



# PROBUS News.....

## PROBUS Club of Bradford

Volume 140, Published February 2023



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PROBUS Members:

Hard as it is to believe, it is now the end of February. We can actually see grass (although that won't last!) and there are more daylight hours than a few weeks ago. Winter may not be over, but we have definitely broken its back. One more month to go.

The passing of the first two months of the year had me thinking about the passing of other things as well—many of them items our children and grandchildren would be clueless about. Do you remember telephones: ones that were hard-wired into the wall and would work even in a power failure? There was a rotary dial and, if you needed help, an actual live person to speak to. Then there were telephone books and yellow pages (let your fingers do the walking...) that not only let you find the phone number and address of a person, but also worked as a high chair/booster seat. And telephone booths weren't just found in Superman comic books.

Televisions were black and white and received only a couple of channels. Reception was not only dependent on rabbit ears on its top, but often on a person standing in just the right spot in front of the TV and holding the ears in a certain way. Radios were plug-in until the Japanese developed transistor radios (every teen's dream). Progress knew no bounds with 8 track tape decks and Betamax videotapes.

Home delivery was provided by breadmen and milkmen who knew just how much to leave every day. Milk came in glass bottles with a cardboard stopper; the cream would rise to leave a layer on the top of the milk. Coffee was brewed in a percolator on a burner of the stove. How sophisticated we felt eating Jell-o salads.

We were familiar with wringer washers, steam engines, wind-up watches and clocks, typewriters, slide rulers and adding machines. Plus, we could do math in our heads.

So when someone from a younger generation questions you on what life was like when you were young, pull out your black and white photos and show them that jar of pennies you have stashed away.

Until next month... Bunny



**PROBUS meeting**  
**March 14 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: *Pat Mohren*

Treasurer: *Cheryl Blair*

Social Chair: *Wendy Van Straten*

Communication Chair:

*Deborah Liukaitis*

Technical Chair: *Pete Liukaitis*

Speakers' Chair: *Bob Evans*

Members Chair: *Patricia Dion*

Major Events:

*Brenda Andrews and  
Peggy Michaud*

Members at Large:

*Ann Evans and Chris Van Straten*

Past President: *Dave McMillan*

# FEBRUARY MEETING

*Happy Valentines Day!*

Fantastic attendance for this February meeting! Every table was full and extra seating added. Lots of splashes of red in the crowd for Valentines Day too.



Many comments on the great speaker, Angie Sandow.



And I'm sure everyone enjoyed Cathryn's acceptance speech when she received the PROBUS' version of the Oscar award for her performance as Ethel Bainborough (the killer) at the murder mystery event.

**BRAVO!**



## **March Guest Speaker...Dr. Amy Barron—"Digger, Teacher, Soldier, Spy"**

What do archaeologists do when the world is at war? Surprisingly, many of them turn spy. During wartime, archaeologists on all sides have become involved with military intelligence, turning their in-depth knowledge of the land and the peoples they studied to support their countries at war. This was no more apparent than in the Middle East where prominent archaeologists played a very political game during the First World War. Some of these names, such as T.E. Lawrence, also known as Lawrence of Arabia, would become legendary. Others, when the war was over, simply went back to their museums and their excavations.

Dr. Amy Barron has excavated predominantly in the Middle East. Amy has taught archaeology, ancient history and classics at the universities of Toronto and Guelph and presently teaches museum studies in Fleming College's post-graduate program. She has worked in the museum world for over 30 years and loves sharing her passion for the past.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### ROMEO Breakfast

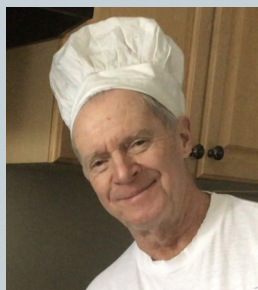
Wednesday, February 22 at 9:00 am, at  
The Buttery, 17565 Younge St., Newmarket

To attend, contact organizer: Kent Kaufman,  
[kkaufmc590@rogers.com](mailto:kkaufmc590@rogers.com)

### RODEO LUNCH

Monday, February 27 at 12:00 noon, at Cynthia's Chinese Restaurant, 16715 Younge St. (at Mulock), Newmarket.

To attend, contact Gwen Green, [gweng9@rogers.com](mailto:gweng9@rogers.com) (905-775-3223) or Peggy Michaud  
at [pviae7942@rogers.com](mailto:pviae7942@rogers.com) (905-775-8328)



### COOKING WITH MOOSE IS BACK!

#### Wienerschnitzel is on the menu

Tuesday, February 28 at 5:00 pm on ZOOM (maximum 20 connections)

Attendees will receive the recipe in advance so you can get the ingredients and cook along with Moose or just relax and watch with a bevy.

Questions, contact Wendy —[wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca](mailto:wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca)



### Bid Euchre



### BID EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 11th at Bond Head United Church, 4221 Hwy. 88, Bond Head

Starts at 1:30 pm

Cost: \$10.00 per person

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

For information, contact Wendy Van Straten at [wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca](mailto:wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca)

### APPY PARTY At Wendy and Chris Van Straten's

Date: Tuesday, March 21 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Location: 3 King St. South, Cookstown

Bring an appetizer and your favourite beverage for a couple of hours of socializing. Maximum 30 members.

If interested, contact Wendy Van Straten by March 14 at [wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca](mailto:wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca)

May 23-25

## Save the Date !

Ottawa

May 23-25

3 days and 2 nights in Ottawa

#### Bus Trip

Details being finalized for a fun time in the nation's capital and a bit of Quebec

**Note -No federal politicians will be invited to attend**

**Details and pricing at March Meeting**



E-transfer payments to [bradfordprobus.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordprobus.treasurer@gmail.com). In the message field include: name of the event and names of the members included in the payment.

## BRADFORD PROBUS CLUBS CONTACTS

**Art Fun**—Ann Evans

[annlesleyevans1945@gmail.com](mailto:annlesleyevans1945@gmail.com)

**Bid Euchre**—Deborah Liukaitis

[dliukait@sympatico.ca](mailto:dliukait@sympatico.ca)

**Book Club**—Cheryl Blair

[cheryl\\_blair@rogers.com](mailto:cheryl_blair@rogers.com)

**Dinner Club**—Dale Tasker

[dale.tasker@rogers.com](mailto:dale.tasker@rogers.com)

**Knitting**—Linda Alsop

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

**Walking/Hikes**—Amy Wright

[amywright0@hotmail.com](mailto:amywright0@hotmail.com)

**Bridge**—Bob Evans

[bob20evans@gmail.com](mailto:bob20evans@gmail.com)

**Discussion**—Peter Ellis

[peterellis1000@gmail.com](mailto:peterellis1000@gmail.com)

**Movie**—Dave McMillan

[dmcmillan2000@rogers.com](mailto:dmcmillan2000@rogers.com)

**RODEO**—Gwen Green

[gweng9@rogers.com](mailto:gweng9@rogers.com)

**ROMEO**—TBA volunteer

### ART FUN with Ann Evans

The Art Group will meet March 2nd at 10:00 am at Starbucks, 177 Holland St, E. Bradford.

Come and enjoy an informative discussion/ learning experience, how to get started, current projects, and techniques at the price of a beverage.



### THE DISCUSSION GROUP with Peter Ellis

The group will meet February 21st at 2:00 pm.

Contact Peter at [peterellis1000@gmail.com](mailto:peterellis1000@gmail.com) for more information.



### BOOK CLUB (Cheryl Blair) Meeting February 23

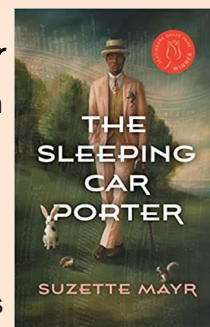
The book for February is *"The Sleeping Car Porter"* by Suzette Mayr

The Sleeping Car Porter brings to life an important part of Black history in North America, from the perspective of a queer man living in a culture that renders him invisible in two ways. Affecting, imaginative, and visceral enough that you'll feel the rocking of the train, The Sleeping Car Porter is a stunning accomplishment.

Baxter's name isn't George. But it's 1929, and Baxter is lucky enough, as a Black man, to have a job as a sleeping car porter on a train that crisscrosses the country. So when the passengers call him George, he has to just smile and nod and act invisible. What he really wants is to go to dentistry school, but he'll have to save up a lot of nickel and dime tips to get there, so he puts up with "George."

On this particular trip out west, the passengers are more unruly than usual, especially when the train is stalled for two extra days; their secrets start to leak out and blur with the sleep-deprivation hallucinations Baxter is having. When he finds a naughty postcard of two queer men, Baxter's memories and longings are reawakened; keeping it puts his job in peril, but he can't part with the postcard or his thoughts of Edwin Drew, Porter Instructor

March's read is "The Orenda" by Joseph Boyden



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

**KNITTING-** The SSK Ladies will be meeting February 28th. Linda will email the place and time.

If you are interested in joining the group, contact Linda at [lindacvano@gmail.com](mailto:lindacvano@gmail.com). Love to see new faces!

### CARD BINGO AFTERNOON

February 11th at Bond Head United Church

Looks like it was a fun time.



The Moose caller!



I think I have a full house!



Oh boy...

Counting my winnings now!!

I came for the snacks...



I think she cheats...



Recently, I spent a few days with my uncle, a cattle farmer! While I was there, he spent \$6,500 on a young registered Black Angus bull.

When my uncle put him out with the herd, surprisingly the bull just ate grass - and wouldn't even look at a cow! He was beginning to think he had paid more for that bull than it was worth!

Anyhow, my uncle decided he would have the Vet come and have a look at the bull, in order to determine if it was healthy! Upon examination, the Vet said the bull was very healthy, but possibly just a little young.

So the Vet gave my uncle some pills to feed to it, one per day.

Well, would you believe the bull started to service all his cows within two days!

Not only that, but I also personally witnessed this young bull break through the fence, and it

bred all of the neighbour's cows! This young bull was like a machine!

To this day, I don't know what was in the pills the Vet gave my uncle ... but they kind of taste like peppermint.



### The Year Of The Mice

This is a piece of Nova Scotian history that caught my attention for its almost biblical similarities. I know it is about those furry little creatures that few of us find very endearing and probably don't want to read about (my apologies). But, I thought that this is a fascinating piece of Canadian history that few people know about unless you are from the east coast.

1815 became known in Nova Scotia as "Anno Marium" or "The Year Of The Mice" because the province was overrun by an invasion of the rodents!

"...An army of mice marched over Colchester, Pictou and Antigonish Counties, eating everything before it as it advanced. It was a veritable plague, as serious for a time as that of the frogs sent upon the land of Egypt," recalled the 1892 booklet 'Forest, Stream and Seashore.' The topic was a curious choice to include in that early tourism guide, since rodent invasions aren't typically known for attracting tourists.

In 1877, Dr. George Patterson went around Nova Scotia interviewing old timers about the strange incident, compiling their tales in his book 'History of Pictou County.' He wrote:

*"The [mice] were very destructive and actually fierce. If pursued, when hard pressed, they would stand at bay, rising upon their hind legs, setting their teeth and squealing fiercely. A farmer on whom I could rely told me that having, after planting, spread out some barley to dry in the sun before the door, in a little while he saw it covered with them. He let the cat out among them, but they actually turned upon her and fought her."*

Dr. Patterson wrote that the mice appeared without warning; "during the previous season they did not appear in any unusual numbers." But that Spring "before planting was over, the woods and fields alike swarmed with them."

That Summer the mice grew worse: "These animals swarmed everywhere, and consumed everything edible, even the potatoes in the ground. In some houses at West River are still preserved books which the leather on the covers has been gnawed by them."

When Autumn rolled in—that important time when crops were harvested for the winter—the mice ate everything: "They have been known to cut down an acre in three days, so that whole fields were destroyed in a short time... Over acres and acres, they left not a stalk standing, nor a grain of wheat, to reward the labours of the farmer."

The mice caused a crop failure. The all too real threat of starvation hung over Nova Scotia.

A newspaper report by farmer Nathaniel Symond in Antigonish stated: "upwards of five hundred souls ... had nothing to subsist on but the very scanty allowance of milk their cows afforded them."

A large scale aid effort was launched to provide food to parts of Nova Scotia facing starvation that winter.

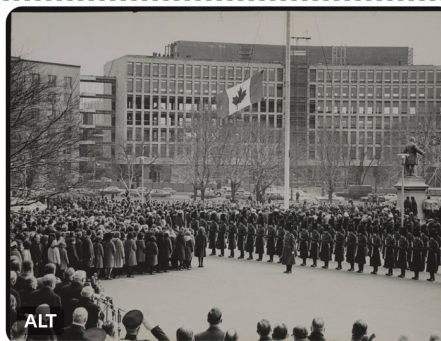
Dr. Patterson wrote that when the weather grew colder the mice grew sluggish and began to die by the thousands. Possibly in an effort to eat seaweed washing up on the shore, they made their way towards the coast: "and there died, forming a ridge like seaweed along the edge of the sea, and codfish were caught off the coast with carcasses in their maws."



Nova Scotia's Year Of The Mice was a one off incident that happened before cameras. This photograph is from Australia, where rodent invasions are common. It was taken in Lescalles, Victoria by F. G. England in 1917.

### February 15—HAPPY FLAG OF CANADA DAY

In 1965 around 2,000 people sang O Canada and 100 members of the Canadian Guards stood in attendance as Canada's new flag was raised at Queen's Park in Toronto.



# Hello from Florida!

Sharing some “interesting” sights in Florida.

Emergency pizza delivery or heart attack...



Yup! You're done. **CLEAN UP AT  
TABLE 4!**

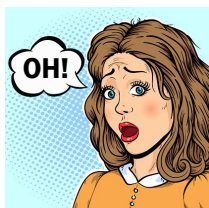


Don't want to go electric? This should do it!



**LOVE  
YOUR  
PUG!**

Is it a motorcycle side car?  
A hot dog?  
A curling iron?



## Hooked on Phonics

From the diary of a pre-school teacher.

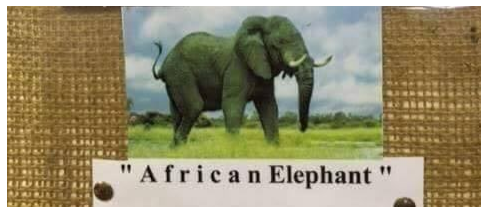
My five-year old students are learning to read. Yesterday one of them pointed at a picture in a zoo book and said, "Look at this!. It's a frickin' elephant!"

I took a calming breath, then asked, "What did you call it?"

"It's a frickin' elephant! It says so on the picture!"

And so it does...

**"African Elephant"**



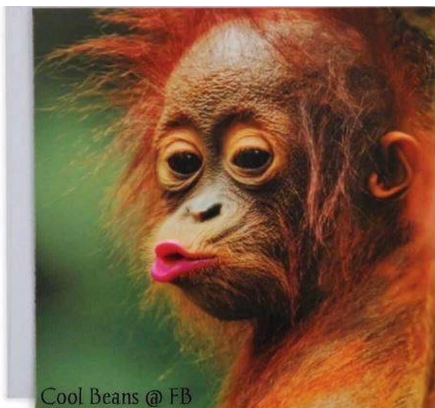
## AND YOU THOUGHT SMOKING AT THE PUMP WAS RISKY



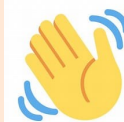
## Devices used to find water



**On a bad hair day...there's always lipstick.**



## HOW TO SAY GOODBYE IN ONTARIO



**Who has NOT witnessed this...**

1. Slap thighs and say, "Well, I better skedaddle."
2. Chit-chat for another 5 minutes without getting up.
3. Say "Ok, I should probably get going" and stand up.
4. Make your way around the group and chit-chat with each person for 5 minutes each, and give hugs.
5. Make your way to the doorway and chit-chat for another 5-10 minutes, more hugs.
6. Walk to the driveway while host walks you out.
7. Stand in front of car chit-chatting for another 5-10 minutes.
8. Get in car and start car, roll window down, and chit-chat from car for another 2-3 minutes.
9. Backup car from driveway and wave from window one last time.
10. Stop in street while host asks you a question about your car.
11. Continue on with one last wave.
12. Host yells, "Drive safe! Watch for deer!"

**See you at the PROBUS meeting! Wear your green!**

**March 14th—10:00 am  
At St. John's Presbyterian Church**

