



PROBUS News.....

PROBUS Club of Bradford

Volume 129, Published February 2022



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PROBUS Members:

Dave asked me to do a guest message this month but wants to remind everyone to keep watching for email announcements regarding our April 12th in-person meeting. It will be exciting after two years to have an in-person meeting and see our PROBUS friends again.

Also these are the virtual events coming up to help drive the winter doldrums away:

- * The Winter Photo Contest in February-March. Looking forward to seeing the entries.
- * Music Trivia Night with Brenda and Peggy on February 28
- * Comedy afternoon with Brad Ashton, March 17
- * Murder Mystery Night—March 23

Well done to our executive for their hard work and creative ideas to offer these great entertainment choices to get us through the rest of winter.

Stay well everyone. Spring is coming!

Until next time,
Pat Tasker

IN-PERSON MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The new target date to have an **in-person meeting is April 12th.**

You will be notified of any changes as the COVID-19 situation, Public Health and the Church's guidelines evolve.

Your personal decision to participate in any PROBUS in-person activity should be made knowing you are taking full responsibility for that decision. The Bradford PROBUS Club cannot be deemed responsible for the decision of individual members. Your own personal health and safety should be your first concern.

*The next PROBUS
ZOOM meeting is
March 8th
at 10:00 am
Drop in early to get
in a chat room.*



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2022 Executive Committee:

- President: *Dave McMillan*
- Vice President: *Bunny Kaufman*
- Secretary: *Cheryl Blair*
- Treasurer: *Lorna Foti*
- Social Chair: *Wendy Van Straten*
- Communication Chair:
Deborah Liukaitis
- Technical Chair: *Pete Liukaitis*
- Speakers' Chair: *Philip Junop*
- Members Chair: *Patricia Dion*
- Major Events:
*Brenda Andrews and
Peggy Michaud*
- Members at Large:
Dale Tasker and Pat Mohren
- Past President: *Dave Martin*



WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



ENTER TO WIN
ONE OF *THREE*
PRIZES!

An opportunity for all you amateur shutterbugs to show off your creative efforts. Brave the Ontario wintery outdoors; shoot from your door or through the window or perhaps you have a favourite photo stored in an album or on your phone that you would like to enter.

The categories are:

- ◆ Winter wonderland scenes
- ◆ Fun in the snow
- ◆ Animals, birds or pets in the snow



Email your photos to Pat Mohren at Mooseth01@gmail.com by March 13th.

Maximum of 2 photos per category may be submitted.

Winners will each receive a \$10.00 gift certificate and their winning entry will be put in the March newsletter.

Have fun with this everyone. Can't wait to see your entries.

EVENTS

February 28th at 7:00 pm on ZOOM...

MUSIC TRIVIA NIGHT

Name that tune!!

**Have a fun evening with your DJ hosts Peggy and Brenda
Listen to favourites from the 50, 60 and 70s.**

**See if you can guess the song or artist OR can you recite
the next line of the tune?**

Contact: Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

March 17th at 4:00 pm on ZOOM

COMEDY



With Brad Ashton

Brad's theme is "The Job of a Lifetime" where he relates the humorous stories of the many famous performers he wrote a TV series for.

Contact: Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

MARCH 23rd AT 7:00 pm on ZOOM!

MURDER!!

A Gangster Murder at the 1920s Speakeasy



NOT CROSS

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

CRIME SCENE DO

A fun night of “who done it”! Put your sleuthing skills to the test.

A line-up of nefarious suspects and witnesses will be introduced at the March 8th general meeting.

Everyone else who signs up to participate will be the sleuths who try to find the real killer.

Contact Dale Tasker at dale.tasker@rogers.com to participate .



FEBRUARY ZOOM MEETING HIGHLIGHTS...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

February birthdays...

Susanne Artichuk Shirley Bowles

Mikki Buckley Edward Dolan

Gwen Green John Zima

Happy Birthday everyone!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



BOOMWALA.COM

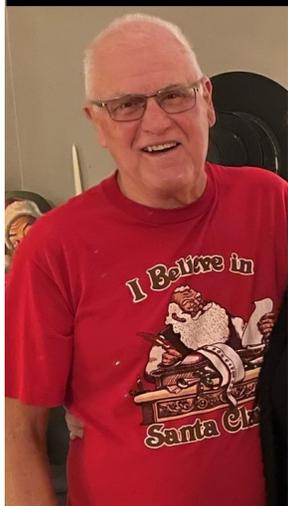
WHERE IS THIS? with Pat Mohren

Great photo of the barn quilt on the Vernon Barn on the 5th Line.
Sent in by Brenda Andrews

Send your photo submissions to Pat Mohren at
jp.mohren@gmail.com by March 3rd for the March 8th meeting.



WHO IS IT? with Lorna Foti



Chris Van Straten was the “Who Is It” person.

Chris and his family emigrated from the Netherlands to Canada.

He attended a one room school with his 2 brothers and one sister. None of them spoke English.

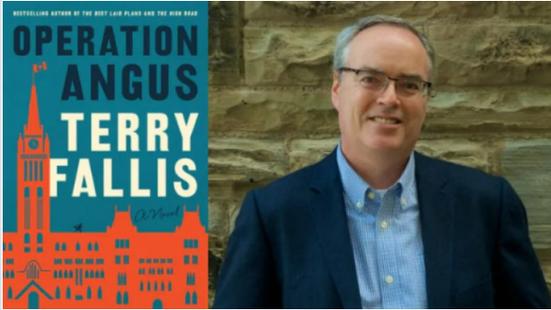
Chris earned varsity letters at both high school and university in Track and Field and X-country running.

Chris is the founding member of the Outdoor Education Committee in York Region.

Chris played rugby in the 1980’s and he also coached Track and Field and Rugby.

Send your “Who Is It?” submissions to Lorna at lornafoti@hotmail.com

Guest Speaker– Terry Falls, Telling A Story With Humour



Author, Terry Falls, gave a wonderful presentation explaining how he returned to writing a third book, Operation Angus, featuring his popular characters, Angus McLintock and Daniel Addison.

Terry blends satire and espionage in this story where Angus and Daniel must navigate the politics of Parliament, with a side order of humour and international intrigue.

Terry quite often uses his own life experiences to describe scenes in his stories for more authenticity.

Future Guest Speakers

MARCH SPEAKER...Daniel Aonso, The Beatles, Rock and Roll Icons of the 60's

Listen to the sounds of the greatest band of the 1960's – the Fab Four, and see what made them the legends they are now. How they approached music, forming their style and evolving over time.

A journey back to the Golden Age of Rock n' Roll!



THE BEATLES



APRIL SPEAKER...James Lockyer CM, Wrongful Convictions in Canada



James Lockyer CM is a lawyer and prominent social justice activist in Toronto. He is the founding Director of Innocence Canada and is a member of the order of Canada. Mr. Lockyer has been instrumental in exposing more than 10 wrongful convictions in Canada, including the cases of Guy Paul Morin and David Milgaard. Mr. Lockyer has also worked on behalf of Steven Truscott, whose 1959 conviction was overturned in 2007, and for Robert Baltovich, who was found not guilty in a retrial in 2008.

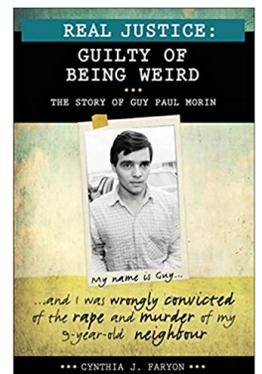
Steven Truscott A Man Wrongfully Convicted

If after all you have read, and all you have heard lead you to believe Steven Truscott is innocent, or at the very least that he never received a fair trial, now is the time to write our local MPs, Gar Knutson and Joe Fontana to express your feelings to them. After 43 years of waiting for justice on Steven's part, we as Canadians need to let our government know how embarrassed and ashamed we are for letting this injustice go on for so long.

Write the Honorable Gar Knutson and Joe Fontana at:



Innocence Canada



COOKING WITH BUNNY

There was an enthusiastic group of PROBUS members attending Bunny's cooking demo on February 8th. Bunny demonstrated this easy recipe which we all enjoyed with wine after.

CHICKEN BREAST DIABLE

*Diable (devil) in French cooking refers to one that contains mustard. This recipe makes 2 servings. See the **Cook's Notes** at the end of the recipe.*

Ingredients

- 4 chicken cutlets (pounded lightly to equal thickness – (see **Cook's Notes**)
- 1 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium shallot, minced
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/3 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 cup heavy (35%) cream
- 2 – 3 tbsp Dijon or grainy mustard
- 1 – 2 tsp Worcestershire sauce

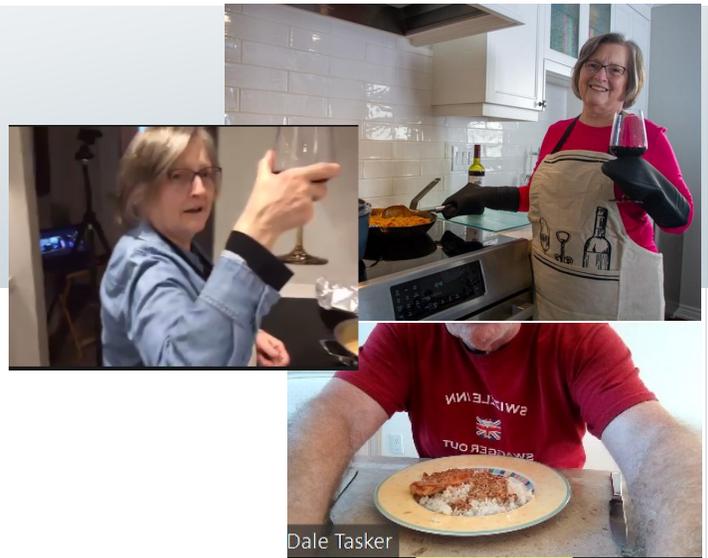
Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 200 degrees (low heat).
2. Heat oil and butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat, adjusting the heat so the butter doesn't burn. When melted, add chicken to the pan. Cook until well browned on the underside (about 2 min). Turnover and cook until the second side are well browned.
3. Transfer the chicken to a heatproof plate, season with salt and pepper and cover lightly with foil. Keep warm in the preheated 200-degree oven.
4. Lower heat to medium on the skillet. Add the shallots and garlic. Cook and stir until softened, around 2 minutes.
5. Pour in the wine and deglaze the pan, stirring and scraping up bits with a wooden spoon.
6. Let the wine boil for a few minutes then add the heavy cream. As soon as it reaches a boil, stir in the mustard and 1 tsp Worcestershire. Taste and decide if you want more mustard, Worcestershire, or pepper.
7. Remove the chicken from the oven adding it and any juices into the skillet. Stir the sauce again.

Serve—with rice, mashed potato or pasta. Freshly chopped parsley (optional)

Cook's Notes:

- ◆ Buy pre-packaged chicken cutlets, or you can make your own.
 - ◆ To make your own, place 2 boneless chicken breasts in the freezer for 30 minutes. Then, with a sharp knife and starting at the thick side of the breast, slice each breast in half horizontally. Dry both sides of the chicken.
 - ◆ Just cover the breasts with waxed paper. Using the bottom of a pot, lightly pound the thicker part of the chicken. Lightly pounding the cutlet not only tenderizes it, and also evens out the thickness allowing for more even cooking.
 - ◆ Have your butter, oil, wine and cream measured.
 - ◆ Mince your shallot and garlic.
 - ◆ Measure and whisk together 3 tbsp mustard and 1 tsp Worcestershire.
 - ◆ Cook your rice ahead and place in a microwave safe bowl to heat when the Chicken Breast Diable is ready.
- If you have any questions, feel free to email me at kkaufmc590@rogers.com



BRADFORD PROBUS CLUBS

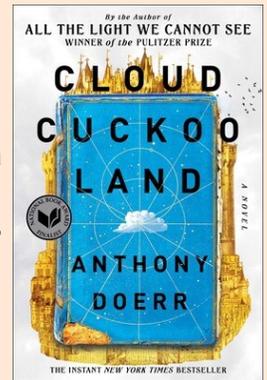
Once again all Bradford PROBUS Clubs are back to operating on ZOOM (or suspended) until further notice. Club organizers will notify their members of any updates of when we can resume club activities COVID safe.

Bid Euchre	Deborah Liukaitis dliukait@sympatico.ca
Book Club	Cheryl Blair cheryl_blair@rogers.com
Dinner Club	Dale Tasker dale.tasker@rogers.com
Knitting	Linda Alsop lindacvano@gmail.com
Walking/Hikes	Amy Wright amywright0@hotmail.com
Bridge	Bob Evans bob20evans@gmail.com

BOOK CLUB (Cheryl Blair) February's read is "Cloud Cuckoo Land" by Anthony Doerr.

Notice to Book Club members: The next Book Club meeting is February 24th.

Thirteen-year-old Anna, an orphan, lives inside the formidable walls of Constantinople in a house of women who make their living embroidering the robes of priests. Restless, insatiably curious, Anna learns to read, and in this ancient city, famous for its libraries, she finds a book, the story of Aethon, who longs to be turned into a bird so that he can fly to a utopian paradise in the sky. This she reads to her ailing sister as the walls of the only place she has known are bombarded in the great siege of Constantinople. Outside the walls is Omeir, a village boy, miles from home, conscripted with his beloved oxen into the invading army. His path and Anna's will cross.



Five hundred years later, in a library in Idaho, octogenarian Zeno, who learned Greek as a prisoner of war, rehearses five children in a play adaptation of Aethon's story, preserved against all odds through centuries. Tucked among the library shelves is a bomb, planted by a troubled, idealistic teenager, Seymour. This is another siege. And in a not-so-distant future, on the interstellar ship Argos, Konstance is alone in a vault, copying on scraps of sacking the story of Aethon, told to her by her father. She has never set foot on our planet. March's read is "The History of Canada in 10 Maps" by Adam Schoalts.

This link is access to all books the club has read: [Book Club - The PROBUS Club of Bradford](#)



So the game is a simple one. With the cat clutched in your arms, you fire the gun and see how long you can hold onto the cat. The world record is 1.3 seconds.





*"Long distance!
How may I help
you?"*

We all remember the popular 1968 TV show "Laugh-in", where actress, Lily Tomlin, made the irreverent telephone operator, Ernestine, famous as she lit up her lines and customer's tempers on her switchboard.

In the 1950's and 60's, especially in rural areas, phone switchboards (or "cordboards") were still very much in use. This also included the ubiquitous party lines (and eavesdroppers). Bell Canada was slowly gaining it's monopoly on the telephone industry but there were still many remote rural areas of Canada that were serviced by small companies.

One of these companies was Northern Telephone in Val d'Or, Quebec. Our PROBUS member Lillian Walker (at age 16) was an employee there from 1960 to 1962. She has no photographs of her working a "cordboard" because photos were not allowed in the work areas. However, this photo shows the line of young ladies working the board. There would also be a supervisor behind them who would poke them if they did not answer incoming calls fast enough. This was a PR picture of company execs and visiting dignitaries and Lillian can identify two of her coworkers in the foreground.



The telephone operators were the life-line of the community.

Lillian was a long-distance operator and was adept at handling as many as ten calls at a time or as many as she had plugs for her lines. As a long distance operator she had to answer the incoming call and connect the caller to the area and person they wished to contact. For billing purposes, she also had to stamp a ticket when each call started and ended and keep track of the duration of each call.

Long distance calls were expensive and some callers would ask Lillian to interrupt before the ten minute time so they could

end the call without incurring too much expense. What these callers did not know was that when the operator went back in on the call line, they could hear the conversation and my that must have been interesting sometimes!

Being in a remote areas there were lodges and hunting camps that depended on the tourist trade. Lillian would take calls from Americans wanting to contact these lodges and one particular gentleman called looking to arrange a moose hunting stay. Out of curiosity he asked Lillian, "What's it really like living so far up north?" Lillian decided to have a little fun and told him, "It is very remote and I am sitting in a huge igloo taking calls and wearing a double parka and long johns. Better dress really warm to come here." Well the gentleman did come to Quebec to hunt and also went to the telephone company and found Lillian! They had a good laugh over her joke.

Lillian and her family emigrated from Denmark when she was 7 years old. They first settled in Montreal where she taught her mother and herself English. After her father's job ended in Montreal he got a job at the gold mines in Val d'Or, in northern Quebec where she learned French. Being bilingual was a major advantage when she got her job at Northern Telephone and other companies where she later worked.

There were challenges living in a remote northern town, like lots of snow. Shovels were kept in the house so you could dig out. But there was also fun times of skating on outdoor ponds or on the frozen road home from school. Picnics with her sister and picking wild blueberries were a great pastime. My favourite...they owned a small Fiat during their time in northern Quebec. Every fall, her father would dismantle the engine and store it in the basement of the house. In the spring he would put it all back together (plus or minus some parts).

Lillian has many fond memories of living in Val d'Or and she belongs to a Facebook group called, "I grew up in Val d'Or Quebec" where present and past residents connect through pictures and online forums. She is still in touch with a 95 year old woman who knew Lillian's mother when they lived in Val d'Or.

Thank you Lillian for sharing your wonderful story.

This is Lillian on the right (age 11), her best friend Jean in the middle and her sister on the left.



Skating on their outdoor rink.

Steinway's Victory Verticals

During World War II, Steinway & Sons contracted with the U.S. Government to air-drop pianos, with large parachutes and complete tuning instructions, into the battle zones for the American troops. The first piano, called the "Victory Vertical" or "G.I. Steinway", was dropped into war zones in 1942. The pianos were to provide a bit of relaxation and a morale booster for the troops. The pianos came in olive green, blue, and gray drab.

At first, Steinway was prohibited from building pianos due to government restrictions on iron, copper, brass, and other raw materials. The company bided its time producing coffins and parts for troop transport gliders, until it was granted the contract to send specially designed pianos to commissioned war soldiers.

Between 1942 and 1953, Steinway proceeded to make over 3,000 "Victory Vertical" pianos. One soldier wrote to his family: *"Two nights past we received welcome entertainment when a jeep pulling a small wagon came to camp. The wagon contained a light system and a Steinway piano. It is smaller and painted olive green, just like the jeep. We all got a kick out of it and sure had fun after meals when we gathered around the piano to sing...I slept smiling and even today am humming a few of the songs we sang."*

(Source: Love Classical Music and www.steinway.com)

For some Canadian content, I want to add this story from Deb Liukaitis:

"This story made me think about my Dad's ship in WWII, they were sent a piano from the community of Trenton who sponsored their ship. The Principal of the primary school in Trenton worked with the Mayor to raise funds and collect things to send the sailors, plus she arrange for the children to send them letters. But the biggest item was the piano which my Dad played. A little rum, a piano and the guys singing made for a party! His ship was a Corvette, which escorted ship across the channel and laid communication cables. Today (February 22nd) is the anniversary of his ship being sunk in the North Atlantic by a U-Boat. Later, an American sub sunk the U-Boat."



I'm not sure what is more concerning, the car accident, Grandma is still in the car, or Grandpa's pants...

THE RIDE OF HER LIFE

In 1954, sixty-three-year-old Maine farmer, Annie Wilkins, embarked on an impossible journey. She had no money and no family, she had just lost her farm, and her doctor had given her only two years to live. But Annie wanted to see the Pacific Ocean before she died. Her mother had always wanted to visit California, so as a memorial to her mother, Annie decided to travel there.

She ignored her doctor's advice to move into the county charity home. Instead, she bought a cast-off brown gelding named Tarzan, donned men's dungarees, and headed south in mid-November, hoping to beat the snow. Annie had little idea what to expect beyond her rural crossroads; she didn't even have a map. But she did have her ex-racehorse, her faithful mutt, and her own unfailing belief that Americans would treat a stranger with kindness.

Annie, Tarzan, and her dog, Depeche Toi, rode straight into a world transformed by the rapid construction of modern highways. Between 1954 and 1956, the three travelers pushed through blizzards, forded rivers, climbed mountains, and clung to the narrow shoulder as cars whipped by them at terrifying speeds. Annie rode more than four thousand miles, through America's big cities and small towns. Along the way, she met ordinary people and celebrities—from Andrew Wyeth (who sketched Tarzan) to Art Linkletter and Groucho Marx. She received many offers—a permanent home at a riding stable in New Jersey, a job at a gas station in rural Kentucky, even a marriage proposal from a Wyoming rancher. In a decade when car ownership nearly tripled, when television's influence was expanding fast, when homeowners began locking their doors, Annie and her four-footed companions inspired an outpouring of neighborliness in a rapidly changing world. Annie arrived safely in Redding California in December of 1955.

After her trip to California, she returned to her home state of Maine. Eventually she moved in with her good friend, Mina Titus Sawyer up in Whitefield Maine, where she lived 24 years past her two-year prognosis. It wasn't until 12 years after she returned that she was willing to turn her diary and photos into a book, "The Ride of Her Life".

She died on a Tuesday, February 19th 1980 in Whitefield Maine. She was 88 years old. Annie was buried in her family plot (Libby) in Maple Grove Cemetery in Minot, ME."



"I think youngsters need to start thinking about what kind of world



they are going to leave for me and Keith Richards" - Willie Nelson



CANADA

Come for the culture and scenery
Stay because your car won't start



THE MIGHTY VASA GALLEON

Vasa was the world's most high-tech warship when it first set sail. It only navigated about 1,300 meters before sinking in front of horrified onlookers.

Vasa is a Swedish warship built between 1626 and 1628. It was commissioned by the Swedish King Gustavus Adolphus II, who believed that war success depends on the strength of its ships. Vasa was constructed to be 61 meters long and 12 meters wide and had 1210 tons buoyancy, 1275 sq meters of sail and 64 main cannons. Vasa was a huge, beautifully decorated ship. She was covered in elaborate wooden carvings that told stories about the Swedish royal family, and most importantly their king.

Vasa's rather peculiar story has gone down in history: despite being one of the Swedish navy's biggest achievements and among the most spectacular warships ever built, Vasa sank within twenty minutes of setting sail, just 1,300 m (1,400 yd) into her maiden voyage on August 10, 1628. The galleon had troubles not only with mild wind but also with low waves. One hundred tons of ballast could not balance the weight of cannons. The ship sank in full view of a horrified public, assembled to see off their navy's – and Europe's – most ambitious warship to date maned by 100 sailors.

"The warship survived the first blast of wind it encountered on its maiden voyage in Stockholm Harbor," writes Lucas Laursen for *Archaeology*. "But the second gust did it in. Water flowed in through the open cannon portals that were not closed intime after the parting cannon salute further destabilizing the ship. The sinking of *Vasa* took place nowhere near an enemy. In fact, Vasa floundered mainly because of engineering problems – she was just too top heavy. But, this PR disaster for the Swedish navy has become a boon for archaeologists."

"The cold, oxygen-poor water of the Baltic Sea protected Vasa from the bacteria and worms that usually digest wooden wrecks," writes Lucas Laursen for *Archaeology*. Approximately 95 percent of Vasa's wood was intact when Sweden finally raised the wreck in 1961.

Vasa, and her cannons, were recovered from the sea by 1961, with thousands of artifacts and the remains of at least 15 people found in and around the ship's hull by marine archaeologists. The fully reconstructed ship is currently on display in the Vasa Museum in Stockholm.



An image of what the Vasa looked like when her construction was complete.



Vasa on the ocean floor.



Vasa resurrected showing beautiful carvings.



Susanne Artichuk's Red Table for Valentines

Who needs a main course when there is Godiva!



See you on March 8th!

