

AURORA YORK CENTRAL



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022 - 2026



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HELLO ALL: WELCOME TO FEBRUARY 2026

Welcome everyone!

Here we are — February 2026.

I can almost hear those spring birds singing. January has been a brutally cold month. I, for one, spent some time in the hospital for surgery. I'm now at home recuperating, as I missed our January meetings and activities, so my musings will be short this month.

The speaker that David has arranged will be one of the most interesting ones we've had and should not be missed.

Our February luncheon will be held at Moxies on February 18. The last time we were there, we had a great turnout and a great lunch — hope to see you all there!

As well, our Appy Party has been rescheduled to February 21.

Next general meeting: Wednesday, February 11 — see you there!

Cheers, Garry

HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY

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 Koyle

EUCHRE CLUB

Sharon Welsh

THEATRE LOVERS GROUP

Judy Dickens

February General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 11th

Time: 10 am (arrive by 9:30am to socialize)

Note: Coffee will be available. Arrive early to catch up with friends!

Location: Royal Canadian Legion,
[105 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora](#)

Guest Speaker: Ron Guttman - Magician

About Our Speaker

Ron Guttman — Magician



First and foremost, Ron considers himself an entertainer. And with his featured Family Magic Show, he has been entertaining audiences in cities across Canada and beyond. Whether it's Mingle Magic up close and personal, mystifying feats of mental telepathy, or laughing with the kids at a neighbourhood or family gathering, you owe it to yourself to find out why so many agents and event planners already rely on Ron to deliver a memorable performance.

"Ron is known for his thoughtful presentations and deep psychological insights. His performances blend intuition, suggestion and story-telling into powerful moments of connection and wonder. And his quiet charisma will leave a lasting impression." David Peck, Podcaster, Consultant, Speaker SoChange.ca.

Ron Guttman is The Party Magician and you can check out the rest of his [Biography](#) here.

PLANNED PROGRAMMES

EVENTS & OUTINGS

GENERAL MEETING

10 am Wednesday,
FEBRUARY 11th

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

February 18 @ 12pm
Moxie's
(Newmarket)
17390 Yonge St.

Book Club

February 19 @
10am - 12pm
Chartwell Hollandview
Trail 200 John West Way,
Aurora

Bridge Group

February 3 @
9:30am – 11:30am
Chartwell Hollandview
Trail 200 John West Way,
Aurora

Euchre Group

February 3 @
2pm – 4pm
Chartwell Hollandview
Trail 200 John West Way,
Aurora

HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS



Dining Out – Lunch

 Date: Wednesday, February 18th

 Time: 12:00 – 2:30 pm

 Location: Moxie's Newmarket
[17390 Yonge St](#), Newmarket, ON L3Y 7R6

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

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 an appetizer to share* and join us for a relaxed and festive afternoon.


All members are welcome to attend!

Appy's & Cocktails Invitation

 Date: Saturday, February 21st

 Time: 3:00 – 7:00 pm

 Note: Bring your drink of choice and appetizer to share. No need to register. All members welcome!

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

GOOD TO KNOW STUFF

NEED A RIDE?

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.

verncunningham@gmail.com

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 113,00 members.

Chile has 1 club with 30 members.

Canada has 256 clubs with 40,060 members.

JANUARY'S GOINGS ON

Speaker January 14th

Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas

The mayor gave us a thorough and detailed review of the status of town activities and its direction. As he nears the end of his second term he reflected on what has taken place over the last eight years. He impressed us with the breadth of his knowledge of local issues, and his grasp on regional and provincial matters as it relates to the town of Aurora.



Tom reviewed advancements in the town over the last few years. He highlighted the first full year of operations at Town Square and how organizations and the public have eagerly utilized its amenities. The latest infrastructure includes the new playing fields of Industrial Parkway, the addition to the Stronach Centre, the Slabtown Square restaurant in the Armories and our many cultural events, including sports teams, enhanced recreational facilities, and the market.

For 2026 there are active plans to improve, revitalize and enhance the downtown. There must be a balance between preserving the heritage of the streetscape and integrating it with the new.

The audience asked about key development and operational issues. Here are some discussion points:

- Former Canadian Tire site, plan for six storey condominiums and townhouses approved, but not started by the developer. A common theme, many projects in town remain vacant sites.
- Land developers plan sites, obtain approvals, then sell them to another developer. A new owner must go through the process again, result: delay: and more empty lots. All municipalities seek solutions. One might be a "sunset clause" for a proposed development to incentivize the process.
- Affordable housing, where should it be, optimum price of \$550,000 would encourage ownership, but how to achieve that?
- Track separation at Aurora GO station, not approved by Metrolinx and province, not considered a priority and money not available. We are pushing for it. The crossover at Centre Street then becomes crucial; there are three alternatives.



- Solutions for traffic at Yonge and Wellington are closer to reality, but Yonge is a regional road requiring the Region’s buy in. Lane narrowing and turning lanes can work.

- Speed cameras were in fact a “cash grab” for many municipalities—they should be in school zones.

All agreed we had learned much; a follow-up would be appreciated, regardless of results of the upcoming election.

Many thanks to David Brisley for this Speaker Report.



After January General Meeting

****27 of us** enjoyed lunch at ****Symposium Aurora****!**



JOIN US – It's Growing!	
Date:	After every General Meeting
Time:	12Noon till the chit chat ends!
Location:	Symposium Cafe Restaurant Aurora 444 Hollandview Trail, Aurora, ON L4G 7Z9
Attendance:	Requested at each meeting
Pay:	Your own way – everyone welcome!

****Keeps growing stronger** – join the tradition!**

50/50 Draw

Our guest speaker, Mayor Tom Mrakas, drew this month’s winning 50/50 ticket, which was held by Leo Ralph. Congratulations Leo!



GOOD TO KNOW STUFF

MEMBERS OF OUR CLUB WHO HAVE BEEN HONOURED

AURORA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

- 1983
Les Oliver
- 1984
Lowell McClenny
- 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 – Every Week!

Euchre remains one of our most popular activities!

Euchre next Tuesday, February 3rd, 2 – 4 PM!

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



Euchre Winter 2026 Play Schedule		
Month	Afternoon (2 – 4 pm)	Evening (7 – 9 pm)
February	Tues 3, 17	Thurs 12, 26
March	Tues 3, 17, 31	Thurs 12, 26
📍 Location:	Chartwell Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence	Card Room Lower Level 200 John West Way , Aurora, ON L4G 7J3 (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.

Thank you, Sharon Welsh

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLUB

Theatre Lovers Group



Next Outing: Where You Are by Kristen Da Silva
Date: March TBC
Tickets: \$21.00
Contact: Susan Pratt: susanmpratt@icloud.com for e-transfer payment
Location: Theatre Aurora 150 Henderson Dr, Aurora, ON L4G 2J7

The second season of enjoyable local theatre is underway for the members of the Probus Theatre Lovers group. Fifteen to 20 members regularly attend matinee performances at Theatre Aurora, followed by food, friendship and conversation at local restaurants.

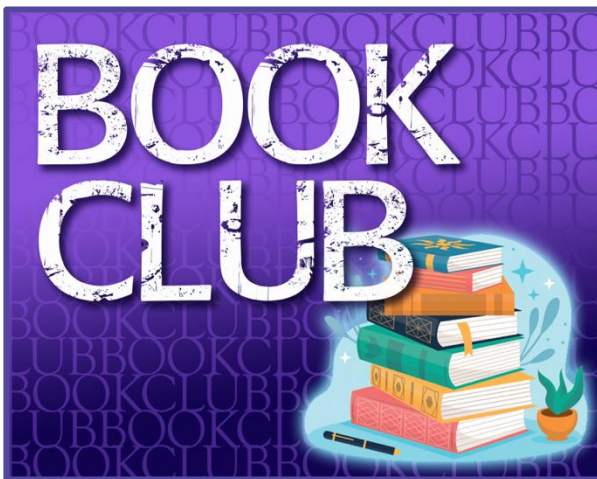
Stay tuned for details about a March outing to Theatre Aurora to see “Where You Are” by Kristen Da Silva, a hilarious and honest exploration of family, forgiveness and falling in love.

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

Thank you to Judy and Susan.

Note: Susan covers Theatre Group during Judy's vacation (Susan's email above for e-transfers).

Bucket List Book Club



Next Meeting: Thursday, February 19th
Time: 10 am – 12noon
Location: Chartwell Hollandview Trail, Jazz Pub – Main Floor 200 John West Way, Aurora (289) 648-4099
Current Book: Scarborough by Catherine Hernandez

This novel tells the story of a tight knit neighbourhood under fire. Follows three children Bing, Sylvie and Laura and their community in a low income Toronto neighbourhood, exploring themes of poverty, racism and resilience through their struggles with family, education and systemic challenges, all while highlighting the vital role of a community literacy program and the supportive figures, like educator Ms. Hina, who try to uplift them against overwhelming odds.

For more information contact Anna Pilato 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.

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

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.

📅 Bridge Winter 2026 Play Schedule		
Month	☀ Morning Sessions (9:30 – 11:30 am)	🌙 Afternoon Sessions (2 – 4 pm)
	Jazz Pub – Main Floor	Card Room – Lower Level
February	Tues 3, 17	Tues 10, 24
March	Tues 3, 17, 31	Tues 10, 24
📍 Location:	Chartwell Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence	200 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 7J3 (289) 648-4099

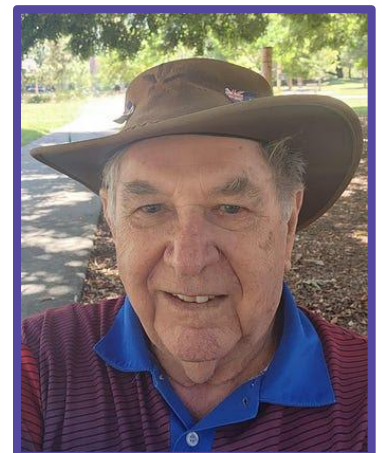
All are welcome from experienced to beginner. If you are interested in joining us or have any questions, please contact me using the sidebar contact form on our website.

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

Probus Global Update

We welcome Merv Richens as our new President. Formerly the Australian Coordinator, Merv succeeds the late Richard Furlong (November Newsletter) and is already leading efforts to promote PROBUS worldwide in 2026. A full introduction and message from Merv will appear in the March PROBUS Global newsletter.

A Zoom meeting will be scheduled of the management team and any other interested members to discuss plans for PROBUS Global in 2026. If you wish to attend, please let them know. [LINK](#).



Our Leadership Team Nominations

A list of volunteers who have been nominated and agreed to stand for election to our leadership team.

AYC PROBUS Leadership Buzz – February Jumpstart!

It's February, yet let's get excited about our Aurora York Central PROBUS future! The nominating committee shares its proposed leadership team for the General Meeting ahead of our June AGM. These star candidates are ready for your secret ballot vote to keep our club buzzing.

Nominee Highlights:

SYLVIA WOLFF



Nominated for President: Rosalyn Gonsalves' pick – dynamic past Newsletter Director set to shine!

TIM HILL



VP Web Media: Website wizard continuing since 2022.

TOM CONNOR



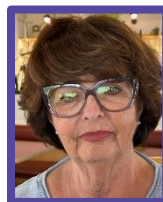
Nominated for VP Membership: Vern Cunningham's choice; golf enthusiast since 2023.

MARIE WALLACE



Treasurer: Steady hand staying on board.

SUSAN PRATT



Social Director: Event magic maker!

JUDY DICKENS



Secretary: Back again, Theatre Lovers leader too!

WAYNE SCOTT



Nominated for Social Media: Tim Hill nominates this Nine Dine golf organizer extraordinaire.

Open Spots – Your Chance!

Programme Director & Newsletter Editor need YOU!
(After David Brisley & Sylvia Wolff's move.)

Grab forms from AYC PROBUS website; send to Vern Cunningham: verncunningham@gmail.com.

GOOD TO KNOW STUFF



RESOURCES & CONTACT

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

PROBUS GLOBAL

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

REACH OUT TO US DIRECTLY at CONTACT [LINK.](#)

We respect your privacy and will respond promptly!

WHAT'S SPECIAL IN FEBRUARY



Celebrating February Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Our Members!

Eleanor Hollingshead	Arlene Arama	Marian Law	Mary Lynn Vanderwielen	Sue Hogg
February 01	February 07	February 17	February 24	February 27

Happy Valentine's Day and Family Day 2026 to Our Probus Members!

As Valentine's Day and Family Day approach, we celebrate the deep friendships, wonderful families and vibrant community we share.

Joy in Togetherness

Whether you spend the time with loved ones, friends, grandchildren or savoring a quiet moment, may your days sparkle with joy. Our mutual support truly brightens every gathering.

Thank you for being the heartbeat of Aurora York Central PROBUS. Here's to more shared memories ahead!

Warmest wishes!





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

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.