

## AURORA YORK CENTRAL

EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE  
2022 - 2026PRESIDENT  
Garry SleepVP MEMBERSHIP  
Sharon WelshVP WEBSITE  
Tim HillSECRETARY  
Judy DickensFINANCIAL DIRECTOR  
Marie WallacePROGRAMME DIRECTOR  
David BrisleySOCIAL DIRECTOR  
Susan PrattCOMMUNICATIONS  
DIRECTOR  
Sylvia WolffPAST PRESIDENT  
Vern CunninghamMEMBER AT LARGE  
Cliff White

## HELLO ALL: WELCOME TO JANUARY 2026

## Welcome All to 2026!

Where has the year gone? 2025 was filled with new members, activities, and great lunches and dinners.

Our Christmas Lunch at The Keg was a wonderful success — over 37 members were in attendance.  
A big thank you to Susan Pratt for organizing such an enjoyable event!

## Looking Back on 2025

This past year, we've had continued activity with the:

- ♥ Bridge Club    ♥ Theatre Group    ♥ Book Club    ♥ Golf Group
- ♥ Euchre Club — which remains a favourite!

And we're excited to announce that more activities are planned for 2026.

## Kicking Off the Year

We start the year with guest speaker Tom Mrakas, Mayor of Aurora. Tom is a great speaker and will bring us up to date on current happenings in Aurora — don't miss him!

## AGM and Elections

At the risk of sounding boring (but important!), elections will take place at our Annual AGM and BBQ in June.

If you wish to be on the Executive and feel qualified, please contact Vern Cunningham, our Past President, at [vern.cunningham@gmail.com](mailto:vern.cunningham@gmail.com). He will be happy to add your name as a candidate.

## First General Meeting of 2026

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Aurora Legion

We're looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Cheers, Garry

## DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

### SOCIAL EVENTS & DINING OUT COMMITTEE

Susan Pratt  
Rosalyn Gonsalves

### SPEAKER REPORTS

David Brisley

### PROOFREADER

Rosalyn Gonsalves

### SOUND

Trevor Stephens

### BOOK CLUB

Anna Pilato

### SOCIAL BRIDGE GROUP

Mary Lee Koyl

### EUCHRE CLUB

Sharon Welsh

### THEATRE LOVERS GROUP

Judy Dickens

## HAPPENING IN JANUARY

### Happy New Year 2026 to Our Probus Members!

As we turn the page to a brand-new year, we look forward to another wonderful season of friendship, fun and community together.

May 2026 bring you good health, memorable adventures and laughter shared among friends. This year promises many engaging speakers, lively events and continued camaraderie that make our Probus club so special.

Here's to a bright and joyful year ahead!

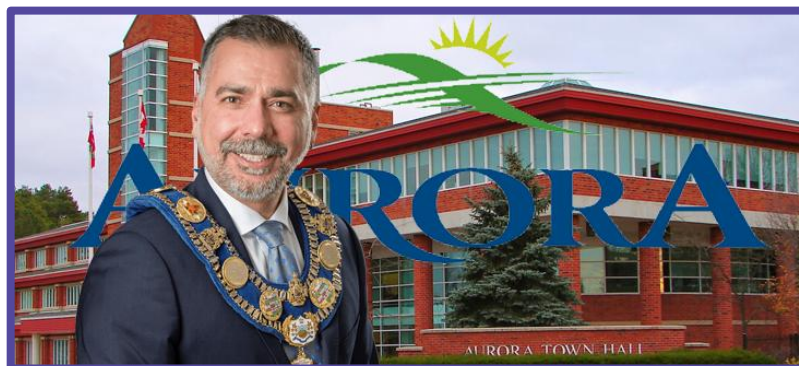


## GENERAL MEETING

10 am WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION,  
105 INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY NORTH, AURORA

### Speaker January 14th, 2026



*We are pleased to welcome back Aurora's Mayor Tom Mrakas.*

No stranger to Aurora citizens, Mayor Mrakas is currently serving his second term as Mayor of the Town of Aurora. Prior to being elected as Mayor in 2018, he was a Councillor from 2014 to 2018. Mayor Mrakas represents the Town of Aurora at Regional Council as part of his Mayoral duties.

Mayor Mrakas will bring us up to date with what is in the the works for 2026 and will speak to any issues or questions you might wish to discuss.

## PLANNED PROGRAMMES

### EVENTS & OUTINGS

#### GENERAL MEETING

10 am Wednesday,  
JANUARY 14th

**Royal Canadian Legion**  
105 Industrial Parkway N,  
Aurora

Meetings start at 10 am, however we invite you to arrive about 9:30 to socialize and catch up with other members. *Coffee is available.*

#### Dining Out

January 21 @ 12pm  
**Beertown**  
(East Gwillimbury)  
18287 Yonge St.

#### Book Club

January 15 @  
10am - 12pm

**Chartwell Hollandview**  
Trail 200 John West Way,  
Aurora

#### Bridge Group

January 6 @  
9:30am – 11:30am

**Chartwell Hollandview**  
Trail 200 John West Way,  
Aurora

#### Euchre Group

January 6 @  
2pm – 4pm

**Chartwell Hollandview**  
Trail 200 John West Way,  
Aurora

## HAPPENING IN JANUARY

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

#### DINING OUT - LUNCH

Place: Beertown  
18287 Yonge St.  
East Gwillimbury  
(Longos plaza)

Date: Wednesday,  
January 21st

Time: 12:00 pm (Noon)


Join us each month as we come together to share good food and great company! Our Dine Monthly event is a casual get-together where everyone pays their own way. It's a wonderful chance to try new restaurants, catch up with friends, and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere.

Please register your attendance only, on the website [LINK](#).



#### APPYS & COCKTAILS INVITATION

 Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Let's welcome in 2026 — and our newest Probus members — with what is quickly becoming an annual favourite event!

What better way than with a drink of cheer and an appetizer to share? Please bring your drink of choice and join us for a relaxed and festive afternoon.

 Location

The Ridgewood Party Room — [180 John West Way](#), Aurora  
(*Judy Dickens' condo*)

All members are welcome to attend!

## GOOD TO KNOW STUFF

### TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

Aurora York Central PROBUS is a social group of individuals interested in the welfare of all club members. Should you require transportation to and from our events, please let me know and we will try to arrange the assistance you require.

[Vern Cunningham](#)

### HOW ABOUT THIS?

PROBUS is international with 255,580 members in 4,149 clubs spread throughout the following 16 countries:

Argentina  
Australia  
Belgium  
Canada  
Chile  
Cyprus  
France  
Germany  
Holland  
India  
Ireland  
Japan  
Malaysia  
Mexico  
New Zealand  
South Africa  
Spain  
Sweden  
United Kingdom  
Zimbabwe

*Australia has 1,415 clubs with 113,000 members.*

*Chile has 1 club with 30 members.*

*Canada has 256 clubs with 40,060 members.*

## DECEMBER'S GOINGS ON

### December 10

### A Look Back at Our Christmas Celebration at The Keg Aurora

Our annual Christmas lunch was the perfect way to close out 2025 and step into the holiday season together.

The room glowed with festive cheer — poinsettias and seasonal decorations brightened every table. The wait staff were attentive and efficient and the food was absolutely delicious.

The ladies looked lovely, the gentlemen were sharply dressed and a few dazzling Christmas sweaters added a splash of fun to the occasion. There was plenty of laughter and conversation as members mingled from table to table, with “What are your plans for Christmas?” being the question of the day.

It was a truly heartwarming afternoon — a wonderful mix of friendship, festive spirit and good cheer to start the holidays.

Scenes from the event below:



## GOOD TO KNOW STUFF

### MEMBERS OF OUR CLUB WHO HAVE BEEN HONOURED

#### AURORA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

1983

Les Oliver

1984

Lowell McLenny

1989

Dick Illingworth

2005

Bud Gilbert

2010

Gord Barnes

2012

Brian North

2014

Beverley Wood

2020

Tom Connor

2024

Vern Cunningham

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

2022

Rosalyn Gonsalves

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLUB

### Euchre Club

Euchre next Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 4 PM!

If you are interested, please email Sharon Welsh at: [sharonwelsh7@gmail.com](mailto:sharonwelsh7@gmail.com) or [LINK](#)

#### Location:

Chartwell Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence  
200 John West Way, Aurora, ON  
(289) 648-4099

#### Capacity:

We can hold up to 4 tables - 16 people max each night. You will need to advise me each week of your intention to play. I will, of course, be reminding you prior to each scheduled date. If we cannot fill each table of four (up to 4 tables), you will be able to invite your spouse or a friend to join you. Feel free to bring your own non-alcoholic drink or a snack to share.

#### Parking:

There is free Visitor parking available at Hollandview - please use spaces #30 to #59. Note that you will be required to sign into the facility at the front desk when you arrive, and sign out when you leave. This is for fire safety reasons. After you sign in, please go to the elevator, go down to the B level, and to the Games Room on the right.

#### WINTER 2026 Play Schedule:

##### January

- Tuesday, January 6 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 15 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 20 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 29 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

##### February

- Tuesday, February 3 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 12 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 17 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 26 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

##### March

- Tuesday, March 3 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 12 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 17 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (*St. Patrick's Day*)
- Thursday, March 26 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 31 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Thank you, Sharon Welsh

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLUB

### Theatre Lovers Group

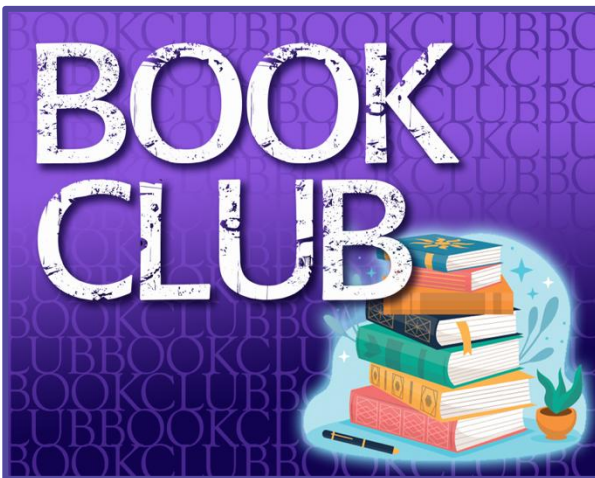


The next Theatre Lovers outing will be Saturday, February 7th at 1:30 pm for the performance of the much loved “The Importance of Being Earnest.” The \$21 tickets will be available from Judy Dickens at the January general meeting or through e-transfer to her at [dickensj06@yahoo.ca](mailto:dickensj06@yahoo.ca).

We’d love to have you join our theatre group [LINK](#).

Thank you, Judy Dickens

### Bucket List Book Club



The next meeting is Thursday January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at Chartwell Hollandview Trail, 200 John West Way, from 10 am to Noon.

“Biram Wood”, by Eleanor Catton

Five years ago, Mira Bunting founded a guerrilla gardening group: Birnam Wood. An undeclared, unregulated, sometimes-criminal, sometimes-philanthropic gathering of friends, this activist collective plant crops wherever no one will notice: on the sides of roads, in forgotten parks, and neglected backyards. For years, the group has struggled to break even. Then Mira stumbles on an answer, a way to finally set the group up for the long term: a landslide has closed the Korowai Pass, cutting off the town of Thorndike.

Natural disaster has created an opportunity, a sizable farm seemingly abandoned. But Mira is not the only one interested in Thorndike. Robert Lemoine, the enigmatic American billionaire, has snatched it up to build his end-times bunker—or so he tells Mira when he catches her on the property. Intrigued by Mira, Birnam Wood, and their entrepreneurial spirit, he suggests they work this land. But can they trust him? And, as their ideals and ideologies are tested, can they trust each other? A gripping psychological thriller from the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Luminaries*, *Biram Wood* is Shakespearean in its wit, drama, and immersion in character. A brilliantly constructed consideration of intentions, actions, and consequences, it is an unflinching examination of the human impulse to ensure our own survival.

For more information contact Anna Pilato [queenladyap@gmail.com](mailto:queenladyap@gmail.com) or 416-564-6116 [BOOK CLUB LINK](#)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLUB

### Social Bridge Club



#### ***NEW! PLAYING WEEKLY!***

Our bridge group meets every Tuesday, alternating morning and afternoon at Chartwell Hollandview Trail, 200 John West Way in Aurora.

PLEASE remember to sign in at reception.

The dates and times of our Probus Bridge Group are posted on our Probus website calendar, [LINK](#).

#### In January and February, we will play:

##### **January**

- Tuesday January 6th                      9:30-11:30      Jazz Pub Main Floor
- Tuesday January 13th                    2:00-4:00      Card Room Lower Level
- Tuesday January 20th                    9:30-11:30      Jazz Pub Main Floor
- Tuesday January 27th                    2:00-4:00      Card Room Lower Level

##### **February**

- Tuesday February 3rd                    9:30-11:30      Jazz Pub Main Floor
- Tuesday February 10th                   2:00-4:00      Card Room Lower Level
- Tuesday February 17th                   9:30-11:30      Jazz Pub Main Floor
- Tuesday February 24th                   2:00-4:00      Card Room Lower Level

All are welcome from experienced to beginner. If you are interested in joining us or have any questions, please contact me using the sidebar contact form on our website.

Be kind to yourself and allow yourself to learn. [LINK](#)

Mary Lee

## GOOD TO KNOW STUFF

---

Membership in PROBUS brings a world of opportunity and resources to your door. To find out more about this international organization you belong to, check out the links below.

**PROBUS CANADA**  
[www.probuscanada.ca](http://www.probuscanada.ca)

**PROBUS GLOBAL**  
[www.probusglobal.org](http://www.probusglobal.org)

Suppose you were planning a trip abroad and wanted to know more about a possible destination, chances are you could find a local PROBUS club you could contact to gather more information. How you ask?

**FIND A PROBUS CLUB**  
[probusglobal.org/Clubs](http://probusglobal.org/Clubs)

## WHAT'S SPECIAL IN JANUARY



To our members who have a birthday in January!

Karen Horton	08
Anthony Garramone	23
Susan Aldridge	26



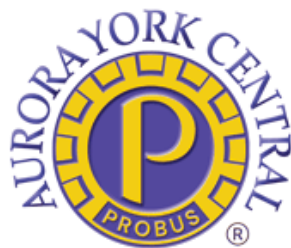
Stay Connected, check our club website for the latest events and news.

[www.aurorayorkcentralprobus.ca](http://www.aurorayorkcentralprobus.ca)

Should you wish to get in touch with any executive member

<https://aurorayorkcentralprobus.ca/contact-3/>

THAT'S IT FOLKS. UNTIL NEXT TIME,  
LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE AND ENJOY LIFE.



**PLEASE TAKE NOTE**

There's a good chance you may be in photographs taken at any of our club meetings or events.  
Your picture and name could appear in our newsletter or on our website.

*If you do not wish to be in said publications, please take measures to not be in the camera's field of view.*