



UXFORMATION

MANAGEMENT TEAM

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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:

I love Uxbridge! Of course, no place is perfect, and you can always find things you don't like wherever you live. Still, after nearly 30 years here, it's hard to imagine calling anywhere else home. While our town may not have everything, most of what we need is only about 30 minutes away. Best of all, Uxbridge is a close-knit community where people know one another and often run into familiar faces around town.

For many of you, Uxbridge has been home for generations. Susan and I still feel like newcomers by comparison! Your long connection to this community says a lot about what a special place it is. Nearly everyone we spend time with, other than our family, lives here or nearby. Our Probus Club is something to be proud of as well. In fact, it is the envy of many, with 300 members and close to 70 people currently on our waiting list. And this year, there is something new to celebrate.

In January, the provincial government officially recognized Uxbridge as an **Age-Friendly Community**. Only about 15% of municipalities in Ontario have received this designation. This achievement is due in large part to the dedication and leadership of Kathy Clulow, our Past President and chair of the Uxbridge Age-Friendly Committee. Many of us know how many hours Kathy has devoted to this important work, and we should all be very proud of her accomplishments. Thank you, Kathy. This recognition means that when we speak out on seniors' issues, our voices will be heard more clearly and effectively.



As we (hopefully!) begin to leave winter behind, let's continue to enjoy our friendships, make good use of the resources around us, and keep advocating for the needs of our community.

Robin Dhillon

From Your Speakers' Chair



Feb. 11 - Roger Varley "Let's Talk About Love"

Roger came to Uxbridge in 1990. He was involved in community theatre at the Music Hall for 25 years. He was editor of the Uxbridge Times-Journal for a couple of years. He joined The Cosmos in 2005 where he reports on local events and writes a weekly opinion column called "Am I Wrong?"

With Valentine's Day around the corner, Roger decided to talk to us about "Love". We will hear about his opinions on love and relationships, different kinds of love, and different expressions of love. The aim is to have people think about what love means to them. However, he says

"I do not claim in any way whatsoever to be an expert on love!"

Mar. 11 - Cheryl Ibbotson "Secrets of the Wealthy"

Author, columnist and host of "Ask the Money Lady" will share her tips on what financially successful retirees are doing differently.



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

Local Author will talk about his latest book.

From Your House Chair

Next Meeting: Wed. Feb. 11 @10:00 a.m. Uxbridge Community Centre

Love is in the air and the House Committee loves a joyful refreshment plan for the February General Meeting. This month's **Captain is Susan Hillar** and the team is as follows:

Set-up (Arrive by 9:00): Rod Eastman, Chuck Heroux and Larry Nancekivell

Kitchen (Arrive by 9:00): Mary Ann Eastman, Cathy Boone and Diana Ayton

Greeters (Arrive by 9:30): Jim and Marilyn Davis

We are loving that people are bringing in a book or a puzzle to share with other members but PLEASE limit how many items you donate to 1 or 2. It is difficult to ask someone at the end of the meeting to lug a large box or bag of items to drop off at Chances Are. Thank you!

Sally Kotsopoulos and Cheryl Bain



From Your Social Committee

Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf

Glow Town Stouffville - Thurs. Jan. 30

Our trip to Glowtown indoor golf course proved to be an outing filled with fun and laughter. The trip had been delayed 2 weeks due to weather, and although it was not milder (brrr!) the roads had been cleared of snow and it was a fairly easy drive to Stouffville. Over 20 eager golfers gathered at Chuck's Roadhouse at noon and everyone seemed to enjoy the meal and company although it did take a while to be served. The golfers then crossed the parking lot in groups of four to start the games. The facility was warm, clean and manned by friendly folk. We each were provided a fluorescent golf club and ball and, depending on what you wore, "glowed" as we entered the Canada-themed fairway. There were a full 18 holes which despite being quite tricky to work through, provided an hour or so of chuckles and surprises (the biggest surprise for most of us was when the ball actually went in the direction we had hoped for)! The other challenge was trying not to trip in the dark and we did hone that skill - well, most of us! We also confirmed that the Masters' Challenge is safe from all of us but that won't deter us from visiting Glowtown again. Many thanks to Sharon Osborne and the Social Committee for arranging this outing.

Report by Mary Ann Eastman, Photos by 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



**CAA Ed Mirvish Theatre Production of
Some Like It Hot**

Wed. Feb. 25

Including Lunch at the

SOLD OUT! Wait list only.

Including exchange, Orchestra seating and Lunch
Sign up directions in Gold Box above. See separate flyer for more details.



Markham Concert Band Performs

It's All About The Jazz

SUN. MAR. 1 - 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.



St. Patrick's Day Shenanigans

At the Uxbridge Legion Hall

Tues. Mar. 17 - 5:30 PM

Cost: Members \$55 Guests \$60

Roast Beef Dinner Catered by the Women's Auxiliary

Entertainment by Vintage Soul, Trivia with Bernie, Cash Bar

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



Purple Woods Conservation Area

Maple Syrup Festival

Thurs. Apr. 9 1:15-2:15

Cost: \$6.00 which includes entrance into the
conservation area & one hour tour.

Shopping available for those interested.

A Drive Yourself Event

Sign up directions in Gold Box above.

National Canadian Film Day

At the Uxbridge Curling Club

Wed. Apr. 15 - Only \$10 per person

Offering popcorn, pizza & drinks for sale
6 Films - Titles "Coming Soon"



You've Driven By - Why Not Drop In?

Richter's Herbs

Now Multiple Dates! Max 20 Participants/Session

Wed. Apr. 22 - 10:00-12:00 noon

Thurs. Apr. 30 - 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Tues. May 5 - 10:00-12:00 noon

FREE Talk and Tour including:

- Visit to their historic glass greenhouse
- Use of herbs for medicinal purposes
- 50 year history of this family run business
- Personalized assistance to select plants & seeds
- Free catalogue

Followed by optional lunch at Annina's in Goodwood (at your own expense)

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



Richters



Upcoming Events

May 3: Markham Concert Band

May: Tiptoe Through the Tulips & Painted Ladies in Grimsby (Mary Morton Tour)

Summer: Lake Muskoka Cruise from Gravenhurst (Mary Morton Tour)

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.

OTHER POSSIBILITIES:

Lavender Farm (July - Drive Yourself Event)

Ajax Racetrack and Casino (Drive Yourself)

Guys & Dolls at the Stratford Festival

Car Rally in the fall

Kingston Penitentiary & Tour of Keewatin

African Lion Safari & Royal Botanical Gardens

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

The Age Gets Better With Wine Group will meet on Feb. 11 at 7:00 pm to celebrate Valentine's Day. The location is still to be determined. The theme is: Wine From the Rhone Valley. Let's all dress in pink and/or red, and as usual, enjoy our time together. Food will be provided by the Heroux duo. This group meets on the second Wed. of the month at 7:00.

BOOK BUDDIES: Coordinator Gerri Martin

This past month has been conducive to fulfilling those intentions to curl up with some of the books in your inventory and enjoy the magic within their pages. The Book Buddies will discuss Claire Pooley's How To Age Disgracefully on Feb. 25 at 1:30. No heavy duty historical thriller this month - just a story that puts a smile on your face as a group of eccentric seniors work towards re-establishing their sense of worth in their community. 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. We will be playing next on Feb. 12. 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! 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.

GARDENING GURUS: Coordinator Sally Kotsopoulos *NEW COORDINATOR NEEDED*

The Gurus are considering an outing in February to either a local nursery or to Allan Gardens Conservatory to bathe in some tropical green. We are hoping to add lunch to the agenda and "talk dirt" about our gardening plans for spring. Watch your emails for further information! This group meets on the first Thursday each month.

GENIAL GENEALOGISTS: Coordinator Bernie Beales

Our Jan. meeting included a spirited discussion on how Artificial Intelligence can be used (or misused) for researching our ancestors. Join us for our next meeting on Feb. 19 when our illustrious president, Robin Dhillon, will share a new app he has used called PhotoMyne to replace traditional scanning. 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

This month's theme was Canadian wines. It was a bit of a challenge to acquire wines from outside of Ontario, but, with some ingenuity, we managed to find and sample a variety of reds and whites from not only Ontario, but also BC, Nova Scotia, and Quebec! We had lots of fun, tasty treats, and lively discussion about the very different tasting wines from each region. This group meets on the third Wednesday of the month.

KITCHEN BRIDGE: Coordinator Anne-Marie Sacco

Kitchen Bridge welcomes both men and women. The group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 1:00.

KNIT OR NOT HANDICRAFTERS: Coordinator Wanda Laing

Our group is ushering in February with a knitting/crocheting day on Feb 4th. Bring your own project, cosy up to the fire and share in the camaraderie. We'll change things up and experiment with an online watercolor workshop on Feb 18. There's a terrific YouTube instructor whose work is simple, relaxing and really cute. 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! This group meets on the second Tues. of the month at 1:00.

LAUGHING MATTERS: Coordinators Amber D'Aguiar & April Gilkinson

****THIS GROUP HAS RETIRED****

LET'S EAT OUT: Coordinators Gail & Chuck Heroux

In January 2025, we started a new tradition for Let's Eat Out, and went to Don Andrews' new Uxbridge restaurant, 9byTin. Everyone loved the dinner experience then, so we repeated it this January. We gave Don an almost full house, with 29 people booking the date. As usual, the meal and the company were memorable. This group meets on the third Tues. or Thurs. of the month.

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

On January 13, we rolled out the red carpet and enjoyed the wonderful film Song, Sung, Blue at our very own Roxy Theatre! This docudrama starring Hugh Jackman & Kate Hudson was a delightful musical journey which stirred many emotions. We look forward to our next flick on February! Stay tuned!



LIT HAPPENS: Coordinator: Jen Thorson

Lit Happens is moving into “thriller” territory in February, and will be reviewing Canadian Ashley Audrain’s much-hyped first novel, *The Push*, published in 2021. There had been talk about a movie perhaps being made from it... nothing so far... will we agree it would work on the big screen? We meet at 1:00 on the fourth Thursday of the month.

LOCAL EXPLORERS: Coordinator: Susan Hillar

January’s weather kept us cooped up, but a group of us will be meeting for high tea in Markham on February 5.

MONDAY LUNCH BUNCH: Coordinators: Betty Bignell & Joy Freemantle

In January, many members of the Monday Lunch Bunch group enjoyed lunch and conversation at Boston Pizza, Uxbridge. We will meet next on February 23. This group meets on the last Monday of each month.



REDUCING MY FOOTPRINT: Coordinator Brian Keeling

Join us for always lively and informed conversation. Our Monthly Tip is our gentle (or sometimes not-so-gentle) reminder that change is always possible. This group meets at 10:00 on the third Wed. of the month.

Monthly TIP: NEW RECYCLING GUIDELINES

Recently Ontario implemented a new recycling program managed by a private firm, Circular Materials, which has harmonized all recycling rules across the whole province. Examples of some of the changes include toothpaste tubes and deodorant sticks which are now recyclable, as are plastic dry cleaning bags, bread bags, potato chip bags etc. There are many other changes. To get the full story, go to <https://www.circularmaterials.ca/recycleontario/> and consult the various tabs to learn what goes in the paper blue box and what goes in the plastics blue box. You will be impressed with how much more can be recycled to help reduce garbage and save our planet. Check it out!



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 Feb. 26.

SMALL TOWN THEATRE: Coordinators Steve Fryzuk & Peggy Kennedy

Our next theatre outing will be held in April. Small Town Theatre members attend matinee performances on the weekend at theatres in Durham and York Regions. We plan a lunch before the event.

TAKE A HIKE: Coordinators Carol Fraser & John Willcock

Our Goodwood/Uxbridge area has a wonderful series of trails through a variety of forests and meadows, some quite flat, some with gentle hills. We explore these forest trails near Uxbridge in the Durham and York Regions for 1½ to 2 hours. Join us for lively discussions, interesting views and leisurely treks. The next hikes are scheduled for Feb 4 and Feb 18. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30.



TOO PAR GONE (GOLF): Coordinator Albert Fintelman

We are on hiatus until the greens re-open.

TWO RIGHT FEET (LATIN DANCING): Coordinator Anne-Marie Sacco \$15 per session

We learn Salsa and Bachata dance steps. This group will meet every Monday afternoon (except holidays) at 3:00. There is a fee of \$15.00.



W.A.L.K.S. (WE ALL LOVE KINETIC STROLLING): Coordinator Nancy Melcher



WALKS continues to (try to) meet every Monday morning at 9:30 for an hour of gentle exercise and pleasant conversation, followed by a stop at a coffee shop to warm back up! The LAST Monday of each month is a 10 AM start for those late-risers, and a shorter saunter so we still have time for a refreshing beverage and more conversation. These frigid temperatures have been challenging! This group meets every Monday morning at 9:30 (10:00 on the last Monday of the month).



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Some thoughts on Love and Marriage

Never laugh at your partner's choices - YOU are one of them!



Two kids at a wedding wondered how many wives a man could have. One exclaimed, "16! Four better, four worse, four richer and four poorer".

At the same wedding, a little boy was in the wedding party. As he came down the aisle, he would take two steps, stop, and turn to crowd, put his hands up and roar! So it went: step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR, all the way down the aisle. As you can imagine, the crowd was near tears from laughing so hard. When he reached the happy couple, the bride leaned over and asked him what he was doing. He proudly replied, "I'm the Ring Bear!"

Do you ever wake up, kiss the person still sleeping beside you and feel glad you are alive? I just did and apparently I will not be allowed to fly on this airline again!

At a couples counselling session, the speaker mentioned that couples are so disconnected, 85% of husbands don't even know their wife's favorite flower. James turned to his wife and whispered, "It's self-rising isn't it?".



PARDON MY FRENCH!

("Borrowed" from Retired Teachers of Ontario Newsletter)

On the left are definitions for some French phrases commonly used in English. Can you match them with the French terms on the right?

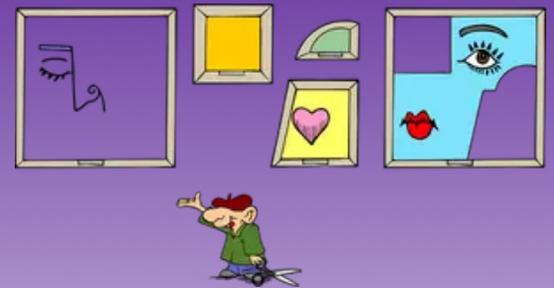
Answers on the next page.

1. A final, killing blow
2. From the menu
3. A meeting or appointment
4. Unforeseeable circumstances
5. A dead-end street
6. An impressive performance or achievement
7. A sudden, unlawful seizure of power
8. A wine steward
9. With regards to
10. An assumed name used by a writer
11. An embarrassing act or remark in a social situation
12. Not part of the ordinary set of courses in a meal
13. An irreversible act
14. Complete freedom to act as one wishes
15. An over-used phrase or opinion

- A A la carte
- B Amuse-bouche
(or hors d'œuvre)
- C Carte blanche
- D Cliché
- E Coup d'état
- F Coup de grâce
- G Cul-de-sac
- H Fait accompli
- I Faux pas
- J Force majeure
- K Nom de plume
- L Rendez-vous
- M Sommelier
- N Tour de force
- O Vis-à-vis

IN OTHER WORDS... Some bilingual humour

A Parisian thief, after months of careful planning, stole some priceless works of art from the Louvre. He slipped past the security guards and made it safely to his van but was captured only two blocks away when he ran out of gas. When asked how he could mastermind such a crime but make such an obvious error, he replied, "Monsieur, that is the reason I stole the paintings. I had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh! I figured I had nothing Toulouse!"



As I was making a presentation in a crowded room, I noticed 4 men right at the back - an Englishman, a Frenchman, a Spaniard and a German. I called out, "Can you gentlemen see me from there?" They replied, "Yes. Oui. Si. Ja."

I tell Dad jokes even though I have no kids of my own. I'm just a Faux Pas.

If you can't remember the word you are looking for, just say, "I forget the English word for

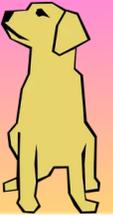
Share A Smile - Some Animal Humour

in Honour of Groundhog's Day and The Chinese Year of the Horse

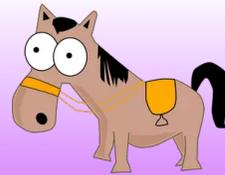
Alligators can live up to 100 years...which is why there's an increased chance they will see you later!



I once purchased a dog from a blacksmith. As soon as I brought him home, he made a bolt for the door.

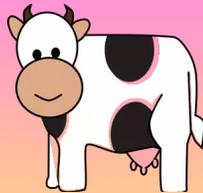


Those who confuse the words "Burro" and "Burrow" don't know their ass from a hole in the ground.

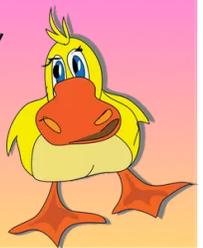


I call my horse Mayo. Sometimes, Mayo neighs.

Scientists have found that cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. A case of in one ear and out the udder.



My ducks may not be in a row, but at least they are having fun. Your ducks probably hate you for making them line up like that!



My uncle was a lion tamer. When the circus made him redundant, he took all the lions with him. He didn't get much of a payout but he still had his pride!



Did you hear of the mad scientist who crossbred a diseased bird of prey, a sheep and an ocean bird? He was arrested for making an ill eagle-ewe-tern!



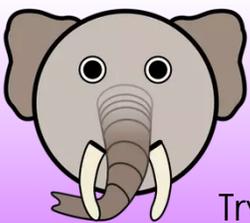
When my wife told me I had to stop impersonating a flamingo, I had to put my foot down!



My son told me he wants to make a career of studying rodents that burrow. I told him to gopher it!



How do you use music to make an elephant laugh?
Try tickling the ivories!



I named my dogs "Calvin" and "Klein".
They're boxers, of course!



Answers to Pardon My French:
1 F 2 A 3 L 4 J 5 G 6 N 7 E 8 M
9 O 10 K 11 I 12 B 13 H 14 C 15 D

