



## WELCOME TO FEBRUARY



So January is over and one less month of winter left as we head into the most romantic month of the year. Valentine's Day is actually named for a Christian martyr and dates back to the 5th century. It has origins in the Roman fertility festival, Lupercalia, but nowadays it is traditionally celebrated world-wide on February 14 and associated with red hearts, romance, flowers, candy or other sweet things, and the exchange of cards, called *valentines*, that express love. Although you may have thought it was a myth, according to the old Irish tradition, the leap year is the perfect chance for a woman to take matters into her own hands and get down on one knee, more often than not on February 29. However, in 2020 it is perfectly acceptable for a woman to propose marriage on any day of the year! Be sure to check out our Valentine's Day trip for both couples and singles on February 13 to the [Briar's Inn](#) that includes lunch and other fun stuff. The Chinese New Year is well underway and will continue on to February 8, with 2020 being the Year of the Rat, Groundhog Day is February 2, the Oscars, and the Super Bowl, America's largest sporting event, are held in February, and it is also Women's History and Black History month so lots happening in this exceptional month.



## HELLO FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT



As Robbie Burns once said, "the best laid plans of mice and men", but, as you all know, due to a major water leak at the Rec Complex, we had to cancel our AGM and 1st anniversary celebrations scheduled for January 15. As disappointing as it was, we are now rescheduled for Wednesday, February 19 when Brenda Andrews, PROBUS District 2 Regional Director, will install me, as the new President, together with the Vice-President and Activities Coordinator, and the rest of the Management Team. Due to personal reasons, Fran Sancroft has resigned (see her resignation message on our [website](#)), so I've stepped in to oversee things until I'm officially President but, onwards and upwards as Lakeside will not be defeated by a change of date for our AGM! It will actually give us something to look forward to, to beat the February blahs that usually set in by mid-February, as it promises to be an extremely interesting and fun celebration. It's been proven that half the fun of any event is the anticipation leading up to it, so I'm sure we'll have an even better time on the 19th!

I will therefore keep this "Hello" short and end by apologizing for the need to postpone the AGM, I hope you will all be able to make it on February 19, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Jim McMinn, Vice-President, PROBUS Pickering Lakeside

## NEXT MEETING

Our AGM and 1st anniversary celebration will now take place on Wednesday, February 19 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the East and West Salons of the Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex. There will not be a speaker this month but, instead, we have the installation of the new Management Team and other surprises in store to bring the members together and celebrate our one-year anniversary. Chartwell, Pickering City Centre and Chartwell, Pickering Parkway will be providing a complimentary lunch, and wine and non-alcoholic beverages will also be served, courtesy of Lakeside, so this is definitely a meeting you won't want to miss. Please [Register here](#) if you plan to attend, or sign up directly on our [website](#) on the "Home" page under "February Monthly Meeting" as we are expecting a very large turnout and need to know the final numbers. **Please note also that, due to space limitations and because this is a member-focused meeting, we are unable to accept guests at this special meeting but we will welcome them again in March.** Please be sure to wear your name badge to identify yourself as this meeting will be an opportunity to mix and mingle with your fellow Lakeside members.



Dr. Mark Daley will now be the guest speaker in March and will talk about Leonard Cohen's life and work, interspersing his narrative with classic Cohen songs.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The first valentine was sent in the 15th century.
- Not until the 1840's did we get the first mass-produced valentines.
- The Valentine's Day gift that people spend the most on is jewellery.
- Conversation hearts got their start as medical lozenges.
- Almost 6 million couples get engaged on Valentine's Day.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to club members whose birthday is in the month of February. However, if you were born on February 29 you will only get to celebrate that actual day once every four years!



Your birth flowers are **Violet** and **Primrose**, symbolizing modesty, faithfulness and virtue. Your birthstone is the **Amethyst**, symbolizing sobriety, stability, peace and courage.

## VOLUNTEERS

Unfortunately, Discover Toronto and Wine Tasting have been cancelled for lack of volunteers to head up either of these. Volunteers are an essential component of all PROBUS clubs, so please contact [Gail Perks](#), Activities Coordinator, if you're interested in becoming a volunteer, or would like to head up a new activity. If there's anything at all that you're interested in and can share with other members, please consider becoming a coordinator. Most activity groups only run once a month, so just a few hours of your time is required, or you can even share the load with a friend. Volunteering is a way to feel inclusive, meet more people, and make new friends, which is what PROBUS is all about, so please jump on board or note your interest in becoming a volunteer on your [profile page](#) on the website.



## FUN AND GAMES

Here are the upcoming events we have planned over the next few months, and you can find all the details and sign up on [our website](#). **Please note, for more information on PROBUS Pickering events, you must contact [Shirlie van Putten](#) directly and not Lorna Ware as Shirlie is the organizer.**

- Sunday, February 9 - [Herongate Theatre](#) - Cost \$64 (PROBUS Pickering)
- Thursday, February 13 - [Valentine's Lunch at the Briars Inn](#) - Cost \$124 (Lakeside)
- Tuesday, March 17 - [Irish Kitchen Party](#) in Kitchener - Cost \$123 (Lakeside)
- Monday, March 30 - [Niagara Wine Tour](#) - Cost \$125 (PROBUS Pickering)
- Tuesday, April 14 - [Scavenger Hunt](#) - Cost \$17 (PROBUS Pickering)
- Tuesday, May 5 - "[Chicago](#)" and lunch in Stratford - Cost \$199 (Lakeside)
- Tuesday, July 14 - Kajama Tall Ship Harbourfront Cruise - **more details to follow** (Lakeside)

Trips are also planned to Portugal, Windsor, Ottawa, Ireland, Newfoundland, Quebec, Croatia, Memphis and Nashville, so please contact [Shirlie van Putten](#) of PROBUS Pickering for complete information.

It was decided to continue the golf and billiards with PROBUS Pickering, at least for now, and we would like to get a ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) breakfast or lunch club started, but need a volunteer so, gentlemen, please step forward and head up this monthly event or co-share it with a friend. We also need a new coordinator to head up the movies club so if you're a movie buff, please consider stepping up to the plate. Details on upcoming activities, and contact info for all the interest/activity groups, can be found on our [website](#):

- Arts and Crafts - [Linda Black](#)
- Billiards - [Don Voorhees](#) (PROBUS Pickering)
- Book Club 1 - "Cover to Cover" - [Susan Woodward](#)
- Book Club 2 - "Mind Readers" - [Dorothy Edmonds](#)
- Bridge - [Peter Green](#)
- Cribbage - [Susan Maste](#)
- Euchre - [Nancy Agostino](#)
- Genealogy - [Gail Perks](#)
- Golf - [Jim Hare](#) (PROBUS Pickering)
- Hiking - [Eileen Higdon](#) and [Lynda Borg](#)
- Movies - Volunteer needed
- RODEO (Retired Old Dames Eating Out) - [Cynthia Falla](#)
- Scrabble - [Marilyn McLaughlin](#)
- Tastes of the World - [Sharon Fenn](#) and [Sharon Marshall](#)
- Trivia - [Vicki Samson](#)



## TECHY STUFF

As our membership continues to grow we are starting to see our activities and events fill up. Therefore it is important to note that:

1. You can always see who is already registered (in the example on the right, click on the "28 registrants" link) and see how many spaces are left.
2. If the event is full, you can also click the JOIN WAITLIST button.
3. If you registered and then discover you can no longer attend, **please cancel that reservation** by clicking on "already registered" and then "cancel". That way the next person on the waitlist will automatically be registered in your place.





## TIP OF THE MONTH



If your new shoes feel too tight, just stuff each shoe with wet newspaper as tightly as you can to stretch them. Let the shoes dry, and then remove the newspaper.

## IN THE NEWS



As the gateway to the east GTA, Pickering (population 97,500) is strategically located where Toronto, York and Durham Regions meet. An award-winning municipality, Pickering is slated for significant economic and residential growth; offering an unparalleled quality of life for those who live, work, and play here. Its dynamic City Centre has been designated by the Province of Ontario as both an Urban Growth Centre and Mobility Hub, and continues to evolve as a preferred destination for creative learning, memorable events, and unique experiences at the heart of a vibrant, connected, and engaged community.

## BUZZ WORD



The Buzz word for February is "**Felicitous**" meaning exhibiting an agreeably appropriate manner or style as in our felicitous monthly speakers!

## MEMBERS' CORNER



The annual renewals are now in full swing so be sure not to let your membership lapse and renew ASAP. In order to qualify for the City of Pickering grant, which goes towards the cost of running our club, we must limit the remainder of our membership to Pickering residents only, but we would like to say a big welcome to our newest members: **Wendy K, Sandra R, Valerie R, Norah H, Kim M, Al A, Cara B, Doreen E, Bonnie A, Robert G, Brenda H, Andrea G, Glenn E, Wendy E, Donna B, Linda W, Martyn W, Gail W, Peter W, Margaret L, Judy K, Lynda D, Bill Z and Louise Z.**

Although the number will fluctuate this year as new members are added and some will not renew, we are very encouraged at the growth in membership as we move closer to our club limit of 325. The membership limit is necessary to manage our club size so there is more opportunity for personal interaction at meetings and events.

We also want to stress again it is **imperative** that you update your [profile page](#) on the website to **indicate your interests**, otherwise you will not receive notifications of events that appeal to you, and this also eliminates excess emails that don't apply to your interest groups.

If you have anything to contribute to the monthly Buzz, or if you have any suggestions or feedback, please contact [Vicki Samson](#) as your ideas are always welcome.

## LAST LAUGHS

