



## THE PROBUS CLUB OF UXBRIDGE

[www.uxbridgeprobus.com](http://www.uxbridgeprobus.com)

[uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com)

# UXFORMATION December 2021

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

### President

**Chuck Heroux**

### Vice-President

**Kathy Clulow**

### Second Vice President

**Bernie Beales**

### Secretary

**Linda Abate**

### Treasurer

**Wayne Brasseur**

### Speaker Chair

**Deirdre Gibson**

### Social Committee Chair

**Gail Porter Heroux**

### Interest Groups Chair

**Betty Bignell**

### Newsletter Editor

**Carolyn Hicken**

### Membership Chair

**Elaine Stevenson**

### Webmaster

**Gerry Bignell**

### Zoom Coordinator

**Ellen Gillis**

### Volunteer Co-ordinator

**Lynn Moore**

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

**Brett Moore**

**Larry Nancekivell**

**Nancy Varley**

**Lynn Bernier**

## President's Message

It must be winter—we've seen our first snow, and if you're like me and haven't done your outdoor lights yet, it may be too late. Oh, well...

It has been a very busy month for your PROBUS club. We had our first hybrid meeting on November 10, with an excellent speaker from the Georgina wartime Museum, but were not successful in the Zoom portion of the meeting. We had run several trials, and thought we had the system sorted, but it was not to be. The recorded sound was so poor we decided not to produce a video for the club, and no one was more disappointed than the team that had worked so hard on this. The good news is we have two months before we have to try again, and have called in some additional technical help. Hopefully we'll find out what went wrong and how to fix it.

On a happier note, the team working on our Fantasy of Lights display has successfully installed the Pro Bus Lines bus, with Christmas trees and gifts all illuminated, and we are ready to go for December 4th. I can't wait to see it.

On December 8, one hundred of us will gather at the Royal Ashburn Golf Club for our annual Christmas lunch. Details will be found elsewhere in this newsletter, and we are very excited to be able to present this party for our club. Entertainment is from the a capella group Cruisin', and there will be door prizes, a cash bar, and a silent raffle as well. It will be great to see so many together again.

All the Covid protocols will be followed at the luncheon, and we would encourage all of you to continue to be careful and safe out there. We are just now learning of a new variant of the virus, so we are reminded we are not through this yet.

Oh, and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you all from the Management Team!

Chuck



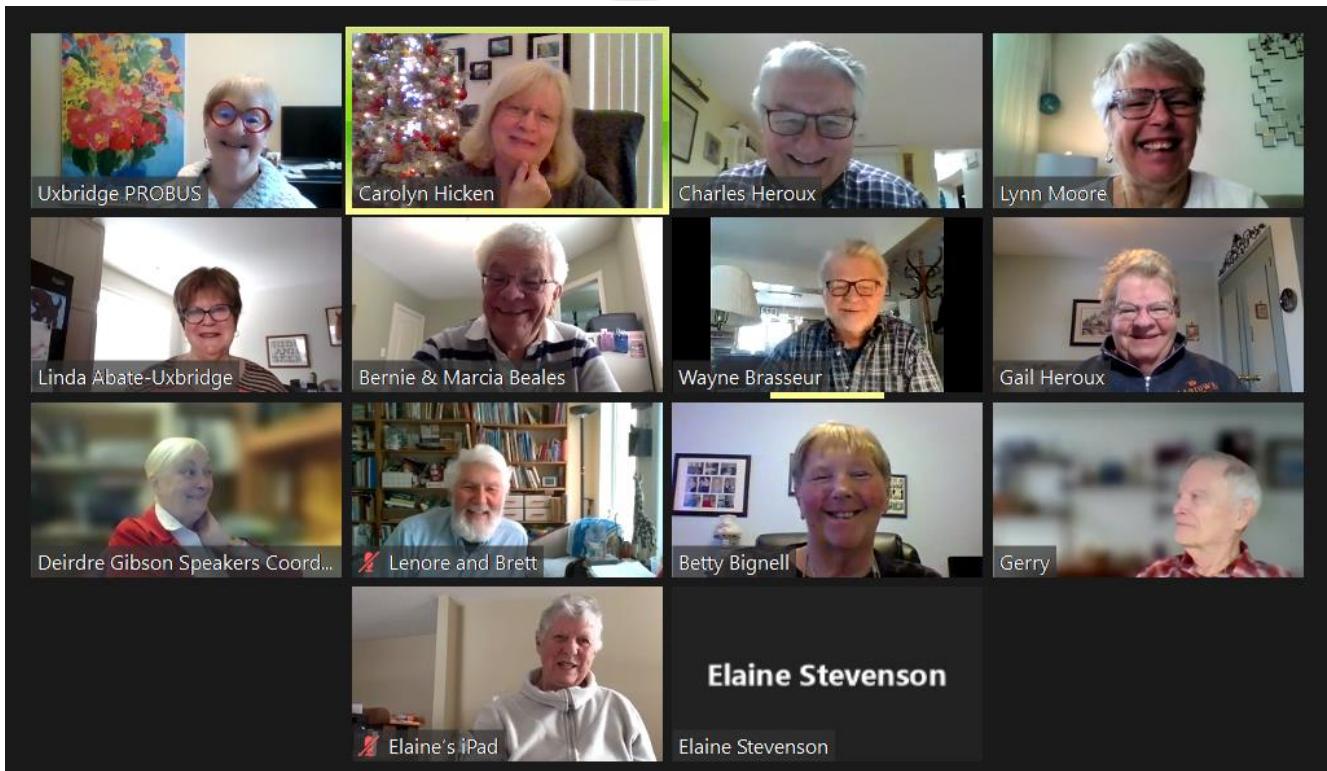
## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There are currently 217 Uxbridge PROBUS members. A warm welcome to our newest members! Elaine Stevenson, Membership Chair

## SPEAKER'S CORNER

**For December** we are not having a speaker as we are meeting for a Christmas lunch with entertainment. More information is listed under the Social Calendar. Deirdre Gibson, Speaker Chair

## Management Team



## Photos from November 10



The speaker was from Georgina Military Museum - [check it out - click here!](#)

**FANTASY OF LIGHTS:  
MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHTS WORK!**

After a couple of months of design, construction and decorating, the Fantasy of Lights display was finally ready to be installed at Elgin Park. On Saturday, November 20, the installation team lead by Rene Blanchet transported the display and anchored it to the ground. The next day the decoration team led by Lenore Moore attached the finishing touches. Thanks to the whole team of 15 Club members, many hands made the lights work! We are hoping you all will find time to visit The Fantasy of Lights display in Elgin Park nightly between 6:00-9:00 pm from December 4 to January 2.



**INTERIM** Coordinator is Bernie Beales

# SOCIAL CALENDAR

**ALL IN PERSON EVENTS WILL REQUIRE PROOF OF COVID VACCINATION -**

THIS PROOF WILL ONLY BE REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST IN-PERSON EVENT THAT YOU ATTEND AND WILL BE ON RECORD FOR FUTURE EVENTS.

**IF THE EVENT INCLUDES ADMISSION TO A RESTAURANT OR OTHER, REMEMBER THAT  
ONTARIO NOW REQUIRES THAT YOU SHOW PROOF OF VACCINATION ALONG WITH PHOTO ID BEFORE  
ENTERING**

**next week!!!**

**WED. DEC. 8**

**PROBUS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**Royal Ashburn Golf Club, 905 Myrtle Road West, Whitby**

**Delicious buffet meal, Cash bar, Terrific Entertainment,**

**Raffle for lots of wonderful prizes and gifts**

**(raffle tickets on sale in adjoining sunroom beside prize display),**

**Door Prizes (all names entered in this draw)**



**Doors open just before 11:30 with cash bar in sunroom for social time & opportunity to buy your raffle tickets**

**and choose your gift. Buffet open at 12:00      COST: SOLD OUT**



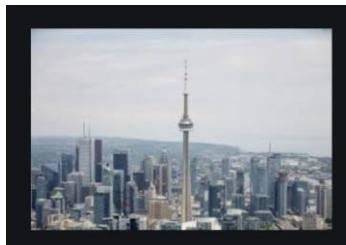
**SOCIAL EVENTS ARE COMING BACK!**

**A TORONTO EXPERIENCE**

**rescheduled from March 2020**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022**

**\$160 per person**



**Come experience Toronto like a tourist.**

**Your day includes the following:**

- A guided tour around the city, hosted by an experienced tour guide from the comfort of our motor coach.
- Lunch at the popular Hot House Cafe
- Ripley's Aquarium visit
- Admission to the CN Tower



Arranged by Mary Morton Tours More details on the flyer

**NOTE:** maximum 30 passengers, seats separated by plexiglas

**MASKS & PROOF OF DOUBLE VACCINATION IS REQUIRED**

all Covid protocols enforced as required by law

sign up at [social.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:social.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com) pay by e-transfer to: [treasurer.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com)

or by phone Gail Heroux - 905-852-9927 & mail in cheque to :Uxbridge PROBUS c/o Gail Heroux

**72 Munro Crescent, Uxbridge, L9P 1L8**

**includes:**

- All HST taxes & gratuities
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- City tour of Toronto with step-on guide
- Lunch at the Hot House Café
- Admission to Ripley's Aquarium
- CN Tower Ride to the Top

## INTEREST GROUPS



Unfortunately, as I write this, the media has posted information about the latest Coronavirus variant OMICRON. Currently indoor groups may meet with a maximum of 25 people and outdoor events may include up to 100. However, these regulations may soon change.

For all our Club indoor events, members must be vaccinated. A copy of each member's vaccination second dose receipt must have been received by: Gail Heroux at [social.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:social.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com) Elaine Stevenson at [membership.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:membership.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com)

### POTENTIAL GROUPS

“The French Connection” **Not a French Class!**

Recently our Membership Chair, Elaine Stevenson, was able to help connect two of our Club members who speak French fluently. Initially they didn't know each other but they did enjoy the opportunity to have a conversation speaking French. One of them discovered that a relative lived in the same town in Quebec as the other! If there are any other Club members who can speak French fluently and want to be part of “The French Connection” group, please contact me Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com).

*Photo by Marie Pierre-Hughes*

Among our over 200 Club members some are fluent in other languages besides English. If the idea appeals to you, maybe we can have a “Dutch Connection” or a “Spanish Connection” group, etc. If you speak another language and would love the chance to chat with another Club member in that language, contact me at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com).

There are many potential groups we can start or activate again once we have some interested members and a Coordinator. New groups may include a group specifically for men: a Men's Book Club, or a Men's Breakfast Club, etc. Other groups you might be interested in joining are: An Art Group, Board Games, Cooking, Decorating, Gardening, Handicrafts, Photography, Scrapbooking, or a Woodworking Group.

Glancing through newsletters other Clubs post on their websites I've seen a variety of Interest Groups. Some you may find interesting are: “The Brew Crew”, or “Marathon Bridge”, Indoor Golf”, “Nibbles at Night” & maybe “Bowling”. Another group could be “Nature Lovers”. If any of these groups appeal to you, or you have an idea for a new group please contact me, Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com)

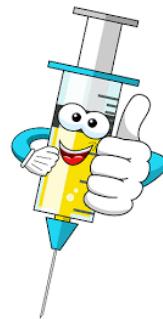
\*\*\*\*\*

## **Current Interest Groups:**

For indoor groups a copy of each member's vaccination second dose receipt must have been received by:

Gail Heroux at [social.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:social.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com) and

Elaine Stevenson at [membership.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:membership.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com)



All members of our Uxbridge PROBUS Club are covered by liability insurance under PROBUS Canada's policy. To join one of our Interest Groups it is imperative that Club members contact me, Betty Bignell, Chair of Interest Groups, [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com).

Our Club protocol is that the Interest Group Chair must ensure the person is in fact a Club member joining a group and therefore will be covered by our liability insurance.

## **BOOK CLUB**

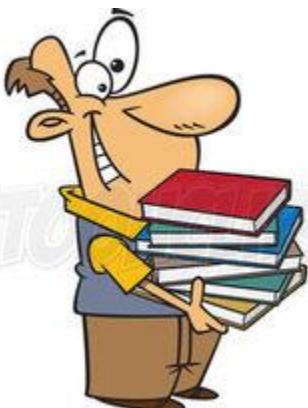
Twelve Book Club members met at the Blue Heron Book store on November 25. "The Book of Longings" by Sue Monk Kidd promoted a fascinating discussion looking at the role of women in Biblical times and the life of Jesus with his wife. There will not be a meeting in December.

In January the group will discuss "State of Terror" by Louise Penny and Hilary Clinton.

This group has currently reached the maximum attendees that may meet at Blue Heron Bookstore.

The Book Club meets on the fourth Thursday afternoon of each month.

Coordinators: Lyn May and Lenore Moore



## **BOOK SHARING**

A virtual library has been created and this is how it works:

When you join the group, from your own collection you submit a list of 20 books that you are willing to share. This list is maintained on a shared file that all group members can see. If there is a book that you want to read, you send an email to the owner, who arranges to put it out on their porch for you. The book is placed on an "out" list, until it comes back.

Everyone will need to make sure their books are identified and will also be responsible for keeping track of who has their books. If you are interest in joining this group, please contact me, Betty Bignell, at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com) Coordinator: Chuck Heroux

## **BRIDGE CLUB - For Women Only**

The Bridge group plays online every Monday from 1-3 pm. The group hopes to be playing in person the third Wednesday of each month starting in January. New members are welcome. If you need more information or are interested in joining the group, please contact Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com)

Coordinator: Carol Chillman



## **EUCHRE**

The group is currently looking for a location to play. However, if you are interested in joining the Euchre group please contact me, Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com) .

Coordinator: Sally Kotsopoulos



## HIKING

The Hiking Group meets at 9:30 am on the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. The Goodwood/Uxbridge area has a wonderful series of trails through a variety of forests and meadows, some quite flat, some with gentle hills. We explore these forest trails near Uxbridge in the Durham and York Regions for 1 ½ to 2 hours. Join us for lively discussions, interesting views and leisurely treks!

December Hikes are scheduled for Thursday, December 2 and Thursday, December 16. Hike details are emailed to our members for Pre-registration.

If you are interested in joining this Interest Group, send your request to Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com).



Coordinators: Carol Fraser & John Willcock

## \*\*\*\*Jam with PROBUS\*\*\*\* A new group that needs guitar, a banjo and more!

Were you a musician some time ago? Do you have a guitar or trumpet in the closet that hasn't been used for a while? Wouldn't it be great to play again? Or be a singer in the band? We have a studio with PA System and microphones!!

We are trying to get a group together just for fun and we need you. This is a non -professional group, if interested in joining them please contact Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com).

Coordinator: Wayne Brasseur

## KITCHEN BRIDGE

The Kitchen Bridge group met November 4 at a member's home. There were 8 members in attendance and all enjoyed socializing and a great learning experience. The next meeting will be on December 2. Anyone wishing to join the group please contact Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com).  
Coordinators: Margaret & Rene Blanchet

## LET'S EAT OUT

If you would like to join this group, please contact me, Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com). Coordinators: Gail Heroux & Chuck Heroux

## LINE DANCING

The group is dancing at the Studio on Friday mornings! There are restrictions of course, but they are having fun together. If more people are allowed in the studio, interested PROBUS members may join the next session starting January 21 for 12 weeks. There is a charge to cover the Studio rental fee.

To join this enjoyable group please contact Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com).

Coordinator: Carolyn Hicken



## LUNCH GROUP

The Lunch Group last met on November 29 at Wixen's Bridge in Uxbridge. The group won't be getting together in December but hopefully we'll be seeing you at the Club Christmas Luncheon on December 8! The Lunch Group meets on the last Monday of each month.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com).

Coordinators: Betty Bignell & Joy Freemantle



**MAHJONG** The group is currently on hold. Coordinator: Susan Stevens

## **MEDITATION**

The meditation group is now on hold until an indoor location is found. The Coordinator is hopeful that a new location will be available in December. Group members will be informed. New members always welcome! If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com).

Coordinator: Diane Dyke

## **MOVIES**

If you would like to join this group contact me, Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com). Coordinators: Gail and Chuck Heroux

## **PICKLE BALL**

The Pickle Ball Group is currently on hold until Spring 2022! Coordinator: Karen Allan

## **TRAVEL GROUP**

The Travel Group will meet on the Third Wednesday of each month at noon.

If interested in joining this group, please contact Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com). Coordinator: Kathy Clulow

## **URBAN WALKING GROUP**

June will notify group members of the day, time and where they will meet for each walk. There are many interesting neighbourhoods to explore in Uxbridge. New members will always be welcome, contact Betty Bignell [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com) Coordinator: June O'Donnell

## **WINE CLUB**

In November the Wine Club sampled wines from Spain's Eastern regions and the northern La Rioja region. The wines were complex and enjoyed by all. The labels seemed to include every flavour but dish soap, so it was a test to see how many of these flavours we could identify.

In December the group will be sampling wines from the regions and varietals of Portugal as a comparison to wine made in Spain. Information on these will be sent out in advance to group members to help with selecting the wines. Please contact Betty Bignell at [interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the group

Coordinators – Sherrill Burns, Rene and Margaret Blanchet



All our Interest Groups have a spot for you. If you are interested in joining a group, or if you have an idea for a new group, please contact me. Betty Bignell at [Interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com](mailto:Interestgroups.uxbridgeprobus@gmail.com)

To those of you who celebrate Christmas I wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Betty Bignell, Interest Group Chair



## A LITTLE HUMOUR

Laughter is the best... everything...

### HELLO, OPERATOR ANOTHER CHAPTER OF "THEY WALK AMONG US AND REPRODUCE!!

Actual call center conversations!

Customer: 'I've been calling 700-1000 for two days and can't get through; can you help?'

Operator: 'Where did you get that number, sir?'

Customer: 'It's on the door of your business.'

Operator: 'Sir, those are the hours that we are open.'

---

### Samsung Electronics

Caller: 'Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?'

Operator: 'I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about.'

Caller: 'On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?'

Operator: 'I think it means the telephone plug on the wall.'

---

### RAC Motoring Services

Caller: 'Does your European Breakdown Policy cover me when I am traveling in Australia ?'

Operator: 'Does the policy name give you a clue?'

Caller (enquiring about legal requirements while traveling in Europe )

'If I register my car in France , and then take it to England , do I have to change the steering wheel to the other side of the car?'

---

### Directory Enquiries

Caller: 'I'd like the number of the Argo Fish Bar, please'

Operator: 'I'm sorry, there's no listing. Are you sure that the spelling is correct?'

Caller: 'Well, it used to be called the Bargo Fish Bar but the 'B' fell off.'

Then there was the caller who asked for a knitwear company in Woven.

Operator: 'Woven? Are you sure?'

Caller: 'Yes.. That's what it says on the label -- Woven in Scotland ....'

On another occasion, a man making heavy breathing sounds from a phone box told a worried operator: 'I haven't got a pen, so I'm steaming up the window to write the number on.'

Tech Support: 'I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop.'

Customer: 'OK..'

Tech Support: 'Did you get a pop-up menu?'

Customer: 'No.'

Tech Support: 'OK. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?'

Customer: 'No.'

Tech Support: 'OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?'

Customer: 'Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'.'

Tech Support: 'OK. At the bottom left hand side of your screen, can you see the 'OK' button displayed?'

Customer: 'Wow! How can you see my screen from there?'

Caller: 'I deleted a file from my PC last week and I just realized that I need it. So, if I turn my system clock back two weeks will I get my file back again?'



*This has to be one of the funniest things in a long time. I think this guy should have been promoted, not fired. This is a true story from the WordPerfect Helpline, which was transcribed from a recording monitoring the customer care department.....*

*Needless to say the Help Desk employee was fired; however, he/she is currently suing the WordPerfect organization for 'Termination without Cause.'*

Actual dialogue of a former WordPerfect Customer Support employee.

(Now I know why they record these conversations!):

Operator: 'Ridge Hall, computer assistance; may I help you?'

Caller: 'Yes, well, I'm having trouble with WordPerfect .....

Operator: 'What sort of trouble?'

Caller: 'Well, I was just typing along, and all of a sudden the words went away.'

Operator: 'Went away?'

Caller: 'They disappeared'

Operator: 'Hmm. So what does your screen look like now?'

Caller: 'Nothing.'

Operator: 'Nothing??'

Caller: 'It's blank; it won't accept anything when I type.'

Operator: 'Are you still in WordPerfect, or did you get out?'

Caller: 'How do I tell?'

Operator: 'Can you see the 'C: prompt' on the screen?'

Caller: 'What's a sea-prompt?'

Operator: 'Never mind, can you move your cursor around the screen?'

Caller: 'There isn't any cursor; I told you, it won't accept anything I type.'

Operator: 'Does your monitor have a power indicator?'

Caller: 'What's a monitor?'

Operator: 'It's the thing with the screen on it that looks like a TV.'

Caller: 'Does it have a little light that tells you when it's on?'

Operator: 'Well, then look on the back of the monitor and find where the power cord goes into it.'

Caller: 'Can you see that??'

Operator: 'Yes, I think so.'

Caller: 'Great. Follow the cord to the plug, and tell me if it's plugged into the wall..'

Operator: 'Yes, it is.'

Caller: 'When you were behind the monitor, did you notice that there were two cables plugged into the back of it, not just one? '

Operator: 'No.'

Caller: 'Well, there are. I need you to look back there again and find the other cable.'

Operator: 'Okay, here it is.'

Caller: 'Follow it for me, and tell me if it's plugged securely into the back of your computer..'

Operator: 'I can't reach.'

Caller: 'OK. Well, can you see if it is?'

Operator: 'No...'

Caller: 'Even if you maybe put your knee on something and lean way over?'

Operator: 'Well, it's not because I don't have the right angle -- it's because it's dark.'

Caller: 'Dark?'

Operator: 'Yes - the office light is off, and the only light I have is coming in from the window.'

Caller: 'Well, turn on the office light then.'

Operator: 'I can't..'

Caller: 'No? Why not?'

Operator: 'Because there's a power failure.'

Caller: 'A power .... A power failure? Aha. Okay, we've got it licked now.'

Caller: Do you still have the boxes and manuals and packing stuff that your computer came in?"  
'Well, yes, I keep them in the closet.'  
Operator: 'Good. Go get them and unplug your system and pack it up just like it was when you got it.  
Then take it back to the store you bought it from.'  
Caller: 'Really? Is it that bad?'  
Operator: 'Yes, I'm afraid it is.'  
Caller: 'Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them?'  
Operator: 'Tell them you're too damned stupid to own a computer!'

## SENIOR WEDDING

Two very active seniors (Jacob, age 92, and Mary, age 89), living in The Villages, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding, and on the way they pass a drugstore. Jacob suggests they go in.

Jacob addresses the man behind the counter: "Are you the owner?"

The Pharmacist answers, "Yes."

Jacob: "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"

Pharmacist: "Of course we do."

Jacob: "How about medicine for circulation?"

Pharmacist: "All kinds."

Jacob: "Medicine for rheumatism?"

Pharmacist: "Definitely."

Jacob: "How about suppositories and medicine for impotence?"

Pharmacist: "You bet!"

Jacob: "Medicine for memory problems, arthritis, Alzheimer's?"

Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety."

Jacob: "What about Geritol, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?"

Pharmacist: "Absolutely."

Jacob: "Everything for heartburn and indigestion?"

Pharmacist: "We sure do."

Jacob: "You sell wheelchairs and walkers and canes?"

Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes."

Jacob: "Adult diapers?"

Pharmacist: "Sure, how can I help you?"

Jacob: "We'd like to use this store as our Bridal Registry."

**Season's Greetings  
and  
Happy New Year!**

