



April 2024

Message from the President

Happy Easter everyone, and it's nice to officially be past winter and into Spring now isn't it? Laura and I are now back in Canada after five weeks cruising around New Zealand and Australia. It was a great trip but maybe a bit too much. Then the oh-so-long journey home was especially excruciating and took quite a while to recover from.



Most of our Management Team who were also escaping winter these last few weeks are now back as well, so we are pleased to be able to resume issuing this Newsletter after our one month hiatus. I think it is a great tribute to the Management Team and all our wonderful volunteers that club operations continued so smoothly without us.



One bit of good news we received last month was that our application for a City of Pickering Community Grant was approved for the fifth year in a row. This will enable us to continue to use the city's facilities for the next twelve months and hence keep our membership fee at the same low level for the year. I would like to formally thank the City for their incredible and ongoing support of our club.

Now that our finances are secure, I want to turn my attention to reviewing our Club's Bylaws. It's been three years or so since they were last reviewed, and at that time we had a membership of around 300. So I think it is especially important that we review the bylaws now that we are a 500 member club. For those who might be interested, [our current Bylaws are on our website](#) and if you have any thoughts or suggestions about them [please let me know](#).

As well as being Easter Monday, today is also April Fool's Day. I hope none of you were victims of any pranks but the idea has always intrigued me, so [here](#) or [here](#) are listings of the most outrageous pranks in history. Enjoy!

So what else is happening this month? Well one of the most important things is that the weather will continue to improve each day. Traditionally, April sees the average daily

temperature improve by 7 degrees over the month. The days will also get a bit longer; by about 2.5 minutes each day in fact.



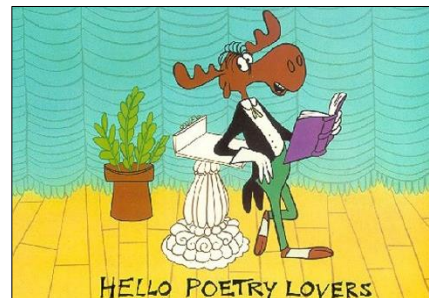
Then on April 22nd, the world will celebrate [Earth Day](#). This 'Day' was first established in 1970 and ultimately led to the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency. Earth Day gets more and more important and relevant each year, and for 2024, their theme is "Planet vs. Plastics"; which seems especially significant right now. The City of Pickering has actually designated April as Earth Month and there are numerous ways we can all get involved locally. Check out the [City's Earth Month](#) site for more information and, if anybody is interested in getting our club involved somehow, please let me know asap.

On a lighter note, April is also [National Poetry Month](#) so I'll wrap this up with a poem:

The social organization called PROBUS
Is about friendliness without any fuss
Although some members can be mischievous!

OK - I'll stick to my day job.

Take care,
[Peter Green](#)



Membership Report

I am slowly giving out membership badges for those of you who joined in the past year. If you are unable to make it to a meeting, have a friend pick it up for you.

Want to pay your membership renewal early or find out when your renewal is? Members who are going away may use the person icon link to pay an early renewal. In your PROBUS account, there is a person icon on the main page, top right-hand corner. Click that icon. A drop-down menu indicates VIEW PROFILE. When that opens up, there is a membership card and under that is your membership info. Click the blue link that reads RENEW TO (and your renewal date). Follow the directions and you will be able to pay your renewal fee for the next year.

Recently, we have welcomed eight new members: David Owen, Debbie Chistof, Bob Darlow, Marie Billinger, Marjorie Seymour, Susan Haines, Heather Gerroir and Maria Milner.

[Sharon McMinn](#)



Speakers Report

So here I am back in Canada finally and I'm interested in hearing how the last two speakers that I missed were. Feel free to reach out and let me know if you enjoyed Eileen Kennedy and Darryl Rice. I have actually heard from a few people that Darryl was exceptional so I have already reached out to him to do another talk in 2025. Stay tuned!

Of course, one of the outcomes from the last meeting was that I learned that we will have to put our April meeting back one week. Speakers are hard to find, and I usually have to book them well in advance, so learning this while off the coast of Australia was somewhat concerning. So much so, that I had to put my Espresso Martini aside and get on email right away. Fortunately, our next Speaker, Katie Overstrom, was able to rearrange her schedule for us, and so the crisis was averted (and I had another martini to celebrate). Katie will now be talking to us on the 17th about the ROM and I hope to see you there.



[Laura Green](#)

February & March Meetings

We had a great turnout for our February meeting. Our guest speaker, Eileen Kennedy, told us about all of the film activity in Durham, its economic benefits, and all of the work that goes into putting our region on the film map.



At our March meeting, Constable Darryl Rice held our attention with his comprehensive and informative presentation about online safety and how to protect ourselves from fraud and scams.



March Monthly Meeting Follow up - Fraud Prevention:

As requested - here are links to the relevant pages on the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) website for information on fraud prevention and scams:

- [Fraud-and-financial-crimes](#)
- [Fraud-prevention-month-new-scam-targeting-seniors-hitting-durham-region](#)

Events

Our latest Pickleball graduates (pictured here) are now ready to be unleashed on an unsuspecting world after completing their four week session of lessons in February. Congratulations to all!



On March 16th, members enjoyed the Solitary Man show (tribute to Neil Diamond) at the Regent Theatre. These shows have proven to be very popular so we have booked tickets for

the Jimmy Buffet - Escape to Margaritaville show on July 7th (sold out – waitlist only) as well as the Elton Rohn show (Elton John tribute) on September 15th. Tickets are still available for this show and are \$53 each. Get yours soon before they are gone!

We'll be going to see the Blue Jays play the Yankees at the Rogers Centre on April 17th. Tickets are sold out but you can join the waitlist in case a spot becomes available.

On April 24th, we have organized a Taste of Wines from Around the World event hosted by a professional sommelier from La Barrique Wine Consulting to tell us all about the wines. The cost is \$50 (includes the wines and light snacks) and there are still some spots left.



In May, we have two dates for the Victorian Afternoon Tea at The Old Curiosity Tea Shop in Markham. The May 3rd date is sold out but there are still a few spots left for the May 17th date. The cost is \$42 including taxes and gratuities.

Stay tuned for other events that I am working on.

Do you have any suggestions that you think would be a fun event for us? Send an email to: 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

There are a few changes to the Activities schedule for this month:

- Movie Club and Bowling are both cancelled – it's Easter Monday.
- Happy Hour will be on Monday, April 8th at Moxies. Not a drinker, not a problem, Moxies offers a good selection of Free-Spirit and Non-Alcoholic drinks.
- Ladies Lunch will be on Wednesday, April 10th at the Pickle Barrel.
- Monthly Wine Tasting is cancelled so that folks can attend the Taste of Wines from Around the World.
- There will be no hike on April 8th.

Our next In the Kitchen will feature Nicole showing us how to make her Delightful Mushroom Risotto. Did you know Risotto is from the Italian word riso meaning "rice"?

It's getting to that time of year – Golf Season! The first round of golf will be on Thursday, April 18th - details coming soon.

We are hearing that people are interested in learning how to play Euchre. Well you're in luck - Nancy will be offering lessons in the very near future. We'll keep you posted.

So, what else is new? How about a Stroll in the Park? On the first and third Friday of the month at 10am, Adele will be taking us for a stroll in various parks in the area. This will be a more leisurely pace than the walks and hikes, and the terrain will be flat or with very slight elevations. The first stroll will be at Bluffer's Park – hope to see you there!



And the highly anticipated....

PROBUS Pickering Lakeside Scavenger Hunt Car Rally!

It will be held rain or shine on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m., followed by a picnic (bring your own lunch and lawn chair). This is not a race. It will require a team effort to complete various tasks or collect items during your three-hour journey around Pickering and Ajax. Car GPS or other navigational maps will be allowed for use. In addition, you will need cell phones/cameras for photography or video recording

purposes. There should be many laughs along the way, and we hope you discover places in Pickering and Ajax that you never knew existed.

Each team will consist of four members. So, start to organize a four-person team including a driver, and pick a team name. The car rally will be limited to a maximum of ten teams of four. Each team member must register individually on Wild Apricot. We will be happy to help any individual who wants to participate in the car rally join a suitable team. The cost will be \$5 each participant payable at the rally. There will be prizes for the top three teams.

So, bring your knowledge of Pickering and Ajax, keen eyesight and sense of humour and join us for a fun event. Sign up will be available soon on Wild Apricot. Please monitor the website so you don't miss out. Gail and Geoff will be available to answer any questions at the April Monthly Meeting.

Let's take a look at some of our club's activities from February and March...

This was like deja-vu all over again.... January's winner was February's winner! Once again, the competition was fierce at Trivia. But the team who lead the way through every round and ultimately won, were the **"Going for Two"** (Randy Slein, Susan Hinnecke, Jim Hinnecke, & Reid Robertson).



The Arts & Crafts folks had a fun afternoon Ink Stamping.



What a beautiful sunny day for the weekly walkers, as they checked out the carvings and the view at Alex Robertson Park (below left). And below right, are our bowlers having an afternoon of fun.



The weekly hikers have been out trying different trails in the area. Here they are hiking up the Mast Trail in the Rouge Park.



March had our wine tasters sipping the Wines of Portugal.



Not to be outdone, below are some of our billiard group members sinking their balls at Petrina's. 😊



And to the left are our March Trivia winners – Dale Carey, Brenda Hanzel, Carla Anderson and Robert Anderson celebrating their mental prowess.

Ideas? Suggestions? Questions? Comments? Feedback? You can reach us at: PPLC.social@gmail.com

[Julia Tonks](#)

Social Bridge and Bridge Bidding Lessons:



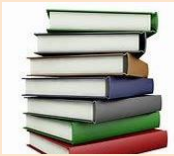



Every Thursday in the Rotary Room, Ajax Library (55 Harwood Ave. South) from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

April Dates:




- April 4 - Social Bridge
- April 11 - Lesson 12 - Overcalls and competitive bidding
- April 18 - Social Bridge
- April 25 - Lesson 13 - Course Review

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 for more information.

Groups - Crafts, Culture & Chat

 <p><u>Arts & Crafts</u> Click the group name to check Linda Black</p>	 <p><u>In Stitches</u> 3rd Monday of the month Fran Sancroft & Elaine Phipps</p>
 <p><u>Not a Book Club</u> 2nd Friday of the month Elaine Phipps</p>	 <p><u>Cover to Cover Book Club</u> Last Monday of the month Pauline Field</p>
 <p><u>Movie Club</u> 1st Monday of the month Elaine Phipps</p>	 <p><u>Lakesides Ladies Let's Talk</u> 1st Friday of the month Janet Babcock</p>

Groups - Food & Drink

 <p><u>Lakeside Happy Hour</u> 1st Monday of the month Gail Gobeil</p>	 <p><u>Lakeside Ladies Lunch</u> 3rd Wednesday of the month Gail Gobeil</p>
 <p><u>Breakfast Out</u> 3rd Monday of the month Susan Simpson</p>	 <p><u>Tastes of the World</u> Last Tuesday of the month Maureen Kelly & Virginia McKay</p>



In the Kitchen
 4th Thursday of the month

[Elaine Phipps](#)

Groups - Games



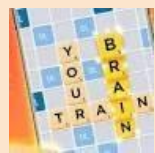
Bridge
 Check our website for venues, dates and times.

[Peter Green](#)



Euchre
 The 1st & 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 the month

[Bill Phipps](#)



Bowling
 1st Monday of the month

[Gail Gobeil](#)



Lakeside Walking Group
 Every Tuesday

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



Lakeside Hiking Group
 Click the group name to check

[Jeff Bowers](#)



Golf at Spring Creek Golf Club
 Alternate Thursdays starting April 18

[Peter Lewarne](#)

Share the Wealth



The Share the Wealth winners, Nancy Agostino and Frances Fleming, were picked by our guest speaker Eileen Kennedy, at our February monthly meeting. At our March meeting, our guest speaker Constable Darryl Rice picked the winners, Tino Agostino and Nancy Catchpole. Congratulations to all!

The Foodie Report

We had a big turnout for February's Taste of the World to celebrate Chinese New Year at the Mandarin Restaurant in Pickering.



Not to be outdone, our members brought their appetites for Breakfast at Kathryn's later in the month.



Local Events

The Art Guild of Scarborough's Spring Art Show and Sale:

When: Sat., April 6th and Sun., April 7th, 2024, 10 am to 5 pm

Where: Centennial Recreation Centre – 1967 Ellesmere Rd, Scarborough.

Celebrate spring and stroll through this wonderful display of creativity featuring over 400 original, juried works of art by member artists, many of whom will be in attendance. Free parking, admission and refreshments.

More info at <https://theartguildofscarborough.com/upcoming-shows>

Breaking News!



We are such a busy bunch! These last minute additions were received just as we were putting the finishing touches on this month's newsletter.

To the left are our faithful hikers braving the wind at the top of Beare Hill last Monday.

And below, members travelled by motorcoach last Thursday to have lunch at Golf's Steak House and Seafood and then enjoyed the Jersey Boys musical at the Hamilton Family Theatre.



A Little Humour:

More "technically true" jokes:

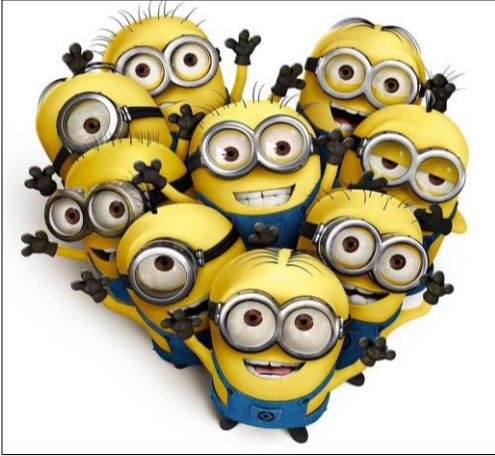
- Five out of every three people don't understand fractions.
- If you took all the billionaires on Earth and stacked them on top of each other starting down in the Marianas Trench, that would be great.
- Ever wonder why scuba divers fall backward out of a boat? Because if they fell forward, they would still be in it.

As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I'm sure of.... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.



Apparently exercise helps you with decision making. It's true. I went for a run this morning and decided I'm never going again.

Your Management Team:



President – Peter Green
(pplc.president@gmail.com)

Vice-President – Gail Gobeil
(gail_gobeil@msn.com)

Treasurer – Terri Abernethy
(pplc.treasurer@gmail.com)

Secretary – Greg Garber
(pplc.secretary@gmail.com)

Membership Coordinator – Sharon McMinn (mcminnsharon67@gmail.com)

Chair, Social Committee – Julia Tonks
(pplc.social@gmail.com)

Events Coordinator – Valerie Rodrigues
(valerievrodriques13@gmail.com)

Speakers Coordinator – Laura Green
(pplc.speakers@gmail.com)

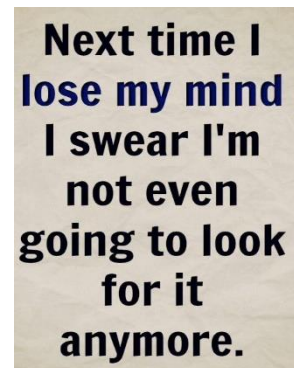
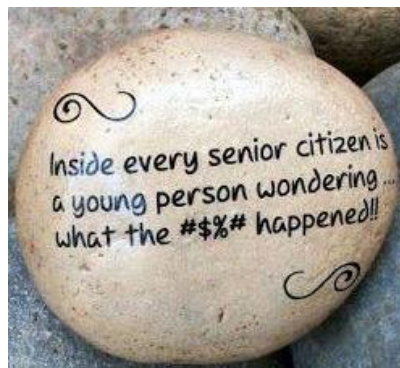
House Coordinator – Nancy Agostino
(nancyagostino2@gmail.com)

Webmaster – Scott Smith
(pplc.webmaster@gmail.com)

Facebook & Newsletter Coordinator –
Debbie Bilinski
(pplc.fbmgmt@gmail.com)

Member-at-Large – Peter Davidson
(pplc.davidson@gmail.com)

More Humour





Your Club Calendar: April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1 Hiking Group</p> 	<p>2 Walking Group</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Euchre</p>	<p>5 Stroll in the Park</p> <p>Lakeside Ladies Let's Talk</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8 Euchre Lessons (1 of 4)</p> <p>Happy Hour at Moxies</p>	<p>9 Walking Group</p>	<p>10 Ladies Lunch</p>	<p>11 Strategic Board Games</p>	<p>12 Billiards</p> <p>Not a Book Club</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15 Breakfast at Kathryn's</p> <p>Hiking Group</p> <p>In Stitches Club</p> <p>Ink Block Printing</p> <p>Euchre Lessons (2 of 4)</p>	<p>16 Walking Group</p>	<p>17 Members Monthly Meeting</p> <p>Lunch after Meeting</p> <p>Baseball Game</p>	<p>18 Golf</p> <p>Euchre</p>	<p>19 Stroll in the Park</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22 Hiking Group</p> <p>Euchre Lessons (3 of 4)</p> <p>Cover to Cover Book Club</p>	<p>23 Walking Group</p> <p>Trivia</p> <p>Taste of the World</p>	<p>24 Taste of Wines from Around the World</p>	<p>25 Strategic Board Games</p> <p>In the Kitchen</p>	<p>26 Billiards</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29 Lakeside Hike</p>	<p>30 Walking Group</p>				