



DECEMBER 2023

# NEWSLETTER

## Join Our Facebook Page

Want to learn about what's happening and stay in touch between meetings and events? **Join our Facebook group by clicking [here!](#)**

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## Message From The President

This month will be a little bit different for our club, as on Thursday, December 7 we met for our Christmas celebration in lieu of our regular meeting that would have taken place on December 21. I am looking forward to some lighthearted fun with my fellow club members and a holiday meal with all the trimmings!

Our Social Committee has worked hard to ensure that our gathering will be merry, festive and fun!

It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed since we were last immersed in all the preparations for the holiday season! Our club has had an exciting year of growth and renewal. We started out the year in a new venue, the Whitby Marina, which has provided a beautiful setting for our General Meetings and for our barbecue in July. Our membership this year has grown by leaps and bounds so that we now have over 200 members. It is so exciting to see the high level of member engagement now, in both social activities and Interest Groups. We currently have over 20 established interest groups with a few more budding groups in the

offing (Check them out on our Interest Group Page on the website).

Our Social Committee plans at least one big event each month, and has no issue at all with club participation.

We all look forward to our monthly issue of our very professional-looking newsletter where our members share their personal stories and photos. The attendance at our general meeting is rising each month, as everyone enjoys the excellent speakers and the camaraderie with their fellow members. There is certainly no shortage of thrilling things to do within our club!

*None of this would be possible without the effort of all the volunteers on and off our Management Team. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of our volunteers this year – our club owes its successes to all of you. I look forward to a new year of even more growth and the challenges that will present – accommodating growth is a nice challenge to have.*

Best wishes to all for the holidays and for a new year filled with good health, love and laughter!

Yours in Probud,

**Patti Mavins**



## Management Team - 2023-24

### President

Patti Mavins

### Past President

Tom Reed

### Vice President

Janet Good

### Treasurer

Frank Kelcey

### Secretary

Debbie Gill

### Social Committee

Judy Roebuck

Jackie Bathe

### Special Interest

#### Groups

Catherine Frost

### Membership / Communications Chair

MaryAnne Bridge

### Website

#### Membership

#### Administrator

Paul Dionne

#### Webmaster/ Archivist

Connie Nelson

### Speaker Committee

Laurie Jones

Wendy Marshall

### House Committee

Donna Elliot

Sue MacKinnon

### Members at Large

Pete Jones

Jill Snape

Kendra Edwards-Wilson

Gary Campbell

### Newsletter Editor

Marek Warunkiewicz

## Membership



### Our Members Care

We've all been there. When someone's family member passes away, we want to be supportive and show understanding while always being mindful of their wishes for privacy.

If you know of a member who has experienced a loss, you may send a message to [durhamcentralprobus@gmail.com](mailto:durhamcentralprobus@gmail.com).

## General Meeting

Here are the 2024 meeting dates.

1. January 18
2. February 15
3. March 16
4. April 13
5. May 18
6. June 15
7. July 19
8. August 15
9. September 19
10. October 17
11. November 21
12. December luncheon date will be determined closer to the day.

### What to bring to next meeting

- Bring a mug for coffee/tea
- Please wear your name tag



Happy Holidays from  
all of us at Central  
Durham Probus!



## *Trinity Completed.*

The babe's in the manger and stars glow with worth.  
A precious arrival in peace on the earth.  
Surrounded by shepherds, oxen, asses, and sheep,  
The Saviour is resting in love; quiet sleep.  
Mary and Joseph adore at his side,  
God's presence acknowledged, the threesome abide.  
Wise men arriving, led by a star,  
one who would harm does not know where they are.  
A future foretold by the gifts that they bring,  
Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh, for their heavenly King.  
The angels are singing in glorious praise,  
a hymn of acceptance for those who would change.  
God's Grace and forgiveness waits for receiving.  
It's the message of hope that all may believe in.  
Through trust and obedience courage preserved.  
Faith schooled by practice, humanity served.

*L. Patricia Bayley.*



# Special Interest Groups

A friend called the other day and asked how I was liking the white "stuff". I was surprised that where she is located, there was snow on the ground when I had not yet seen a flurry.

Laurie was aware of the snow north of us and has already arranged a day on the slopes. If interested in skiing or snowboarding please contact [Laurie Jones](#) to join her group. Info is on the web site.

Lunch group has had one luncheon but there needs to be more organization for this group or groups. Notices will be sent out later this month to all members who did register. If you would like to be added to the list please contact me at [c.frost@sympatico.ca](mailto:c.frost@sympatico.ca).

If you did register and have not yet received any information please check your junk mail.

I believe the breakfast group for the "Old Boyz" has room for a few more

members. Please contact [Paul Dionne](#) if interested.

Is there any interest in establishing a regular bowling group? Some research has to be done regarding this group, but please let me know this month if you are interested in participating. If enough are interested, we will continue with researching locations.

Enjoy the holiday season!

[Catherine](#) [c.frost@sympatico.ca](mailto:c.frost@sympatico.ca)

## ChickLits



Our November book was "Dust Bowl Girls" by Lydia Reeder. This story about a women's basketball team during the Depression was very detailed and factual but it did spark some discussion about the resistance female athletes faced in the past when trying to play their sport seriously.

Our December novel promises to be a more uplifting one: "**Joy for Beginners**" by Erica Bauermeister. Six women gather to celebrate their friend Kate's, recent recovery from cancer. During their celebration, they make a pact to each complete a challenge that they would find particularly scary or difficult during the next year. The twist is that Kate chooses the challenge they must complete.

We will be meeting right before Christmas on December 18 to discuss the book, and all our Christmas activities too, I'm sure!

**Patti Mavins**



## DC Wanderers

The DC Wanderers covered four trails this month: Harmony Creek, Oshawa Creek, (two pictures attached to this report) the Michael Starr Trail and Cullen Gardens. We were fortunate twice with the weather as after the walks rain poured down! We meet every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. at

a designated trail and are out and about in all seasons (weather permitting) for approximately one hour. The pace is leisurely and the camaraderie great! If you are interested in joining the DC Wanderers, please contact Pete Jones at [barbandpete@rogers.com](mailto:barbandpete@rogers.com).





## Mahjong Marvels

Our group members are so keen that we plan to play our usual bi-weekly schedule all through the holiday season.

*Andra Norberg, Mahjong Leader*



## Downhill Skiing And Snowboarding Group

**Get your skis/snowboards ready. Winter is coming!!**

**Description:** Alpine skiing and snowboarding. Please note that this activity is for downhill skiers and snowboarders with some experience.

**Meeting Cadence:** Wednesdays: Brimacombe location 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Day Trip per month:** All day, exact times, days and locations TBD

**Where: Home Base:** Brimacombe (30 mins from Oshawa) [brimacombe.ca](http://brimacombe.ca)

**Dates:** January to mid-March

**How:** Skiers are responsible for booking their own lift tickets and their transportation to the slopes. For more information on lift tickets: [brimacombe.ca/lift-tickets](http://brimacombe.ca/lift-tickets).

**Leader - Laurie Jones:** For questions about this group and are interested in joining this group please [contact me](#).



## Fibre Friends

Fibre Friends have enjoyed two great in-person meetings in November. As always... great to have a few laughs and catch up on all things fibre-related.

Some of us at one of the November meetings – Sue, Cecile, Jane, Ruth, Barb and June – admiring some finished twiddle muffs that will be donated to assist people dealing with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.



In the first photo, Jane, Barb and Ruth were at the Whitby Library contributing red scarves for World HIV/AIDS awareness day which was on December 1st.



The second photo shows a scarf hanging on a branch on Red Scarf Day.

We have one meeting left for this year: Thursday, December 14, 10:00 a.m. at Jill's.

Our January meetings will be...

**Thursday, January 11, at 10 a.m.**

**Wednesday, January 24, at 1:30 p.m.**

Happy fibre crafting! Best wishes to all our "crafty" and "non-crafty" friends for a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!



## Uncorked Wine Group

The Uncorked group cancelled the November meeting due to several members, for a variety of reasons, not able to attend.

Uncorked will have their final meeting of the year on December 21st. We will be celebrating the season with a potluck hosted by Colin and Debbie Whitehead.

The Uncorked group will be on a winter hiatus until April 2024.

Group Leader is Karen Tulk.

[Kmtulk@gmail.com](mailto:Kmtulk@gmail.com)



Photo 36702189 © Robyn Mackenzie | Dreamstime.com



## Ball Whackers Golf Group

### Golf is now officially over for 2023

It was a very good year for our golf group. We played many games from April to the end. Our last 2 games were November 29 and 30.

We met on Friday, December 1st at Shrimp Cocktail in the private room upstairs for our annual end of season Christmas Lunch. There were 22 of us and included a gift exchange wherein each person picked a number from a hat. Each person, in order, either chose a new gift or stole an open gift. It created a lot of laughter and joking. Tons of fun.

We look forward to getting back on the links again sometime in April 2024.

We golf 18 holes at various golf courses on Fridays starting around 10:00 AM. If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact me.

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



Photo 59797643 © Everett Collection Inc. | Dreamstime.com





## Movie Group

### Happy Holidays!

We have seen a couple of good movies in the last 6 weeks.

**Killers of the Flower Moon** is a thought provoking film about the attacks on the Osage people in attempts to get the oil under their land. Great performances by the lead actors helped the audience forget the 3.5 hour length of the movie.

In November, some of us saw Paul Giamatti in *The Holdovers*, a movie about a private school teacher tasked to look after the students left behind at Christmas. The story slowly revealed the secrets of their lives and the ways that they grew. There is subtlety to the revelations that can provoke thoughts about the story later. A few of us went to the nearby **Scaddabush** restaurant and talked about the movie over coffee and treats. In a vote, the film was awarded a 4 out of 5.

December is often a busy movie time since films have to be seen before the New Year in order to be eligible for Academy Awards. I will send out emails if something looks wonderful. If you can't join us, maybe sneak out and see the recommendation during a break in the festivities.

Stay healthy and enjoy the holidays.

Best wishes!

*Jeanne*



## Lunch Group

Thank you Catherine for organizing the lunch group.

Our next lunch is on **January 11, 2024**.

## Craft Brewery Group

### Greetings Craft Brewery Groupies!

As promised, our last opportunity to get together in 2023 and enjoy a bit of beer tasting, fun, and good company will be Wednesday, December 20th, 1pm at the Brock Street Brewery in Whitby.

As probably the most prominent craft brewery in our area, Brock Street always offers up both a diverse range of beers as well as an enjoyable experience within a great setting.

So please respond to this email with your availability to attend, and after working out the final visit details with the Brock Street Brewery folks I will send a follow-up email within the next few days.

I know many of you will be looking forward to the final Beer Quiz of 2023, and I promise not to disappoint!!

Cheers,

*Andy E.*

BRIDGE BUDDIES WELCOMING NEW  
PARTICIPANTS



# Let's play bridge

- We play 20 hands of bridge each session
- Friendly games
- Contact Leaders Gary & June Campbell to join this Interest Group or to learn more
- Go to Interest Groups/bridgebuddies on our member site



*Every hand is an adventure*





# The Elderly

They call us "The Elderly"

We were born in the 40-50-60's.

We grew up in the 50-60-70's.

We studied in the 60-70-80's.

We were dating in the 70-80-90's.

We got married and discovered the world in the 70-80-90's.

We venture into the 80-90's.

We stabilize in the 2000's.

We got wiser in the 2010's.

And we are going firmly through and beyond 2020.

Turns out we've lived through EIGHT different decades...

TWO different centuries...

TWO different millennia...

We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world.

We have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and Whats App.

From live matches on the radio, to black and white TV, colour TV and then to 3D HD TV.

We went to the Video store and now we watch Netflix.

We got to know the first computers, punch cards, floppy disks and now we have gigabytes and megabytes on our smartphones.

We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long trousers, Oxfords, flares, shell suits & blue jeans.

We dodged infantile paralysis, meningitis, polio, tuberculosis, swine flu and now COVID-19.

We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, mopeds, petrol or diesel cars and now we drive hybrids or electric.

Yes, we've been through a lot but what a great life we've had!

They could describe us as "exennials"; people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analog childhood and a digital adulthood.

We've kind of "Seen-It-All"!

Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life.

It is our generation that has literally adapted to "CHANGE".

A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, which will be UNIQUE.

*Author unknown*



# Social Events

## Parkwood and WW II

On Friday November 10th members enjoyed a very interesting and informative tour at Parkwood where we learned of the many activities, Parkwood and the McLaughlin family, participated in during the war. Our tour guides were quite knowledgeable and entertaining.

## Jack- A Beanstock Panto

Many members travelled to Port Hope on Tues. Nov. 28 to experience a retelling of the Beanstock fairytale. A funny and enjoyable performance for all !

## Christmas Luncheon at Kedron Dells Golf Course

Last Thursday December 7th, 52 members were treated to a delicious turkey dinner, in a relaxed seasonal decor with time to visit with our friends, share stories of past Christmases , and receive prizes of holiday plants and bottles of wine. [Please view the photos starting on page 13.](#)

## Cirque du Soleil - Crystal

On Sunday December 10 th, 60 of us experienced a thrilling , memorable performance of skating and acrobatics at the Tribute Community Centre. A remarkable showcase of talent and athleticism! [Photos start on page 20.](#)

## January

### 5 Pin Bowling at Neb's Fun World

**When:** Thursday, January 25th at 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Neb's Fun World - 1300 Wilson Rd. N., Oshawa

**Cost:** \$17 for 2 games of bowling with the rental of shoes included.

We will meet afterwards at Fionn Mc Cool's in the Costco Plaza, 214 Ritson Rd. for drinks and a meal at the individuals expense.

## February

### Jersey Nights- A Valentines Tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons

**When:** Sunday, February 11th at 3:00 p.m.

**Where:** Regent Theatre, 50 King St. E., Oshawa

**Cost:** \$45 per member, \$46 for a guest.

**Registration is limited to 26 participants.**

**Registration will be closed on Jan. 12th.**

**Watch for your invites later this month.**





## December Christmas Luncheon

On December 7th we had our annual Christmas Luncheon at **Kedron Dells Golf Club**. Once you look at the photos, you will see all had a terrific time!





## December Christmas Luncheon... continued





## December Christmas Luncheon... continued





## December Christmas Luncheon... continued









## December Christmas Luncheon... continued



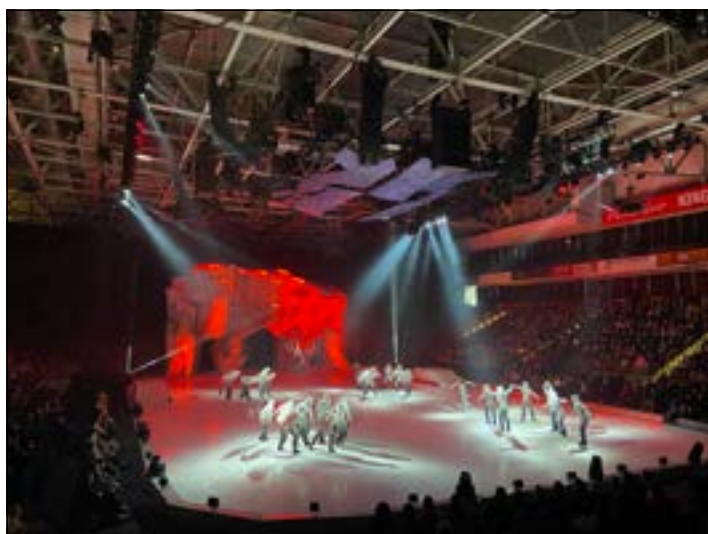


## December Christmas Luncheon... continued





## Cirque du Soleil - Crystal





## Cirque du Soleil - Crystal... Continued





## Cirque du Soleil - Crystal... Continued





## Cirque du Soleil - Crystal... Continued









# Special Event

## 2024 Friends Adventure To Rome & Southern Italy

"Inviting you all to this amazing social event - adventure to Rome, Amalfi Coast, Capri, Southern Italy and Sicily. May / June 2014.

For more details about this great trip, contact [Connie White](#). She will forward the itinerary (which outlines what you will be exploring, cost, etc.).

**YES, you may invite family and friends. The more the merrier!"**

Greetings to you all!

A 2024 trip to Rome and Southern Italy is now in motion!!! This is so exciting and let me tell you why.

If we get at least 40 very interested people, then the trip is a go!!!

Can you invite your family and friends? Yes! As long as they like being with a group of people and love to have fun!!

Check out the itinerary below and then if you are very interested, let me know. I will collect the names of those of you who are interested! The Company, who does trips for clubs, will need to have a minimum of 40 people committed to the trip for them to then proceed to make all the necessary final planning. So, read over the itinerary and then let me know.

My email address is [cwhite211@sympatico.ca](mailto:cwhite211@sympatico.ca). Any questions, you can call or text me at 905-914-3788 or contact the company directly. Ciao!!



Caleb Miller - unsplash



Cristina Gottardi - unsplash



Spencer Davis - unsplash



Mackenzie Vance - unsplash



Eugenio Camporato - unsplash

# Our Pictures, Our Lives

The idea for this section is for all of you who wish to do so, to submit a picture or two (or three; or four) with a caption or story that tells us why each photo is important to you; maybe a short story you have written instead of a photo or some artwork you have created. It's all about getting to know each other.

I'm looking forward to getting more images and stories to share here.

You can send images etc. with captions [to this email](#).

Thanks to those who have sent images in!

**Marek**

**Gary Willert**







When I was 8 years old my Grandfather gave me this Christmas tree which had been in the family since 1880. I did think about converting it into a wooden sword but parental control prevailed. These trees were made in Germany as a means of controlling deforestation caused by the tops of pine trees being chopped off for Christmas trees. They were made of a block of wood, a three foot piece of doweling, wire branches, and goosefeathers dyed green .

I think it is the prototype Charlie Brown Christmas tree.

When Patricia performs her magic with the decorations it gives us a lot of pleasure, and many comments from visitors each year .



This is my pretty girl, Sadie, decked out in her Christmas best.





Don't touch the Christmas tree!



1953, post war England was a pretty bleak place!







*My very first Christmas, 1954, I was six months old.*



*1954, my immediate family gathering for our last Christmas in Poland. My mom at left, next to her is my godfather who gave me my teddy bear, Miś, lovely man, full of love. My father clinking glasses and the woman looking into the camera was my godfather's wife, Zofia.*



*My first Christmas in Durban, South Africa. Note the "Whites Only" sign on the bench. It was the apartheid period.*



*One of my favourite photos of my mom at Christmas, 1966. My dad had just given her a lovely piece of jewelry.*



*Another of my favourite photos of my mom at Christmas, 1967.*

Here's a photo of my one year old Grandson- Dominic and his first Santa visit at Hy-Hope farm.

He was scared and there are other photos of him crying too!





Some Christmas photos from times before



*Our daughter, Sasha, schooling me on how to properly play Jasmine and Alladin...*



*Our daughter's kitten, years ago, contemplating the existential kitten question, "To Knock off, or Not to Knock Off".*



*Our beloved (RIP) cat Mary guarding the top of the stairs, as always.*



*Mary being very helpful with the wrapping!*