



The PROBUS Club of Durham West

Next General Meeting **January 12th, 2023**, HMS Ajax Room
South Entrance Ajax Community Centre,
75 Centennial Road, Ajax, ON L1S 4S4

December/January 2023 President's Message

Thank you to the 109 members who attended our November 10th General Meeting. It was great to see so many familiar faces and many new ones. Ted Barris's talk was incredibly interesting and very dynamic.

This is my last submission as club president and I am thrilled to pass the reins to Ada Larock in January. I am looking forward to the Holiday Luncheon on December 8th and hope to see many of you there.

As my term as president comes to an end, I want to thank Ada, Walter, Liz, Fran, Bev W, Ena, Lorna, Renzo, Sharon, Dave and Bev B of the management team that I have been proud to work with, who have volunteered their time and effort in making our organization an exciting and worthwhile experience. Special thanks to Lorna Smith, Renzo and Sharon Castellarin for their many years of volunteering on the management committee who are stepping down from the management team.

We are currently accepting nominations for new members of the Management Team. Please contact me before December 30th by email to express your interest.

The January 12th, 2023 meeting will be our Annual General Meeting (AGM), and club members will be asked to give their approval for the following officers of the 2023 management committee of PROBUS Club of Durham West:

President	Ada Larock
Vice President	Walter Matias
Past President	Ruth Bridge
Treasurer	Liz Ryan
Secretary	Fran Griffin
Membership	Bev Bicknell
House Chair	Open
Speaker Chair	Anne McKenzie
Newsletter	Ena Shaw
Webmaster	Ena Shaw
Social Chair	Open
Activities Chair	Bev Waite



We are still looking for someone to volunteer for the vacant positions and help us keep our club exciting and sensational. These positions will be for a minimum 1-year term starting in January. THANK YOU for continuing to support the PROBUS Club of Durham West.

Share the Wealth

The Share the Wealth draw was won by John Garnett. He went home \$66 richer. Congratulations John!

Happy Holidays and all the best in 2023!

Ruth Bridge
President



JANUARY SPEAKER

January 12th, 2023

Lianne Harris – Undressed, A Short History of Hygiene

In this lively, visual presentation, Lianne Harris scrubs away the surface of what we might think of as hygiene – soap and water – to the essential reality of survival in former less-than-sanitary conditions. From quirky personal practices to religious instruction to political intervention, to our perception of smell and its medical significance, it all comes out in the wash. Come, and soak up a short history of hygiene.

<https://historybyharris.ca>



MEMBERSHIP

Gillian Minshall is welcomed as our newest member by President Ruth Bridge. Gillian was the winner of our “Bring a Friend” event at our October General Meeting.

Linda Hearn was also welcomed as a new member but was not present.



Name Badges

Is your membership badge hiding in that safe place you stored it pre-COVID and you can't quite remember where that safe place is?

As with everything else, our supplier costs have increased, so as of January 1, 2023, the replacement cost of all new badges will be raised to \$25.

If you want to beat this increase and order a new badge at \$20, please contact us at dwprobus.membership@gmail.com.

Please remember to wear your 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.

Membership Renewal

Membership renewal notices will be coming to you by email in mid-December. Renewals are due as of **January 1, 2023**, and payment must be received by **January 31, 2023**, if you wish to remain an active member.

An email outlining the online renewal process will be sent out shortly.

Bev & Dave Bicknell
Membership Chair

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

SOCIAL

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

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

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

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 convener and let them know. Likewise, if you need a ride, contact the event convener so they can match you up with a driver.

AGA KHAN MUSEUM

On Friday, November 19, sixteen of our members had a very informative guided tour of the Aga Khan Museum located at 77 Wynford Dr, North York.

The tour guides were extremely knowledgeable, and we learned a lot. Having been duly impressed by the beauty of the architecture of the building, the artifacts, etc., we drove back to Pickering for a tasty meal at the Pickle Barrel. Lots of fun and chatter ensued. A great day was had by all. Thanks to Pat Bolger and Sharon Fenn for organizing this outing.



Lorna Smith (lsmith1@bell.net)
Social Chair

HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – WAITLIST ONLY

Date: Thursday, December 8TH

Registration Arrival Time: 11:30 a.m.

Entertainment: 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Deidrey Francoise will entertain us. She was our speaker in August and was a huge hit.



Click on <https://www.deidrey.com> for full information on Deidrey.

Lunch: 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. including a slide show.

Location: Ajax Convention Centre – 550 Beck Crescent, Ajax. Located south of Kingston Road and north of the 401 off Salem. If going south on Salem turn left onto Chambers Drive and then right on Beck Crescent.

Door prizes: This year we will have several great prizes, but you get to choose what you could win. When you arrive and register, you will receive 5 raffle tickets. One-half of the ticket will be put into a gift bag related to the door prize you would like to win. Keep the other half. At the time of the draw, we will select a ticket from the gift bag and that ticket wins.

Door prizes will be drawn once everyone has had time to check out the prizes and drop their tickets in the bags.

Conveners: Sharon Castellarin (sharoncastellarin@bell.net) and Lorna Smith (lsmith1@bell.net)

[GO TO EVENT](#)

MORE POWER TO YOU – WAITLIST ONLY

Date: Friday, January 27, 2023

Time: 9:15 am (2 1/2 hours)

Place: Pickering Nuclear Generating Station
Information Centre at:

Address: 1675 Montgomery Park Road,
Pickering, (Bayly to Sandy Beach to
Montgomery Park).



Cost: FREE.

Parking: We strongly recommend carpooling as there is limited parking at OPG. Park at Alex Robertson Community Park at foot of Sandy Beach Road (near OPG) and carpool with friends.

Waitlist: Please contact Bernice if you want to be added to the waitlist.
billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com

[GO TO EVENT](#)

COURT WHIST

Come out, join our PROBUS friends, and play this fun card game - no experience required.



Instructions will be provided.

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Location: Ajax Main Library in the Rotary Room.

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. come early to socialize

Cost: \$5.00 (cash will be collected at the door)

Sign-up will be in January. Watch for an email with further sign-up information.

Unfortunately, we will not be serving refreshments but you are welcome to bring your own drink and snack.

Masks are not mandatory at this time but **please feel free to wear them.**

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

If you need further information contact:

Lorna Smith at lsmith1@bell.net or
Ann Buffett at annbuffett28@gmail.com

[GO TO EVENT](#)

THE ONTARIO REGIMENT RCAC MUSEUM

We are planning an outing to the Ontario Regiment RCAC Museum in March. This is Canada's largest collection of operational historical military vehicles. The museum is located in Oshawa.



Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Location: 1000 Stevenson Road North, Oshawa

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Lorna Smith lsmith1@bell.net

ACTIVITIES

The PROBUS Club provides its members 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, and their contact information is available on the webpage.

Certain activity groups have participant limits, due to the nature of the group, and there is a waiting list. 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 consider becoming an activity leader.

Tips and tricks are available for new group leaders to start a new group. Starting a new group provides you 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

APP-TEASERS

Presently, our Nibbles group is at capacity, and there have been a couple of requests to start a second group.

In response to requests, a new "nibbles-type" group has formed called App-teasers. The plan is for it to be an informal afternoon gathering of conversation, snacks, and drinks. It will be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month and each month a member will host the group in their home/backyard Check with Roseann Blake for the date of the next meeting.

Please email Roseann at blakeroseann695@gmail.com if you are interested, and she will share more details.

Bev Waite
Activities Chair

BOWLING

Thursday, December 22nd, and January 26th at 2:00 p.m.

Join us for a FUN time!

Novices to experts are welcome!

We welcome new bowlers. This is **not** a league.

Contact Bonnie each month to sign-up.

Bowling is once a month usually on the fourth Thursday afternoon.

Location: Ajax Bowling Centre, 172 Harwood Ave. South.

Cost: \$11.00 includes 2 games & shoes (\$2.00 for shoes)
\$9.00 if you have your own bowling shoes. Payment at the bowling alley.

Please contact Bonnie **each month** if you would like to bowl.
bcutten0809@rogers.com or call 905-831-7489 for more information.

CINEMA CLUB NEWS

On November 19, a group of members met at Landmark Cinema and enjoyed the movie **The Banshees of Inisherin**.

We will **not** be going to a movie in December.

See you all in the new year. 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

CREATE AND CHAT

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

2022 has been another interesting year for our group. We had some cancellations due to Covid and rain but were able to get together, if not at Westney Gardens as a regular meeting, then at various restaurants to catch up and trade tips and news on our latest projects.

During the year we've provided many blankets and baby hats to Lakeridge Health; knitting and crocheting supplies to a group that provides instruction on how to use them; Halloween costumes to the neonatal unit at Sunnybrook Hospital; and red scarves for Aids Durham (38 scarfs).



Our last meeting of the year was a celebration of all we've accomplished during 2022 at a lunch at Boston Pizza on Monday, November 21st.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to everyone and I look forward to seeing you, healthy and happy, in 2023.

Contact: Sharon Marshall, oxford9390@gmail.com

DINNER GROUP – “Dinner is Served”

The Dinner is Served Group met on November 24 at Kelsey's in Whitby. A foggy evening but we clearly enjoyed ourselves.

Contact: Maria Bawcutt bamb63e@gmail.com



DURHAM WEST MARATHON BRIDGE CLUB

Our members are looking forward to the 2022-23 season.

For further information please contact us.

Contact: Dave Powley at, powleydi@gmail.com or (905) 683-1444

FRIENDLY EUCHRE

We meet at the **Audley Centre Library** every other Friday for a fun afternoon of cards. The **December dates are the 2nd and 16th. January dates are the 6th and 20th.** Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. and Euchre starts at 2:00 p.m. and finishes at 4:00 p.m.

Masks are a personal choice so feel free to wear them.

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

GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club will be inactive over the winter but will start up again next Spring.

See you then and stay safe.

Geoff Nie: geoff.nie@rogers.com

LIBRARY BRIDGE

The library is continuing to have trouble locating the source of the water leak on the floor of the Rotary Room in the main branch of the Ajax Library. We have therefore been reassigned to the Multipurpose Room in the Audley branch of the library. There are conflicting messages saying when we will be back at the main branch - some say in December and some say January. For those of you on my email bridge blast, I will let you know when we will be returning to the main branch via e-blast.

The following schedule is for bridge at the library for December and January.

Thursday, December 1 2:30 to 4:30 Social Bridge
Thursday, December 8 2:30 to 4:30 Social Bridge
Thursday, December 15 2:30 to 4:30 Social Bridge
Thursday, December 22 2:30 to 4:30 Social Bridge
Thursday, December 29 2:30 to 4:30 Social Bridge
Thursday, January 5 2:30 to 4:30 Social Bridge
Thursday, January 12 2:30 to 4:30 Bridge Lesson
Thursday, January 19 2:30 to 4:30 Social Bridge
Thursday, January 26 2:30 to 4:30 Bridge Lesson

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL!

Harvey Brodhecker, hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca

NATURE LOVERS

If you are interested in joining the Nature Lovers activity group please contact Geoff Cutten.

Geoff Cutten at gcutten0809@rogers.com.

NIBBLES AT NIGHT

Check out a variety of photos taken by our members at <https://durhamwestprobus.org/nibbles>

November Nibbles was another successful evening hosted by Dru and Jim Carter. Lots of laughter and chatter a great time was had by all.

Our Nibbles group is currently at capacity.

Fran Griffin frangriffinhome@gmail.com

NOVEL READERS BOOK CLUB

Due to Covid, we had to meet online in November but we have planned a restaurant luncheon for our December meeting. We are hoping to meet in person, in January, when we will discuss **Looking for Jane** by Heather Marshall. Looking ahead to February, our book selection will be **Five Little Indians** by Michelle Good.

The Novel Readers meet monthly, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. We currently have full membership.

For more information, please contact Colleen Lea at 905-686-1629 or colleenlea@hotmail.com



OUTDOOR GOLF GROUP

The Outdoor Golf Group is currently inactive but will start again next Spring.

Hope to see everyone next year.

If you are interested in joining us email Marcia Everitt at marciaeveritt@yahoo.ca

SNAPPED PHOTOGRAPHY

Check out a variety of photos taken by our members at <https://durhamwestprobus.org/snapped-camera-club>

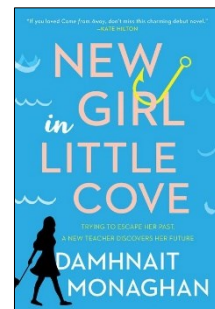
If you are interested in joining our Snapped Photography group, please contact Lorna Smith at lsmith1@bell.net

WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

If you are interested in joining our Wednesday Walking Group please contact Bernice Pyke. billandbernicepyke@hotmail.com

WORDS WORTH READING BOOK CLUB

All being well, the book club hopes to be able to get together for a potluck luncheon in December where we'll also discuss the novel "New Girl in Little Cove" by Damhnait Monaghan. Goodreads has written that "It is a heartwarming story that features the beauty, people and distinct culture of Newfoundland. As many of us in the book club have been to Newfoundland on vacation we look forward to reading a story that takes place in this lovely and ever-so-friendly province.



Presently our book club is at full membership.
Contact: Jean Jackson at 905-420-6410 or jeanej@rogers.com

NEWS

For updates from the Town of Ajax, including the Library News please click here:

https://view.publitas.com/ajax/55plus-link_newsletter_fall-2022

SCWW (Seniors Centre Without Walls) operates Monday through Wednesday and provides free virtual programs in which older adults and seniors can participate in comfort from home.

To participate in the program via Zoom or call-in, contact 55plus@ajax.ca or call 905-619-2529, ext. 7243

SHARING OUR RECIPE

FRUITCAKE FROM SCRATCH IN A SKILLET

I found this recipe for **Fruitcake from Scratch in a Skillet** in the **Toronto Star** in the **Chef Ricardo: Food Section** some time ago... maybe last year. I have tried it a few times but used my springform pan. I remember my Irish Grandfather who lived to the age of 98 had Fruitcake every day of his life for afternoon tea with a great slab of butter spread across the top and then he went out and walked everywhere around Edmonton, I'm sure, with a thick slab in his hankie pocket. It is not "**The Big Guys**" favourite but I love Fruitcake.



The beauty is you can customize the fruits and peel or just do raisins, plus, it is done in a few hours and you can customize the liquid drizzle... a little for the cake and a little for me!

Ingredients:

1 ¼ cup unbleached all-purpose flour
1 cup ground almonds
1 tsp baking powder
¼ tsp ground nutmeg
¼ tsp ground cinnamon
¼ ground ginger
½ cup unsalted butter
1 cup brown sugar, lightly packed
1 orange zest, finely grated
½ cup sherry or port
½ dried figs, diced
½ dried apricots
½ cup dried cranberries
½ cup golden raisins
½ cup sultana raisins
½ cup dried currants
3 eggs, beaten
1 cup roasted almonds, chopped
3 Tbsp almond liqueur – or more

Method:

Oven rack in the middle position and preheat to 325 F.

In a bowl, combine the dry ingredients.

In a 10" cast iron skill, over medium heat, melt the butter with the brown sugar, orange zest, juice, sherry and dried fruit; stir well until a low boil. Simmer for 10 minutes. Remove from heat and let sit for 15 minutes. Add the eggs and mix well then add the dry ingredients and almonds.

Move to the oven for 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Remove from the oven; brush the surface with almond liqueur. Cool completely.

Cake will only stay on the counter for a short-time if **“The Big Guy”** is skulking around the kitchen. He smells the glazes.

Submitted By Patricia Bolger pbolger@rogers.com