Probus, and an experienced quilter for many years, has very generously donated one of her hand-sewn double-sized quilts with a beautiful Christmas colour theme.

The draw will take place at the Holiday Luncheon on December 7, 2023.

The quilt is to be raffled **Exclusively to PROBUS Club of Durham West Members.**

Tickets will be available at the November 9th meeting and at the Holiday luncheon

TICKETS – CASH ONLY – \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00

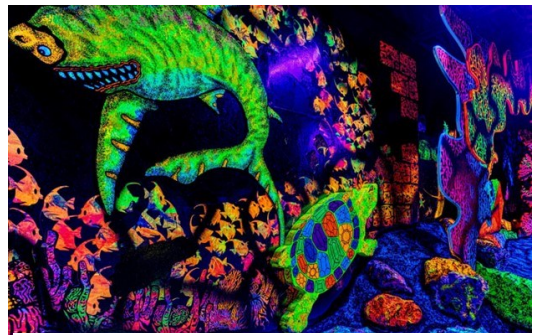
Proceeds from the sale of tickets are to be deposited with the Treasurer for the benefit of the PROBUS Club of Durham West and its members.



GLOW-IN-THE-DARK MINI-PUTT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024 75 CONSUMERS DRIVE, WHITBY

It is that time again....Pick up your putter and glow in the dark as you putt your way through the colourful indoor world of mini-putt. Join us once again for 18 holes of fun at Putting Edge in Whitby.

Plan on arriving 10 minutes early to get your putter and ball. Masks are optional.



For more information and to register
[Go to the Event.](#)

Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$14.25

Location: 75 Consumers Drive, Whitby

This is a self-drive/carpool event.

Looking forward to seeing you there!!

Please note that the deadline for signing up and paying is January 17. **We only have 28 spots available.** After that, you may put your name on the waiting list in case someone can't attend and would like to contact you about taking their spot.

(If you would like to bring a guest, contact Bernice Pyke at billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com.
(You can only sign up a guest in January).

If you have any questions please contact:

CONVENOR: Bernice Pyke a billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com

15TH ANNIVERSARY – POTLUCK LUNCH

February 2024 will be our club's 15th anniversary.

On February 8, to celebrate, with the many friends we have made over the years, we are planning a potluck lunch following our February General Meeting.

If you would like to join us and would be willing to contribute a dish please sign-up for this event.

Date: February 8, 2024

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
(time to be confirmed)

Location: Ajax Community Centre – HMS Ajax Room

We will have sign-up sheets available at the January 11, 2024, Annual General Meeting at the back of the room. Please indicate your name, email address and the dish you would be willing to bring.

Our regular coffee, tea and bottled water will be served.

If you are unable to attend the January meeting but would like to participate in the potluck lunch please contact either of the event convenors listed here.

CONVENORS: Lorna Smith at lsmith1@bell.net or
Bernice Pyke at billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com

COURT WHIST WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024 AJAX CENTRAL LIBRARY - ROTARY ROOM

Come and join our PROBUS friends, and play this fun card game - no experience required. Instructions will be provided.

Come early to socialize from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.



For more information and to register [Go to the Event](#)

You are welcome to bring your own drink and snack. Masks are optional.

OH! By the way, there will be PRIZES! Come out and try to win one.

Registration will commence on December 10th in Wild Apricot.

Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5.50

Location: Ajax Central Library - Rotary Room

This is a self-drive/carpool event.

If you have any questions contact the Convenors:

Lorna Smith at lsmith1@bell.net or

Bernice Pyke at billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com

STEEL MAGNOLIAS – SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024 SCARBOROUGH VILLAGE THEATRE

Join us for a touching, yet hilarious, presentation of Steel Magnolias. It is set in Louisiana and introduces the eccentric characters who live in the town, where social status means a lot.

We have 20 seats reserved, however, if we reach the 20 limit please join the waitlist as we may be able to purchase more tickets. The show begins at 2:00 p.m. and runs until approximately 4:00 p.m.

Registration will begin on January 1, 2024.

Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

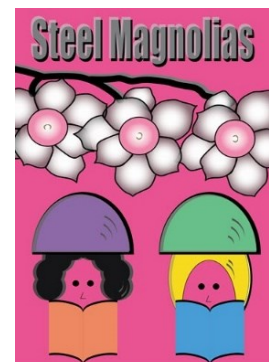
Cost: \$20.00

Location: Scarborough Village Theatre, 3600 Kingston Road, Scarborough
(Kingston and Markham Road)

This is a self-drive/carpool event.

If you have any questions contact the convenor:

CONVENOR: Bernice Pyke billandbernicejpyke@hotmail.com



To Register
[Go to the Event](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS/EXCURSIONS

For any of the following events/excursions please contact **Shirley Van Putten** at shirleyvanputten@rogers.com or call **905-619-8583**.

Wednesday, December 13 – A Christmas Carol - \$153

Ebenezer Scrooge is back! Nestled in the heart of the ultimate Christmas village, the charming holiday favourite A Christmas Carol returns to the Shaw Festival's Royal George Theatre. It's the perfect annual reminder of what Christmas is all about. Arrive feeling "Bah, humbug!" and leave full of warm, fuzzy Christmas spirit.

Your trip includes:

- Return transportation to the Shaw Festival by motor coach;
- Lunch at a local restaurant;
- Orchestra Level ticket to see "A Christmas Carol";
- 407 Toll;

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. Each group has a group leader and their contact information is available on the related webpage.

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

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

AMERICAN MAH JONGG

There are still many members who would like to play Mah Jongg and require instructions. Lessons have **tentatively** been set to take place at Parkland on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. for four consecutive weeks starting in late January. Once dates and details have been confirmed, Bev will reach out to those who have expressed an interest.



For, those who have graduated from “Mah Jongg school” we will continue to play every Wednesday at Parkland Residences between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. in the same room. If Parkland needs to change the room, they will let us know when we sign in at the reception desk. For those of you who have Mah Jongg sets, please bring them to ensure we have enough sets to play with.

Our last date to play in December will be December 6. Play will resume again on January 17.

If you are interested in playing Mah Jongg and have not already indicated your interest, please contact Bev Waite at bev.waite@outlook.com

[Click here](#) for more pictures and information.

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 December dates are the 1st, 15th and 29th.

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.



BOWLING

We normally bowl on the 4th Thursday of each month, however, due to the Christmas holidays, we are moving the date up by one week. Therefore, for December 2023 **only**, we will be moving the date to December 21st, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

For January 2024, we will go back to our regular schedule. Our bowling date in January will be January 25th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.



This is not a league **so please notify Terri Kelly each month** if you plan to bowl.

We welcome new bowlers whether novice or expert so come and join us for some fun!

Date: December 21, 2023

Location: Ajax Bowling Centre, 172 Harwood Avenue South.

Cost: \$12.00 includes 2 games and shoes (\$2.00 for shoes)
\$10.00 if you have your own bowling shoes. Payment at the bowling alley.

Contact: Terri Kelly at kellyterria@hotmail.com, or 905-427-7267
Janice Doll at kty-pwr@rogers.com or 905-239-0719

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 to the group are welcome.

For more information please contact: Linda Robbins at Richard.robbins@sympatico.ca.

We are looking forward to meeting new members.

CINEMA CLUB NEWS



On Saturday, November 18, a group of members of the Cinema Group met at Landmark Cinemas in Whitby and watched "The Holdovers".

The movie had interesting character development and we all enjoyed it.

After the movie, we went to Denny's for great food and a lively chat.

We will not be attending a movie in December.

The next movie date will be Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Landmark Cinemas in Whitby.

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

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

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

CREATE AND CHAT

The November meeting was devoted to a celebration of all that was created during the year, and this was done over a delicious lunch provided by Parkland Lifestyle Residences with a lot of chatter from 23 members attending. Also, three more red scarves for Aids Durham were donated.

In total, Sixteen beautiful red scarves were donated by members of the group to be distributed by Aids Durham before Christmas.

There will be no meeting in December so I look forward to seeing all the new projects, both completed and works-in-progress when we next meet.



Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a very healthy and happy New Year.

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact me. Sharon Marshall, at oxford9390@gmail.com

For more photos of our projects [Click here](#).

DINNER GROUP – “Dinner is Served”

A group of 17 hungry diners met at Mackenzie Pub in November. We were pleased with the variety of menu items and happy to take advantage of their senior's discount.

For more pictures [Click here](#)

For more information contact: Maria Bawcutt at bamb63e@gmail.com



DURHAM WEST MARATHON BRIDGE CLUB

2023-24 New Season

My husband David and I, have been members of the PROBUS Clubs of Ajax and Durham West for over 20 years and have enjoyed it immensely; we have gladly taken our turn in various Chairs, (Social, Bridge, VP, President, Past President) etc.

For the past few years, we have offered to organize the Marathon Bridge activity as it was going to fold since there were no volunteers. It is now back in full form and we have 12 teams getting underway for 2023-24.

Marathon Bridge is played between September and April.

Sign-ups are held in August.

Please call or email Dave and Irveen Powley at, powleydi@gmail.com or (905) 683-1444 for further information.

FRIENDLY EUCHRE

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

Dates for December/January

December 2023

1st game will be on **Friday December 1st** at the **Audley Centre Library**

2nd game will be on **Friday December 15th** at the **Ajax Main Library**

January 2024

Games will be at the Ajax Main Library on **Friday, January 12th and 26th**.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Looking forward to more fun afternoons in 2024.

Everyone is welcome. If you are interested in joining us, just come to the library, or I can be contacted at annbuffett28@gmail.com.

GARDEN CLUB

Fifteen members thoroughly enjoyed our last outing of the year at Van Belle Flower and Garden Centre to bask in EVERYTHING CHRISTMAS!

We will meet again in the new year in March or April to plan our events and outings for 2024.

The owner, Ruth, gave us a brief history of this 50-year, family-owned business and then we toured the massive greenhouses with hundreds of beautiful Christmas baskets, dazzling poinsettias, unique plants and imaginative arrangements! We then entered an enchanting area with Christmas lights, superbly decorated trees, ornaments, knickknacks and beautiful displays including Santas, angels and nutcrackers!

We met afterwards for lively conversation and a delicious lunch at Boston Pizza.

Thank you to Pat McPherson who organized this event.

For more pictures of our gardening group [Click here](#)

For more information concerning our group contact the co-chairs:

Sharon Fenn at slf809@hotmail.com or
Sharon Jackson at sharonrjackson20@gmail.com



INDOOR GOLF

Indoor Golf will resume on January 8, 2024. We play every other Monday at 10:00 a.m. from January through April.

We use the golf simulators at South Ajax Golf Course in Ajax.

We normally play for 2 hours and the cost per hour is split between the number of players using the simulator. You can use all of your clubs except the putter – the machine putts for you.

If you have any questions please contact June Booth at 289-200-1496 or jdbooth52@yahoo.ca.

LET'S EAT

On Thursday, November 16th, 11 members of the Let's Eat group met at the Greek Tycoon in Whitby (a well-known, and much-frequented by some, restaurant on Brock Street South), to enjoy some delicious Greek food, lively conversation and much laughter.

For more information contact: Ada Larock at larockgrada@gmail.com



NIBBLES AT NIGHT

Our November Nibbles was hosted by Kay and Ulf in their lovely home which was beautifully decorated for Christmas. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed a wide variety of “nibbles”.

Our Nibbles group is currently at capacity.

[Click here](#) for more pictures.

For more information contact: Fran Griffin at frangriffinhome@gmail.com



NORDIC POLE WALKERS

Great walk today (Friday, November 3)...cold and windy but a great walk and great company.

Thank you for coming out.



Rain or shine, walkers meet twice a week at 10:00 a.m. on:

Mondays at the Ajax Rotary parking lot; and
Fridays at the end of Lake Driveway and McClaren in Ajax.

No registration is required. Just show up with or without poles, your choice.

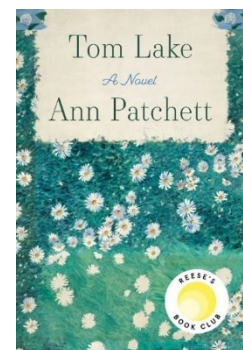
For more information contact Eileen Nixon at eileennixon8585@gmail.com.

NOVEL READERS BOOK CLUB

To start the New Year, on Wednesday, January 10th. The Novel Readers will be discussing the novel Tom Lake by Ann Patchett.

It is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart.

For more information, please contact Liz Ryan at mikelizryan50@rogers.com



OUTDOOR GOLF GROUP

Outdoor Golf at Hawthorne Valley is on hiatus for the winter and will start up again in the spring.

Anyone interested in joining the group next season can email marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca for information and details. Looking forward to seeing you then.

SNAPPED CAMERA CLUB

Nothing to report for Snapped this month, We will be holding a meeting to discuss the future of the group going forward.

If you are interested in joining Snapped, don't hesitate to get in touch with Lorna Smith at lsmith1@bell.net

TABLE TALK

There was no Table Talk outing in November.

For more information contact Shahid Naeem at naeemsx@gmail.com

UKULELE STRUMMERS

Ukulele strummers continue to play each 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. December dates are the 13th with the 27th yet to be decided.

Membership is currently at capacity.

For information contact Sue Porter at s.e.porter@rogers.com



WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP



This is a group for ALL people. We have those who love to walk and like to move at a good clip as they chat. But we also have those who like to saunter along and enjoy the scenery. And even stop from time to time to look at something or to catch one's breath. We walk for an hour (or less) starting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.

We start our walks from a different location each week. So there is constantly something new to look at. Most of our walks start from a place that has a washroom. Also, most walks are on paved or hard-packed surfaces. There is NEVER any need to commit to walking. You just show up when, and if, you feel like moving. To find out where we will be starting each Wednesday, you need to join our group by sending me an email with your name and email address. I will then add you to the weekly email which will tell you where to go for that week's walk.

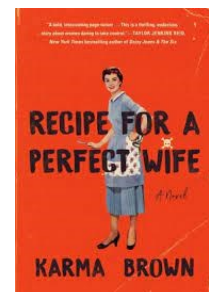
We walk all year round, in all kinds of weather. Usually, we are lucky and the weather is fine for a walk and a chat. Hope to see you on the trails whenever you can join us.

[Click here](#) for more information and pictures of our walkers.

Contact Joy Karney at joykarney@gmail.com.

WORDS WORTH READING BOOK CLUB

In December, we'll be getting together for some tasty appetizers and Christmas baking before discussing the novel, "Recipe for a Perfect Wife" by Canadian author Karma Brown. As outlined by Goodreads this book "masterfully bridges the lives of two women, living sixty years apart, who refuse to fall victim to patriarchy. While Karma Brown's signature style remains, it's laced with something sinister and dark. A brilliant, brooding, timely novel, fraught with tension, that packs a punch. Brown knows how to keep readers riveted until the very last page." In an interview with Sue Carter editor of the Quill and Quire, Brown admits " We



(women) have come a long way, but we have not come as far as maybe we would like to think when it comes to women's rights and the gender expectations within a marriage and a family".

In January, the club will be discussing "The Paris Library" by Janet Skeslien Charles. This is a true story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris during World War II. As outlined by Goodreads, " It is an unforgettable story of romance, friendship, family and the power of literature to bring us together." It is an "ode to the importance of libraries, books, and the human connections we find within both" (Kristin Harmel, New York Times bestselling author).



Contact: Jean Jackson at 905-420-6410 or jeanej@rogers.com

SHARING OUR RECIPE(S)

Recipe, Courtesy of Patricia Bolger at pbolger@rogers.com

"**The Big Guy**" and I send our "**Best Wishes of the Season**" to all families celebrating at this time of year!

I found an old-time recipe called **Cream Cheese Mints** that my Aunt Millie used to make every December. The hoard of cousins that arrived for dinner on December 25th would just devour these little morsels by the handfuls. They are a delicate mint that does not do well sitting in a candy dish for any length of time. Even though the recipe says to dry them out and store them in an airtight tin, I would expect that they would not keep for more than 3-4 days in the fridge. Keep them frozen until the day you set them out to be devoured!



These **Cream Cheese Mints** also make a lovely sweet treat from your kitchen for a friend or neighbour.

INGREDIENTS

Makes 48 mints

4 oz full-fat cream cheese

1 Tablespoon salted butter, softened

4 cups powdered sugar

½ teaspoon peppermint extract

¼ teaspoon vanilla extract

Optional - food colouring

METHOD

1. Prepare a large cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.
2. Using your hand mixer, mix the cream cheese and butter until smooth and creamy. Slowly add the powdered sugar and when all the lumps are gone, add the peppermint extract and vanilla extract. (The little bit of vanilla smooths out the harsher flavour of the peppermint).
3. Roll the dough into a large ball and divide it into 4 sections. Place each section into its own separate bowl then add the drops of food colouring. Mix thoroughly and wash your hands between bowls to keep your colours bright. (If you buy the Neon Food Colouring, it will make very bright colours).
4. Roll small bits of dough into a ball the size of a small marble. Place on the parchment-lined cookie sheet then press a small dessert fork to make an impression into the top and flatten the marble.
5. Let the whole tray dry at room temperature for 2-3 hours. These little morsels can be refrigerated for 3-4 days but I recommend that you freeze them until the day you want to serve them!

NOTE: I have made these mints without food colouring and they are a lovely off-white mint that can be spread across a tray of Holiday baking or perched on top of a pudding or a dish of ice cream.

This recipe can be doubled but you will be making a **lot of mints!** Cautiously double the peppermint and vanilla extracts if you double the recipe.



For information on Age-Friendly Ajax [click here](#).

Age-Friendly Walking Study

Is your neighbourhood age-friendly?

If you're over the age of 65 years and live in the Durham Region, you may be eligible to participate in a research study. You may receive a \$100 gift card for participating.

For more information [Click here](#).



Ajax Library Bridge

Library Bridge takes place in the Rotary Room at the library's main branch from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Following is the schedule for December and January.

December

Thursday, December 7, 2023	Social Bridge
Thursday, December 14, 2023	Social Bridge
Thursday, December 21, 2023	Social Bridge
Thursday, December 28, 2023	No Bridge

January

Thursday, January 4, 2024	Social Bridge
Thursday, January 11, 2024	Bridge Lesson – Topic “Minor suit Openings and Responder with a Major Suit”
Thursday, January 18, 2024	Social Bridge
Thursday, January 25, 2024	Bridge Lesson – Topic “Minor suit Openings and Responder with No Major Suit”

If you have questions please contact Harvey Brodhecker at hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca

Ajax Seniors Club

Ajax Seniors Club now has a website. Click here [Ajax Seniors Club](#) to check out what's happening.

St. Francis Centre for Community Arts and Culture

Fall has arrived, and with it comes a new season at the St. Francis Centre! From amazing variety performances and concerts to engaging family programming, live theatre, fun events, and thought-provoking films, this season has it all.

[Click here](#) to see the 2023-2024 Season at a Glance.



Tickets can be purchased online, at the Ajax and McLean Community Centres, the Audley Recreation Centre, or at the St. Francis Centre Box Office during posted Box Office hours. And

don't forget that you can purchase group tickets (10 or more tickets purchased at once) and will receive a 10% discount.



PROBUS Canada has worked with Johnson Inc., a national benefits provider, to offer a benefit plan custom-designed for our members. The plan includes the following voluntary benefit options that can be purchased on a stand-alone basis to meet your insurance needs:

- Extended Health Care (EHC) with "Prestige" Travel Insurance (includes Trip Cancellation)
- Dental Care
- MEDOC® Travel Insurance (includes Trip Cancellation)
- Stand-Alone Trip Cancellation/Interruption
- Guaranteed or Term Life Insurance

For more information visit

<https://www.probuscanada.ca/run-a-club/insurance/healthtravel-insurance>