



# *PROBUS Club Of Durham West*

[www.durhamwestprobus.org](http://www.durhamwestprobus.org)

Volume 11. Issue 6.

March 2018

## **PROBUS MONTHLY MEETING**

**MARCH 8<sup>th</sup> 2018, 10 am**

### **SPEAKER**

Ted Bariss, the author of "The Great Escape: A Canadian Story"



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** **Mark Scanlan**



The month of March is a transitional month. Will it come in like a lion or a lamb? This year it has already been nice enough to barbecue, and the warmer than normal temperatures are a harbinger of spring which arrives Tuesday, March 20.

March is named after the God of war, MARS and of course March also means to march, like the high school students who went to the Florida State Capital to protest for more gun control. The protection of students is not the primary focus of the politicians or the gun lobbyists. They like to place the blame elsewhere on issues such as mental health or the FBI not doing their job.

March 17 is another special day this month. A number of years ago Lorraine and I, along with two other couples were on a golf vacation in Santee SC. We decided to take a trip to the historic city of Savannah, GA and arrived to find the city shut down due to a parade. A St. Patrick's Day parade at that! Who knew that there were over 400,000 Irish who had settled in the American South?

Beware the "Ides of March"!! March 15<sup>th</sup> was the day Julius Caesar was assassinated back in 44 BC. Other fateful events on this day according to the Smithsonian Institute are:

- Czar Nicholas II abdicates his throne in 1917
- World record rainfall 1952 on the Indian Ocean island of La Reunion. In 24 hours 73.62 inches
- Germany occupies Czechoslovakia in 1939
- CBS cancels the "Ed Sullivan Show" in 1971. Also cancelled in previous month was Red Skelton and Jackie Gleason A generation mourns
- Disappearing ozone layer 1988. NASA reports that the ozone layer over the Northern Hemisphere has been depleted three times faster than predicted
- A new global health scare, 2003. World Health Organization issues a heightened global health alert and this disease will soon become famous under the acronym SARS. (for Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome)

**Safe bet – stay in bed on March 15<sup>th</sup> and hope March goes out like a lamb**

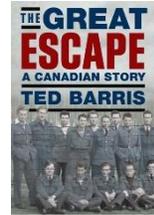


## “INTRODUCING THE SPEAKER “

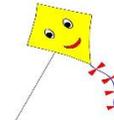
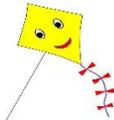
### TED BARRIS



Our March speaker is the author, Ted Barris, who wrote 'The Great Escape: A Canadian Story'. Based on his original interviews, research, and assembly of memoirs, letters, diaries, and personal photos, Ted Barris reveals that many of the escape's key players – the tunnel designer, excavators, forgers, scroungers, security and intelligence personnel, custodian of the secret radio, and scores of security “stooges” and sand-dispersal “penguins” – were all Canadians. The book reads like a Hollywood movie, but is, in fact, the true story!



## MEMBERSHIP



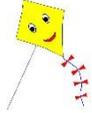
### Welcome to our new PROBUS members in February

Nancy Couzens, Janet Gray and David Morin.

Jim welcomed the new members who were present at the meeting.

Please remember to send us any updates on your address, phone number or e-mail.  
Maria & Bob Bawcutt, [bamb63e@gmail.com](mailto:bamb63e@gmail.com)





## SOCIAL REPORT



### BATA SHOE MUSEUM and LUNCH

Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup>

**Signup will continue at the March meeting. Since we are renting a bus for this trip, an additional 22 participants are required to fill the bus otherwise the trip will be cancelled.**

The Bata Shoe Museum is located at Bloor and St George in Toronto. We will enjoy a highlights tour of the museum which houses the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of shoes and footwear related artifacts from around the globe.

The guided tour begins at 10:30 am. The cost is \$31.00 for bus and admission to the museum.

Arrive at the Walmart parking lot (Ajax) by 8:45 am in preparation for a 9:00 departure. After lunch you can return to the museum to see more exhibits. The bus leaves at 2 pm for Ajax.

Conveners: Marcia Everitt (416-724-6355) and Bonnie Cutten (905-831-7489)

### BLUE JAYS GAME

Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup>

Sixty tickets have been reserved for the Wednesday, April 18th game at 4:07 pm between the Blue Jays and Kansas City Royals. The cost is \$47.00 for the game only. Due to timing of the game lunch or dinner will be on your own.

This is a special promotion day with World Series Sweatshirts given to the first 20,000 fans. Signup will be held at the March meeting. Conveners: June Booth and Claire Speed

### CANADIAN AUTO MUSEUM AND PARKWOOD TOUR

Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup>

We will enjoy a guided tour of the Auto Museum in Oshawa from 10 am to 11 am. Cost is \$7.00.

Lunch will be from 11:30 to 1:15 pm. This will be at Baxter's Landing Grill in Oshawa Centre or a place of your own choice.

After lunch there will be a guided tour of the Parkwood Estate called "The Auto Barron Experience", plus seeing the upstairs "Private Spaces".

Tour starts at 1.30 pm and the cost is \$15.00.

Sign up will be in April and May. You can attend either event or sign up for a single tour. Self-drive or car pool. Convenor Dale Thomas (905 723-6862)



## **FEBRUARY'S VALENTINES POT LUCK LUNCH**

Members and guests enjoyed a lovely pot lunch following the February general meeting. The variety of dishes was outstanding and no one went home hungry. Special thanks to the Social Committee and friends for convening this event.



**REMINDERS:** There are NO REFUNDS. If you sign-up for an event & are unable to attend you may have someone go in your place by getting payment from them & notifying the Convener of the event of the change along with the name & phone number of the person replacing you.

**PLEASE BRING YOUR CHEQUE BOOK** as you must pay for the event at the time of sign-up. Remember your cheque books since cash is not accepted

### **NAME TAGS**

Wearing names tags on social outings is helpful for new members and those of us who have a momentary lapse in memory.

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

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



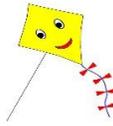
## WESTBEN AND WOODLAWN INN “Crazy for Gershwin”

**On Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**, at 2:00 p.m., Westben is presenting Crazy for Gershwin.

Some of the songs that will be performed are from Gershwin's musicals *Crazy for You* and *Porgy & Bess* as well as *Summertime*, *I Got Rhythm*, *The Man I Love* and others. This year we have excellent seats quite close to the stage priced at **\$36.00**.

For those interested, a buffet dinner will follow at Woodlawn Inn in Cobourg and the cost will be **\$32.75** which includes dessert, tea or coffee, taxes and gratuity. The **total cost is \$68.75** for this day of wonderful music and great food.

Travel to the venues will be on your own. Sign up will be at the April, May and June meetings. Convenors are Karl Clarke, Jan Massey and Jean Jackson.



### ACTIVITY GROUP NEWS



There will be signup sheets at the March meeting for the following groups:

**Mystery Book Group, Scrapbooking, Breweries, Cinema Group and Board Games**  
**Cinema group** started in February

**Fun and Games** (board games): Bernice will have a group meeting on Friday April 13<sup>th</sup> at Tim Hortons - Salem Road just south of the 401. We will meet at 10 a.m. Please mark it on your calendar. If you don't come and have not notified us that you are still interested then your name will be removed from the list.

If you have a suggestion for an activity in which you would like to be involved, please contact me. Remember, no group is closed. We will start a second group when necessary

Contact: Catharine Frost at: [c.frost@spmatico.ca](mailto:c.frost@spmatico.ca)

### BOOK CLUBS



#### THE NOVEL READERS

On March 7, 2018 the Novel Readers will meet to discuss Ann Patchett's novel, "Commonwealth." Looking ahead to April, we will be chatting about "The Rainmaker" by John Grisham. The Novel Readers meet at 1:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. For more information, please contact Colleen Lea at 905-686-1629 or [colleenlea@hotmail.com](mailto:colleenlea@hotmail.com)

#### THE READERS CHOICE

Our March discussion will be "My Secret Sister" by Helen Edwards.

A true story of two sisters who experience very different lives.

Contact Debra Eckstein at [debra@eckstein.com](mailto:debra@eckstein.com)



#### WORDS WORTH READING BOOK CLUB

Our March book is "The Break" by Katherena Vermette. It is the story of a murder in an indigenous community in north Winnipeg. The lives of the people in the community are intertwined in the story. This book was one of the finalists for Canada Reads for 2017.

Contact: Joice McKay [joicemckay@rogers.com](mailto:joicemckay@rogers.com) or 905-683-8432



### **BOWLING**

Bowling will be on **Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 pm.** at the Ajax Bowling Center. Novices to experts are welcome to this FUN activity! This is not a league so you sign up each month. We always welcome new bowlers.

Cost is \$9.50 and includes 2 games & shoes or \$8.00 if you have your own bowling shoes. Pay at the bowling alley. Please contact Bonnie each month if you would like to bowl. Bonnie Cutten: [bcutten0809@rogers.com](mailto:bcutten0809@rogers.com) or 905-831-7489.

### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

On February 6<sup>th</sup> eight (8) members of the breakfast group met for a wonderful BIG breakfast at Michael's Eatery.

March 6<sup>th</sup> breakfast will be at a German restaurant. We will meet at "Wolfgang's On Brock" at 3100 Brock Street North. Contact: June Booth at [jdbooth52@yahoo.ca](mailto:jdbooth52@yahoo.ca)

Please email June and me (Linda Robbins) at [Richard.robbins@sympatico.ca](mailto:Richard.robbins@sympatico.ca) by March 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure you are included in the reservation.

The first Tuesday of the month the breakfast group meets at a local restaurant for light conversations and laughs over a delicious breakfast and coffee.

Contact: Linda Robbins at: [Richard.robbins@sympatico.ca](mailto:Richard.robbins@sympatico.ca)



### **CINEMA CLUB**

Our first movie outing was a success. The film "The Post" was very well done directed by Steven Spielberg and most informative as we learned about the Pentagon Papers. Five members attended and all seemed to enjoy the movie.

Our next outing will be Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Contact: Joanne Bullen [jvarty@hotmail.com](mailto:jvarty@hotmail.com) or 905-686-1945

### **GARDEN CLUB**

On March 13<sup>th</sup> members will attend the Pickering Horticultural meeting at 7:30 pm in the Pickering Rec Centre. The guest speaker will be Conrad Richter from Richter Herbs in Uxbridge. Members interested in attending please contact Janice Doll and let her know you will be attending.

Sharon Fenn is organizing a visit to Richter Herbs in Uxbridge for April 9<sup>th</sup>. She will provide details when they are available.

Contact Geoff Nie: [geoff.nie@sympatico.ca](mailto:geoff.nie@sympatico.ca)



### **CREATE & CHAT**

We are a small group of creative gals who meet in each other's homes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday afternoon for some conversation and creating (knitting, crocheting, quilting, etc.) If you would like to join us, please email Dorothy Green at [captain.kirby@sympatico.ca](mailto:captain.kirby@sympatico.ca)

### **GENEALOGY.**

At the February meeting, our Genealogy group watched a video about GEDcom files - what they are and how to use them. Also, Jim Hinnecke gave a presentation on some of the family history research he has done on his family tree. We are considering a speaker and a field trip for other meetings in the near future.

Contact: Judy Feeney [jepf@rogers.com](mailto:jepf@rogers.com)

## **MARATHON BRIDGE**

A reminder that we are down to our last two months to get our games played, keep up the good work. Contact Julie Trebilcock: [julietrebilcock@rogers.com](mailto:julietrebilcock@rogers.com)

## **NATURE LOVERS**

Our outings for the first part of the year are:

March 29 - Canadian Canoe Museum

April - a hike along trails in Walker Woods/Glen Major Forest

May 17 - Special tour at Toronto Zoo

June 21 - Ostrich farm tour

Our monthly field trips are usually the third Thursday morning of the month (dependent on when an activity is available). We are always looking for new members so come join us loving nature!

Contact Geoff Cutten [gcutten0809@rogers.com](mailto:gcutten0809@rogers.com) 905-831-7489.



## **NIBBLES AT NIGHT**

There will be no meeting in March. Sue Porter and Tom Skinner will host our group in April. Any PROBUS member who would like further information about our group is invited to contact Dru Carter at [carterdru34@gmail.com](mailto:carterdru34@gmail.com) or 905-683-9677.

## **SNAPPED PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB**

February's meeting was a teaching session on how to improve your pictures on the computer – Post Processing. Thank you to Ian Medford for showing us how to crop, straighten, lighten etc. In March we plan to visit a local nursery to photograph spring flowers and then a lesson on composition, distortion and photography tips.

We are an amateur photography club where all types of cameras and levels of photography are welcome. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in trying photography contact: Ann Buffett at [annbuffett@sympatico.ca](mailto:annbuffett@sympatico.ca)

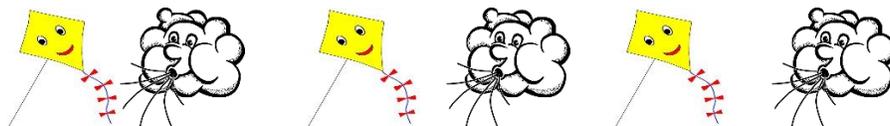
## **WALKING on WEDNESDAYS**

Join us each Wednesday at 10 am as we walk the trails around Durham Region.



Most of our trails are paved and have washroom access. We walk for about 75 minutes. A few people choose to walk for a shorter time/distance so they turn around mid-way and we catch up to them on the return portion of the walk. If you are interested in walking, send me your email address and I will add you to the weekly location mailing list. Each weekend you will receive notification of where we will start the following Wednesday. No need to commit or to notify me if you will be walking. Just show up when you are able. Looking forward to seeing you on the trails!

Bernice Pyke [billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com](mailto:billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com)



## Additional Activity Groups and Contact Information

**Golf** - Marcia Everett marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca  
**Pole Walking** - Eileen Nixon eileennixon8585@gmail.com  
**Ukulele Strummers**- Sue Porter, s.e.porter@rogers.com



## MESSAGE BOARD



### AJAX LIBRARY

**Bridge** on Thursdays at the Ajax Public Library – Main Branch, 55 Harwood Ave. South at 2:30 pm (A free will donation is taken for coffee and cookies.) This is social bridge so come and HAVE FUN.  
Next dates are March 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Free Bridge Lessons** . Ajax Public Library – Main Branch, 55 Harwood Ave. South, starting at 2:30 pm. March 8<sup>th</sup> – Pre-emptive Bids and Weak Jump Over Calls. March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Takeout Doubles Bidding Sequences.  
(A free will donation is taken for coffee and cookies.)

**Euchre** at the Ajax Library Main Branch from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. BUT come a little earlier because it can fill up quickly.  
Next dates are Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup>. Our usual Fridays are moved due to March Break and Good Friday.

**Cribbage** is at the McLean's Recreation Centre.  
Further information can be found at, [www.ajax.ca/library](http://www.ajax.ca/library)  
All of the above are free and everyone is welcome.



## **2017 / 2018 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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scanbones@gmail.com  
**VICE PRESIDENT –Randy Slein**  
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**PAST PRESIDENT –Gwen Smith**  
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**Dale Thomas**  
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**ACTIVITIES – Catherine Frost**  
ccfrost501@gmail.com  
**SPEAKERS – Roy Boon**  
royboon67@gmail.com

Comments, articles and photographs from Social Events and from the Activity groups would be appreciated.

Please send to: [annbuffett@sympatico.ca](mailto:annbuffett@sympatico.ca)

For information on other PROBUS Clubs in Canada go to [www.probus.org/canada.htm](http://www.probus.org/canada.htm)

