



# PROBUS CLUB OF AJAX NEWSLETTER

Club 82

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January, 2025

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## MANAGEMENT TEAM

**President:** April Gilkinson

**Vice President:** JulienLeBourdais

**Past President:** Jane Wilson

**Treasurer:** Murray Biel

**Secretary:** Erika Winfrow

**Membership:** Debbie Casquenet

**Speakers:** Julien LeBourdais

**Socials:** Shirlie van Putten

**Interest Groups:** Julie Mathewson

**Communications:** Tina Gee

**House:** Tina Kvrjic

**Technical:** Stewart Beatty

**WebMaster:** Oankar Kundan

**Member-at-Large:** Kevin Portener

## Newsletter

**Editor:** Hetty Shapiro

**Associate:** Maureen Adams



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As 2024 comes to an end, it is an opportunity to look back at all that we have accomplished and reflect on what our Club has achieved this past year.

One of our biggest successes was growing our membership by 90% which we have many of you to thank for this. Our Open House in April and our "Be a Friend, Bring a Friend" event in October allowed many to see what our Club has to offer and encouraged new members to become part of the Probus community.

Our partnership with the Town of Ajax has never been stronger. **Jane Wilson**, our current Past President was acknowledged and recognized by the Town for her generosity and commitment to the older adults in our community by being presented with the "Senior of the Year" award. Jane always greets us with a smile at the door and has been instrumental in ensuring members can leverage all the programs provided by local resources including the library and St Francis Centre through her involvement in the 55+ Committee.

Club highlights in 2024 included the Summer BBQ, our Halloween party and the Christmas Luncheon where **Tom Rosebush** won the "Best Holiday Tie" award!

These are just a few events we were able to host and in 2025, we will be able to do even more for the membership thanks to the Town of Ajax's Partnership Fund Grant.

We also have many members step forward with their time and talent to coordinate new activities and experiences. I challenge you to take advantage of these opportunities to try something new! Be bold in 2025. This year is going to be fabulous so let's make it happen!

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:  
[probusajaxtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:probusajaxtreasurer@gmail.com)  
Include your name and what the payment is for.

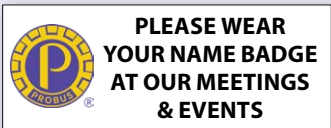
# JANUARY 2025

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 Noon LUNCH & A MOVIE	2 10:00 am WALKING GROUP — 2:30 pm SOCIAL BRIDGE	3 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	4
5	6 10:00 am WALKING GROUP	7 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	8 10:00 am GENERAL MEETING — 2:00 pm EUCHRE	9 10:00 am WALKING GROUP — 2:30 pm BRIDGE LESSON	10 Noon HERONGATE — 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	11
12	13 10:00 am WALKING GROUP — Noon LADIES LUNCH — Noon MEN'S LUNCH	14 10:00 am COFFEE — 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	15 10:00 am BOOK CLUB — 1:00 pm CLUB FRANÇAIS	16 10:00 am WALKING GROUP — 2:30 pm SOCIAL BRIDGE — 5:30 pm DINING OUT	17 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT — 6:00 pm KARAOKE & DANCING	18
19	20 10:00 am WALKING GROUP — 1:00 pm BOWLING — 3:00 pm HAPPY HOUR	21 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	22 1:30 pm IMPROV — 2:00 pm EUCHRE	23 10:00 am WALKING GROUP — 2:30 pm BRIDGE LESSON	24 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT	25
26	27 10:00 am WALKING GROUP	28 9:00 am BREAKFAST — 1:30 pm CRIBBAGE	29	30 10:00 am WALKING GROUP — 2:30 pm SOCIAL BRIDGE	31 1:00 pm ZOOM CHAT — 7:00 pm BEACH PARTY	




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

# GENERAL MEETINGS



## **IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WINTER MEETINGS**

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS ON WINTRY DAYS.  
YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY 9:00 AM IF A MEETING IS  
CANCELLED OR IS MOVED TO A ZOOM CALL.**

**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



### **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 Club will make a donation to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides <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.*

## **JOIN US FOR LUNCH AT THE PORTLY PIPER PUB AFTER THE MEETINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 - 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



### **RETIRED .... AND ENJOYING EVERY MINUTE OF IT**

**Guest Speakers: Morgan Denby & colleagues,  
Social Services Department of the Region of Durham**

Meet representatives from the Region of Durham to learn more about winter safety tips and how to deal with isolation. Practical strategies will be presented. The conversation will highlight key services and resources available to older adults in the community.

The Regional Municipality of Durham's Social Services Department, has six divisions committed to delivering professional and high-quality services. Many residents across Durham Region will need one or more of these services at some point in their life.

## KARAOKE & DANCING AT THE LEGION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 - 6:00 PM



Join us for a fun night of Karaoke and dancing at the AJAX LEGION, 111 Hunt Street



**FREESTYLE & LINE DANCING**  
**SINGING IS NOT MANDATORY**

No cover charge. Membership is not required.

Arrive at 6:00 pm if having a meal (cash only)

Friday is Fish Fry night (\$12) + other menu options

**Karaoke starts @ 7:00 pm**

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



### Beat the Blahs Beach Party

Friday  
January 31

7:00 pm -  
10:00 pm

\$5.00

St. Francis Centre  
78 Church St. Ajax

Dance the night away to a beachy soundtrack of classic summer tunes while sipping on signature tropical cocktails. Throw in some interactive activities, prizes and giveaways and you've got the full beach party experience. Costumes encouraged.


**Giveaways, concessions, and cash bar.**

Tickets (\$5) can be picked up at the  
St Francis box office or  
[order online](#) (\$6.66 with fee)

For more information

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





## TRIVIA QUIZ

**Thursday, February 27 2025**  
**2:00 - 4:00 pm**  
**Location TBA**

Guest Trivia Master:  
Ward 2 Regional Councillor  
Stirling Lee

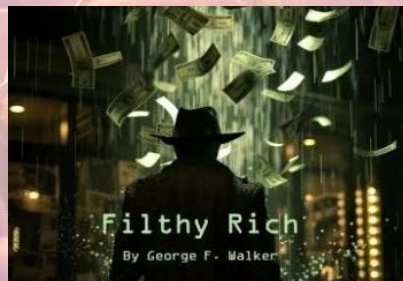
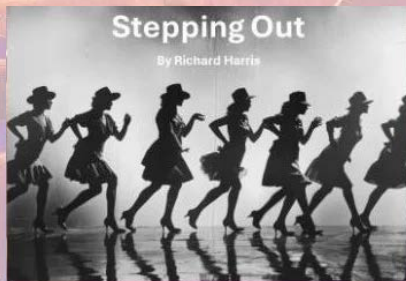
**\$5.00 per person**  
includes prizes, trophies, snacks & drinks!

Teams will be in pairs. Choose your partner or let us assign you.  
Sign up no later than February 23  
RSVP: Dan [danrt@me.com](mailto:danrt@me.com)  
or Julie [jmathewson@rogers.com](mailto:jmathewson@rogers.com)



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE ST. FRANCIS CENTRE

78 Church St. South, Ajax



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - 2:00 pm**  
**"STEPPING OUT" BY RICHARD HARRIS**  
**\$20**

A warm and very funny play about the lives, laughs and loves of a group of women (and one man) attending a weekly tap-dance class in a dingy North London church hall.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6 - 2:00 pm**  
**"FILTHY RICH" BY GEORGE F. WALKER**  
**\$20**

A fast-paced play written in a dramatic film noir style, satirizing the self-possessed, tough-guy stereotype of classic detective novels.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19 - 7:00 pm**  
**PIANO HEIST**  
**\$35**

Friends Nico Rhodes and Patrick Courtin were shocked to discover that the piano is no longer considered cool. Determined to change that, they embarked on a quest to redeem the keyboard and reinstate its reputation as the greatest instrument of all time. Piano Heist is a mishmash of theatrical wonder, comedy, audience participation, heartfelt stories, a pinch of history and a world of musical madness.

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

# INTEREST GROUPS

## BOOK CLUB



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

Next meeting:  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15**  
**10:00 AM**

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

This is not another book club.  
We discuss books members  
have read and recommend as  
opposed to all of us reading  
the same book.

## BOWLING & HAPPY HOUR



**EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAY - 1:00 PM**

**AJAX BOWLING CENTRE**  
172 Harwood Ave. S. Lower floor

Next get-together:  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 20**

RSVP: Kevin [keportener@gmail.com](mailto:keportener@gmail.com)  
call or text 905.626.6303

\$10 for two games  
plus \$2 for shoes

### HAPPY HOUR

After bowling, at 3:00 pm,  
we go to the **MACKENZIE**  
**PUB**. Non-bowlers are  
welcome to join us.

## BREAKFAST CLUB



**LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH**

Next get-together:  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 28 - 9:00 AM**

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

Next breakfast meeting  
**WESTNEY RESTAURANT & BAR**  
970 Westney Rd South  
Ajax

## BRIDGE



**EVERY THURSDAY - 2:30 - 4:30 PM**

**AT THE AJAX LIBRARY**  
Rotary Room  
55 Harwood Avenue South

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

January 2	Social Bridge
January 9	Bridge Lesson
January 16	Social Bridge
January 23	Bridge Lesson
January 30	Social Bridge

# INTEREST GROUPS

## COFFEE & CONVERSATION



**EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY 10:00 - NOON**

Next get-together  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 14**

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

Members who joined our club in the last 12 months are invited to this informal get-together at the home of **Jane and Bob Wilson**. Address will be provided when registering.

## CRIBBAGE



**EVERY TUESDAY 1:30 - 4:00 PM**

**AT THE PICKERING VILLAGE SENIOR CENTRE**

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

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

The Senior Centre is at  
29 Linton Avenue  
One block north of Kingston Road & one block west of Church Street.

## DINING OUT



**EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY - 5:30 PM**

Next get-together  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16**

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

I reserve the restaurant when I know how many people will be joining us. Let me know as soon as possible if you will attend.

## EUCHRE



**EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY  
2:00 - 4:00 PM**

**JANUARY 8 & 22  
PICKERING VILLAGE SENIOR CENTRE**

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

The Senior Centre is at  
29 Linton Avenue  
One block north of Kingston Road & one block west of Church Street.



# INTEREST GROUPS

**NEW**

## CLUB FRANÇAIS



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15 - 1:00 PM**

Please contact me if you are interested in attending this new French Conversation Club.

**RSVP: Heiderose**  
[Heiderose.butscher@gmail.com](mailto:Heiderose.butscher@gmail.com)

We will meet at my home to watch a short French movie followed by discussion in French, over light refreshments.

## "GOMEO" LUNCH GROUP



**EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> MONDAY - NOON**

Next "Great Old Men Eating Out"  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 13**

**RSVP: Kevin**  
[keportener@gmail.com](mailto:keportener@gmail.com)  
call or text 905.626.6303

We meet at the  
**MACKENZIE PUB & RESTAURANT**  
250 Bayly St. West  
Ajax

## IMPROV FOR BEGINNERS



**EVERY 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY**  
**1:30 - 3:00 PM**

Next get-together  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22**

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

We meet at  
**CHARTWELL RETIREMENT RESIDENCE**  
(Theatre in lower level)  
240 Old Harwood Ave., Ajax

## "RODEO" LUNCH GROUP



**EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> MONDAY - NOON**

Next "Retired Old Dames Eating Out"  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 13**

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

Next lunch:  
**THE KING'S CASTLE BAR & GRILL**  
21-570 Westney Road S., Ajax  
(Next door to Giant Tiger)

# INTEREST GROUPS

## WALKING GROUP 1



**EVERY THURSDAY - 10:00 AM**

RSVP: Ron  
[mitchellmis@rogers.com](mailto:mitchellmis@rogers.com)  
or Maureen  
[maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca](mailto:maureenmcvarish@yahoo.ca)

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

## WALKING GROUP 2



**EVERY MONDAY - 10:00 AM**

We meet at the  
Rotary Park Pavilion  
on Lake Driveway

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

This group is for those members who prefer a shorter, slower pace.

## ZOOM CHAT ROOM



**EVERY FRIDAY - 1:00 PM**

To join the Zoom Chat  
Contact: Stewart

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

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

## 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 Victoria:  
[victoriaplaskett@sympatico.ca](mailto:victoriaplaskett@sympatico.ca) or call/text 905-767-8050



## CONGRATULATIONS TO JANE WILSON AJAX SENIOR OF THE YEAR

Each year, the Town of Ajax Council honours the contributions of outstanding community members. Jane Wilson was chosen by the Council to receive the 2024 Ajax Senior of the Year Award. Jane has been a member of our Club since 2014.

This well-deserved recognition is in appreciation of her helping to create a community where people feel a sense of belonging and responsibility to each other and is an active participant in it's development.

The award was presented by Joanne Dies, Regional Ward 3 Councillor. Jane is the third President of our Club to receive this award which speaks volumes for how Probus provides members with opportunities to give back to the community.



## WINE CONTEST WINNERS

**38 bottles were collected.  
The winners were drawn at the  
Christmas Party on December 4.**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize</b>	<b>12 Bottles</b>	<b>Margaret Wells</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize</b>	<b>9 Bottles</b>	<b>Diane Fleming</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize</b>	<b>7 Bottles</b>	<b>Ron Mitchell</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Prize</b>	<b>6 Bottles</b>	<b>Julie Mathewson</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Prize</b>	<b>4 Bottles</b>	<b>Lynne Stewart</b>



## PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME TO HELP OUR CLUB

Starting in September 2025 we will require someone to take over the position of Speaker Coordinator. This is a great position to have two people share the responsibility. There is a lot of time to shadow Julien before you take over the position. We are also looking for someone to become the Vice President for the 2025-2026 year as Julien will be taking over as President.

**Please contact Jane Wilson**

**[jw.0003@sympatico.ca](mailto:jw.0003@sympatico.ca) or 905-619-6674**

**for more information or to volunteer.**

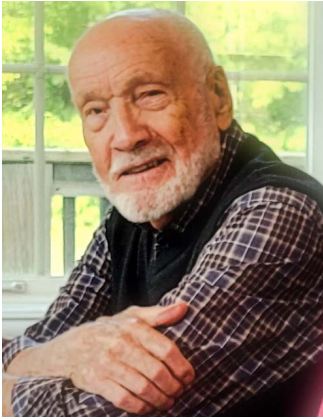


JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>



JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup>





Carl G. Mabee



### A NEW YEAR

Let us wish each and everyone a  
Happy and joyous new season.  
May the world take heed and think of peace,  
And perhaps with a great deal of reason.

The New Year should be filled with hope  
For better things, that surely must come.  
But if countries would stop and just think  
Would all of the hate now be done?

All of us could make a wish, or perhaps  
A serious New Year resolution  
To do our part to be kind to each other and  
Not be the problem, but part of a new revolution

Christmas has passed and January has started to  
Influence, how we think about the coming new year.  
So we could start to be nice to our family and call all  
Our friends and wish them good luck and much cheer.

We could wave and say "Hi" to our neighbours  
Although, they don't look like us any more.  
The world has changed and we will have to change with it  
And even tolerate the little brat who's living next door.

Just remember the butterfly effect and that all change  
Starts with an idea, or maybe a shove or a push.  
Just look back and think about all the social changes,  
That came in a staggering rush.

This year is going to be challenging and perhaps we can't  
Solve all the problems or those that are still yet to come,  
However, a stiff upper lip and tenacity, will see some  
Improvement, and in the end we can say we have won.



# MEMBERS' CORNER

## MAUREEN'S CAMERA RAMBLES

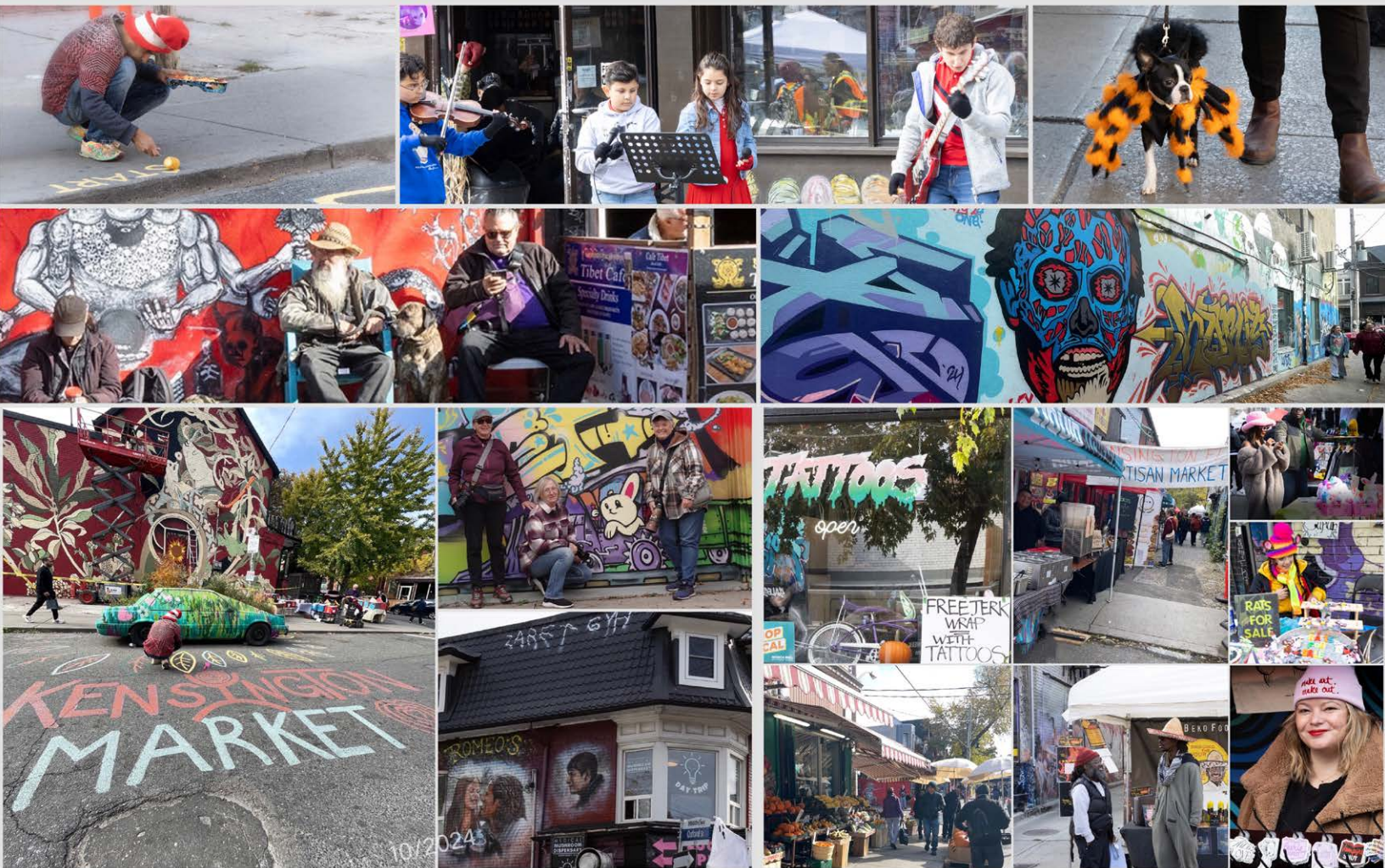


Maureen McVarish

### RAMBLE TO TORONTO'S KENSINGTON MARKET

If you've never been to Toronto's Kensington Market, it is well worth a day trip to the city. Bounded by Dundas and College Streets west of Spadina, Kensington Market is an eclectic neighbourhood with a multicultural mix of supermarkets, restaurants, street food, boutiques, vintage stores, tattoo parlours and art spaces providing a taste of the many cultures that make up Toronto.

Some of my photo buddies and I visited on a "Pedestrian Sunday", which is the last Sunday in the months of May through October when the streets are closed to traffic. On these days, vendors line the streets and live music fills the air. Besides the quirky buildings, street art and graffiti, Kensington Market is full of diverse and interesting individuals, making it ideal for a day of street photography!



### LIFE

A college class was told to write a story in as few words as possible, to contain the following three things: religion, sexuality and mystery.

The A+ story was: "Good God, I'm pregnant. I wonder who it was?"

The people who make fitted sheets need to sit down with the people who make mattresses and get on the same page. Making a bed shouldn't be like putting a swimming cap on a fridge.

Once you hit a certain age, life becomes a balance between trying to stay awake and trying to fall asleep, while slowly getting worse at both.

Sometimes I shock myself with the smart stuff I say and do . . . then there are other times when I try to get out of the car with my seat belt on.

### MARRIAGE

I found marriage to be very educational. For example; I had no idea there was a wrong way to put milk in the fridge.

Always make sure someone in the relationship has good credit. That's why it's called significant other: sign/if/I/can't.

My wife and I decided we don't want kids. We plan on telling them tonight.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Be a pineapple; stand tall, wear a crown, and stay sweet on the inside.

Dan Taillifer



### *The Lakeridge Dixie Stompers*

Traditional jazz in a hot New Orleans style for your dancing and listening pleasure. Happy music featuring a gumbo of genres and Dixieland favourites.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 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*



# PHOTO GALLERY

## CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 4





# PHOTO GALLERY

CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 4





# PHOTO GALLERY

## CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 4





# PHOTO GALLERY

## CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 4





# PHOTO GALLERY

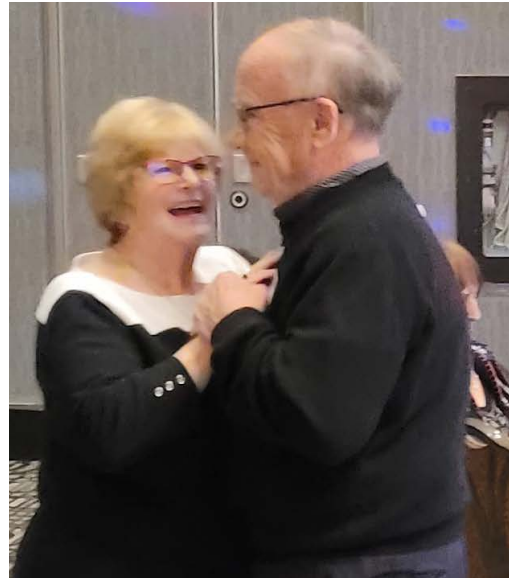
CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 4





# PHOTO GALLERY

CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 4





# PHOTO GALLERY

## CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 4





# PHOTO GALLERY

WALKING GROUP(1) - NOV 28



The "Water is Medicine" sculpture at the Pickering waterfront.



# PHOTO GALLERY

## BOWLING & HAPPY HOUR - DECEMBER 16

