

# Durham Central PROBUS Club Newsletter: December 2021



## 2021 – 2022 Executive Officers:

**Tom Reed,**  
President

**Patti Mavins,**  
Vice President and  
Newsletter Editor

**Doug Byers,**  
Past President

**Tricia Cadieux,**  
Secretary

**Tom Anderson,**  
Treasurer

## Committee Chairpersons & Other Positions

**Jackie Bathe,  
Janet Good &  
Judy Roebuck,**  
Social Committee

**Catherine Frost,**  
Special Interest  
Groups

**Laurie Jones,**  
Speakers

**Paul Dionne**  
Membership

**Heather Anderson  
& Sue Mackinnon,**  
House Committee

**Connie Nelson,**  
Web Master &  
Archivist

**Sylvia Hughes &  
Mary Ann Bridge,**  
Members at Large

**NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, December 16, 10 AM**  
**Online meeting via Zoom**

## President's Holiday Message



Call me “Polly Andy” but this holiday season and celebration will be like others before - you know, before “it” arrived – the Covid -19 Grinch!! Yes, we may yet face another round of a devious variant but...I am prepared to face the demon face-on and share a lovable Christmas with my family and closest friends joining together to embrace the Yuletide once again. Family traditions and holiday tables, laden with family favourites and goodies, will once again be present for all the family together to savour as one. So, on behalf of your Management Team, I wish you a joyous holiday season shared with your family and friends with hope that the New Year will finally bring peace, normality and hugs for all once again.

We need a new Treasurer to replace Tom Anderson. Please see the website and check out the job description! If you can add and subtract, you are a potential candidate! Tom wishes to mentor his replacement, so, step up please.

We are returning to face-to-face meetings at the Shrine Club on January 20, 2022. This will not be a hybrid meeting. No Zoom!! We are positioned to get going together again. Check out your profile and edit it to add new info in the fields Paul has created. You may find a surprise connection to someone in the club whose experiences liken to yours.

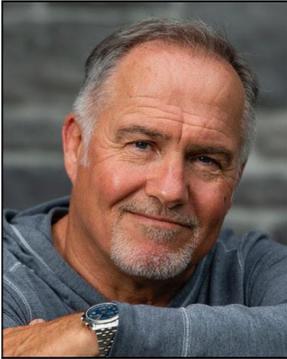
December speaker? Neil Crone is a humorous, down-to-earth human being – don't miss him!

Warmest regards, Tom



## December Speaker: Neil Crone

***“I’m not an actor, but I play one on TV – the ups and downs of a life in Canadian show business”***



NEIL CRONE

For our December meeting we are delighted to have as our speaker Neil Crone, Canadian actor, comedian, writer and motivational speaker. Most people will recognize Neil from his role as Fred Tupper on Little Mosque on the Prairie and as a writer whose columns appeared in various Durham Region newspapers. Some members might have had the opportunity to hear Neil talk about his experience with colorectal cancer in which he is very frank, open, informative and yes, even humorous about his experience.

Neil is currently starring as Mr. Leopold in the CBC show “Endlings”, a role for which he was recently nominated for an Emmy.

## Return to In-Person Meetings in January!

We are delighted to announce that we are planning to hold our first general meeting of 2022 in person!!! Provided there are no drastic changes in community Covid-19 case numbers, the January 20, 2022 meeting will not take place via Zoom, but will be held at the Oshawa Shrine Hall. We are so excited to be able to see each other in person again!



Of course, there will be measures in place to keep all of us safe during the meeting:

- All attendees must provide proof of double-vaccination to gain entry.
- All attendees will be screened for COVID symptoms at the door
- Any person who travels outside Canada cannot attend a meeting in person until 2 weeks after travelling.
- Attendance will be taken for contact tracing purposes.
- No food or drink will be served at the meeting, but members are welcome to bring their own beverages.
- Wearing of masks inside the Shrine Hall will be required at all times. (The mask may be lowered to consume a beverage.)
- Hand sanitizer will be provided.

These measures may be adjusted as per the government-sanctioned gathering protocols. As our members’ safety is our paramount concern, we will be closely monitoring the Covid situation and will advise everyone immediately of any changes in our plans.

## Membership



As we get ready to welcome the festive season, we would also like to welcome two new members to our club ... Jennifer Spencer and Marek Warunkiewicz. As the restrictions are being lifted, we hope to meet you folks face-to-face in the near future.

In late November we communicated to you that new member profile fields have been added to the website. The goal of the new fields is to provide you with an expanded list of possible connection points to other club members via the “Know our Members” feature located on the Members page.

The value of the “Know our Members” feature is very dependent on the information provided by you. If you have not yet modified your profile, please take a few minutes to do so. While you are in the website, check out the “Know our Members” links. There could be other members out there who share with you the same hometown, former profession, interests, etc.

To all members, please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season with your friends and family.

*Paul Dionne, Membership Chairperson*

## Social Events

**Trivia:** “Who Knew? A different Kind of Trivia”

Wednesday, December 8, 3 pm to 4 pm

It is free of charge but attendance is limited therefore preregistration is required (To register, go to the Trivia link on the Events Calendar on our website.)

Great fun! Good for the mind!



### Westside Story

Don't miss out and sign up to see A PRIVATE VIEWING of the NEW MOVIE “Westside Story”. It is a modern adaption of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Directed by Steven Spielberg!



Date: Monday December 13, 2021

Time: 12 noon

Place: Landmark Theatre, Whitby

Cost: \$15

Please arrive by 11:40 at the latest especially if you wish to purchase snacks.

Must be double-vaccinated and a mask must be worn except when in your seat.

We can only take 20 people and of course you must preregister on our website.

See you there.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MOVIE OR TRIVIA PLEASE CONTACT JANET GOOD AT: [janet\\_rimar@rogers.com](mailto:janet_rimar@rogers.com)

If any of the PROBUS members have suggestions for social activities please contact either Janet Good, Jackie Bathe or Judy Roebuck. We are always looking for feedback.

## Community and Other Virtual Events:

Looking for some services and activities outside of our local PROBUS offerings? Check out this suggestion:

1. For those Oshawa history buffs, there is an interesting virtual exhibition talk: "Oshawa in the roaring 20s". Access it using the following link:

<http://rmg.on.ca/roaring-20s/>

2. Circles Enrichment is glad to offer the following programs for December, over zoom:
  - **The Legend of "White Christmas"** (Daniel Aonso) - Irving Berlin's classic is the most covered Christmas song of all times. Traditional pop, early rock and roll, blues and jazz – Bing Crosby's "original" version, compared that of Michael Buble, Elvis, Oscar Peterson and more! **Friday December 24 at 2:00pm** [REGISTER](#)
  - **Everything Wild and Wonderful about Naples** (Dr. Keith Johnston) -Take a virtual tour through the centuries - from ancient Greece to today - of one of the world's most extraordinary cities. Learn how Naples shaped the modern world by changing the way we think about art, architecture, theatre, commerce, religion and food through the stories of some of its famous inhabitants: Pliny the Elder, Thomas Aquinas, Caravaggio, Pergolesi, Croce and others. **Friday December 10 at 2:00pm** [REGISTER](#)



**We all enjoy hearing about things to do in our community. If anyone has information about virtual or community events to share with our members, please email Patti Mavins by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month for adding to our newsletter.**

## Special Interest Groups

As our ability to get together in person continues to improve, we need to grow our number of Special Interest Groups. It is up to the members to choose their activities so I am asking you to let me know what you would like to do. I would like to have activities organized and ready to start once all restrictions are lifted.



Please let me know what you would like to see in place and I will contact members so that they can sign up with me and I will get the “ball rolling”.

If you are involved with a group that has not been meeting, feel free to contact the leader to learn about the plans for moving forward.

Walking group is active and the skiing group is ready to go once the snow comes.

The book group has room for more members and the Fibre Friends has split into 2 groups. We will be getting a name for the 2<sup>nd</sup> group in the near future.

I would like to be overwhelmed by the responses from this message.

Please contact me. *Catherine* [c.frost@sympatico.ca](mailto:c.frost@sympatico.ca)

### Book Club – “The Chicklits”:



Our November novel, “The Secret Wife” by Gil Paul prompted some interesting discussion about historical fiction literary techniques.

We decided to skip December’s meeting due to the holiday season and moved our next meeting to January. The book we selected was “Olive Kitteridge”, by Elizabeth Strout “...Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher, deplores the changes in her little town of Crosby, Maine, and in the world at large, but she doesn’t always recognize the changes in those around her...”

We have room for more members in our book club. If you are interested, please contact *Patti*. [patti.mavins@rogers.com](mailto:patti.mavins@rogers.com)

### Daytrippers:

There are several activities for our Day Trippers. A few examples of trips suggested: A Country Path tours for each season. I’m looking forward to the Christmas tour in the near future. I hope others will join me. Bragg Farms. Although the sunflowers are no longer there, they still have plenty to see and buy. Farm fresh, free run eggs, potatoes, bird seed, and plenty of other items in their store. There are mystery trips and picnics for the Fall. If anyone would like to join our group, please let me know. If you have great ideas for us, please feel free to post it to all of us.

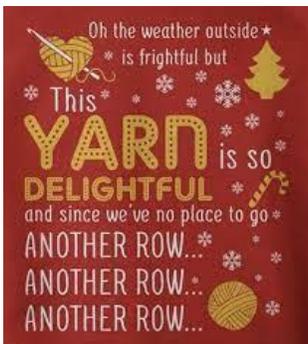


## DC Wanderers:



The DC Wanderers enjoyed several walks this November. Our numbers have doubled since the onset of Fall and we have enjoyed many trails, shared stories and conversations together. One of November's highlights was the visit to the Second Marsh with a wonderful walk along the beach at Lake Ontario. Thank you, Linda and Luciana, for being our guides that day. The picture here was taken on the Michael Starr Trail early November as we explored new surroundings in Oshawa. We welcome you to join us. Please contact Pete Jones at 905-431-4668 or [barbandpete@rogers.com](mailto:barbandpete@rogers.com). See you on the trails!

## Fibre Friends:



The Fibre Friends group continue to meet via Zoom and enjoy lively discussions, share some laughs and support each other in all things 'fibre'. It is always great to see what others have been up to and to get new ideas. Our meetings for this month are Thursday, December 9 at 10 a.m. and Wednesday, December 22 at 1:30 p.m.

*Jane Rail and Barb Jones*

## Golf Groups:

Sadly, I have to say that golf is now over for 2021.

The weather is too cold and wet to enjoy golf now. Most of the golf course are now closed. The clubs are cleaned and put away until next year. We did manage to play 3 games of golf the week of November 12. We dressed in layers and it warm enough to finish each of the 3 days. I will admit that by 4:30 it was getting a little chilly as we were finishing the game.

We played Glen Cedars and, a few games, at Kedron Dells in November to wrap up the season. It was an enjoyable, challenging yet satisfying golf season. We managed to play for 8 months this year, April to November. There were a number of new Probus members that joined our golf group this year. It was nice to see everyone making new friends and having a good time. We are all looking forward to being able to meet and play again in April.

Any member wishing to join the Probus Golf Group is welcome.

For more information e-mail Tom at [tlacma99@gmail.com](mailto:tlacma99@gmail.com)



## Pickleball:

Brrr it's too cold to be playing outdoors. The nets are still up at Radio Park so you can still get in some outdoor play.



I previously sent a group email detailing dates and times of play at Delpark and South Oshawa Community Centres. Delpark is very busy so we would not be able to play together nor would we have the opportunity to show new members how to play. South Oshawa usually has an empty court available for us to play together or we can join in with the other players. I have also suggested getting an Oshawa

Recreation Membership which is a great deal and then pickleball, swimming, and track walking are free with your membership.

If you wish to join up for pickleball please let me know. *Linda Hebert* [linmar322@gmail.com](mailto:linmar322@gmail.com)

## Downhill Ski and Snowboarding Club

Winter is Coming....in a good way! Time to dust off your ski/snowboarding gear and prepare for another season. We will be skiing on Wednesday mornings at Brimacombe, with day trips to other hills throughout the season. For more information, visit <https://durhamcentralprobus.ca/Skiing-Group>



## Uncorked:



The Uncorked Wine Group met on November 18th at the Slabtown Cider Co. located at #4559 Concession Road 6 near Uxbridge. Slabtown Cider Co. is situated on a beautiful lot surrounded by nature.

The group experienced a variety of cider tastings which can be purchased at their store adjacent to the restaurant along with baking goods.

Club members also had the opportunity to order a variety of dinners and appetizers from the food menu - very delicious! Good times were enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Janet Russell for arranging the get-together at the Slabtown Cider Co.

Janet Brown [janetbrown50@hotmail.com] is the co-ordinator for the Uncorked Wine Group.

## Of Interest

### PROBUS Clothing



**PROBUS clothing is available online now.** See the Website link below.

<http://roysenterprise.com/Probus/Probus.html>

The site is set up for individual orders. No group orders necessary. Prices, colors and sizes are on the website. Clothes can be picked up at Roy's Enterprise's business location in Whitby. If you have any questions about the new procedure, contact me. *Lorraine Veroba*

**Hotel Scam** - ANYONE traveling should be aware of this one!

Typically, when checking in to your hotel you give the front desk your credit card (for any charges to your room) and they don't retain the card. You go to your room and settle in.

The hotel receives a call and the caller asks for (as an example) room 620 - which happens to be your room.

The phone rings in your room. You answer and the person on the other end says the following: 'This is the front desk. When checking in, we came across a problem with your charge card information. Please re-read me your credit card numbers and verify the last 3 digits numbers at the reverse side of your charge card.'

Not thinking anything wrong, since the call seems to come from the front desk you oblige. But actually, it is a scam by someone calling from outside the hotel. They have asked for a random room number, then ask you for your credit card and address information. They sound so professional, that you think you are talking to the front desk.

If you ever encounter this scenario on your travels, tell the caller that you will be down to the front desk to clear up any problems. Then, go to the front desk or call directly and ask if there was a problem. If there was none, inform the manager of the hotel that someone tried to scam you of your credit card information, acting like a front desk employee.

## Poet's Corner

### ANTICIPATION

I'm looking through windows and waiting for snow.  
I'm wanting a Christmas like long long ago.  
The feathery flakes impressive and grand,  
arriving on time like the beat of a band.  
The department stores busy, children's eyes open wide.  
Parents, companions, share joy at their side.  
The noise and excitement all ages exude,  
some covering pain that so many endured.  
The stuffed toys enticing, there are I-Pads and phones,  
some people are studying plans of new drones.  
The whole store is humming, expectations run high  
and feelings pour over as more people try  
to live up to the season of joy and good will  
even if their manner depends on the bill.  
It's always the same at this time of year  
when truth's in the offing as His birthday draws near.  
The season of Advent, Christians waiting on Him,  
whose love for us all fills our hearts to the brim.  
Forgiveness a gift, which is shared from his birth.  
A time of rejoicing all over the earth.  
*L. Patricia Bayley*

## Meet your Fellow Members!

### Meet Karen and Brian Thompson



Brian and Karen celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary in Florida (before Covid).

Karen and Brian met as students – Karen in Nursing at The Hospital for Sick Children, and Brian in Mechanical Engineering at U of T. They married in 1970 and moved to Whitby in 1973.

Nursing offers numerous career paths and flexible scheduling to spark many an interest. As such Karen's career as a licensed registered nurse covered a variety of specialties including pediatric nursing, public health and community nursing (yes, they are different), discharge planning, psychogeriatric nursing and brain injury at Ontario Shores, in positions from the bedside to clinician, to management and program planning and development. To support this career after graduating from The Hospital for Sick Children, she studied public health at the University of Toronto and later completed a degree in health studies and health administration at York University. On the side she was a pioneer in the development of Hospice Durham in 1988 that eventually led to incorporation, and today is known as Hospice Services under the umbrella of VON.

Brian entered the nuclear energy field working for the former Ontario Hydro, earning his Professional Engineer

(P. Eng.) designation before switching careers and moving into Public Relations, where he spent the bulk of his career as an educator, ambassador, and advocate for Ontario's and Canada's nuclear program. He also earned his Commercial Pilot licence and worked part time as a flying instructor at Buttonville in the late 1970s.

Karen thoroughly enjoyed every position she held throughout her 43-year career, though much of it was part time. This flexibility allowed her to be available for her most cherished role, as wife and mom to 2 active kids. Volunteer work was equally important to her which led her to be active in camp nursing, brownies, the French immersion program as it was becoming an entity in Durham Region, and the local church. Today she serves as a board member for VON, and for Durham Hospice, a new residential hospice to be built shortly in Whitby.

Brian's favourite job was Director of Communications for the Canadian Nuclear Association in Ottawa, a role he held on secondment from Ontario Power Generation for two years. This offered a huge learning curve with the opportunity of serving the whole Canadian nuclear industry – medicine, mining, fuel production and energy, and Canada is a world leader in all of these sectors. After he ("small - r") retired, he produced industrial videos for ten years for major corporate clients, especially the Technical Standards and Safety Authority.

Now "large-R" retired, Brian leads an Alpha program – an online experience for folks who want to learn what Christians believe, and why.

In Rotary since 1980, he has held many senior leadership roles at various levels of the organization. The opportunities to meet great people and to give back to the community at the local and international levels have significantly enriched both of their lives.

Karen has joined him in several Rotary projects and fundraising events, but she branched off on her own with the work Brian's club (Whitby Sunrise) does in the Dominican Republic. Over the last two decades, she has donated her time and nursing knowledge to develop and operate an education and follow-up process for the installation and use of bio-sand water filters for the

poorest people in the country. That process continues today, monitoring and verifying that the filters are being used properly. Infant mortality and gastrointestinal infections are down significantly, skin rashes have disappeared, and the general level of health and hygiene have risen accordingly. Karen was honoured with a Rotary International award for her work. Karen and Brian are pleased to be part of Probus and enjoy getting to know others. They hope to do some more travelling once Covid is in the rear-view mirror, but they say that their greatest gift is their grandchildren, in whom they delight.

## Member Care



The care of and compassion for our PROBUS Club members is an important feature of a vibrant club. While we all hope our members remain in good health, from time to time, members are in need of our support. “If I’d only known” is a statement we would like to avoid. Please inform Sylvia Hughes, in charge of Member Care, of any circumstances where a member of the club needs our support. Please provide as much detail as possible while being sensitive to the wishes of her or his family. Tom will send out the appropriate notice to the club and express appropriate wishes to the member and family on behalf of the club.

**Durham Central PROBUS Club:** [Click Link to Durham Central PROBUS Club website](#)

**PROBUS CANADA Website:** [www.PROBUS.org](http://www.PROBUS.org)

**PROBUS Global website:** <https://probusglobal.org/index.html>