

## AURORA YORK CENTRAL



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### 2022 - 2026

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Vern Cunningham

 MEMBER AT LARGE  
Cliff White

## HELLO ALL: WELCOME TO APRIL

### WELCOME ALL

Here we are in April 2026.

I have returned to duty as of March. It finally is beginning to look like spring, the snow has almost all melted and we are seeing double digit temperatures. Hooray!

Our speaker for April will be Dr. Frances Morton-Chang, who unfortunately missed our March meeting due to a scheduling issue. She will speak first thing at 10:00 am as she has another commitment. Then we will have our regular meeting, so please be there.

Luncheon this month will be on April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Sweet Duchess Restaurant, a favourite spot. Susan will have more information at the general meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Our elections are coming up in June and therefore nominations will close at the end of April. We have had much discussion over the past few months, so if you have a nomination, please forward it to Vern Cunningham at [vern.cunningham@gmail.com](mailto:vern.cunningham@gmail.com) for consideration.

Please check out our website [aurorayorkcentralprobus.ca](http://aurorayorkcentralprobus.ca) information and dates of all our activities are there and easy to see.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next general meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the Aurora Legion.

Cheers, Garry

## HAPPENING IN APRIL

### 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

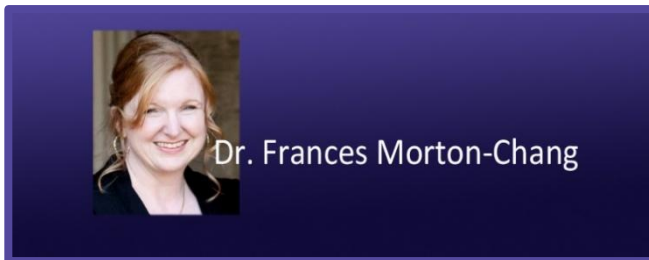
#### GOLF GROUP

Wayne Scott

📅 April General Meeting	
📅 Date:	Wednesday, April 8th
🕒 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, <a href="#">105 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora, ON</a>
🎤 Guest Speaker:	Dr. Frances Morton-Chang

*Time Change Speaker - starts at 10:00 am (not regular 11:00 am). Break after talk, then General Meeting*

**Dr. Frances Morton-Chang - York Region 2024 to 2027 plan to support seniors** was unable to join us in March due to a scheduling conflict, yet pleased to share she has been rescheduled and will be our featured presenter on April 8th.



Dr. Frances Morton-Chang

Dr. Frances Morton-Chang is the Program Manager for the Seniors Strategy at the Regional Municipality of York, and supports the implementation of the [2024 to 2027 York Region Plan to](#)

#### [Support Seniors: Navigating Forward Together.](#)

She is a seasoned health services leader who has worked at innovative organizations serving seniors and caregivers including provincial sector associations and NGOs, community agencies, and teaching hospitals. Dr.

Morton-Chang is also adjunct faculty at the University of Toronto Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation.

Prior to joining York Region, Frances was the Director of Dementia Programs at the Schlegel – University of Waterloo Research Institute for Aging.

Dr. Morton-Chang will provide a summary of the York Region Plan to Support Seniors, which focuses on:

- keeping seniors healthier, longer
- supporting seniors to live in age-friendly, complete communities
- connecting seniors and caregivers to the right programs and services in the right time
- improving coordination, organization and planning of services for seniors

Frances will be accompanied by Senior Program Advisor, Judy Coultres-MacLeod on the Seniors Strategy Team to share on an exciting action in the Plan – our Navigation Guide for Seniors.

## HAPPENING IN APRIL

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS



#### Dining Out – Lunch

 Date: Wednesday, April 15th

 Time: 12:00 – 2:30 pm

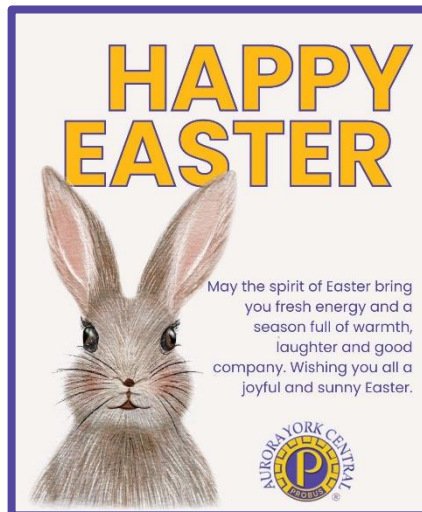
 Location: [Sweet Dutchess KITCHEN & CAFE](#)  
[2 Orchard Heights Blvd](#)  
Units 22-23, Aurora, ON

The Sweet Dutchess Kitchen and Cafe team aims to bring you a valuable experience from stove to table. Their team shares more than just a passion for mouth watering food, they strive to deliver great tasting dishes and high quality customer experiences to our community.

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

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.

*Dining Out dinners begin next month, May 20<sup>TH</sup>, 6:00 – 8:30pm.*



## PLANNED PROGRAMMES

### EVENTS & OUTINGS

#### GENERAL MEETING

10 am Wednesday,  
APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>

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

APRIL 15 @ 12pm  
Sweet Dutchess  
(Aurora)  
2 Orchard Heights Blvd

#### Book Club

April 23 @  
10am - 12pm

Chartwell Hollandview  
Trail 200 John West Way,  
Aurora

#### Bridge Group

April 7 @  
2pm – 4pm

Chartwell Hollandview  
Trail 200 John West Way,  
Aurora

#### Euchre Group

April 9 @  
7pm – 9pm

Chartwell Hollandview  
Trail 200 John West Way,  
Aurora

## GOOD TO KNOW STUFF

### NEED A RIDE?

Aurora York Central PRO-BUS 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](mailto: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.*

## MARCH'S GOINGS ON

### March 18<sup>th</sup> – Slabtown Armoury, Aurora

For many of us this was a first time dining at the Slabtown Armoury and it didn't disappoint. We had a very friendly and efficient waiter and excellent meals. All of which made for a wonderful outing with lots of lively conversation and plenty of laughter.

One of the first topics of conversation was "What was the Armoury before? Discover its 150 year story at Slabtown!"

Opened in 1874 as a drill shed for the York Rangers (12th Battalion), the Aurora Armoury hosted wartime sendoffs (like WWI in 1916), equestrian drills (1923-1970), WWII duties (1941) and post war events into the 1970s. The Town purchased and restored it in 2014, reopening in 2019 under Niagara College as a culinary hub. Since October 2025, Slabtown Cider Company operates it as Slabtown Armoury, offering farm to table dining, ciders and events.



### Speaker March 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Past President Vern Cunningham

When our scheduled speaker, Dr. Francis Morton Chang, was unable to attend due to a calendar mix-up, past president Vern Cunningham generously stepped in and treated members to an engaging talk about community life, volunteerism and a few spirited topics close to his heart.



Vern is a long time Aurora resident and a member of the Board of Directors at the Aurora Seniors Centre (Aurora Seniors Association), one of the largest and most active seniors' centres in the region, serving about 1,800 members. The Centre offers a wide range of programs, from fitness and dance to bridge, mahjong, a lending library and social events, all for just \$30 per resident per year. Vern also chairs the Elections Committee and encouraged members to stay involved in this important community hub.

Adding a warm personal touch, Vern spoke about his passion for whisk(e)y appreciation, explaining the difference between “whiskey” with an e (Irish) and “whisky” without (Scotch). What began years ago as an informal tasting among friends has evolved into a social and educational group exploring the traditions, distilling processes and stories behind aged spirits from around the world.

Vern is also the host of the podcast series *Off the Cuff*, produced in partnership with the Town of Aurora and Neighbour Media, which features unscripted conversations with local business leaders and entrepreneurs. He shared that the project is now evolving into a broader community focused show, which he refers to as “Ground Aurora” and is looking for a co-host to help share more stories and initiatives from across the town.

A particularly moving part of Vern’s presentation was his description of the “Wind Phone” a special project he helped bring to Aurora. Installed along a trail in partnership with Oasis: a Centre for Bereavement and Healing, the Wind Phone is a vintage-style telephone mounted on a post that is not connected to any line. Visitors can pick up the receiver and speak to loved ones they have lost, using the act of conversation as a therapeutic way to reflect and remember. Benches nearby invite people to sit quietly and reflect and the initiative is part of a growing movement to create gentle, healing spaces for those grieving. Vern expressed that similar installations appear in communities across Canada.

Vern closed with heartfelt reflections on loss, hope and resilience, drawing from his own experiences and his volunteer work with hospice and grief support programs.

A sincere thank you to Vern Cunningham for stepping in on short notice and sharing such an informative, engaging and deeply human presentation. His dedication to Aurora’s community life, from seniors’ programming to creative initiatives like the Wind Phone and *Off the Cuff*, continues to inspire us all.

Many thanks to Sylvia Wolff for this Speaker Report.



## After March General Meeting

**\*\*13 of us\*\*** enjoyed lunch at **\*\*Wicked Eats Kitchen + Bar\*\***!



JOIN US – It's Growing!	
Date:	After every General Meeting
Time:	12Noon  till the chit chat ends!
Location:	Wicked Eats Kitchen + Bar <a href="#">15570 Yonge St, Aurora, ON L4G 1P2</a>
Attendance:	Requested at each meeting
Pay:	Your own way – everyone welcome!

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



### 50/50 Draw

Trevor Stephens pulled this month's winning 50/50 ticket. Marie Wallace presented the cash. Congratulations Brian Horton!



**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, April 9th, 7 – 9 PM!

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



Euchre Spring 2026 Play Schedule		
Month	Afternoon (2 – 4 pm)	Evening (7 – 9 pm)
April	Tues 14, 28	Thurs 9, 23
May	Tues 12, 26	Thurs 7, 21
📍 Location:	Chartwell Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence	Card Room Lower Level <a href="#">200 John West Way</a> , 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



### Social Bridge Club

#### APRIL UPDATE

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](#).

*Our last day to play bridge until October will be Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 pm in the lower level card room.*

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

📅 Bridge Spring 2026 Play Schedule		
Month	☀ Morning Sessions (9:30 – 11:30 am)	🌙 Afternoon Sessions (2 – 4 pm)
	Jazz Pub – Main Floor	Card Room – Lower Level
April	Tues 14, 28	Tues 7, 21
May	Tues 12, 26	Tues 5, 19
📍 Location:	Chartwell Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence	<a href="#">200 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 7J3</a> (289) 648-4099

### Nine & Dine

*Warm up for the 2026 golf season!*

Announcing Golf Simulator sessions to get us ready for the outdoor season.

If you are interested, please let Wayne Scott know using the event registration [LINK](#).

*We're all about enjoying the game and the outdoors.*



🏌️ Nine & Dine JOIN US – It's Growing!		
📅 Dates:	Monday April 6th Monday May 4th	Friday April 24th Friday May 15th
🕒 Time:	10:30 AM – 12:30 PM, followed by lunch nearby (restaurant TBA)	
📍 Location:	<a href="#">The Range</a> <a href="#">225 Industrial Pkwy S, Aurora, ON L4G 3V2</a>	
👤 Participants:	12 – 16	
💬 Pay:	Cost: \$11.50 + HST per person (2-hour session) - 5 bays (4 players per bay)	

## Theatre Lovers Group



Next Outing: Arsenic & Old Lace
Date: Saturday, May 9th @ 1:30pm
Tickets: \$21.00
Contact: Judy Dickens: <a href="mailto:dickensj06@yahoo.ca">dickensj06@yahoo.ca</a> for e-transfer payment
Location: Theatre Aurora <a href="#">150 Henderson Dr, Aurora, ON L4G 2J7</a>

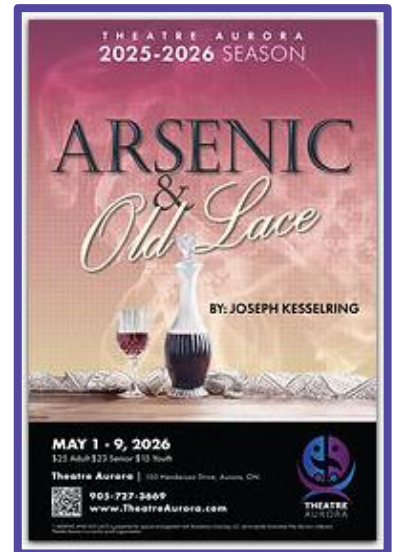
Hi everyone...greetings from sunny Victoria! I'll be in BC until April 16 so wanted to reach out to let you know I've booked 15 tickets for the May Theatre Lover's outing.

Get ready for a wickedly funny romp in Joseph Kesselring's ARSENIC & OLD LACE featuring the delightfully eccentric Brewster sisters and their two nephews who prove that sometimes family ties can be downright deadly...hilariously so!

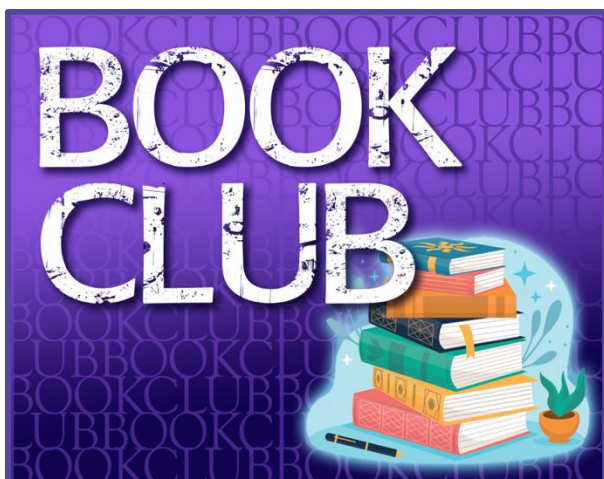
Join the Theatre Lovers group for Theatre Aurora's final show of the season...on SATURDAY, MAY 9<sup>th</sup> AT 1:30PM. Tickets are \$21 each and need to be purchased by e-transfer please: [dickensj06@yahoo.ca](mailto:dickensj06@yahoo.ca)

Thanks for your support this year and please pass the message along to any new comers to our Probus Club who you think might be interested. We'd love to have you join our theatre group, register [LINK](#).

Thank you to Judy.



## Bucket List Book Club



Next Meeting: Thursday, April 23rd
Time: 10 am – 12noon
Location: Chartwell Hollandview Trail, Jazz Pub – Main Floor <a href="#">200 John West Way, Aurora, ON</a> (289) 648-4099
Current Book: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society - Mary Ann Shaffer, Annie Barrows

*"I wonder how the book got to Guernsey? Perhaps there is some sort of secret homing instinct in books that brings them to their perfect readers."* January 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the

Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she's never met, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book by Charles Lamb...

As Juliet and her new correspondent exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of this man and his friends—and what a wonderfully eccentric world it is. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society—born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island—boasts a charming, funny, deeply human cast of characters, from pig farmers to phrenologists, literature lovers all.

Juliet begins a remarkable correspondence with the society's members, learning about their island, their taste in books, and the impact the recent German occupation has had on their lives. Captivated by their stories, she sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever.

Written with warmth and humor as a series of letters, this novel is a celebration of the written word in all its guises and of finding connection in the most surprising ways.

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



## WHAT'S HAPPENING



### PROBUS Canada

Last year, the PROBUS Canada Board of Directors surveyed clubs to gauge interest in new member benefit partnerships with vendors such as travel agencies or hearing aid companies. 152 clubs (60%) responded, with 72% in favour of exploring additional partnerships. The raw results and a brief summary are available at:

[Raw data](#) and [Summary](#).

After reviewing the results and the workload involved, the Board decided not to pursue new vendors at this time yet reconfirmed the existing partnership with Belairdirect (formerly Johnson Insurance) for optional travel, health, home and auto insurance, as well as the partnership with Staples for printing products [LINK](#). Members who would like more details can visit the Probus Canada "Group Benefits" page at: [LINK](#).

## 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](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)

REACH OUT TO US DIRECTLY at CONTACT

[LINK.](#)

We respect your privacy and will respond promptly!

## WHAT'S SPECIAL IN APRIL



### Celebrating April Birthdays

#### Happy Birthday to Our Members!

Allan Craig

Dan Revington

April 01

April 06

## APRIL IN AURORA

This month, Aurora offers several events that may interest our members. Families and friends can enjoy [Easterpalooza](#) on April 4 at Aurora Town Square, with Easter activities, crafts and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Throughout April, the [Aurora Cultural Centre](#) and [Aurora Town Square events page](#) host a range of performances and community gatherings, from music and storytelling to art-focused events.

Wellness minded members may also enjoy programs such as Aromatherapy for Wellbeing and other social or educational sessions at the [Aurora Public Library](#), which are open and welcoming to newcomers.

Our partners at the [Aurora Seniors Centre](#) will be holding their Annual Indoor Garage Sale on Sunday, April 26, from 8:30 am to 1 pm at 90 John West Way. Members are welcome to shop for bargains or donate items in the days leading up to the sale, making it a fun way to support the Centre and connect with the broader Aurora community.



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/>

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.*