



JANUARY 2024

# NEWSLETTER

## Join Our Facebook Page

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## Message From The President

I think proper etiquette dictates that it is a little too late in the year to wish you all a Happy New Year; however, I'm going to risk it: **Happy New Year!**

Traditionally, for me, January is a month for clean-up tasks and organizing. A brief search on the internet will show that I am not alone in this tradition. There are tons of articles about January cleaning activities – Cleaning Tips, General January Tasks, January Cleaning Checklists, Organization Tips - it goes on and on... I decided that, this year, I would try to follow a January checklist. It went like this:

- 1. Take down Christmas tree and pack it up:** We noticed this year that the lights were off in one section of the tree so I decided to restring the section before putting it away. I had lots of extra light strings. Only one half of the first string lit up when I plugged it in. So, then I spent an inordinate amount of time trying to figure out which bulb was causing the second half to short out. I finally gave up and tried a second string which was not quite the right colour. I then kept trying other strings until I found one full working one to use for the restringing. Task 1 done, 3 hours longer than expected.
- 2. Vacuum up pine needles:** Easy one - assign to husband! 😊
- 3. Pack away ornaments and decorations:** After taking down all my Christmas décor and repackaging it carefully I was left with a whole whack of decorations that did not fit in my Christmas bins. How did that happen? I couldn't figure it out. I did not buy anything new, and the items in each bin were packed like I was completing a tetra puzzle. No choice but to go out and buy a new bin and then reorganize my Christmas storage

area (also packed like a tetra puzzle), so that the new bin would fit. Task 3 done, 3.5 hours longer than expected.

- 4. Strip the bedding in the guest room and wash:** Well, we have a guest room, plus 2 other bedrooms that my sons and friends all used during the holidays, so I had 3 rooms to strip and wash. Fine! I noticed that one bed seemed wobbly when I stripped it so called my husband to fix it. That turned into a bit of a chore as we had to pull off the mattress and box spring to do that. Then I noticed how dusty it was under the bed so we decided to vacuum there while the mattress was off. That made the rest of the carpet look dirty so we pulled out the carpet cleaner to clean it. Then we decided, while it was out, we might as well clean the other bedroom, our area rugs and our front hall rug too. Task 4 done, 5 hours longer than expected.
- 5. Turn all clothes hangers backward:** What??? Why?
- 6. Change furnace filter:** Yay! Another husband assignment!
- 7. Empty and clean the refrigerator:** Did that before Christmas 😊
- 8. Purge expired or empty spice bottles:** Spice bottles have expiry dates? 😊
- 9. Sort utensils, get rid of any that you don't use:** Okay? But pretty sure I use them all.
- 10. Empty and organize junk drawer:** Come on! That's getting a little carried away. Why else are they called junk drawers?

That's when I stopped following someone else's task list and resumed doing my own thing.

Happy January organizing everyone!

**Patti**

## 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).

## Poet's Corner

### Just Desserts.

Say a prayer for sure shot Mary.  
She shot the owner of the dairy.  
and not content with doing that,  
she shot his wife, his dog and cat.  
The mayor, and his good lady wife  
enjoying all the joys of life  
were targeted at City Hall  
a moment folks will all recall.  
The chief of police was at the scene  
when she shot the local football team.  
The outcome it was no surprise.  
She won the national photo prize.

L Patricia Bayley.

## General Meeting

Here are the 2024 meeting dates.

1. January 18
2. February 15
3. March 21
4. April 18
5. May 16
6. June 13
7. July 18
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



## General Meeting Speakers



**January 18: Paul LaPorte**

### ***Building Biodiversity with Native Plants***

A presentation on the definitive role that native plants have in the life cycle of insects/pollinators and the successive food chain that is supported by this relationship. In addition, the definition of a native plant, an example on how to establish a native plant garden and a brief overview of the North American Native Plant Society will also be provided.

Paul LaPorte is the owner of Ephemeral Ark Nursery (specializing in native woodland species) and consultant on ecological gardening and design.

Living in the Greenbelt of the GTA, he has taken the opportunity to steward and study numerous native plant communities within multiple ecotypes and varied microclimates. Paul maintains a strong knowledge of Ontario native plant species and their communities and fosters them in his own gardens.

He is the current chair of the Ontario Native Plant Growers Association, a past member of Kawartha Conservation's BlueScape Steering Committee, the past President of the North American Native Plant Society and the past Vice Chair of the Scugog Environmental Advisory Committee.

He has had the pleasure of presenting for numerous organizations on the importance of native plants to our ecology.

**February 15: Dr. Tess Pierce**

### ***Women who should be on a pedestal (but aren't)***

Dr. Tess Pierce is a founding faculty and recently retired professor in the Communication and Digital Media Studies at Ontario Tech University. She received a BA in Speech Communication from Colorado State University, a MA in Human Communication from University of Denver, and a PhD in Women and Gender Studies from Clark University in Massachusetts.



Tess teaches a popular course at the OSCC+55 called **The History of the World through Objects and Ideas**.

She enjoys discovering the histories that people don't usually learn about in school and sharing these with the OSCC folks. She especially enjoys understanding how marginalized groups tell their own stories and how these stories connect us.

**March 21: Elaine Charel**

### ***The Power of the Pen***

Come prepared to laugh and learn during Elaine's "**Power of the Pen**" while you discover how to communicate even more effectively with family and friends through knowing what the strokes of handwriting mean. Everyone will learn about their strengths as reflected in the 'paper mirror' of their handwriting.

Elaine Charel is a Certified Handwriting Analyst; she has been a Professional Speaker for over 15 years. Elaine has appeared on CBC's Steve & Chris Show, "Come Dine With Me", the Mike Bullard Show, Breakfast Television in Toronto and Edmonton, Canada AM, Global News at Noon, CHCH News at Noon, Connie Smith's "Always Good News", Ed the Sock, CTV News at Noon in Kitchener, Edmonton and Toronto, "Urban Rush" in Vancouver, CFRB's Ted Woloshyn Show and the Jerry Agar Show, CBC's "Fresh Air" show, and many more! She has been featured in Articles in the Globe & Mail, Toronto Star, Canadian Living Magazine, the Toronto Sun, Human Resources Professional magazine, and many more.

Elaine also markets "Callirobics", a Handwriting Exercises kit that combines music and fun graphic forms to help children with their handwriting, their confidence, and their fine motor skills!

**GET YOUR HANDWRITING ANALYZED:** Print the handwriting form that you can [find on the website](#), provide a writing sample, and send it back to the address on the document.

All samples must be received by March 18, 2024.

The handwriting Form from Durham Central Probus 2024 can also be [directly viewed here](#).



# Interest Groups

If interested in a **2nd book group** and **another lunch group** which would meet on a day other than the 2nd Thursday, you may email Catherine or sign up at the meeting.

All other groups listed on the web site are in place so if you wish to join, please contact the leader directly.

Unfortunately, the ski group is struggling due to weather but hopefully they will get out to the hills soon.

The Book Share group is waiting to get started. Please contact me if interested.

Any inquiries will be answered by email or at the meeting.

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

## OUR CURRENT "WONDERFUL" INTEREST GROUPS



### Foods + Beverages

- BREAKFAST Club
- BREWERIES & CRAFT BEER
- ON CLOUD WINE
- OLD BOY'S BREAKFAST
- UNCORKED (wine)

### Cultural + Crafts

- ARTS APPRECIATION
- CHICK LITS (book club)
- FIBRE FRIENDS
- GREEN THUMBS (gardening)
- MOVIES

### Cards + Games

- BRIDGE BUDDIES
- HAND &
- FOOT card game
- MAHJONG

### Sports

- SKIING & SNOWBOARDING
- GOLF 9 HOLES
- GOLF 18 HOLES
- PEDAL POWER (cycling)
- PICKLEBALL

### Adventure

- DC WANDERERS (walking)
- PROBUS PADDLERS

**TO LEARN MORE -OR- JOIN AN INTEREST GROUP -**  
**Simply CONTACT THE GROUP LEADER as follows:**

1. SIGN IN to our Club Site <https://durhamcentralprobus.ca>
2. Select the **MEMBERS** Tab - then further down the page,
3. Select **INTEREST GROUPS**
4. Select a Group to Learn more + see the Leader Information, then
5. Email or call the Leader

## Fibre Friends

Happy New Year to all the Probus Members from the Fibre Friends group. Fibre Friends enjoyed a wonderful in-person meeting in December before the last minute rush of the Christmas season. As always...it was great to share some laughs, 'show and tells' and to catch up on all things fibre-related. Thanks to Jill our gracious host.

Now it's time to snuggle up and work on all those fibre crafting ideas to help pass the winter months. It's never too early to start planning for next Christmas!

Our meeting schedule for the remainder of January and February is as follows:

**Wednesday, January 24, 1:30 p.m. – June's**

**Thursday, February 8, 10:00 a.m. – Pam's**

**Wednesday, February 28, 1:30 p.m. – Debbie's**

In person locations will be shared via email.

Happy fibre crafting!



## Movie Group



**Happy New Year!** I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and is settling in to 2024. The movie group has not met recently, but we did see some good films last year.

**The Golden Globes** are to be awarded tonight and I note that **Oppenheimer** is nominated for best picture, best actress, best actor, best screenplay and best director. **Air** is nominated for best picture and supporting actor for Matt Damon. **Killers of the Flower Moon** has nominations for best picture, actress, actor, and director. **Holdovers** is up for best picture and best actor for Giamatti. Even **Mission Impossible** is up for Box Office Achievement.

All in all, the movie group members saw some pretty good movies. Even **Blackberry** made the Globe and Mail's top movie list.

In 2024, I will be sending emails inviting everyone to see a movie on a Tuesday soon. **The Zone of Interest** might be one of the choices.

While we wait, if you have access to Netflix, I recommend **Maestro** and **Nyad**, both fascinating portrayals of strong, talented individuals.

Great performances in both movies.

Keep watching good movies!

Jeanne



## Downhill Skiing And Snowboarding Group



*Ski Club Dec 20, 2023 at Mount St. Louis Moonstone. From left to right, Lewis Williams, Ralph Rutkowski, Bill Rail and Laurie Jones.*

## Lunch Group

Thank you Catherine for organizing the lunch group.

We will meet at 11:45 on the 11th at Symposium in Oshawa 2630 Simcoe Street N., Oshawa (across from the new COSTCO).

Our February lunch will be held on February 8th, location TBD.

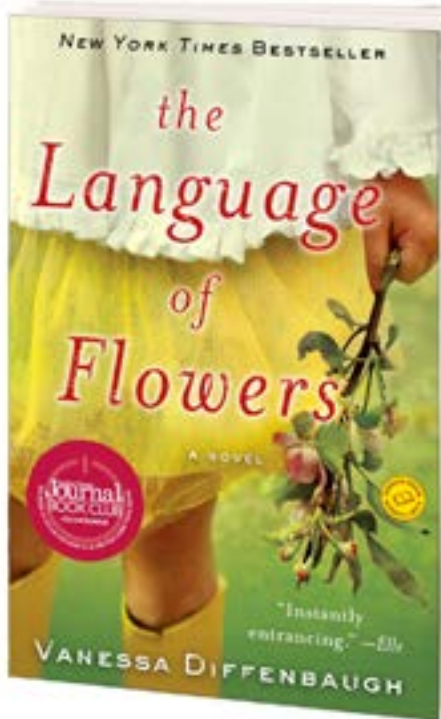
## DC Wanderers

DC Wanderers meet every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. weather permitting. We walk several trails in the Whitby/Oshawa area and are out and about for an hour. The pace is leisurely and the terrain flat.

If you are interested in joining us on Tuesdays please contact **Pete Jones** at: [barbandpete@rogers.com](mailto:barbandpete@rogers.com).

Our first walk of the New Year 2024 was the Michael Starr trail in Oshawa. We look forward to covering more ground together in the year ahead!

## ChickLits



Our December novel was **“Joy for Beginners”** by Erica Bauermeister.

This story about a group of friends, each tasked with a personal challenge to complete, was an easy read – perfect for the busy Christmas season!

Our next book is **“The Language of Flowers”** by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. It is the story of a woman raised in

the foster system and unable to make personal connections with people except through flowers and their Victorian meanings.

We will be meeting next on **January 22nd at 2 p.m.** to discuss this novel.

*Patti Mavins*



## Uncorked Wine Group

The Uncorked Wine Group meeting took place on Thursday, December 21st and was hosted by Colin & Debbie Whitehead.

The Theme for the afternoon was: "Celebrating the Season". The group celebrated by indulging in a potluck of foods and beverages. Colin prepared us a delicious "Egg Nog" martini to kick off our gathering.

We then enjoyed a lovely Prosecco, which was followed by festive appetizers and wines of our choice.

We raised a toast to the memory of our dear friend and fellow Uncorked group member, Greg Brown. He will be dearly missed! Our thoughts and prayers are with Janet Brown.

We also wished a speedy and full recovery for Heather Anderson.

IT WAS A FESTIVE AFTERNOON WITH LOTS OF FOOD AND CONVERSATION....  
A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

MANY THANKS TO **Colin & Debbie**

The group will be on hiatus until April 18, at which time, Pete and Barb Jones will host the kick off to our 2024 meetings.

Please Note: This group currently has 14 members, which is our maximum capacity.

Please contact: [kmtulk@gmail.com](mailto:kmtulk@gmail.com).





## Uncorked Wine Group... Continued





## Uncorked Wine Group... Continued





## Uncorked Wine Group... Continued



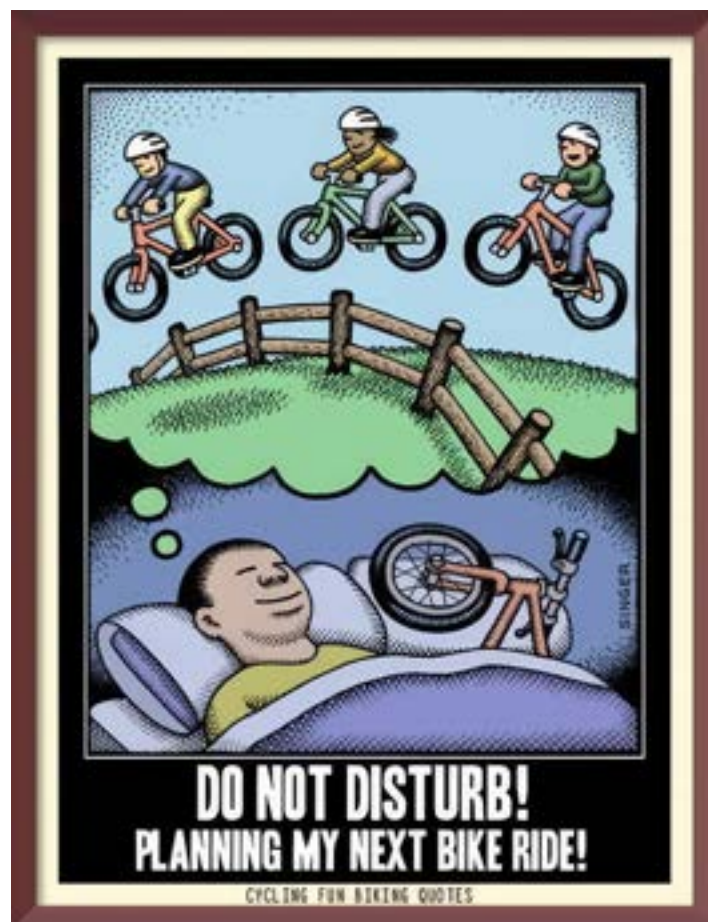


## PROBUS Pedal Power [Cycling] Group

In a couple of months, cycling season will be upon us – we will start as soon as the weather becomes warm enough, and the trails are free of ice and snow. Meanwhile, planning for the 2024 cycling season is underway, and a draft ride calendar has been prepared and distributed to members. We usually ride on Tuesday mornings, although we may substitute Thursday when Tuesday's weather is unpleasant. Rides include a multi-day event, this year planned for Niagara-on-the-Lake where some of us may combine winery visits, and the Shaw Theatre with our cycling and socializing.

Please join us – **just let me know so that I can add you** to my email list.

*John Patté, Cycling Group Coordinator*





## Craft Brewery Group

The Craft Brewery Group had a great outing to the **Brock Street Brewery** on December 20th. Thirteen people attended and we had our best brewery tour yet. Chris, one of the owners, showed us every aspect of their brewing process, including tastings of both hops and malt. Once back in the lounge, we all had personalized tasting flights as well as a shot of "Pink Whitby", the Brock Street Brewery flavoured vodka.

Once again the monthly beer quiz proved challenging, with several questions testing our members' knowledge of **Bob and Doug's famous 12 Days of Christmas song**. Lori Ashley took away a bottle of Pink Whitby as our quiz winner.

While the holiday season and vacations will result in a brief pause, we look to be back pursuing quality local brews in February!





## On Cloud Wine

We held our annual Holiday Wine Celebration on December 12th. The theme was “favourite finds of 2023”, with the evening offering up four red wines from all corners of the wine world. The highlight of the night was Laurie’s Panforte, a traditional Italian Christmas cake from Siena.

We rounded out the evening with a spirited gift exchange. Threats were made but we all ended the evening still friends!



# Social Events

## 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.





# 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