



UXFORMATION

MANAGEMENT TEAM

President

Robin Dhillon

Past-President

Kathy Clulow

Secretary

JoAnne Binns

Treasurer

Don Osborne

Margaret Blanchet (Vice)

Speaker Chair

Zina Bolak

Social Committee Chair

Peggy Kennedy

Gail Heroux (Vice)

Interest Groups Chair

Jen Thorson

Newsletter Editor

Bernie Beales

Membership Chair

Janet Patterson

House Chair

Sally Kotsopoulos

Cheryl Bain (Vice)

Members At Large

Albert Fintleman

Susan Hiller

Amber D'Aguiar

Site Administrator

Paul Hayward

President's Message

They say April showers bring May flowers, but first, the winter snow has to go! As the days grow longer and brighter, and the bitter cold begins to fade, our thoughts turn to getting out again after months of what can feel like hibernation. Perhaps you've already started seedlings indoors, anticipating the day you can get back into the garden. Or maybe it's simply the thought of heading outside without hats, coats, and scarves that's most appealing. Either way, month in and month out, your Probud Club is here with our monthly meetings and the many activities we have planned.

April is also an important month for the future of our club. The Nominating Committee will be presenting its recommended slate of officers for the 2026–2027 Management Team. This slate will be reviewed at the Management Team meeting later this month and then presented to the full membership for ratification at our AGM in June. This Committee's role is to thoughtfully consider each member who has expressed interest in serving, by looking at their skills, experience, and how they can work effectively and harmoniously with the team as a whole.

This is our final call for nominations for the 2026–2027 Management Team. If you've ever considered getting involved, now is the perfect time.

Volunteers are always needed, not only for the Management Team, but also to help with the House Team, organize events with the Social Team, or lead an Interest Group. Being part of a team is about more than simply helping out. Volunteering doesn't have to involve a major time commitment. When many people contribute a little, the work becomes lighter, and more enjoyable, for everyone. There truly is a place for each of us to get involved in a way that feels comfortable and meaningful.

We would be delighted to hear from you. Please reach out for a conversation. We are happy to help you find a role that fits your interests, skills, and availability.

Robin Dhillon

Find YOUR place at the table! Members of the Social Committee (L->R) Lenore, Gail, Ellen, Sharon, Karen and Eileen are ready to welcome YOU!



From Your Speakers' Chair

Apr. 8 - Ted Barris "The Battle of Britain"

Award winning journalist and author, Uxbridge's own Ted Barris, will talk about his latest and 22nd non-fiction book, Battle of Britain: Canadian Airmen in Their Finest Hour. We'll hear about the untold stories of Canadians who answered the call to turn back the threat of Nazi invasion and who helped secure victory in the greatest aerial battle in history. Ted writes a weekly column called The Barris Beat in the Uxbridge Cosmos - our local paper - and was awarded the Order of Canada in 2024.



May 13 - Dr. Ken Shonk "Laughter is the Best Medicine"

Dr. Ken Shonk, a retired family physician, will talk about the importance of laughter and humor in our lives. In his opinion, he believes that while practising medicine is not always fun, fun is always good medicine. Books may be available for sale.

June 10 - Annual General Meeting - Tom Locke "Girl Groups" (Musical)

July 8 - Lianne Harris "The History of Hygiene"

NOTE: We will be meeting at Udora Community Hall for June, July and August

From Your House Chair

Next Meeting: Wed. Apr. 8 @10:00 a.m. Uxbridge Community Centre

Spring has sprung and we are looking for buds and birds. I saw my first robin the other day and I have to say he was particularly chunky. He may have stopped at the Pancake House on his flight back to Uxbridge. The House Committee is happy to welcome Bruce Benson to our Team. Bruce will be a regular on set up helping particularly with lifting our very heavy tables at the arena.

April is Team 4 on our roster:

Set Up – Bruce Benson, John Wilcock, John Wilson and April Gilkinson

Kitchen – Lorraine Wilcock and Marilyn Davis

Greeters – Aggie Campbell-Rogers and Gillian Izzard

Thank you as always for our wonderful volunteers and Have a Happy Easter!!



Sally Kotsopoulos and Cheryl Bain

ECO-TIP OF THE MONTH - EARTH DAY (APR. 22)



Fifty-six years ago, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson realized the devastation that 150 years of industrialization had wrought on our planet. He asked the question - what can we do to reduce mankind's footprint? The answer was, and is, simple: Use energy wisely; plant wild flowers and native plants; help with community cleanups; be kind to pollinators; support organizations that conduct talks and workshops; conserve water; stop using unnecessary chemicals and do not waste food. We might add - join our group "Reducing My Footprint" to discuss what can be done locally. April 22nd is Earth Day, noted as a reminder that the battle to respect our environment and preserve life on our planet is ongoing. Mark your calendar. Love your Planet!

The following quiz might help further your understanding:

1. How much plastic that is discarded daily is recycled? (just 9%)
2. What are 3 ways to leave our soil/farmland in better shape than we found it? (reduce tillage; use crop rotation; and compost)
3. How much time do you have to spend in nature to improve your physical and mental well-being? (20 minutes a day, or 120 minutes a week)
4. What 2 things do bees need from flowers to feed their colonies? (nectar and pollen)
5. How much edible food is wasted? (25%, representing a massive waste of water, energy and financial capital)

We missed reminding you of Earth Hour on March 28 when we were to shut off our lights and all electronics between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. For the sake of the planet, let's actively observe EARTH DAY on April 22, and make it meaningful. *(From Reducing My Footprint Interest Group)*

From Your Membership Chair

Looking For A Name Tag?

Spring is here and membership renewal is right around the corner. Yet I still have many name tags that have not been picked up yet. In fact, I still have name tags from last year (2024-25)! So, if you became a new member either last year or this year and are without the official name tag, please come and see me at the check-in counter in April. Chances are I have it waiting for you! I also have a list of people who requested a replacement name tag. I will be ordering these shortly so if you need a new name tag, I would be pleased to add your name. There is a \$25 charge for replacement name tags.



JANET
PATTERSON

PROBUS Club of Uxbridge

In Memoriam - Ross Etherington

We were saddened to hear that one of our founding members, Ross Etherington, passed away on March 10, 2026. Our sincere condolences to his wife Sallyanne and their family. Sallyanne has served on our Social Committee for years. Ross will be missed by family and friends.

Ross's obituary can be found by clicking on the following link: [Obituary](#)



From Your Social Committee

Shamrock Shenanigans

Uxbridge Legion - Tues. Mar. 17

Once again our Social Committee outdid itself! We were welcomed into a transformed space at the Legion with St. Patrick's Day decorations everywhere! Coffee was available and the bar was open - or combine for an Irish coffee! Most of us complied with the request to wear green with lots of St. Patrick's Day hats, necklaces or ties. Right away we knew we were in for a fun evening. The roast beef dinner was yummy (many enjoyed second helpings) before our dessert of pie. Vintage Soul provided a wide variety of music. My only issue was that the conversation was always so interesting that the music faded into the background. What a great problem/blessing to have as a club - everyone gets along and interesting conversations are happening at every table. We were divided into teams of three as our own giant leprechaun, Bernie Beales, challenged our knowledge of the old sod with a lively round of Trivia. Prizes were given out for both top and bottom trivia scores while our musical guests awarded the most creative get-ups (see photo). As the music continued, some brave souls got up to dance. Thanks again to the entertainers, our Trivia Master, and the Social Committee for yet another well-planned event. Special thanks to the ladies of the Legion for providing our dinner. Our Social Committee never disappoints -thank you, awesome ladies!

Report by Kathy Clulow, Photos by Chuck Heroux & Bernie Beales



TO SIGN UP FOR ALL SOCIAL EVENTS:

You must be a member in good standing (or guest of a member) of Uxbridge PROBUS to attend.

First - you must sign up to reserve your spot by one of three ways:

- 1. In person** at the Social Events Table during General Meetings,
- 2. By e-mail** by clicking on this link: [Social Group Chair](#)
- 3. By telephone** to Social Chair Peggy Kennedy (905)852-0373 or Vice-Chair Gail Heroux (905)852-9927.

Next - you must pay either:

- 1. By e-transfer** to treasurer.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com
- 2. By cheque payable to "Probus Club of Uxbridge" at a meeting or**
- 3. By cheque through the mail to:**

Uxbridge PROBUS c/o Gail Heroux, 72 Munro Cres., Uxbridge ON L9P 1L8.

NO CASH PLEASE - Cheques & E-Transfers Only!

To view complete details of events, click on this link: [SOCIAL EVENT FLYERS](#)

Upcoming Social Events



National Canadian Film Day At the Uxbridge Curling Club

Wed. Apr. 15 - Only \$10 per person
Popcorn, pizza & drinks for sale

Downstairs Films

10:00 - The Sweet Hereafter
1:15 - Away From Her
3:15 - New Waterford Girl

Upstairs Films

10:00 - Stories We Tell
1:15 - I Like Movies
3:15 - The Grey Fox

Sign up directions in Gold Box above. See separate flyer for more details.



Markham Concert Band
Unleashed
SUN. MAY 3 - 2:00 PM
Flato Markham Theatre
(Drive Yourself Event)



Purchase your own concert ticket online or by phone using the PROMO Code "Probus"
Sign up to join us for dinner at the Boxgrove Mandarin Restaurant after the concert.
Sign up directions in Gold Box above. See separate flyer for more details.

Tiptoe Through The Tulips

Thursday, May 7
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
A Mary Martin Bus Trip

Cost - \$148 (Members) \$158 (Guests)

Includes:

- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
- Tour of TASC Tulip Farm & Small Bunch of Tulips to take home
- Lunch at Betty's Restaurant
- View of Painted Lady Houses in Grimsby
- Wine Tasting at Magnotta Winery

Sign up directions in Gold Box above. See separate flyer for more details.





Paws & Petals

Tuesday, June 9

8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

A Mary Martin Bus Trip

Cost - \$182 (Members) \$192 (Guests)

Includes:

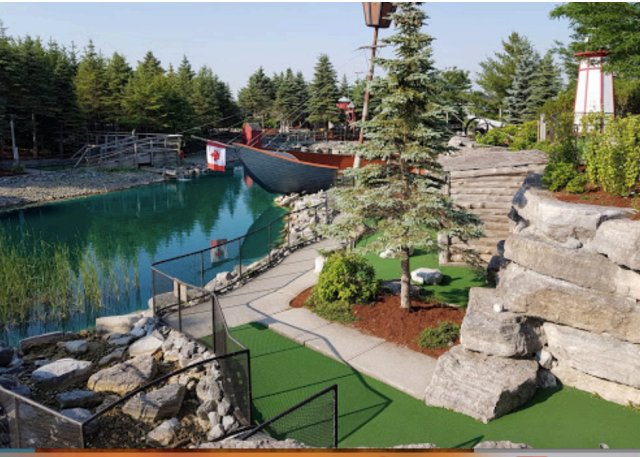
Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation to and from Uxbridge

Admission to Royal Botanical Gardens (Self-Guided)

Chicken Cordon Bleu Lunch

African Lion Safari Bus Tour

Sign up directions in Gold Box above. See separate flyer for more details.



Thursday, June 18 1:30 pm

TIMBERCREEK MINI-GOLF

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY - COME FOR FUN

TIMBERCREEK GOLF & FAMILY FUN CENTRE

12772 NINTH LINE, STOUFFVILLE

(Drive Yourself Event)

COST: \$14 per person

Save The Date...

Coming Aug. 13-Lake Muskoka Cruise

from Gravenhurst (Mary Morton Tour)

2-1/2 hr Luncheon Cruise on the WINONA II

Visit to the Muskoka Discovery Centre

Shopping at the Mariposa Market

Cost: \$190 (members) \$200 (guests)

We welcome suggestions from our members. Speak to someone at the Social Table, send us an e-mail or put your comments in the suggestion box.

In The Works...

Possible Future Events:

The Giving Place Lavender Farm (July - Drive Yourself Event)

Ajax Racetrack and Casino (Drive Yourself)

Car Rally in the fall

Kingston Penitentiary & Tour of Keewatin (Mary Morton Tour) in September

Current Interest Groups

TO SIGN UP FOR ALL INTEREST GROUPS:

1. Visit us in person at the **Interest Groups Table** during General Meetings
-or-

2. Email by clicking on this link: [Interest Group Chair](#)

Typically, there is no charge to join an Interest Group (although some groups may have a minimal fee to pay for the use of the venue).

You must be a member in good standing of Uxbridge PROBUS to join an Interest Group.

If you have an idea for a new group or want to join one of the existing groups, please contact us!

AGE GETS BETTER WITH WINE: Coordinator Anne Gauvreau

We met on March 11 and found out it IS easy being green!
This group meets on the second Wed. of the month at 7:00.

BOOK BUDDIES: Coordinator Gerri Martin

Our next Book Buddies meeting will be held on Thursday April 23 at 1:30 to discuss Recipe For A Good Life by Lesley Crewe.

Our club has access to book club sets from time to time. It

makes it very convenient to distribute our selections to our members most months. This group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1:30.



CANASTA CREW - GAMES & LESSONS: Coordinator Amber D'Aguiar

Canasta is a fun and challenging card game played in groups of four. Lessons are held from 1:00-2:00 for new players and for those who need practice, and then we continue to play from 2:00-4:00. All are welcome! *****Canasta has been on hiatus and will resume shortly.***** This group meets on the second Thursday of each month.

COURT JESTERS (PICKLEBALL): Coordinators Alan James & Bill McMahon

This group is on hiatus until the spring.

CREATIVE WRITING & MEMOIRS: Coordinator Kathy Clulow

Our writing group is off to a good start. We meet, we select our prompt, we write, we read, we encourage, we do it all again. There is space for 2 more members.

Would you like to join us? Initially, we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 pm. We will look at selecting an official name, and rotating

locations as we get going. We plan to break for the summer, and to keep this group small with a max of 8 members. Meetings will last about 1-1/2 hours.

GARDENING GURUS: *GROUP RETIRING*



GENIAL GENEALOGISTS: Coordinator Bernie Beales

At our March meeting, we spent a bit of time exploring the free app DNA Painter. Great features including WATO (What Are The Odds) and Shared cM Tool to help find out how we are connected. Join us for our next meeting on Apr. 22 as we continue to share our genealogical joys and frustrations (why do the frustrations outnumber the joys?) This group usually meets on the third Thursday of each month from 1:30-3:30.

GRAPE MINDS THINK ALIKE: Coordinators Melissa Harding & Caren Narvet

For our March gathering, our lively group sampled and discussed a variety of wines from Germany and Austria. While we expected that most of the wines would be sweeter than what we might normally choose, we surprisingly discovered several semi dry refreshing whites with some very pleasant Pinot Noirs in the mix. Next month, we'll be sharing our "Go To" wines...wines that we enjoy and tend to gravitate towards regularly. We currently have space for a few more members. This group meets on the third Wednesday of the month.



KITCHEN BRIDGE: Coordinator Anne-Marie Sacco

Both men and women are welcome. The group meets on the first Thurs. of the month.

KNIT OR NOT HANDICRAFTERS: Coordinator Wanda Laing

We were a small group of four at this last Knit or Not Handicraft group but it was still a terrific party. Comradeship and cookies! What more could you ask for? We usually meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month; however, It doesn't always work out that way depending on how many weeks are in a month or doctor's appointments (which has become the 'norm' for most of us). If you are a member of this group, Wanda will send out a confirmation and project information email before the meeting. This group usually meets at 1:00 on every first and third Wednesday of the month.

LADIES' BRIDGE CLUB: Coordinators: Margaret Langlands & Caren Narvet

We travel home to home, playing anywhere from 1-3 tables each month. Looking forward to fun, games and friends in 2026! We meet on the second Tues. of the month at 1:00.

LET'S EAT OUT: Coordinators Gail & Chuck Heroux

Shamrock Shenanigans took the place of our monthly gathering in March. This group meets on the third Tues. or Thurs. of the month.

LIGHTS, SNACKS, ACTION!: Coordinators Amber D'Aguiar & Mary Freedman

Both Coordinators were lucky enough to be footloose and fancy-free abroad in March; April will see a re-launch of the group's activities. Stay tuned! Meanwhile, enjoy this memory of our last outing together to see Wuthering Heights at the Roxy!





LIT HAPPENS: Coordinator Jen Thorson

A small-ish iteration of Lit Happens met on March 26th to discuss our wonderful Canadian author Mary Lawson's Crow Lake. We unanimously agreed she writes beautifully and weaves a powerful story. We celebrate another fabulous (alas, not Canadian) writer in April with Lisa Genova's Left Neglected. This group meets at 1:00 on the fourth Thursday of the month.

LOCAL EXPLORERS: Coordinator Susan Hillar

A few of us visited Pefferlaw Creek Farm. The local sausages, pancakes and local syrup were a treat. It was a really enjoyable morning, good food and even better company.



MAHJONG: Coordinators Mary Freedman & Amber D'Aguiar

Coming this May! New and experienced players welcome. Sign up with Jen Thorson at the monthly meeting or as explained in the gold box at the start of this section.



MONDAY LUNCH BUNCH: Coordinators Betty Bignell & Joy Freemantle



Members of the Monday Lunch Bunch enjoyed getting together in March at the Uxbridge Swiss Chalet. We had another great time

socializing & dining together. The group will get together again on next on April 27. This group meets on the last Monday of each month.

REDUCING MY FOOTPRINT: Coordinator Brian Keeling

Join us for always lively and informed conversation on how WE can make a difference to the health of our planet. We cover a huge range of topics, and never leave a meeting without having learned something new. This group meets at 10:00 on the third Wed. of the month.

ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out): Coordinator John Willcock

This group usually meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at noon to solve the problems of the world over lunch. Our next meeting will be April 24.

SMALL TOWN THEATRE: Coordinators Steve Fryzuk & Peggy Kennedy

On April 11, we will be attending the Oshawa Little Theatre to see the Full Monty. Lunch has also been scheduled. Small Town Theatre members attend matinee performances on the weekend at theatres in the Durham and York region.

Share A Smile - Our Weird and Wonderful Language

"Phonetic" is not phonetic.
"Abbreviation" has 12 letters.
"Thesaurus" doesn't have a synonym.
"Monosyllabic" has 5 syllables.
Say what you will about English, but it has a sense of humour!

"I before E"
Except when your neighbour Keith receives eight counterfeit beige sleighs from feisty caffeinated weightlifters.
Weird!

Your fingers have fingertips but your toes don't have toetips.
Yet you can tiptoe but not tipfinger.



The 3 hardest things to say:
1. I was wrong.
2. I need help.
3. Worcestershire sauce.

Why is it that nobody ever seems to have the right amount of "whelm"?

Someone told me, "Nothing rhymes with orange."
I said, "No it doesn't!"

The other day, I bought a thesaurus. When I opened it at home, all the pages were blank! I have no words to describe how angry I am!

My friend keeps saying, "Cheer up! It could be worse. You could be stuck underground in a hole full of water." I know he means well.

NEOLOGISMS - New meanings for old words! (From The Washington Post)

1. **Coffee** (n.) - The person upon whom one coughs
2. **Flabbergasted** (adj.) - Appalled over how much weight you've gained
3. **Abdicate** (v.) - To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach
4. **Esplanade** (v.) - To attempt an explanation while drunk
5. **Willy-nilly** (adj.) - Impotent
6. **Negligent** (adj.) - Describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown
7. **Lymph** (v.) - To walk with a lisp
8. **Gargoyle** (n.) - Gross, olive-flavored mouthwash
9. **Flatulance** (n.) - Emergency vehicle that picks you up after you've been run over by a steamroller
10. **Balderdash** (n.) - A rapidly receding hairline
11. **Rectitude** (n.) - The formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists
12. **Pokeman** (n.) - A Rastafarian proctologist
13. **Circumvent** (n.) - An opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men
14. **Frisbeetarianism** (n.) - The belief that when you die, your soul flies up on the roof and gets stuck there