



## PROBUS Club of Durham West

**General Meeting is March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, HMS Ajax Room - South  
Entrance Ajax Community Centre, 75 Centennial Road, Ajax, ON  
L1S 4S4**

### **March 2022 President's Message**

Wow, spring is less than two weeks away! That means we will Spring forward on March 13<sup>th</sup> which brings sunrise and sunset about an hour later than the day before. Did you know that Ontario passed legislation that would end the bi-annual changing of the clock, making daylight time permanent? But there was one big catch. The legislation only comes into effect if Quebec and New York agree to do the same.

In March we finally come out of hibernation! March 10<sup>th</sup> will be a Hybrid meeting with in-person attendance and Zoom connectivity. **Contact tracing and QR codes are still required by the Town.** Social distancing with masking will be required and refreshments will not be offered. You can lug-a-mug if you choose and don't forget your name badges. *Please bring cheque books to sign up for any outings and leave your perfume and scent at home during meetings and activities.* I look forward to meeting you.

At the February General Meeting the Management Committee attempted to amend the wording of our Membership application to coincide with the club's existing By-law which provides privacy of our members contact information. The club's bylaw Article II-5 states that membership lists will not be posted on our website, and this is still enforced. The membership list is distributed only to the Management Committee to manage our club and will not be distributed to its members. The board always welcomes your feedback in the operation of the club and welcomes your opinion.

Ruth Bridge

"A good friend is like a four-leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have",

Happy St. Patrick's Day.



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

**MARCH SPEAKER**

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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March Speaker: Maggie MacKenzie on David Dunlap Observatory

Located in and owned by the City of Richmond Hill, the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and has a national historic designation as well.

DDO first opened in 1935 as a University of Toronto facility and has been at the forefront of Canadian astronomical research. It houses a 74-inch (1.88 m) reflector telescope, at one time the second-largest telescope in the world, and still the largest in Canada. Several important studies have taken place here, including providing the first direct evidence that Cygnus X-1 was a black hole, pioneering measurements of the distance to globular clusters and the discovery that Polaris was stabilizing.

Maggie MacKenzie is the Heritage Services Coordinator with the City of Richmond Hill. She has worked in the City's Heritage related programs for over 25 years. Maggie is skilled in the areas of program/event management, research, policy development, collections management, exhibition design, and marketing. She is committed to fostering strong relationships within the community to support arts, culture, and heritage.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The renewals and withdrawals for 2022 are now complete and recorded. If you wish an application form for any new members, please contact us at [bbicknell@rogers.com](mailto:bbicknell@rogers.com). The cost for rejoining or new memberships is \$50.

Bev & Dave Bicknell

**SOCIAL**

**"Coming Soon - Save the Dates"**

## **St Francis Centre Social Events**

### **The Young Novelists**

**Date:** Saturday, March 5, 2022

**Time:** 7:00 - 9:00 pm

**Where:** St. Francis Centre, 78 Church Street South, Ajax

**Cost:** \$ **FREE**

**Purchase:** Tickets Link > [The Young Novelists \(stfranciscentre.ca\)](http://stfranciscentre.ca)

**Box Office** 905-619-2529, ext. 2787

Husband and wife folk duo, The Young Novelists, create contemporary folk songs that marry their effortless harmonies with darkly poetic lyrics and exquisitely crafted melodies.

In true folk tradition, they perform these songs — songs about love triangles, strange epitaphs, small-town heists, and abandoned amusement parks — along with projected photos and documents they collected in their travels.

#### **Directions:**

Go to the St Francis website or the link above; book your tickets; print your tickets; then email

**Patricia** at [pbolger@rogers.com](mailto:pbolger@rogers.com) to get your name on the list and get the directions for beverages after 9:00. I will remind you!

### **Middle Raged – Sketch Comedy Show**

**Date:** Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Time:** 7pm – 9pm

**Where:** St Francis Centre, 78 Church Street South, Ajax

**Cost:** \$41.47

### **LITTLE CANADA**

**Date:** Thursday April 21st, 2022, Note that this is the new date since the January date was cancelled due to lockdown.

**Cost:** \$25.00 plus tax, for admission to Little Canada

**Transportation:** GO Train and then a short walk to Dundas Square

**Time:** Leave Ajax GO station at approximately 1pm.

**Dinner:** Old Spaghetti Factory

Little Canada is a new permanent attraction located in Dundas Square, Toronto. There are 5 regions from across Canada that have been recreated in miniature. We will have 1 – 2 hours for viewing. Check out the Little Canada website [www.little-canada.ca](http://www.little-canada.ca)

For those who are interested we can have dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory before taking the GO train back home. Dinner and GO train costs will be dependent on what you order and the station where you travel from. Little Canada and the restaurant require proof of vaccination and Little Canada requires masks.

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

know if you are interested in attending. You will be contacted as soon as tickets go on sale.

### **Westben ABBA MIA: Save the Date**

We are excited to announce that we have an outing planned for Westben. This will be self-drive or carpool. Further details will be available in the April newsletter along with signing up at the April General PROBUS Meeting.

**Date:** Thursday July 22nd, 2022

**Show time:** 2:00 pm

**Where:** Westben, Cambellford

**Cost:** \$53.00

**Dinner after show:** yet to be determined

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

Come join us for our first bus outing since Covid 19! 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. **Sign up and bring your cheque book as payment will begin** at the March in person general meeting. If you are attending the virtual meeting, please contact Deborah Barbisan or Lorna Smith to arrange to drop off a cheque. **Please leave perfume and scent at home for meetings and outings. Thank you.**

**Date:** Wednesday June 22nd, 2022

**Time:** 8:30 am – leave Walmart parking lot – Coach Canada bus (please arrive at 8:15 am) The bus will also make comfort stops to and from Kingston. Approximate return time is 6:30 pm.

**Boat Cruise:** Boarding at 12:00 pm and departs at 12:30 pm

**Lunch** - still waiting for the 2022 menu – 3 entrée choices Please advise any dietary restrictions at time of signing up. See 2021 lunch menu on their website.

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

**Cost:** \$125.00 – includes bus driver tip (members leave separate 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)

## HERONGATE BARN THEATRE

Check out their website

<https://www.herongate.com/> for these three

upcoming performances:

**Murder at the Howard Johnson's:** February 11th – March 26<sup>th</sup>

**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.

Your social committee continues to follow the reopening of Ontario and plan future outings. Lorna Smith, Social Chair

### **FLASH NEWS Durhamwestprobus.org Website Update:**

You'll now find our Social Events in our calendar (See last page of this newsletter). As well, we've now added links to the individual Activity Group pages and to our Social Events page. Where addresses have been provided, you'll find that too in the details with a Google Map link.

## **ACTIVITIES**

***We are slowly welcoming back familiar activities we missed over the last two years.***

***The PROBUS Club of Durham West will be introducing a Darts group to our selection of activities.***

***This group will meet weekly at The King's Castle at 570 Westney Rd. starting Tuesday March 15th at 12:30pm.***

***It will be a drop in format, and registration is not required, but members will need to bring their own darts.***

***Members are welcome to arrive a little early and enjoy some lunch, a drink and some conversation while playing a couple of games.***

If your groups are meeting in person, please note that all PROBUS members participating in in-person activity groups must be fully vaccinated.

### **NOVEL READERS BOOK CLUB**

On March 2, the Novel Readers will be discussing *The Forgotten Daughter* by Joanna Goodman. This novel continues the story of Elodie, the central character from Goodman's *The Home for Unwanted Girls* as the Duplessie orphans struggle to obtain some recompense for what they had suffered. That story is told against the background of the separatist movement in Quebec. Our April book selection will be *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark T. Sullivan. The Novel Readers usually meet 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

### **WORDS WORTH READING BOOK CLUB**

In March the book club will be discussing "*The Woman Before Wallis*" by Bryn Turnbull, a novel of Windsors, Vanderbilts and Royal Scandal.

It tells the true story of the divorced American who captured Prince Edward's heart before he abdicated his throne for Wallis Simpson. The various settings include the Paris Ritz, the French Riviera and St. James's Palace in a story that includes love, loyalty, and duplicity.

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

### **BOWLING**

Our bowling dates are:

Thursday March 24th. 2 pm.

Thursday April 28th. 2 pm.

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**

March has some good news. Westney Gardens advise that they hope to allow our March meeting to take place inside on March 21st. It will be great to get together as a group and meet the new members. A reminder/confirmation will be sent out March 14th.

In the meantime, I'm still making red scarves - working on the sixth - and am well ahead for Christmas 2022.

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

### **NATURE LOVERS**

We are planning a trash clean-up around the Ajax Community Centre (ACC) this April, around Earth Day. I am proposing to hold a nature-oriented scavenger hunt (this will be a car rally of teams of 4) in June. Another nature-oriented scavenger hunt/walkabout will be at the Toronto Zoo in September (on Seniors Day as entry is free >65 yrs.). Stay tuned for updates. If you are interested in participating in these events you must join Nature Lovers! Contact Geoff Cutten at the email address below to join.

Please visit the new PROBUS Club of Durham West website - Activities - Nature Lovers for photos of past outings.

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

## SNAPPED PHOTOGRAPHY

In January and February Snapped have been reviewing photos taken on previous outings. We had a great presentation in January using the themes of Colour, Vintage and Summer/Fall. There is a small collection of photos shown in the [durhamwestprobus.org](http://durhamwestprobus.org)

website. 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**

Each Wednesday at 10 am we meet at a different location and spend up to an hour walking. Some people walk fast and some saunter along. So, you are bound to find someone who walks at your pace. If you would like to be on the emailing list for the weekly location, just send your name and email address to Bernice Pyke. Come out and socialize as you walk along!!

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



To align with the Provincial reopening framework, the Town of Ajax indoor recreation facilities have reopened: Audley and McLean Centre, Indoor pools, skating and fitness classes at the Ajax Community Centre.

The following programs can be described further at [www.ajax.ca/agefriendly](http://www.ajax.ca/agefriendly)

- The Winter 2022 Link Newsletter is now available online
- Amateur Poetry Contest is accepting submissions until April 16 at 5pm
- The Craft Crate program is no longer a monthly initiative. Pop-up Craft Crates may become available depending on the Town's resources.
- A Free Lunch & Learn on March 9<sup>th</sup> by Zoom will cover Pain Management, registration is required
- SCWW Senior Centre without Walls runs Monday to Wednesday at 1:30 by phone or Zoom – calendar of topics is online



Canada HomeShare is an intergenerational housing solution by the National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE). They work to match older adult home providers with students to create mutually beneficial living solutions. They aim to support aging in place for older adults while providing safe and affordable housing for post-secondary students.

Learn more about the Program at <https://www.canadahomeshare.com/> [HERE](#)

## **Sharing our Recipes**

March brings spring weather and new hope for our gardens. “**The Big Guy**” has already ordered his garden seeds from OSC and they arrived in the mailbox on one of the coldest days in early February. I am thinking that I will soon see him searching for 4-leaf clovers in the backyard this month and sniffing for Irish recipes in the kitchen. One of his favorites is **Irish Apple Cake** and I see that he is inserting a recipe for a special beverage to honor March 17.

I found this **Irish Apple Cake** recipe on [www.theviewfromgreatisland.com](http://www.theviewfromgreatisland.com) or you can use this link:

<https://theviewfromgreatisland.com/irish-apple-cake/>

and have made it several times with great results. It is a heavy cake that will rise about 2 ½”. It is nice to serve a small slice topped with warm custard sauce to friends or, maybe, snag a slice with some heavy cream for a Breakfast Cake.



## Irish Apple Cake

9" spring form pan, greased  
Preheat Oven 350 degrees F  
Bake 50 min – 1 hour

### Streusel Topping

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup flour  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup rolled oats  
6 Tbsp unsalted butter, cut in small cubes  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar

### Cake

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup unsalted butter, room temperature  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar  
2 large eggs  
3 Tbsp whole milk or cream

1  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp cinnamon  
 $\frac{1}{8}$  tsp salt  
3 Granny Smith apples, peeled and thinly sliced  
Dusting of icing sugar

### Method:

1. Make the Streusel Topping first then make the cake and cut the apples last.
2. Cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy then beat in the eggs and milk.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt then fold the dry into the wet ingredients.
4. Evenly spread the cake batter in the spring form pan then arrange the sliced apples on the top.
5. Cover with the Streusel Topping then bake 50 minutes to 1 hour until the top is lightly browned and a toothpick has no wet batter.
6. Dust with icing sugar or serve topped with a warm Bird's Custard. Serve with Bird's Custard Powder as directed on container.

## Irish Coffee

1-2 tsp brown sugar

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup strong hot black coffee

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz Irish Whiskey

2 Tbsp heavy cream or whipped cream

In a large coffee cup, add brown sugar, piping hot coffee and whiskey. Stir to dissolve the sugar.

Float the whipped cream on the top or pour the heavy cream over the back of a spoon so it floats across the top.

Submitted by P. Bolger

