

PROBUS CLUB OF PICKERING



Grey Matters

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President's Message

March is a wonderful and unpredictable month. The weather can be lamblike or leonine. We spring our clocks ahead and look for the first robins to appear. We celebrate St. Paddy's Day and our kids or grandkids and their teachers have a March Break to finish the winter and herald the arrival of Spring. Our Club Convenors and the Social Events and Speakers Coordinators have arranged for a full slate of club activities and social events, so we will have abundant opportunities for learning and fun. Since March is also PROBUS Month, we'll have some special treats at our meeting on March 25.

Breathe deeply, feel the energy in the air and enjoy!

Chuck Simmons, President

TWO OF OUR MEMBERS ARE-FRAN AND JOE SANCROFT, MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATORS

Joe and Fran are the ones who take your registration fees and keep track of your contact details. It is important that you keep them up-to-date if there are any changes in your information.

Always the "dynamic duo", both come from "over the pond", but from different parts: Fran was born and raised in south London, and Joe was born in Glasgow, Scotland. Fran spent many vacations and spare time in various parts of Europe, After High School, and before enrolling at Uni, Fran took a gap year in Paris, and spent many vacations in various parts of Europe – "southern Spain and Italy were so much more habitable than dreary London in winter".

Joe was but a lad of 8 years when his parents settled in Scarborough. He completed his formal education at Danforth Tech., and spent his early working years in the printing trade. Later he embraced a sales career, first with Yamaha Electronics, then with a store of his own – Baltimore Audio – and later in various sales positions in insurance, renovations and home decoration.

Meanwhile Fran emigrated on her own in her early 20's and settled in Toronto, where she held various managerial positions in the hospitality industry, ending up overseeing food services at the Pickering Nuclear Station. She then returned to school for a 2-year programme at Centennial College in business administration and computer technology. She used her skills as a Small Business Banking Manager with CIBC. Not one to rest on her laurels, Fran has also taught small business programmes part-time with the Durham Separate Schhol Board for several years. She is an avid reader, and has an eclectic knowledge of fibre arts and all things creative.

Both enjoy bird-watching, their small garden, and many social activities.

LUNCH BUNCH – REMINDER

Join your fellow members for lunch after the General Meeting at the MANDARIN, on Kingston Road east of Brock Road. All you can eat of whatever you like!

SOCIAL EVENTS



TRIVIA NIGHT

Tuesday March 24

The Courtyard, (off Pickering Parkway, east of Canadian Tire), 7:30 p.m.
We had so much fun last time we'll do it again! Everyone is welcome - challenge your brain and share some fun with your fellow PROBUS members. Only \$3.00 per person at the door Sign up at the next meeting. | We will meet again on April 21st.

"SUGARBUSH"

Thursday, March 26. \$74.00 p.p.

Coach transportation to a maple sugar bush for traditional Sugaring-off activities, a stop at the "Big Apple", and a visit to the village of Warkworth. A few spaces are still available on this trip.
Sign up now – contact Shirlie van Putten.

NIAGARA FALLS CASINO

Saturday, March 28 \$30 p.p.

Coach trip to Niagara, \$10 slot voucher, \$30 per person.
There is still space available. Call Shirlie right away.

WASHINGTON, D.C. CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

April 9-13. \$975 p.p., dbl

There are still a three hotel rooms available for this trip.
One night in Hershey, Penn, for chocolate of course, and 3 nights at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Washington, centrally located and close to a Metro station. As well as reserved seats for the Cherry Blossom parade, there will be an evening monument tour, and visits to many famous attractions.
Contact Shirlie, or sign up at the meeting. Full payment is due now.

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

May 2-4. \$299 dbl

Something for everyone! Shopping, Wine tours and tasting, Golf (fees extra)
Two nights at the Baymont Inn & Suites.

WOODBINE THOROUGHBRED RACING

Friday, May 22. \$55.

Bet on the Ponies! Buffet Lunch, Gaming Voucher
School Bus Transportation

THE SOUND OF MUSIC, STRATFORD

Thursday, May 28 \$139.00

Great orchestra seats, Lunch at the Queen's Inn, Coach Transportation,
Shopping/Browsing

Places are going fast! Sign up now. Final Payment will be due at the March meeting, March 25.

FINGER LAKES TOUR

June 7-9 \$499. dbl

A lovely short trip to neighbouring New York State. \$499 p.p., dbl

2 nights at the Ramada Geneva Lakefront, an Erie Canal boat cruise, and other visits
RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW; final payment will be due at the April meeting.

CLUB PICNIC

Mark **Thursday, June 25** on your calendar for this annual event.

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Attention Solo Travelers

Are you a Solo Traveler looking to avoid the Single Supplement? Meet with Shirlie for 20 minutes after the general meeting March 25, to discuss some of the findings from the meeting March 5.

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Participants in every tour or event will be notified a few days before the event, by email or phone, about meeting time, place, and other necessary details.

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All payments should be by cheque, to "PROBUS Club of Pickering".

SPEAKERS

MARCH 25

Julie Oakes of *Pickering Village Museum* will present "The Hand that Rocks the Cradle Rules the World". Trace the development of the suffragette movement in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and follow the gradual entry of women into the work force and their struggle for the vote.

APRIL 22

Dr. Francine, from the *Chiropractic Centre of Optimum Health*, will speak on "Arthritis and Activity". Let's get comfortable!



ACTIVITIES

Arts and Crafts

Mary Lou Simmons, cmls13@rogers.co 905-831-3733

The group's creative endeavours from the last 2 sessions, pottery serving dishes and decorated eggs, will be on display at the meeting March 25.

Our next Arts & Crafts meeting is Wed. April 1, 10 a.m., at Viva. Fran Sancroft will give us a presentation on "Colour": What is colour; what is YOUR favourite colour; Rainbows and the Spectrum, What is visible light, and its effects on colour; the new Colour Wheel; popular ideas, and uses of colour in everyday life.

Tentative plans for future sessions on drawing and painting are under way. I need to know how many people are interested – please sign up at the meeting.

Billiards

Don Voorhees, holdus1399@rogers.com 905-427-9653

Please note Don's new email address.

The Billiards Club meets regularly at Petrina's in Ajax every second Friday at 11 a.m. The next meeting is March 27, and in April on the 10th and 24th. The cost is only \$4.00 per person, valid all afternoon. Everyone, duffer or expert, is welcome! Petrina's is licensed, and a snack or lunch is available from the restaurant downstairs, by dumbwaiter.

Book Club

Mary Leigh, maryleigh@gmail.com 289-660-0130

The Book Club is in full swing, the 3rd Friday of each month, 2:00 p.m., at Viva Retirement Residence, Kingston Road at Glengrove, Pickering.

Copies of the selected book are provided by the Pickering Public Library, and collected after the discussion. You would have a whole month to read and digest each book

– Lots of Time! –

On March 20 the Book Club will discuss The 100-year Old Man Who Climbed Through the Window and Disappeared.

Bridge

Dave Powley, dpowley1@sympatico.ca 905-683-1444

Only a bit more than 1 month to complete all your bridge games, and send your scores in All scores must be submitted by April 30, so winners can be determined!

Remember the closing party for Bridge Club members is at the Mandarin, Monday, May 11.

Euchre

A New Club!

Shirlie van Putten, shirlievanputten@rogers.com

For all you euchre players who want to meet in Pickering: Shirlie Van Putten has offered to be the Club Convenor. Stay tuned for more information, and a EUCHRE Tournament on April 15.

Garden Club

Trish Stephens, p.stephens@rogers.com 905-831-4485



This you are going to love!

Here is our start on spring – the **Peterborough Garden Show**, celebrating its fifteenth year. As this is held early in April, we will combine the March and April meetings.

This is a garden show not to be missed – in my opinion far nicer Than Canada Blooms (which is on now until March 22 – friendly, local vendors, and no tractors, heavy equipment or hot tubs to wade through!

The show includes 4 speakers, Marjorie Mason being the first of the day, plus plenty of other attractions.

Check it out at www.peterboroughgardenshow.com

We will attend on Friday, April 3. The admission is \$7.00.

We will car-pool. I will contact existing club members; anyone else who wishes to join us will be welcome. Please contact me.

Mah Jong

Pauline Sampson, sampson84@gmail.com 905-660-3330

The Mah Jong Club meets every Monday afternoon, 1:00 p.m., at Chartwell Residence, Valley Farm Road. New members are always welcome!

You don't need to know how to play – we will show you. It's a lot of fun!

Scrabble

Mary Leigh, mary.j.leigh@gmail.com, 905-289-660-0130

Another New Club to challenge your brain, and pit your skills against friendly club members! The Scrabble Club will meet at the Chartwell Residence, Meeting Room, the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 19.

Tech Club

Richard Szpin, zippyonego@gmail.com 905-509-4321

March is "Wind Down" month, so even the Tech Club must take some time off, escape to warmer climes, to relax, restore, recharge and recuperate!

At the February workshop **Wunderlust** and **Evernote** were the apps focus.

Wunderlust is a first rate to-do/reminders app which is multi-platformed, easy to use, and comprehensive in its productivity. Evernote, a records, notes, archive application, is also cross-platformed, but is much more sophisticated. We will likely revisit it in April, as it has tremendous value to users of all skill levels.

Walking Club

Barbara Twiner, plantsbarbara@295.ca 905-839-7600

Spring Trek

Spring into the woods on Friday March 20.

Since this is the first day of spring maybe the snow will be gone.

Meet in the Bev Morgan parking lot at 10 a.m. – north end of Liverpool Road just before the high school.

Be prepared for all conditions – snow, slush, mud or ice – with suitable footwear and clothing. Walking sticks might be helpful.

Our walk will last about 1 ½ hours.

CPR TRAINING SESSIONS

“Don’t Panic! Be aware of what’s happening in an emergency!”

PROBUS Pickering has 2 sessions, 4 hours each, scheduled in April, at Viva Residence, Kingston Road at Glengrove, Pickering.

Cost: \$20 per person.

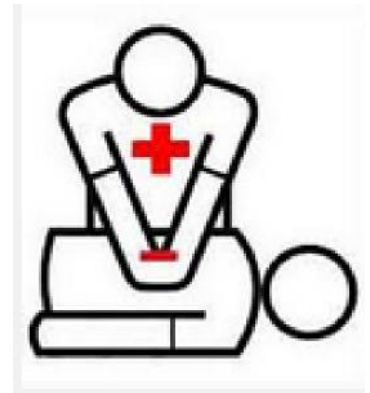
April 7 session is full.

April 14: a few spaces are still available.

More sessions will be arranged, likely in September or October, as needed.

This is your opportunity to learn life-saving techniques which we hope you will never have to use. You will not receive a certificate but you will gain confidence for serious situations.

Contact Richard Szpin to register or for more information:
905-509-4321 or zippyonego@gmail.com



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

* The Pickering Community Concert Band is presenting a concert, “Music around the World”, on April 26. Watch your local newspaper for time and place.

* “Canada Blooms” and the Home Show are at the Metro Convention Centre until March 22. Don Voorhees (Billiards Convenor) can provide lower-priced admission tickets.

There are a number of community bulletins which contain announcements of upcoming shows and events. Check out the News-Advertiser, Pine Ridge Arts Council bulletin, and local websites for specific info.

PROBUS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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