



January 2024

### Message from the President

I hope everybody had a good holiday season with friends and family. We certainly did and it was especially nice that December was so mild. Now 2024 awaits and hopefully there will be less turmoil in the world than last year. Did you make any resolutions? If yes, good luck with that!

2023 was a great year for our club. We took on over 150 new members and grew to such an extent that we have now capped our membership. Potential members are now asked to join a waitlist and will be enrolled only when somebody else leaves. We are also restricting any future memberships to Pickering residents only.

To top off such a great year we finished with a very successful Christmas Luncheon. 300 members attended and I think everybody agreed it was a tremendous success despite the power blackout. It was such a well-organized event as well and so I want to thank:

- **Candice Blake** for her overall leadership.
- The following members who either donated prizes or helped out in the pre-event planning and/or during the event itself. Many thanks and well done to: **Erika Winfrow, Gail Gobeil, Gudrun Franc, Janet Fleming, Jim & Susan Hinnecke, Julia Tonks, Kimberly Edwards, Lyn & Robin Capps, Mary & Clive Bennett, Nancy Agostino, Pat & Terry Martell, Pauline Field, Peter Davidson, Sandra Smith, Scott Smith, Valerie Rodrigues, Virginia McKay, & Wendy Swerbrick** – some of whom are pictured below and in the Christmas Luncheon section. I sincerely hope I didn't miss anybody and if I did then my apologies!



I also want to give special 'shout outs' to:

- The local businesses who donated door prizes.
- The facility staff who kept on serving food during the power outage - and I saw into the kitchen - it was a total blackout in there!
- The 'Elvises' for waiting out the power cut and delivering an extra special performance afterwards.
- **Laura Green** for her initiative in enabling the club to support the local Food Bank in this seasonal time of giving. Through the generosity of all attendees in fully participating in our Share the Wealth program, Laura was able to provide a \$1,325 donation to the Food Bank from the club as a result and I think we should all be proud of that.



So the club is now officially 5 years old. I looked back at our [Charter document](#) that recognized us as club #264 in Canada and discovered it was dated December 22nd, 2018. Our first meeting as a chartered club was on January 17th, 2019 and we had 84 members at that time. These are our Charter Members and the rest, as they say, is history.

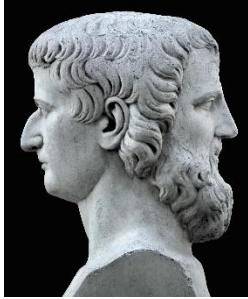
Because of the dates mentioned above, our operating year has always been the same as the calendar year and, as such, our next meeting will also be our Annual General Meeting. At this meeting we will present annual financial and membership reports, a 2024 budget and most importantly, our management Team for 2024 will be formalized.

In accordance with our Bylaws, a Nominating Committee was established in November to determine what Management Team positions might need filling and to start the process to fill them. I want to thank the Leader of this Committee, **Greg Garber**, and his team of **Julia Tonks, Gail Gobeil, Nancy Agostino, Patricia Smith Robertson & Valerie Rodrigues** for successfully completing their assignment. The full text of their report is included below but I want to highlight the following:

- The team is largely unchanged and there are no vacancies to be filled at this time. This is especially good news for me (and hopefully you as well) as they are all exceptional individuals and working with this team is so very rewarding.
- **Peter Davidson** will be remaining on the team but in a reduced role. Peter has been on the team since the beginning and has done tremendous service for 5 years now. He has earned his break but I'm thrilled that the Team will still have access to his wise counsel for another year.
- **Terri Abernethy** will be our new Treasurer and **Gail Gobeil** our VP. Thanks to both for stepping forward.
- **Patricia Smith Robertson** has stepped down from the Team for personal reasons. I thank her also for her commitment.
- The Nominating Committee was able to set the new team in place in full accordance to our current Bylaws and Position Descriptions. However, it has become apparent that while these documents were perfectly adequate for a 200 member club, they need reviewing in light of the fact that we are now a 500 member club. Reviewing these will be a priority for our team in the upcoming months and if you have any comments or suggestions about them, I would welcome your input. You can find our current Bylaws, Position Descriptions and other management documents in the ['Legal Stuff' folder](#) on our website.

- P.S. We are still looking for volunteers in non-voting roles and especially for a Club Photographer to take pictures at our monthly meetings, annual BBQ, and Christmas Luncheon - Any interest anybody?

Smile!



Finally, a couple of “Fun Facts” about January which: *“marks the beginning of a new year and a time for reflection and renewal. January’s name derives from the Roman god Janus, known for having two faces that allowed him to look backward into the past and forward into the future. This makes January the perfect time to learn from our prior experiences while envisioning the year ahead”*. Based on that definition, a lot of organizations (e.g. [Homes & Gardens](#)) have designated the start of the new year as a good time to 'de-clutter' in preparation for “[Organize your Home Day](#)” on the 14th. Sounds like a good idea to me (and yes I’m looking at you, Laura!). January is also home to “[World Logic day](#)” which could help you get ready for “[National Puzzle day](#)” on the 29th. Time to start doing some Sudokus and jigsaws maybe.

Take care,  
[Peter Green](#)

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee for the 2024 Management Team has completed its work. Those listed below have accepted our nomination for the voting positions on our 2024 Management Team. We are presenting the following team to our members as the Management Team’s nominations:

- |                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • <b>President</b>                   | Peter Green       |
| • <b>Vice-President</b>              | Gail Gobeil       |
| • <b>Treasurer</b>                   | Terri Abernethy   |
| • <b>Secretary</b>                   | Greg Garber       |
| • <b>Activities Co-ordinator</b>     | Julia Tonks       |
| • <b>House Co-ordinator</b>          | Nancy Agostino    |
| • <b>Membership Co-ordinator</b>     | Sharon McMinn     |
| • <b>Member-at-Large</b>             | Peter Davidson    |
| • <b>Newsletter / Facebook</b>       | Debbie Bilinski   |
| • <b>Speaker Co-ordinator</b>        | Laura Green       |
| • <b>Special Events Co-ordinator</b> | Valerie Rodrigues |
| • <b>Webmaster</b>                   | Scott Smith       |

Any non-voting additions to the membership team, such as assistants and/or additions/revisions to the Management Team will be addressed by a 2025 Nominating Team. It will also review and update the club by-laws as well as Management Team Job Descriptions.

This team will be formed and begin work in spring 2024 as we anticipate a significant change to the make-up of the Management Team for 2025.

[Greg Garber](#), Secretary & Chair 2024 Nominating Committee

## Membership Report

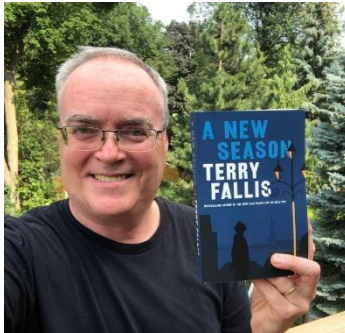
PROBUS Pickering Lakeside is happy to welcome one new member that joined recently: David Owen.

If you are wondering when your membership renewal is, you can find out in your PROBUS account. Log into your account, click on the LITTLE PERSON ICON on the top right corner of the first page and choose VIEW PROFILE. Scroll down to find the renewal date. You will receive an email three weeks prior to your renewal date to let you know it is coming due. You will receive another reminder email on the day of your renewal if it has not been paid.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you the very best in 2024.

[Sharon McMinn](#)

## Speakers Report



It's hard to follow up with the Elvises from last month but I think I've come pretty close with Terry Fallis. This will be the second time we have had Terry talk to us and the first time was way back in our 2nd meeting almost 5 years ago. I remember him as being very laid back and very humorous so I think that will be an excellent change of pace from the business part of the meeting; this being our AGM don't forget.

Terry will stay behind after his presentation to sell his books and sign them for you as well. He has 9 national bestsellers so there will certainly be something for you. See you there!

[Laura Green](#)

## Festival Of Lights Bus Trip

We had two full buses for our trip to Niagara on December 5th. We made a pit stop at Niagara-on-the-Lake for some holiday shopping. Judging from the tantalizing aroma of fudge wafting through at least one bus, the fudge store did very well by our presence! Then it was on to the Skylon Tower for dinner with a view followed by a tour of the beautiful lights. Thanks to our bus captains and their helpers for keeping us entertained with a Share the Wealth draw, door prizes and Bingo while we were on the road.





## Christmas Luncheon

What a big crowd we had for our Christmas Luncheon! We didn't expect to dine by candlelight, courtesy of the unexpected power outage, but that just added a little ambience to the lovely meal we had. Elvis was almost ready to leave the building but the power came back on just in time, and John and Mason Cigan delivered a performance we will remember. Congratulations to the winners of our 12 Days of Christmas Wine final draw, Share the Wealth and door prizes. Here are a few photo memories – with more available on our website's Photo Gallery.





## Events

As we leave 2023, we have shared some wonderful memories with all of the events we enjoyed. Now it is time to start planning for 2024.

Get in shape with 4 sessions of pickleball starting on January 19th. Cost is \$35.

Join us on February 1st where we will see Humans 2.0 at the Flato Theatre in Markham.

Tickets are still available for this event. Cost is \$55.00



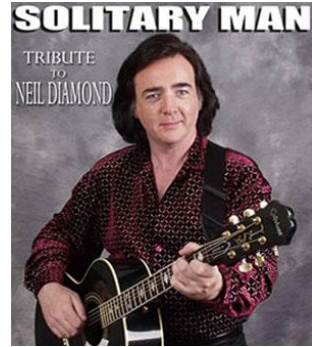
Next we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year on Thursday, February 8th at the Mandarin Restaurant. This event will be sent out shortly for registration. 70 spots have been reserved. Cost is \$32.00 which includes all taxes and gratuities.

We have also booked another show at the Regent Theatre for February 16<sup>th</sup>: Solitary Man - Neil Diamond. Stay tuned for this event.

I continue to look for new ideas for all of us to enjoy.

Wishing all of you all the best for the New Year. I look forward to sharing wonderful events with all of our members.

Do you have any suggestions that you think would be a fun event for us? Send an email to: [valerievrodrigues13@gmail.com](mailto:valerievrodrigues13@gmail.com)



[Valerie Rodrigues](#)

## MOBILE APP

Access our directory and event calendar from your mobile phone or tablet.



The app is called *Wild Apricot for Members*. You can also use it to register for events and update your contact information!

Once you have downloaded the app, sign in using the same email (logon-id) and password that you use to access the Probus Pickering Lakeside website.

Questions about the App? [Click here](#) to contact Scott, our web master.

## The Social Scene

Happy New Year!

Most of the activities are back in full swing this month. The first hike of the year will be on January 8th, with the first walk right behind it on January 9th. Euchre commences on January 18th. Bowling starts up again in February, along with Movie Club and Cocktail Hour.



This month the Ladies will be going to Lunch at Amici's. Taste of the World is staying close to home in January....going to an old favorite MacGwyers pub in Ajax.

The Arts & Crafts workshop this month is Watercolour Masking – No artistic talent required!

The December Trivia Winners - The Red Hot Trivia Peppers - donated their winnings of \$80 to the Food Bank. (Mary Innis, Gail Aziz, Steve Black and Julia Tonks; with Laura Green holding the winnings for the food bank).



Below are some of our Breakfast group regulars enjoying their December outing at Kathryn's.



Our Annual Cookie/Square Exchange was a great success. Everyone had a lot of fun, and what a variety of baked goods!



It is hard to take good pictures of this activity.....everyone always has a good time bowling at the Ajax 5 Pin Bowling Centre.

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

[Julia Tonks](#)

## Social Bridge and Bridge Bidding Lessons:

Every Thursday in the Rotary Room, Ajax Library (55 Harwood Ave. South) from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

January dates:

- January 4 - Social Bridge
- January 11 - Bridge Lesson - Topic "Minor Suit Openings and Responder with a Major Suit"
- January 18 - Social Bridge
- January 25 - Bridge Lesson - Topic "Minor Suit Opening and Responder with No Major Suit"

Note: The lessons will continue until the spring on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The lessons will build on material from previous lessons. Contact Harvey Brodhecker at: [hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca](mailto:hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca) for more information.

## Groups - Crafts, Culture & Chat



### Arts & Crafts

Click the group name to check

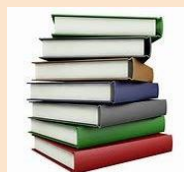
[Linda Black](#)



### In Stitches

3rd Monday of the month

[Fran Sancroft](#) & [Elaine Phipps](#)



### Not a Book Club

2nd Friday of the month

[Elaine Phipps](#)



### Cover to Cover Book Club

Last Monday of the month

[Pauline Field](#)



### Movie Club

1st Monday of the month

[Elaine Phipps](#)



### Lakesides Ladies Let's Talk

1st Friday of the month

[Janet Babcock](#)

## Groups - Food & Drink



### Lakeside Happy Hour

Click the group name to check







[Gail Gobeil](#)



### Lakeside Ladies Lunch

3rd Wednesday of the month

[Gail Gobeil](#)

 <p><b><u>Breakfast Out</u></b> 3rd Monday of the month</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Susan Simpson</u></a></p>	 <p><b><u>Tastes of the World</u></b> Last Tuesday of the month</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Maureen Kelly</u></a> &amp; <a href="#"><u>Virginia McKay</u></a></p>
 <p><b><u>In the Kitchen</u></b> 4th Thursday of the month</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Elaine Phipps</u></a></p>	
<p><b>Groups - Games</b></p>	
 <p><b><u>Bridge</u></b> Check our website for venues, dates and times.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Peter Green</u></a></p>	 <p><b><u>Euchre</u></b> The 1st &amp; 3rd Thursday of the month</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Nancy Agostino</u></a></p>
 <p><b><u>Scrabble</u></b> Last Friday of the month</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Marilyn McLaughlin</u></a></p>	 <p><b><u>Trivia</u></b> 4th Tuesday of the month</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Peter Green</u></a> &amp; <a href="#"><u>Roy Pettitt</u></a></p>
<p><b>Groups - Physical Activities</b></p>	
 <p><b><u>Billiards</u></b> The 2nd and 4th Friday of the month</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Bill Phipps</u></a></p>	 <p><b><u>Bowling</u></b> 1st Monday of the month</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Gail Gobeil</u></a></p>
 <p><b><u>Lakeside Walking Group</u></b> Every Tuesday</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Lynda Borg</u></a> &amp; <a href="#"><u>Barb McGrath</u></a></p>	 <p><b><u>Lakeside Hiking Group</u></b> Click the group name to check</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Jeff Bowers</u></a></p>

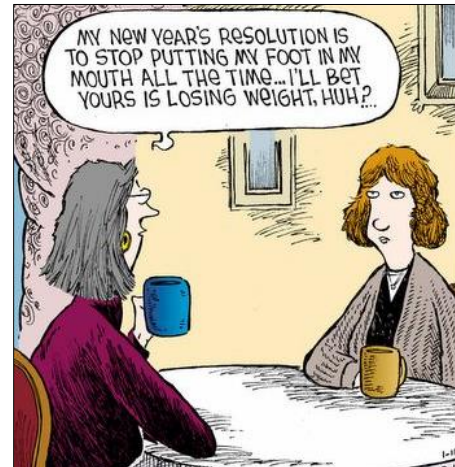
## A Little Humour:

### A New Year's Day Prayer for One and All:

Dear Lord,

So far this year I've done well. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help.

Amen



### Your Management Team:



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

**Vice-President & Events - Valerie Rodrigues**  
([valerievrodrigues13@gmail.com](mailto:valerievrodrigues13@gmail.com))

**Treasurer – Peter Davidson**  
([pplc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:pplc.treasurer@gmail.com))

**Secretary - Greg Garber**  
([pplc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:pplc.secretary@gmail.com))

**Membership Coordinator - Sharon McMinn**  
([mcminnsharon67@gmail.com](mailto:mcminnsharon67@gmail.com))

**Chair, Social Committee - Julia Tonks**  
([pplc.social@gmail.com](mailto:pplc.social@gmail.com))

**Speakers Coordinator - Laura Green**  
([pplc.speakers@gmail.com](mailto:pplc.speakers@gmail.com))

**House Coordinator - Nancy Agostino**  
([nancyagostino2@gmail.com](mailto:nancyagostino2@gmail.com))

**Webmaster - Scott Smith**  
([pplc.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:pplc.webmaster@gmail.com))

**Facebook & Newsletter Coordinator - Debbie Bilinski**  
([pplc.fbmgmt@gmail.com](mailto:pplc.fbmgmt@gmail.com))

**Member-at-Large - Gail Gobeil**  
([gail\\_gobeil@msn.com](mailto:gail_gobeil@msn.com))

**Member-at-Large – Patricia (Pat) Smith Robertson**  
([pplc.memberatlarge@gmail.com](mailto:pplc.memberatlarge@gmail.com))

happy new year

## Your Club Calendar: January 2024

happy new year

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3	4	5 <a href="#">Lakeside Ladies Let's Talk</a>	6
7	8 <a href="#">Lakeside Hike</a>	9 <a href="#">Walking Group</a>	10 <a href="#">Members Monthly Meeting &amp; AGM</a>  <a href="#">Lunch after Monthly Meeting</a>	11 <a href="#">Strategic Board Games</a>	12 <a href="#">Not a Book Club</a>  <a href="#">Billiards</a>	13
14	15 <a href="#">Breakfast at Kathryn's</a>  <a href="#">Lakeside Hike</a>  <a href="#">In Stitches Club</a>  <a href="#">Watercolour Masking Workshop</a>	16 <a href="#">Walking Group</a>  <a href="#">Wine Tasting Group</a>	17 <a href="#">Lakeside Ladies Lunch</a>	18 <a href="#">Euchre</a>	19 <a href="#">Pickleball (session 1 of 4)</a>	20
21	22 <a href="#">Lakeside Hike</a>	23 <a href="#">Walking Group</a>  <a href="#">Trivia</a>  <a href="#">Tastes of the World</a>	24	25 <a href="#">Strategic Board Games</a>  <a href="#">In the Kitchen</a>	26 <a href="#">Pickleball (session 2 of 4)</a>  <a href="#">Billiards</a>	27
28	29 <a href="#">Lakeside Hike</a>  <a href="#">Cover to Cover Book Club</a>	30 <a href="#">Walking Group</a>	31			