

# PROBUS Club of Oshawa Newsletter: October, 2020



## 2020 - 2021 Executive:

**Al Sawtell,**  
President

**Vacant,**  
Vice President

**Maria de Jong,**  
Past President

**Marlene Allen  
Pat Bayus,**  
Secretaries

**Garry  
Christenson,**  
Treasurer

**Joan Puskas  
Judy Sandham  
June McLaren**  
Members-at-large

**Marilyn Thaxter,**  
Social Committee

**Elaine Lopes  
Anne MacKay,**  
Special Interest  
Groups  
Coordinators

**Julia Howells,**  
Speakers  
Committee

**Connie Nelson,**  
Interim  
Membership  
Chair

**Maria Upton,**  
House  
Committee

**Jacqueline  
Frank,**  
Archivist

**David Hardy,**  
Web Master

**Cindy Fleming,**  
Newsletter Editor

Our PROBUS Club of Oshawa will start to hold VIRTUAL GENERAL MEETINGS as of September 2020. As Provincial Health Regulations evolve, these may include a combination of in person and virtual meetings until we can all meet again in person.

## New President's Message

We continue to be faced with new challenges that many had predicted. It is our hope that Oshawa PROBUS CLUB can make the best of these difficult times. So far, our Club has managed to continue via Zoom meetings which we hope can be constructed to take advantage of, and promote, as many of our previous activities as possible.

Our new Past President, Ria de Jong, is to be commended for her outstanding efforts in keeping the ship afloat. Ria mentions her learning curves have been varied and many.

Leaving as Past President is Connie Nelson. Connie has dedicated the past three years as Vice President, President, and Past President. Connie has accomplished much to enrich the lives of PROBUS members.

On behalf of all our members, thank you Ria and Connie for all that you have done to make the PROBUS Club of Oshawa such a success.

In the future it is hoped that you will take advantage of any activities that Oshawa PROBUS is able to offer.

I look forward to serving as your president this year. Feel free to discuss any concerns you may have. Feel free to help us by serving on the Management Team or on one of our committees.

*Al Sawtell*



## SEPTEMBER 2020 -Oshawa PROBUS Survey Question- RESULTS- ONLINE plus ZOOM Meeting

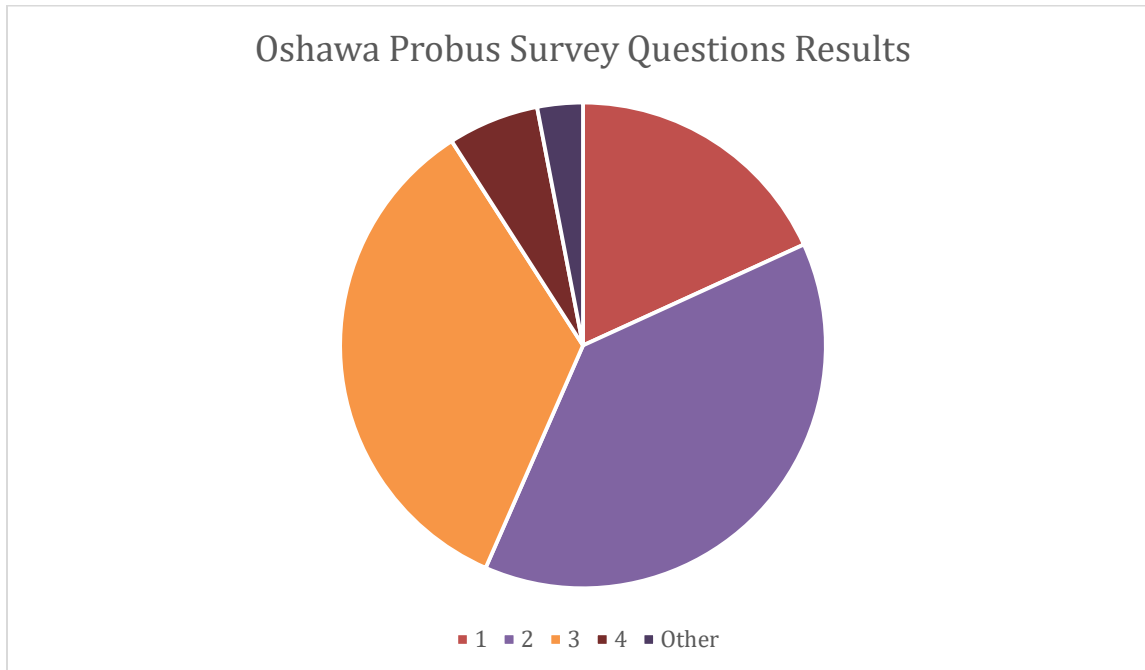
Thank you to all of the Oshawa PROBUS members that took the time to take part in our survey, both during our first Zoom General Meeting and through the online survey questions that were emailed to the rest of our members who did not participate in the Zoom meeting.

I have combined the entries and you can see the results on the pie chart below.

### QUESTION:

**If all provincial health and safety protocols are in place to protect our members, including limiting numbers, requiring face masks and hand sanitizing and keeping chairs 6 feet apart, when you do feel you would be comfortable attending in person General Meetings at the Shrine club?**

- |                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Within a few months                | 18% |
| 2. Spring 2021                        | 38% |
| 3. When a viable vaccine is available | 34% |
| 4. Now                                | 06% |
| 5. Other                              | 04% |



- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 18% |
| 2. | 38% |
| 3. | 34% |
| 4. | 6%  |
| 5. | 4%  |

From this your management team can see that 38% of our members do not see themselves coming back for in-person meetings till spring 2021, and 34% feel uncomfortable until there is a vaccine. As such, this means that we will be focusing on encouraging you to participate via virtual means. Our General Meetings for now will be via ZOOM, and as we improve how we handle this media, we hope that more of you will participate. Current upswings in Covid-19 infections in Ontario reinforce this approach to ensure the health and safety of our members.



## **OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING**

Our next **ZOOM Virtual General Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.** We hope that more of you will participate as it will be the AGM where we will introduce the incoming Management Team that we hope you will vote in, via an email survey to be sent out prior to the meeting. In addition, we are planning to have a speaker. I am repeating some of the information about how to participate in ZOOM meetings found in the September Newsletter, with updates from what we learned from that first attempt.

For some of you who have not been ZOOMING yet, this may require a bit of coaching. We will require you **to register** so that you will receive the link **Meeting ID and Passcode**. So please read the information below and we hope to see your faces on our mutual screens on October 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10 AM.

## **INTRODUCTION TO ZOOM MEETINGS AND MEETING PROTOCOLS**

Zoom is a company which provides online audio/video conference services for meetings through a software platform. You can use the service on any device - computer, tablet or smart phone. A larger screen works best. If you have no webcam on your computer, you can still listen and speak to and view other participants even though you cannot transmit your image. Signing up is easy. For any computer, go to [www.zoom.us/signup](http://www.zoom.us/signup). For smart phone, download Zoom app from Apple store or Google Play. Submit your email address and set up a password to create a free Basic Account. You can use this to ZOOM with your family members, friends and Probus SIGS too.

We have set up a separate email account to allow us to manage this process for our Zoom General Meetings. It is [register.gm.oshawaprobust@gmail.com](mailto:register.gm.oshawaprobust@gmail.com).

Please use this email address to register that you wish to participate in our October 13<sup>th</sup> Zoom AGM, by Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. This will allow for us to know our numbers and send out the Meeting ID Code and Passcode that you will need to sign in. You sign in by going to the ZOOM account you have set up and sign in using your email address and password. You will then be prompted to click on and enter the meeting ID and passcode. You will then enter a Waiting room. At some point soon the "Host" will admit you. You may need to click on the icons on the bottom of most screens to ensure that your video and audio are working. At the top of the Zoom screen, you can click on a box icon to get Speaker or Gallery view. This will let you see all the participants in Gallery view or the speaker when you click on Speaker view. This is best during the presentation portion of the meeting.

There will be some protocols needed during the ZOOM meeting. At some point the “host” may mute all participants except the speaker to prevent cross talk and ambient noise. In addition, we will be able to break up the participants into smaller “breakout rooms” where you will be able to socialize with each other. You will find a Chat Button that you can use to ask a question, that the host or speaker can address. ZOOM offers a number of tutorials to help us all become more familiar with how to use this virtual platform. Once you have signed up at [www.zoom.us/signup](http://www.zoom.us/signup) you can view Zoom tutorials.

Alternatively, you can watch this video that will show how to participate in a ZOOM meeting for the first time. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E&authuser=0>

**Looking forward to seeing you on October 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10 AM, albeit just on a screen for now!**

**Please remember to register at [register.gm.oshawaprobus@gmail.com](mailto:register.gm.oshawaprobus@gmail.com) by October 9<sup>th</sup>, so we can send out the Meeting ID Code and Passcode that you will need to sign in.**

If you need additional information or help, please contact me at [mariska578@gmail.com](mailto:mariska578@gmail.com)  
Maria de Jong.



**OCTOBER SPEAKER - Carol Pasternak**, photographer, personal trainer and educator

Carol raises Monarch butterflies with her family in Toronto. Her talk will be on "Drama in the Butterfly Garden".



Current membership stands at 280. Thanks to the 128 members that have paid their 2020-21 membership dues. If you haven't paid, please mail your cheque payable to PROBUS Club of Oshawa in the amount of \$15.00 per member to the attention of Connie Nelson, 1447 Tremblay Street, Oshawa, ON L1J 3X7. If you are not renewing, please advise Connie at [connienelson@rogers.com](mailto:connienelson@rogers.com) or [oshawaprobusclub@gmail.com](mailto:oshawaprobusclub@gmail.com). We would appreciate if you would state your reason for non-renewal.



## MANAGEMENT TEAM SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR OSHAWA PROBUS 2020-21

As we are unable to meet in person, and in order to abide by the requirements of our constitution, an email will be sent to the membership a few days following the October newsletter to pass a motion to elect the slate of officers outlined in the September newsletter (also copied below). We ask your cooperation to respond to the email in a timely fashion.

Past President	Maria de Jong
President	Alan Sawtell
Vice President	<b>Vacant</b>
Secretary	Marlene Allen, Pat Bayus
Social Committee Co-ordinator	Marilyn Thaxter
Treasurer	Garry Christenson
Members-at-Large	Joan Puskas, Judy Sandham, June McLaren
House Committee Co-ordinator	Maria Upton
Interim Membership Chair	Connie Nelson
Newsletter Editor	Cindy Fleming
Speakers Committee	Julia Howells
Special Interest Groups	Elaine Lopes, Anne MacKay
Archivist	Jackie Frank
Webmaster	Dave Hardy



To follow the links within this Newsletter, don't forget to "Ctrl + Click".

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

**Virtual and outdoor Special Interest Group meetings are feasible for now. See what some SIGs have been doing to stay connected and stay active.**



### **BOOKWORMS - Bernice Burke and Judy Bell**

Bookworms will meet in person on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at 120 Elgin St West in the party room. Phyllis will led the discussion on the book "Educated". Bring your own coffee, tea or water.



### **BRAIN GAMES – Jackie Frank**

The brain games have gone "online". Two to three times a week, members get a puzzle to solve. The solution is sent to them the next day. If you are interested in receiving these puzzles, contact Jackie Frank.



### **EUCHRE GROUP #2 - Gerry Henderson**

I received a confirmation from Centennial Retirement Residence that they will not be able to host our euchre games this year. There is a possibility we may be able to reconvene in January 2021, but nothing is confirmed.

### **MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA – Connie White**

Connie White has advised that the Media and Propaganda group will no longer be continuing.





## MOVIE GROUP – Mary Gibson

The movie group is hanging in there. We have managed to go to the two new movies that came out at the theatre: Tenet and The Personal History of David Copperfield - a multi-race cast version. Safety and spacing was definitely not a problem!

We got a few other new movies for viewing at home - We will see movies together at a home for the future if this year's other new movies end up coming out on other platforms.

Two of us are still getting together Fridays - but now to make Christmas Cards. These were from Friday:



## URBAN POLE WALKING - Maria de Jong



Some of our members have been Pole Walking regularly. We walk in pairs, keep proper distance and enjoy each other's company as we walk the many beautiful local trails. Although trails are busier than in the past, it is quite possible to keep physical distance. Our pairs can be doubled or tripled depending on how many are able to

walk on a given morning.

Since September we have restarted walking on our regular schedule of Mondays and Fridays at 9 AM. We will be moving the time up to 10 AM after Thanksgiving. Group members will receive a schedule with locations.

Contact [mariska578@gmail.com](mailto:mariska578@gmail.com) to be added to the list.



Waterfront Trail – September 28, 2020  
(Photo courtesy of Maria de Jong)



## YARN DIVAS - Barb Jones

Many of the Yarn Divas have been busy during our days at home during the pandemic knitting/crocheting...baby hats for Lakeridge Health Oshawa, ear savers for doctors and nurses, blankets for Project Linus and hats for children in local schools. At the end of August, we made a donation of 25 twiddle muffs to the Durham chapter of the Alzheimer's Society which was very well-received.

We had our first outdoor meeting in September at Sandra Hunt's - it was wonderful to be able to spend time together! We social distanced and everyone felt very safe. Our next meeting on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> will take place in Jo Taylor's backyard. Let's hope the weather co-operates!

# TidBITS

If any of our members have a favourite recipe, puzzle, photos of previous events, ideas on how interest groups are staying connected or any other information that might be of interest to others in our Club, please submit them to our newsletter editor, Cindy Fleming, ([clf0808@yahoo.ca](mailto:clf0808@yahoo.ca)) for inclusion in the newsletter.

Try your hand at solving the following puzzle. The solution can be found in next month's newsletter.



## SENTENCE SLEUTH

A sentence sleuth can find the one word that is hidden somewhere in a sentence. In this case, can you find the name of a US city? The correct answer could be spread over one, two or several words. You should ignore all punctuation, capital letters, etc. when looking for the hidden city.

1. Young Elise hid a forbidden version of the book *Fifty Shades of Grey* under her mattress.
2. To promote the health benefits of okra, Jim-Bob brought four types of gumbos to northern cities.
3. Mr. Bartlett saw that antique rocking chair in May, but he didn't buy it until the June auction.



4. When the fashion editor saw the bejewelled handbag, she exclaimed “That’s so chic! A gold lame bag encrusted with emeralds and diamonds! I just love it!”.
5. “Mom, a hamster doesn’t spread disease, “said Stephanie, hoping to convince her mother to buy a pet.
6. After the tsunami, a million people were left homeless.
7. Leo was stunned when he observed his brother rebuff a lovely woman who was clearly interested in him.
8. When Fred Simpson was broke, he thought one of his younger brothers, either Rob, Al, Tim or Ed, would loan him \$1,000. He was wrong.



The Durham Region International Film Festival (DRIFF) has reimagined how to deliver incredible films to a growing festival audience amidst the challenge of a global pandemic. The festival runs October 1-3 offering three days of carefully selected virtual programming from around the globe with a focus on Ontario and Durham Region productions.

<https://www.driff.ca/>



### Member Care

With a Club such as ours, we need your help to let us know if one of our members is experiencing a serious illness or is hospitalized. Our Club would like to let our ill members and their families know that they are in our thoughts as they deal with their illness with respect to the family’s wishes for privacy.

In the same way, we need you to let us know if you become aware that a member, their spouse or close family member has passed on. Often the family does not think to contact our Club, or know who to contact under these difficult circumstances. We would like to respect the wishes of family and give our members the opportunity to express their condolences to the bereaved. Please let us know so we can respond appropriately. Email [mariska578@gmail.com](mailto:mariska578@gmail.com) or [oshawaprobclub@gmail.com](mailto:oshawaprobclub@gmail.com).

**PROBUS Club of Oshawa Website:**

[www.oshawaprobus.com](http://www.oshawaprobus.com)

**PROBUS CANADA Website:**

[www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)

**PROBUS GLOBAL**

There are over 4,000 clubs worldwide with over 350,000 members. Of those there are over 260 clubs operating in Canada. What you may not know that PROBUS also has a **Global Club.**

PROBUS GLOBAL is open to any member of a PROBUS Club and provides an on-line forum to make connections to PROBUS members around the world.

<https://probusglobal.org>



Although Thanksgiving will be different this year, as so many other special occasions have been, let's give thanks for the friendships we've made through our PROBUS Club of Oshawa.