



## The PROBUS Club of Durham West

General Meeting is May 12th, 2022, HMS Ajax Room - South Entrance Ajax Community Centre,  
75 Centennial Road, Ajax, ON L1S 4S4

### May 2022 President's Message

Our spring weather finally arrived! We should be getting a bumper crop of flowers after all this rain! Is your garden calling for you?

Thanks to those of you who came out to our April hybrid meeting. We will continue to keep up with proof of vaccination, social distancing, and masking for our May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. With the nice weather we can start to enjoy more of the outdoors, and we have lots of activities planned for your enjoyment. Please look and signup for events that your interested in.



Our Management Committee is always thinking about what our members might like to see and do. To help us discover and plan, we will be sending out a survey by email from [DURHAMWESTPROBUS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DURHAMWESTPROBUS@GMAIL.COM)

asking for your feedback and ideas. Please take the time to complete the web-based survey within the time frame given and help us help you stay engaged and satisfied with our club.

Along with May comes maple syrup, street festivals, studio tours and MOTHER'S DAY on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Go to <https://www.durham.ca/en/tourism/> for a list of things to do in Durham Region. Victoria Day long weekend is also coming up on May 23<sup>rd</sup> commonly referred to as the "May two-four weekend" and the unofficial start of the cottage season. I wonder, does the two-four refer to a case of beer or Queen Victoria's actual birthday or both?



To all the Mothers, Step-Mothers and Grandmothers, enjoy your special day!

Ruth Bridge

Management Team for PROBUS Club of Durham West 2022 is  
available on our website:  
<https://durhamwestprobus.org/contacts>

## MAY SPEAKER

May 12th, 2022

### May Speaker - *Barbara Dickson on Bomb Girls*

This is a story of Canada's biggest WWII munitions plant ("GECO") employing over 21,000 citizens, predominantly women, who courageously worked with high explosives around the clock over its four-year history. The presentation will offer a unique, intimate, and extraordinary glimpse into the lives and hearts of these dedicated Canadians who risked their lives every time they stepped onto the "clean side" of the plant.

Barbara Dickson is a sought-after award-winning public speaker, historian, documentary film producer and writer who has entertained, educated, and enlightened audiences for twenty-five years. Barbara strives to educate Canadians about the phenomenal work carried out by women across the nation whose invaluable contribution helped win the Second World War. She is committed to ensuring that Canada's bomb girls are honoured and commemorated by fellow Canadians including all levels of government.



## MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome our newest Member, Angela McMullen, sponsored by Eileen Nixon.

If you have any membership inquiries, please check out the "About Us" page on the website, or email [dwprobus.membership@gmail.com](mailto:dwprobus.membership@gmail.com)

The last 2 years has caused interruptions of some of the Clubs Activities. Included in these was the annual New Members Welcome Coffee Break. If you have joined PROBUS Club of Durham West since 2019, you will be receiving a personal invitation to our event to be held on Monday June 13th. Please watch your email and RSVP as requested. The Management Team as well

as our Activity and Social Group leaders will be on hand to answer any questions and provide helpful information as to what is available to enhance your membership experience. We are looking forward to hosting this event and meeting more of our members in person.

Bev & Dave Bicknell

Membership Chairs

Please note that the email for membership inquiries, change of address etc. is now

[dwprobus.membership@gmail.com](mailto:dwprobus.membership@gmail.com)

## TOILETRIES

Many of you will remember the numerous trips Karl and I led where you kindly collected the toiletries from the various rooms. These you, also kindly, left on my seat on the bus each morning knowing they would become part of gift baskets or bags for the various “shelters”. Due to our lack of travel, no donations were received for a while. Then, last fall, some people called saying they had toiletries, could I use them? These toiletries, along with others, as friends discovered, were distributed at Christmas (you may remember the picture in the December newsletter).

If you have any toiletries, including “goodies” for men, and are willing to donate them, please bring them to a PROBUS meeting or drop them off at our home in Whitby.

Thank you everyone. Any donations received, will be distributed at Christmas as the last that I had went for “Easter treats”.

Happy Easter. Sandy Clarke

[sandyc2640@gmail.com](mailto:sandyc2640@gmail.com) or call 905-668-2640

## SOCIAL

Members are reminded to bring their cheque books for all the sign ups, no refunds and be fragrance free.

### Defence Industries Limited (DIL)

Free Walking Tour, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 10am at the Heritage Square, Town Hall, 65 Harwood Ave S., Ajax.

## HERONGATE BARN THEATRE

Check out their website <https://www.herongate.com/> for these two upcoming performances:

**Broken Up:** April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 14<sup>th</sup>

**Jenny's House of Joy:** May 20<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>

At this point we do not have any planned group trips to Herongate, however, if you decide to book let them know you are with PROBUS Club of Durham West and you will be seated with other PROBUS members.

**BRUCE BELL TOURS** <http://brucebelltours.ca>

## **ST. Lawrence Market - Guided Tour**

**Date:** May 25th

**Cost of tour:** \$25 per person

**Departure Time & Transportation:** Travel by GO Train - Leaving Ajax on the 8:22 am train, Pickering at 8:27 am or station of your choice. Please meet on the accessibility train that has a ramp. We will then walk from Union Station to The St. Lawrence Market (approximately 1 Km)

**Lunch:** 11:45 am HOTHOUSE Restaurant located at 35 Church St Toronto

[www.hothouserestaurant.com](http://www.hothouserestaurant.com) 416-366-7800

Bruce Bell Tours is a unique guided walking tour of the St. Lawrence Market area in downtown Toronto. This is a walking tour, but apparently not too much walking. Please see link above for additional information about the tour. The Market tour will take approximately 90 minutes. We will then enjoy lunch at the HOTHOUSE restaurant.

Bruce likes to keep the groups to about 20 to be sure everyone can hear him speaking.

Registration will take place at the May general meeting, or you can contact Bev Waite or Lorna Smith at [smith1@bell.net](mailto:smith1@bell.net) if you are interested

**1,000 Island Boat Cruise – Kingston** <https://www.1000islandscruises.ca/>

We will be taking a Coach Canada bus to Kingston for a 3 hour glass topped 1,000 Island Cruise. On board we will have a delicious lunch while watching the scenery. If you are attending the virtual meeting, please contact Deborah Barbisan or Lorna Smith to arrange for cheque drop off. Tickets are still available until the end of the May general meeting.

**Date:** Wednesday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

**Time:** 8:30 am – leave Walmart parking lot – Coach Canada bus (please arrive at 8:15 am) The bus ride will be approx. 3 hours which includes a comfort stop to and from Kingston. Approximate return time is 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

**Boat Cruise:** Boarding at 12:00 pm and departs at 12:30 pm The cruise will be 3 hours returning to wharf at 3:30 pm. We will board the bus at 4:00 pm for our return trip back to Ajax.

**Lunch** – The 2022 menu is now available – mixed salad greens, choice of entrée: Braised beef ribs, chicken korma or sweet potato lasagna and dessert. Please advise any dietary restrictions or mobility concerns at time of signing up. See 2022 lunch menu on their website.

<https://www.1000islandscruises.ca/dining/lunch/queenlunchmenu/>

**Cost:** \$125.00 – includes bus driver tip (members leave tip for lunch server based on \$45.00 meal)

**Convenor:** Deborah Barbisan [dbarbisan@sympatico.ca](mailto:dbarbisan@sympatico.ca)

Lorna Smith [lsmith1@bell.net](mailto:lsmith1@bell.net)

## Annual BBQ/Picnic

Date: Wednesday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Location: Cullen Central Park

Address: 4999 Cochrane St., Whitby

Cost: TBD This will be a catered event

Time: TBD

There will be lots of socializing and games. There is a covered shelter. Further details will be announced at the May 12<sup>th</sup>, general meeting.

## ABBA MIA at WESTBEN

You can dance! You can jive! But even if you can't, you can still have the time of your life when you join Westben and a barnful of fabulous singers and musicians for the rollicking return of the musical review of all your favourite ABBA hits. This is a self-drive/carpool event. You can opt to attend the show only or participate in both the show and dinner. Please specify when signing up as we need a firm count for dinner reservations

**Date:** Thursday, July 21st, 2022

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

**Where:** Westben Performing Arts Theatre, 6698 County Rd. 30 North, Campbellford

**Cost:** \$53 each, theatre only

**Dinner after show:** optional at The Mill Restaurant and Pub, Cobourg Creek Golf Course, 990 Ontario Street, Cobourg

Sign-ups will be available at the May PROBUS general meetings. For any questions, please contact the convenor, Maria Bawcutt, at [bamb63e@gmail.com](mailto:bamb63e@gmail.com)

## ACTIVITIES

Our PROBUS group has 22 activity groups. The pandemic has caused many of our activity groups to be paused or meet virtually on Zoom. Now, I am happy to share that several groups have started to meet in person, and several more are planning to meet in person in the next month or two.

Calling all Musicians! Do you have musical talent? Would like to join a small group who have a similar talent? If yes, dust off your instrument, and send me an email. A meeting will arrange to identify a location and a time for the first meeting of the group! The intent of this group is to get together, play some tunes, and have some fun. You can send me an email at [bev.waite@outlook.com](mailto:bev.waite@outlook.com)

Darts - The Tuesday afternoon dart group will take a break during the summer and will start up again in the fall!

**We need your help!** To be responsive to your interests, the management group is in the process of developing a short survey that we are planning to send out mid-May. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey to help make plans for you. Instructions will be included with the email and link to the survey.

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

## NOVEL READERS BOOK CLUB

In April, the Novel Readers enjoyed an in-person discussion about Mark T. Sullivan's novel, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*. This novel was based on a brief war-time period in the extraordinary life of Pino Lella. On May 4, 2022, we will discuss *All the Devils are Here* by Louise Penny. This is another in the series of mystery novels Louise Penny has created around the central character of Armand Gamache and the mythical Québec town of Three Pines. In addition to the murder to solve, Penny consistently explores a different problem in society. Looking ahead to June, we will be discovering *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. Our club is currently at full membership.

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

## WORDS WORTH READING BOOK CLUB

This month the book club will once again be meeting on Zoom to discuss the novel, Tuesdays

with *Morrie* by Mitch Albom. According to Wikipedia, this is a memoir about a series of visits Albom made to his former sociology professor Morrie Schwartz as Schwartz gradually dies of ALS. At the time, Albom was a sports columnist for the Detroit Free Press and due to a newspaper strike was able to visit Schwartz every week on Tuesdays for fourteen weeks. In 2006, *Tuesdays with Morrie* was the bestselling memoir of all time.

Presently, our book club is at full membership.

For those of you following the club online, please change the book and author for June for the Words Worth Reading Book Club? The selection has been changed from "*The Library Book*" by Susan Orlean to "*The Personal Librarian*" by Marie Benedict.

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

## BOWLING

We had 23 bowlers in March! Great Fun was had by all!!

Our bowling dates are:

Thursday May 26th. 2 pm.

Thursday June 23rd. 2 pm.

The alley is following Durham Public Health Covid-19 policies.

The alley has a new automated scoring system.

Members must register with me each month.

We are not a league, and our motto is to have "FUN"! All levels of bowlers are welcome.

Bonnie Cutten (Lead) 905-831-7489

## CINEMA CLUB NEWS

We are on hold until Landmark Cinemas start the morning movies again.

Do you like seeing current movies? And discussing them afterwards? Then the Cinema group is for you!

On the third Friday of each month, we go to a morning or early afternoon movie at Landmark in Whitby. Majority rules apply when choosing the movie. After the film, we go to one of the restaurants in the complex for fun and conversation about movies.

Whether we go to action, adventure, comedy, crime, fantasy, historical, romance, or documentary, we always find something to inspire us.

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

or Anne McKenzie at [annel.Mckenzie@gmail.com](mailto:annel.Mckenzie@gmail.com)

## CREATE AND CHAT

We have many photos of our projects on the website: <https://durhamwestprobus.org/create-and-chat>

We were unable to have an in-person meeting in March, however, we had a good turnout for lunch at Symposium on March 21st. April is also a no-show for Westney Gardens, but we are going to have a tour of Amica Pickering and gather later in one of their meeting rooms. If the weather is good in May perhaps, we can meet in the park.

Contact: Sharon Marshall, [oxford9390@gmail.com](mailto:oxford9390@gmail.com)

## DARTS

The darts group launched on Tuesday March 15th with a small but mighty group! Darts is on pause for the summer months, and will reconvene in the fall.

<https://www.durhamwestprobus.org/darts>

DINNER GROUP 3 is now known as “Table Talk”

## FRIENDLY EUCHRE

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> we had our first Euchre game at the Ajax Main Library after 2 years. Ten (10) players came and enjoyed a fun afternoon. If you are interested in joining us, we meet every other Friday from 2 pm to 4 pm. Our next game will be on Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Everyone is welcome.

### **These are the LIBRARY RULES:**

We can only have a maximum of 30 people in the room, (7 tables.)

Masks must be worn as we can't distance ourselves.

Coffee/tea and food will not be available.

You may bring your own refreshments.

I will be sending out future dates and reminders. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me, Ann Buffett, at [annbuffett28@gmail.com](mailto:annbuffett28@gmail.com)





## GARDENING GROUP

Geoff Nie

## NATURE LOVERS

On April 22, the Nature Lovers held an Earth Day event by picking up litter around the Ajax Community Centre and Ajax Pickering Hospital. Afterwards, we had a well-deserved brunch at the Westney restaurant. It is so sad that people can carry a bottle filled with pop but can't carry an empty one to a garbage can or bring a pizza lunch to a picnic table but leave the remains behind to blow in the wind! Discarded face masks, bottle tops, and pop cans made up a good portion of the litter, but we also found a rubber boot and bed headboard. We filled 3 extra-large garbage bags. Well done Nature Lovers!

### **Come Join the Nature Lovers Car Rally Scavenger Hunt!**

On **Thursday, June 16th** I will be holding a **Nature Lovers Car Rally Scavenger Hunt** for those who are members of the Nature Lovers. This outing is limited to a maximum of 20 people (**5 teams of 4 people**). The start time is 9 am and ends with a picnic lunch. Cost is \$5 pp for prizes to the winning team.

**NOTE: This is a Nature Lovers event only.** However, if you wish to participate and are not a member of this activity group you need to contact me by email and sign up as a member of the Nature Lovers activity group!

I will **not** be arranging teams and drivers. So, Nature Lover members get a team of 4 together, pick a team name, and driver and email me this information as soon as possible. Remember, there is a 5-team limit of 4 per car for this event!

I will be sending more detailed information as to the rules etc., directly to the Nature Lovers members.

Happy scavenging.

Contact Geoff Cutten at [gcutten0809@rogers.com](mailto:gcutten0809@rogers.com)

## SNAPPED PHOTOGRAPHY

On April 20th, the Snapped group went to Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens located on Church Street, Ajax. It was a bright, sunny day. The wind cooled our hands but not our enthusiasm as our cameras were busy taking pictures of the resident swans, geese, and ducks in their beautiful pond setting. As you can see from the photos, the swans make sure no geese take

over their pond. One very determined swan (photo taken during the trial run of outing). The grounds were lovely to stroll through as many headstones had their Easter flowers and tributes on display.

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

## WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Now that the snow is gone, why not join us on our Wednesday walks? Each Wednesday at 10 am we meet at a different location in the area for an up to one hour walk. We have fast walkers, regular walker and those who like to stroll along. So, I am sure you will find people happy to walk at your pace! You will be amazed at how the time passes when you are chatting as you walk.

We walk rain or shine. To get on the weekly email location notification list, send me your name and email address. Then each weekend you will receive one email.

Looking forward to walking with you!!

Bernice Pyke

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



## NEWS

The Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit is a temporary, refundable personal income tax credit that can help you make your home safer and more accessible, helping you stay in your home longer. The credit is available for the 2021 and 2022 tax years and is worth 25% of up to \$10,000 in eligible expenses per year for a senior's principal residence in Ontario. Expenses must be paid or payable in 2021 and 2022. The maximum credit is \$2,500 per year. Learn more at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/seniors-home-safety-tax-credit>

Waterfront parking enforcement comes into effect May 15<sup>th</sup>. Ajax residents will need to register their licence plates **again** at <https://www.ajax.ca/en/inside-townhall/by-law.aspx?mid=7476#Residents-Waterfront-Parking--Free-register-now>

Please see below link for the Spring Edition of the LINK newsletter for 55+ community. [https://view.publitas.com/ajax/55plus-link\\_newsletter\\_spring-2022/page/1](https://view.publitas.com/ajax/55plus-link_newsletter_spring-2022/page/1) Find out about Photo contests and workshops. The SCWW calendar can be found at <https://www.ajax.ca/en/play-and-discover/activities-and-recreation-programs.aspx#Senior-Centre-Without-Walls-SCWW>

On May 18 "Lets do Lunch" will present Quick and Healthy snack foods. You can register at <https://forms.ajax.ca/Recreation-Culture-and-Community-Development/RPAL>

The next St. Francis Centre showing is Always ABBA, a tribute band on May 7<sup>th</sup> tickets are \$33.63. <http://stfranciscentre.ca/event/always-abba/>

This year the Town of Ajax will be celebrating Aging Well Month in June with a number of free activities. Mark your calendar for the Senior's BBQ at Rotary Park on June 9 from 1130-130. Our general meeting will finish earlier to allow you to head for the park for delicious food and music. Limited picnic table seating is available and residents are encouraged to bring a chair.

Watch for further announcements coming up at the Ajax main library such as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and a Cinema night presenting the Eyes of Tammy Faye on June 7<sup>th</sup> <http://www.ajaxlibrary.ca/whatson>

## Sharing our Recipes

If I can just get "**The Big Guy**" puckered-up for some snogging in the kitchen early in the day, we could really get a fabulous day rolling. I found this **Cranberry Breakfast Cake** recipe that is tart and pucker-perfect to just get that kind of day started. The original recipe is at [www.theviewfromgreatisland.com](http://www.theviewfromgreatisland.com)

I am sure that you have frozen whole cranberries in your freezer from celebrations long past. If not, they are available in most stores in the frozen food section. Keep them frozen and add them at the very end still like frozen little marbles. This breakfast cake is a very dense cake almost like a cookie dough so mix the cranberries in carefully, so you do not break them up.

"**The Big Guy**" recommends a medium roast Columbian coffee bean, freshly ground, and processed through the drip coffeepot.

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## Cranberry Breakfast Cake

**1.**

In a small bowl, measure then set aside -  
½ cup of half and half cream  
1 tsp lemon juice.

**2.**

In a mixing bowl, measure -  
½ cup unsalted butter  
1 cup of sugar.  
Mix together then add  
1 egg, beaten  
¾ tsp vanilla  
¾ tsp almond extract  
Add the soured cream and lemon.

**3.**

Measure out the dry ingredients then fold into your main mixing bowl.  
2 cups flour  
1 tsp salt  
2 tsp baking powder

**4.**

Fold in, trying to keep the cranberries from breaking open –  
2 cups frozen whole cranberries

Line the bottom of a 9" round pan or 9"x 9" square pan with parchment paper.

Oven 350 F

Bake 30-35 minutes

Cool 15 to 20 minutes then fold out on to a plate.

While still hot, mix 1 Tbsp icing sugar and ½ tsp lemon juice to drizzle across the top. Add some lemon zest too!

Cut small wedges for breakfast and serve with other fruits or whip cream.

The sweet and tart tastes will have you puckering up. Enjoy!

[www.theviewfromgreatisland.com](http://www.theviewfromgreatisland.com)



# Travel:

## SHAW FESTIVAL

Presents “Importance of Being Earnest” & “Damn Yankees”

June 21 – 22, 2022

Niagara on the Lake

Your Tour includes:

- Guided tour of Whistling Gardens (see the peonies)
- Picnic lunch
- One night stay at Holiday Inn in Niagara on the Lake with breakfast
- Orchestra level ticket to “Importance of Being Earnest” & “Damn Yankees”
- Visit to Niagara-on-the-lake
- Driver’s tip

Cost \$499 + hst double occupancy / call for single pricing

For more information or TO BOOK – Call Shirly 905-619-8583; [shirly@hnatravels.com](mailto:shirly@hnatravels.com)



Discover your Capital!!!

Reminder: Thursday, May 19th to Saturday,  
May 21st, 2022, for those who signed up!

