



THE PROBUS CLUB OF UXBRIDGE

www.uxbridgeprobus.com

uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com

UXFORMATION May 2023

MANAGEMENT TEAM

President
Kathy Clulow

Past-President
Chuck Heroux

First Vice-President
& Zoom Coordinator
Bernie Beales

Secretary
Linda Abate

Treasurer
Wayne Brasseur

Speaker Chair
Deirdre Gibson

Social Committee Chairs
**Gail Porter Heroux
Camille Scarlett**

Interest Groups Chair
Betty Bignell

Newsletter Editor
Carolyn Hicken

Membership Chair
Elaine Stevenson

Webmaster
Gerry Bignell

Volunteer Co-ordinator
Lynn Moore

MEMBERS AT LARGE
Brett Moore
Larry Nancekivell
Gail Verwoerd
Judy Fountain

President's Message

Spring is more than in the air - it is here! Our town is turning green again as the leaves are exploding and early flowers are blooming. I love the first day of getting my hands dirty - digging and transplanting in my gardens - don't you? Even just opening the windows wide, inviting fresh air and bird songs to brighten your day brings such pleasure.



For bird lovers, Merlin is a free app that identifies bird songs, with Sound ID and Photo ID. I have it on my phone and have used it daily to identify birds on walks and in our yard. I'm ready with my hummingbird and oriole feeders out as they should be returning soon.

Uxbridge PROBUS celebrates our 5th Anniversary on June 14 and your Management Team is creating a fun celebration. Part of the meeting that day will include a short AGM where we take care of a few PROBUS business items. We want to have room for more of our members, therefore this meeting only will be held at Wooden Sticks. There is no charge for the meeting portion, but we ask you to register so that we are prepared with sufficient seating. This will be followed by a luncheon, but you must register soon to get your ticket at a special price (see details in the Social Committee section of this newsletter). We look forward to celebrating with you.



During our May 10th meeting we will present our proposed 2023/2024 Management Team. An email will be sent to all members with this information by May 17th, any further nominations must be conveyed to the Nominating Committee by email at president.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com. There will be no further nominations beyond May 24th.

We look forward to seeing you at our May meeting.

Kathy Clulow

Our next PROBUS Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 10 a.m. In-person at the Uxbridge Legion.

Excerpt from the Tale of the Starfish... “Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can’t save all these starfish. You can’t begin to make a difference!”

The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, “Well, I made a difference for that one!” (*Don't know the story? [Click here](#)*)

YOU can do a little for our planet... **BRING YOUR COFFEE MUG TO OUR NEXT MEETING!!**

Membership

Each June we ask members to renew their membership in PROBUS Uxbridge. The fee remains unchanged at \$30.00. This small amount of money is very important to us. It allows us to rent meeting facilities, pay necessary liability insurance, and meet other expenses as they arise.

Please renew your membership at our next meeting on May 10th with cash or cheque at our meeting or an e-transfer to treasurer.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com.

If you do not wish to renew at this time, please let me know at membership.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com, so we can let some new members that have been patiently waiting on our wait list join us. There will be no extensions granted.

Thank you very much. We hope to see you soon at one of our meetings at the Legion, or on one of our trips or interest group activities.

Our members are what make the Uxbridge PROBUS Club so vibrant and interesting. We hope you will continue to be part of our fun active group.

Regards,

Elaine Stevenson

Speaker's Corner

We have a lineup of great speakers arranged for our Club.

First, **Robert Smythe** will be presenting A Century of Movies at the May meeting.

Rob is a retired high school teacher & author who has a keen interest in music, the performing arts, and especially movies. He has performed in, directed, and/or conducted the bands for many musical productions. He has created a fun, interactive multimedia presentation for us to enjoy. He invites you to join him with a nostalgic, entertaining look at the most influential movies of the past century. For more info on Rob, check out the PROBUS Website.

For our 5th Anniversary Meeting in June at Wooden Sticks we will be entertained by Mike Daley, Musician & Musicologist. It promises to be a memorable event.

In July, Geoff Carpentier will be sharing his Journey to Antarctica with us.

Prepared by Zina Bolak

April in review

Coffee & conversation April 25, 2023

Twenty-five of us gathered at the home of Deirdre Gibson and Robert Reimers, for our second, Coffee and Conversation. They had graciously offered their lovely home for our little gathering. There were various areas for smaller groups to talk together, and some homemade baked goods and crackers and cheese were enjoyed with the coffee and tea. Thank you, Deirdre and Robert!



New and long-time members gathered at the home of Deirdre Gibson and Robert Reimers to enjoy a coffee klatch, sharing coffee and conversation. The weather may have been cold outside, but the chatter and the fire were warm inside. A small group sat in the library to debate politics while everyone enjoyed the home-made goodies that the Social Committee had provided. New connections were made while our newest members learned about all the fun social events our PROBUS group has underway. Everyone was reminded that our PROBUS newsletter has all the details.



Photos: Sharon Shapscott.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

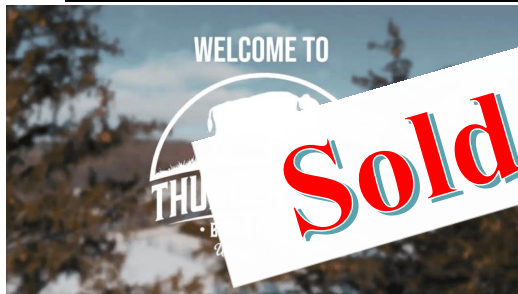
Social Co-Chairs: Gail Heroux & Camille Scarlett

TO SIGN UP FOR ALL SOCIAL EVENTS:

- first - you must sign up either by email to social.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com or telephone to Gail Heroux - 905-852-9927 or Camille Scarlett - 416-859-1593 or at meeting at social table

-next- you must pay - either by e-transfer to treasurer.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com or by cheque at a meeting or mail a cheque to Uxbridge PROBUS c/o Gail Heroux 72 Munro Crescent Uxbridge L9P 1L8

VISIT TO THUNDERRIDGE BISON FARM Uxbridge



TUESDAY MAY 30.....

MILLENIUM LILAC TRAIL...WARKWORTH

with Peter Brotherhood

COST: \$130 (member) \$140 (guest)

see attached flyer for more details & times

Warkworth Lilac Tour with Peter Brotherhood –

(Mary Morton Tour) Spend a day enjoying the rural delights of Northumberland County.....

Primrose Donkey Sanctuary

St. Paul's United Church in Warkworth for lunch Millenium Lilac Trail

Glover's Farm Market

For more information regarding this excursion, you may look online at warkworthlilacfestival.ca for photos and more information and primrosedonkeysanctuary.com for photos and history of the sanctuary

FINAL DAY TO SIGN UP FOR THIS EVENT IS MONDAY MAY 15



WEDNESDAY JUNE 14.....
PROBUS ANNUAL MEETING
&



5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION at
WOODEN STICKS GOLF CLUB ...

10:00 am meeting - must pre-register to attend (no charge as usual) with special guests and speaker

12:45: followed by optional buffet lunch for members choosing to stay for lunch

COST: \$20 (member-subsidized)
\$40 (guest - full price)

sign up at meeting, by email or by telephone according to instructions at top of social calendar

FINAL DAY TO SIGN UP FOR LUNCH IS WEDNESDAY JUNE 7



THURSDAY JULY 20.....30,000 ISLANDS CRUISE
with lunch at LOG CABIN INN... PARRY SOUND

(tour arranged by Mary Morton Tours)

cost \$165 (member); \$175 (guest)
ISLAND QUEEN



LOG CABIN INN PARRY SOUND FOR LUNCH



8:30 am Depart from Uxbridge Walmart in deluxe luxury coach

11:15 am Buffet Lunch at Log Cabin Inn

1:00 pm Board Island Queen

7:00 pm approximate return home

[See attached flyer for more details](#)

FINAL DATE TO SIGN UP IS WEDNESDAY JULY 5

THURSDAY AUGUST 17..... ST. JACOB'S SCHOOLHOUSE THEATRE

"PERFECT WEDDING" (Mary Morton Tour)

COST : \$175 (member) \$185 (guest)

8:30 am - depart from Uxbridge Walmart parking lot in our deluxe motor coach
10:45 am - arrive St.Jacob's Market



Spend time at the St Jacob's Farmer's Market, where you can browse from the vast array of locally grown fresh produce, meats, cheese, baking, and more.

11:45 am –lunch Lunch is included at the Golf Steak House and you may make your Entrée choice there.

At 2:00 p.m. it's showtime at the St Jacob's Schoolhouse Theatre for 'Perfect Wedding.'

See attached flyer for more details and show summary .

Sign up at meeting, by email or telephone as described at the top of this newsletter.

FINAL DATE TO SIGN UP IS THURSDAY JUNE 29

FOSTER MEMORIAL TOUR

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Price \$10.00(members) \$15.00 (guests)

Tour Guide: Conrad Boyce



(self driving event)

***MEET FOR LUNCH AT 1 pm at:
SLABTOWN CIDER COMPANY (at your own
expense)***

***Sign-up at: social.uxbridgeprobus.com
Etransfer to: treasurer.uxbridgeprobus.com
(or bring your cheque to our next meeting)***

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6... STRATFORD FESTIVAL...

SPAMALOT

AVON THEATRE 2 PM....

see attached flyer for other details

Sign up as noted at top of newsletter

COST : \$200 (member) \$210 (guest)

8:30 am -depart Uxbridge Walmart Parking lot

11:30 am - lunch include at Parkview United Church with
roast beef entree

2:00 pm - Showtime at Stratford Avon Theatre for
"Spamalot"

7:30pm -approximate return home

Included: all taxes & gratuities, deluxe motor coach, lunch.

orchestra seating in theatre, use of Hwy 407 one way, bus driver tip, water on bus.



FINAL DAY TO SIGN UP IS THURSDAY JULY 20

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20...

Summer Finale Barbecue - Cullen Central Park

Whitby ...Erin Monaghan catering

Cost: \$40 for member & \$45 for guest

.....
We are planning to have several other local events over the next few months which will not require a bus and so would be fairly inexpensive.

Possible events:

Salem Alpaca Farm in Manilla- fall is a better time to see the animals with their heavy fleece winter coats

Timbercreek Mini-Golf & Kawartha ice cream

Sunflower Farm walk – Beaverton end of July - August depending on blooms

Other suggestions for you

Oshawa Peony Festival... June 10-11 from 10 am - 4 pm

The City of Oshawa is hosting the annual Peony Festival at the Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens.

Oshawa Valley Botanical Garden – Kinsmen Valleyview Park, 155 Arena St., Oshawa

FREE PARKING

INTEREST GROUPS



Bleeding heart and Grape Hyacinth



Lily of the Valley



Lilac

May flowers - photos by Dale Schustyk

On May 10, 2023, the next General meeting as usual will be at the Uxbridge Legion. There will be **Interest Group sign-up sheets** at the back of the meeting room. If you are interested in joining any of the groups, add your name & contact information to the sign-up sheets! **Please print!** As well you can contact me, Betty Bignell at interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com.

During our coffee break, I'll be at the back of the room with the sign-up sheets hopefully able to answer any questions. Coordinators all have their Group name tags and may be sitting with me, or somewhere in the room available to answer any questions. Everyone joining an Interest Group must be a Club member!

There usually isn't a charge to join an Interest Group, but some may have a minimal fee to pay for using the venue.

POTENTIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

Animals (Horses & Dogs), Astrology, Bowling, Card & Board Games, Cooking, Current Events, Fitness, History, Home Reno, Mah-jong, Music, Sports: (Pole Walking, Running, Biking, Skiing, Skating, Swimming), Photography, Sailing, Yoga and more.

*If you have an idea of another potential new group, or want to join one of the above suggested groups, please contact me at the General Meetings or send me a message at interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com

*We need Coordinators to make the following groups active: Art Club, Book Lovers, and Meditation.

Teamwork Makes the Dreams work!

CURRENT INTEREST GROUPS:

BANNED BOOK CLUB

The next meeting will be on **May 16, 2023**. The group will have read, "*The Handmaid's Tale*," by Margaret Atwood, with the option of also reading, "*The Testaments*". Nancy Emo will lead the discussion.

In April the group discussed "*The Stone Angel*," by Margaret Laurence. This book generated an excellent discussion led by Brett Moore.

Currently the group has a spot for one new Club member. If interested in joining, contact me, Betty Bignell at interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com.

The group will meet monthly on the third Tuesday at 1:30.

Coordinator: Camille Scarlett

BOOK LOVERS – Coordinator Required

The Book Lovers had been meeting on Wednesdays from **1:30-3:00**. The last book discussed was “*The Clockmaker’s Daughter*” by Kate Morton. If you are interested in joining this group when it becomes active again, contact me, Betty Bignell at interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB This group has reached its maximum number of members and has a waiting list.

Please contact me if you want to be added to the wait list, Betty Bignell, interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com Coordinators: Lyn May, Lenore Moore

CASINO VISITS

Hopefully the group will be going to **Casino Rama in May**. Several members of the group had planned to go to Casino Rama in April, however there was a technical problem with the casino computers and the visit was cancelled. If you are interested in joining the Casino Visits Group, please contact me, Betty Bignell, at interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com. Coordinator: Jim Boyle

EUCHRE.

The Euchre group meets on the first Tuesday of the month, at 10:00 am. Coordinator: Carolyn Hicken



GARDENING

In May the group will be visiting Udora Community Hall Gardens as well as fellow gardener Anne Linkruus’ garden in Udora.

The group had a wonderful trip to Richter’s Herbs in April, followed by lunch where they talked ‘dirt’ on their gardens. Summer plans are to visit local gardens and gardeners, aiming to learn more about each others’ gardens sharing tips and ideas. Hands on Learning at it’s best!

Depending on where the group meets, there may be a very small initial charge and weekly charge for members of this group. For more information or to join the group, please contact me, Betty Bignell at interest.groups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com.

Coordinator: Sally Kotsopoulos

GENEALOGY There is now a Wait List for Club members to join this group.

The Genealogy Group will meet on **May 18** to discuss their progress and think about next steps. Both traditional family tree records and modern DNA techniques are explored.

The group will meet on the third Thursday of each month from 1:30-3:30.

Coordinator – Bernie Beales

HANDICRAFT

Hoping to be working with dry clay, the group is scheduled to meet on **Friday, May 19 at 1:00**. Because of the May Victoria Day holiday, the meeting may be cancelled if members aren’t available. Group members are always invited to bring their own projects to share with others. There will be a small initial charge and weekly charge for members of this group. For more information or to join the group, please contact me, Betty Bignell at interest.groups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com .

Coordinator: Sally Kotsopoulos

HIKING

Our Goodwood/Uxbridge area has a wonderful series of trails through a variety of forests and meadows, some quite flat, some with gentle hills. The group explores these forest trails near Uxbridge in the Durham and York Regions for 1 ½ to 2 hours. Join them for lively discussions, interesting views and leisurely treks!



Hike details are emailed to members for pre-registration. The Hiking Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:30 am. If you are interested in joining this Interest Group, send your request to Betty Bignell at interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com

May hikes will be Thursday May 4 and Thursday May 18.

Coordinators: Carol Fraser, John Willcock

KITCHEN BRIDGE – A Group for Both Women and Men!

The Kitchen Bridge group will be taking a break until September. New members will always be welcome! If you are interested in joining this group, contact Betty Bignell at interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com. Kitchen Bridge will meet on the first Thursday of each month.

Coordinators: Margaret & Rene Blanchet

LADIES BRIDGE CLUB

The Ladies Bridge group will be getting together on **Wednesday, May 17.**

The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month.

Online Bridge continues every **Monday at 1:00.**

Coordinators: Carol Chillman, Caren Narvet

LET'S EAT OUT

Meeting monthly to enjoy dinner with other Club members, this group has enjoyed dining in a great variety of restaurants. In April the group enjoyed dinner at the Old Country Inn, Unionville.

If you would like to join them, next month, please contact me at

interestgroups.uxbridgeptobus@gmail.com.

The group meets monthly on the third Thursday.

Coordinators: Gail & Chuck Heroux



LUNCH GROUP

The Lunch Group will meet next on **May 29**. Group members are contacted monthly with the name of the restaurant where they will meet. If interested in joining this group, contact me, Betty Bignell at

interestgroups.uxbridgeprobustobus@gmail.com.

In April the group enjoyed lunch at Eastside Mario's.



The Lunch Group meets on the last Monday of the month at 12:00.

Coordinators: Betty Bignell & Joy Freemantle

MOVIES

This group periodically meets to watch movies together. If you would like to be a member of this group, please contact me at interestgroupsuxbridgeprobustobus@gmail.com.

Coordinators: Gail & Chuck Heroux

PICKLEBALL

The Pickleball season has begun! Group members will be playing on Tuesdays and Fridays. If interested in joining this group, please contact Betty Bignell at interestgroups.uxbridgeprobustobus@gmail.com.

Coordinators: Gerry Bignell, Barry Scarlett

SCRABBLE

The Scrabble group will be gathering on **May 10th at 1:00**.

There will not be a Scrabble session in June due to the PROBUS Club annual meeting.

The group welcomes new players and encourages cooperation and laughter as they expand vocabularies and make new friends.

This is a cooperative group interested in having a good time and stretching their brains (at least a little bit).

New members are welcome. If interested contact Betty at interestgroups.uxbridgeprobustobus@gmail.com.

The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm.

Coordinator: Judy Fink

SMALL TOWN THEATRE GROUP

The last lunch and theatre matinee for this season will be on **June 11, 2023**, at the Richmond Hill Curtain Club to see *Jonas and Barry in the Home*.

In April the group met for lunch at Jester's Court and enjoyed the excellent food, service and the chance to chat with each other. After lunch the group saw the musical **GREASE** at the Port Perry Music Hall. They enjoyed hearing nostalgic music sung by very talented performers.

Small Town Theatre members may be interested in attending comedies, musicals, or plays in the Durham and York regions. If you want to join this group, please contact me, Betty Bignell at interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com"



Coordinators: Steve Fryzuk, Peggy Kennedy

TRAVEL ***New Coordinator – Anne-Marie Sacco! ***

We are grateful that Anne-Marie has offered to be our Travel Group Coordinator! Thank you, Anne-Marie! Group members will be receiving a message from Anne-Marie some time during the next few weeks. If you are interested in joining this newly activated group, please contact me at interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com.

Coordinator: Anne-Marie Sacco

URBAN WALKING

The next walk will be on **May 18th**. A social group, they walk at a moderate pace for about an hour. Group members will be notified monthly of when and where the next walk will be.

New members will always be welcome! If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Betty Bignell interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com.

Urban Walking is the third Thursday monthly.

Coordinator: June O'Donnell

WINE CLUB **This group now has a waiting list**

The next meeting will be **May 10th at 7:00**. At this meeting members will celebrate Spring by exploring 'The Big Four' white wine varieties: Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio. There will a chance to compare the wines and discuss how these might be used in Spring entertaining. Please contact me if you want to be added to the wait list. Betty Bignell, interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com

This group meets monthly on the second Wednesday.

Coordinators: Margaret & Rene Blanchet, Sherrill Burns

“There’s an Interest Group for that!” (Debra Revie Lippay)

Betty Bignell

Interest Group Chair

interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com

A Little Fun...

An amazing story about an e-mail gone wrong.

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day. The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an e-mail to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her e-mail address, and, without realizing his error, sent the e-mail.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who had a heart attack and died. The widow decided to check her e-mail, expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife

Subject: I've Arrived

Date: October 16, 2004

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send e-mails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was. P.S. Sure is freaking hot down here!

A SENIOR'S VERSION OF FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them.

And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

