



The PROBUS Club of Durham West

Our Next General Meeting is on **March 7, 2024**, at **10:00 a.m.**
in the HMS Ajax Room, South Entrance, Ajax Community Centre,
75 Centennial Road, Ajax, ON L1S 4S4

(Please note, that this meeting is one week earlier than usual)

March 2024 President's Message

Welcome to our March 2024 Newsletter. If you subscribe to Ground Hog Day predictions, we have just a couple of weeks left of winter. We've been lucky so far, setting new warm temperature records accompanied by very little snow, but we're not out of the woods yet. Maybe I'll get to try our new snowblower.

If you were at our February General Meeting, you would have been entertained by a very informative and interactive presentation by Don Cornack on the topic of Estate and Tax planning ideas. Judging by the number of questions and the lineup to talk to Don after our meeting, most members found it highly informative. In fact, Don didn't get to finish his presentation. Maybe we'll have to get him back to do that.

A big thanks to Lorna Smith, Bernice Pyke and their team for putting together our Pot Luck luncheon, celebrating our 15th anniversary. We had a final count of around 75 members attend the luncheon. Everyone got to enjoy a wide variety of delicious food. Well done all.

Our 2023 Financial Review has been conducted by one of our members Renate Kelly. As mentioned previously, Renate has a degree in Business Management with a major in Accounting Finance. She was employed as an Auditor with Revenue Canada. Renate completed her review of our financial records and found that they are accurate and added "well organized and complete". (Thanks Liz). To review her summary letter please go to our Members Only page or [Click Here](#).

Although we are just coming up to the end of our first quarter (already), we will have two positions that are in their third and final year - that of Treasurer as well as Membership Chair. According to our by-laws, we will need to replace these positions next year. If you think you would like to learn more about these positions for next year, contact Liz for the Treasurer role or Bev and Dave Bicknell for the Membership Chair position. With Wild Apricot, almost all of the financial transactions are now handled by the platform, but we still need volunteers to handle other aspects of these roles. We will bring this up again later in the year, but no harm in starting early.

Beginning in April, we will be temporarily suspending the production of the PDF full-text version of our newsletter. This will be for three months on a trial basis. You will continue to receive our e-newsletter with all the same content except for the link at the top for the full-text version.

Ena Shaw has been doing a magnificent job of keeping up the role of two people – that of Webmaster and Newsletter Editor. She manages and updates our website, creates our online

event experience and produces our monthly e-newsletters and our full-text newsletters but it's the workload of two people.

To help manage that workload, starting in April, we will be temporarily suspending the production of the PDF full-text version of our newsletter. I know some of you will miss the full-text version but we need to appreciate that this is a volunteer role (2 roles in fact) and we need to reduce Ena's workload where possible.

This will be for three months on a trial basis. You will continue to receive our e-newsletter with all the same content except for the link at the top for the full-text version.

We will revisit this in three months.

Just a reminder, our upcoming **General Meeting is on March 7th** due to the Town of Ajax's March Break scheduling. Our speaker will be Lianne Harris. Lianne is always an entertaining presenter. I certainly look forward to her presentation as I'm sure you do.

Last but not least, this month we have St. Patrick's Day and Easter.

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and his special day has evolved into a celebration of Irish culture with parades, special foods, music, dancing, drinking and a whole lot of green.

Easter arrives earlier than normal this year at the end of this month for those who celebrate. (Yay! more chocolate). For our family, it has always been a special occasion for us to spend time together.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Easter to you.



Walter Matias
President

BY-LAWS UPDATE – NOTICE OF MOTION

Our by-laws require that we review them at least once every two years. We have some minor updates this year which can be reviewed by [Clicking here](#).

According to our Amendments to Bylaws Section:

Any bylaw may be amended by a motion receiving approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present and voting at a General Meeting, provided that such meeting has a quorum and provided that Notice of the Motion has been given.

As such, we will go through the minor changes at this month's General Meeting

SOUND SYSTEM

Recently we have been 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.



Coffee and tea will be available at our General Meetings, during the break, supplied 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 dark roast.

Brochures and business cards will be available for anyone who may wish to use their services in future.

MARCH SPEAKER

March 7th, 2024

Lianne Harris – Persia

Take a magic carpet ride for one hour with Lianne Harris as we fly into ancient Persia.

From modern mathematics and astronomy to the enduring stories of Ali Baba shared among the caravan drivers along the Silk Route, learn of the enduring legacy of one of the world's most important empires. Understand better how Persia enchanted and enlightened the past, and why it was the envy of the world.



For more information on Lianne Harris and other past speakers [Click here](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership stands at 256.

We thank all those who processed their renewal by the due date. As per our bylaws, memberships not renewed by January 31, 2024, were suspended and will require an administration fee to be restored. Questions **may be directed to** dwprobus.membership@gmail.com.

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.

Note: 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.

NAME BADGES



Pictured above are New members who received their badges at the February General Meeting. From left to right (and we apologize if we got the order wrong) Mona Liblik, Barbara Edwards, Lorraine Lee, Gail Carter, Christine Chidley Wilson, Kevin Wilson, Erica Lozynsky and Walter Matias (President).

Welcome to our new members!

Please wear your name badge at ALL Probus meetings and events. 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.

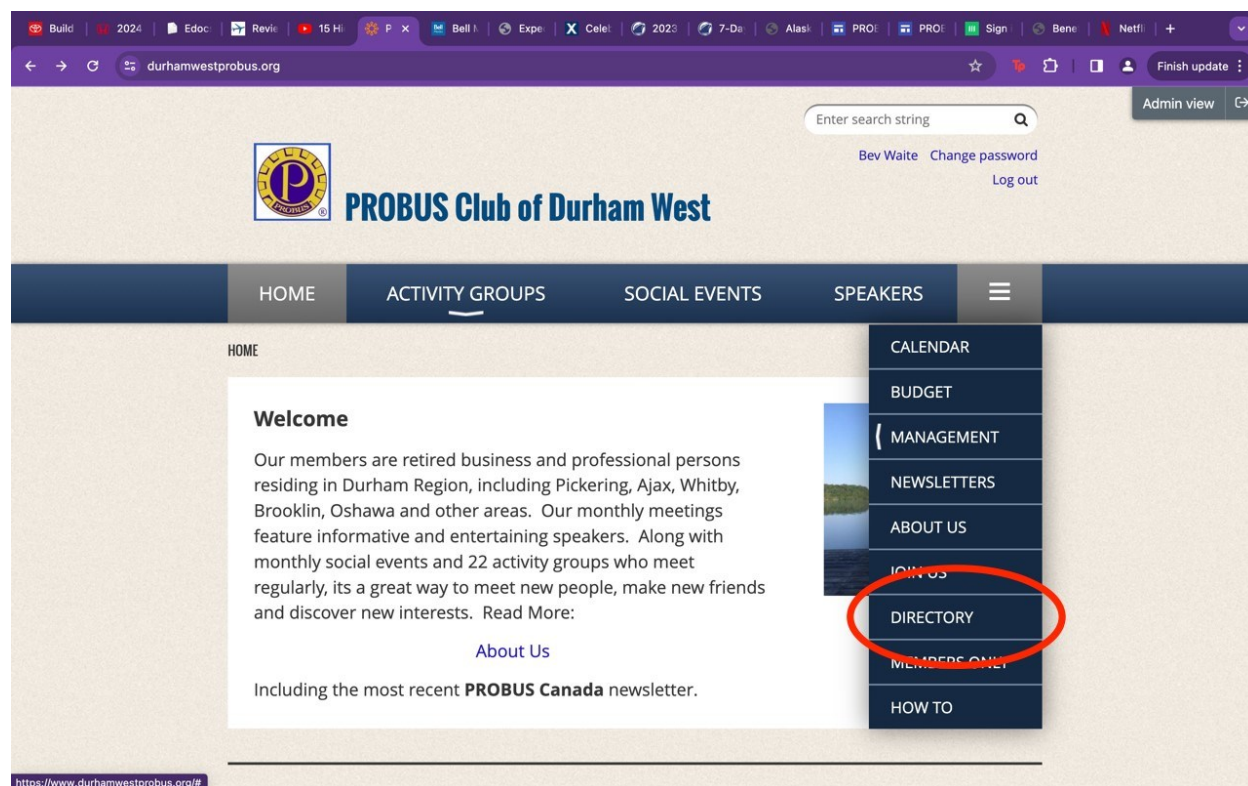
If you have lost or misplaced your badge you may purchase a replacement at the Membership Desk or contact us at dwprobusteam@gmail.com. The cost of a new badge is \$25.00.

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

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 name.

For activity leaders wishing to check if someone still has an active membership, see the instructions below. You must be logged in to gain access.



If you need help with technical issues related to Wild Apricot, please add your name to the Buddy System sign-up sheet located at the Membership Desk and someone will contact you to provide assistance.

SUGGESTION BOX

We have a Suggestion Box located at the Membership Desk. If you have any suggestions that you feel would make our club better, please write them down and put them in the suggestion box. This may include proposed social events or activities. We are always looking for new ideas.



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.

February Suggestions

There were no suggestions in the Suggestion Box at our February meeting.

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 February GM was won by Judy Fleming who won \$65.00.

Judy is pictured here with speaker Don Cornack (left) and Walter Matias (centre).

Congratulations Judy!



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 event convenor 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Many of our members suffer from allergies. In consideration of those who suffer from an allergy to scents, we ask that you please refrain from wearing perfume or aftershave when attending PROBUS gatherings or events.

PAST EVENTS

15TH ANNIVERSARY – POTLUCK LUNCH



The PROBUS Club of Durham West celebrated their 15th anniversary by having a potluck luncheon following the speaker. It was well attended by approximately 75 members. The variety of food was excellent and everyone had a great time reminiscing with friends and watching a slideshow of past events and activities. Thanks to all who attended and the delicious food provided.

If you forgot to pick up your serving utensils after the event please see Bernice or Lorna as they may have them.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

This event is for **members** only.

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

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.

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



Registration is Closed
[Go to the Event](#)

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

Steel Magnolias is set in Louisiana and introduces the eccentric characters who live in a town, where social status means a lot.

We have 65 seats reserved, however, if we reach the 65 limit and you have not bought a ticket but would still like to attend, please contact the convenor Bernice Pyke at billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com as there may be those who can't attend and would like to sell their ticket.

This is a self-drive/carpool event.



Registration is closed
[Go to the Event](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – STEEL MAGNOLIAS

For those who have purchased tickets, they will be available for pick up at the March general meeting. I will be at a table at the back of the room at 9:30 a.m. and during the coffee break. If you have a friend(s) whom you want to sit with, have only one of you come to see me with the names. You can look at the seating map, select your seats and pick up the tickets for those seats.

People going to the show will receive an email with directions closer to the date.

CONVENOR: Bernice Pyke billandbernicejpyke@hotmail.com

GAMES AFTERNOON

Are you a “game player” and have a favourite board game?

Do you love a good afternoon of board games? If so, then you should register for this free event! Bring your own board game or just bring yourself and join us for a fun afternoon of different games.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Time: 2:30 to 4:30

Location: Chartwell Pickering City Centre Retirement Residence

There is no cost for this event. **Registration is now open.**

If you have any questions contact:

CONVENOR: Bev Waite at bevwaite@outlook.com



For more details and to Register
Go to the Event

METROLINX TOUR

Are you a rail fan? Are you interested in learning how GO trains are maintained, repaired and/or stored? Well, here is your opportunity to see what goes on at the Whitby Rail Maintenance Facility.

Note: this is a members-only event.

We have been offered an opportunity for **10 members** to get a **behind-the-scenes** look at this facility.



For more details and to Register
Go to the Event

Registration will open on April 12, 2024.

Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$0.00

This is a self-drive/carpool event.

The tour will last approximately 1 1/2 hours. As this is a working facility, you will need to wear a safety vest, hard hat and goggles, all of which will be provided to you.

You will need to sign a waiver that will be emailed to you shortly after you sign up for the tour.

If you have any questions contact the Convenor:

CONVENOR: Bernice Pyke billandbernicejpyke@hotmail.com

Best of BARNFUL OF BROADWAY

To celebrate its 25th season, Westben is presenting the very best of its best Broadway music theatre presentations, with some favourite guest artists.

Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$59.00 (show only)

Location: Westben Performing Arts Centre,
Campbellford

After the show, you may opt to join us for dinner at the Mill Restaurant and Pub, located at Cobourg Creek Golf Club, 990 Ontario Street in Cobourg.

Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. and is optional and will be at your own cost.

When registering, please remember to indicate whether or not you will be joining us for dinner as we need a firm number for reservations.

This is a self-drive/carpool event.

COST: \$59.00 (show only)

Registration will open on April 1 (No Fooling!!)



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

Contact either of the convenors if you have any questions.

CONVENORS: Maria Bawcutt bamb63e@gmail.com
Sharon Fenn slf809@hotmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

September 15, 2024.

Blue Jays Game - details to follow when available.



PAST EVENTS

[Click here](#) for information and pictures of past events

DONATIONS

Many thanks for the toiletries donated as Christmas gifts for those less fortunate in 2023 and previous years. Please continue to collect them as you travel.

A special thank you for the shaving creams for men and the Irish spring soaps. We were able to put together six mugs containing items for men this past Christmas. These were especially appreciated.

Using mugs to hold the items has proved to be the best method of distribution as the recipient can use the container afterwards. We would love to be able to continue this tradition in 2024. However, we have depleted our mug supply and unless we can replenish it, this may not happen.

Please check your cupboards for any extra mugs that you no longer need, and that you would be willing to donate to this worthy cause.

Mugs can be brought to any General Meeting between now and October and given to Sandy Clark.

For any questions please contact Sandy Clark at sandyc2640@gmail.com.

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 (lauralemay@sympatico.ca), 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 or starting a group, we are looking forward to hearing from you. Please reach out to our Activities Chair, Laura Lemay at lauralemay@sympatico.ca

PROPOSED NEW BOOK CLUB

Do you love to read and chat about books? We have a few members interested in joining a book club and we need a few more people in order to start a third book club.

It is a great opportunity to get to know people and be introduced to new authors in a casual and relaxed setting. Our book clubs usually meet once a month with each member hosting once per year.



Assistance will be provided to get this third group started. If you are interested, please contact Laura Lemay at lauralemay@sympatico.ca.

AMERICAN MAH JONGG

The Mah Jongg students persevered and they have completed their lessons and now they have started to play independently! I would like to thank those experienced members who attended the lessons to coach the newbies. It is through their support that the lessons have been such a success!



We will continue to run the two days of Mahjongg (Tuesday and Wednesday) until the end of March, and starting April 2nd, we will come together as one group and play!!

For those of you who have Mah Jongg sets, please bring them to ensure we have enough sets to play with.

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 on the second and fourth Friday of every month.

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 March dates are the 8th, and 22nd.

Cost: \$6.00 for two hours

Food and beverages are again available for purchase as the restaurant has re-opened under new management. This is a drop-in format and registration is not required.

SINCE THIS IS A PUBLIC VENUE, PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR BADGE SO YOU CAN BE IDENTIFIED AS A PROBUS MEMBER.

BOWLING

We bowl on the 4th Thursday of each month 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: March 28, 2024

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, February 17, a group of members of the Cinema Group met at Landmark Cinemas in Whitby and watched the movie Bob Marley, One Love. We enjoyed the movie.

After the movie, we went to Mr. Greek for great food and a lively chat.

The next movie date will be Saturday, March 16, 2024, at Landmark Cinemas in Whitby.

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

This Family Day, 13 ladies met at Parkland Lifestyle Residences to exchange news, patterns and ideas for future projects and admire current ones. There was knitting, crocheting and embroidery on display and lots of lively discussion.

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”

Our group met at The Brock House in February. Our numbers were diminished as several members winter in the south.

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

Friendly Euchre is held at the Ajax Main Library in the Rotary Room.

We will play Euchre on **Friday, March 8th and 22nd.**

The doors will open at 1:30 pm and **Euchre starts at 2:00 p.m. and finishes by 4:00 p.m.**

We have lots of chatting and laughter, a very social group that enjoys a game of cards.

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

The Garden Club currently has 30 enthusiastic members and we are looking forward to our first meeting of the year on March 5th.

This will be our annual Planning meeting to come up with ideas and suggestions for our monthly outings throughout the year. We look forward to the suggestions put forward and this usually results in lively discussions as we decide on the dates for the outings.



Parkland Lifestyle Residences (located at 3 Rossland Rd W., Ajax west of Harwood) has graciously agreed to let us continue meeting in their beautiful Great Room on the 2nd floor.

The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. until approximately 3:00-3:30 p.m.

Please contact us if you are interested in joining our group.

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

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

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

INDOOR GOLF

The Indoor Golf activity at Ajax South Breeze Golf restarted on January 8th after a long, long wait.

Our group meets every other Monday at 10:00 am. from January through April.

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

A winter storm blew in on Thursday, February 15th but that didn't stop 3 intrepid travellers from enjoying dinner at A Tavola.

A Tavola celebrated its 10th anniversary on February 14th. All the food is prepared fresh on-site. Delicious. The service is "Wow".

Next month the group is meeting at Sauter's Inn, Pickering Village.



[Click here](#) for more pictures.

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

NIBBLES AT NIGHT

Our February Nibbles group was hosted by Jean and Sharon Jackson and was well attended as you can see by all the footwear lined up on Jean's mat at the door. As always there were plenty of Nibbles to go around and lots of laughs too."

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

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.

[Click here](#) for more pictures.

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

NOVEL READERS BOOK CLUB

In March we will be reading *Hang the Moon* by Jeannette Walls **an American author and journalist widely known as a former gossip columnist** for MSNBC and author of *The Glass Castle*. This is her most recent book and is described as a Wild ride through prohibition-era Virginia with a scrappy heroine at the wheel. It was a nominee for Best Historical Fiction in 2023.

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



OUTDOOR GOLF GROUP

Outdoor golf will resume when the weather permits. Until then we can cheer on Nick Taylor from our armchairs.

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

Great outing at the Pat Bayly square in Ajax. Ten members showed up for photos.

The weather was perfect for an outing with a temperature of +7° and lots of sunshine.

Off to look for Ajax winter wonderland photos.... followed by a visit to the local Goldies Cafe in Ajax.

[Click here](#) for more pictures.

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



TABLE TALK

Table Talk had its February get-together at Captain's Boil in Ajax. This is a seafood restaurant where you are supposed to eat with your hands. The restaurant does provide disposable bibs and gloves. The food is tasty and servings are of decent size. It certainly was an interesting experience.

We are a dinner group that gets together on the last Monday of each month, at 6:00 p.m.

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



UKULELE STRUMMERS

The ukulele strummers are taking a winter break until April! Don't forget to practice strummers! See you all in April.

Membership is currently at capacity.

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



WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP



February 14, 2024

Last week was a great walk from the Ajax Public Library parking lot and we got a nice group shot to mark the occasion.

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.

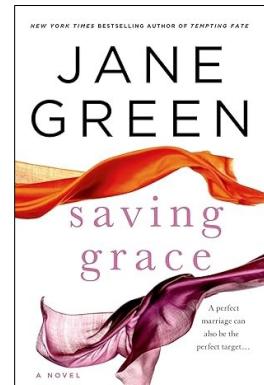
We walk all year round, in all kinds of weather. Usually, we are lucky and the weather is fine for a walk and a chat. Hope to see you on the trails whenever you can join us.

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

Contact Joy Karney at joykarney@gmail.com.

WORDS WORTH READING BOOK CLUB

In March, the book club will be reading the novel *Saving Grace* by Jane Green. As outlined by Goodreads, a site for readers and book recommendations, "Grace and Ted Chapman are widely regarded as the perfect literary power couple. But the marriage is not all that it seems to be. Ted is a successful novelist but Grace must try to deal with his rages and mood swings. When his longtime assistant and mainstay leaves, Grace finds herself in need of help but with no one to turn to. But then a new assistant comes to assist Ted although just maybe she is too good to be true. With everything at stake and no one to confide in, Grace must find a way to save herself before it's too late."



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**" breaks out the castanets and does a quick gyrating dance clicking his heels and spinning around the kitchen whenever I prepare this *Gypsy Stew*. I found this recipe in my "The Food of Spain" (2008) cookbook and every time I make it, the kitchen is filled with amazing aromas. It is a very filling evening meal that can be enhanced with a loaf of fresh bread or homemade biscuits. The Swiss Chard (also known as silverbeet) may be hard to source at this time of the year but you can easily substitute spinach or kale leaves. There is usually enough left for lunch the next day, but I was so surprised that the taste of the spices faded when it was reheated the next day. You may just want to add some rosemary and cumin to pop up the flavours. It also freezes well.

"The Big Guy" recommends a Spanish full-bodied red wine possibly a Rioja made from the Tempranillo grapes. Enjoy!

GYPSY STEW (GUISADO GITANO)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ¼ cups dried white navy beans
or 1 large can of cannellini white beans
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, chopped
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 tsp sweet paprika
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- ¼ tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp cayenne pepper



1 tsp dried rosemary
1 red pepper, seeded and diced
1 ½ lbs pork tenderloin, cut into 1" cubes
1 large tin of chopped tomatoes with juice
2 cups chicken or vegetable stock
1 sweet potato (with orange flesh), peeled and cubed
2 medium carrots, sliced in rounds
5-6 Swiss Chard leaves, washed, deveined and shredded

METHOD

1. If you are using dried navy beans, soak for at least 3 hours and simmer on the stove for 45 minutes then drain. If you are using canned beans just drain and proceed.
 2. In a large pot, heat 2 Tablespoons of oil then saute the garlic and onions. Add the pork tenderloin cubes and cook until the pork is evenly pale brown. Reduce the heat to medium then add all the spices.
 3. Add the tomatoes and stock and simmer 10 minutes. Add the beans, red pepper, carrots and sweet potato. Bring to a slow boil for 30 minutes.
 4. Add the Swiss Chard and cook for another 5 minutes or until the Chard is wilted.
 5. Serve.
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For information on Age-Friendly Ajax [click here](#).



Tax Clinics 2024

Volunteers from the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program will be available to assist you with filing your 2023 tax return. This program is available for Durham Region residents who have a valid Ajax Public Library card and a modest income with simple tax situations. For more information [Click here](#).

Town of Ajax Upcoming Events

For information on upcoming events click on <http://ajax.ca/55plus>

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 February.

February

Thursday, March 7, 2024	Social Bridge
Thursday, March 14, 2024	Lesson 10 – Preemptive bids
Thursday, March 21, 2024	Social Bridge
Thursday, March 28, 2024	Takeout Doubles

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

Ajax Seniors Club

For information on what's happening at Ajax Seniors Club [Click Here](#).

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/club-reference-guide/insurance/policies/healthtravel>