

## Message from the President December 2022



So here we are wrapping up an incredible year for our club. After 2+ years being restricted by the pandemic, we were finally able to start our in-person meetings again in April 2022 and we have gone from strength to strength since. For example, in September we had 25 different activities, in October there were 29 and in November there were 31. Even more impressive is that our membership, which once dipped below 300 during the COVID years, now stands at over 350 and, at time of writing, we have 236 members registered for the Christmas luncheon. I want to say that I'm very proud to have been the President of this club throughout 2022

and have enjoyed it so much that I will be staying on for 2023 as well. We will, however, have a slightly different, but I'm sure equally committed and enthusiastic Management Team in place for next year and we will share the details of those changes with you all at our Annual General Meeting in January.

By the way, if you haven't yet registered for the Christmas Luncheon there is still space and time for you to do so. Don't forget, 'Elvis' will be entertaining us so if you want to see him one last time, don't be a 'hound dog', because 'it's now or never'. Of course, those of you with 'suspicious minds' might be 'all shook up' and skeptical that he's the real deal but 'that's all right'. 'Don't be cruel' and come out anyway. It will be a 'blue Christmas' if we don't see you there!! OK, sorry about that, I get carried away sometimes.

December of course marks the start of winter. However, did you also know - I do because being a curious soul, I googled it - that it's also about celebrations and parties, both religious and pagan in origin. There is Christmas (on the 24<sup>th</sup> and/or 25<sup>th</sup>); Hanukkah; St. Nicholas'

(considered by some to be the original Santa Claus) Day on the 6<sup>th</sup>; and the 26th is St Stephen's day in parts of Europe and Boxing Day in British Empire countries. The origin of these 2 days was a chance to give to the poor, but they now mean more shopping opportunities. December is also about food and drink: December 8th celebrates National Brownie Day while December 15th is National Cupcake Day (US). There are also a number of Christmas-related month-long observances, with the yummiest ones being National Fruit Cake Month, and National Eggnog Month. Who doesn't love Eggnog?

Finally, December is also National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, let's hope that is successful, and December 28th is considered the unluckiest day of the year. Up until relatively recently, it was considered unlucky to start work, set sail on new ventures, or generally do anything on this day. Luckily, our new Management team won't be in place until January 1st!

Happy Holidays and take care.



[Peter](#)

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## Speakers Report



There will be no formal speaker in December. Instead, we will be entertained at our **Annual Christmas Luncheon** on December 14th, by Johnny Cigan. John's charismatic voice will entertain you with all the songs from Elvis' early years to the concert years. His acclaimed competition titles include Champion in the largest Elvis festival in the world Collingwood Elvis Festival. Champion winner in the Lake George Elvis Festival, Belleville Elvis Trilogy and many more.

If you haven't registered for this event yet, tickets are still available.

**'TIS THE SEASON TO CELEBRATE!**



[Laura](#)

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## Membership Report



PROBUS Pickering Lakeside would like to welcome 18 new members that joined in the last month: Judith Torma, John Torma, Erica Bruce, John Stitt, Marilyn Stitt, Lois Porter, Jeanine O'Carroll, Jeff Bowers, Terri Abernethy, Karen Taylor, Paul Lewis, Sandy Iacovetta, Zdenka Obal, Frances Fleming, Sandra Smith, Scott Smith, Colleen Lafortune and Norine Findlay. We now have 351 members in PROBUS

Pickering Lakeside.

Thank you for renewing over the past year and telling your friends about us. If you change your email address or any other personal information, then please change the information in your PROBUS account. Click on the man icon at the top of the page and a drop-down menu will show "View Profile". Choose that link and it shows your PROBUS information including your renewal date. Your PROBUS account is the window to all our club is doing, so be sure to check it periodically.

I will be bringing unclaimed badges to the Christmas luncheon so look for me that day. Hope to see all these new members at the Christmas luncheon.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas season and a glorious New Year.

[Sharon](#)

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## The Social Scene

As the year comes to an end, all I can say is Wow! We have had more events and activities than ever before with great participation from you, our members. I would love to share highlights,

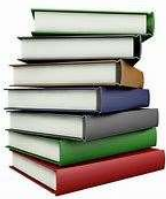
but I would rather hear from you! Please drop us a line so we can share some of the fun you have experienced.

Next year is already starting out to be another stellar year. Four events in January and February are already sold out. Taste of the World – A Chinese New Year Dinner January 26<sup>th</sup>, has only 15 spaces left.

Now, I will probably get in trouble, but what the heck – we are looking at getting tickets for Jersey Nights and Abbamania. Make sure you keep an eye on our website or you will miss out on the two shows.

Our Social committee has done an outstanding job this year and will continue to do so to, thanks to all of you.

## ACTIVITY GROUPS



*Book Exchange* - The book exchange continues to be a success. We will not have a book exchange at our Christmas Luncheon in December, but we will be offering another one at the January meeting. Remember, you bring a book, you take a book. The table should be empty by the end of the meeting. Books can be placed on the table when you first come in.

## ARTS & CRAFTS

In Stitches - on **Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** at 1pm. Join a group of like-minded people who enjoy working with yarn, whether knitting or crocheting. We now have a room available at the Chestnut Hill Recreation Centre for this group to meet.

Christmas Cookies and Square Share will take place at the Royal Canadian Legion on **Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup>** at 1:30. All you have to do is prepare one of your recipes for bars, cookies or squares, put them in a container and bring them along. You will leave with a sampling of all the various sweets brought. Wear your favourite Christmas sweater and/or hat.

## BOOK CLUBS

Cover to Cover Book Club - on hiatus for December. Contact Pauline Field if you would like to join this book club.

Not a Book Club - on hiatus for December

## FOOD & DRINK

Lakeside Ladies Lunch is on hiatus for December

Meals Out - on hiatus for December

Tastes of the World - on hiatus for December

Happy Hour - on hiatus for December

## GAMES GROUP

Ajax 5 Pin Bowling - will meet on **Monday, December 5th** at 1pm.

Billiards at Petrina's is back on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month starting at 10:30am. The December dates will be **December 9th** and **December 23rd**

Crack the Case meets on **Tuesday, December 13th** at 1pm. Try to figure out the mystery and guess who did it, why and where.

Euchre - **Thursday, December 1st** and **15th** at the Royal Canadian Legion.

Trivia - on hiatus for December

## MOVIE CLUB

Movie Club - on hiatus for December

## ONLINE CHAT

Ladies Let's Talk - on hiatus for December

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Lakeside Weekly Walking Group - This weekly walking group goes out each Tuesday at 10:30am.

- **Tuesday, December 6th** at 10:30 - Ajax Rotary Park
- **Tuesday, December 13th** at 10:30 - Greenwood Conservation Area, Ajax
- **Tuesday, December 20th** at 10:30 - Carruthers Marsh Pavillion
- **Tuesday, December 27th** at 10:30 - Beachpoint Promenade

Keep up-to-date - continue to check us out on our website at [PROBUS Pickering Lakeside - Home](#) and on our Facebook page [PROBUS Pickering Lakeside | Facebook](#).

Lynne

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## Upcoming Events



- [Euchre](#) - **Thursday, 1 Dec 2022** 1:00 PM, Royal Canadian Legion - 1555 Bayly St Pickering
- [HOTEL CALIFORNIA – TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLES](#) - **Saturday, 3 Dec 2022** 8:00 PM, Regent Theatre - 50 King Street East, Oshawa
- [Poinsettia Tea](#) - **Sunday, 4 Dec 2022** 2:00 PM, Chestnut Hill Recreation Centre, Pickering
- [Ajax 5Pin Bowling Centre](#) - **Monday, 5 Dec 2022** 1:00 PM, 172 Harwood Avenue, Ajax
- [Lakeside Weekly Walking\\_group](#) - **Tuesday, 6 Dec 2022** 10:30 AM, Ajax Rotary Park, Ajax
- [Beare Hill Park Walk with 360 Panoramic View](#) - **Thursday, 8 Dec 2022** 10:30 AM, Finch & York Durham Line
- [Billiards](#) - **Friday, 9 Dec 2022** 11:00 AM, Petrina Billiards, 21 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax L1S 2B8
- [Simcoe Panorama Lights](#) - **Monday, 12 Dec 2022** 12:00 PM, Simcoe
- [Lakeside Weekly Walking\\_group](#) - **Tuesday, 13 Dec 2022** 10:30 AM, Greenwood Conservation Area
- [Crack the Case](#) - **Tuesday, 13 Dec 2022** 1:00 PM, Zoom
- [Annual Christmas Luncheon](#) - **Wednesday, 14 Dec 2022** 11:30 AM, Ajax Convention Center - 550 Beck Cres
- [Euchre](#) - **Thursday, 15 Dec 2022** 1:00 PM, Royal Canadian Legion - 1555 Bayly St Pickering
- [Christmas Cookie, Square Share](#) - **Thursday, 15 Dec 2022** 1:30 PM, The Legion 1555 Bayly St. Pickering
- [In Stitches Club](#) - **Monday, 19 Dec 2022** 1:00 PM, Chestnut Hill Recreation Centre
- [Lakeside Weekly Walking\\_group-Carruthers Marsh](#) - **Tuesday, 20 Dec 2022 10:30 AM, Carruthers Marsh Pavillion in Ajax**
- [Billiards](#) - **Friday, 23 Dec 2022** 11:00 AM, Petrina Billiards, 21 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax L1S 2B8
- [Lakeside Weekly Walking\\_group](#) - **Tuesday, 27 Dec 2022** 10:30 AM, Beachpoint Promenade

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## Our Members Say

As our amazing Social Committee continues to increase the number of activities available to our membership, we have been pleased with the many comments coming in from our members, so

we decided that we will post some of them in our monthly newsletter.

Comments about the Speaker at our November meeting:

*"I have been looking up some of the great women he talked about. Canadians have so much to be proud about"* Lynne Stewart

*"He was excellent! Lots of wonderful stories I never knew & he spoke very well & with humour"*  
Susan Simpson

*"Best one so far!"* Jeannie Harris

*"Excellent!"* Rita Rochefort

Then the 1st session of the Toronto History Tour met up with the Toronto Historian, Bruce Bell, for a tour of the financial district.

*"What a great tour of downtown Toronto yesterday with Bruce Bell. Showed us parts of Toronto we have probably passed dozens of times but never stopped to actually see what was there"* Elaine Phipps

*"It was another great tour. Bruce is so knowledgeable and is such a great presenter of Toronto's history. I have a new appreciation for an area that I thought was just mainly sterile office buildings!"* Debbie & John Bilinski





We strongly encourage our members to let us know how you enjoy the many activities and events that your Social Committee makes happen. Post your comments on our Facebook page or send to [pplc.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:pplc.webmaster@gmail.com) and we will publish it in the next newsletter.

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## Amazing Things About Christmas

1. The tallest Christmas tree ever displayed was a Douglas Fir, in Seattle, Washington. It measured 221 ft. tall.
2. Buying all the gifts from the "12 Days of Christmas" would cost you a ton of money. The most expensive being "Swans a Swimming" - about \$6,300.



3. When the Candy Cane was invented in Germany, it was made into a J for Jesus. The red stripes symbolize his blood.
4. Black Friday is not the busiest shopping day of the year. The two days right before Christmas are.
5. 1/3 of the 20 highest grossing movies were released during Christmas season, proving that going to the movies after opening gifts is a popular tradition.
6. It is a tradition in Japan to eat KFC for Christmas. Orders must be placed two months in advance.
7. Jingle Bells was originally a song about Thanksgiving in 1857. It was also the first song ever played in space by astronauts Walter Schirra Jr. and Thomas P. Stafford.
8. 1 in 3 men wait until Christmas Eve to do their shopping.
9. Christmas came from the words Cristes Maesse meaning "mass of christ".
10. Christmas trees usually grow for close to 15 years before they can be sold.
11. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer got his start as an advertising gimmick for Montgomery Ward in 1839.
12. Paul McCartney earns \$400,000 a year from his "Wonderful Christmastime" song which is widely regarded as the worst song he ever recorded.
13. More than 400,000 illnesses are caused by spoilt Christmas leftovers.
14. Christmas used to be illegal. Oklahoma was the last U.S. state to declare Christmas a legal Holiday in 1907.
15. Christmas is not Christ's birthday as many believe. According to the bible, Christ was actually not even born in the winter.
16. The original location for the 1947 Miracle on 34th Street movie was the N.Y. Macy's in Herald Square. However, for the remake in 1994, Macy's refused to participate therefore the fictional store Cole's was created.
17. The highest grossing movie about Christmas since 1980 is Jim Carrey's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". It came out November 2000 and pulled in \$260,044,825.
18. Bing Crosby's version of "White Christmas" is the highest-selling single of all time.
19. It only took six weeks for Charles Dickens to write A Christmas Carol.
20. Americans purchase 1.6 billion Christmas cards every year.

21. The abbreviation X in X-Mas is not an abbreviation. It actually stands for "Chi", meaning Christ in Greek.
22. The word "Merry" in Merry Christmas was not always accepted because being merry used to signify slight intoxication.
23. Christmas lights were so expensive that they used to be rented rather than sold. An electrically lit tree was a status symbol of the early 1900s.
24. The City of Vancouver, Canada claims to be the birthplace of the first "ugly Christmas sweater" party.
25. The Ancient Greeks considered the mistletoe as an aphrodisiac, which is probably why kissing under the mistletoe will bring you luck in your love life.

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## **Your Management Team:**

**President - Peter Green (pjgreen01@gmail.com)**

**Vice- President - Valerie Rodrigues (valerie\_rodrigues@bell.net)**

**Past President - Jim McMinn (jimcminn51@yahoo.com)**

**Treasurer - Peter Davidson (pplc.treasurer@gmail.com)**

**Membership Coord - Sharon McMinn (mcminnsharon67@gmail.com)**

**Chair, Social Committee - Lynne Stewart (912lynne@gmail.com)**

**Speakers Coord - Laura Green (pplc.speakers@gmail.com)**

**Webmaster/Newsletter - Elaine Phipps (ephipps@rogers.com)**

**Secretary - Greg Garber (ggarber@sympatico.ca)**

**Member-at-Large - Gail Gobeil ( gail\_gobeil@msn.com)**