



SCUGOG-UXBRIDGE PROBUS CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Issue 26

AUGUST 2026

MANAGEMENT TEAM

President:

Derrick Bond

Vice President:

Karin Fahey

Treasurer:

Craig McKee

Secretary:

Cindy Agnew

Membership:

Wendy Bond

Social Committee

Co-Chairs:

JoAnn Knight

Christine MacIsaac

Interest Groups

Co-Chairs:

Darlene Humphrey

Henry Valkenburg

Speaker Co-Chairs:

Maureen Wood

Marie Robinson

House Co-Chairs:

Pete Kooger

Paul Heney

Members-at-Large:

Rob Messervey

Tim Casey

Donna Stevenson

Newsletter Editor:

Marilyn Card

Web Master:

Derrick Bond

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Are you looking forward to the long weekend in August to get together with family and friends? The long weekend for us will complete a busy week with two teenage grandsons. In Manitoba the holiday is celebrated as Terry Fox Day, in honour of the Manitoba-born athlete.

Our volunteers are what make our Club such a vibrant and interesting group. I would like to welcome two volunteers to the Management Committee Henry Valkenburg and Donna Stevenson. They were appointed to become members of the Management Committee at the July 16th Management Committee meeting.

Henry Valkenburg is filling the position of Interest Groups Co-Chair. Here is a short BIO for Henry: "Henry has lived in Port Perry with his wife, Tina, since 1994. Before (semi) retiring, he enjoyed a career in both farming and the HVAC and Building Automation industry. He and Tina have four adult children and thirteen grandchildren. Henry is active at Hope Church, where he has served in leadership and outreach roles, and enjoys volunteering in the community. His interests include spending time with grandchildren, travel, computers, and meeting new people. Henry is looking forward to sharing his experience and helping create opportunities for friendship, fellowship, and enjoyable activities for fellow members."

Donna is filling the position of Member-at-Large. Here is a short Bio for Donna: "Donna enjoyed a successful career as an insurance broker for more than 35 years, including over a decade as manager of a large insurance brokerage. Donna later took a sabbatical to study nursing so she could take care of a family member during a serious illness. After his passing, she completed her nursing degree. Donna is also a proud mother of two married daughters and grandmother of four grandchildren whom Donna sees regularly. Donna loves life, nature and travel having explored many countries with family and friends and is looking forward to joining the team."

The Social Committee has a few items planned for August. On Saturday, August 1 Jersey Nights at the Uxbridge Music Hall, Wednesday August 12 Theatre on the Ridge Sketches of Leacock and Tuesday August 18 is Bullseye Axe Throwing. Some of the Interest Groups are also continuing to run during August, please check the WEB site for details.

I would like to thank the over 180 members that have renewed their membership or have become new members. If you wish to renew your 2026/2027 membership, please e-transfer \$40.00 to treasurer.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com or bring a cheque or cash to the next meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the August 6th meeting. The guest speaker will be Marlene Hodgson talking about Camp X, which was a top-secret spy training facility for Canadian and allied agents during World War II.



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 activity or a Social Event, and look into volunteering.

The next General Meeting at Hope Church will be **August 6, 2026**.

August 6 – Marlene Hodgson – Camp X, A top secret WWII spy training facility east of Toronto



For decades Marlene Hodgson and her husband researched Camp X. Camp X was a top-secret spy training facility for Canadian and allied agents during World War II. In addition, the camp was a key communications hub between Britain, Canada and the U.S. This National Historic Site is located on the shore of Lake Ontario between Whitby and Oshawa. The area is known today as Intrepid Park. As an expert on what transpired at Camp X, Marlene will reveal many interesting stories about this part of Canadian History.



September 3 – Steve Burrows Topic: The Evolution Bird Mysteries



After earning degrees from York and Dalhousie Universities, Steve relocated and earned a master's degree from the University of Hong Kong. His dissertation explored the feasibility of reintroducing Silver Pheasants into Hong Kong's forests. As a contributing field editor with Asian Geographic, he travelled to destinations such as Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Papua New Guinea. He has delighted in bird and wildlife discoveries across eight continents. Steve's freelance articles on travel, writing, and environmental issues have appeared in publications in *Canada, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, the US, and the UK*. His obvious writing abilities and love of birds presented a natural segue into writing bird themed novels with a mystery thrown in for good measure. Both his novels and wildlife publications have won awards. His ninth book, *A Murmuration of Starlings*, will be launched at Blue Heron on Sept 19th.



UPCOMING SPEAKERS:



October 1 – Dr. John Stewart – Topic: Whispers from Beyond

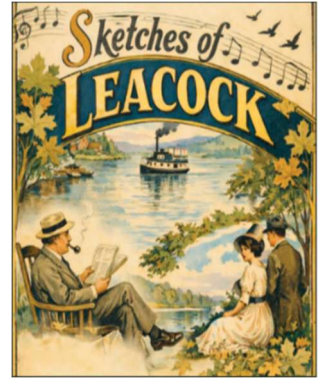
November 5 – Joan Knighton – Topic: British Home Children

After the General Meeting, everyone is invited to join us for lunch at Castle John's in the Port Perry Plaza. A show of hands will be asked for before our break so that we can make a reservation.

Social Committee



Wednesday, August 12 – Theatre on the Ridge Sketches of Leacock,
16120 Island Rd, Port Perry. Time: 7:00 p.m. Cost:
\$48.25, but if we have 6 or more people the price
drops to \$39.00.



The brilliant and satiric writing of Canada's beloved author and essayist Stephen Leacock (1869-1944) is the inspiration of this world premiere. In *Sketches of Stephen Leacock*, Andy Massingham brings together the myriads of eccentric characters Leacock became world-famous for. Often called "Canada's Mark Twain," and lauded by Groucho Marx as, "The funniest writer I have ever read, Leacock wrote of thwarted love, bank managers, angry customers, nosy neighbours, love-struck kids (and NOT kids). They are all present for the fun and Leacock skewers them all with his razor-sharp wit.

Tuesday, August 18 – Bullseye Axe Throwing; 17705 Leslie St., Unit 15, Newmarket. Cost is \$30.95 for a coach to teach us the art and we will have 75 minutes of competition. It is a full bar; however, we have to bring in our own food - I am thinking pizza.

Wednesday, September 2 - Sunnybrae Golf Club; 1430 King St, Port Perry.
Tee Off is 10 AM. Cost: \$50.00 for 9 holes of golf, cart included. BBQ Lunch \$25.00 + tax.

Join us for a relaxing morning on the links, followed by a delicious BBQ lunch. The Uxbridge and Port Perry clubs will be joining us—offering a great opportunity to socialize, enjoy good food, and of course, have a few drinks!

Thursday, September 10 - Muskoka Steamship Tours - 185 Cherokee Lane, Gravenhurst.

We will start the day with **High Tea at the Blue Willow Tea Room** from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, cost \$42.00

Cruising Times & Cost:

- The cruise group rate \$62.00 per person + tax of \$8.06 = \$70.06
- The ship leaves at 2:30 PM and returns to port at 4:00 PM, 1.5 hours

When you depart from the dock aboard these ships, you're participating in a deeply rooted Muskoka tradition. Steamships have been cruising across Lake Muskoka since 1866, which means that Muskoka's steamship heritage is *older than Canada as a nation*.

Today, visitors come from all over the world to experience this authentic Muskoka must-do. Their sightseeing cruises take you along the rugged shorelines and show you a spectacular view of Lake Muskoka's small cottage islands and grand estates.



Social Committee

Tuesday, September 15 – Oktoberfest; 127 Southcrest Dr., Seagrave. Time 1:00 PM, Cost \$15.00. We'll take care of the Oktoberfest favourites—delicious sausages, tangy sauerkraut, creamy coleslaw, potato salad, and plenty of Oktoberfest music to set the mood! Just bring your favourite beverage and get ready for a fun afternoon of good food, great conversation, lots of laughter, and a few games. It's the perfect opportunity to mingle, make new friends, and enjoy time with your fellow Probus members.

Wednesday, September 16 – Toronto Blue Jays Game, **SOLD OUT!** Rogers Centre, 1 Blue Jays Way Toronto. Cost: \$125.00 Tickets are in Section 119, Row 14. We will take the GO to the game and enjoy a perfect afternoon cheering on the Blue Jays. Seats are between home and first base. Enjoy the snacks and expensive beer!!

Tuesday, September 22 – Tour of the Kingston Pen, plus tour of The S.S. Keewatin Great Lakes Museum - Cost \$200.00. The Uxbridge Probus Club has graciously invited us to join them for an exciting bus tour to beautiful Kingston!

Here's what you can look forward to:

- 8:30 - We will travel by Motorcoach to Kingston, ON, leaving from the Walmart Parking Lot.
 - 11:00 - Upon arrival we will have a plated lunch at the Holiday Inn Waterfront.
 - 1:45 - We will then go to the Kingston penitentiary, for a guided tour of the "Pen," which will last for 45 minutes and is fully accessible.
 - 3:00 - Arrive at the Great Lakes Museum to have a guided tour of the S.S. Keewatin, the last of her kind steam passenger liner, built in 1907. Enroute home, we will stop at the Big Apple, for an opportunity to purchase delicious baked goods.
 - 7:30 - Expected arrival time home.
-

Tuesday, October 6 – McMichael Canadian Art Collection; Grand Hall, 10365 Islington Ave, Kleinburg. Cost: \$17.00. View over 6,500 unparalleled works by Canadian artists. The tour can be followed up with lunch at the on-site Cabin restaurant – a great experience in itself.

What we are working on for the fall:

- A night of Murder Mystery (late October)
- Little Canadian Exhibition, Toronto (November)
- Still looking for a cooking class

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. The email address is:
soc.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com

The Social Online Activities Sign Up can be accessed directly from the **Social Page** of the Scugog Uxbridge Probus website or by typing the following into your browser address bar: bit.ly/ProbusSocialSignup

Social Committee

EVENT REVIEW

Sister Act Musical Comedy

Wednesday June 24th - Kings Wharf Theatre

It was a beautiful day in Penetanguishene. Nestled within Discovery Harbour on the shores



of Georgian Bay, the King's Wharf Theatre is flanked by majestic tall ships and the historic buildings of a 19th century British naval and military base.



Friendly Fidget Function

Hosted by the Art and Craft Group of the Scugog-Uxbridge Probus Club

Join us — and bring your friends — for a fun and worthwhile creative event on

Tuesday, September 22nd, from 10:00 to 3:00

at Greenbank United Church, 19991 Hwy 12.



Participants will attach **fidget and tactile objects** to fabric squares, which will later be sewn into small lap-sized **Fidget Blankets**.

The Alzheimer Society of Durham is looking forward to receiving these meaningful and comforting blankets.

If you can use a glue gun or sew on a button, you can make a difference.

To help cover hall rental and all materials, we ask for a contribution of **\$25**.

Please bring your own lunch or snack.



Probus Canada has insured its participants only.

For more information contact Maureen@mr-radon.ca

Interest Groups

Interest Group Chairs

Darlene Humphrey and Henry Valkenburg are your Interest Group Co-Chairs.

Want to join an interest group?

If you want to join an interest group, send an email to interestgr.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com indicating which group(s) you would like to join. At the General Meetings, there is an Interest Group table in the lobby with signup sheets for each of the groups.

Interest Group Coordinators

Remember to:

- Review the information for your interest group on the UPDATED [Interest Group webpage](#).
- Watch for emails (new group members and members not renewing)
- Let the Interest Group Chair(s) know if there is any important information you want announced at a monthly meeting.
- Send pictures with context.
- Create a fun and catchy name for your group.

Would you like to be a Coordinator to start a new interest group?

Dinner Club

Gardening

Cooking

Local Theatre

Movie Club

Skiing

2nd Book Club

Kayaking

???

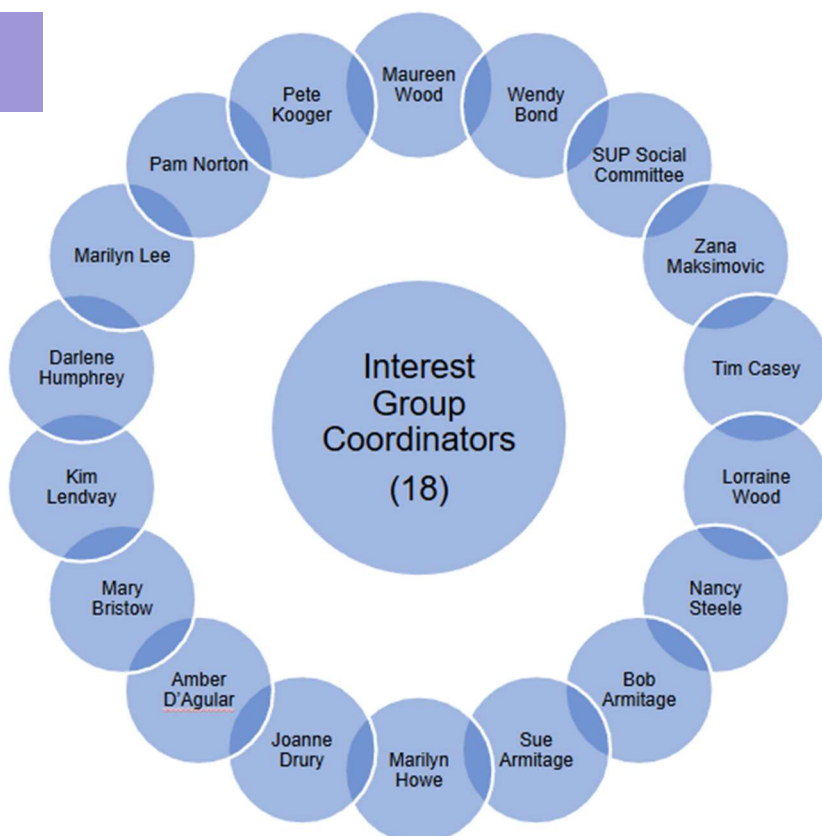
Contact the Interest Group Chair(s) at interestgr.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com

Summer Break

The following interest groups are taking a break for the summer:

- Travel Information
- Wine Group #1
- Board Games
- Bunco Group (Progressive Dice Game)
- Euchre
- Kitchen Bridge

You can still sign up for the fall! Send an email to interestgr.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com, or sign-up at the Interest Group table.



Interest Groups

Special Announcements

The [Interest Group webpage](#) has been updated with a description of each group, how often they meet and where they meet, where applicable. **Check it out!**

Looking for Coordinators for the following interest groups:

- Cooking
- Lunch Club
- Walking and Talking

Looking for members to join the following interest groups:

- Bid Euchre
- Wine Club #2

[HOME](#) [SOCIAL](#) [INTEREST GROUPS](#) [SPEAKERS](#) [NEWSLETTER](#) [COMMUNITY HUB](#) [CONTACT US](#) [MORE ▾](#)

CULTURE • GAMES • SPORTS



INTEREST GROUPS

INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES

What are interest groups?
Interest groups are formed by individuals from our PROBUS Club membership who have a common interest in a particular activity. An interest group usually meets periodically throughout the year on whatever schedule the group decides. Groups have no formal attendance requirements; most are at no cost and members get to socialize while being involved in the group's activities. This club has culture, games and sports groups. It's a great way to meet members, learn, discover new interests/hobbies, or get some exercise. There is no charge to join an interest group, but some may have associated costs (e.g. venue, supplies, etc.). To learn more about what groups are doing, please refer to the Interest Group section in the monthly Newsletter.

How do I sign up?

For all Interest Groups, unless otherwise specified, you can send an email to interestgr.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com indicating which group(s) you would like to join. At the General Meetings, there is an Interest Group table in the lobby with sign-up sheets for each of the groups. To sign up for an Interest Group, you must be a member in good standing.

Remember to wear your PROBUS NAME badge to group meetings and events

Tuesday, September 22nd – Friendly Fidgeting – Coordinator Maureen Wood



Open to all members. Drop-in from 10am – 3pm at Greenbank United Church (corner of Hwy 12 and Cragg Rd).

Squares will be donated to the Alzheimer Society of Durham Region and the Uxbridge Hospital. Pre-cut squares and tons of items to be attached will be provided. Asking \$25 donation to cover supplies. Squares to be sewn together later.

Email interestgr.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com or sign up at the Interest Group table.

Interest Groups

Culture

Lunch Club – Coordinator Zana Maksimovic (New Coordinator Required)



The Lunch Club continues to visit restaurants with patios in the summer!

On Friday, July 10, nine of us enjoyed food, craft beers and fruit sodas at the Second Wedge patio in Uxbridge.

Our next lunch is on Friday, August 14 at Corrado's Restaurant and Bar in Brooklyn, patio seating requested! Check out their menu!

<https://www.corradosrestaurant.com/>

Hope to see you there!

If interested in exploring local cuisine, please send email to or email interestgr.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com or sign up at the Interest Group table

Arts & Craft Group – Coordinator Maureen Wood



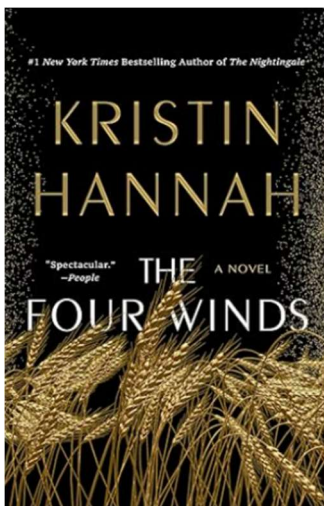
The Arts & Crafts Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Below is the Arts and Crafts schedule:

- **August 25** - Needlework- learn basic stitches
- **September 22** – Friendly Fidgeting
- **October 27** - Ceramic Painting
- **November 24** - Cookies in a Jar
- **December 15** (NOT the 22nd) - Christmas Survival Kits

If you want to discover and foster your creativity, please sign up at the Interest Group table or send an email to interestgr.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com

Interest Groups

Book Club – Coordinator Wendy Bond



In July we reviewed the book **“The Four Winds” by Kristin Hannah**. This is a historical fiction novel set during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl. It follows Elsa Martinelli, a mother struggling to survive, who migrates to California for a better life. The story is a gripping tale of resilience, courage, and the American dream. It follows Elsa's journey from the Texas panhandle to California as she faces environmental catastrophe, poverty, and prejudice. It highlights the strength of the human spirit, growth and confidence, the bond between mother and child, and the struggles of the "haves" vs. "have-nots".

The ladies of the Book Club would recommend this book. The book is sad but inspiring and brought tears to many of us. It reminded us of what our grandparents/great-grandparents may have gone through during the depression of the 1930's and how fortunate and truly grateful we are to live in a time and place where education is available for all, where prosperity and stability can be achieved for those who wish to go after it.

In August we will review the book **“All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr**.

The Book Club is full. Contact the Interests Group Chair(s) (interestgr.scugoguxbridgeprobus@gmail.com), if you would like to co-ordinate a second group.

Food for Thought by: Commentator Ezra Klein

“Part of what is happening when you spend 7 hours reading a book, is you spend 7 hours with your mind on the topics in the book, grappling with them, drawing connections, having thoughts you would not otherwise have had. And so, without that process of grappling, without those hours inside that book, it doesn't get inside you. It doesn't impress itself upon you. It doesn't change you. What reading and writing and processing information is supposed to do is change you.”

Please consider donating the speaker's books that you have read and would like to pass on. We are collecting them to make sets to add to the Uxbridge Library Book Club.

A blue donation basket can be found on the desk as you enter from the main parking lot.



Interest Groups

Games

Bower Power (Euchre) – Joanne Drury

We are looking for regular players and anyone that would like to spare. The next game is on Friday, August 28th at 7pm. This is a joint interest group between the Port Perry Probus and the Scugog-Uxbridge Probus clubs. Please email the coordinator at interest.portperryprobus@gmail.com to join.

Puzzle Group – Coordinator Maureen Wood

Last month, the puzzle group assembled 500 pieces.

This month's **Window Sill Perch** was 1,000 pieces. Apparently, they left it to Maureen to finish!

This puzzle is available in the Puzzle Exchange Room, unless someone has already snapped it up 😊

The Puzzle Group meets at 10 a.m.
on the first Tuesday of every month.



Health Benefits of Working on a Puzzle

Working on a puzzle reinforces connections between brain cells, improves mental speed, and is an effective way to improve short-term memory. Puzzles increase the production of dopamine, a chemical that regulates mood, improves memory, problem-solving skills, and concentration, and provides a form of mental exercise that can delay cognitive decline.

Interest Groups

Sports

Nature Nomads – Coordinator Darlene Humphrey



This month's adventure took us to the Rouge National Urban Park (pics 1 & 2) for a stroll on flat trails through forests and open fields.

We also visited Durham Forest (Main Tract) to check in on the Lava Chicken sign (pic 3). If you don't know the Lava Chicken song, you can use the QR Code to watch a short video.



Finally, we strolled around the perimeter of North Walker Woods up and down hills and by a pond (pic 4).

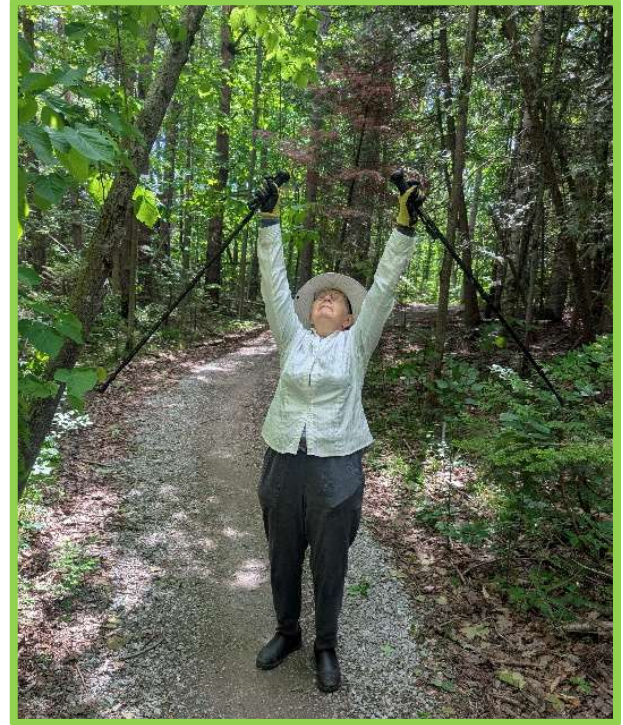
Interest Groups

Walking and Talking – Coordinator Pam Norton (New Coordinator Required)

Forest bathing in Uxbridge Preserve.

This picture says it all!

Walking and talking is on hiatus until the weather improves. Look for a few pop-up notices if we get some cooler days.



Birdies & Bogeys – Coordinator Kim Lendvay (Port Perry Probus Club)

This group plays 9 holes weekly alternating Thursday/Friday mornings and rotating between Sunnybrae, Foxbridge, Crestwood, Spring Creek & Golfers Dream. We are enjoying the game, the outdoors & meeting more Probus members.



If you can only join us biweekly or occasionally that's perfectly fine! Please ensure you respond to the weekly email from the coordinator stating whether you'll be joining us that week.

This is a joint Interest Group with the Port Perry Probus and the Scugog-Uxbridge Probus clubs. If you want to be added to the list for the 2026 season, please email Kim at interest.portperryprobus@gmail.com or sign up at the Interest Group table.

Member-abilia

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

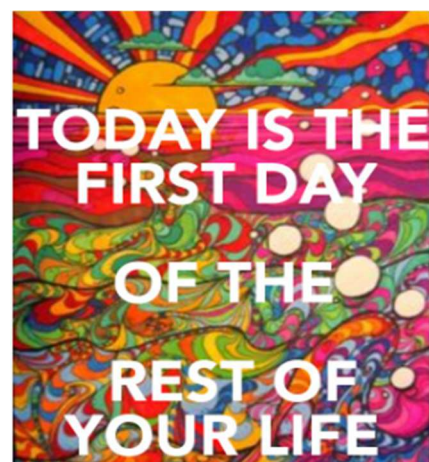
August Birthdays

FYI

Neil K.	Ken S.	Jan O.
Toni D.	Marilyn F.	Karin F.
Jan F.	Sharon G.	Donna E.
Ingrid L.	Bob H.	Kathy H.

Please sign in when you arrive
Wear your PROBUS name badge
Member's guests are allowed 2 visits
Remember to "Lug a Mug"
This is YOUR club ~ ENJOY!!!

YOLO



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

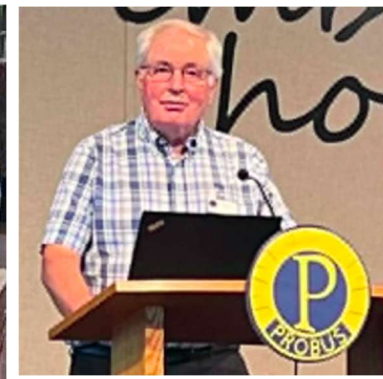


Puzzle & Book Swap – Coordinator Maureen Wood

Open every month at the **General Meeting** during intermission in the first break out room. Come in and browse.



Looking back on our July General Meeting



"Too frequently we think we have to do spectacular things. Yet if we remember that the sea is actually made up of drops of water and each drop counts, each one of us can do our little bit where we are. Those little bits can come together and almost overwhelm the world."

- Desmond Tutu

SMALL
ACTIONS
CAN HAVE A
RIPPLE
EFFECT

