# FORUM



Volume 8 — Issue 3 — May 2020

### President's Message:

# **Till We Meet Again**



I hope you are all staying healthy and are being active in any ways you can in these days of social isolation. Like many other people, I have been sewing masks, baking bread and working on jigsaw puzzles. Cliff and I are now running out of shows we're interested in on Netflix and Prime so we hope the coming May weather will allow us to spend time outside in the garden.

Right now a great deal of my day is also spent on social media. I have found it preferable to chat virtually with people by using Skype or Zoom instead of just speaking on the phone. I've also been sending emails to friends that I haven't seen for months and checking in with them. I am getting wonderful responses in return as we are all missing our regular IRL (in real life) connections.

Sometimes we've been surprised at the door by someone leaving baked goods or a card, or dropping off a potted plant, bottle of wine or hand sanitizer. So nice to know we are thinking of each other at this time when we can feel most alone. When you feel the need to connect, think of pulling out your PROBUS members' contact list and give someone you know a call. It could make your day brighter as well as theirs.

Stay safe. We do not know when we can meet again but it will happen and I look forward to seeing all of you IRL.

— Liz Read

# Editor's Note:

Once again this issue is quite different from the usual fare. No events happened and few social clubs met last month so there wasn't a lot of club information to share.

This month the temporary information section "News and Views" provides thoughts, observations and entertainment from several members. If anyone else has content to share, please submit it to me for the next Forum (email david@bosscommunications.com).

There are many businesses in our community struggling to survive in these difficult times. I encourage you to explore the ways you can support them -- order take out, buy gift cards, purchase online for curbside pickup, etc. Did you know that many craft breweries and Niagara wineries will deliver right to your door?

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Contante:

"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves." ~ Viktor Frankl

# **NEWS AND VIEWS**

# What's new?

by Wayne Herder

What is one of the most dreaded questions during this pandemic? "WHAT'S NEW".

If there is anything new, I probably forgot it. However, there is a lot of old news, mostly memories. I have been thinking of jobs I worked during my lifetime. Jobs that no longer exist. I was raised in a little cottage town, population 1500, situated north of Montreal on the Lake of Two Mountains. St. Eustache-sur-le-lac (now named Deux-Montagnes) had very little going for it except three things:

- It had the largest English High School north of Montreal and drew students from a radius of 35 km.
- It was next to St. Eustache, which is famous for the battle of St. Eustache in 1837.
- It was the end of the line for the CNR passenger route from Montreal.

My neighbour, Mr. Gaudette, was the stationmaster. At the age of twelve (1958) I worked for him part-time at the station (or should I say volunteered) loading and unloading passenger luggage and small freight. I did get paid when delivering telegrams – 10 cents each. If I was lucky I would get tipped 5 cents. Did not do singing ones! Too bad the telegrams were sealed or I may have read them. I am sure there were many happy ones as well as some very sad.

The other part of my job was passing on route information to the passing trains. We used a large wooden cane shaped in the letter "P". In it was a slot where the telegram containing this information was placed. It was held upright and as the train roared by, the engineer stuck out his arm, grabbed the cane, retrieved the message and then dropped the cane on the rail side. Yes, I did hold it wrong once and missed the pickup.

If you have worked or volunteered at a job that no longer exists, we would like to hear from you. You can email us a brief story or can volunteer to do a 10 minute bio at one of our future meetings. We all have our memories. Some are private and others should be shared for enjoyment and entertainment.

## **Walking Path Display**

by Chris Willekes

Jack and I pass this display on our daily walks. We spotted it for the first time about a week ago. The display has being growing as more stones are added. It's located on a walking path near the Credit Valley Hospital.

# As Seen in Milton

by Liz Read

A fun way for kids to keep busy. The same thing is happening in BC.









#### Wear a Mask

#### by Liz Read

The wearing of nonsurgical face coverings or masks is now being suggested as a way to help curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Crafters in our club can find many different patterns online. Some of our more capable sewers are even making caps, headbands and masks for non-medical use at the Milton Hospital. There's a good example of the type of face mask that can be sewn at home on the CDC website

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf



Can you guess who got innovative and designed his own PPE? Jenny says it seems like overkill when he only goes out to the garage!

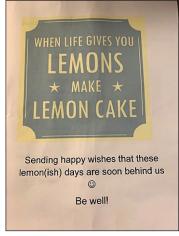


# **A PROBUS Angel**

#### by Beth Barnes

What a pleasant surprise to see a PROBUS friend standing on my walkway yesterday morning! There was a package and note hanging on my mailbox. It was a recipe for her favourite lemon loaf and in the package were two beautiful lemons! We had a lovely talk for awhile (yes, 2 metres apart) on my front walk! She made my day, especially since I live in Mississauga and she drove over from Milton to say "hello" in person. As you see, I made the lemon loaf soon after!







## **Intelligence Test**

#### by Ron Millichamp

These are not trick questions. They are straight questions with straight answers.

- 1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
- 2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
- 3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to reproduce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
- 4. Name the only sport in which the ball is always in possession of the team on defense, and the offensive team can score without touching the ball?
- 5. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
- 6. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
- 7. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters "dw" and they are all common words. Name two of them.
- 8. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
- 9. Where are the lakes that are referred to in the name "Los Angeles Lakers"?
- 10. There are 7 ways a baseball player can legally reach first base without getting a hit. Taking a base on balls (a walk) is one way. Name the other 6.
- 11. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
- 12. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter "s."

See page 11 for the answers.

## **Test For Gray Cells**

Something for seniors to do to keep those "aging" gray cells active! And for you younger ones, to get them growing!!

- 1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?
- 2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop. He is five feet ten inches tall and wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?
- 3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
- 4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
- 5. What word in the English language is always spelled incorrectly?
- 6. Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?
- 7. In California, you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?
- 8. What was the name of the US president in 1975?
- 9. If you were running a race and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in?
- 10. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?
- 11. If a farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 haystacks in another field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in a third field?

See page 11 for the answers.

# **Escarpment Photo of the Month**

This month's Escarpment Photo of the Month was taken by Julie Flynn at the Mill Pond on April 2. Spring at last! Send your photos to david@bosscommnications.com and we will select one for inclusion each month.



## **Extra Photo of the Month:**

Example of poor social distancing taken by Gillian Reynolds on her street.



At PROBUS we want to keep in touch, we are all friends. If you know of anyone who is ill, moving away, lost a loved one, etc., or someone with a new grandchild, great grandchild or special anniversary, please let Lorrette Shermet know and she will gladly send a greeting card (contact lorrette@sympatico.ca or 905-878-1293).

# **ACTIVITIES: ON HOLD**

# SOCIAL CLUBS

Club	Date/Time	Convenor	Telephone	Email
Board Games - Bee Gees	2nd Wed 1 pm	Stephen Comstock	905-876-4909	scomstoc@sympatico.ca
Board Games - Jokers	2nd Thurs 1:30 pm	Auriel Halliday	905-336-2430	aurielh@gmail.com
Board Games - Jokers	4th Wed 1 pm	Auriel Halliday	905-336-2430	aurielh@gmail.com
Book Club - First Edition	2nd Mon 1 pm	Paul Crawford	289-878-4968	paulellencrawford@gmail.com
Book Club - Happy Bookers	4th Thurs 12:30 pm	Judy Wallace	905-878-3374	lollipops@sympatico.ca
Book Club - Ravenous Readers Recycling	3rd Wed Probus meeting	Ellen Crawford	289-878-4968	paulellencrawford@gmail.com
Book Club - Sequel	2nd Wed 10 am	Catherine Parr	289-971-9214	4catparr@gmail.com
Book Club - <i>Trilogy</i>	2nd Wed 10 am	Linda Green	289-851-8655	klgreen@sympatico.ca
Cards - Bid Euchre	3rd Thurs 1:15 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Cards - <i>Bridae</i>	1st Tues 1 pm	Jeanne Reid	289-878-9920	jreid345@cogeco.ca
Cards - Canasta	4th Mon 7 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Cards - Cribbage - Card Sharps	2nd Mon 7 pm	Martin Capper	905-693-0354	martin@martincapper.com
Cards - Cribbage - Card Sharps	Tues. after the 2nd Mon 1:30 pm	Martin Capper	905-693-0354	martin@martincapper.com
Cards - Euchre	3rd Tues 1 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Classical Music - Mozart and Friends	4th Tues 1:30 pm	Michael Hooker	905-878-8953	mhooker10@bell.net
Club <i>Français</i>	2nd Wed 10 am / 11 am	Anne-Françoise Gibbard	905-854-3781	anne@gibbard.net
Crafts - Knitting - Chicks with Sticks	3rd Thurs 10:30 am	Christine Willekes	905-820-0269	chriswillekes@gmail.com
Crafts - Quilting - Piece Makers	1st Tues 1 pm	Diane Comstock	905-876-4909	meljenscc@sympatico.ca
Dining - Appy Hour	Last Sat 6:30 pm	Mary Cousins	416-628-6275	mlecousins@outlook.com
Dining - Lunch Bunch	3rd Wed noon	Bonnie Lennox	416-899-7727	bblennox@live.ca
Dining - Nosh 'N' Natter	1st Fri 5:30 pm	Gillian Revnolds	905-878-1636	gilliana@cogeco.ca
Dining - Nosh 'N' Natter	2nd Fri 5:30 pm	Gillian Reynolds	905-878-1636	gilliana@cogeco.ca
Dining - Nosh@Nite	4th Fri 5:30 pm	Paul & Ellen Crawford	289-878-4968	paulellencrawford@gmail.com
Dining - Saturday Night Lives	1st Sat 6 pm	Anna Strachan	905-878-0812	annastrachan1945@gmail.com
Dining - Skip the Dishes	3rd Thurs 6 pm	Lorrette Shermet	905-878-1293	lorrette@sympatico.ca
Dining - Supper/Dinner Club	Scheduled by convenor	Auriel Halliday	905-336-2430	aurielh@gmail.com
Friendship Club	4th Wed 10 am	Judy Krauss	289-878-8194	judyckrauss@gmail.com
Movie Club - <i>Oscar Nights</i>	2nd Tues 7 pm	Theresa Spano	416-618-2955	1tspano@gmail.com
Probus Info Exchange - <i>PIE</i>	Online only - no meetings	Cliff Read	905-864-1565	cliff.read@cogeco.ca
Sports - Bowling - 10 Pin	2nd Tues 4 pm	Michelle Tschirhart	416-668-9083	mltschirhart55@gmail.com
Sports - Bowling - 10 Pin	Last Wed 4 pm	Michelle Tschirhart	416-668-9083	mltschirhart55@gmail.com
Sports - Golf - <i>Pin Seekers</i>	TBA	TBA		
Tastings - Beer - Suds and Buds	4th Thurs 7 pm	Pete Shermet	905-878-1293	peteshermet@gmail.com
Tastings - Whisky - D'Stillers	1st Wed 7 pm	Chris Strachan	905-878-0812	strachan.chris1944@yahoo.ca
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	1st Mon 7 pm	Jim Tschirhart	647-648-8231	jim.tschirhart@gmail.com
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	1st Thurs 7 pm	Jim Tschirhart	647-648-8231	jim.tschirhart@gmail.com
Tastings - Wine - Grapenuts	2nd Wed 7 pm	Jim Tschirhart	647-648-8231	jim.tschirhart@gmail.com
Travel - Annual Trip	Scheduled by convenor	Joanne Millichamp	289-878-2969	jmillichamp@hotmail.com
Travel - <i>Annual Trip</i> Travel - <i>Wanderlust</i>	2nd Thurs 7 pm (bi-monthly)	Gloria Pennycook	905-659-7789	gpennycook@icloud.com
Walkers - <i>Trail Walkers</i>	Every Tues 1:30 pm	Ronald Flannagan	905-332-6310	rflannagan@cogeco.ca
New information	Temporary change			

#### For those of you missing Ron Millichamp's jokes:

An Irishman who had a little too much to drink is driving home from the city one night and, of course, his car is weaving violently all over the road. A cop pulls him over.

'So,' says the cop to the driver, 'where have ya been?'

'Why, I've been to the pub of course,' slurs the drunk.

'Well,' says the cop, 'it looks like you've had quite a few to drink this evening.'

'I did all right,' the drunk says with a smile.

'Did you know,' says the cop, standing straight and folding his arms across his chest, 'that a few intersections back, your wife fell out of your car?'

'Oh, thank heavens,' sighs the drunk. 'for a minute there, I thought I'd gone deaf.'

# **RECENT EVENTS**

# Clubs: Food and Drink

## **Last Meeting**

by Chris Strachan, Convenor

The March Meeting of the D'Stillers was held at the home of Suzanne and Wayne Herder. Little did we know that due to the Coronavirus this meeting was the last time we would see each other in the near future.



Wayne selected five whiskies for our tasting pleasure and they were rated as follows:

The winner was 'Tamnavulin Tempranillo Cask', a single malt whisky with a score of 79.4%, a cost of \$69 per litre and an Alcohol by Volume (ABV) of 40%. Not available in Canada.

The name Tamnavulin is the Gaelic translation of 'mill on the hill', named in part after the historic former carding mill that sits on the site of the distillery. Local farmers would bring their sheep fleeces here in the summer months to be made into wool. Tamnavulin is matured in Tempranillo Casks. Tempranillo is the fourth most planted variety of grapes in the world and is considered one of the nine red noble grapes.

Second of the evening was 'Compass Box Great King Street - Artist's Blend'. A blended whisky with a score of 76.4%, a cost of \$40 per 500ml and an ABV of 43%.

Boutique whisky maker Compass Box Whisky came into being 20 years ago and was the brainchild of John Glaser, who is one of the finest exponents of the art of whisky blending. Glaser is an innovator and a maverick who pushed the boundaries of what Scotch whisky can be. This whisky was rated Blended Whisky of the year 2012 by the Whisky Advocate magazine. Unfortunately it is not available in Canada.

Coming in third was 'Blair Athol 12yr old Flora and Fauna'. A single malt whisky with a score of 71.4%, a cost of \$92 and an ABV of 43%. Not available in Canada.

Blair Athol's house style is quite heavily sherried. You don't see much of it in the market as most of it goes into the making of Bell's blended whiskey. This was one of Queen Victoria's favorite whiskies when she visited Scotland.

Fourth of the evening was 'Glenfiddich Experimental Series – Project XX'. A single malt whisky with a score of 70.1%, a cost of \$99.95 and an ABV of 47%.

The Master Blender invited 20 Malt Masters to the Glenfiddich distillery and asked them to pick any expression from the thousands of casks maturing in the warehouse. The 20 chosen whiskies were then married by Malt Master Brian Kinsman to create this single malt, hence the name Project XX. Hooray for teamwork!

Last but not least was 'Grand Old Parr' 12 yr old blended whisky with a score of 69.4%, a cost of \$89.95 and an ABV of 40%. Named after the oldest man in Britain who died at the age of 152?, Old Parr has not been available in Scotland or Europe since 1980. It is sold primarily in the Americas and has garnered 50% of the market in Columbia.

Thanks to Suzanne for hosting the DD's and supplying the treats. Thanks once again to the DD's who get us all home safe and sound.

# Clubs: Books, Hobbies, Games

#### Mozart and Friends in Isolation

by Michael Hooker, Convenor

As have most of us Probians, the Mozart Mob has been lying low and out of sight for the last few weeks. Standard types of activities: bits of spring cleaning, taking time to go through old junk to see what can be tossed, moaning and groaning.



However we've been blessed with quite a wide choice of musical performances made available free over the internet, e.g., "Phantom of the Opera", symphony concerts, a different opera every day from the New York Metropolitan Opera Company, and all sorts of other musical stuff, some serious, some really funny. One of us spots something interesting, or gets sent a link by a friend, and it gets passed on to the whole group.

I find that I now have more time for stuff like listening to music than I did when my life seemed to be ruled by a gazillion other PROBUS activities. So there are some advantages to this new lifestyle, though I wouldn't want to stay this way for too long – I really miss all of you!

I would like to thank our Mozart group for their help in keeping us infomed, amused and entertained.

Our convenor, Michael Hooker, has sent us many links to concerts, operas and Stratford plays. Also, his funny anecdotes and stories lighten our days. We have all felt connected.

Asoka Yapa, Beth Barnes, Mary Cousins and others have also contributed.

Thank you all - your efforts are much appreciated.

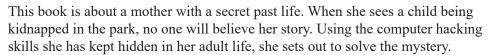
— Jeanne Reid

#### Wherever She Goes

by Liz Read, Correspondent

Our First Edition book club met through Zoom this month. Some of us had been able to get the book out of the library before it closed and some read this suspense novel online.

Kelley Armstrong is an author who lives in Ontario and has written many young adult novels and fantasy series. This was her first stand alone book and it is similar to novels like Gone Girl and The Girl on the Train.



The members who joined in our discussion rated the book as 7 out of 10. One of us said she could see *Wherever She Goes* filmed as the movie of the week.





# **Small Groups Rock**

by Jenny O'Brien

This group of game loving PROBUS members connects weekly on Messenger Video to play a game of Dice (aka Farkle), enjoy a beverage, and catch up on the week's happenings (i.e., what room did you clean this week?).

Another group is playing online Canasta on Facebook, which allows you to play with people you know in a private room or with the general public. You get one free token per day to play, but if you want to open up the vault, you can buy 50 credits for about \$7 Cdn. It's a great way to fill an hour (or two) of your day. If you'd like to learn how to navigate this online game, feel free to connect with Jenny O'Brien at jenny0103@rogers.com.





## **Online Cribbage**

by Martin Capper, Convenor

It is difficult to play cribbage and meet physical distance requirements! In April about a dozen members of the Cribbage Club managed to do so thanks to Facebook and to Cribbage JD!



I can't tell you anything about wins and losses or about highest scores but I can tell you we had a very enthusiastic group. I read a comment that one of the group managed to get in 10 games - our standard each month is usually around 5 games!

Some of the difficulties encountered were around not knowing who was available to play at any given time, having to refuse a game while still playing another and not seeing the person you were playing.

Having said all of that it was fun! We will try again in May. I suspect the more people that play may help remove the issues we encountered in April.

If you are not a member of the crib club or if you don't play crib and would like to try it, Facebook's version is not a bad way to learn the game. You can start off by playing the computer and get familiar with the game before you challenge others online!

# **Quilting by Zoom**

by Diane Comstock, Convenor

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Piece Makers attempted to host a Zoom meeting online. Carol Ann's audio was working but we could not see her lovely face nor her quilting accomplishments. Wendy showed us her Chickadee table runner and her almost completed round robin project. Diane modelled a face mask she made and showed the tea/coffee cup blocks she is working on for her BSP Friendship quilt. Carol Ann sent a picture of her completed round robin project as did Diane. Both used an FMQ heart template in the centre of the quilt and FMQ feathers in one of the borders. Diane used a stippling technique around the heart to try and make it puff out.



Quilting terms of the month:

**FMQ** – Free Motion Quilting.

**Stippling** – A stitching technique of curved lines that is done all over the quilt in an effort to fill in background areas of it. This method allows designs to be seen more prominently in the quilt.

Due to this nasty COVID-19 pandemic, it looks like we will be having another Zoom meeting in May. Hopefully, we can get Carol Ann's video problem solved by then and other members can join the meeting.













## Intelligence Test answers...

- 1. The sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends...boxing.
- 2. North American landmark constantly moving backward... **Niagara Falls** (The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.)
- 3. The two vegetables that can live to reproduce on their own for several growing seasons....asparagus and rhubarb.
- 4. The only sport in which the ball is always in possession of the team on defense, and the offensive team can score without touching the ball... **baseball**.
- 5. The fruit with its seeds on the outside... **strawberry**.
- 6. How did the pear get inside the brandy bottle? It **grew inside the bottle**. (The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.)
- 7. Three English words beginning with dw... dwarf, dwell and dwindle.
- 8. Fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar... period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, bracket, parenthesis, brace, and ellipsis.
- 9. The original lakes referred to in Lakers... in **Minnesota**. (The team was originally known as the Minneapolis Lakers, and kept the name when they moved west.)
- 10. Seven ways a baseball player can legally reach first base without getting a hit... taking a base on balls (a walk), batter hit by a pitch, passed ball, catcher interference, catcher drops third strike, fielder's choice, and being designated as a pinch-runner.
- 11. The only vegetable or fruit never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh... lettuce.
- 12. Six or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with "s"... shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings and stilts.

# Gray cell answers...

- 1. Johnny, of course.
- 2. Meat.
- 3. Mt. Everest; it just wasn't discovered yet. [You're not very good at this are you?]
- 4. There is no dirt in a hole.
- 5. Incorrectly.
- 6. Billy lives in the Southern Hemisphere.
- 7. You can't take pictures with a wooden leg. You need a camera to take pictures.
- 8. Same as is it now Donald Trump [Oh, come on ..]
- 9. You would be in second. Well, you passed the person in second place, not first.
- 10. Neither, the yolk of the egg is yellow [Duh]
- 11. One. If he combines all of his haystacks, they all become one big one.

# MANAGEMENT TEAM



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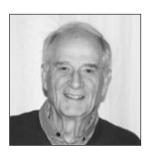
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#### April Management meeting...



#### FORUM - THE ESCARPMENT PROBUS CLUB NEWSMAGAZINE

This newsletter is published monthly in PDF format. If you know someone who you feel might be interested in joining the Escarpment PROBUS Club, please forward this publication with our compliments.

#### **FORUM Deadline**

The editor notifies the management team and all convenors of the deadline for articles and pictures for publication for each issue. Stories and articles may be emailed to the editor or submitted to any member of the management team. Escarpment PROBUS Club reserves the right to refuse, edit, or change any copy or image submitted.