



March 2023

### Message from the President

So we are two thirds of the way through winter, the days are getting longer and I'm hopeful that March will bring some daffodils, some double digit temperatures and other signs of the upcoming Spring and Summer seasons.



Our February Meeting was a pretty stressful time for your Management team. It was with horror that we discovered 5 mins before the meeting was due to start that the microphone wasn't working. However, despite that setback I think we muddled through it very well and I want to thank all in attendance for your help with this.

We also tried something different with a '*Make a New Friend*' theme. By all accounts it went well and I hope some of you did in fact make a new friend after we randomly assigned you a table. We had 2 'ice-breakers' to try and help you do that: a Canadian Trivia Contest and a Survey.

Judging by the noise in the room, the Trivia part clearly got people on each table interacting and talking to each other and I think it was well received with fist pumps and cheers coming from various tables when they got a correct answer. The questions seemed to have the right degree of difficulty as well. No table got all 12 answers, 1 table got 11 correct and 11 tables got 7 or more correct. We will definitely do another such session in the future.



One constant area of discussion at all our Management Team Meetings is our membership numbers and last month we hit a significant milestone after welcoming our 400th member. Although the biggest club in Canada has 600 members, we are still one of the largest in Canada and indeed the world. Most clubs have around 150-200 members by comparison.

One of the reasons we can support this many members is having the Wild Apricot system in place which handles all the administrative aspects of the club and its various events and activities very well. Another is that we (usually) have the use of the salons in the Rec Center for our meetings and this can hold 500 people so we don't have any space issues in that regard.

Having 400 members brings opportunities and problems. Having such a large pool of members, pretty much all of whom have a very interesting history if you get to know them, provides a very deep pool of talent available to run a variety of activities and interest groups. We currently have well over 40 volunteers running a great variety of events and activities, all of which make our club so vibrant. I can pretty much say with certainty that no other club has so much to offer on a day to day basis as Lakeside does, be it a PROBUS club or otherwise..



However, having 400 members also represents challenges for the organizers of events where attendance is limited. Restaurants and theaters often limit how many people can attend in one sitting and buses only have so many seats, etc. So we are finding more and more that these types of events fill up very quickly. When they do, we can sometimes arrange a 2nd sitting or another bus but sometimes we can't. So we are making some changes and we need your help.

In the past we have always allowed members to bring 1 guest to every one of our events, meetings and activities. This not only allowed a member to register their spouse or partner who is also a member but also it served as a means of advertising our club to potential new members who could attend with a friend. At our last Management Team meeting we agreed to change this. In future for any activity or event where attendance is limited you will no longer be able to bring a guest, at least not when the event is first advertised. This means that for these events, all members must register independently,

We also want to stress how important it is for you to use the Wild Apricot system. If you want to attend an event, you must register beforehand (no walk-ins please); and if you go to register and find the event is full, then join the waitlist (if there are enough people on the waitlist we may be able to get more tickets/seats etc.); and if you are registered and find that you can no longer participate, then please cancel your registration. It is very important that our volunteers have the right attendance information at all times to properly manage their events. Your cooperation with this is much appreciated.

So what else does March have in store for us? Well March 8th is International Women's Day (funny I thought every day was Women's Day!). Then on March 12th the Clocks 'spring forward'; March 17th is St Patrick's Day and on March 20th we get the Spring Equinox. We also get the Ides of March on the 15th and being a curious soul I googled that. In the earliest calendar, the Ides of March would have been the

first full moon of the new year and so wasn't always on the 15th. Of course In modern times, the Ides of March is best known as the date on which Julius Caesar was assassinated in the Senate. It was also significant 4 years later when his successor, Octavian, used this day to execute 300 senators as an act of revenge. Beware the Ides of March indeed!

Take Care, [Peter](#)

### Members' Survey Says...

The survey part of our 'ice-breakers' on Feb 15th, generated a lot of useful information for our Management team and our volunteers. Most importantly, the results were pretty much 100% positive about the job all our club's volunteers are doing. So thanks for that.

With regards to events, some of the favourites listed were our Xmas lunches, our St. Patrick's Day event last March, the Bruce Bell walking tours, and our Prince Edward County Wine Tour and Niagara Casino visits. So wine & gambling are in - Got it!

For future events there was a lot of interest for more theater trips, including to other theaters like Port Hope and weekend or multi-day outings to the Shaw/Stratford, etc. Another Tall Ship event was suggested along with several requests for boat trips (1000 Island etc.). ROM and other special Museum events were listed a few times and a couple of tables suggested sporting events like Tennis and Raptors or Blue Jays games. There was also a lot of interest in cruises and extended trips to places like Newfoundland, Quebec and various European destinations.

With regard to Activities, euchre, trivia, bowling, walking/hiking, golf and our various restaurant visits were the most popular. Suggestions for other activities included Pickleball or Pickleball training, some variations on our walking activities (shorter & Nordic pole). Gardening, parties/dances, a Cineplex night, a pub night and cooking classes were mentioned - and of course, so was wine tasting! There was not a lot of interest expressed for evening or weekend activities.

Some of the favorite speakers were Lianne Harris (or the Fairy Story Lady as a couple of tables referred to her), Mike Daley, Dr. Rector (Canadian Inventions) and Barbara Dickson (Bomb Girls). A few tables also liked Nick French (Heart Surgery and the Titanic) but as he resides in South Africa I don't think we will be able to invite him back any time soon. For future speaker topics there was a lot of interest in maybe getting in some Authors and speakers on historical and travel related subjects. A few tables also suggested adding some Health/Medicine/Ageing topics - so for those people don't forget to register for our March Meeting. Finally, there was great support for occasionally having an entertainer (comedian, singer, magician, etc.) instead of a speaker.

The feedback about our Communication was universally positive with a few tables suggesting that we find ways to zoom or live stream our meetings for those who cannot attend in person.

The Management team and all our Volunteers thank you for this feedback and want you to know we have taken it all in and we are on it!!

If you have any feedback about this survey, the results or the 'Make a new Friend' theme in general, [please let us know](#)

## Membership Report



PROBUS Pickering Lakeside would like to welcome 18 new members that joined recently: Cheryl Persaud, Barb Nelson, Amina Odabashian, Al Potvin, Chantal O'Sullivan, Brent Collett, Gayle Feeny, Carla Tyo, Larry Tyo, Sharon Stoute, Paul Purcell, Deb Stefanazzi, William Nelson, Anton Bertram, Joan Friel, Alda Siksna, Jane Ngimat and Wendy

MacPherson. This brings our club total to 400.

I have a number of badges for new members. Please come see me at the next meeting to pick up your badge. Yes, we are still taking on new members at this time, but only for Pickering residents.

[Sharon](#)

## Speakers Report

First off I want to thank everybody for the way we were able to handle our microphone crisis at the last meeting. I was very upset when I learned that we did not have any audio equipment for our speaker but luckily Dr. Chris DiCarlo had a voice that carried extremely well. I also want to thank everybody in attendance for making sure your phones were turned off and not holding any conversations during the presentation,

We also had a bonus speaker on Zoom last month, on the subject of tax credits. Afterwards, the speaker, Jeremy Bertrand, shared a bunch of tax tips and credits information with us. These are now on our website for those who missed it.



For our March Meeting, which is only 8 days away by the way, we are doing something a bit different. Instead of having a speaker with a prepared topic and slide deck etc. we have Matthew Anderson, the President and CEO of

Ontario Health visiting with us. Yes, that's right, the President & CEO of Ontario Health!!

I think we all know that Healthcare is not what it used to be and I'm sure we all have some horror stories to tell of having to wait months for appointments and hours in waiting rooms etc. I think we also realize that Healthcare will probably never be the way it was ever again and that changes are necessary. So I think his talk to us will be eye-opening and maybe a bit scary. Having said that, I believe that Matt is a Healthcare Professional in every sense of the word. He is doing a very tough and important job and I hope everyone in attendance will recognize that and show due respect. Click [here](#) to register to hear Matt talk.



[Laura](#)

## Events

What a fabulous night we had at the Regent Theatre enjoying **Jersey Nights!** We then enjoyed an amazing Italian dinner at Avanti's Ristorante.



On February 27<sup>th</sup> we went to have a tour at the **Pickering Nuclear Power Plant** and we learnt a lot about our Nuclear Power Plant. A second date has also been scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup>. There are still spots available for this one. Sign up today. This event is free.

March 25<sup>th</sup> is a **SOLD-OUT** event as we go to see **AbbaMania**. I know I am really looking forward to this one. For those of you attending we will be going to Wendel Clark's Classic Grill and Bar for dinner. Let me know if you want to attend.

On April 27<sup>th</sup> we are heading to **Niagara Fallsview Casino**. We have filled two buses with just a few spots remaining. Cost is \$40.00. You will receive \$35.00 in Slot Play.

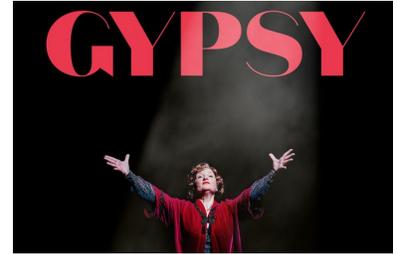
Time for some theatre – May 7<sup>th</sup> - **Herongate Barn Theatre** where we will see "There Goes the Bride". Tickets are \$72.00. They are selling fast. Register now so you don't miss out on this show.



Next, we have the **Georgian Bay Boat Cruise** on June 19th. We will take a luxury coach bus and head to Penetanguishene! We will board the Georgian Legacy for a 2¾ hour cruise through the many inlets and islands. While cruising we will enjoy a buffet lunch. Cost is \$155.00 which includes everything. (Excludes alcoholic beverages)

Another date to keep in mind is July 10th. We will be heading to **Niagara-on-the-Lake** to tour a Lavender farm along with two wineries for tastings and a tour. Lunch will be included as well. This event is still a work in progress. Stay tuned - more details to come.

**SAVE THE DATE:** September 20th - **Shaw Festival** – Gypsy Rose Lee was the world’s most famous striptease artist; Momma Rose the ultimate stage mother. Follow their extraordinary story in Stephen Sondheim’s timeless musical about sex, power and longing. With legendary songs, including “Let Me Entertain You” and “Everything’s Coming up Roses,” **Gypsy** remains the greatest American musical.



Do you have any suggestions that you think would be a fun event for us? Send an email to: [valerie\\_rodrigues@bell.net](mailto:valerie_rodrigues@bell.net).

[Valerie](#)

## Meet our new Team Member



My name is Patricia Smith Robertson. I answer to both Patricia and Pat and that seems to keep everybody happy. About my surname, I changed it legally several years ago. Long story, enough said. I retired in July of 2021 and with the encouragement of a good friend who was already a member, joined Probus Pickering Lakeside immediately. This is one of the best decisions I've ever made. What a great club this is and I'm thrilled to be part of it! I hope to use my experience to assist the Management Team as a Member-at-Large in any way possible. Cheers!

## The Social Scene

We have some new activities for you to check out.

**Strategic Games:** Are you interested in playing games of strategy, fantasy based adventure, or war games? Ron Windsor is heading up this new activity. The group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. First session is on March 9<sup>th</sup> - Come out for an afternoon of fun!

**Lunch after the Monthly Meeting:** Lunch at Perkins following the February Monthly meeting was a great success. There was a good turnout, good food, good service, and of course good company. Vicki has agreed to arrange another lunch for those who would like to go out after the March Monthly Meeting (March 8<sup>th</sup>).

Back by popular demand: **In the Kitchen.** In March we have Barb showing us how to make her special spaghetti sauce. If you have a recipe you would like to demonstrate to other members please get in touch: [PPLC.social@gmail.com](mailto:PPLC.social@gmail.com)



**Skating:** There are only a few weeks left in the skating season, nonetheless come out for a skate. We are going once a week (except during March break), on various days to accommodate schedules. If there is enough interest we will start it up again in September when the rinks re-open for public skating.

**In the works:** Going to the movies (in person) – Susan and Nancy will be heading up this activity. We are trying to figure out the logistics on this one. Wine Tasting – something should be coming out soon. We are also thinking about a Gardening club if there is enough interest.

Below are the interest groups that we currently have and at the end of this newsletter you will find a calendar of all our events this month. Click on any blue text to register.

Ideas? Suggestions? Questions? Comments? Feedback? You can reach us at: [PPLC.social@gmail.com](mailto:PPLC.social@gmail.com)

[Julia](#)

## Groups - Crafts, Culture & Chat

 <p><b><a href="#">Arts &amp; Crafts</a></b> Click the group name to check on upcoming activities</p> <p><a href="#">Linda Black</a></p>	 <p><b><a href="#">In Stitches</a></b> 3rd Monday of the month</p> <p><a href="#">Fran Sancroft</a> &amp; <a href="#">Elaine Phipps</a></p>
 <p><b><a href="#">Not a Book Club</a></b> 2nd Tuesday of the month</p> <p><a href="#">Lynne Stewart</a></p>	 <p><b><a href="#">Cover to Cover Book Club</a></b> Last Monday of the month - there is a wait list for this group</p> <p><a href="#">Pauline Field</a></p>
 <p><b><a href="#">Movie Club</a></b> 1st Monday of the month</p> <p><a href="#">Elaine Phipps</a></p>	 <p><b><a href="#">Lakesides Ladies Let's Talk</a></b> 1st Friday of the month</p> <p><a href="#">Lynne Stewart</a></p>

## Groups - Food & Drink



**Lakeside Happy Hour**  
Click the group name to  
check for the next one

[Gail Gobeil](#)



**Lakeside Ladies  
Lunch**  
Click the group name  
to check  
[Gail Gobeil](#)



**Breakfast Out**  
3rd Monday of the month

[Susan Simpson](#)



**Tastes of the World**  
Click the group  
name to check  
[Maureen Kelly](#) &  
[Virginia McKay](#)

## Groups - Games



**Bridge**  
Check our website for  
venues, dates and times.

[Peter Green](#)



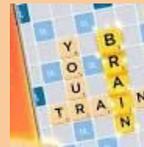
**Crack the Case**  
4th Wednesday of the  
month

[Roy Pettitt](#)



**Euchre**  
The 1st and 3rd Thursday of  
the month

[Nancy Agostino](#)



**Scrabble**  
Last Friday of the month

[Marilyn McLaughlin](#)



**Trivia**  
4th Tuesday of the month

[Peter Green](#) & [Roy Pettitt](#)

## Groups - Physical Activities



**Billiards**  
The 2nd and 4th Friday  
of each month

[Bill Phipps](#)



**Bowling**  
1st Monday of the  
month

[Gail Gobeil](#)



**Lakeside Walking  
Group**  
Every Tuesday

[Lynda Borg](#) & [Barb  
McGrath](#)



**Lakeside Hiking  
Group**  
Every Other Friday

[Jeff Bowers](#)

## A Little Humour:

Walter took his wife Ethel to the state fair every year and every time he would say to her, "Ethel, you know that I'd love to go for a ride in that helicopter." But Ethel would always reply, "I know that Walter, but that helicopter ride is 50 bucks and 50 bucks is 50 bucks."

Finally, they went to the fair, and Walter said to Ethel, "Ethel, you know I'm 87 years old now. If I don't ride that helicopter this year, I may never get another chance." Once again Ethel replied, "Walter, you know that helicopter is 50 bucks and 50 bucks is 50 bucks."

This time the helicopter pilot overheard the couple's conversation and said, "Listen folks, I'll make a deal with you. I'll take both of you for a ride; if you can both stay quiet for the entire ride and not say a word I won't charge you! But if you say just one word, it's 50 bucks."

Walter and Ethel agreed and up they went in the helicopter. The pilot performed all kinds of fancy moves and tricks, but not a word was said by either Walter or Ethel. The pilot did his death-defying tricks over and over again, but still there wasn't so much as one word said. When they finally landed, the pilot turned to Walter and said, "Wow! I've



got to hand it to you. I did everything I could to get you to scream or shout out, but you didn't. I'm really impressed!"

Walter replied, "Well to be honest I almost said something when Ethel fell out but, you know, 50 bucks is 50 bucks!"

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What does Charles Dickens keep in his spice rack?  
The best of thymes, the worst of thymes.

What's the difference between a cat and a comma?  
A cat has claws at the end of paws; a comma is a pause at the end of a clause.

What is an astronaut's favourite part on a computer?  
The space bar.

Why do bees have sticky hair?  
Because they use honeycombs.

Why did the M&M go to school?  
It wanted to be a Smartie.

**Your Management Team:**



**President - Peter Green**  
([pplc.president@gmail.com](mailto:pplc.president@gmail.com))

**Vice-President & Events - Valerie Rodrigues**  
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**Treasurer - Peter Davidson**  
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**Chair, Social Committee - Julia Tonks**  
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**Speakers Coord - Laura Green**  
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**Member-at-Large - Patricia (Pat) Smith Robertson**  
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**Member-at-Large - Gail Gobeil**  
([gail\\_gobeil@msn.com](mailto:gail_gobeil@msn.com))



## Your Club Calendar: March 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <a href="#">Taste of the World - Mumbay Grill Restaurant</a>	2 <a href="#">Euchre</a>	3 <a href="#">Lakeside Ladies Let's Talk</a>	4
5	6 <a href="#">Pickering Nuclear Power Station Tour</a>  <a href="#">Bowling</a>  <a href="#">Movie Club</a>	7 <a href="#">Weekly Walking Group - Heber Downs, Whitby</a>  <a href="#">Skating</a>	8 <a href="#">March Members Monthly Meeting</a>	9 <a href="#">The Old Curiosity Tea Shop</a>  <a href="#">Strategic Board Games</a>	10 <a href="#">Biweekly Hike - Beare Hill Park</a>  <a href="#">Not a Book Club</a>  <a href="#">Billiards</a>	11
12 	13	14 <a href="#">Weekly Walking Group - Ajax Rotary Park, Ajax</a>  <a href="#">Crack the Case</a>	15 <a href="#">Lakeside Ladies Lunch - Portly Piper</a>	16 <a href="#">Euchre</a>	17 	18
19	20 <a href="#">Breakfast at Kathryn's</a> <a href="#">Skating</a> <a href="#">In Stitches Club</a>  It's Spring!!! 	21 <a href="#">Weekly Walking Group - Beachpoint Promenade</a>	22 <a href="#">Happy Hour at Moxies</a>	23 <a href="#">Bird Quilling Class</a>  <a href="#">Strategic Board Games</a>  <a href="#">In the Kitchen</a>	24 <a href="#">Biweekly Hike - Rouge Park - Orchard/Vista Trails, Scarborough</a>  <a href="#">Billiards</a>	25 <a href="#">Abbamania &amp; Night Fever</a>
26	27 <a href="#">Cover to Cover Book Club</a>	28 <a href="#">Weekly Walking Group - Greenwood Conservation Area</a>  <a href="#">Trivia</a>  <a href="#">Taste of the World</a>	29 <a href="#">Skating</a>	30	31	