



P.O. Box 583, Station Main, Milton, Ont. L9T 5A2 www.miltonprobus.ca; miltonprobus@gmail.com

Volume 16 No. 1, Jan., 2021 (published Dec. 30th, 2020)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 6th, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m. (via Zoom)

Presidents Message



An Exercise in Happiness

Happy New Year to all.

In my first newsletter message a year ago, my focus was on the balance and "clear vision" that 2020 was offering us. I may have missed the boat! In my defence, I did describe 2020 as a "unique new year for the Club". What I didn't anticipate was the topsy-turvy reality of the 12 months to come.

In the closing days of a year when COVID-19 dominated the headlines, prevailed in our conversations and impacted our behaviour, I became aware of the school of "positive psychology". Happiness Science is focused on building a sunny disposition through

happiness interventions. These are exercises that actually train our brains to have a positive outlook regardless of what's going on.

Check out this story in the December 1 *Toronto Star* to learn more about science-based happiness: <u>Happiness</u> Science Toronto Star Article

I am happy that as Probians, we have the fellowship, activities, resources and support of our Club to help us flex our "happiness muscles". Walking with The Hiking Group, talking books with The Spinecrackers or Bookies, listening to music with the Clässical Crüe, tasting with the Suds Sippers or Grape Expectations, indeed, interacting with any of our Special Interest Groups is guaranteed to be an exercise in happiness. It goes without saying, that a group of people with a collective addiction to *Jokers* is a gang that is predisposed to the benefits of Happiness Science.

So, it is with great confidence that I extend to each of you wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2021.

David Wentzell President

From the Secretary (Walter Eadie 905-691-5100 (walter.eadie@cogeco.ca)

The monthly Management Committee meeting was held on December 21st.

- The Committee spent quite a bit of time talking about how best to meet members' needs during the pandemic. We want to be sure we are trying everything to keep members involved while recognizing that some of us can get 'Zoomed-out' with too many video meetings. Going forward, we will suspend the 'member experience' presentations to shorten the general meetings (or provide more time for those who want to socialize in breakout rooms).
- The Vroom on Zoom chat sessions and the Christmas Centrepiece demonstration were quite successful and we will look for other ideas to keep us connected going into 2021.
- A budget is being developed for 2021 assuming we are not meeting in person until September at the earliest. The budget will be revisited in the summer to firm up the second half of 2021, including plans for the Christmas Lunch.
- Starting this month, the new name for our monthly newsletter, as voted on by the membership, is PROBUS PULSE.
- A Nominations Committee has been formed to start the search for new Management Committee candidates for April 2021 (our AGM). Please contact Ray Mathews with your recommendations.

From the Editor: (David Hunt 905-875-0350 (angela.hunt@cogeco.ca)

With Thanks to Tom Jones and all those who voted, we have a name for our newsletter, MILTON PROBUS PULSE. We've also modified the layout, hope you like it. All feedback will be appreciated.

A reminder that it is easy to view a recording of our general meeting from the comfort of home if you are unable to join on the first Wednesday of the month.

Please note that this month's recording was uploaded to You Tube. However, it is a "hidden" video which cannot be seen by the public.

Click on this link to view. This is a very safe link. https://youtu.be/NVY6d-21Puw

For best viewing, click on the "full screen" icon at the bottom right of the You Tube screen

Upcoming Speakers

January Speaker

Chris Lemieux – Bio-Diversity





I take a collaborative approach to research and strive to enhance understanding of priority policy and management issues pertaining to natural resources, with special emphasis on parks and other forms of protected areas.

February Speaker

Linda Beck: On Broadway and the Musical Geniuses of the '20s and '30s.





Since retiring from a career teaching English, Linda Beck has directed her energies to the study of Broadway musicals from the early Twentieth Century. She began by collecting the songs of Cole Porter and reading everything possible about his life. Her interests soon widened to include other well-known creators of musicals and some of the great performers of the period. And they continue to expand.

Linda has taught courses for Later Life Learning at the University of Toronto and for the Life Institute at Ryerson University, and she has lectured for George Brown College Seniors Association and Lifelong Learning Mississauga. She also does multimedia presentations for retirement homes, synagogues and private groups.

From our Membership Director: (Anne Eadie 905-878-7143; eadies@cogeco.ca)

Prospective New Members Welcome!

Although we are not able to meet in person during Covid 19 the Milton Probus Club is alive & well and "Zooming". We have had several successful General meetings via Zoom with members enjoying very entertaining presentations by guest speakers.

Once again, we would like to remind you that if you have any prospective members who would like to meet us you are encouraged to invite him/her/them as your guest(s) to a meeting. They can be introduced by you and welcomed in the same warm manner as always – albeit faces on a screen instead of in person.

They can still enjoy many of the benefits of membership, admittedly not the friendly hugs at the door or the coffee break chats, but interesting speakers are still being secured for the general meetings (anticipated to be on Zoom for the foreseeable future) and many of the special interest groups continue to meet via Zoom or, in the case of the Monday morning "Happy Hikers" group, have a weekly social-distanced walk to keep their steps total growing. There is a second book club now meeting and some other new special interest groups for new members to join & enjoy.

In light of the fact that expenses for adding a new member are slightly lower during Covid 19, and to maintain the ongoing viability of our Club, the Management Committee has decided to adjust the new member fee for 2021 to \$25. (inclusive of the initiation fee).

So, come Zoom with us and if you intend to invite a guest to attend a meeting send an email to David Wentzell so he can prepare the agenda to include them.

Anne Eadie, Membership Director

In Memory:

It is with much sadness that we must let you know of the death Geoff Chapman, husband of Probus member Bonnie Chapman. Geoff died at Allendale Long-Term-Care Home on November 30, 2020, from complications of COVID-19

Geoff himself was a long-time Probus member, a good friend to many, and an active participant until a few years ago when he moved to Allendale.

He will be greatly missed by Bonnie, his wife of 52 years, and his many friends and relatives. A Private Family Service was held at McKersie-Kocher Funeral Home in Milton on December 8, 2020 and interment will be in Uxbridge Cemetery at a later date.

A card of sympathy has been sent to Bonnie on behalf of the club. Should you wish to make a personal donation, The Alzheimer's Society was chosen by the family.

From our Fellowship Directors: (Marlene Murphy 905-659-2288;

marlene_murphy@hotmail.com

Jim Miller 905-876-3105; jimmiller@rogers.com)



Greeting Cards

If you know of a member who is ill, hospitalized or lost a loved one, please advise the Fellowship Director or a member of the management committee. If you or a fellow Probus member is moving out of the area, please inform us.



Special Interest Groups

<u>5 Friday Bid Euchre</u> (Joe & Zina Yaworski 905-878-3959; joe_zina@hotmail.com)

On Friday December 11th we met via Zoom. It was fun seeing everyone, doing some Christmas Trivia, composing group Christmas stories and sharing some laughs.

Merry Christmas Everyone and Goodbye 2020!

7 The Hiking Club (Co-Leader Terry Cole 905-845-0171; terryjane@sympatico.ca Leader Marilyn Morita 905-854-5046; george.morita@sympatico.ca)

Welcome to the New Year 2021. We hope that you had Merry Christmas amid all the precautions yet celebrating on Facetime and zoom and all the other conference type apps. "Technology ain't it grand"

This past year has seen the PWG surpassing another milestone of 80,000,000 steps in early October. This was achieved even during "the Pandemic "of 2020.

November saw us add another half a million steps and December kept up the pace with an added 411057 steps. This brings us to 81,311,327 amassed total. The weather co-operated for the month of November with some very warm days. Late November and into December did bring us some challenging days with our first heavy snowfalls and some bitter days. Despite, our intrepid group walked on averaging 23 walkers per session. A number of members were able to reserve times at some of the Conservation areas while others trekked the local trails and the streets of their own communities.

With the New Year and the expected immunization program to get underway, perhaps we will soon be able to get together as before. Here's hoping.

Happy New Year to All Probus members Probus Walking Group walk on !!!!

8-3 Wee Joker (Brian & Marlene Murphy 905-659-2288; brian_e_murphy@hotmail.com; marlene_murphy@hotmail.com)

Wishing you a Happy New Year with the hope that you will have many blessings in the year to come... Blessing of Health, Happiness, Contentment, Peace and Joy

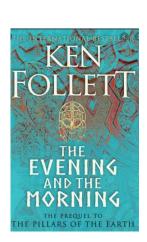
9 Spinecrackers (Nancy Lynn 905-319-0191; lynn67.personal@gmail.com)

Dan Reid's choice was **The Evening and the Morning** by Ken Follett. This is the prequel to the Kingsbridge Trilogy. All enjoyed the story of Edgar and Ragna as they outwitted and survived the corrupt priesthood, landowners, and family. Many of us have found that e-books have their drawbacks when re-reading and checking of characters is necessary to follow the storyline.

Nancy explained some of the results of a book club members' survey done in October. Many clubs are still meeting but virtually. Many have found it difficult to get the books and plan for them to be read for a specific time. Many longed for the social component of 'real' meetings. Our group have predicted that virtual meetings are going to continue to be a method of getting together and that the fall of 2021 may be a new beginning.

We spent more time this meeting talking of our Christmas plans, sharing health concerns, of aging and driver's licenses and also wishing Pat a Happy Birthday.

We wish everyone a better New Year when we can share our homes and hospitality and give the hugs once more.







11 Suds Sippers Beer Tasting Club (Walter Eadie 905-691-5100; walter.eadie@cogeco.ca)

The Suds Sippers meeting in January will be on the 19th and in February on the 16th, both by Zoom.





12 Bookies (Diane Miller; dianemiller@rogers.com)

Milton's Probus **Bookies** met Wednesday, December 16 to discuss the book **Eli's Promise** by Ronald H. Balson - *which was suggested by Shirley Mathews*.

Eli's Promise is a masterful work of historical fiction at its finest, spanning three eras—Nazioccupied Poland, the American Zone of post-war Germany, and Chicago at the height of the Vietnam War. Award-winning author Ronald H. Balson explores the human cost of war, the mixed blessings of survival, and the enduring strength of family bonds.

This book was difficult for some to read. Although, it did receive a unanimous thumbs up

Our discussion centred around what Eli actually promised and to whom? Was it a promise he made to himself and his son to find the Nazi collaborator who betrayed them and bring him to justice... or something else? We also addressed the Nazi's barbaric persecution of the Jews. Ray commented that this goes back to the early Middle Ages.

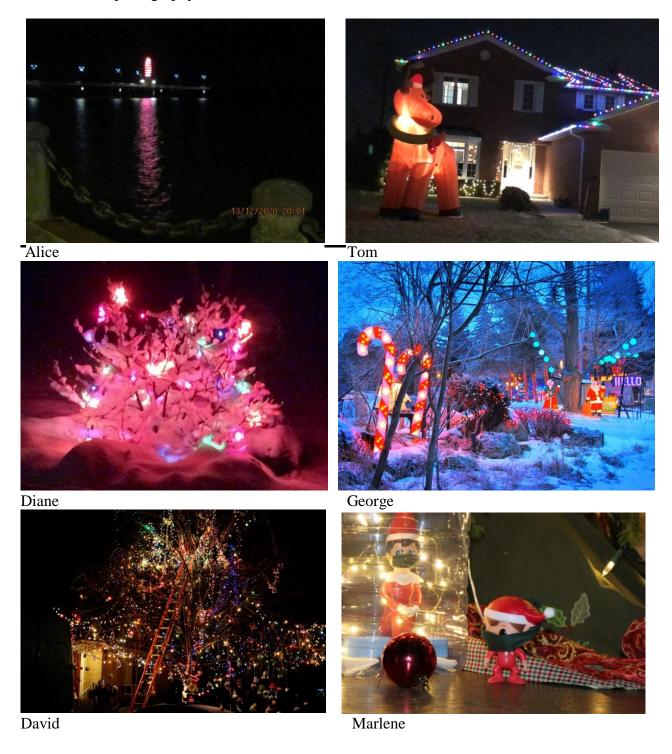
For at least 1000 years Poland was home to the largest and most significant Jewish community in the world because of a long period of religious tolerance and social autonomy, which ended after the Partitions of Poland in the 18th century. The German occupation of Poland during World War II there was almost a complete genocidal destruction of the Polish Jewish community. The Holocaust took place between 1939 and 1945 by Nazi Germany and its collaborators.

Since the 1989 peaceful fall of communism in Poland, there is a renewed appreciation of the Jewish culture, which features an annual Jewish festival, programs at secondary schools and universities, and the opening of Warsaw's Museum of the History of Polish Jews, initiated in 1995.

Our next book is **No Time Like The Future** by Micheal J. Fox - Suggested by Bette Ames.

13 Shutterbugs—(905-878-5862; david.g.wentzell@gmail.com)

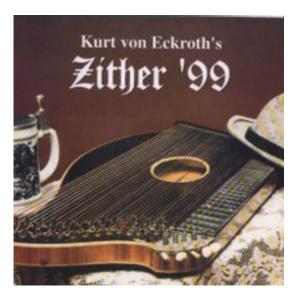
The photography special interest group brightened a grey December day by sharing our Lights of Christmas photos. The beautiful displays all around us at this time of year provide both beautiful sights to capture with the camera and the challenges of low light, long exposure and colour balance. Our January meeting will see us venture away from the Auto mode to the wonderful world of Aperture Priority. Join us as we explore the wide world of photography.



14 Clässical Crüe –(905-878-5862; david.g.wentzell@gmail.com)

The group was in the holiday spirit as we shared selections of Christmas music. On offer was a group of musical sleigh rides that spanned 200 years of horse-drawn transportation. The jingle of the bells could be heard through it all. Carols, cantatas and Tyrolian zither completed the program. In January we explore Music in the Shadows as we hear from the lesser known members of the Bach, Mozart and Mendelsohnn families. If you would like to join us on January 9 at 2 p.m, email david.g.wentzell@gmail.com









JANUARY CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
Activities				
General Meeting	Jan 6	10:00 AM	Zoom	David Wentzell
Executive Meeting	Jan 18	2:00 PM	Zoom	David Wentzell
Clubs				
Probus Info Network - PIN				Bill Turnbull
Board Games – Jokers - Joker	Jan 1	1:30 PM	TBD	Linda Reid
Walkers – The Hiking Club	Jan 4	9:30 AM	E-mail notification	Marilyn Morita
Cards - Bid Euchre - Friday	Jan 8	3:00 PM	Zoom	Zina Yaworski
Walkers – The Hiking Club	Jan 11	9:30 AM	E-mail notification	Marilyn Morita
Board Games – Jokers – Jester Joker	Jan 12	1:30 PM	TBD	Peter Sneyd
Music - Clässical Crüe	Jan 13	2:00 PM	Zoom	David Wentzell
Book Club - Spinecrackers	Jan 14	1:30 PM	Zoom	Nancy Lynn
Walkers – The Hiking Club	Jan 18	9:30 AM	E-mail notification	Marilyn Morita
Photography - Shutterbugs	Jan 19	2:00 PM	Zoom	David Wentzell
Tastings - Beer – Suds Sippers	Jan 19	7:00 PM	Zoom Meeting	Walter Eadie
Cards - Euchre	Jan 20	7:30 PM	TBD	Carol Crawford
Book Club – Bookies	Jan 20	1:30 PM	Zoom	Diane Miller
Dining – Bits and Bites	Jan 21	5:00 PM	TBD	Carol Elliott
Board Games – Jokers – Wee Joker	Jan 22	1:30 PM	Cancelled	Brian Murphy
Walkers – The Hiking Club	Jan 25	9:30 AM	E-mail notification	Marilyn Morita
Tastings - Wine – <i>Grape Expectations</i>	Jan 26	7:00 PM	Zoom	Alice Carey
Cards - Bid Euchre - Wednesday	Jan 27	1:30 PM	TBD	Myra Faichnie
Cards - Bridge	Jan 28	1:00 PM	Playing online	Kathy Sellers
Cards - Canasta	Jan 29	1:00 PM	Cancelled	Alice Carey





FEBRUARY CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONVENOR
Activities				
General Meeting	Feb 3	10:00 AM	Zoom	David Wentzell
Executive Meeting	Feb 22	2:00 PM	Zoom	David Wentzell
Clubs				
Probus Info Network - PIN				Bill Turnbull
Walkers – The Hiking Club	Feb 1	9:30 AM	E-mail notification	Marilyn Morita
Board Games – Jokers - Joker	Feb 5	1:30 PM	TBD	Linda Reid
Walkers – The Hiking Club	Feb 8	9:30 AM	E-mail notification	Marilyn Morita
Board Games – Jokers – Jester Joker	Feb 9	1:30 PM	TBD	Peter Sneyd
Music - Clässical Crüe	Feb 10	2:00 PM	Zoom	David Wentzell
Book Club - Spinecrackers	Feb 11	1:30 PM	Zoom	Nancy Lynn
Cards - Bid Euchre - Friday	Feb 12	3:00 PM	cancelled	Zina Yaworski
Walkers – The Hiking Club	Feb 15	9:30 AM	E-mail notification	Marilyn Morita
Photography - Shutterbugs	Feb 16	2:00 PM	Zoom	David Wentzell
Tastings - Beer – Suds Sippers	Feb 16	7:00 PM	Zoom Meeting	Walter Eadie
Book Club – Bookies	Feb 17	1:30 PM	Zoom	Diane Miller
Cards - Euchre	Feb 17	7:30 PM	TBD	Carol Crawford
Dining – Bits and Bites	Feb 18	5:00 PM	TBD	Carol Elliott
Board Games – Jokers – Wee Joker	Feb 19	1:30 PM	Cancelled	Brian Murphy
Walkers – The Hiking Club	Feb 22	9:30 AM	E-mail notification	Marilyn Morita
Tastings - Wine – Grape Expectations	Feb 23	7:00 PM	Zoom	Alice Carey
Cards - Bid Euchre - Wednesday	Feb 24	1:30 PM	TBD	Myra Faichnie
Cards - Bridge	Feb 25	1:00 PM	Playing Online	Kathy Sellers
Cards - Canasta	Feb 26	1:00 PM	Cancelled	Alice Carey





JOKES AND WISE WORDS OF THE MONTH

(Send your submission for possible inclusion in a future newsletter)

And you thought you knew everything!

'Stewardesses' is the longest word typed with only the left hand.

And 'lollipop' is the longest word typed with your right hand. (Bet you tried this out mentally, didn't you?)

'Dreamt' is the only English word that ends in the letters 'mt'.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

The words 'racecar,' 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).

There are only four words in the English language which end in 'dous': tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: 'abstemious' and 'facetious.'

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear. (This is important to know!)

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds

A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors

The cruise liner, QE 2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel it burns.

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

There are **more chickens than people** in the world.

INTERESTING FACTOIDS

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June.. However, since they were starting to smell Brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence, the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting Married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it.. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof... Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would Sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial.. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive... So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift.) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer.

And that's the truth....Now, whoever said History was boring?

Management Committee:

President	David Wentzell	905-878-5862
Vice President	Shirley Mathews	905-636-8680
Past President	Ray Mathews	905-636-8680
Fellowship Dir. Fellowship Dir.	Marlene Murphy Jim Miller	905-659-2288 905-854-2313
Media Director Media Director	Brian Murphy David Hunt	905-659-2288 905-875-0350
Membership Dir.	Anne Eadie	905-878-7143
Program Dir. Program Dir.	Clare Ganson-Bel Diane Miller	11 905-878-8091 905-854-2313
Property Dir.	Robert Streeter	343-999-5245
Secretary	Walter Eadie	905-691-5100
Special Events Dir. Special Events Dir.	1.1	905-876-3241 905-876-3241
Treasurer	Alice Carey	905-336-6309

Club Activity Schedule

Club	Date/Time	Convenor	Telephone	Email
Board Games – Jokers - Joker	1st Fri 1:30 pm	Linda Reid	905-878-7717	dlreid@sympatico.ca
Board Games – Jokers - Jester Joker	2nd Tues 1:30 pm	Peter Sneyd	905-693-1708	psneyd@sympatico.ca
Board Games – Jokers – Wee Joker	3rd Fri 1:30 pm	Brian Murphy	905-659-2288	b_e_murphy@hotmail.com
Book Club - Spinecrackers	2nd Thurs 1:30 pm	Nancy Lynn	905-319-0191	lynn67.personal@gmail.com
Book Club – Bookies	3^{rd} Wed $-1:30$ pm	Diane Miller		dianemiller@rogers.com
Classical Music	$2^{nd}\;Wed2{:}00\;pm$	David Wentzell	905-878-5862	david.g.wentzell@gmail.com
Cards - Bid Euchre - Friday	2nd Fri. – 3:00 pm	Zina Yaworski	905-878-3959	joe_zina@hotmail.com
Cards - Bid Euchre - Wednesday	4th Wed 1:30 pm	Myra Faichnie	905-878-6615	billmyra@sympatico.ca
Cards - Bridge	4th Thurs 1:00 pm	Kathy Sellers	647-227-7036	kathleensellers@hotmail.com
Cards - Canasta	4th Fri 1:00 pm	Alice Carey	905-336-6309	carealic@sympatico.ca
Cards - Euchre	3rd Wed 7:30 pm	Carol Crawford	519-836-1985	dcraw4d@sympatico.ca
Dining – Bits and Bites	3rd Thurs 5:00 pm	Carol Elliott	905-875-3980	celliott7@cogeco.ca
Photography	3^{rd} Tues. $-2:00$ pm	David Wentzell	905-878-5862	david.g.wentzell@gmail.com
Probus Info Network - PIN Online	only - no meetings	Bill Turnbull	905-878-9573	turnbullwt@yahoo.com
Tastings – Beer – Suds Sippers	3rd Tues 7:00 pm	Walter Eadie	905-691-5100	walter.eadie@cogeco.ca
Tastings – Wine - Grape Expectations	s 4th Tues 7:00 pm	Alice Carey	905-336-6309	carealic@sympatico.ca
Travel – Event Coordinator		Zina Yaworski	905-878-3959	joe_zina@hotmail.com
Walkers – The Hiking Club	Every Mon 9:30 am	Marilyn Morita	905-854-5046	george.morita@sympatico.ca