

THE PROBUS CLUB OF UXBRIDGE - November 2025

Website: www.uxbridgeprobus.ca

E-Mail: [CONTACT US](#)



UXFORMATION

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Amber D'Aguiar

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President's Message:

In November, we remember. Remembrance Day, November 11, is a time to honour those who served and sacrificed in past wars, and sadly, in conflicts still happening today. We pause to reflect on the brave men and women who fought for freedom, and on the cost of maintaining peace.

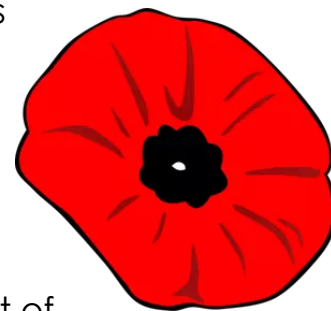
When we remember, we often return to moments that shaped us. Our memories tell the story of our lives. Some bring joy and energy, pushing us forward. Others remind us of loss or heartbreak. But together, they form the stepping stones of who we are today and guide the path ahead. We are truly fortunate, not just because we have come this far, but because we were given the gift of life. Out of all the possibilities in the universe, we, and those we remember, are the ones who are here. Each day is a gift. Let us treasure it.

As we look ahead, we can ask ourselves: How can we use our experiences to help others? Who can we lift up? How can we be a blessing in someone's life? In this way, we can "remember forward", using what we've learned not only to honour the past, but to shape a better future.



Our Probus Club gives us many chances to do just that. Through gatherings, interest groups, and monthly meetings, we learn, connect, and support one another. Our speakers open our minds and invite us to explore new ideas together and in this spirit, this month we welcome Kevin Donovan, who will speak about The Billionaire Murders.

We are not finished yet! Not as individuals and not as a community. Let us honour the past, look forward with hope, and continue to bless one another by sharing the gift of life we have been given.



Robin Dhillon

From Your Speakers' Chair

Last month's speaker was Craig Greenwood from the Perth Probus Club. He talked about Ontario's Polar Bears and shared some amazing experiences he had while studying them as a biologist for the Ministry of Natural Resources. We also learned that Canada is home to about 60% of the world's Polar Bears and that their population is at great risk. We were all mesmerized by the Fantastic White Bears of the Ice.



Nov 12 - Kevin Donovan "The Billionaire Murders"



Kevin Donovan is the Toronto Star's award winning Chief Investigative Reporter who has been investigating the murders of Barry and Honey Sherman since three weeks after their bodies were found. He will take the audience through their last day and give us a peek into the clues he found and the evidence he is still looking for. You will learn about the police missteps, what they are still looking and an insight into who the Shermans were and why someone may have wanted them dead. Kevin's books will be for sale at the discounted price of \$20 cash.

Dec 10 - Christmas Luncheon with Entertainment by Thomas Kovacs

Jan 14 - Bruce Rhodes "Journey Through the Northwest Passage"

Bruce Rhodes, a member of Richmond Hill Probus, will share his experience in September 2024 traveling by expedition ship through Canada's Northwest Passage and along the west coast of Greenland, with a focus on the troubling history of the community of Grise Fiord in northern Nunavut.



From Your House Chair

Next Meeting: Wed. Nov. 12 @10:00 a.m. Uxbridge Community Centre

Dropping temperatures and falling leaves lead us to our upcoming November meeting.

NOTE: This is the last meeting of the year as the Christmas Gala is scheduled in December instead.

November's House Team:

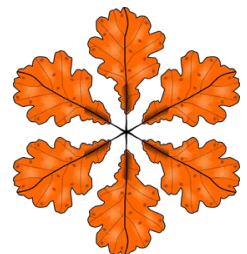
Set Up (Arrive by 9:00) – Barry Scarlett, Steve Fryzuk, Robin & Bruce Drake

Kitchen (Arrive just after 9:00) - Gail Crawford, Gwen Ringling, Suzanne Murphy, Gerri Martin, Judy Prince, Sandra Clark

Greeters (Arrive by 9:30) – Marie McEachnie, Jan Moody

A BIG THANK YOU to all that help out; you are really appreciated!

Cheryl Bain & Sally Kotsopoulos



From Your Social Committee

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**](mailto: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**](#)

Niagara Wineries Tour - Oct. 22

After a precise departure from the Walmart parking lot, we were breezing down the 407 in our luxury Mary Morton bus skilfully driven by our obliging driver Basil. The vehicle doubled as the transport for the Niagara College "Knights" but any expectations of youthful athletes bounding down the stairs at our stops were soon dashed.



After our taste buds were piqued by our first wine tasting, we were ferried to the Prince of Wales Hotel for a fine lunch followed by some time for shopping. We did our best to augment the economy of the fair borough of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Moments of high drama ensued when all were not accounted for at departure time and sadly the ever vigilant (it seems) parking authority presented driver Basil with a ticket for "overtime". Our unanimous opinion was that this demonstrated an overzealous application of "letter of the law" since the town was very quiet on this cool fall day and few (if any) buses were evident. The situation was smoothed by Chuck and Gail, our peerless leaders, as the amount of the fine in question was quickly raised voluntarily keeping Basil's flashy smile and bubbly nature undiminished.

Onward to our next two tastings and it was agreed upon that the Chateau des Charmes Estate was the highlight of the three. A high percentage of us braved the 32 steps for an informative presentation by John who shared many facets of wine growing, bottling and history.

A positive atmosphere was maintained all the way home and conversations were animated as we completed the event RIGHT ON TIME! Once again, another example of the joy of membership with Uxbridge Probus group.

Report and photos by Jim Davis



Model A Acres & Tyrone Mills - Oct. 3



On Friday October 3, a hungry bunch met at Haugen's for lunch and the start of what was to be a most interesting day. Around 1:00 pm, we set off courtesy of our own cars for the 30 minute drive to Model A Acres (or 40 minutes if you were actually driving a Model A as were John & Lorraine). The attraction is situated on a 10 acre farm between Enniskillen and Tyrone.

We were met by the owners, Ian & Luverne, and, after introductions, Ian began leading us on an interesting and informative walking tour. It seems Ian was very interested in Ford Model A cars (thus the name) and, over the years, had restored no fewer than 7 cars. He still has a Model A hot-rod on display and an A pickup in his garage.

After so many Model A's, Luverne decided she had had enough of them and suggested Ian find another hobby. Another interest of Ian's was aircraft from the World War 2 era, so why not build a few life size models with which to adorn his property? Somewhere about this point in time, Ian's hobby took a unique turn as he decided he would build the fuselages from whatever free materials he could lay his hands on. His material of choice has become the sides of above ground pools. These are thin metal, easily cut and shaped, and easy to bend over the supporting framework. Ian did not rule out any other materials and so his aircraft are comprised of parts from his daughter's swing set, a washing machine, BBQ, propane tanks, bowling pins, etc. His collection now includes WWI (aka Snoopy's) Sopwith Camel and the Red Baron's Fokker DR. From WWII there is a Spitfire, Messerschmitt, Hurricane and others. Also now included in the collection are a Willys Jeep, Sherman Tank, U-Boat and full sized steam locomotive. Not only did Ian build all these items, but he is a walking encyclopedia as to the history of each and every one of them.

Our tour ended back at the house where Ian & Luverne thanked us for coming and we set off for our next attraction, Tyrone Mills, situated a few minutes' drive away. The mill was built in 1846 and has been in operation ever since. While it has been a saw mill, flour mill, grist mill and cider producer, it is now solely a flour mill. The water driven mill is now home to a bakery selling all manner of pastries, donuts, etc. and of course many different kinds of flour made on site. While we had originally planned on also visiting Archibald's Estate Winery, just a few minutes away, the necessity to relax and sample ice creams took precedence and Archibald's was saved for another day.

Report and Photos by John & Lorraine Willcock



Upcoming Social Events



OSHAWA GENERALS HOCKEY

at The Tribute Communities Centre
99 Athol St., Oshawa

Vs The Erie Otters

SUN NOV 16 - Game Time 2:00 PM.

Final date to register and pay is Fri., Oct. 10.

ONLY \$40 for:

**Reserved seats in Medallion Lounge for
our group. Pizza included!**

**THIS IS A DRIVE YOURSELF EVENT -
Carpooling can be arranged.**

See separate flyer for more details.



Wed. Nov. 19 - 3:00-5:00

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Only \$5 per person!

**Shobrook Gardens Gathering Place (Main Floor)
1 Elgin Park Drive**

A wonderful opportunity to meet other members
and reconnect with good friends.

**Everyone welcome but special invitation is
extended to our newer members!**

Sign up directions in Gold Box above



Markham Concert Band Performs

Seasonal Celebration!

SUN. DEC. 7 - 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.

Back by Popular Demand!

The 12 Days of Wine-Mas

WINE SURVIVOR



- Each 750 mL bottle equals one chance to win
- Names drawn daily for elimination starting Nov. 28
- 4 names remaining will be drawn live on Dec. 10 for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th prizes
- All entrants eliminated will be eligible for consolation prize drawn on Dec 10

Final day to sign up is Nov 12; Final drop off date is Nov 22

See all details in accompanying flyer

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WED. DEC. 10 - 11:30 Doors Open, 12:30 Lunch

New Venue: MILL RUN Golf Club

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH & GALA

Our most popular event!

Fantastic Raffle, Door Prizes, Entertainment,
Special Table Centrepieces, Cash Bar!

Cost - Members \$75; Guests \$80

Come for a delicious plated turkey dinner

(Mention allergies or special food requests at sign-up)

New Entertainment by Tom Kovacs

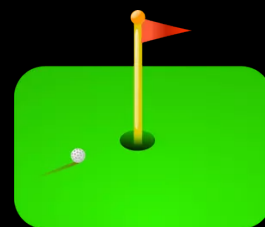
Doors open early to peruse raffle prizes!



Thurs. Jan. 15, 2026

GlowTown Stouffville

Glow in the Dark Miniature Golf (\$16 for golf)
with Optional Lunch at Chuck's Roadhouse at 1:00



Coming Attractions

February: Winter Warfare at Oshawa Tank Museum (Date tba)

Mar. 17: Shamrock Shenanigans

St Patrick's Day Party at the Uxbridge Legion with dinner, musical entertainment by Vintage Soul and trivia!

March: Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival

March: Markham Concert Band "It's All About That Jazz"

Also in the Works:

April: National Canadian Film Day

April: Richter's Herbs & Lunch at Annina's Cafe

May 3: Markham Concert Band

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

Lake Muskoka Cruise from Gravenhurst (Mary Morton Tour)

OTHER POSSIBILITIES:

Lake Muskoka Cruise from Gravenhurst

Lavender Farm

Ajax Racetrack and Casino (Drive Yourself Car Rally)

Kingston Penitentiary & Tour of Keewatin

African Lion Safari & Royal Botanical Gardens

From Your Membership Chair

Attention New Probus Members of 2025!

The new Name Badges have arrived.

I have 26 new membership badges and 1 replacement badge. To collect your badge, please see me (Janet Patterson, Membership Chair) at the check-in table at the November meeting. I will have them waiting for you.



JANET
PATTERSON

PROBUS Club of Uxbridge

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,

AGE GETS BETTER WITH WINE: Coordinator Anne Gauvreau

The Age Gets Better With Wine Club will meet Wed., Nov. 12, at 7:00 pm, at the home of the one and only Sharon Butchart. The theme for this evening is "A Favourite Wine Ever." I can't wait to taste them! Yum! Food will be provided by Cathy Dauphin and yours truly. Another exciting evening will surely be had by all. This group meets on the second Wed of the month at 7:00.

BOOK BUDDIES: Coordinator Gerri Martin

Having chosen Jennifer Wilson's biography "Grant Us Tomorrow" as our book club selection, we were treated to the company of some of the volunteers who joined her on her dream to provide health care to some of the people in Ghana. We were shown pictures from their tour and handcrafted artwork. Most important was the stories they shared. These impoverished people loved and appreciated any gesture of kindness and care they received.

The consensus was that the workers were awed by the gratitude and appreciation of the patients that they helped. The network of volunteers has grown substantially. With their connections bringing aid to Ghana they have accessed commitments from benefactors who enable progress to be made in construction of Oak Tree Medical Centre among other projects. Gail provided us with a delicious snack made from peanuts - one of the crops they grow to sustain themselves and earn a living. Our November selection is "Three Views of Crystal Waters" by Katherine Govier. The story narrates details how pearl divers in the early 19th century risked their lives to retrieve the valuable pearl which was sought after by the affluent. This group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1:30.



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

Canasta is a fun and challenging card game played in groups of four. We will be playing next on Oct 9 in the afternoon. 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 and see you there! This group meets on the second Thursday of each month.



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

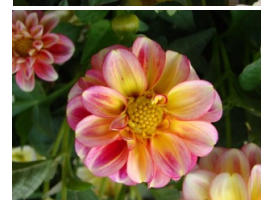
Well the season may be waning but not the enthusiasm of the Court Jesters. Fall's glorious weather has been ideal for the Jesters. This group usually meets Tuesdays and Fridays.

EUCHRE: Coordinators Gail Prentice and Lynn Moore

This group meets at 10:00 on the first Tuesday of the month.

GARDENING GURUS: Coordinator Sally Kotsopoulos

Congratulations to Sally on her successful knee surgery! We remain on hiatus for the time being. This group meets on the first Thurs each month. third Thursday of each month from 1:30-3:30.



GENIAL GENEALOGISTS: Coordinator Bernie Beales

We welcomed our newest members and shared our trials and tribulations in trying to locate wayward grandparents! A look at sorting our DNA matches by grandparent proved to be a useful strategy. We have room for a couple new members if you are looking for your ancestors. Our next meeting will be Thurs. Nov. 20. This group usually meets on the third Thursday of each month from 1:30-3:30.

GRAPE MINDS THINK ALIKE: Coordinators Melissa Harding and Caren Narvet *NEW*

Our new wine-tasting group "Grape Minds Think Alike" held a second meeting in October and had a thoroughly enjoyable time tasting and discussing a variety of wines from Portugal. We engaged in lively discussion and are looking forward to our November meeting where "Wines of South Africa" will be sampled. This group meets on the third Wednesday of the month.



KITCHEN BRIDGE: Coordinator Anne-Marie Sacco

This is a friendly social (as opposed to duplicate) group for both men and women. Kitchen Bridge meets the first Thursday of each month at 1:00.

KNIT OR NOT HANDICRAFTERS: Coordinator Wanda Laing

Our next meeting will be on November 19th. Bring \$3 for yummys, or bring yummys... but make sure you have enough for everyone. As the weather cools, I will make sure to have the woodstove roaring for the woolies (my word for knitters and crocheters who get the cozy living room). The crafters are downstairs in my craft space where all the cool tools are. Come on out and enjoy crafts and camaraderie with the Knit or Nots. This group meets at 1:00 on the second Wed. of the month.



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

We enjoy meeting at the homes of several of the members. The number of tables will vary depending on the month. This group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00.

LAUGHING MATTERS: Coordinators Amber D'Aguiar & April Gilkinson

Our last improv will be Nov 17 so come one come all as we will then be on hiatus until the spring. This group meets on the third Monday of each month from 1:30 - 3:00.



LET'S EAT OUT: Coordinators Gail & Chuck Heroux

Let's Eat Out returned to one of our favourite restaurants this month, with a visit to Pickles and Olives in Port Perry. The food and the atmosphere were delightful, and about twenty of us had a wonderful time. November's destination will be announced soon. This group meets on the third Tues. or Thurs. of the month.



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

We were thrilled to attend the Short Film Festival at the Roxy Theatre in early October! The evening featured an exciting lineup of short films, delicious snacks and beverages, and special guests. Ted Barris hosted a lively Q&A with several of the actors and directors whose films we watched. We even got to take a picture with an Emmy Award, won by Randy Wilson — a local talent from Uxbridge! What a fabulous evening it was!

LIT HAPPENS: Coordinator: Jen Thorson

"Lessons in Chemistry" provided great fodder for some insightful discussion and delish 60's-inspired treats (the bar had previously been set high!) And thanks to a great evening out at the Blue Heron Studio to hear Clare Leslie Hall talk about her newest book "Broken Country". We'll be sharing thoughts on this one next (we hear it's really good. ;)



LOCAL EXPLORERS: Coordinator: Susan Hillar



We visited Cannington in early October to view a travelling display titled The Witness Blanket. This replica (the original is in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights) honours the children who attended residential schools and is crafted using items reclaimed from residential schools, churches and other sites. A most powerful and sobering experience!

MONDAY LUNCH BUNCH: Coordinators: Betty Bignell & Joy Freemantle

In October, we tried a new restaurant, "Route 48" - on Highway 48 of course! Very positive comments were made about the food and how well the staff managed serving all 30 of us! The 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 (below) is our gentle (or sometimes not-so-gentle) reminder that change is always possible. This group meets at 10:00 on the third Wednesday of the month.

Monthly TIP: CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

As the holiday season draws near and we turn our thoughts to gift-giving, let's steer away from more "stuff" and think about gifting experiences instead. It feels great to support Canadian, Ontario and local, and there's a multitude of possibilities to explore. One entrepreneurial Dragon's Den company has curated creative, "surprise-themed" adventures throughout much of Canada (and even they-who-shall-not-be-named south of the border). Check



out guesswheretrips.com for some great fun! Downtown Toronto houses a tiny treasure called Little Canada at Yonge/Dundas Square. Perfect for the whole family, this is a brilliant miniaturization of our beautiful country that will absolutely delight - guaranteed. Closer to home, the Discover Uxbridge site has all kinds of activities/attractions listed for inspiration. Whatever you choose, your gift of "experience" is bound to bring joy.



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.

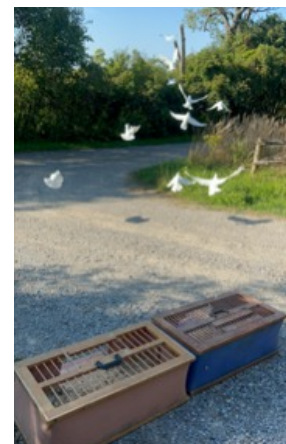
SMALL TOWN THEATRE: Coordinators Steve Fryzuk & Peggy Kennedy

We had our first theatre event of the year in October. We went to Port Perry to see another wonderful Norm Foster play. On November 22 we are going to the Whitby Courthouse Theatre for our next play. 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 on Nov 6 and 20! The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:30.



TOO PAR GONE (GOLF): Coordinator Albert Fintelman

We've played golf every Monday morning in October. On Oct. 6, we had our season finale scramble at Spring Creek GC, and 20 members participated (see in photos). Everyone had a great time and the scores were close! On Oct. 13 and 27, we played at Spring Creek GC and on Oct. 20, we played at Golfer's Dream GC. I'm sad to say we're winding down activity and this will be our last report for the 2025 golf season. A few of us diehards will be golfing for a few more weeks - probably until mid November. One member said "if the white stuff comes we'll just have to change the colour of the balls we're playing with". Our group had a great season and we're looking forward to next year!



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

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 had a break while the coordinator was away but are up and running (walking?) again. The autumn colours make every step an absolute joy! Start your week off with a social walk and your refreshing hot beverage and snack afterwards. This group usually meets Monday mornings at 9:30.



Share A Smile - Looking for a Job?

I've just started a job at a bank. I've been taking notes during my training. Or as my manager calls it, "Stealing".



Not all construction work is equally enjoyable. For example, drilling holes is boring but joining pieces of metal together is riveting!



People are shocked when they find out I'm not really a good electrician!

I recently visited a monastery and as I walked past the kitchen, I saw the cook. I asked, "Are you the fish friar?" He replied, "No, I'm the chip monk!"



I had to fire the building's janitor for smoking pot on the job.

I can't tolerate high maintenance people!



Did you know Raymond Burr's brother was a lumberjack named Tim?



What do you call a magician who has lost his magic?

Ian.

I gave my handyman my to-do list. When I got home, only items 1, 3 and 5 were done. Turns out he only does odd jobs.



I asked the doctor if I could sew up my own wound.

He said, "Suture self!"



When the dentist married the manicurist, they fought tooth and nail!

Jobs I Have Loved and Lost!

My first job was working in the orange juice factory but I got canned. I just couldn't concentrate!

Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack but just couldn't hack it so they gave me the axe.

After that, I tried being a tailor but I just wasn't suited for it since it was only a sew-sew job.

Next I tried working in a muffler factory but that was just too exhausting.

Then I tried becoming a chef - I figured it would add a little spice to my life but I just need more thyme.

So I applied to work in a deli, but anyway I sliced it, I just couldn't cut the mustard.

My favourite job was as a musician but I eventually realized I would never be noteworthy.



I studied for years to become a doctor but lacked the patience.

Next was a job in the shoe factory. I tried with all my sole but just didn't fit in.

I eventually became a professional fisherman but soon realized I couldn't exist on my net income.

I did land a good job with a pool maintenance company but the work proved to be too draining.

I applied to become a personal trainer in a gym but they said I wasn't fit for the job.

After many years trying to find steady work, I snagged a job as a historian until I realized they was no future in it!

My final job was as a barrista in Starbucks but had to quit because it was always the same old grind!

I even considered working at the unemployment office until I realized that if I got fired, I'd still have to come in the next day!

At last, I tried RETIREMENT and discovered I'm perfect for the job!