

# Durham Central PROBUS Club Newsletter: October 2021



## 2021 – 2022 Executive Officers:

**Tom Reed,**  
President

**Patti Mavins,**  
Vice President and  
Newsletter Editor

**Doug Byers,**  
Past President

**Tricia Cadieux,**  
Secretary

**Tom Anderson,**  
Treasurer

## Committee Chairpersons & Other Positions

**Jackie Bathe,  
Janet Good &  
Judy Roebuck,**  
Social Committee

**Catherine Frost,**  
Special Interest  
Groups

**Laurie Jones,**  
Speakers

**Paul Dionne**  
Membership

**Heather Anderson  
& Sue Mackinnon,**  
House Committee

**Connie Nelson,**  
Web Master &  
Archivist

**Sylvia Hughes &  
Mary Ann Bridge,**  
Members at Large

**NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, October 21, 10 AM**  
**Online meeting via Zoom**

## President's Message

My pool has gone into hibernation as Fall announced its arrival with more rain in two days than the month had produced to date! We will be in awe again viewing the reds, oranges and yellows of fall colour in our neighbourhoods, and there will be many days to enjoy the crisp and clear air of outdoor activities. Thanks Mother Nature for that!

Optimistically, yet cautiously, each of us is venturing out, meeting others face-to-face, adapting to our new normal. Your management team has reviewed the results of the August survey sent to members regarding a question of a return to face-to-face meetings. Around one half of the membership filled out the survey and over one third of the respondents were not in favour of returning to in-person meetings at this point in time. We decided that a return needs to be postponed and reconsidered later in the year.

Along with the Oshawa PROBUS Club, we met with the Shrine Club to understand their requirements for gatherings as determined by the Durham Public Health and their capability to host hybrid meetings (i.e., an in-person meeting with Zoom participants). They have confirmed that proof of vaccination will be required from each member in attendance at every in-person meeting. We will convene again in December to test out the possibility for a hybrid meeting at the facility, looking at January 2022 as a new target date for the launch of a hybrid meeting. The Christmas luncheon has therefore been cancelled. The situation is in flux and we will keep you informed as events unfold. For any Special Interest Groups that are meeting in residences, the Durham Health Department requires that the host maintain a contact list for a month following the gathering.

If you have any questions or comments, please forward them to me or to any member of the management team.

Stay positive and, hopefully, we will be closer to seeing one another in person, sooner rather than later.



## October Speaker: Angie Littlefield

### *“Tom Thomson’s Fine Kettle of Friends”*



Angie’s talk will feature the story behind the 2017 book “Tom Thomson’s Fine Kettle of Friends” and look into its subtitles: history, biography, art and food. You will meet Tom’s family, find out about his cooking skills and explore a theory about Tom Thomson visiting Banff. As a special Probus feature, Angie will highlight Tom’s connections to Durham Region: Whitby, Port Perry, Pickering and Claremont.

Angie Littlefield is an educator, curator and author who grew up in Whitby and taught in Durham Region schools, finishing her career as principal of GL Roberts CVI in Oshawa. (She is a founding member of the Robert McLaughlin Art Gallery.) Angie curated Angelika Hoerle: comet of Cologne Dada for the Art Gallery of Ontario and

Museum Ludwig in Cologne, Germany, The Art of Dissent for the UJA Federation, Toronto and The Thomsons of Durham: Tom Thomson’s Family Heritage for the Durham West Arts Centre. The latter exhibition started the research into Tom Thomson and his family that led to Tom Thomson’s Toronto Neighbourhoods and Tom Thomson’s Fine Kettle of Friends. Walking with Oma: a memoir will be published in 2023. She is working on mini-biographies of the wives of the Group of Seven. Angie’s recent general interest articles are at [www.silversage.com](http://www.silversage.com)

When Angie retired from a 33-year long career in teaching, she walked 1000 km around Lake Ontario and in 2008, she walked 600 km in the Elbe River Valley from the concentration camp where her grandmother was held in the Czech Republic, to Hamburg, Germany--in the footsteps of her grandmother. But, that’s another story!

In October, she will talk about her findings from her 15 years of research into Tom Thomson, his family and the Group of Seven. You have probably heard about Tom Thomson because of his mysterious death. In October, you will learn new things about his life!

## Social Events

Second edition of the **Local Adventure Tour** was on September 11 and 12. We had 4 cars registered to participate. First place was Deryk and Helen Read, 2nd place Carol POVINSKY, Grace Mountenay, Debbie M and Linda H. 3rd place was Sylvia Hughes and Peggy Gibson and 4th place was Rita Edwards team. Congratulations to all!

The last edition is this weekend, October 1 and 2nd. Good luck to all the cars.



Once again, thank you to Oshawa Probus for letting us join their activity and a special thanks to Jackie Frank.

On Monday, September 27, we visited the **Canadian Automotive Museum** in Oshawa. We had a walking tour of downtown Oshawa and finished up with a tour of the museum. It was very informative. As a lifelong resident of Oshawa, I was amazed at what I did not know. Fortunately, it was a sunny warm day and was good to be out and about.



**Christmas luncheon:** Unfortunately, due to rising COVID numbers, the Delta variant and feedback from the members, we have decided not to proceed with the Christmas luncheon in December. Hopefully next year.

If any of the PROBUS members have suggestions for social activities please contact either Janet Good, Jackie Bathe or Judy Roebuck. We are always looking for feedback.

Happy Fall to all. 🍁

## Community and Other Virtual Events:

Looking for some services and activities outside of our local PROBUS offerings? Check out these suggestions:

1. CIRCLES ENRICHMENT was founded in 2001 to meet the demand for ongoing learning and cultural enrichment. To that end, the company develops and delivers a wide range of entertaining and educational presentations.

Their scheduled programs for October (Over Zoom) are as follows:

- Friday October 1 at 2:00 **Grace Kelly (Felice Gorica)** - Experience the glamour of the silver screen as we learn about the life of Grace Kelly. We will explore her early days, find out how she rose to stardom, view clips of her greatest movies, revel in her fashions, and discuss her enduring influence on cinema and her famous marriage.
- Wednesday October 6 at 2:00 **Classical Music Program (Joseph Sharon)**

- Friday October 8 at 2:00 **Sigmund Freud and the Inner Mind (Paul Dias)** - Father of modern psychology or cult leader? Explore the 20 century's most controversial thinker and learn the meanings of your dreams, desires and defenses.
- Wednesday October 13 at 2:00 **Current Events Discussion (Paul Dias)**
- Friday October 15 at 2:00 **The Memorable Music of Rodgers and Hammerstein (Dr. Keith Johnston)** - The Sound of Music, Oklahoma, The King and I, South Pacific: Richard Rodgers crafted some of the most remarkable and memorable music in Broadway history in order to bring far-flung places and stories to life. Learn the musical secrets behind the success of Rodgers' music and hear some of his beloved tunes with fresh ears in this lecture-performance.
- Wednesday October 20 at 2:00 **Classical Music Program (Joseph Sharon)**
- Friday October 22 at 2:00 **How Video Games Improve Your Health (Dr. David Chandross)** - University researches show that video game can be used for much more than relaxation: Treating drug addiction, training health care workers, planning cities, improving memory and much more. See how they are now used by the World Health Organization, the United Nations, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in Ontario. Find out how to connect with other people to form video game communities and enrich your life with this wonderful new technology.
- Wednesday October 27 at 2:00 **Current Events Discussion (Paul Dias)**
- Friday October 29 at 2:00 **Haunted Places (Jennifer Merrick)** - From a haunted coal mine in Wales to the historic site of Fort Henry at Kingston, to the ghost who wanders the Elgin Theatre in Toronto, join me as we learn the spine-tingling, otherworldly tales of famous attractions around the world.

For the complete list of programs please visit <https://circlesenrichment.com/topics-subjects/>

2. ISACA Toronto is planning an Online Event, "How to be safe online": When: Saturday, October 2, 2021 - 01:00 PM Eastern Time. The Chapter will be hosting a webinar on 'How to Be Safe Online' for all ages/families. The session will allow participants to learn essential dos and don'ts about interacting online and how to share information safely. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and win prizes, including two grand prizes of EB Games gift cards! Everyone is welcome to attend. To register: Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcuceyrrTssHdfXD3zTjGk1vkC1MFXgubrU> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
3. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority offers online interactive virtual programs. Learn about winterizing your lawn and garden, urban rivers, microplastics, and the nocturnal wildlife living in your neighbourhood!
  - Saving Seeds: From Gathering to Sharing | [October 6](#)
  - Winterize Your Lawn and Garden | [October 7](#)
  - Understanding Urban Rivers | [October 14](#)

- All About Bats | [October 20](#)
- Microplastics: Tiny but Dangerous | [October 21](#)
- Lake Ontario Evening - All Our Relations: Water Beings of the Great Lakes | [October 20](#)
- Invasive Species At Home | [October 26](#)
- Nocturnal Nature in Your Neighbourhood | [October 28](#)

[Register for a program](#)

4. **Whitby in Bloom** is hosting a free webinar, “**Preparing your Garden for Winter**” on **October 13, 2021** at 7 p.m.:

A presentation about getting your garden ready for winter, what to clean up, what to leave, how to deal with annuals, perennials, bulbs, evergreens, ornamental grasses, roses, shrubs, trees and lawns.

[Register](#)



**We all enjoy hearing about things to do in our community. If anyone has information about virtual or community events to share with our members, please email Patti Mavins by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month for adding to our newsletter.**

## Special Interest Groups

**Last call:** Let’s get to know members before the weather gets too uncomfortable for being outside.

The following are open to all members:

### **Lunch**

**Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, or Tuesday October 12<sup>th</sup>** please meet at 11:45 for lunch at the Courtyard 1437 King Street East, Courtice.

Kindly let me know which day you will be attending.

We will be on the patio.



**Party time:** Meet members for a glass of wine or a beer at 4:30 on a patio October 6<sup>th</sup> or October 12<sup>th</sup>:

Courtyard 1437 King Street East, Courtice

Royal Oak Taunton Road and Garden Street in Whitby

Please let me know which date and location are best for you.



Group leaders will be contacting members when it is time that we are able to meet indoors.

If a member would like to inquire about the availability of indoor golf during the winter, please contact me.

Any questions contact Catherine c.frost@sympatico.ca

### **Book Club – “The Chicklits”:**



We met via Zoom in September to discuss “Crow Lake” by Mary Lawson, a book we all thoroughly enjoyed, especially with all the Ontario references. Mary Lawson grew up in the rural farming community of Blackwell, Ontario before it became part of Sarnia. What a successful Canadian novelist!

Our October book will be “Fifty words for Rain”, by Asha Lemmie. It is promised to be “...a sweeping, heartrending coming-of-age novel about a young woman's quest for acceptance in post–World War II Japan.”

We have room for more members in our book club. If you are interested, please contact *Patti Mavins*.

### **DC Wanderers:**

The DC Wanderers have enjoyed being out and about on several trails this September in Oshawa and Whitby. We hiked the Harmony Creek, Oshawa Creek and Cullen Garden Trails. We usually spend about an hour walking 3 to 4 kilometres. We have been very fortunate to enjoy good weather so far and look forward to the walks this Fall will bring..

We welcome new members to our group. Please contact Pete Jones at 905-430-0141 or barbandpete@rogers.com. See you on the trails!



### Fibre Friends:



Our meetings for this month are Thursday, October 14 at 10 a.m. and Wednesday, October 27 at 1:30 p.m.

If the weather co-operates, we will meet at the Heydenshore Pavilion in Whitby for an outdoor meeting in the park. Zoom meetings will also be scheduled in case outdoor meetings are not possible.

*Jane Rail and Barb Jones*

### Golf Groups:



The golf courses are still open as the weather is changing. The courses are still in very good shape and not as busy as they were over the summer. We expect to be golfing until the end of October or early November, weather permitting. Golfing in October and November means arriving at the course dressed in layers but still be comfortable.

We are still golfing 18 holes on Friday mornings. We arrange tee times at different golf courses each week.

We have been golfing at Ballantrae, Baxter Creek, 6 Foot Bay and Deer Creek during September. We are planning on golfing at Royal Ashburn for our annual nine and dine, Oak Ridges, Glen Cedars and Deer Creek in October.

Any member wishing to join the Probus Golf Group is welcome.

For more information e-mail Tom at [tlacma99@gmail.com](mailto:tlacma99@gmail.com)

If you are interested in golfing 9 holes only, a 9-hole PROBUS golf group has been formed and they golf every Thursday. They would love more members to join them. If interested, contact *Doug Byers* at [dougbyers@rogers.com](mailto:dougbyers@rogers.com)

### Pickleball:

We have been playing at Radio Park at 6 pm on Thursdays. The morning times are still too busy for us to be able to play together as a group. Early evening is the best time for us for now. New members are welcome.

Check out some pickleball videos on You Tube. Let me know if you are new to pickleball and I will set up at 5:30 on Thursdays at Radio Park to show you how to play before you play with the group. There is no sign that our winter venue at South Oshawa Community Centre will be reopening anytime soon. The Centre rents the high school gym from the Durham Board of Education.



Paddles up and have some fun with us! Contact Linda Hebert at [linmar322@gmail.com](mailto:linmar322@gmail.com)

## Uncorked:

The Uncorked Wine Group was very excited to have its first meeting of 2021 on Thursday, September 16th. The group met in an outdoor patio setting, with all members double vaccinated. The members were presented with a variety of Portuguese wines, one white and two reds.



The white was Maria Papoila Alvarinho & Loureiro Vinho Verde 2019, produced from grapes in the Minho wine region located in the northern most wine region in Portugal. This wine scores 91 at the LCBO.

The reds included Lab 2018, which scores 87 and Confidential Reserva 2016, which scores 90. Both wines are produced from grapes in the Lisboa wine region located near and around Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal. The tastings were complemented with delicious food pairings.

Many thanks to our hosts for providing the wines and food pairings.

The Uncorked Wine Group will hold meetings on the third Thursday of each month, 4:00 pm in an outdoor setting weather permitting or until members are comfortable with meeting indoors. Janet Brown [janetbrown50@hotmail.com] is the co-ordinator for the Uncorked Wine Group.

## Meet your Fellow Members!

### Meet Paul and Anne Dionne

We appreciate the opportunity to introduce ourselves to the PROBUS membership. We are Paul



and Anne Dionne from Whitby. In early 2019 we were trying to determine a good way to improve our retirement time by meeting new friends and doing activities we may normally never do. Friends of ours were speaking highly about PROBUS but our research determined that the other local clubs were only accepting wait list requests. The formation of a new club starting up appealed to us and we became involved with the Durham Central PROBUS club during the initial "Bobby Orr Lounge" meetings.

This past spring Paul volunteered to fulfill the open Membership Chairperson position. Upon acceptance to the role and shortly after finding out about Paul's IT background, he was quickly drafted onto the team responsible for developing and rolling out our new website. Anne has made many new knitting friends with the Fibre Friends special interest group and enjoyed the day events that club had offered.

Paul was born and raised in Oshawa. Upon graduating RS McLaughlin High School, Paul attended Ryerson Polytechnical taking Mechanical Engineering. Anne was also born in Oshawa but called Whitby home. Anne attended Henry St High School and graduated from office administration at Durham College. For the past 38 years we have resided in our home on Henry St.

Paul spent 43 years in the IT profession as an employee and a contractor at GM, EDS, Informix/Ascential and Elections Ontario before retiring from GM in early 2019. Almost



immediately he started a second career as a part time shuttle driver for a local automotive dealership. Anne worked at The Bank of Nova Scotia head office in the early 1980's before moving to the Town of Whitby. After our son was born in 1986, Anne became a stay-at-home mom but returned to work outside the home with part time retail and administration jobs as the kids grew older. Anne retired in 2018 from providing office administration support for an Oshawa plumbing company

We have had the good fortune of having a son and a daughter. While our children were growing up, Paul coached /convened hockey, boy's baseball and girls' softball. Anne was very active in the schools, her church, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts organizations. Today our son and daughter-in-law live in south Ajax with our grandson and granddaughter. These two little ones have quickly become the center of the universe not only for ourselves, but also for our recently married daughter and her husband who reside in downtown Toronto.

In the mid 2000's we built an all-season house in Sauble Beach for our retirement. Upon completion of the shell, it became a true family project with the 4 of us spending many weekends heading north together to finish off the interior and landscaping. Our kids always loved visiting their grandparent's cottage at the beach when they were younger and that tradition continues as we now enjoy the opportunity of seeing the next generation become beach lovers. The arrival of grandchildren living 15 minutes away from us nixed retiring fulltime to Sauble.

We really have enjoyed our PROBUS experience, and it was a good decision to join the new club rather than wait for a call to join another club. Like everyone else we really look forward to returning to the Shriner's Hall and to the other social events that we very much enjoyed before restrictions were imposed.

### A Bit of Humour



## Poet's Corner

### Masks Will Be Worn

At this time of year strange sightings appear.  
Ghost, witches and pirates seem frighteningly near.  
It's odd when they're joined by rabbits and clowns  
not to mention those people who dress "out of bounds."  
Space creatures show up, cowboys, angels and boxes  
as well as weird beings decked out like young foxes.  
Colourful wigs, cloaks, moving with force  
and a sprinkling of parents in full voice of course.  
It's awkward to move with the crowd at the gate  
bags at the ready all held out to fate.  
Some in a hurry, ready to yell  
lines spoken by many as history can tell.  
"Trick or treats it's your turn so what will you choose?  
Some thinking be careful I've so much to lose.  
The cars in the driveway and glass isn't cheap  
it's now getting dark and there's sometimes a creep  
who might throw a tomato or egg we don't need.  
The road stretches far between wanting and greed.  
Enjoy all the fun sending all on their way  
with healthy delights or candies that say  
"Parents check all the loot as it comes in the door,  
remembering feelings you've all felt before."  
Grandparents will tell you what rationings about  
as the children demur when you dole goodies out  
with a pause, to give thanks that, it's been a good day.  
Participation, all ages at play.

*L. Patricia Bayley*



## Member Care



The care of and compassion for our PROBUS Club members is an important feature of a vibrant club. While we all hope our members remain in good health, from time to time, members are in need of our support. “If I’d only known” is a statement we would like to avoid. Please inform Sylvia Hughes, in charge of Member Care, of any circumstances where a member of the club needs our support. Please provide as much detail as possible while being sensitive to the wishes of her or his family. Tom will send out the appropriate notice to the club and express appropriate wishes to the member and family on behalf of the club.

**Durham Central PROBUS Club:** [Click Link to Durham Central PROBUS Club website](#)

**PROBUS CANADA Website:** [www.PROBUS.org](http://www.PROBUS.org)

**PROBUS Global website:** <https://probusglobal.org/index.html>

**Please enjoy this copy of PROBUS Global’s newsletter, with news from PROBUS clubs around the world:**

[https://probusglobal.org/Newsletters/2021-09\\_PROBUS\\_Global.pdf](https://probusglobal.org/Newsletters/2021-09_PROBUS_Global.pdf)