



SCUGOG-UXBRIDGE PROBUS CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Issue 10

APRIL 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

I am looking forward to pulling out the BBQ or Smoker more often this month, even if it is a very wet month. I guess I am looking forward to no more snow and longer days.

I wonder how many club members stayed up or got up about 2:00 a.m. to see the lunar eclipse last month. I tried to take some pictures, but my camera did not have a strong enough lens to get a better picture than a small orange spot.

April brings a few special days other than April Fools. This year Passover, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are in April. Earth Day is on April 22nd.



Last month's speaker was Lianne Harris Racioppo and spoke about the history, origins and the differences between fables, fairy tales & rhymes. I had no idea the history and stories behind them. It was quite a learning experience. Made me think about the English proverb 'April showers bring May flowers'. This saying may have originated with the following short poem that the English poet Thomas Tusser wrote in 1557, the original quote was "Sweet April showers Do spring May flowers"

After the March General Meeting the Club had over a dozen members get together for lunch at the Colonel Mustard's Pub & Grill on Water St. With such a good response the club will continue to ask just before the break a show of hands to see how many members would like to join in.

The Club has created a Private Facebook group with 40 members having already joined. We will be using it as one of the communication tools with the club members. To join the Facebook group please copy and paste this link below into your browser and then request to join the group. A club administrator will confirm your membership to the Facebook group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1063170235479624>



Hope to see you at the meeting on April 3rd. The speaker will be Kevin Donovan who is the Chief Investigative Reporter for the Toronto Star. Kevin will be talking about his book "The Billionaire Murders: The Mysterious Deaths of Barry and Honey Sherman".

Please remember to "Lug a Mug".



Website: www.scugog-uxbridgeprobus.ca **Email:** 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 General Meeting at Hope Church will be **April 3, 2025**.

April 3 Guest Speaker:



Kevin Donovan is our speaker on April 3rd. He will be speaking about *The Billionaire Murders: The Mysterious Deaths of Barry and Honey Sherman*. Kevin Donovan is the Chief Investigative Reporter for the Toronto Star, where he has worked for more than three decades. He has won three National Newspaper Awards, two Michener Awards, and three Canadian Association of Journalists Awards. In 2019 Kevin wrote a book about the 2017 deaths of Barry and Honey Sherman. He continues to investigate these unsolved deaths. Some of his books (including *Secret Life- The Jian Ghomeshi Investigation (The Dead Times)*) will be on sale for \$20.



May 1 Guest Speaker:



Joyce E. Perrin: *Ants in my Pants: One Woman's Unexpected Adventures Across Seven Continents*. The lure of adventure unleashed her undying curiosity about the world and about people as she crisscrossed the globe for over twenty years and visited 156 countries on all seven continents. Not just as a tourist, but as an ambassador for adventure, working for the World Health Organization, touching (and changing) lives in healthcare settings in the Middle East, Africa, and South America. Her book will be on sale for \$26.



UPCOMING SPEAKERS:



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

June 5 – Roger Varley: Topic Title: Searching for the Maple Leaf.

July 3 – Peter Edwards: Topic Title: "Project 24K - The Pearson International Airport Gold Heist".

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

We had an amazing time at *The Passionate Cook*, led by the talented instructor Lisa Hutchison. The class kicked off with a fabulous Sheet Pan Winter Panzanella, which, for most of the group, quickly became the favorite dish of the day. Next, we savoured a mouthwatering Greek Chicken and Potatoes Tray Bake, followed by the grand finale—a delicious Roasted Strawberry Slablova. The flavour of the roasted strawberries was absolutely extraordinary, earning it a spot as a crowd favourite.

Throughout the session, everyone enjoyed lively conversation between courses, making for a truly delightful afternoon all around.



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 the 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.

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.

Monday, April 28 – Peppertree Classic Clothing - 137 Main St, Markham; 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. No Cost. Join us for an exclusive afternoon of shopping—the store will be open just for us! We'll enjoy a special 30% discount on all purchases. The day will conclude with a late lunch or early dinner at a charming restaurant in Markham.

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.

Wednesday, May 28 – Cold Springs Alpacas - 8480 Cold Springs Camp Rd, Campbellcroft. Cost \$25.00. The private farm tour will bring us up close and personal with the herd. During the tour they will halter an alpaca so we can get up close, walk them around and take pictures —making the experience special. They will tour the farm with us; answering any questions we may have.

Social Committee

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 - tasing

Crush Tours will have restaurant recommendations for dinner.

Cost: Tour \$165 pp + tips + meals + hotel – The Colonel Butler, \$233.10.

Monday, June 23 – Nine & Dine - Sunnybrae Golf Club, 1430 King St, Port Perry; 10 AM Tee Off. Cost for 9 holes of golf plus cart \$45.00. BBQ lunch after, \$25.00 + tax on food only. Payment to be made at the Golf Club. Come and join us for a morning on the links, followed by a BBQ. We are joining forces with the Uxbridge and Port Perry ProBus clubs to enjoy socializing, food and drinks of course!

TBD June - Pot Luck Dinner.

Friday, July 4 – High Tea; The Tea House at Parkwood – 270 Simcoe St N, Oshawa. Cost \$68.00 plus tax. Nestled in front of an exquisite 200-foot fountain, The Tea House is a tranquil outdoor restaurant, perfect for enjoying lunch, afternoon tea or a refreshing drink.

Here is another event we are considering in **2025**:

- 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

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

From the desk of our Membership Chair, Wendy Bond

GUEST REGISTRATION:

All members are welcome. Guests **MUST REGISTER UPON ARRIVAL** and may attend two General Meetings as guests. After that, we welcome you to become full members and pay the Scugog-Uxbridge Probus membership fees.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the Scugog- Uxbridge PROBUS Club. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the monthly meetings. During the Club's first 10 months 191 people have become members. To successfully operate the club, fees are collected yearly to offset the costs of venue rentals, speakers, insurance, website/communication tools, etc. The fiscal calendar for our Club is from June to May, operating for the full twelve months of the year. The 2025/2026 membership fee will remain the same at \$40.00. We are asking by the June General Meeting to either e-transfer to the Club Treasurer at treasurer.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com, under the comments section indicate your name and the reason for the e-transfer, Membership Fee. If e-transfer is not available, please pay by cheque or cash at the upcoming monthly meetings.

Interest Groups

New Interest Group

BOOK CLUB – Co-ordinator Maureen Wood

The Book Club is now up and running and will be held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1 pm. The first meeting will be April 9th. For further information please contact maureen@mr-radon.ca.

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

The Bunco group is growing! 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.

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

The Sequence, Arts and Crafts, and Puzzle groups continue to meet monthly in Greenbank. Please contact Maureen at: maureen@mr-radon.ca if you would like more information.

The March 4th Puzzle Group was a great work out-for our brains.



Our Puzzle for Tuesday, April 1st.



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

This group will resume in April. Please sign up at the interest group table.

Lunch Group – Coordinator Zana Maksimovic

The following lunch outings are:

- Tuesday, April 8 @ 12:30 - Wooden Sticks Golf Club / Fairways Dining in Uxbridge
- Friday, May 9 @ 12:00 - Il Fornello in Ajax

Please continue to sign up for lunch at : <https://tinyurl.com/SUP-Lunch-Signup> “

Interest Groups

Wine Club – Coordinator Lorraine Ward

The Wine Group is meeting once a month in the winter months for some delectable wine tastings and comradery. We have explored wines from New Zealand and France, pairing this with delicious appetizers.

The next meeting is April 23rd, (a possible back up date of April 30th) hosted by Kellea Passmore. We will be tasting Canadian wines, supporting our economy.

We will be visiting local wineries once we have nicer weather.



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.
- **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.

YOGA – Coordinator Donna Williamson

We have two excellent Yoga Teachers Laurie Kennedy and Jill Watson. Contact Donna at yogidonnalee@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding the classes.

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.

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. Group members are encouraged to share live music opportunities through email and the WhatsApp group.

Euchre Group – NEW – Looking for a co-ordinator for this group.

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

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!

We meet the first Wednesday of each month from 10am to noon in the Scugog Library's Board Room, September to June. We are currently at our capped number of 16, but if anyone wishes to visit us, you're welcome to attend. Our group is now a hybrid group, with members from the Port Perry and Scugog Uxbridge Probus Clubs. We welcome people with any degree of genealogical experience, right from the newbie to the seasoned family historian. Our focus tends to be on "sharing our individual family history experiences". Guidance and help in researching is always available. We're planning to have a guided tour of the Uxbridge Library's Genealogy room in the spring, with an explanation of the resources available there. Again, if you wish to drop in for a meeting to see what we're all about, send me an email, and we'll be happy to see you!

Contact Neil Kilmartin via email at neilmkilmartin@gmail.com if you would like more information.

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 or sign up at the next meeting.

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 April

Anne G.	Andie S.	Bob A.
Debra C.	Charmaine A.	Sue A.
Larry T.	Annemarie K.	Jean M.
Henry V.	Sherry D.	Nancy B.
JoAnn K.	Jackie C.	Linda T.
Greg N.		Rod C.



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

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. (In the subject line of your email, please put "SUP Newsletter".)



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Join our new **FACEBOOK** page!

Inclement weather and wondering if a meeting is still happening? We will post information here:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1063170235479624>



OR....

You can also head to our **WEBSITE!**

We will also post notices here (example cancellation message shown below):
www.scugog-uxbridgeprobus.ca





Lianne Harris Racioppo was our speaker on March 6th. Her topic was - Fables, Fairytales & Rhymes: Lessons for Real Life. Working as a Social Studies / History Resource Specialist / 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.

