

## Message from the President January 2023



Happy New Year everyone, The Winter Solstice, the Storm of the Century and Christmas have all come and gone and I'm happy to report we survived them all. I hope you did too and got to spend some quality time with family and friends despite the weather.



Kudos to Valerie, Candice and many other volunteers who organized our Christmas Luncheon. Wasn't it great?. I'm sure our AGM and wine and cheese celebration on the 18th will also be a fun time for all.

Laura has brought back Lianne Harris to talk to us again at that meeting. She was so informative and fun the last time she spoke to us about the 'Roaring Twenties" a few months back.

So now we are into January and being a curious soul, I googled that. Apparently it is a time of both endings and new beginnings according to the ancient Romans because Janus, the god the month is named after in mythology, is often depicted as a two-sided face that looks forwards and backwards at the same time. I guess the endings part has some truth to it as January is often nicknamed "divorce month" by lawyers as this is the most common month for couples to divorce or break-up.

January is also associated with some really extreme weather. The oldest temperature ever recorded is -62.2°C; which was observed in Alaska on January 23, 1971. The hottest temperature ever happened on January 2nd, 1960 in Oodnadatta, Australia, at a scorching

50.7°C and on January 19th 1933, 60 inches of snow fell on California and thousands of people were stranded in their cars along the mountain highways for several days as a result.

I hope we don't experience anything like that this month and that you all remain healthy and active - which leads me to a plea to everybody for this winter. Hopefully the lockdown of '20 and '21 is now a thing of the past and will not be repeated but COVID is still around and the Flu season is well underway and seems to be worse this year than in the past. So if you are signed up for an in-person activity but don't feel well on the day and/or have symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache, etc. then, please do not attend.

Hopefully I will see you at the AGM!

Take care [Peter](#)

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## Speakers Report

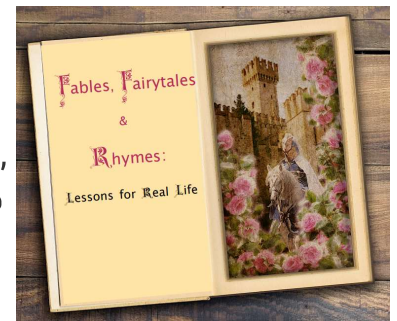
For our January meeting we welcome Lianne Harris. Lianne has presented to us before, about the Roaring Twenties', and is back by popular demand.



Lianne is a history, culture, and social studies resource specialist and the author of numerous books. She is a contributing author of the Canadian best seller 'The Power of Women United' and in 2003, she was selected as one of Toronto's 'Women of Influence'.

Lianne has been the keynote presenter at many professional, academic and PROBUS events where her talks focus on the lives and times of different cultures and periods.

This time around Lianne will talk to us about Fables, Fairytales & Rhymes: Who was the real Humpty Dumpty? What queen was 'Mary, Mary the Quite Contrary'? How did the Nazi's use fairytale themes to manipulate the German people in WW2? Is 'Little Red Riding Hood' really just a mother-to-daughter sex talk?



Childhood stories are not the stuff of fantasy. In ages past when illiteracy ran high, these fables and rhymes were the moral classroom where one learned all there was to know about truth, justice, faith, prejudice, love, sex, sin, crime and punishment. Bedtime stories shape our beliefs and teach us about real life.

[Laura](#)

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## Membership Report



PROBUS Pickering Lakeside has had a wonderful year of welcoming new members to the club. Our club grew by 85 members in 2022 and we now have 365 people in PROBUS Pickering Lakeside. We would like to welcome 14 new members that joined in the last month: Millie O, John S, Karen H, Cara B, Carol C, Barb D, Casey G, Carolyn R, Terry B, Heather T, Catherine P, Dale W, Gary W and David B.

I have some badges for members that have just joined or not been at a meeting for a while. PPL hopes to see you in the new year. Your management team has planned some good speakers and events that you should enjoy. Come find me at the membership table to get your badge or order a new one if you are unable to find where you put it.

We are still taking memberships from Pickering residents and have a waitlist if your friends live outside of Pickering. There is room for growth so feel free to invite your friends to come to a meeting with you.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy and prosperous 2023.



[Sharon](#)

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## The Social Scene



What a year 2022 was! We started to move from online activities back to in-person and, by the end of the year, was able to welcome 242 members and their guests to our Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Ajax Convention Centre. So much has gone on this year and there is even more exciting opportunities planned for 2023. Many of these activities and events are already set up for January and February.

Make sure you keep an eye on our website as new activities are posted regularly.

### ACTIVITY GROUPS

#### ARTS & CRAFTS

In Stitches - on **Monday, January 16th** at 1pm. Join a group of like-minded people who enjoy working with yarn, whether knitting or crocheting. We meet at the Chestnut Hill Recreation Centre.

Valentine's Card Workshop - on **Friday, January 20th** at 12:30 at the Royal Canadian Legion. Just in time for February 14th, we will be making two Valentines Cards using the iris folding technique. Come out and make a one of a kind card to keep or send to someone special.

## BOOK CLUBS

Cover to Cover Book Club - on **Monday, January 30th** at 2pm. The book being covered is Bluebird by Genevieve Graham. Contact Pauline Field if you would like to join this book club.

Not a Book Club - on **Tuesday, January 10th** at 11am - This is a non-traditional book club. Each member shares a little information about a book they have read. Because of this club, I, a die-hard mystery reader, has changed up my reading style and have found new authors out there who don't carry a gun! Besides, you get a book list sent to you after the meeting. Why don't you come and try it out.

## FOOD & DRINK

Happy Hour will return in February.

Lakeside Ladies Lunch has been booked for **Wednesday, January 11th** at 12pm at the Fox Goes Free on Kingston Road near Altona.

Meals Out - Our breakfast outing is scheduled for **Monday, January 16th** at 10am at Kathryn's. The food, service and company are all good and you are guaranteed to be full when you leave.

Tastes of the World - will be a Chinese New Year's Celebration on **Thursday, January 26th** at the Mandarin Restaurant at 5pm.

## GAMES GROUP

Ajax 5 Pin Bowling - will meet on **Monday, January 9th** at 1pm.

Billiards is at Petrina's Pool and Billiards in Ajax on **Friday, January 6th** and **Friday, January 20th** at 10:30am. This event is with our friends at PROBUS Pickering club.

Crack the Case meets on **Tuesday, January 17th** at 1pm

Euchre - **Thursday, January 5th** and **Thursday, January 19th** at 1 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion on Bayly Street, Pickering

Scrabble - on **Friday, January 27th** at 1pm - location in Registration. Join us for a friendly game of scrabble with a group of fellow members.

Trivia - on **Tuesday, January 24th** 2pm at the Falcon Brewery in Ajax

## MOVIE CLUB

Movie Club - the next meeting will be on **Monday, January 9th** at 1 pm. The movie discussed will be Evelyn, starring Pierce Brosnan which is available on Hoopla.

## ONLINE CHAT

Ladies Let's Talk - will be meeting again on **Friday, January 6th** at 11am on Zoom. There is never a dull moment!

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

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

- **Tuesday, January 3rd** at 10:30 - Heber Downs Conservation Area
- **Tuesday, January 10th** at 10:30 - Highland Creek
- **Tuesday, January 17th** at 10:30 - Duffins Creek
- **Tuesday, January 24th** at 10:30 - Ajax Rotary Park
- **Tuesday, January 31st** at 10:30 - Carruthers Marsh Pavilion

Hiking with Jeff - on **Thursday, January 12th** and **Thursday, January 19th** at 10:30 we will be hiking through the Altona Forest (Altona Road and Finch Ave)

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, 5 Jan 2023 1:00 PM - Royal Canadian Legion - 1555 Bayly St Pickering

[Lakeside Ladies Let's Talk](#) - Friday, 6 Jan 2023 11:00 AM - Zoom

[Billiards](#) - Friday, 6 Jan 2023 11:00 AM - Petrina Billiards, 21 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax L1S 2B8

[Ajax 5 Pin Bowling Centre](#) - Monday, 9 Jan 2023 1:00 PM - 172 Harwood Avenue, Ajax

[Movies](#) - Monday, 9 Jan 2023 2:00 PM - Online Zoom meeting



[Not a Book Club](#) - Tuesday, 10 Jan 2023 11:00 AM - Online Zoom meeting

[Lakeside Ladies Lunch at The Fox Goes Free](#) - Wednesday, 11 Jan 2023 12:00 PM - 339 Kingston Rd., Pickering

[Hiking with Jeff](#) - Thursday, 12 Jan 2023 10:30 AM - Altona Forest

[Breakfast at Kathryn's](#) - Monday, 16 Jan 2023 10:00 AM - 376 Kingston Road, Pickering

[In Stitches Club](#) - Monday, 16 Jan 2023 1:00 PM - In Event Details

[Crack the Case](#) - Tuesday, 17 Jan 2023 1:00 PM - Zoom

[January Monthly Meeting - AGM and 4th year celebration](#) - Wednesday, 18 Jan 2023 10:15 AM - Chestnut Hill Recreation Centre, 1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering

[Hiking with Jeff](#) - Thursday, 19 Jan 2023 10:30 AM - Altona Forest

[Euchre](#) - Thursday, 19 Jan 2023 1:00 PM - Royal Canadian Legion - 1555 Bayly St Pickering

[Billiards \(session 1 of 24\)](#) - Friday, 20 Jan 2023 11:00 AM - Petrina Billiards, 21 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax

[Valentines Card Workshop](#) - Friday, 20 Jan 2023 12:30 PM - Legion - 1555 Bayly St., Pickering

[Trivia at the Falcon Brewery](#) - Tuesday, 24 Jan 2023 2:00 PM - Falcon Brewing Company, 30 Barr Rd, Ajax, ON L1S 7H1

[Hi Tea at Tartan House](#) - Wednesday, 25 Jan 2023 1:30 PM - 1 Radford Drive, Ajax

[Taste of the World - Chinese New Year Dinner](#) - Thursday, 26 Jan 2023 5:00 PM - Mandarin Restaurant 1725 Kingston Road

[Scrabble](#) - Friday, 27 Jan 2023 1:00 PM - 562 Cattail Court, Pickering

[Cover to Cover Book Club](#) - Monday, 30 Jan 2023 2:00 PM - Zoom

## Our Members Say

As our amazing Social Committee begins 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.

Our Christmas Luncheon was held on December 14th with 242 members in attendance. The venue, the food and most certainly the entertainment were a huge hit. Just listen to what our members had to say about it:

*"Such talent! So much fun!"* Jan Herdman

*"He was the best!"* Deborah Barbisan

*"Christmas lunch was a wonderful event ... food excellent, service excellent and terrific entertainment..thank you to the volunteers who made it happen..Happy Holidays"* Lynda Borg

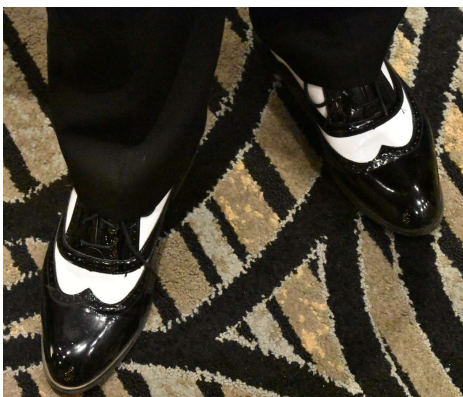
*"Love It!"* Heidi Linton

*"Absolutely wonderful!"* Jan Copithorn

*"Thank you so much!"* Donna Bell

*"Fabulous event. Thank you so much to the awesome volunteers"* Karen Howchin

*"I need to find a pair of those shoes. Elvis certainly knows how to dress"* Valerie Rodriques





Then there was the construction and decorating of a Gingerbread House:

*"They were all amazing. Great talent in the room"* Pauline Field

*"And none of them fell apart"* Linda Black



And we can't forget the great day spent touring Port Dover & Simcoe County.

*"Enjoyed the Simcoe Panoramic Lights. Fabulous dinner at Erie Beach Hotel"* Valerie Rodriques

*"Great day and a delicious meal"* Ann Eriksson

*"Had a wonderful time exploring the area!"* Helen Van Vliet





For 12 days in December, at 9am each morning, a name was drawn in the 12 Days of Christmas Wine Event. And our winners were:

Day	Winner	# Bottles	Day	Winner	# Bottles
1	Heather Hills	3	7	Vivian Pinkowski	7
2	Claude Rochefort	4	8	Kornilia Varadas	8
3	Ron Groom	5	9	June Stephens	9
4	Geoff Cutten	5	10	Lyn Capps	10
5	Gloria Rowe	6	11	Darlene Johnson	12
6	Ornella Straub	7	12	AND THE WINNER IS	24



Lynn Stanley - Congratulations!  
Guess what her family got for Christmas!

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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## Interesting Info About New Year's

January 1st has been considered the start of the new year since the reign of Julius Caesar. The Senate at the time decided to adopt the Egyptian calendar which was a simple one of 365 days with an extra day every fourth year in order to make up for the drift of the vernal equinox. The Julian calendar was named after the god Janus who had two faces, one looking ahead to the future and the other looking back to the past.



New Year is celebrated first in the Republic of Kiribati, a series of islands and atolls in the Central Pacific. Kiribati is the only country in the world to be situated in all four cardinal hemispheres. The last place to celebrate New Year is American Samoa which is located in the South Pacific Ocean.

The first gathering at Times Square on New Year's Eve was held in 1904 with over 200,000 in attendance. This inaugural bash commemorated the official opening of the new headquarters of The New York Times. The newspaper's owner successfully lobbied the city to rename Longacre Square to Times Square. The stroke of midnight was celebrated with a display of fireworks until 1907 when fireworks were banned in the square.

The 'Time' ball has been dropped in Times Square every year, beginning in 1907, except 1942 and 1943 due to the wartime "dimout" of lights in New York City. Instead, people partied but offered a moment of silence on New Year's Eve.

Gaetano Alberto (Guy) Lombardo, who was born in London, Ontario in 1902 was the first person to host the broadcast of the Times Square New Year's Eve Party. Before Dick Clark, the Times Square New Year's Eve Party was hosted by Guy Lombardo and the Royal Canadians.

The famous song Auld Lang Syne, written in 1788, is attributed to the national poet of Scotland, Robert Burns. It was the Canadian-born bandleader Guy Lombardo that helped make "Auld Lang Syne" a New Year's Eve tradition in North America. His band, the Royal Canadians, played the song at the turn of the new year in a series of popular radio (and later television) broadcasts that began on December 31, 1929, and continued for more than 30 years.

In 1972, Dick Clark began his famous live New Year's Rockin' Eve Special filmed in Time Square. The show was such a success that it became a New Year's Eve staple with Ryan Seacrest taking over the reins in 2005.

When the ball drops and the clock strikes midnight in Times Square, a blizzard of confetti blankets the sky filled with the hopes and dreams of people around the world. The confetti is referred to as "wishfetti". People are encouraged to write down their wishes for the new year on pieces of confetti either online or in person in Times Square at a spot aptly named Wishing Wall on the Broadway Plaza between 43rd and 47th Street. According to the organizers of the event "Submitting a confetti wish gives everyone the ability to be a part of the magic that happens on New Year's Eve in Times Square". At least 3,000 pounds of confetti is dropped in Times Square each year.

In 1981, red light bulbs and a green stem converted the New Year's Eve Ball into an apple for the "I Love New York" marketing campaign that referred to New York as "The Big Apple". In 1988, the ball returned to its classic look.

The tradition of a kiss at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve originated with the Scottish. The tradition travelled around the world and came to America with the arrival of German immigrants in the 1800s. One early printed mention in 1863 of German revelers notes that "hearty kisses" were passed around at the stroke of midnight.

The tradition of champagne on New Year's Eve is hard to credit, but since the day of Julius Caesar, the arrival of the new year has been celebrated with drinks and parties. Although all kinds of alcohol were used to celebrate these special days, by the early 1900's, champagne became the traditional drink on New Year's Eve. It is estimated that over 360 million glasses of champagne or sparkling wine are consumed on New Year's Eve alone.

The Times Square Ball is located in New York City's Times Square. Located on the roof of One Times Square, the ball is a prominent part of the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square. The first 'Time' ball was dropped on New Year's Eve in 1907, after a ban was made on fireworks for the celebration. The ball's design has been updated four times to reflect improvements in lighting technology. The original ball was 5 feet in diameter, constructed from wood and iron, and illuminated with 100 incandescent light bulbs. By contrast, the current ball is 12 feet in diameter, and uses over 32,000 LED lamps. Since 1999-2000, the ball has featured an outer surface consisting of triangular panels manufactured by Waterford Crystal, which contain inscriptions representing a yearly theme. To date, there has been 9 different themes. The design theme for 2023 is 'Gift of Love'. Past themes have included 'Gift of Wisdom, Gift of Happiness,

Gift of Goodwill, Gift of Harmon, Gift of Serenity, Gift of Kindness, Gift of Wonder and Gift of Fortitude. For more information, you can check out [www.timessquareball.net](http://www.timessquareball.net).

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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)**