



FEBRUARY 2024

# NEWSLETTER

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## Message From The President

As I write this, the sun is shining brightly outside. The sunshine is so welcome after the dark days of January!

As I mentioned during the January General Meeting, we are the new proud parents of a 7-month-old rescue puppy who, unfortunately, has anxiety issues around humans. House-training a fearful puppy in dark, windy, cold conditions is not the easiest! Our puppy, Tilly, is much braver exploring her new neighbourhood in the sunshine, much to our relief!

We have been limiting Tilly's introduction to new people, as she exhibits so much fear of humans. She has warmed up to us but has been reluctant to engage with anyone who does not live in our home. Interestingly enough, my son visited our home on the weekend so that he could meet Tilly and she responded to him right away! After smelling his hand, she let him pet her, took treats from him, brought him toys and played with him without fear. This was so out of character that we consulted with Google, who informed us that dogs can determine if two people are blood relatives, by smell! Our personal scent is largely determined by genetics and dogs can distinguish this with their acute sense of smell. The power of genetics! 🐾

I witnessed another apparent display of genetics this month when I went bowling with our Probud club at **NEB's**.

We all had great fun bowling two games, cheering and celebrating over each other's strikes and spares, which were, for the most part, few and far between.

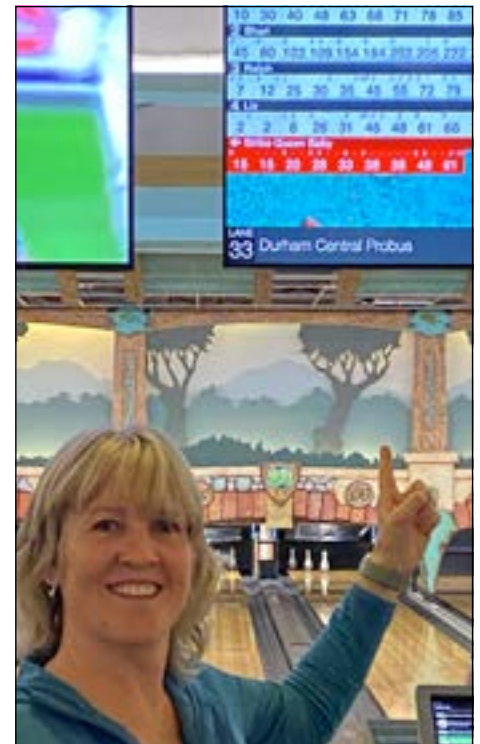
However, my sister and fellow Probud member, Shari Jones, suddenly woke up in the second game and started playing like a pro!

To everyone's amazement, she scored two Turkeys (3 strikes in a row) and then another strike to boot! She does not play in a league and hasn't touched a bowling ball in over two years. She attributed her success to genetics – our father was a very skilled bowler. Hmph! My score did not reflect any genetic skill, and he was my Dad too! My sour grapes aside, it was a very fun Probud event and I look forward to other similar social events, such as the upcoming **Trivia** in March.

There are a number of important club news articles in this issue of the newsletter, so please read it through. And watch your email/our [website](#) for some exciting upcoming speakers and events. Your Club Committees have lots in store for you!

Happy Valentine's Day, 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).

### Get to know your member website

Join us Thursday February 22nd for a Quick & Easy Tour of our Member Site. We'll cover how to access the great club information all located on the Member Site. Please register for this event so that we know how many will attend.



Please [click here to register on the website](#).

## General Meeting

Here are the 2024 meeting dates.

1. February 15
2. March 21
3. April 18
4. May 16
5. June 13
6. July 18
7. August 15
8. September 1
9. October 17
10. November 21
11. 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



## Notice of Motion for Bylaw Amendment

On February 1, 2024, a motion was put forth by the Management Committee to amend the following Club bylaw:

**4-6.** No Management Committee member shall serve more than six (6) consecutive years on the Management Committee.

The proposed amendment is as follows:

**4-6.** No Management Committee member shall serve more than six (6) consecutive years in the same position on the Management Committee.

The Club membership will be requested to consider and vote upon this motion at the General Meeting being held on March 21, 2024.

# We Need You!!!

## Annual General Meeting

May 16, 2024

Slate of Officers for 2023-24

PROBUS members, our Annual General Meeting takes place on May 16, 2024. At that meeting, we will elect or acclaim a slate of officers for the upcoming year 2024 – 2025.

The **Nominating Committee** consists of Janet Good, Vice-president, Doug Byers, Past President and Tom Reed, Chair and Past President.

It is our duty to present a slate of candidates for officer positions on the Management Committee 2024-25 to the membership at the April 18th meeting of the club.

Any member may step forward to fill a vacant position or to contest a current candidate.

Nominations, however, close on April 25, 2024, 21 days before the annual meeting. Any nominations will be forwarded to the membership 14 days before the annual meeting in May.

At present, the following positions require a new officer:

[Vice President](#) Volunteer Opportunity

[Treasurer](#) Volunteer Opportunity

[Member at Large](#) Volunteer Opportunity

[Social Committee Co- Chair](#) Volunteer Opportunity

[Special Interest Groups Chair](#) Volunteer Opportunity

[Webmaster](#) / [Archivist Co-Chair](#) Volunteer Opportunity

**We need volunteers for these positions.**

The specific job descriptions are on the website and please feel free to contact the current members holding these positions for more information. **Each of the positions has a link that will take you to the job description.**

Should you desire to fill any role within the management team, please contact any member of the Nominations Committee of your intentions.

This is an opportunity to become more involved with the running of our club and I hope that you will consider a position.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of us on the committee.

Cheers, Tom.





## January General Meeting Photos





## January General Meeting Photos





## January General Meeting Photos



## General Meeting Speakers



### 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.

More information on Elaine can be [found on her website](#).

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](#).



### The Waiting Game

The catalogue came with its pictures of flowers.  
gardeners plan and start counting the hours.  
A worthy endeavour inside in the warm,  
outside the sky tells of an impending storm.  
There are those who enjoy their fun out in the cold,  
with sliding toboggans and sleighs as of old.  
Others prepare indoors in their different ways,  
reading and baking, planting seedlings on trays.  
Everyone busy with the routine of their lives  
waiting, anticipating green on the trees.  
The balance, the seasons gift of sunshine and breeze.  
The pattern of life includes learning to wait.  
The seeds, underground, sleep, and then germinate.  
February's message to which we relate.

*L. Patricia Bayley.*





# Interest Groups

We now have 22 groups and growing. It is probably time to establish 2nd groups in some activities.

The **lunch group** has started and was full from the beginning so a 2nd group could be formed.

We could manage a 2nd **book group** and it could take on a different category of books. A **Mystery Book group** is always fun. You read most of the book prior to the meeting and then everyone puts in their opinion as to "who did it" and then you read the last chapter while together. That is only one way. There are other formats to use.

Let me know if you are a "**Who Done It**" enthusiast and we can get started.

Check out the web site where you will find all groups listed. You may join any group by contacting the leader directly or contact me at [c.frost@sympatico.ca](mailto:c.frost@sympatico.ca)

Those of you who are away, enjoy the sun!

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

## THERE'S ROOM AT THE "OLD BOYZ' BREAKFAST" TABLE

To join in on the food, fun & conversation,  
contact

Paul Dionne

[pedionne@sympatico.ca](mailto:pedionne@sympatico.ca)

We meet 8:30 AM First Monday of the  
Month



Please click on the picture above if you would like to join!

## Fibre Friends

Fibre Friends enjoyed two wonderful in-person meetings in January, which definitely helped to pass the cold, cloudy days! It was great to share some laughs, 'show and tells' and to catch up on all things fibre-related. Thanks to Helen and June our gracious hosts.

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

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

**Thursday, March 14, 10:00 a.m. – Barb's**

**Wednesday, March 27, 1:30 p.m. – Jane's**

In person locations will be shared via email.

The following pictures were taken at our last get together.



## Movie Group

We survived a grey January and now have a great sunny beginning to February.

A few members of the group gathered to see **The Zone of Interest**, an intense film about the Holocaust that is disturbing in both its sound effects of trains, screams, and fires and its portrayal of ordinary family life beside the walls of Auschwitz. Not a movie for everyone, but one that makes you think.

In February, we will try to see something uplifting or funny. The last Tuesday of the month at Landmark is the time and place. The movie is to be determined.

Enjoy the sunshine!





## Downhill Skiing And Snowboarding Group



Spring skiing in January?! It was a great ski day on January 31. Weather and ski conditions were great at Brima-combe and what a view.

*Skiers are Ralph Rutkowski, Laurie Jones, Tricia Cadieux, Ruth Gartland*



## ChickLits



At our January meeting, we discussed **"The Language of Flowers"** by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. We all thoroughly enjoyed the book and it prompted some great discussion about the plight of children in the foster system and its potential link to mental health issues.

Our next novel is **"The Invention of Wings"** by Sue Monk Kidd. This is set in the 1800's and tells the story of the Grimke sisters in South Carolina, who spend their lives advocating for the abolition of slavery and for the support of the women's rights movement. The story is interwoven with that of Hetty, Charlotte and Sky, slaves to the Grimke family.

We will be meeting next on February 26.

[Patti Mavins](#)



## PROBUS Pedal Power [Cycling] Group

I'm writing this on February 2nd, Groundhog Day. All the little rodents seem to be predicting an early Spring! Fantastic, we will soon be out riding again. And, if the groundhogs are wrong, we can have a fantastic groundhog barbeque!

With the cycling season approaching, we should ensure that two key pieces of equipment are ready and in good working order. I'm referring of course to:

1. **Ourselves** – the off-season is a good time to cross-train with walking/running/skiing and upper body exercises that we may skip otherwise;
2. **Our bikes** – Spring is a busy time for bike shops. If your bike needs some tender loving care, do it now! Make an appointment for a Spring tune-up. Otherwise, you may have a long wait and a slow start to your 2024 cycling season.

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

### 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

Our walking group called the **DC Wanderers** meets every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. weather permitting to enjoy different trails in the Whitby and Oshawa areas. The walks last one hour at a leisurely pace and are a great way to meet and socialize with fellow Probus members while enjoying the outdoors. This month saw us on several different trails including the **Michael Starr Trail**, **Whitby Waterfront** and **Cullen Gardens**. If you would like to join us, please contact [Pete Jones at barbandpete@rogers.com](mailto:Pete Jones at barbandpete@rogers.com)





# Social Events

## January

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

On January 25th, 25 members came out to bowl. It was a very successful event with every one enthusiastically participating with much joy. High fives abounded to cheer friends on.

Afterwards 17 players met at Fionn Mac Cool's for drinks and dinner continuing the celebration of everyone's skill and prowess on the lanes.



























## 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.

**This event is sold out!**



## March

**Trivia at Thornton Arms**

**When:** Thurs. March 14th at 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Thornton Arms Pub, 575 Thornton Rd. N., Oshawa

**Cost:** \$7. No food or drinks are provided but you can purchase at the bar if you like.

Come out and join us for an afternoon of fun and hilarity. We have engaged a guest presenter Derek Devitt from Pickering Probus to test our general knowledge. We will be in groups of four for the completion.

Hope to see you there!

## April

**Parkwood Gardens - Private Spaces Tour**

**When:** Friday, April 19th at 1p.m.

**Where:** Parkwood Estates, 270 Simcoe St. N., Oshawa

**Cost:** \$22.

Take a peek behind the curtains!

Beginning in the Grand Foyer you will be introduced to the McLaughlin Family, after which you will make your way up the grand staircase for a guided tour of the private spaces (bedrooms, bathrooms. Etc.) that we're used by the family and their guests.

Duration- 90 minutes

Watch for your invite.



## May

**Stratford Festival- "La Cage aux Folles" Bus Trip**

**When:** Tuesday May 14th

**Where:** Stratford, Ontario

**Cost:** \$162.

Lunch is not included, we will be stopping at a beautiful spot for a picnic.

Please bring your own lunch.

Gorgeous and funny, this musical has been delighting audiences since its Tony Award-winning premiere in 1983.

Pickup time and location still to be determined.



# 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 so much and I am looking forward to more of your images and stories.

Thanks to those who have sent images in!

**Marek**

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## **Jane Rail**

Early in January I had the wonderful opportunity to learn about a new photography technique called "intentional camera movement" (ICM) and I am hooked. ICM is an intentional process of using camera movement during the exposure of an image along with slower shutter speeds to introduce blur and/or movement into the image. It has the ability to take a 'so so' scene and make it into something that evokes a feeling.

It has been so much fun and the best way to get through the long dark days of this past January! Here are a few (of the 1,000's) of images taken that I'm happy with. Thanks for looking.



JRAIL | 2024

*Dreamy Calla Lily*



*Flying Home During Winter Sunset*



*Pastel Winter Sunset*



*Winter Sunset in the Marsh*





These are very important images in my life. The top left is the back door to where I was born in Warsaw on Freta Street. I have strong memories of sitting on those back steps. I started doing this at three, with a girl, my age, named Anna.

We loved each other; we talked about how much we loved each other and that the grown-ups did not understand. We often ate sunflower seeds from a whole sunflower head. I remember they were in a paper bag. Why that detail is a memory, I don't know, but it is a strong one. We loved them.

She was a beautiful girl, blonde hair usually in two braids with a tied bow ribbon, blue eyes, a very Polish style from that era. She lived in the apartment across from the back door, the three open windows are where she, her older brother, and mother lived.

We only had a couple more years together. We moved to Durban, South Africa when I was five. A year after we moved, my grandmother wrote us informing us that Anna's mom had killed her, her brother and herself when her husband left her.

I have never forgotten her. The picture directly to the left is one my wife took of me sitting there, looking at those open windows, thinking about Anna. I don't think a week goes by without me thinking about her.