



PROBUS News.....

PROBUS Club of Bradford

Volume 150, Published January 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PROBUS Members:

Happy 2024! I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and are raring to participate in all that this year holds. Some interesting facts about 2024:

- This is a leap year when the 366th day keeps the calendar year synchronized with the astronomical year. If you were born on February 29, you are too young to belong to Probus (but we'll let you stay because we like you).
- This year will see over 50 countries go to the polls. These countries are home to half the planet's population.
- The Lunar New Year occurs on February 10 and will be the beginning of The Year of the Wood Dragon. The Wood Dragon represents health, strength, and good fortune. Those born in the Year of the Dragon (1964, 1952, 1940) are said to have natural leadership, charisma, and boundless enthusiasm.
- There will be 5 eclipses this year, 2 solar and 3 lunars.
- The XXXIII Olympiad (Paris 2024) will run from July 26th to Aug. 11th
- The 2024 calendar is reusable in 2052, 2080 and 2120 so don't throw yours away!
- Pantone's Color of the Year is Peach Fuzz, "a compassionate and nurturing soft peach shade conveying a heartfelt kindness".

Closer to home, we can look to 2024 for:

- Wherever Wendy and Dale go, mayhem follows. Probus had another murder this year, and although we didn't travel back in time, we did travel across North America to Hawaii.
- The Famous People Players lunch theatre will not have any murders. Instead, it will show us that you can accomplish anything if you want it badly enough and are willing to work for it. It also shows what one individual can do to positively change many lives.
- There is a great trip planned in May, this time to Kingston. The big question is: will Dale finally find himself behind bars? And no, Dale, we are not talking about a saloon. You will have to come to Kingston to find out the answer!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our 2024 meetings and events. Laughter is the best medicine and there is no lack of that when the club gets together. See you soon!

Until next month...

Bunny



PROBUS meeting
February 13 at 10:00 am
At St. John's Presbyterian Church

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2023/4 Executive Committee:

President: *Bunny Kaufman*
Vice President: *Dale Tasker*
Secretary: *Diane Turcotte*
Treasurer: *Cheryl Blair*
Social Chair: *Wendy Van Straten*
Communication: *Ellen Rombough*
Presentations: *Tom Nelson*
Speakers' Chair: *Bob Evans*
Members Chair: *Pat Mohren*
Major Events:
Brenda Andrews and
Peggy Michaud
Members at Large:
Ann Evans and Chris Van Straten
Past President: *Dave McMillan*

JANUARY MEETING

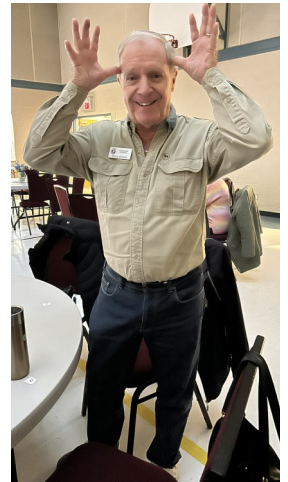


January 2024 blew in with a bang but, luckily, we missed the “snowmagedden” storm that was predicted for our morning meeting. A respectable number of members, willing to brave the forecasted mother nature snow tantrum, attended.



Congratulations to Sonia Conway! She won the 50/50 draw of \$53.00!

Even Moose, who was not wearing his customary shorts and fur lined crocks (but long pants), took the weather warnings seriously.



IMPORTANT: NEW PAYMENT FOR EVENTS OPTIONS

When signing up and paying for future PROBUS events, please use the following options:

| Event Amount | Cash | Cheque | e-transfer |
|--------------|------|--------|------------|
| Up to \$50 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Over \$50 | X | ✓ | ✓ |

When paying with cash:

1. Please use an envelope with your name and the event name written on the front.
2. Insert exact amount only.

Guest Speaker for February—Leanne Harrls Racloppo, Great Loves

Forget Romeo and Juliet! Leanne Racioppo is returning for our February meeting (just before Valentines Day). Leanne will regale us with stories of other famous couples that would light the ages...*scandalous, tragic, forbidden*. We'll take a peek!

SCANDAL



Mnemonic

Brian Bilston

Thirty days has September,

April, June and November.

Unless a leap year is its fate,

February has twenty-eight.

All the rest have three days more, excepting January,

which has six thousand, one hundred and eighty-four.

BRADFORD PROBUS CLUBS CONTACTS

These are the current clubs that are actively running. If you have a particular interest that you would like to share with club members and start another club contact Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

Bid Euchre—Deborah Liukaitis
dliukait@sympatico.ca

Book Club—Cheryl Blair
Cheryl_blair@rogers.com

Cycling Club—Heather and Mark Cannata
thecannatas@gmail.com

Dinner Club—Dale Tasker
dale.tasker@rogers.com

Discussion Club—Peter Ellis
peterellis1000@gmail.com

Knitting—Linda Alsop
lindava@rogers.com

Mah Jongg—Pat Mohren
jp,mohren@gmail.com

Movie—Dave McMillan
dmcmillan2000@rogers.com

RODEO—Gwen Green
gweng9@rogers.com

ROMEO—Rotating Leads

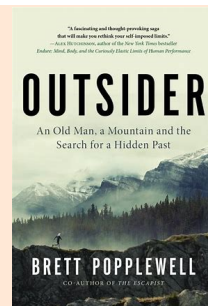
Scrabble—Amy Wright
amywright0@hotmail.com

BOOK CLUB (Cheryl Blair, Cheryl_blair@rogers.com)

Book Club resumes in January 2024. The book is “**Outsider**” by Brett Popplewell. February’s read is “Lessons In Chemistry”, Bonnie Garmus.

Outsider follows journalist Brett Popplewell as he uncovers the story of Dag Aabye, an aging former stuntman who lived alone inside a school bus on a mountain, running day and night through blizzards and heat waves. The book chronicles Aabye's life from childhood to the silver screen, reflecting on our notions of aging, belonging and human accomplishment.

Check this link for access to books the club has read: [Book Club - The PROBUS Club of Bradford](#)



KNITTING- The SSK Ladies knitting group will be meeting on the 4th Thursday of every month.

February 27 at Linda Alsop's

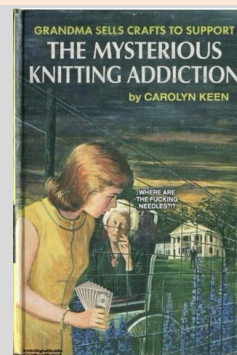
March 26 at Deb Liukaitis'

April 23 at Lorna Foti's

May 28 at Pat Mohren's

Linda will notify the group of any changes, prior to the meeting dates.

If you don't knit or crochet but do needle point or another craft and are interested in joining the group, contact Linda Alsop at lindava@rogers.com. All are welcome!



ROMEO Breakfast ROMEO breakfasts will always be the **Friday after the general PROBUS meeting every month** —held at the **Sun Star Restaurant, Yonge St., Holland Landing.**

To attend sign up at the monthly PROBUS meeting or contact Dale Tasker dale.tasker@rogers.com

LADIES RODEO LUNCH HIGH TEA at the British Shop Tea Room, in Alliston. Thanks to Dianne Nelson and Eleanor Watt for organizing this lovely, elegant event.



APPY PARTY!

Many thanks to Wendy and Chris Van Straten for hosting.



Having a good time learning the Mah Jongg game. May have to put our teacher, Pat Mohren on speed dial.



TWO CANADIANS DIE

Two Canadians die and end up in Hell. Satan decides to pay them a visit, so he walks into their room and sees them talking and laughing. Confused, he asks them why they're happy.

They tell him, "Well, we're so sick of the cold where we're from, and this place is nice and toasty."

Satan, annoyed, storms away and goes to Hell's boiler room, where he turns up the temperature.

He goes back to the Canadians' room, along the way being begged by all sorts of people to put the heating back down. He enters the room to see the Canadians having a barbecue. Furiously, he asks them what they're doing.

"Well, we can't pass up this wonderful weather without getting out the barbecue!"

Satan realizes he's been doing the wrong thing. He goes to the boiler room and turns it down until it's at a colder temperature than ever seen on earth.

He knows he's won now, so he goes back to the Canadians' room, only to see them jumping up and down in excitement. He shouts at them in fury, "WHY ARE YOU STILL HAPPY?!?!?!"

They look at him and shout at the same time, "Hell froze over! That means the Leafs won!"

Word of the day: **HURKLE-DURKLE**

A 200 year-old Scottish term meaning to lounge in bed long after it's time to get up.

Happiness is

HURKLE-DURKLING!

EVENTS COMING UP IN 2024

Doris & Ivy In The Home—Orangeville Theatre Matinee

Wednesday, February 21 @ 2:00 pm

Cost: \$35 per person. Payment DUE January 9.

Contact Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

Retired prison guard Doris Mooney has just moved into Paradise Village, a retirement home in Canmore, Alberta. She quickly befriends Ivy Hoffbauer, a former champion skier who's taken aback by Doris' cheerful brashness. Rounding out the trio is dapper Arthur Beech who has designs on Ivy. Love, gossip, and sex behind the compost heap, this is Norm Foster at his hilarious best!



BID EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

February 26 at Bond Head United Church, 4221 Hwy. 88, Bond Head

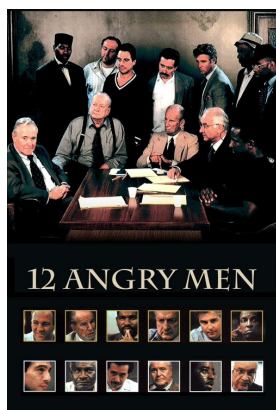
Starts at 1:30 pm

Cost: \$10.00 per person due Feb. 13th (maximum 28 members)

Snacks, coffee, tea and water provided or bring your own food and non-alcoholic beverage.

Please sign up with a partner.

For information, contact Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca



Afternoon Movie & Pizza

FEATURING— 12 Angry Men

March 6 at Bond Head United Church, 4221 Hwy. 88, Bond Head

Movie at 3:00 pm followed by pizza

Cost: \$15.00 per person due Feb. 13th

12 jurors must decide the fate on an inner-city teen accused of murder. One juror holds out with a not guilty verdict, thus setting the stage for arguments and reasons whether the boy is guilty or not.

For information, contact Deb Liukaitis at dliukait@sympatico.ca

Famous People Players—lunch show

Thursday, March 21 at 11:30 am
Location: Famous People Players Theatre, 343 Evans Ave., Toronto

Cost: \$70.00 per person (includes lunch, performance and parking)

Payment Due: February 12th

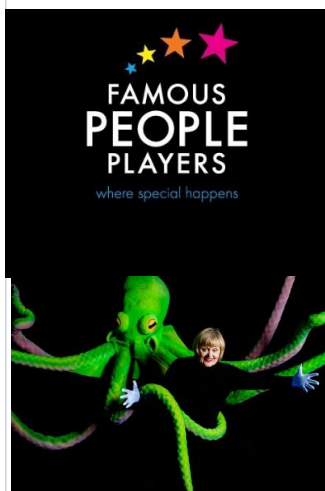
Overview:

12:00 noon—lunch served in dining room, Menu—Chicken Supreme or vegetarian lunch

1:00 pm—Blacklight Theatre performance in the Phil Collins Theatre

2:00 pm—dessert, coffee and tea served

Contact Wendy Van Straten for any questions wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca



EVENTS COMING UP IN 2024

10 REASONS PEOPLE LOVE KINGSTON



🇨🇦 KINGSTON ONTARIO CANADA 🇨🇦

Road Trip!—3 days in Kingston

May 21 to 23rd

3 days—2 nights

Drive your own vehicles

COST: \$500.00 per person (double occupancy)

\$700.00 for single occupancy

\$50.00 deposit due February 13. Final payment due April 9th.

20 people minimum requirement

DAY 1 ITINERARY

1:00 pm— Arrive at Kingston Penitentiary for tour

3:30 pm—Check-in at Holiday Inn Express

4:-00 pm—Happy hour

6:00 pm—Dinner at One-Eyed Jacks Restaurant

8:00 pm—Social hour in the hotel

DAY 2 ITINERARY

7ish am—Breakfast in hotel (included)

10:45 am—1 hour trolley tour of Kingston

Noon—3 hour lunch cruise of Kingston and Thousand Islands

4:00 pm—Happy hour at hotel

6:00 pm—Trolley to downtown

6:30 pm—Free time/dinner on your own

8 30 pm—Board trolley for return to hotel

9:00 pm—Social hour

DAY 3 ITINERARY

7ish am—Breakfast in hotel (included)

10:00 am—Check out

10:30 am—Tour of Fort Henry

Noon—Optional lunch at Fort Henry

1:30—Return home or visit Kingston area

Price Includes

- 2 night stay at Holiday Inn Express
- 2 breakfasts at hotel
- Dinner on day 1 at One-Eyed Jacks (HST & tip included)
- 1 hour trolley tour AND the 3 hour lunch cruise (day 2)
- Trolley transport to and from downtown (day 2)
- Admission to Kingston Pen and Fort Henry

Contact Wendy Van Straten for any questions wcv-anstraten@yahoo.ca

Two elderly women named Dorothy and Edna are talking.

Dorothy: That nice George Johnson asked me out for a date. I know you went out with him last week, and I wanted to talk with you before I give him my answer.

Edna: Well, I'll tell you. He shows up at my apartment punctually at 7 p.m. Dressed like such a gentleman in a fine suit. And he brings me such beautiful flowers! Then he takes me downstairs. And what's there; a limousine, uniformed chauffeur, and all. Then he takes me out for dinner; a marvelous dinner; lobster, champagne, dessert, and after-dinner drinks. Then we go to a show. Let me tell you Dorothy, I enjoyed it so much, I could have just died from pleasure! So, then we came back to my apartment. And he turns into an ANIMAL. Completely crazy!!! He tears off my expensive new dress and has his way with me three times!

Dorothy: Goodness gracious! So, you're telling me I shouldn't go?

Edna: No, no, no ... I'm just saying, wear an old dress.



Murder Mystery—A Hawaiian Homicide

At noon on January 18, Hawaii came to Bradford bringing murder, mayhem and a lot of questionably dressed people to play the murder mystery game at the Make Kaka Hawaiian resort.

Kudos to the suspects and sleuths who went to great effort to immerse themselves into a Hawaiian atmosphere that you almost forgot the minus temperatures outside and the ice rink on the first level. Adorned in leis and armed with tricky questions, the guests confronted the innocent looking suspects to see who they can “trip up” and determine the killer.

Holy coconuts and grass skirts! This is my compilation of some of the “LOLO” (means crazy in Hawaiian) types that only a picture can explain.



Do you see the tiki bar?



Wardrobe malfunction!



No one leaves Polly behind!



Ready to hula ladies!



Dapper gents



Tourist

What is growing out of her head?!!



Check the map again Terry!

How did we end up here!?

It's about the placement of the coconuts.



All the ladies want their picture with the hunky guy/chest.



Guilty, guilty, guilty....



I KNOW WHO IT IS!



Oooh goody! Shirtless fire dancers!



She brought a computer?



Will I get massages in prison?

Yea, I DID IT.



I was supposed to tell them **WHAT!!!!**



Whisky, Whisky...liquid sunshine!

"Too much of anything is bad, but too much whisky is not enough."—Mark Twain

The whisky tasting event at Brenda Andrews' was a fun night. Under the tutelage of Vern Cunningham, we sampled scotch, Irish whisky, bourbon and an interesting Canadian maple syrup blend. Of course appropriate appetisers (to pair with the flavours) were served. All in all very tasty, entertaining and informing.



The setup and selection.



The samples



and samplers...



and sample sniffers.....



Thank you for hosting Brenda.



HISTORICAL INFO

AUSTRALIA'S EMU WAR

In 1932, a group of Australian soldiers and farmers waged what was labeled as a “nuisance wildlife management operation” or an unconventional war against a horde of emus. Public concern over the large flightless birds large numbers, were destroying crops and livestock in the Wheatbelt of Western Australia.

The Great Emu War, as it was dubbed, was a military failure and a public embarrassment for the Australian government. The soldiers were armed with machine guns and trucks, but they proved to be ineffective against the fast and agile emus, who scattered and regrouped at will. The emus also seemed to have a remarkable ability to survive bullets, as some of them were reported to have taken up to five shots before falling. The soldiers managed to kill only about 250 emus out of an estimated 20,000. The war ended after six weeks, with the emus declared the victors.

Emus 1 military 0.



THOMAS EDISON'S TATTOO PEN



Thomas Edison is best known for his most influential inventions, but even among his lesser accomplishments we can find a success story — of sorts. Even though it is believed to be the first American electric motor-powered device, the electric pen is certainly not the first Edison invention that comes to mind.

Developed in 1875, it was patented in the following year. At 50 punctures per second Edison's “pen” was meant to create a stencil that would allow multiple copies to be made by making a pass over the stencil with an inked roller, thereby transferring the text to a sheet of paper below. Given its anonymity today, it's not surprising that the contraption was largely a flop.

But this is where the story takes a rather unexpected turn. Despite its dismal performance as a writing implement, the technology behind Edison's electric pen left a legacy in one of the more colorful areas of popular culture. In 1891, a New York tattoo artist by the name of Samuel F. O'Reilly produced an electric tattoo needle based on Edison's pen. It brought the twin advantages of speed and precision to what had previously been done at a much slower pace by hand, an advancement that would revolutionize tattooing.

A curious aside is that by the 1890s, tattooing was a popular practice amongst European nobility (influenced most certainly by the practice's use amongst sailors) had begun to have comparable effects among blue bloods across the Atlantic. Being one of the foremost in his field, “Professor” O'Reilly as he called himself, tattooed many of these “society people” himself. However, discretion prevailed, and their names typically remained a secret unless leaked elsewhere.

New York Historical Society—Museum & Library

During Hurricane Andrew in 1992, animal caretakers at Zoo Miami (then Miami Metrozoo) sheltered dozens of flamingos in a bathroom.

Ron Magill, the zoo's goodwill ambassador and communications director took this iconic photo. Magill said there were a total of 38 flamingos in the flock at the time, and they would have all been put in the ladies public restroom as part of the hurricane protocol.

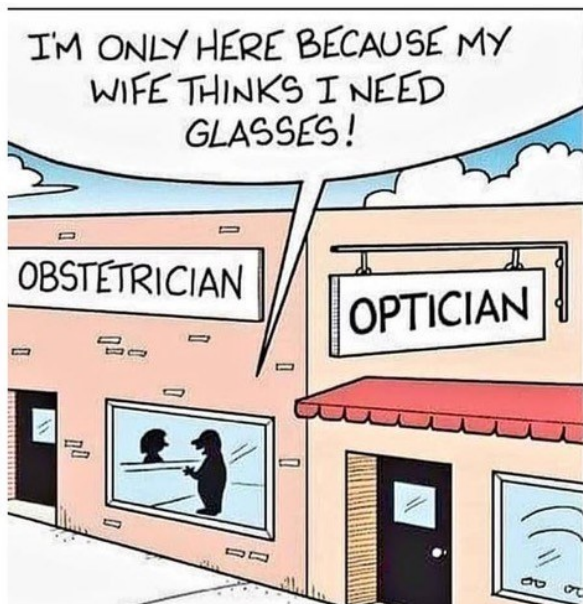
Hurricane Andrew was a category 5 storm and hit the Bahamas, Florida and Louisiana in August 1992, causing \$28.5 billion in damage.



Relationships Can Be Hard...



"Did you pick up something I can shave my legs with?"



For the past 25 years, my wife has been complaining about me not putting the cap back on the toothpaste.

This anniversary, I decided to make my wife happy and for a week I was diligent, always capping the toothpaste.

I was expecting my wife to thank me, but she never did.

Finally, yesterday while having dinner, she turned to me and said, "Why have you stopped brushing your teeth?"

Marriage is a difficult relationship, I tell you.

See you at the next PROBUS meeting

February 13—10:00 am

At St. John's Presbyterian Church

Happy Valentine's Day

