



# SCUGOG-UXBRIDGE PROBUS CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 8

FEBRUARY 2025

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

**President:**

Derrick Bond

**Vice President:**

Karin Fahey

**Treasurer:**

Craig McKee

**Secretary:**

Cindy Agnew

**Membership:**

Wendy Bond

**Social Committee**

**Co-Chairs:**

Anne Gauvreau

JoAnn Knight

**Interest Groups**

**Co-Chairs:**

Pam Norton

Lorraine Ward

**Speakers Chair:**

Maureen Wood

**House Co-Chairs:**

Pete Kooger

Paul Heney

**Member-at-Large:**

Rob Messervey

**Newsletter Editor:**

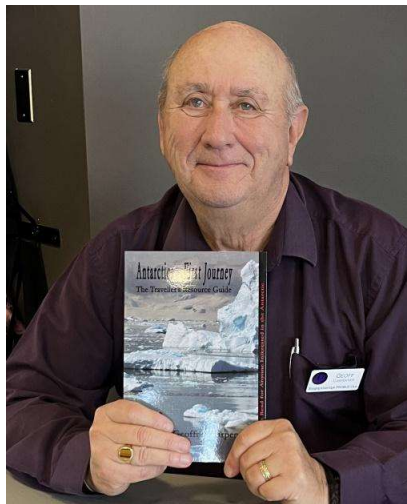
Marilyn Card

**Web Master:**

Barry Clulow

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The General meeting on January 2<sup>nd</sup> to kick off 2025 was a great success. The guest speaker was Geoff Carpentier, a member of our Club, is a published author and expedition guide. He talked about his experiences from his 35 tours in Antarctica, covering some exploration history to some very interesting facts on the local wild life. In lieu of the usual break snacks we had a Potluck Nibley event, which was amazing with all the great treats that members provided. It was great to see so many members turn out for this meeting as I was concerned that the turn out would be low due to it being so close to New Year's Day. I would like to thank all who attended and the volunteers that helped to make this first meeting of the year run very smoothly and making it a most enjoyable event



I enjoy the winter weather for a while, but by February I have had enough of the cold and the short days. I guess I would call it the mid Winter blues.

A special date in February is the National Flag of Canada Day. It was at the stroke of noon on February 15, 1965, Canada's red and white maple leaf flag was raised for the very first time on Parliament Hill. I still remember seeing the new flag for the first time, I was in Public School and they gathered every one in the foyer of the school to unveil the new flag for Canada.

To break up the month there are a number of events being held at the Uxbridge Music hall and the Port Perry Theater, I have posted a few of these events on the Club's WEB site on the Community Hub page. The Social Committee has posted a few events running in February as well. The Social Committee is looking for suggestions for new events.

The Management Team welcomes Rob Messervey who has volunteered to be the Member-at-Large. Rob's career background has been in the field of water resources management with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and a number of Conservation Authorities, the most recent being the Kawartha Region CA. As a carryover, Rob serves as the President of the Scugog Lake Stewards and is a Director on the Ontario Greenbelt Foundation Board and Chair of its Oak Ridges Moraine Committee. Rob works with his wife Karen in operating her business, Native Plants in Clarendon. Rob is a downhill ski instructor at Dagmar Ski Resort, a cross-country skier and cyclist, and plays piano at various local events and in local retirement residences.



**Website:** [www.scugog-uxbridgeprobus.ca](http://www.scugog-uxbridgeprobus.ca)

**Email:** [info@scugog-uxbridgeprobus.ca](mailto:info@scugog-uxbridgeprobus.ca)

# General Meetings

**General Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month**

**10 a.m. to 12 noon at Hope Church, 14480 Old Simcoe Street, Port Perry, Ontario**

There is a 30-minute break at half time to meet people, enjoy refreshments, sign up for an interest group or social event, and look into volunteering.

The next regular General Meeting at Hope Church will be **February 6, 2025**.

## February 6 Guest Speaker:



**Dr. Vi Tu Banh**, Uxbridge optometrist and author, will be our speaker on February 6<sup>th</sup>. As a child, Vi Tu Banh and his family left their home country in a dangerously overcrowded and dilapidated boat, had to fend for themselves on Air Raya in Indonesia, and then made the journey from the Galang refugee camp to a new life in a house on a hilltop among the snowy fields outside Uxbridge, Ontario. Their story is one of struggle and strength, highlighting the profound effect that the kindness of others can have on a person's life. It speaks of gratitude and illustrates how each of us have the power to contribute to changing the world for the better. His book "12 Elephants & a Dragon, A Memoir of Survival and the Kindness of Strangers" will be on sale at the meeting with the proceeds being donated to the Uxbridge Hospital Foundation.



## March 6 Guest Speaker:



**Lianne Harris Racioppo** is to be our speaker on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Her topic will be - Fables, Fairytales & Rhymes: Lessons for Real Life Working as a Social Studies/History Resource Specialist Consultant with the Toronto District School Board and curriculum advisor for Upper Canada College, Lianne has taught over 100,000 teachers and students (usually in authentic period clothing). Her love of history has involved her in various initiatives such as the Freedman Bureau Records for the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and curriculum development and business start-ups in India. In 2003 she was selected by W.O.M.A.D. as one of Toronto's Women of Influence and in 2009 was invited to be a contributing author of the Canadian best-seller business/self-help book, 'The Power of Women United'. She started to make special appearances in 2024 as a history lecturer for Celebrity and Princess cruise lines.



### **UPCOMING SPEAKERS:**

**March 6 – Lianne Harris Racioppo:** Fables, Fairytales & Rhymes: Lessons for Real Life.

**April 3 – Kevin Donovan:** The Billionaire Murders: The Mysterious Deaths of Barry and Honey Sherman.

**May 1 – Joyce E. Perrin:** Ants in my Pants: One Woman's Unexpected Adventures Across Seven Continents.

### **AT EVERY GENERAL MEETING**

there is an optional

**"Share the Wealth" Draw**

1 for \$2 ~ 3 for \$5 ~ arms length for \$10

(exact change is appreciated)



# Social Committee

## Event Review

On Wednesday January 15<sup>th</sup>, a few of us spent an enjoyable afternoon bowling at NEB's Fun World in Oshawa. We discovered that our club has some excellent bowlers: Brian, Paulette and Ken had the top scores. Some of us need a bit of practice—still, all and all it was a great time.

The bumper cars were also a smash hit!



**Thursday, February 6 - Night of Trivia** - Uxbridge Legion, 109 Franklin St., 7:00 pm - 9:00 PM. Please arrive by 6:30 PM.

**Thursday, February 13 - Line Dancing** – Claremont Legion, 4937 Old Brock Rd, Claremont 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. Cost \$15.00 pre-purchase; \$25.00 cash at the door. For sign-up go to: [Cheatinhearts.ca/events](https://www.cheatinhearts.ca/events) and scroll to Feb 13 event. <https://www.cheatinhearts.ca>. Fun and energetic

line dance instructors. Routines from beginner and up. Grab your friends, put on your dancing shoes and let's have some fun! Let us know if you are interested in carpooling.

**Thursday, February 27– Scugog Library** – Makerspace Tour and 3D Printer Workshop; 2 – 3 PM. Lunch BEFORE at Marwan's, 187 Queen St, Port Perry @ 12:00 Noon.

**Thursday, March 13 – The Passionate Cook** - Cooking Lessons - 68 Brock Street W, Uxbridge. 1 PM – 3 PM. Cost \$125.00 plus tax. You will receive a meal, the recipe and a glass of wine. These classes are demonstration style.

**Wednesday, March 26 – Breakout Activity** – Hope Church, 1 – 3 PM. Cost \$5.00. There will be clues like in an escape room, but no one is trapped. You will have to work together in teams to solve the clues.

**Wednesday, April 2 – Richters Herbs** – Growing your own herbs and vegetables. 357 Highway 47, Goodwood. 10 AM – 11 AM. This event is FREE. Lunch at Annina's will follow tour.

What You'll Discover:

- **A Rich History:** Learn about Richters Herbs and our journey.
- **Creative Uses for Dried Herbs:** Uncover fun and practical ways to use them.
- **Herbal Tea Exploration:** Sample our signature tea blends and enjoy a warm cup.
- **Seeds Galore:** Explore a variety of herb and vegetable seeds and learn the difference between sow natural seeds and regular seeds.
- **The Magic of Essential Oils:** Understand what they are and why they're beneficial.
- **Greenhouse Walkthrough:** Encounter medicinal herbs, vegetables, and a cornucopia of over 1,000 unique plant varieties.
- See rare, unique & native species, pollinator favorites, and endangered plants.
- **Hands-On Gardening Tips:** How to sow, transplant, and water seedlings. Best practices for planting in your garden.





# Social Committee

**Saturday, April 5 – Pefferlaw Creek Farms Maple Syrup Festival** - 12300 Concession Rd 6, Uxbridge; 10:00 - 3:00 Cost: \$10.00. Includes: Sugar shack tour, tapping tour, tasting, taffy per person. Pancake meal optional and extra cost.

**Wednesday, May 14 – Ajax Downs Racetrack** – 50 Alexander’s Crossing, Ajax 1:00 PM. Ajax Downs is a great place with live quarter horse racing. Parking and Admission are free, full grandstand seating. They offer “How to Bet 101” for first time visitors.

**Monday, June 16 - 17 – Niagara on the Lake – Wine/Dinner tour with Crush Tours.**

We will be visiting four wineries: Château des Charmes - tasting with small snack pairing Between the Lines - tour & tasting Reif Estate – tasting Bella Terra – tasting Crush Tours will have restaurant recommendations for dinner. Cost: Tour \$165 pp + tips + meals + hotel – The Colonel Butler, \$233.10.

**TBD June – High Tea – The Tea House at Parkwood, Cost \$70.00**

**TBD June - Pot Luck Dinner.**

Here are more events we are considering in **2025**:

- Nine and Dine – Early Summer
- Ghost Walk in Pickering in October



The Social Committee has an email address that can be used if you need more information on events. Drop us a line if you have suggestions for activities that you would like us to explore. As always, we are on the lookout for new Social Team members. The email address is: [socscugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:socscugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com)

Don't forget, you can always use the online sign up: <https://forms.gle/eDLNmGojpUCHtb1x9>

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## Interest Groups

### **BUNCO GROUP (Progressive Dice Game) – Coordinators Sue and Bob Armitage**

The Bunco group is growing! We had 20 players take part earlier in January at the Hope Church and most were new to the game. Lots of fun and fellowship with several prizes. The next game will be in March. We are always looking for more players so call Sue or Bob Armitage at 416.271.5139 if you want to be added to the list or sign up at the next meeting.

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### **Lunch Group – Coordinator Zana Maksimovic**

Our January lunch was at the Corner House Pub and Grill in Uxbridge on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

The next few restaurants planned are:

- **February:** Piano Inn and Cafe, Port Perry
- **March:** Il Fornello, Ajax

There is an online sign-up and calendar spreadsheet available at: <https://tinyurl.com/SUP-Lunch-Signup>

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# Interest Groups

## **Sequence, Arts & Craft, and Puzzle Groups – Coordinator Maureen Wood**

The Sequence group met on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, and continues to meet monthly in Greenbank.

Arts and Crafts met January 28<sup>th</sup>. for this scribble art project. The group meets monthly in Greenbank.

On January 7<sup>th</sup> we worked on this Grand Canyon puzzle. Our next meeting is Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at 1237 Cragg Rd. Greenbank. Puzzle days can be flexible. No cost. Please contact: [Maureen@mr-radon.ca](mailto:Maureen@mr-radon.ca) if you can come or would like to come on an alternative date.



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## **Hand and Foot Canasta (card game) – Coordinator Amber D'Aguiar**

This group may be on hiatus until March, but you can still sign up at the February meeting to join the fun in March.

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# Interest Groups

## Group Travel – Coordinator Lorraine Ward

Here are some of the proposed exciting travel ideas for 2025 and early 2026, offering a mix of adventure, relaxation, and exploration.

- **June 2025:** The Maritimes (Canada). A scenic and culturally rich trip to the Maritimes would be an incredible way to kick off the summer. We could explore the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, taking in picturesque coastlines, historic sites, and charming towns.
- **September 2025:** Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Martha's Vineyard is known for its beautiful beaches, stunning landscapes, and quaint villages. A September getaway would allow us to enjoy the early fall weather.
- **February 2026:** Winter Retreat to Aruba. For those who want to escape the cold, a winter retreat to Aruba offers sun, sand, and relaxation in the heart of the Caribbean.

Sign up for the Travel Group at the next meeting if anything here piques your interest.

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## Wine Club – Coordinator Lorraine Ward

The Wine Group is meeting once a month in the winter months for some delectable wine tastings and comradery. The latest Wine at Home meet up was January 23<sup>rd</sup> featuring wines of New Zealand. Next dates are February 27<sup>th</sup> and tentatively March 27<sup>th</sup>.

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## YOGA – Coordinator Donna Williamson

We have two excellent Yoga Teachers Laurie Kennedy and Jill Watson, both have had great success with their November to December classes. Contact Donna at [yogidonnalee@gmail.com](mailto:yogidonnalee@gmail.com) if you have any questions regarding the classes.

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## Hiking & Outdoors Group – Coordinator Pam Norton

Thanks to Alison and Mary for continuing to lead weekly hikes. We are always looking for additional weekly hike leader volunteers. They can be any day of the week and can be short urban hikes or longer woodland hikes. We've been hiking this winter in Walker Woods, the Rouge Urban Park and Durham Forest. The pictures below are from the Rouge Urban Park and Durham Forest trails.



# Interest Groups

## **Live Music Group – Coordinator Pam Norton**

Probus members have been meeting up at several live music venues, including Jazz nights at the Historic Leaskdale Church and the Greenbank Folk Music Society monthly music series. The next meet up is a Neil Diamond Tribute event at the Regent Theatre in Oshawa in February. Group members are encouraged to share live music opportunities through email and the WhatsApp group.

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## **Euchre Group – Co-ordinator Kim Lendvay**

This Port Perry Probus interest group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at 7pm. They have 8 regular players and 4 spares so they've reached out to SUP to make this a joint interest group in the hopes to get 12-14 regular players to ensure we'll have 3 tables even during high travel periods! Please email Kim Lendvay (Port Perry Probus Interest Groups Chair) at [interest.portperryprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interest.portperryprobus@gmail.com) if you are interested in playing regularly or as a substitute. You can also sign up at the February meeting.

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## **Genealogy – Coordinator Neil Kilmartin**

This group is currently full, but you are welcome to check out a meeting and find out what it is all about!

Are you currently pursuing your family history, or maybe interested in finding out a bit about genealogy? We currently have members from Port Perry and Scugog-Uxbridge who are either experienced with genealogy, just getting started, or are more likely somewhere in between. Most of us have submitted our DNA to Ancestry.com and are often sharing our experiences with this facet of our family history.

We meet at the Scugog Library on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10am to Noon, September to June. Many of us also appreciate local history, and we have had 2 presentations by the Scugog Historical Society this past year.

Contact Neil Kilmartin via email at [neilMkilmartin@gmail.com](mailto:neilMkilmartin@gmail.com) if you would like to attend a meeting.

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## **NEW Travel Information – Coordinator Tim Casey**

We have a new interest group that will be formed if we get enough interest from club members. This will be a travel information group where group members, and at times some outside travel experts, will share information about travel. Note that this is not the same as the Travel Group, and does not in itself plan or promote any trips although group members may find others in the group who might want to join together for a trip.

The typical monthly meeting will include a discussion around group members' recent travel experiences and recommendations and upcoming travel plans. It also will include a feature slide or video presentation on some aspect of travel such as cruises (e.g. big ship, small ship, river cruises, etc.), land-based trips (e.g. various bus tours, self-guided tours, bike tours, adventure travel, hub & spoke travel, volunteer travel, etc.), seasonal travel (e.g. winter escape locations, skiing, spring/fall trips, etc.) and general travel tips (e.g. traveling safe, travel bargains and saving tips, communications while traveling, etc.).

PS: There is usually lunch involved!

If you're interested in joining this group, please email [interestgr.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgr.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com) or sign up at the next meeting.

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# Member-abilia

-abilia - noun suffix: items of interest relating to specified persons or things (in our case PROBUS) e.g. Elvis-abilia

## Members celebrating birthdays in February

Kevin C. Sandra B. Glen M. Linda W.  
Kim R. Debbie D. Jim P. Margot S.  
Rita E. Joanne H. Bob W. Charlene C.  
Lynn W. Hiddy H. Kim L. Annette F.  
Laurel A.



## FYI

Please sign in when you arrive  
Wear your PROBUS name badge  
Members' guests are allowed 2 visits  
Remember to "Lug a Mug"  
Bring cash to buy draw tickets  
This is YOUR club ~ ENJOY!!!

### TO SIGN UP FOR ALL INTEREST GROUPS:

- ✓ At General Meetings, there will be Interest Group sign-up sheets in the lobby or break room.
- ✓ If you are interested in joining any of the groups, add your name to the sign-up sheets! Please print!
- ✓ All joining an Interest Group must be a Club member
- ✓ Please wear your PROBUS name badge to interest group meetings and events.
- ✓ There is usually no charge to join an Interest Group, but some may have a minimal fee to pay for using the venue.
- ✓ Contact [interestgr.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgr.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com)

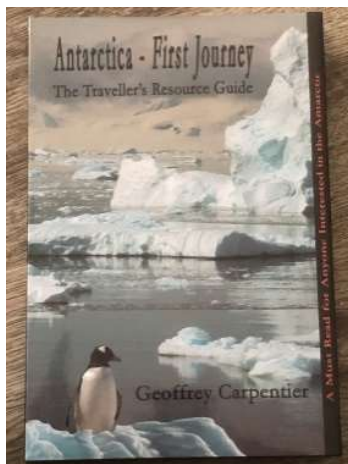
### We'd love to hear from you.

Members are invited to share photos from our Probus club events, personal success stories, proud moments, exciting trips, etc. in the newsletter. This is a great way to get to know one another and to make our newsletter more interesting. Email your articles in Word format to the newsletter editor, Marilyn Card, at: [marilyncard@gmail.com](mailto:marilyncard@gmail.com). (In the subject line of your email, please put "SUP Newsletter".)



### Who Knew? by Karin Fahey

At the January meeting, we had the pleasure of hearing from Geoff Carpentier. Geoff is a member of our chapter and I was delightfully surprised to hear from a member with such interesting experiences!



Geoff Carpentier is a published author, expedition guide and environmental consultant. His tours have included 35 to Antarctica and his book "Antarctica – First Journey" uncovers some of his adventures.

We heard about his adventures, wildlife, the ice and I was particularly interested in the birds along with hearing about the story of Ernest Shackleton. His talk included info and pictures of whales, penguins, seals & sea lions and even krill!

I personally didn't know too much about the geography and the various islands. A trip there would start in South America with potential destinations as the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, South Orkney Island, South Sandwich Islands and the Antarctica with not everywhere being hospitable! I found his talk so interesting that I bought his book! Thanks Geoff – hope to hear from you again sometime soon!





**Rouge National Urban Park**  
 Make the journey with us as we grow and nurture this special place

Parks Canada is proudly working with our Indigenous, provincial, municipal and other partners to protect and manage Rouge National Urban Park. Once complete, the park will be the largest urban park of its kind in North America.

**What you can do now**

- Visit a Parks Canada welcome area
- Volunteer for park ecosystem monitoring programs
- Attend one of our many free public events
- Enjoy 25 km of trails - discover them on your own or join one of our guided walks
- Cycle along scenic roadways
- Appreciate diverse birding opportunities
- Visit seasonal farm markets and stands
- Camp in the Glen Rouge Campground
- Swim in Lake Ontario at Rouge Beach
- Dog walk freely...

**What's to come**

- Ecological science and restoration programs
- A connected 100 km trail network
- Expanding visitor reception and education centres
- Trailhead installations and improvements
- Seasonal and educational programs
- Unique camping opportunities
- Signature special events

**Stay connected**

Follow us on social media for the latest updates: [@ParksCanada](#)

