



# PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

Club 82

Vol 27 Issue 11

November 2024

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## MANAGEMENT TEAM

- President: April Gilkinson
- Vice President: Julien LeBourdais
- Past President: Jane Wilson
- Treasurer: Murray Biel
- Secretary: Erika Winfrow
- Membership: Debbie Casquenet
- Speakers: Julien LeBourdais
- Newsletter: Hetty Shapiro
- Socials: Shirly van Putten
- Interest Groups: Julie Mathewson
- Communications: Tina Gee
- House: Tina Kvirgic
- Technical: Stewart Beatty
- WebMaster: Oankar Kundan
- Member-at-Large: Kevin Portener

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



October was the month to give thanks, to look back at all that we are grateful for, and to remind ourselves not to take the little things for granted.

November is a time for reflection. On November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am, we observe two minutes of silence to remember the heroes who died in conflict. We can also take a moment to reflect on how we want to be remembered. It is important to realize that your "every day" could be someone's "once in a lifetime." What might have been a simple kind gesture for you could have made another person's week. You may not recall a time when you showed kindness, but the person on the receiving end will remember.

As days become shorter and temperatures begin to drop, November reminds us that 2024 is coming to a close and the holiday season is fast approaching. It is a time for planning and re-establishing old connections. It is a time to take initiative in everything you do, whether it is picking up the phone and calling family and friends, or starting your holiday shopping.

The colder months bring us closer together as a community and help to strengthen our bonds with each other. We lend a hand to those in need; we give back as gratitude for what this year has given us; we do what we can to feel good, and also reflect on our own needs.

Our Club provides many opportunities to live a joyful life. Our "Be a Friend, Bring a Friend" meeting was a huge success, as many guests became members and we had a lot of interest in several of our outings and social events. Thank you all for bringing new and exciting changes to our community and for creating new opportunities for those around you. Let us all remember how far we have come and look forward to what is next.

April Gilkinson  
[april-ann@hotmail.com](mailto:april-ann@hotmail.com)



Payments for events and membership may be made via e-transfer through your bank to:  
[probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:probusajxtreasurer@gmail.com)  
Include your name and what the payment is for.

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

PROBUS Ajax website  
[www.ajaxprobus.com](http://www.ajaxprobus.com)



PROBUS Canada website  
[www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	2
	4 10:00 am WALKING GROUP	5 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	6 10:00 am GENERAL MEETING	7 ST. JACOBS 10:00 am WALKING GROUP 2:30 pm BRIDGE	8 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	9
10	 10:00 am WALKING GROUP Noon LADIES LUNCH Noon MEN'S LUNCH	12 10:00 am COFFEE 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	13 2:00 pm EUCHRE & GAMES	14 10:00 am WALKING GROUP 1:00 pm CARD MAKING 2:30 pm BRIDGE	15 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	16
17	18 10:00 am WALKING GROUP 1:00 pm BOWLING & HAPPY HOUR	19 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	20 10:00 am BOOK CLUB	21 10:00 am WALKING GROUP 2:30 pm BRIDGE 5:30 pm DINING OUT	22 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	23
24 2:00 pm ST. FRANCIS CENTRE	25 10:00 am WALKING GROUP	26 9:00 am BREAKFAST 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	27 1:30 pm IMPROV 2:00 pm EUCHRE & GAMES	28 10:00 am WALKING GROUP 2:30 pm BRIDGE	29 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT 8:30 pm THE EDGE	30 2:00 pm MUSIC 4LIFE



PLEASE WEAR  
 YOUR NAME BADGE  
 AT OUR MEETINGS  
 & EVENTS



[Town of Ajax 55+ Activities & Events](#)  
[What's On at the Ajax Library](#)

# GENERAL MEETINGS

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 - 10:00 am**

Ajax Community Centre, HMS Ajax Room  
(entrance at south side of building)

Meeting fee: \$2  
Optional "Share the Wealth" draw:  
Tickets \$1 each or 3 for \$2  
(exact change appreciated)



## **WOMEN IN AIR FORCE BLUE** **Guest Speaker: Malcolm Kelly**

Journalist and writer, Malcolm Kelly, presents the war from the perspective of the women who fought with the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (RAF) and the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division (RCAF). Through storytelling, photos and videos, he traces the influence that two super stars of 1930s aviation had on the women who enlisted.

During his 40-year career, Malcolm has worked for CBCSports.ca, the National Post, Canadian Press, Ottawa Citizen, and Southam News. He is the author of *SPROG: A novel of Bomber Command*, that tells of kids training in Canada during 1941-1942 for the RCAF. He is a recipient of the Governor General's Award for community service; the founder, coordinator, and a Professor in the Graduate Sports Journalism program at Centennial College in Toronto. The son of two Second World War veterans, Malcolm Kelly's main interest lies in the human stories of those in combat.

**JOIN US FOR LUNCH AT THE PORTLY PIPER PUB AFTER THE MEETINGS**  
**THE CHRISTMAS PARTY REPLACES THE DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 - 10:00 am**

Ajax Community Centre, HMS Ajax Room  
(entrance at south side of building)

Meeting fee: \$2  
Optional "Share the Wealth" draw:  
Tickets \$1 each or 3 for \$2  
(exact change appreciated)



## **TRAINING DOG GUIDES** **Guest Speakers: Susan Sheen & friends**

A former secondary school teacher and ordained Anglican priest, Susan Sheen has been fostering puppies for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides for 12 years from her home in Bowmanville. Susan, and a couple of her friends, will discuss the fun and challenges of helping these amazing dogs grow from 7 week-old puppies to mature dogs with specialized skills of qualified dog guides. **There will be an opportunity to interact with the lab and poodle puppies!** In lieu of an honorarium, the Probus Club of Ajax will make a donation to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. For more info <https://www.dogguides.com/>

*Susan is pictured with Maui, her 12<sup>th</sup> puppy who went to boarding school at the training centre in Oakville to begin her training in the diabetic alert program.*



# SOCIALS & TOURS



## ST. JACOBS FARMERS' MARKET - THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7 - \$89

Kick off your holiday shopping season with a visit to St. Jacobs Farmers' Market. Explore 250+ vendors with fresh produce, international cuisine, artisans & more! The tour also includes the Outlet Mall, Picard's Peanuts, St. Jacobs village

Return transportation by coach, 407 toll and driver's tip.  
RSVP Shirlye: [shirlyevanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlyevanputten@rogers.com) 905.619.8583

## MARJORIE PRIME



BY JORDAN HARRISON

## MARJORIE PRIME AT THE ST. FRANCIS CENTRE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 - 2:00 PM

At 85, Marjorie struggles with fading memories and finds support from a charming new companion designed to recount only the best stories of her life. But if given the opportunity, what would we choose to remember, and what might we let go?

TICKETS ARE \$20  
(\$18 IF 10 OR MORE SIGN UP)

RSVP to Julie  
[jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)



# SOCIALS & TOURS

## MUSIC4LIFE STRING ORCHESTRA

PRESENTS

# CELEBRATION

*Concert*



Nov

30

2024

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS THE MULTI-AWARD  
WINNING, CANADIAN A CAPPELLA SENSATION

## COUNTERMEASURE

FOREST BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH  
60 KEARNEY DRIVE, AJAX

DOORS OPEN AT 2:00PM | SHOW STARTS AT 2:30PM



TICKETS: \$20 (SENIORS) RSVP TO JULIE BY NOV 9 [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)

**DJ**

**PRIZES**

**LUNCH**

**DANCING**

**FUN**

## Annual Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 4 - 11:30 am

Choice of Turkey, Salmon or a Vegetarian meal

Members: \$60    Guests: \$70

AJAX CONVENTION CENTRE  
550 BECK CRESCENT

SIGN UP AT THE  
GENERAL MEETING

RSVP: SHIRLIE 905.619.8583  
[shirlievanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com)



# SOCIALS & TOURS



## **RING IN THE NEW YEAR AT THE EDGE LOUNGE**

**\$65 entrance fee (to be confirmed) payable in advance  
includes a delicious buffet dinner.**

**We have reserved seating. Space is limited.**

**To join us for a fun evening  
contact April: [april-ann@hotmail.com](mailto:april-ann@hotmail.com)**

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### **JOIN US FOR LUNCH AND A MOVIE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**Details to be determined when movie listings are available.  
Movie will probably be at the Landmark Theatre in Whitby  
with lunch in one of the nearby restaurants.**

**Contact Julie for more information  
[jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)**

# SOCIALS & TOURS

**THE LION KING**  
**WED. JANUARY 8, 2025**  
**PRINCESS OF WALES THEATRE**  
**1:00 PM**



Winner of six Tony Awards®, including Best Musical, this landmark production brings together one of the most imaginative creative teams on Broadway. The story, filled with hope and adventure, is set against an amazing backdrop of stunning visuals. THE LION KING features some of Broadway's most recognizable music, crafted by Tony Award®-winning artists Elton John and Tim Rice.

**\$194 per person includes orchestra level ticket,  
return transportation by coach and driver's tip.**

**RSVP: Shirlie [shirlievanputten@rogers.com](mailto:shirlievanputten@rogers.com) 905.619.8583**



**SUN AND FUN 2025 - JANUARY 13 - 22 (10 DAYS/9 NIGHTS)**  
**Dreams Jade Resort & Spa, Riviera Maya, Mexico**  
**(All-inclusive AAA Four Diamond Resort)**

Located along 2,600 feet of white sand and azure waters, just 12 miles from the Cancun airport, Dreams® Jade Resort & Spa features luxurious suites, a world-class spa, high-end gym, gourmet dining options and a mini-golf course. Enjoy a show at the newly enhanced theatre, the heated pools or the many beach resort activities. Prices includes all taxes, airfare, all meals and drinks, activities and entertainment **plus the services of Tour Directors, Shirlie and Paul.**

**Junior Suite: Tropical View King bed:**

**Double occupancy \$2,849 per person**

**Single occupancy \$3,899 (only 5 available)**

**Junior Suite: Ocean Front King bed:**

**Double occupancy \$3,199 pp (only 1 available)**

**Junior Suite: Two Double beds:**

**Double occupancy \$2,999 per person**

**Shirlie: [shirlie@hnatravel.com](mailto:shirlie@hnatravel.com) 905-619-8583**



# SOCIALS & TOURS



## PORTUGAL

**FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 19, 2025**

HNA Travels presents a 21-night vacation in Portugal's Algarve Province which includes:

- Round trip direct flights Toronto/Faro, Portugal
- Coach transfer airport/hotel
- 21 nights at the 4-star [Paladim & Alagoamar Resort](#)
- Welcome dinner in Albufeira
- Service of HNA Tour Director

Optional tours may be purchased from the Tour representative in Portugal.

\$3,699 double occupancy - one bedroom apartment with pool view

\$4,999 single occupancy - studio apartment

\$800 Non-refundable deposit due on booking. Balance due Dec 1, 2024

For more information [shirlie@hnatravels.com](mailto:shirlie@hnatravels.com) 905-619-8583



## JOIN YOUR PROBUS FRIENDS IN CROSS COUNTRY SKIING/SNOWSHOEING

1.5 hours north at Oro Station, [Hardwood Ski & Bike](#) has 40 kms of beautiful, groomed trails through forests with 14 kms of dedicated snowshoe trails. Whether you're a beginner or advanced (rentals are available) or just want to sit in the chalet with a good book and hot cocoa, it's a fun way to beat the winter blues.

For more information, please contact:

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

or call/text 905-767-8050



# INTEREST GROUPS

## NOT ANOTHER BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 10:00 am

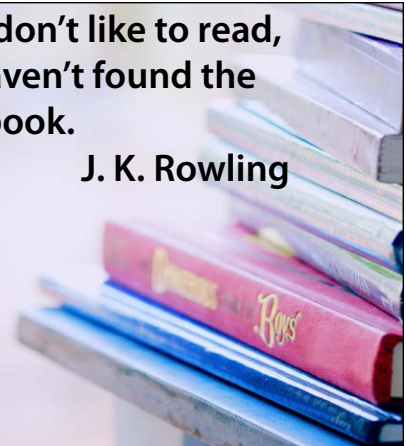
EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY VIA ZOOM

we discuss books members have recently read and recommend as opposed to all of us reading the same book.

RSVP: Lynne [912lynne@gmail.com](mailto:912lynne@gmail.com)  
905-839-8147

If you don't like to read,  
you haven't found the  
right book.

J. K. Rowling



## BOWLING & HAPPY HOUR

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18 - 1:00 PM

EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAY OF THE MONTH

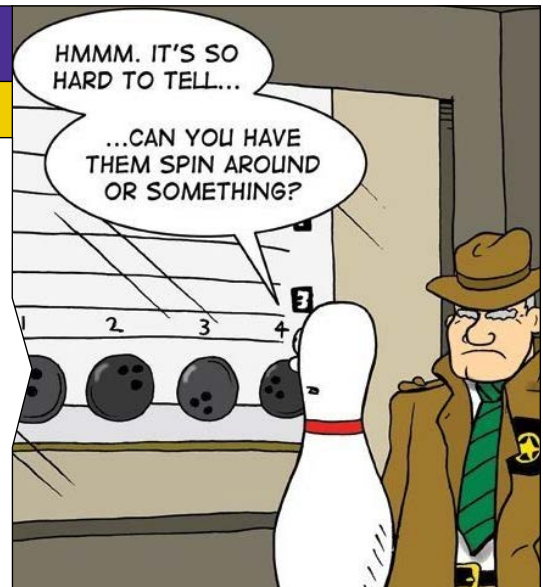
AJAX BOWLING CENTRE

172 Harwood Ave. South, lower floor  
(Beside The Grocery Outlet)

Cost: \$10 for two games plus \$2 for shoes if needed  
To reserve your place please email Kevin at  
[keportener@gmail.com](mailto:keportener@gmail.com) call or text 905.626.6303

**NEW**

Following bowling, at 3 pm, we now go to the  
Mackenzie Pub & Restaurant for Happy Hour.  
Non-bowlers are welcome to join us.



## BREAKFAST CLUB

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 - 9:00 AM

WE MEET ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Next get-together  
KINGS CASTLE BAR & GRILL  
570 Westney Rd S #21, Ajax  
right beside Giant Tiger

RSVP: Lynne [912lynne@gmail.com](mailto:912lynne@gmail.com)  
905.839.8147





# INTEREST GROUPS

## BRIDGE

EVERY THURSDAY FROM 2:30 - 4:30 PM

**AJAX LIBRARY - ROTARY ROOM**  
55 Harwood Ave. South

November 7	Social Bridge
November 14	Bridge Lesson
November 21	Social Bridge
November 28	Bridge Lesson

RSVP: Harvey [hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca](mailto:hbrodhecker@yahoo.ca)

## BRIDGE



**A TEST OF YOUR SKILL  
VERSUS  
OPPONENTS' LUCK**

## COFFEE & CONVERSATION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 - 10:00 AM

**EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY - FOR NEW MEMBERS**  
*Learn more about the Club and make new friends.*

Members who joined our club in the last 12 months are invited to an informal get-together at the home of Jane and Bob Wilson.

RSVP: Hetty [ajaxprobuseditor@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobuseditor@gmail.com)



## CRIBBAGE

EVERY TUESDAY 1:30 - 4:00 PM

### PICKERING VILLAGE SENIOR CENTRE

29 Linton Avenue (one block north of Kingston Road & one block west of Church Street)  
(next door to the Ajax Creative Arts Club)

*Feel free to join us even if you've never played before.*

RSVP: Wendy [wendysmith1@live.com](mailto:wendysmith1@live.com)  
905.686.1490





# INTEREST GROUPS

## DANCING AT THE EDGE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29 - 8:30 PM

Join us in our reserved seating section for a fun night of socializing and dancing to great cover bands.

### THE EDGE LOUNGE

Mackenzie Pub Plaza, 250 Bayly St. W.

### THE SPITFIRE KINGS

[Watch them perform on YouTube](#)

\$10 cover charge at the door

RSVP: April [april-ann@hotmail.com](mailto:april-ann@hotmail.com)

Dancing improves your mood. It's free therapy, so kick up your heels & dance!



## DINING OUT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - 5:30 PM

EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY

As I can't reserve space at a restaurant until I know how many people are attending, it's very important that you contact me as soon as possible to ensure there is a seat for you.

RSVP: Carol [cbreen840@gmail.com](mailto:cbreen840@gmail.com)

福 CHINESE 福  
RESTAURANT

ROCKIN'G

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET  
NOT MEAN ALL DAY BUFFET  
YOU NO COME STAY 4 HOUR  
YOU EAT - YOU GO HOME

## EUCHRE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 & 27 2:00 - 4:00 PM

WE MEET EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY

PICKERING VILLAGE SENIOR CENTRE  
29 Linton Avenue

RSVP: Jane [jw.003@sympatico.ca](mailto:jw.003@sympatico.ca)  
905.619.6674



# INTEREST GROUPS

## GAMES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 & 27 2:00 - 4:00 PM

WE MEET EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY

PICKERING VILLAGE SENIOR CENTRE  
29 Linton Avenue

There will be Scrabble and Aggravation board games.  
You can also bring any game you would like to play.

RSVP: Jane [jw.003@sympatico.ca](mailto:jw.003@sympatico.ca) 905.619.6674



## "GOMEQ" LUNCH GROUP

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11 - NOON

*(Great Old Men Eating Out)*

WE MEET EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> MONDAY  
AT MACKENZIE PUB & RESTAURANT  
250 Bayly St. West, Ajax

RSVP: Kevin [keportener@gmail.com](mailto:keportener@gmail.com)



## IMPROV FOR BEGINNERS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27: 1:30 - 3:00 PM

EVERY 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY

This is a fun and engaging experience guaranteed  
to make you laugh and bring you joy.

We meet in the CHARTWELL theatre  
240 Old Harwood Ave. Ajax

For more information or to sign-up, contact  
April [april-ann@hotmail.com](mailto:april-ann@hotmail.com)



# INTEREST GROUPS

## "RODEO" LUNCH GROUP

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11 - NOON

*(Retired Old Dames Eating Out)*

WE MEET EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> MONDAY.

NEXT LUNCH AT:

**MANDARIN RESTAURANT**

1725 Kingston Road, Pickering (at Brock)

RSVP: Anne [mandareed02@gmail.com](mailto:mandareed02@gmail.com)



## WALKING GROUP (1)

EVERY THURSDAY - 10:00 AM

Come join us and discover some of the many walking trails in Ajax and surrounding areas.

For more information contact:

Ron [mitchellmis@rogers.com](mailto:mitchellmis@rogers.com)

or Maureen [maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca](mailto:maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca)



## WALKING GROUP (2)

EVERY MONDAY - 10:00 AM

This group is for those members who prefer a shorter, slower-paced walk.

MEET AT THE ROTARY PARK PAVILION ON LAKE DRIVEWAY.

Contact Julie for more information

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



## ZOOM CHAT ROOM

EVERY FRIDAY - 1:00 PM

All members are welcome to join us for a chat on general topics of interest.

To join the Zoom Chat contact:

Stewart [ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com](mailto:ajaxprobuszoom@gmail.com)





# INTEREST GROUPS

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 14

1:00 PM

66 Falby Court  
Party Room

## Christmas Wishes Card Making with Tina



\$28  
covers the  
cost of  
materials for  
8 cards

Whether you're crafting at the event or grabbing a kit for later, these all-inclusive projects have everything you need to create elegant cards with no fuss. Plus, it's always good to have a backup kit for those last-minute moments or if you need a quick card to bring to a holiday party! You won't regret having this kit on hand. You'll follow simple step-by-step instructions to craft 8 stunning cards – no prep, no stress, just fun! **Christmas Wishes Card Kit includes:**

- ◆ Christmas Wishes Stamp Set with clear block
- ◆ Pretty Peacock Stampin' Spot (mini ink pad)
- ◆ 8 card bases with gold foil details (4 each of 2 designs)
- ◆ 8 shimmer gold envelopes with address labels
- ◆ Pre-designed, die-cut pieces (no cutting required!)
- ◆ Stampin' Dimensionals and Tear & Tape adhesives

**Reserve your spot by sending \$28 via e-transfer to: [NorthernStamper@gmail.com](mailto:NorthernStamper@gmail.com)**

I can't wait to craft with you and help make your holiday season extra special!

## PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX

FELLOWSHIP, FRIENDSHIP, AND FUN FOR RETIREES AND SEMI-RETIRES

Join us for a meeting each 1st Wednesday of the month from 10 - Noon



### JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!



Looking for more fun and interesting tidbits? Join our exclusive member-only Ajax PROBUS Facebook page! Connect with fellow members, enjoy exclusive content, and stay updated on all the latest happenings. Don't miss out on the fun – join us today! To join, simply answer a few entry questions.

Join by [clicking here](#) or on the Facebook logo.



# MEMBERS' CORNER



## New Members



l-r: Grant Andrews, Bradley & Marion McMullen, Karen & Paul Hamilton, April Gilkinson (president) and Jacqueline Mollaret



Clarence Prins, founder of Probuc Club of Ajax (the first Probuc Club in Durham Region) receives a lifetime membership from April Gilkinson and Julie Mathewson.



Charter members, Fred Pleasants, Anne MacInnis (representing her late husband, Ken) and Wilma Brown receive certificates of appreciation.



**AJAX CREATIVE ARTS PRESENTS**

**CELEBRATION OF ART**

**ART SHOW AND SALE  
LOCAL ARTISTS**

November 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2024  
Join us for our Opening Ceremony Friday at 10am  
Friday and Saturday 10am-6pm Sunday 10am-5pm

**Free Admission ★ Free Draws for Art  
Free Refreshments**

**The Village Community Centre, 22 Sherwood Rd., West, Ajax**

[www.ajaxcreativearts.ca](http://www.ajaxcreativearts.ca) Facebook Ajax Art  
Follow us on Instagram [ajaxcreativearts\\_aca](https://www.instagram.com/ajaxcreativearts_aca)

## *The Lakeridge Dixie Stompers*

Traditional jazz in a hot New Orleans style for your dancing and listening pleasure.  
Happy music featuring a gumbo of Blues, Marches, Rags, Hymns, Gospel, Pop tunes,  
Country & Western and Dixieland favourites.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 4:00 - 6:00 PM**

**CLOUD NINE BAR & GRILL, 368 BAYLY ST. WEST, AJAX 905.903.6360**

*Tony Lees (band member)  
Probus Club of Ajax member*



# MEMBERS' CORNER

## DISCOUNTS FOR SENIORS



### RESTAURANTS

A & W	60+	10%
Applebee's		Seniors' menu. Buy 7 entrées for at least \$9.99 & 8th one is free.
Arby's	55+	10 %
Denny's	55+	15% Thursdays between 2pm and 10pm
Mandarin	65+	20%
McDonald's	55+	Discount on coffee and other drinks
Subway	60+	10%
Taco Bell	65+	5% for meals + free drink
Tim Horton's		10% - must ask cashier
Wendy's	55+	Bayly just west of Harwood - senior's coffee, tea or soft drink with any food purchase. Other locations may offer same.

### RETAIL STORES

The Bay	55+	15% on Tuesdays with HBC Rewards card
Bulk Barn	65+	15% Wednesdays
Giant Tiger	60+	10% first Monday of the month
Global Pet	60+	15% last Tuesday of the month for 1 bag of food or 1 case of pet food with reward card. Depending on the brand, after a certain amount you get a free bag.
M & M Meats	60+	10% Tuesdays
Michael's	55+	10% every day - must ask cashier.
Pet Value	60+	10% last Thursday of the month
Rexall	55+	20% Tuesdays - need a Be Well Card
Rona		10% first Tuesday of the month
Shell Gas Stations		3 cents per litre off fuel
Shopper's Drug Mart	55+	20% Thursdays on regular priced items with PC Optimum Card
Value Village	55+	30% Tuesdays
Vandemeer's Nursery	65+	10% on regular priced items - must ask cashier.

### TRANSPORTATION

Go Transit	65+	55% on trains and buses
Via Rail	60+	10%
Lyft	any age	Longest wait (15 minutes) is the cheapest but cars often arrive within 5 minutes. Compare to Uber before booking.

### MISCELLANEOUS

CAA	Membership includes discounts on travel and insurance
CARP members	Many discounts including trips, insurance, "Park'n'Fly", preparing wills, etc.
Community Centres	Ajax, Audley and McLean Community Centres offer 50% discount for group fitness and combo memberships, including swimming.
Discount websites	<a href="http://Canadianseniorsdirectory.ca">Canadianseniorsdirectory.ca</a> <a href="https://ajaxcontroltoolkit.net/top-43-senior-discounts-in-canada/">https://ajaxcontroltoolkit.net/top-43-senior-discounts-in-canada/</a>

# MEMBERS' CORNER

## MAUREEN'S CAMERA RAMBLES



Maureen McVarish

### THE STEAMPUNK FESTIVAL IN FERGUS

Ok. This topic was way easier to photograph than to understand. Lots of fun photo opportunities for my photo friends in Fergus at their second "Clogs and Clockwork Steampunk Festival" on September 7, 2024. But don't expect me to explain (or understand) what "steampunk" is all about. I just see it as a fashion/lifestyle mostly based in the Victorian era with a chunk of science fiction (à la Jules Verne), a bit of Dracula and maybe a tad Wild West and probably a few other elements thrown in here and there. I was satisfied with an explanation of the steampunk ideology I read from a Reddit reader as "...imagining what Victorian people might have imagined the future to look like – what if technology had remained steam/gear powered and kept advancing along that track?"

There have been steampunk events in southern Ontario for several years now; in Coldwater for a dozen years, changing to Fergus in 2023, a bit further to drive but Fergus added a Scottish element to it with bagpipe and drum band. And from my research, it seems that this lifestyle is celebrated worldwide. Now to understand what makes someone a follower of this genre? Let's not even try ....





### C'EST LA VIE

Old photographs  
Faded black and white  
Hidden in an old cake tin  
Somewhere out of sight.

Memories caught on paper  
An image from the past  
When we were young and carefree  
And time would always last.

I see the joy we shared with loved ones  
And friends we held so dear.  
We never thought of aging.  
The time was now and here.

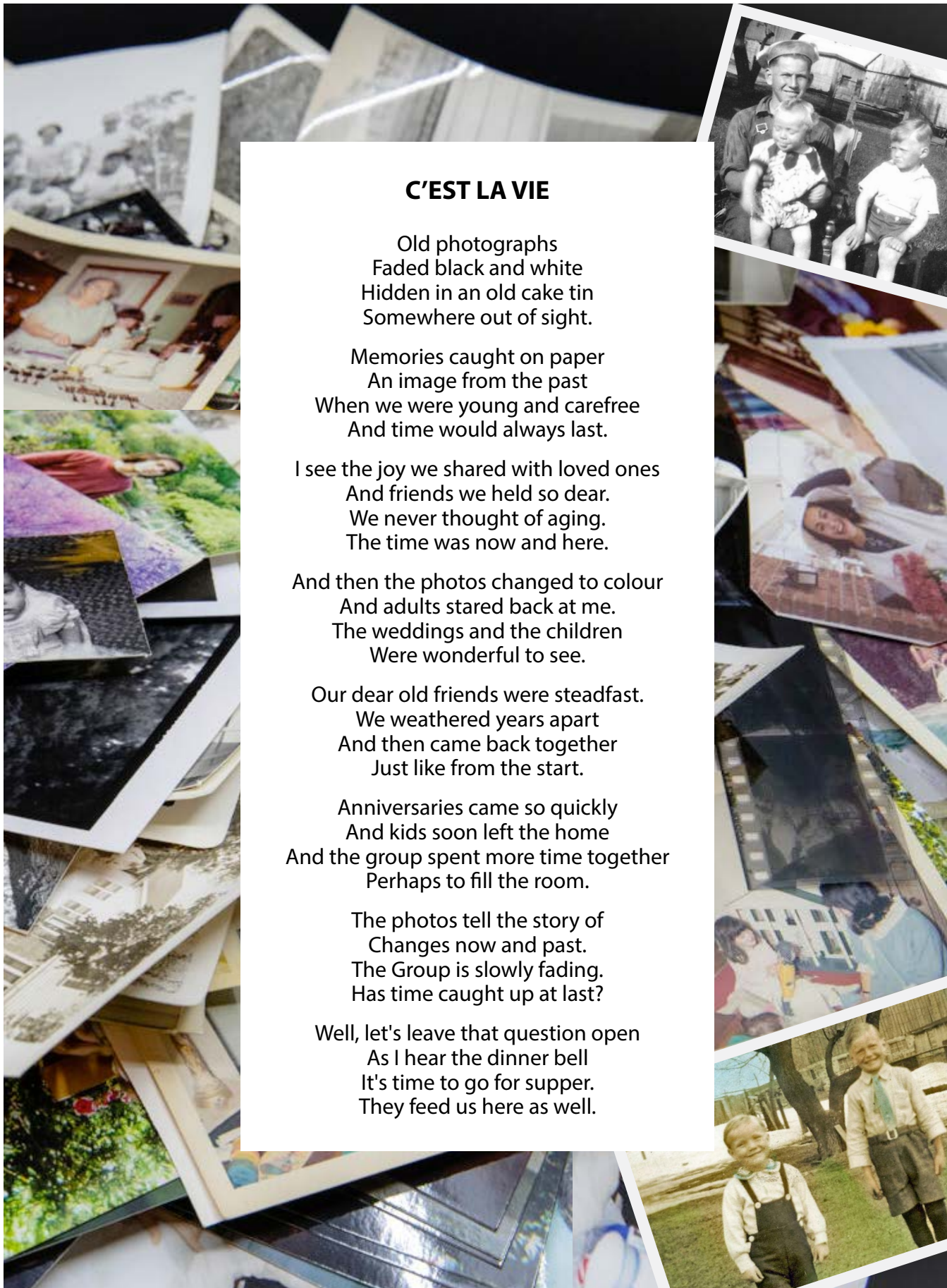
And then the photos changed to colour  
And adults stared back at me.  
The weddings and the children  
Were wonderful to see.

Our dear old friends were steadfast.  
We weathered years apart  
And then came back together  
Just like from the start.

Anniversaries came so quickly  
And kids soon left the home  
And the group spent more time together  
Perhaps to fill the room.

The photos tell the story of  
Changes now and past.  
The Group is slowly fading.  
Has time caught up at last?

Well, let's leave that question open  
As I hear the dinner bell  
It's time to go for supper.  
They feed us here as well.





# SMILES & CHUCKLES

IN TRIBUTE TO DAME MAGGIE SMITH



*I don't take sides, that's true, but I'm anything but neutral.*



*I am a woman, I can be as contrary as I choose.*



*At my age, one must ration one's excitement.*



*I don't argue, I explain.*



*I have never insulted anyone. I simply describe them accurately.*



*What is a weekend?*



1969 - in "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" which earned her an Oscar

## MAGGIE SMITH (DEC 1934 - SEPT 2024)

I am old and I am scary. I must be 110 by now. Granny is going to kick the bucket at some point!

People say it gets better but it doesn't. It just gets different.

It is not your job to make other people comfortable with who you are.

Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes.

There's a difference between solitude and loneliness.

We can't escape the shadow, so the best thing is to notice the light and be open to it.



2024 - featured in Loewe's Spring Fashion Collection





## EASY BUTTER TARTS



12 frozen or home made tart shells.  
½ cup raisins or chopped pecans (optional)  
¼ cup butter, softened  
¼ cup brown sugar  
1 pinch salt  
½ cup corn syrup  
1 large egg, lightly beaten  
½ teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Preheat oven to 375° F.
2. If using raisins – soak in hot water for 10 minutes to plump them up.
3. Using a wooden spoon, mix together the butter, brown sugar, salt and corn syrup until sugar and butter are creamy.
4. Add beaten egg and vanilla and mix well.
5. Dry raisins in paper towels & place in tarts with pecans, if using. Add butter mixture.
6. Fill pastry shells  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. If you fill to the brim they will overflow. The filling will expand and bubble in the oven. When cool it will settle and firm.
7. Bake for around 20 minutes until filling is lightly browned and bubbling.
8. Cool in pan for 10 minutes; then place tarts on rack until completely cool.

## ENGLISH BREAD PUDDING



6¼ cups white bread, torn into small pieces  
(Challah - egg bread or raisin bread are best)  
1¼ cups milk  
1 large egg, beaten  
⅓ cup butter, softened  
1 cup raisins/sultanas  
½ cup white or brown sugar  
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

1. Preheat oven to 375° F.
2. In a large bowl, combine bread and milk, and soak for 5 minutes.
3. Stir in beaten egg, butter, raisins, sugar and cinnamon.
4. Press the mixture into a 9-inch square buttered baking pan.
5. Bake until golden and firm to touch, about 35 minutes. Leave in baking pan to cool, then cut into squares.
6. Serve cold, warm or at room temperature with a little sugar sprinkled on top.
7. Enjoy on its own, with custard or [vanilla sauce](#).



# PHOTO GALLERY

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT - SEPTEMBER 30





# PHOTO GALLERY

GENERAL MEETING - OCT 2 - SPEAKER: KEVIN DONOVAN



Greg & Debbie Casquente



Peter Barths, Jim Meek & Carl Mabee



Judy Mitchell, Marion Thomas, Tish Meek, Laurie Lehan-Port & Anne MacInnis



Fred Pleasants & Helen Cameron



Betty Hennings, Pat Ho Yuen & Cecilia Kearns



# PHOTO GALLERY

GENERAL MEETING - OCT 2 - SPEAKER: KEVIN DONOVAN



Barb Squires & Veronica Chase



Ginette Cooper, Geraldine Amyot & Heike Vezina



Marion Thomas, Maureen McVarish & Victoria Plaskett



Marie Billinger, Nancy Hobart & Tina Gee



# PHOTO GALLERY

GENERAL MEETING - OCT 2 - SPEAKER: KEVIN DONOVAN





# PHOTO GALLERY

GENERAL MEETING - OCT 2 - SPEAKER: KEVIN DONOVAN





# PHOTO GALLERY

## SCAVENGER HUNT/CAR RALLY - OCTOBER 7





# PHOTO GALLERY

## KARAOKE NIGHT AT THE LEGION - OCTOBER 18





# PHOTO GALLERY

## BOWLING & HAPPY HOUR - OCTOBER 21





# PHOTO GALLERY

## IMPROV GROUP - OCTOBER 23

