



PROBUS Club of Durham West

www.durhamwestprobus.org

March 2021

PROBUS Monthly Meeting via Zoom March 11th, 2021

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



Notes from Byron's
calendar:

Every day, play Bridge on-line, play with model train,
Every second evening, watch Raptors play basketball,
March 8, start looking for summer tires that didn't get put on car in 2020,
March 11, Durham West Probus general meeting at 10:00 a.m. with Steafan Hannigan and Saskia Tompkins, Irish Musicians, wear green and be prepared for a good time,
March 15, get the COVID-19 vaccine,
March 17, Saint Patricks' Day, green beer, Irish music and dance,
March 21, spring equinox, sun crosses the equator, days are longer than nights,
March 25, put summer tires on car, (if they are found)
Wait for April.
Remember, stay positive, test negative.

Byron Simmons

Byron Simmons, President
bandjsimmons@rogers.com

Ruth Bridge, Vice President
rbridge@rogers.com

Jim Hinnecke, Past President
james.hinnecke@rogers.com

Ann Buffett, Secretary
annbuffett28@gmail.com

Bernice Pyke, Treasurer
billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com

Geoff & Bonnie Cutten, Membership
gcutten0809@rogers.com

Shahid Naeem, Speaker
naeemsx@gmail.com

vacant, House

Lorna Smith, Social
lsmith1@bell.net

June Booth, Activities
jdbooth52@yahoo.ca

Ada Larock, Newsletter
durhamwestprobus@gmail.com

Ian Medford, Webmaster
ismedford1@gmail.com

The best submissions for our Valentine's Day 2021



Swans by Bonnie Cutten
And I "beg" you to be my Valentine!!
By Lorna Smith.

Mr. Valentine, written by Glenn
Fraser, is published here in
our PROBUS Club of Durham West
website

<http://durhamwestprobus.org/infotainment>

For information on other PROBUS Clubs in
Canada go to <https://probus.org> and for
International Clubs go to
<https://probusglobal.org>.



MARCH SPEAKER

A Virtual St Patrick's Day Music Party



The Celtic duo, Steafan from Ireland and Saskia from England, have performed for 20+ years. This will be a return engagement after performing at our club in January 2020.

Besides their own album as a duo, called Moorchild, they have recorded over 100 albums with other musicians and have run their own recording studio. Steafan has collected over 800 musical instruments during his travels, 40 of which he plays on a regular basis. Saskia plays violin, viola and cello. Together they make lovely Celtic music.



MEMBERSHIP



A BIG thank you to everyone who submitted their membership dues. We have 311 members as of March 1, 2021. We have lots of room for new members - there is no waiting list.

If you are interested in joining the Management Committee as the Membership Chair, we will gladly mentor you. Our term is up later this year.

Remember to send us any changes to your email, mailing address or telephone number.

Geoff & Bonnie Cutten
Membership Chairs

Member Profile



Shahid
Naeem

We moved to Ajax in 2012 and I became member of PROBUS Club of Durham West in 2015. Currently, I chair the committee which arranges speakers for the club's general meetings. Previously, I served the club as its secretary from 2016 to 2019. I was born in Pakistan but have lived abroad for the last 45 years. I enjoy reading, woodworking (with extremely limited skills) and travelling. My favourite subjects are history, finance, and current affairs. Being a history buff, I like to visit places with lots of history and have been to China, the Middle East, and many countries in Europe. Apart from the hobbies, I keep busy with volunteering for the Ajax Library, Durham Community Care, Victoria Order of Nurses (Hospice) and Durham Region Council on Aging. I have degrees in Accounting and Business, with the bulk of my working career spent in Oil and Gas industry. We love being in Canada, the best country in the world.

SOCIAL



Check these websites if you are interested in playing online games such as crosswords, sudoku, trivia etc. To get to the website link hold the cursor over the link and hit Ctrl and click.

Crosswords

<https://www.boatloadpuzzles.com/playcrossword>

Sudoku

<https://www.websudoku.com/>

Word Search

<https://api.razzlepuzzles.com/wordsearch>

Spot the Difference

<https://zone.msn.com/en/spotthedifference/>

Jeopardy, online games and puzzles

<https://www.arkadium.com/cn/games/jeopardy/>

Trivia

<https://www.timeout.com/usa/things-to-do/online-trivia-games-to-play-remotely>

More trivia

<https://www.sporcle.com/>

Are we missing the chance to play euchre, hearts, spades, bridge, etc.? Check out www.trickstercards.com if you haven't already discovered this site. Play cards with friends or ask for someone to fill in, online, in your own places, no masks required!

Perhaps you are interested in some brain games. Check out www.lumosity.com
If you have any social activities or submissions for the newsletter please contact Lorna Smith, Social Chair at lsmith1@bell.net.

NEWS

Ctrl + Click link below for news and COVID-19 news and updates from Lakeridge Health or The Region of Durham:

<https://www.lakeridgehealth.on.ca/en/patientsandvisitors/letters-to-the-community.asp>

<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-vaccines.aspx>

ACTIVITIES

I would like to thank all the activity group leaders for keeping the membership updated on their groups...whether meeting or not....and for continuing your leadership role.

Please remember that a new leader will be required for the Marathon Bridge group. Once we are back to meeting face to face, this leader will be taking on sign ups, organizing the group and submitting photos & items to the newsletter.

A reminder to the Activity Group leaders that you are invited to use the club's Zoom account for your meetings. It's a great way of keeping in touch and sharing your interests. Please contact me for the instructions and try this type of meeting.

Coordinating an interest group can be rewarding. Right now, it is keeping in touch with your group members and sending a newsletter submission once a month.

June Booth



BOOK CLUBS

WORDS WORTH READING BOOK CLUB

In March, the book club will be discussing the historical fiction novel *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman. It is a story of forbidden love, set on the tropical island of St. Thomas about the extraordinary woman who gave birth to painter Camille Pissarro, the Father of Impressionism. It outlines a fierce sorrowful tale of the conflict between personal desire and social constraints that echo through three generations on the island. We continue to meet safely via Zoom.

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

BOWLING

Our group has decided that we will continue to put our bowling sessions on hold. We hope to resume if we can safely in September.

The health & safety of our members is our top priority!

Stay active this Winter by getting outside in the sunshine and exercising.

Bonnie bcutten0809@rogers.com

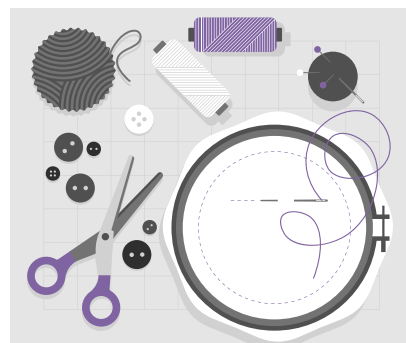
CREATE AND CHAT

I hope you are all well and enjoying some of this time honing your craft. Whenever they resume, meetings will take place at Westney Gardens, Art Studio, from 1-3pm on the third Monday of the month.

Looking forward to being an active group again.

Please contact me for further information.

Contact: Sharon Marshall oxford9390@gmail.com



GARDEN CLUB

It is time to start thinking about the coming gardening season. What are your plans for the coming season? I am getting ready to order new plants from the many garden catalogues that I

get in the mail. I think that I will try hardy geraniums this year. I have never tried them and I am curious to see how well they do, over winter. I am also getting my bulbs and tubers ready to be planted in the Spring. This year a few dahlias, gladiolas, and begonias. Won't you let me know what your plans are?

Geoff Nie



NATURE LOVERS

All of this year's proposed Nature Lovers outings are postponed until further notice. I am planning two scavenger hunts and a trash pickup in spring and a late summer/fall nature hike. I will keep you posted on when and if these are a go.

Geoff Cutten



SNAPPED PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The Snapped photography club enjoyed a Zoom meeting in February. We reviewed photos that were taken by club members and selected our favourites and enjoyed learning more about where the photos were taken and capturing the shots. These photos are available on the <http://durhamwestprobus.org/photoshare-2020> website. Press the arrow keys to look at all the great photos we have been taking. We are hoping to venture outside for our March outing but that will depend on weather and COVID-19 restrictions.

Snapped is an amateur photography club where all types of cameras, mobile phones and levels of photography are welcome. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month (Zoom meeting during COVID - 19). Contact Lorna Smith at lsmith1@bell.net if you are interested in joining the club.

Wednesday Walking Group

Join us each Wednesday at 10 am as we walk various paths in the area. No need to commit. You just show up whenever it suits your schedule. We walk at various speeds for anywhere up to an hour. To join us, send me your name and email address. Each weekend you will receive the location in an email. The time goes by fast when you are chatting! We follow all the regulations, so walk with us safely.

Bernice Pyke

billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com

Call for New Board Members

This year the club needs to fill the following board openings, each of which would be for three years.

- Treasurer

This role is perfect for a person who likes to work with figures. They would be responsible for the club finances, including budgeting, banking, bill payments and preparing financial statements.

- Membership

This role is great for those that want to get to know all club members. They would be responsible for signing up new members, renewals of current members, receiving membership fees, and keeping track of the membership list.

- Webmaster

This role is good fit for the 'techie'. As webmaster they would be responsible for the club website and its social media accounts.

- House

Another good opportunity for the "people person". This role is vital for the success of our physical meetings, and includes management of the welcome desk, 50/50 draw, meeting room logistics and providing refreshments.

The club also seeks a new Vice President, an important position that will in its second year evolve into the Club President role, leading the club for a year, and acting as 'emcee' at its monthly meetings.

Continuing the Call...

Our club's ongoing success is only possible through the continued existence of a strong and active board. But board membership is also rewarding, in addition to supporting the club, board members have opportunities to learn, interact with club members, meet with members of other clubs, and most importantly, have fun. And note, a couple or two unrelated individuals can share a board role.

Please let me know if you would like to serve. Full position descriptions are available on <http://durhamwestprobus.org/job-description>, and I and other board members would be happy to speak to you to give you more information. As a director you can rely upon the support of other members of the board, as well as those who were directors in the past, including a period of time where you would work with the outgoing director to fully understand your new role.

Jim Hinnecke, Past President



NEWS

What's happening for seniors in our town? A calendar of events, important phone numbers and web sites, Skating, Lunch & Learn and Seniors Centre without Walls registrations and more. It's all at www.ajax.ca/55plus



Mark your calendars for the next craft crate registration at 9 am April 6th for a candle making kit. (*Dorothy Green painted this snowman from a previous craft crate-Ed.*)

Virtual Fitness Programs including Tai Chi, Yoga over Zoom for March, to register see [Active Communities Link](#) or call Customer Service 905-427-8811

Ajax Library Tax Clinic: to book an appointment please visit www.ajaxlibrary.ca or call: 905-683-4000 x 8813

Town of Ajax is inviting residents with an interest in Age-Friendly Community planning to volunteer on the Age-Friendly Review Panel. To apply, visit

[Town-of-Ajax-Age-Friendly-Review-Panel](#)

Additional Activity Groups and Contact Information

If you would like more information about when and where these groups meet or what they are doing for fun and learning, please contact the leader or June Booth at jdbooth52@yahoo.ca

BREW CREW	- Patsy Leamon	palpa@sympatico.ca
DINNER IS SERVED CLUB	- Fran Griffin	frangriffinhome@gmail.com
DINNER GROUP- ORIGINAL	- Bruce Green	meandchester@bell.net
DINNER GROUP #3	- Shahid Naeem	naeemsx@gmail.com
GARDEN CLUB	- Geoff Nie	geoff.nie@sympatico.ca
INDOOR GOLF	- Elizabeth Long	elizabeth.long97@yahoo.ca
UKELELE STRUMMERS	- Sue Porter	s.e.porter@rogers.com
NIBBLES AT NIGHT	- Fran Griffin	frangriffinhome@gmail.com
BREAKFAST CLUB	- Linda Robbins	richard.robbins@sympatico.ca
MARATHON BRIDGE	- June Booth	jdbooth52@yahoo.ca

Do you find Tax Time is Stressing You Out?

The Town of Ajax Public Library is hosting a tax talk by the CRA on Tuesday, March 9 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. A representative from the Canada Revenue Agency will be on hand to explain the benefits and services which may be available to you. During this presentation, we will be focusing on these topics: Goods and Services Tax / Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) Credit, Disability Tax Credit, Canada Recovery Benefits, Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit, Canada Caregiver Benefit, Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), CVITP and Q&A. It will be done through Zoom so people will need to register [HERE](#). (Hover the mouse over link and press Ctrl + Click-Ed)

Did You Know?

These are some facts about Lake Ontario.

- 1) Lake Ontario is the smallest of the Great Lakes in surface area, and second smallest in depth.
- 2) It is the 14th largest lake on the planet.
- 3) The province of Ontario was name after the lake, and not vice versa.
- 4) Babe Ruth hit his first major league home run at Hanlan's Point Stadium in Toronto. It landed in Lake Ontario and is believed to still be there.



Zoom Meeting Identifier and Passcode will be emailed to Members on the Monday prior to the March 11th, 2021, meeting.

Post Script:

CINEMA CLUB

Hello movie enthusiasts! I trust you are all happy and well, face-timing/ Zooming with family and friends, and getting ample fresh air and exercise.

The answer to all our “when” questions will remain a mystery. So, until we get the go-ahead to resume our favourite club activities in person, we shall continue to be vigilant, take our vitamins, eat healthy, and mask-up in public venues.

We’ve got this! Happy Saint Patrick’s Day! Happy, happy Spring!

Claire Speed mcspeed@rogers.com 905-428-6356

Karen Dryden kdryden2852@gmail.com 416-580-0091

The Parkwood Post

For your interest. There are some interesting things to do. Press Ctrl + Click on the link below:

Pauline Hillman



<https://mailchi.mp/85252ab2249d/the-parkwood-post-4060495?e=b9ca211085>

Photos

There is still snow on the ground, but spring is coming, the chickadees are tweeting "Hey Sweetie" and St. Patrick's Day is coming. How will you celebrate spring? Send your photos to durhamwestprobus@gmail.com

