



# PROBUS Club of Clarington

*Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of  
the month, 10:00 AM  
1685 Bloor St., Courtice  
(Hope Fellowship Church)*

## From our President



Happy New Year! I hope everybody had a wonderful Christmas, spending time with family and friends, and of course eating way too much. Nancy and I, and our two sons spent the Christmas Holidays in Greece this year. I would like to tell you what a wonderful time we had, but seeing as I wrote this on December 21, that would be very presumptuous of me. I am looking forward to experiencing a Greek Christmas. I understand that it is one big party, lasting from December 24 right through to New Year's Eve.

Just as Christmas is a time to reflect on the past, New Year's is a time to look forward. A lot of us make New Year's resolutions. Every year I make the same resolution: I resolve to not make any resolutions, thereby guaranteeing that I will never break my New Year's resolution. For those of you that make resolutions, you can always look forward to New Year's Resolution Amnesia Day.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of our members to attend our monthly general meetings. It is especially important during the winter months to get out and interact with people. You get to hear all about the exciting events that the Social Committee, led by Andrea Shaw and her team, have planned. You get to hear the wonderful speakers the Speakers Committee, led by Paul Haliday and his team, have lined up. More importantly, you get to mingle with your fellow members over a drink and treats at the break. So, I look forward to seeing you all on January 10, 2024.

*John Muzik,  
President*



## PROBUS MANAGEMENT TEAM

John Muzik  
President

Marg Allen  
Vice President

Leslie Soltay  
Past President

Sherry Shrives  
Secretary

George Rickard  
Treasurer

Nadia Bilyk  
Membership  
Coordinator

Donna Bright  
Interest Group Chair

Andrea Shaw  
Social Committee Chair

Alice Chase  
Communications Chair

## Speaker for January – Steve Burrows

**Topic:** From Birder to Birder Murder: The Mystery Deepens

A lighthearted slideshow that moves between the worlds of birding, publishing and research travel, following the author's route from environmental journalist to author of the best-selling Birder Murder Mystery series.

Born in the U.K., raised and educated in Canada, and later a resident of Hong Kong, Steve Burrows became a freelance travel writer and contributing editor to Asian Geographic. His Birder Mystery series began with *A Siege of Bitterns*, published in 2014, which won the Crime Writers of Canada Award for first Best Novel. His seventh book in the series, *A Foreboding of Petrels*, was published last fall.

Steve will have his books available for purchase at the meeting.



## Member Profile

Sandra Wells, of Bowmanville, joined the Club in September of this year in order to engage in the PROBUS



community. Many of her hobbies - fabric arts and visual arts – are solitary endeavours. PROBUS offers Sandra an opportunity to be active with a 'village' of like-minded folks. She was an eager participant in the Christmas dress-up challenge at December's general meeting as she believes that you have to have fun in life.

Sandra was born in Oshawa, one of 5 children. She attended Bowmanville High School (as did her husband) and attended the University of Waterloo where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree. She then earned her B.Ed. degree which led her to a four-year teaching stint in the northern village of Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan. However, she spent the bulk of her teaching career locally and retired in 2020 from her long-term position, teaching science, at Pine Ridge Secondary School in Pickering.

Sandra and her husband, Vaughn, initially met at a Doug & the Slugs concert at Ontario Place, but their next meet-up at a baseball game sealed the romantic deal. They celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March, 2023. While Sandra and Vaughn are now empty nesters, they have two children and Jenbo, a rescue dog.

Sandra enjoys the monthly general meetings and looks forward to participation in the interest groups.

*Interviewed by Donna Bright*

## Membership Report

Herb Ogar, a guest at December's meeting, won \$127.50 from the Share the Wealth draw last month. Wow! Congratulations Herb!

Share the Wealth and buy your tickets at \$1 / 1 ticket, \$2 / 3 tickets or \$5 / 8 tickets. Enjoy free coffee and treats with your purchase. *Nadia Bilyk*



*Photo by Pleun Dorsman*

## News from your Social Committee

Everyone had a wonderful time at the Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 8. Kedron Dells did a wonderful job with décor, food and incredible service. Our thanks to Victoria who was a fantastic emcee, and to Marg Allen and the Merry-makers who sang a very touching blessing and then performed Christmas songs for us. Our thanks to Pleun for taking the photos and to Nancy who posted them on the website before setting out on her vacation. (Check out Member Pages on our Clarington PROBUS website. Scroll down to Christmas Luncheon 2023. Video of the choir is also included. <https://probusclarington.wildapricot.org/page-18751>)



The Biltmore Theatre is a lovely intimate little theatre showcasing live musical entertainment and special events. The quartet performance was wonderful and the cellist, who also emceed, provided lots of humour through this one hour concert. It was a peaceful, gentle time listening to the classics and getting in the mood for the holiday weekend.



Photo by Sharon Lochan



Photo by Lynette Holloway

### Upcoming Events

**Games Day, Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at Fionn MacCool's, 2350 Hwy 2, Bowmanville; registration is \$5.20 per person. Games begin at 2:00 pm followed by dinner (at members own expense) at 5:00 pm.**

Enjoy an afternoon of games and socializing followed by a great dinner. We ask that you bring your favourite games to share.



*As in life, so in a game of hazard, skill will make something of the worst of throws.*  
J. Meade Falkner



**The Chicks Tribute Band, Saturday, April 27, at 8:00 pm at Newcastle Community Hall, 20 King. Ave. W., Newcastle; \$47.25 per person.**

We have reserved 25 tickets for these Juno Award winners. They are backed up by a full band and provide a tribute to the top-selling female country group of all time, The Chicks, formerly know as The Dixie Chicks. A cash martini bar and hors d'oeuvres will be served at intermission.

**Please register by Jan 31.** Guests are welcome. If registration is full, add your name to the waitlist as more tickets may become available.



## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**The Full Monty, July 17, The Capitol Theatre, 20 Queen St., Port Hope; 2:00 pm.**



We have reserved 24 tickets and must have a minimum of 15 tickets sold in order to get special pricing. Guests are welcome.

This is a raucous, pop-rock musical that takes it all off! While spying on their wives at a "Girls' Night Out," a group of unemployed steelworkers from Buffalo come up with a bold (and unclothed) way to make some quick cash. In preparing for the show, they find themselves extremely exposed, both physically and emotionally. As they conquer their fears, self-consciousness, and prejudices, the men come to discover that they're stronger as a group, and the strength that they find in each other gives them the individual courage to let it all go.

Based on the cult hit film, *The Full Monty* is filled with razor-sharp humour, toe-tapping rhythms, and the most highly anticipated closing number of any show.

The Social Committee would like to thank you for your participation in the events of 2023. We are excited by the offerings already planned for 2024 and hope you will enjoy them. (Clockwise from bottom left: Lynette Holloway, Susan Hollyman, Anna Huston, Andrea Shaw, Linda Bray, Madonna Lomas, Sally Mullen. Missing from the picture: Cathy Spracklin and Rhoda Wraith.)

### *Andrea Shaw*

(Editor's Note: Thank you ladies of the Social Committee for all the hard work you do to keep us engaged and entertained!)

*The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The realist adjusts his sails.*



## Interest Groups

*'Twas the season to be jolly...*

### Book Club 1



Back row: Liola, Linda, AnneMarie, Angela, Nelly, Nancy and Carla. Front row: Edwina, Victoria and Suzanne. (Not shown and missed greatly: Sandy). We're happy to relate that the #1 Probus Book Club is still going strong with its original members, minus our dear Eleanor who passed away during the year. Cudos to Angela, who after just having moved to Wilmot Creek recently, managed to get her house in order and looking beautiful for our Christmas gathering. We're all looking forward to many more years together with our wonderful group.

*Photo by Edwina Johnston*

*Edwina Johnston*

### Book Club 3



Besides food for thought, Book Club 3 greatly appreciates food for the body as well! A festive potluck lunch was enjoyed at the lovely home of our gracious hostess, Susan Hollyman.

*Photo by Alice Chase*

*Alice Chase*

### Book Club 4

Book club 4 celebrated the holiday season with a lunch at Bistro 238 after our December meeting and book discussion. Unfortunately, not all members were able to attend this lunch, but those who did had fun!

*Sharon Lochan*



*Photo by Sharon Lochan*



## Choir



On Dec. 11, the last rehearsal for the year, the choir met at my place, sang for a short time and then enjoyed coffee, tea, eggnog and treats.

*Marg Allen*



## Fibre Arts



*Photo by AnneMarie Halliday*

*The only place where housework comes before needlework is in the dictionary.*

*Mary Kurtz*

## Ladies Who Lunch



*Bowmanville Swiss Chalet; Submitted by Shirley Shirley*



## Hiking Group



Photo by Mary Ellen Craig

Me going on a stupid little daily walk for my stupid physical and mental health



Intrepid hikers, led by John Windatt, setting out to hike the Linton Tract of Orono Crown Lands on Jan. 3. Note their much more cheerful demeanor than that of our feathered friend pictured above.

## December Meeting Miscellany



President John Muzik showing off his Christmas sweater



Winner of Original Ugly Sweater contest, Heather Griffen



Our own Jolly Old Elf, Jim Bamford



All December Miscellany photos by our much-appreciated homegrown photographer, Pleun Dorsman

## Message from Wendy Machmer, Gen. Mgr., PROBUS Canada

PROBUS Canada ran a photo contest inviting all members to enter their photos. The prize was \$100, but more important were the bragging rights. The winning photo will be used in advertising to showcase the fun that belonging to a PROBUS club can be.

The winner of the first photo contest in 2023 is **Duncan Bristow** of Collingwood PROBUS Mountainview. Congratulations, Duncan! Although this photo doesn't show any faces, for that reason it is perfect because it represents everyone. Everyone and anyone, regardless of creed, colour, or gender identification can be a PROBUS member and we welcome you with open arms.

This photo shows seniors enjoying a crisp winter day full of sunshine, snowshoeing up a slight incline. The picture is full of colourful coats, trees, snow and shadows. Duncan tells us this was taken on the Bruce Trail near Collingwood.



We are thrilled to see such a wonderful entry! Congratulations once again, Duncan.

## A bit of a hoot...

It has been said that a raven has 17 primary wing feathers, the big ones at the end of the wing being called pinion feathers. A crow has 16. So, the difference between a raven and a crow is only a matter of a pinion.

*(For all you serious birders out there - it's just a joke!)*



What do you call a parrot that flew away?

(A polygon)

What do you call two crows?

(An attempted murder)





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**Next PROBUS Meeting**

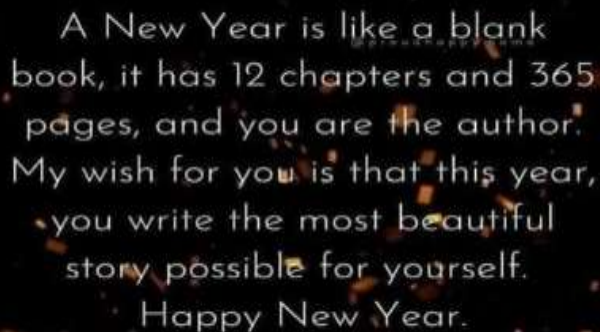
*Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 10 am*

*Remember to bring a mug and money for Share the Wealth*

*Deadline for submissions to the February Newsletter is January 27*

*Send articles, pictures and jokes to [chase\\_al@hotmail.com](mailto:chase_al@hotmail.com)*

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A New Year is like a blank book, it has 12 chapters and 365 pages, and you are the author. My wish for you is that this year, you write the most beautiful story possible for yourself. Happy New Year.

*Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement, to get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually.*

*Rabbi Abraham Heschel*

*May your 2024 be filled with amazing adventures, joy and health!*

*The following event or travel opportunity is offered for your information only and is not being sponsored by PROBUS Club of Clarington. Members should be aware they would be dealing directly with the travel company or sponsoring organization and that it may be offered to other PROBUS clubs and/or the general public.*

**CANXPLORE**

Small Group Tours for the Young-At-Heart

## **NEWFOUNDLAND DISCOVERY TOUR**

**Tour Date: July 7 to 16, 2024**

**Online presentation January 25th, 2024**

**Email [cathy@canxplore.com](mailto:cathy@canxplore.com) for the link**

**Early Booking Bonus \$100 off pp if booked by Feb 1/24**

**\$5195<sup>pp</sup>**  
double  
occupancy  
tax incl.

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