



Gloria Pennycook President

Happy New Year to Everyone!

hope that you had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. Hopefully you were one of the 120 people who attended the Escarpment Probus Christmas lunch at Crosswinds Golf course. Anna Strachan and her team organized another wonderful event with great food and entertainment. It was good fun with our Probus friends!

The new year will bring lots more interesting events and activities. We would like your input on the direction of your Probus club. In January, we plan to have a short table exercise with a few questions to get your ideas for improvement. Our Club only exists through the efforts of its volunteers, so please consider if you would like to volunteer in 2016. There is a new Volunteer sign up sheet at the Social table where you can indicate your interest. Many opportunities exist, like helping out with the social events, giving a biography, being a club convenor or participating in the Management Team.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2016!



Reach us on the web at - www.escarpmentprobus.com

Escarpment PROBUS Club Executive Committee

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If you know someone who you feel would be interested in joining the Escarpment PROBUS Club please forward this newsmagazine with our compliments

FORUM - ESCARPMENT PROBUS CLUB NEWSMAGAZINE



This PROBUS Club is open to both ladies and gentlemen members
Published monthly and emailed in Pdf format to all the members of the Escarpment
PROBUS Club - Members may also pick up their copy at the meeting
Our web site is: www.escarpmentprobus.com

Annual Membership is \$45 per person - One time only fee of \$20 for your name badge

Meetings are held on every third Wednesday in the month at 9:30am

At The Milton Sports Centre, 605 Santa Maria Boulevard, Milton, Ontario, L9T 6J5

FORUM Deadlines

Articles and pictures for publication should be received no later than seven days after the regular meeting.

Stories and articles may be emailed to the Editor or submitted to any member of the Management Committee.

Escarpment PROBUS Club reserves the right to refuse, edit or change any copy or pictures submitted.

Movie Club - Oscar Nights

Inklings Writing Club

Cribbage Club - Card Sharps

Quilting Club - Piece Makers

Ravenous Readers Recycling Club

Whisky Tasting Club -D'Stillers -

Special thanks to

Lorrette Shermet
- Photographer at large

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Nosh 'N' Natter	John and Julie Flynn	905-824-1996	jflyı
Nosh Neighbours	Dianne Tomsom	905-332-3581	dian
Trail Walkers	Ronald Flannagan	905-332-6310	rflaı
Track Walkers	Liz & Cliff Read	905-864-1565	cliff
Book Club - First Edition	Paul Crawford	289-878-4968	paul
Book Club - Sequel	Judy Nelson	905-876-9285	jene
Garden Club - Zoomer Bloomers	Gloria Pennycook	905-659-7789	gpei
Bridge Club	Elinore Shannon	905-878-1876	esha
Golf - Probus Pin Seekers	Ron Millichamp	289-878-2969	ronr
Euchre Club - Afternoon & Bid	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorre
Lunch Bunch	Catherine Parr	289-878-5550	4cat
Wine Club-Grapenuts Monday	Michael Hooker	905-878-8953	mho
Wine Club-Grapenuts Thursday	Michael Hooker	905-878-8953	mho
Nordic Pole Walking Club	Liz & Cliff Read	905-864-1565	cliff

ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS CONVENOR'S INFORMATION

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Record Attendance at Christmas Party

By Anna Strachan - Social Chair

fter much anticipation our Christmas
Lunch finally came to fruition on
Wednesday 16th Dec. It was encouraging
to know that we had set a new record with 119
members signed up to attend our 3rd annual

Christmas Lunch at Crosswinds Golf and Country Club.



We started the day with a short meeting followed by a very social, but longer than usual coffee break. After the break we were entertained by the Oakville Rock 'N Seniors who kept things interesting by selecting rock and roll music from our Era, some of our members even took the opportunity to dance up a storm. Of course it would not be Christmas without a selection of traditional Christmas songs, the 'Seniors' spread these out over the course of the hour. Not only did we enjoy the Rock 'N Seniors but I hear that they also enjoyed entertaining us. The 'Seniors' also helped Ann and Don Corker celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary by serenading them to the sweet refrain of 'Love Potion Number Nine'.

As requested, many of our members dressed up in Christmas attire with some members going all out. We selected two couples to receive a prize, Marilyn and Ron Armstrong who dressed up as Snowman/woman and Pete and Lorrette Shermet. Pete dressed up as Very Suave Santa while Lorrette was a very colourful 'Elf on the shelf'. The other costume Prizes went to Gillian Reynolds, Robyn Balfour, Don Evans and Al Finnie, congratulations to all.

I would be remiss if I did not thank a few individuals. Barb Finnie and Norma Capper helped me immensely prior to and during the Lunch, thanks ladies, I couldn't have done it without you. Thanks also to Martin Capper for selecting the Wine for the prizes and the Management Team for the encouragement I received from them. Thanks also to Ron and Ann Du Pont for allowing me to add the Meal/Prize tickets to the Membership Badges as it made things run a lot easier. Last but not least, my thanks again to Lorrette Shermet, our official photographer, for once again capturing all the fun of the day.

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Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face

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Victor Hugo

Here's wishing all of you a very Happy, Healthy New Year 2016.























Probians See Red Celebrating Christmas at the Crosswinds



Don and Ann Corker celebrated their 60 wedding anniversary!



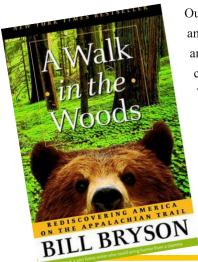
A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail

By Cliff Read - Past President

n A Walk in the Woods, Bill Bryson tackles the Appalachian Trail which stretches from Georgia to Maine and covers some of the most beautiful and challenging scenery in America.

The resulting book takes readers along on both an informative and humorous account of his journey. He introduces us to the history and

ecology of the trail and to some of the larger than life characters he meets along the way beginning with his walking buddy, Steven Katz. In the end Bryson does not realize his dream of navigating the entire trail from one end to the other but feels satisfaction in his accomplishment of months of hiking.



Our First Edition members had an overall favourable impression of the book and felt it was well worth the read. We enjoyed the many humorous scenes and episodes that were sprinkled throughout his account. These were countered with detailed information about particular sections of the trail. While bringing home the ruggedness of the trail Bryson's descriptions give justice to the spectacular beauty readily available on his doorstep in New Hampshire. He also manages to raise ecological concerns relating to the sustainability of natural forests.

After our discussion we sampled some appropriate fare – Ol' Smokey Moonshine and Appalachian Molasses cake. We were inspired to think about donning our hiking boots from the safety of the couch.



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Walking is man's best medicine.

11

Hippocrates

Membership Up Again

By Ron Du Pont - Membership Chair

e are still welcoming new members every month. Our membership is now up to 173.

Please let me know of any changes to your contact information so we may update our records. Contact me at my new email address: rcdupont@icloud.com .

We wish you all the best in the new year.





And our December winner is

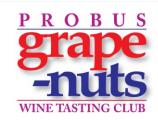
Jim Campbell

with \$175

35 Gallons Sipped!

By Michael Hooker - Convenor

ould you believe - since we started in June 2014 we've had 38 tastings. Which means we have sipped our way through about 170 litres (or 35 gallons) of wine so far!



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Way to go - Grapenutters! You are the people who have made The Grapenuts such a success.

December Tasting Results

Thursday 3rd December - Liz and Cliff Read

Theme: "Rich Man / Poor Man" - A shoot-out between pricey and cheap wines.

Best of the night: Barefoot Merlot (by Gallo, California). LCBO 53991. Price \$9.95. Score 16.7.

The best White was the Yellow Tail Chardonnay (Australia) which averaged a moderate 12.4.

Cliff matched these "cheapos" against a couple of bottles he had bought in the U.S., a Californian Chardonnay and a Barolo (neither available in the LCBO) with prices in the \$35 - \$45 range.

Surprise - Both the expensive wines scored lowest of the evening (Chardonnay 10.1; Barolo 11.1) Lesson (courtesy of Cliff): "Never judge a wine by it's price".

However, remember that some really expensive reds need many years to develop full potential - which means that for many of us, if we were to buy them now, they won't be really drinkable until our funeral (Ain't that a happy thought)!



Accept what life

try to drink from every cup. All

wines should be

sipped, but with

others, drink the

whole bottle

tasted; some should only be

offers you and



Monday 7th December - Ellen and Paul Crawford

Theme: "Not your usual grape" (wines from less common grape varieties).

Winner of the evening: Batasiolo Bosc dla Rei Moscato (Italy - Muscat grape). LCBO 277194. Price \$14.95. Score 16.0. This is a sweet sparkling wine with only 5.5% alcohol!

All the wines we tried were really enjoyable - the lowest score was 13.2.

January 2016 Special Event

Auriel Halliday and Don Evans are sponsoring a Grapenuts "Get-Together" (similar to the Nosh Nights), at their house on Thursday 21st January, 7 pm.

All participants will bring a bottle of wine and an interesting piece of cheese. Auriel will set up tasting stations in different rooms, and provide crackers, desserts, coffee, tea, etc.

We will chat, sip, sample cheeses and enjoy wines (without having to rate them). Very casual.

No Need for Fire Extinguisher

By Paul Crawford - Program Chair

wenty three Noshers gathered at Robyn Balfour's home on Friday December 18 for an enjoyable evening. There was a plethora of Christmas-themed attire on display as the noshers embraced the seasonal mood. The lighting of the Christmas pudding was handled with no need for a 911 call so all in all a very successful event.

















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The only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook

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Julia Child

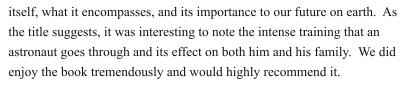
An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth

By Judy Nelson - Convenor

he Sequel Book Club met on December 9th and as we did last year we reviewed our monthly selection and enjoyed a lovely pot luck lunch hosted by Patricia Kotak. Everyone brought

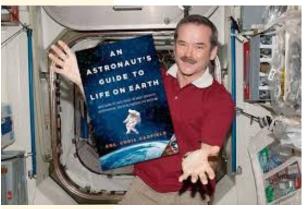
Our selection this month was Chris Hadfield's An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth. The book was well written and gave each of us a better understanding of the experience of space travel and the space program

wonderful contributions to the meal and Patricia was a wonderful host and set a beautiful table.



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Our January meeting on Wednesday the 13th will be held at June Leach's home. We are reading the Scotia Bank Giller prize winner, The Bishop's Man, by Linden MacIntyre. We look forward to a lot of good reads during 2016.



Bring a Book, Take a Book

By Ellen Crawford

ook borrowing will recommence at our January Probus meeting. Please remember to bring a book, especially those that you feel others would enjoy reading.



I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book

"

Groucho Marx

Budget Recovery Lunch for January:

By Catherine Parr - Convenor

reminder to all, bring your Swiss Chalet coupons and someone to share lunch with following our January meeting. We will be dining at Swiss Chalet,

Lunch Bunch Banter

50 Market Square, Milton. See you in the New Year!

Cheque us out!

Please remember to bring your cheque book to all the Probus meetings if you would like to sign-up for any of the activities.

Thank you

Many More Activities to be Announced

By Anne Marie Stockley - Activity Chair

ecember has been a great month for our Escarpment PROBUS members. Thank you all for such enthusiastic participation. The December 5th tour of Dundurn Castle was great fun. The "Castle" is full of interesting rooms, all recreated to reflect life during the 1800's. Our group of 26 was split up into 3 groups and everyone experienced the same level of tidbits of information as well as knowledge of the history and etiquette of the time. We left with the feeling we were leaving Downton Abbey behind. Restoration is ongoing so next year we will be able to see the finished apartment of the spinster aunt who raised the children after the early death of Mrs. MacNab.

December 17th was the Celtic Tenors concert in Brampton's Rose Theatre. These 3 gentlemen were so much fun and sang so beautifully together. I was so surprised when it was over and they had sung for two and a half hours with only a short break. We enjoyed traditional Christmas music and Irish favourites. The group has been touring the United States and western Canada. We like their music and they like our music. We heard one the Tenor's favourites, "Four Strong Winds", written by Ian Tyson that he recorded with Sylvia in 1964.

We have three tours coming up: in January, "Lunch at Allen's"; in February the bowling tournament; in March the St. Patrick's Day lunch on the 17th. Many more events will be announced at the January and February meetings. Enjoy the season.

Mega-Nosh at the Babcock's

By John Flynn - Treasurer

n December 4th, Christy and Gary Babcock graciously opened their home to all three Nosh groups. The weather cooperated, so about 60 Noshers enjoyed their hospitality. Christy's decorations were amazing and, of course, the food was varied and delicious. A wonderful opportunity for all of us to get together.

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In the case of good books, the point is not how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you.



Mortimer J. Adler















Hot Dogs and Smores for Trail Walkers

By Ron Flannagan - Convenor

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s we enter our third year, the Trail Walkers are alive and well and are enjoying a variety of hikes along the trails within many conservation areas, forest tracts and the Royal Botanical Gardens



To close out the 2015 calendar year we thought something a little different was in order so we arranged a fire at the fire pit at Hilton Falls and indulged in a wienie roast (nothing beats a hot dog cooked on an open fire) with side orders of cider (Xmas spice was optional), smores and shortbreads. Special thanks to John and Julie Flynn for the cider warmed on the fire (John's own special recipe) and marshmallows, Cliff and Liz Read for the chocolate and graham crackers and June Leach and Christie Babcock for the cookies. Those in attendance were unanimous in declaring the outing a "fun event".

For the many on the Trail Walkers' mailing list who do not participate, may I suggest that in the new year you resolve to get out

with the group. There is something especially invigorating about walking in the forest particularly in the winter months – try it "you'll like it" and it's healthy to boot. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to participate sign up at the next meeting or contact me directly. Several members have indicated they are hesitant to come out as the don't think they can keep up: don't let that stop you – our hikes are mostly "easy" to "moderate" and each walker is encouraged to proceed at his or her own pace. Nobody is left behind and, over the two plus years that we have been hiking, there have been no injuries suffered. Looking forward to seeing many on the trail in 2016.

TRIP TO POLAND & PRAGUE

By Joanne Millichamp - Correspondent

n September 2016 our Probus Club will be visiting Poland on a 10 night/12 day trip. There will be some wonderful sightseeing on this trip including 2 nights in Warsaw, a visit to see the Black Madonna painting at Czestochowa, 3 nights in Krakow with visits to the Old Town, Market Square, Auschwitz, and the Wieliczka Salt Mine. As well, we will spend 2 nights in Zakopane, a famous resort in the Tatra Mountains. We will visit the national park, nearby villages and enjoy a 2 1/2 hour rafting trip on the Dunajec River on traditional wooden rafts. Then its on to Prague for 3 nights with visits to nearby



Brno and all the sights of the city including the Charles Bridge, Prague Castle, St. Vitas Cathedral and many more.

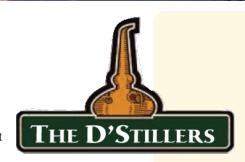
All breakfasts are included as well as 3 lunches and 8 dinners, including a special farewell dinner. The cost is \$2,950.00 per person including air (airport departure taxes are extra). There is a single supplement of \$580.00, and a deposit of \$500.00.

Brochures are available at our meetings. For further information, contact: Joanne Millichamp - jmillichamp@hotmail.com - or 289-878-2969.

The D'Stillers

By Chris Strachan - Convenor

he D'Stillers last meeting of 2015 was held at the home of Al and Barb Finnie with our host selecting five Whiskies for us to sample. Joining us for the evening was a bonnie wee lass called Robyn Balfour, our first and hopefully not last female to join the D'Stillers. Of course the night's tasting couldn't start without a few jokes about a female entering our male domain, however we soon got down to business.



The first Whisky we tasted was a blended one called Clan MacGregor for which we unanimously gave the thumbs down. This was the lowest scoring whisky we have tasted since the inception of the D'Stillers, a miserable 4.9 out of 10, only good for mixing with soft drinks.

The second Whisky sampled was Grant's, a blended whisky, a good starter scotch for novices. This one scored a respectable 6.3.

Then Al brought out the third Whisky of the evening, the pièce de résistance, the Glenlivet Founder Reserve single malt. This one scored 8.4. This is what the Water of Life is all about.

The fourth Whisky was a blend, Crown Royal Northern Harvest. This product has been flying off the shelf in the LCBO since its introduction earlier this year. This one scored a 7.1. I imagine it was in a few Christmas stockings this year because of the marketing hype.

The last Whisky of the evening was a Chivas Regal 12 year old blend which we reviewed last month. We reviewed it again this month to find out how it would fair. Taking in to account that two of the D'Stillers were not in attendance last month and we had a new member this month, this was a rather unscientific way of determining the score this time around. This month's score was 7.6

against November's score of 8.5. The scores may also be reflected due to the order in which the whisky was tasted. Last month it was tasted first while this month it was tasted last. We may have to try this again at a later date with a full compliment of members.

During the evening we feasted on some lovely cheeses and Barb's wonderful home baking, mmm yummy.

Thanks to Barb for keeping our DD's entertained and thanks again to our DD's who got us all home safe and sound.

Best wishes to all for 2016.

A Special "Thank You" from the Editor to those in management, the convenors and correspondents who contributed material to the FORUM. Also to Lorrette and Pete Shermet who supplied the bulk of the photographs. Without all of you, this magazine would only be a shadow of what it is.



Our December Greeters...

June Leach and Robyn Balfour

Our January Speaker

Judy Suke - Award-Winning Motivational Humorist, Professor, Coach, Author, Mother, and Business Owner

n this extremely humorous presentation, she shares her ideas for handling the stress of our hectic world. She will share the secrets to create harmony in both your personal and professional life. You will be able to create more joy in every minute of every day. Your laughter during the presentation will immediately heal the body, soothe the soul, lift the spirits and give you energy.



Our February Speaker



Jim Rankin - Reporter-Photographer at the Toronto Star

im specializes in database journalism, multimedia and investigations and is currently on the features team. His work has been nominated for nine National Newspaper Awards and in 2002 he was part of a team involved in the Michener Award-winning investigative series

into race, policing and crime in Toronto. His latest projects have examined police carding and Ontario's child protection system. Jim has degrees in biology (University of Western Ontario) and journalism (University of King's College, Halifax).



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EVENT	DAY OF MONTH	MEET AT	CONVENOR
JANUARY 2016			
Management Meeting	13 January - 7 pm	TBD	Gloria Pennycook
Escarpment PROBUS	20 January - 9:30 am	Milton Sport Center	Gloria Pennycook
Lunch Bunch	20 January - Noon	Swiss Chalet	Catherine Parr
Walkers Chocolates Tour	21 January	Burlington	Anne Marie Stockle
Roxul Plant Tour	28 January	Milton	Anne Marie Stockle
T			
Track & Nordic Pole Walkers	Mondays & Fridays - 11:00am	Milton Sports Centre	Liz Read
Trail Walkers	Tuesdays - 1:30pm	Various	Pat & Ron Flannaga
Nosh+Natter	1st Friday - 5:30-8:30pm	TBD	John and Julie Flyn
Wine Tasting - Grapenuts	1st Monday & Thursday - 7:00pm	TBD	Michael Hooker
Bridge Club	1st Tuesday	TBD	Elinore Shannon
Whisky Club - The D'stillers	1st Wednesday - 7:00pm	TBD	Chris Strachan
Piece Makers - Quilting Club	1st & 3rd Monday	Comstock Home *	Diane Comstock
Book Club - First Edition	2nd Monday - 1:00pm	Crawford Home	Paul Crawford
Card Sharp Cribbage Club	2nd Monday - 7:00pm	Capper Home *	Martin Capper
Book Club - Sequel	2nd Wednesday - 10:00am	Leach Home	Judy Nelson
Golf Club-Probus Pin Seekers	Every 2nd Thursday	Burlington Springs GC	Ron Millichamp
Oscar Nights - Movie Club	2nd & 4th Tuesday 7:00pm	Milton Galaxy Cinemas	Robyn Balfour
Euchre	3rd Tuesday - 1:00 pm	Comstock Home *	Lorrette Shermet
Bid Euchre	2nd Thursday - 1:30 pm	Grace Anglican Church	Lorrette Shermet
Ravenous Readers Recycling	3rd Wednesday	Milton Sports Centre	Ellen Crawford
Nosh Neighbours	3rd Friday	TBD	Dianne Tomson
Nosh@Nite	22 January - 5:30-8:30pm	Millichamp Home	Paul & Ellen Crawfo
Zoomer Bloomers	4th Wednesday - 1:00pm	Various	Gloria Pennycook
Inklings - Writing Club	4th Thursday - 1:30pm	Grace Anglican Church*	Gillian Reynolds
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FEBRUARY 2016			
Management Meeting	10 February - 7 pm	TBD	Gloria Pennycook
Escarpment PROBUS	17 February - 9:30 am	Milton Sport Center	Gloria Pennycook
Lunch Bunch	17 February - Noon	TBD	Catherine Parr
Track & Nordic Pole Walkers	Mondays & Fridays - 11:00am	Milton Sports Centre	Liz Read
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			Cicha i Chiny Cook
PROBUS Executive Meeting		Nelson Home	Judy Nelson
PROBUS Executive Meeting Book Club - Sequel	2nd Wednesday - 10:00am	Nelson Home Burlington Springs GC	Judy Nelson Ron Millichamn
PROBUS Executive Meeting		Nelson Home Burlington Springs GC Milton Galaxy Cinemas	Judy Nelson Ron Millichamp Robyn Balfour