



# PROBUS News.....

## PROBUS Club of Bradford

Volume 149, Published December 2023



**Bunny! Your ride is here.**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PROBUS Members:

Season's Greetings to everyone! Not only is this a joyful time of year for many cultures and beliefs, but it is also a time to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves. May our efforts make a difference in their lives.

Being the end of another year, it is time to look back and reflect on all we have enjoyed with Probus. These 2023 events stood out for the executive at our last meeting:

- Murder Mystery (and Cathryn Rees' award winning performance)
- Starry Starry Night, our 10th anniversary party (even if it was 3 years late in happening)
- Oktoberfest (who knew playing on a septic tank could be so much fun?)
- Collingwood Getaway (followed by Covid)
- Christmas Lunch (and a singer with laryngitis)
- An annual favourite, let's not forget the ever popular Twelve Days of Christmas Wine Survivor contest. Robert Louis Stevenson once said, "Wine is bottled poetry". We obviously have a lot of aspiring poets in our club.



Kent joins me in sending holiday greetings to all of you and your families. We hope your season is filled with love, laughter, and happiness (not to mention good food and wine).

See you in 2024!

Until next month...

Bunny



### PROBUS meeting

**January 9 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*



# DECEMBER MEETING

Behold, the December meeting turned into a fashion show of Christmas attire! *WELL DONE* everyone!



## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WINE SURVIVOR CONTEST!

**Congratulations to the big winners of the day...**

1st Prize—Matt Granger	24 bottles
2nd Prize—Wilf Kenemy	20 bottles
3rd Prize—Carol Conroy	16 bottles
4th Prize—Lindsay Brooks	12 bottles
5th Prize—Carol Rettig	8 bottles

Note: Mark, you will be glad to know that the investigation of the perpetrators of this "wine scam" is still ongoing for next year.

And the Christmas elves!

Getting many years out of these sweaters.



The 50/50 draw was won by Peggy Michaud — \$83.00!

## Guest Speaker for January—Dr. Janice Van Dyke, Trainer emeritus: Canadian Institute of Reading Recovery

Dr. Van Dyke is a Reading Recovery trainer emeritus with the Canadian Institute of Reading Recovery.

She has worked as a subject teacher and classroom teacher, special education teacher, Reading Recovery teacher, teacher leader and trainer in national and international contexts.

Janice's research is focused on the concurrent development of language, literacy and writing in young children.





## 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](mailto:wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca)

**Bid Euchre**—Deborah Liukaitis  
[dliukait@sympatico.ca](mailto:dliukait@sympatico.ca)

**Book Club**—Cheryl Blair  
[Cheryl\\_blair@rogers.com](mailto:Cheryl_blair@rogers.com)

**Cycling Club**—Heather and Mark Cannata  
[thecannatas@gmail.com](mailto:thecannatas@gmail.com)

**Dinner Club**—Dale Tasker  
[dale.tasker@rogers.com](mailto:dale.tasker@rogers.com)

**Discussion Club**—Peter Ellis  
[peterellis1000@gmail.com](mailto:peterellis1000@gmail.com)

**Knitting**—Linda Alsop  
[lindava@rogers.com](mailto:lindava@rogers.com)

**Mah Jongg**—Pat Mohren  
[jp,mohren@gmail.com](mailto:jp,mohren@gmail.com)

**Movie**—Dave McMillan  
[dmcmillan2000@rogers.com](mailto:dmcmillan2000@rogers.com)

**RODEO**—Gwen Green  
[gweng9@rogers.com](mailto:gweng9@rogers.com)

**ROME0**—Rotating Leads

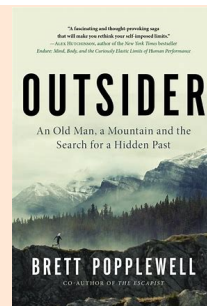
**Scrabble**—Amy Wright  
[amywright0@hotmail.com](mailto:amywright0@hotmail.com)

## BOOK CLUB (Cheryl Blair, [Cheryl\\_blair@rogers.com](mailto:Cheryl_blair@rogers.com))

Book Club resumes in January 2024. The book is “**Outsider**” by Brett Popplewell.

*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. January 23 at Ellen Rombough's

February 27 at Linda Alsop's

March 26 at Deb Liukaitis'

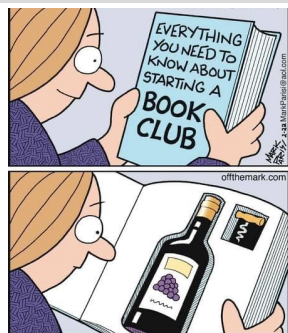
April 23 at Lorna Foti's

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](mailto:lindava@rogers.com).

All are welcome!



Anyone have Christmas yarn left?



## ROMEO Breakfast

Next ROMEO breakfast is January 12 at 9:00 am

Location: Sun Star Restaurant, Yonge St., Holland Landing

To attend contact Dale Tasker [dale.tasker@rogers.com](mailto:dale.tasker@rogers.com)

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December.

Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should have known... ONLY women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.



[www.bradfordprobus.weebly.com](http://www.bradfordprobus.weebly.com)

## 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.

## EVENTS COMING UP IN 2024

### APPY PARTY! **THIS EVENT IS FULL**

**Wendy and Chris Van Straten**

Date: Thursday, January 4

Starts 4:00 pm

If you want to attend or host any future events, contact: Wendy Van Straten at [vcvanstraten@yahoo.ca](mailto:vcvanstraten@yahoo.ca)

Remember to bring an appetizer to share and your favourite beverage for a couple of hours of socializing.

**RODEO LUNCH**

### **LADIES THE NEXT RODEO LUNCH IS A HIGH TEA!**

Date: January 25 at 12:00 noon

Location: The British Shop Tea Room, 11 Young Street, Alliston

Cost: Pay own bill only

Maximum 20 members

Enjoy a British culinary experience and keep that pinky up!

Organizers: Dianne Nelson at [diannenelson717@gmail.com](mailto:diannenelson717@gmail.com) & Eleanor Watt at [bewatt@zing-net.ca](mailto:bewatt@zing-net.ca)

### **Whisky Tasting THIS IS FULL**

Thursday, January 29 at 7:00 pm

Location: Brenda Andrews' home

Learn sampling of 5 varieties (whiskey, scotch and bourbon) under the tutelage of Vern Cunningham. Appetizers will be served along with small sample bottles for take home tasting. Car-pooling and designated drivers are encouraged.

Contact Wendy Van Straten for any questions [vcvanstraten@yahoo.ca](mailto:vcvanstraten@yahoo.ca)



### **Doris & Ivy In The Home—Orangeville Theatre Matinee**

Wednesday, February 21 @ 2:00 pm

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

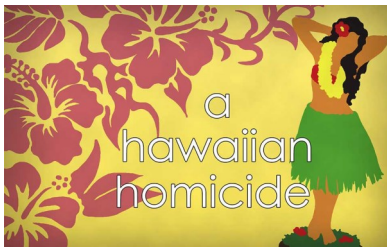
Contact Wendy Van Straten at [vcvanstraten@yahoo.ca](mailto:vcvanstraten@yahoo.ca)

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 a back 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!





# EVENTS COMING UP IN 2024



## Murder Mystery

**THIS IS FULL**

Thursday, January 18 at noon

Location: Bradford Curling Club (on the 2nd floor, steps to climb)

Don your favourite Hawaiian shirt or coconut bra and grass skirt and immerse yourself in an afternoon of murder, sleuthing and fun at the luxurious Make Kaka resort.

Contact Wendy Van Straten for any questions [wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca](mailto:wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca)



### Ha'iku Mahalulu



Her happy, enthusiastic personality attracts island tourists to the hula dancer doll stand she co-owns. She is well-known all over the islands.

Such an innocent face. Nothing suspicious there...but, what does she know?

### Keanu Keawe



*Holy moly ladies!!!!*

Keanu, the local, retired ex-surfing champion from Hawaii, who now teaches vacationing ladies how to surf. And business is booming!

Can we say ladies man?

That always spells trouble.

### Keiki Kealoha



Keiki is the daughter of one of Oahu's most treasured men. Her family owns a large piece of beach property for generations and she is passionate about keeping it out of the hands of developers and preserving the Polynesian culture.

Maybe a bit too passionate??

### Jackson Haines



Mr. Haines is one of the richest real estate moguls on the island. He rubs shoulders with the wealthy and his business record is immaculate.

Could he lower himself and play a little dirty to get even more wealthy?

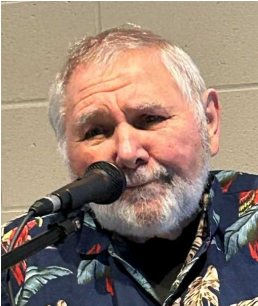
### Apikalia Newalu



Apikalia is the friendly, outgoing bartender at the resort. Loves her job and being the perfect bartender, she gets all the stories and gossip from her customers.

What secrets is she holding onto?

### Ipo Lono



*Keep clear!*

The scariest, most intimidating man on the island. Rumors are that he used brute force and even deadly tactics to collect loan repayments or make people comply to his wishes.

Question him carefully.

### Detective Makala Wahini



Detective Wahini is one of Hawaii's finest detectives. Her investigative skills are second to none. She has saved her reckless partner, Halulu's life 36 times. She is a crack shot and has a mean right hook.

How did she get mixed up in this?

### Detective Halulu (Hal) Okole



Detective Hal is a notorious shoot-first-ask-questions-later type of cop. Always getting into sticky situations, he is lucky to have his partner, Makala around to keep him out of trouble.

Maybe his luck has run out...



# SAVE THE DATE- FOR MAY 21-23!!!

Road trip!

Details will be announced in January.



## CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Ho ho ho!! Lots of Christmas cheer happening at the Bond Head Golf Club. Many PROBUS members attended for a wonderful lunch, gifts and entertainment! The organizers went above and beyond again! Congratulations Brenda and Peggy.

So much Christmas spirit and even a significant anniversary celebrated too. Congratulations to this happy couple..



There was singing, dancing and lots of silliness.



We know who you are.







## **CHRISTMAS PARTY!**





# MUMMERS

*Excerpts from The Globe Content Studio*

In the month of December we celebrate the start of winter season, shorter days, snow and the Christmas season. Religious traditions surrounding the birth of Christ, family get-togethers, and the big guy in the red suit bringing gifts all occupies our time in a flurry of activities. But, let's not forget our neighbours in Newfoundland and Labrador who celebrate the month of December in a very unique way.

If you see your neighbours in the streets, knocking on doors wearing underwear outside of their clothing – worry not. It's just another December day in Newfoundland and Labrador.

In fact, the practice has a name: It's called mummering, and it's a centuries-old holiday tradition. Every year, Newfoundlanders of all ages dress in outlandish disguises to conceal their identities and go parading down the streets, singing, dancing and dropping in on neighbours – all in the name of fun and foolishness.

English and Irish traditions first brought mummering – also referred to as mumming, guising or janneying – to the island 300 years ago. The practice was considered controversial – and even temporarily banned – when it became linked to drunken antics and foolish practices.

In 2009, a group of folklore students from Memorial University and Heritage NL gave it new life: They birthed the St. John's Mummer's Festival, a two-week series of workshops and holiday festivities leading up to the annual mummer's parade. Over the last ten years, the festival has become a well-loved tradition bringing the St. John's community together.

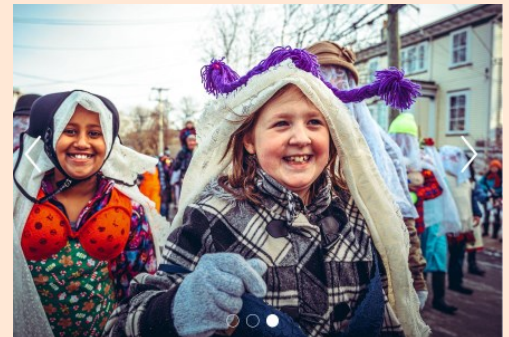
Changing your body shape, altering your voice and concealing your identity are all key to perfecting the practice. While just about anything goes when you're a mummer, some choose to inhabit certain traditional characters like the hobby horse, a key part of the mummering tradition for centuries.

Other traditions that came from 1800s Irish and English influence is the practice of young boys going door to door with a dead wren in hand to collect money for their funerals. Today a cardboard effigy of a wren on a stick is carried to neighbours doors, and after saying a poem, folks would give you some

Christmas candy or cake, or a bit of syrup, and they might give you a quarter.

Despite regional distinctions in practices, there's one cultural entity that's equally beloved across all parts of the province: [The Mummer's Song](#). Penned in 1983 by Bud Davidge, it's become Newfoundland and Labrador's unofficial mummering anthem, and is often sung during the parade and other festivities around the holidays. The tune has garnered such fame within the province that it's been turned into a children's book, a musical snow globe and a hip-hop song by local rap group "Mummers With Attitude" in 2014. What will they think of next!

Creativity permeates throughout the age-old tradition that brings Newfoundlanders together every year. You might see people of all ages sporting bras bedazzled with rhinestones, lamp shades worn as hats, swimming goggles used for masks and mini disco balls used as eyes on a hobby horse. But when you're a mummer, you're just in it for togetherness, merri-ment and a whole lot of foolishness.



## A Christmas Joke

An Englishman, a Welshman and an Irishman die on Christmas eve. To get into heaven St. Peter says, "You must have something on you that represents Christmas."

The Englishman flicks on his lighter and says, "It's a candle." St. Peter lets him pass into heaven.

The Welshman jingles his keys and says, "They are sleigh bells." St. Peter lets him pass into heaven.

The Irishman, Paddy, pulls out a G-string and bra. St. Peter exclaims, "How do they represent Christmas?"

Paddy says, "They're Carol's."





Being the thoughtful person that she is, Tillie places the Mistletoe in a location that's accessible to most of the men in the seniors villa.



To all in Bradford PROBUS have a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

[Click on this link for a Christmas song that will get you shaking your eggnog!](#)



See you at the next PROBUS meeting

**January 9—10:00 am**

At St. John's Presbyterian Church



[www.bradfordprobus.weebly.com](http://www.bradfordprobus.weebly.com)