



Probus Club of Old Oakville

P.O. Box 69597, 109 Thomas Street, Oakville, ON L6J 7R4

www.probusoldoakville.ca



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE nomination time! With the end of the current term only months away, it's time for YOU, the club members, to nominate your next executive. I know you won't let the Club down.

Reflecting on the past year, I owe a huge thank you to our Management Committee colleagues. All in all, a very good year! Thanks to Past President, Peter Morris, we are all reading a Newsletter again. Thanks to Wayne Blackburn, we have a new website, computer and screen. Thanks to Bill Harris and Ken Durie, and a gaggle of activity leaders, our activities have more than doubled and more and more members are involved. Thanks to Roger Sanders and the membership team, our membership is in great hands. Also, thanks to John Butler and Jim Davidson as well as the Special Events Committee, several interesting special events are in the works. Finally thanks to Gord Stovel, we have so much enjoyed both tremendous member and guest speakers.

Often forgotten are our Secretary and Treasurer. In our case, Secretary Garth Gisel does a job worthy of high recognition. Treasurer Doug Francis keeps us nicely financially afloat and does a fantastic job doing so.

With winter more than half way over, spring will soon be in the air with its longer days and warmer weather. I truly look forward to the return of our snow birds to strengthen our monthly meeting attendance.

Curt

MILESTONES

Frank Karman We were saddened to learn that Frank had passed away on January 29. Frank had been a Probus member since September 2015. A private family service has already taken place.

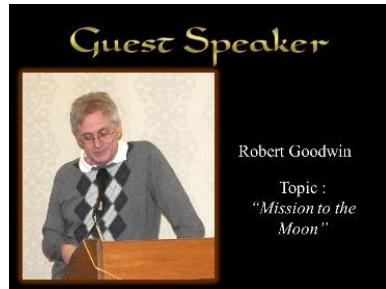
Bill Barnes Congratulations and best wishes are due to Bill who celebrated his 100th birthday on February 7. Bill was Charter Member of the Probus Club of Old Oakville and was also the Founding President of the Rotary Club of Okville Trafalgar in 1978.

Harry Dempster Congratulations and best wishes to Harry who celebrated his 90th birthday on February 11. Harry is a Founder Member of the club and has been a member since 1996. Harry is also a long-time member of the Duffers golf group.

SPEAKERS – GORD STOVEL *Our February guest speaker was Rob Godwin, his talk was Apollo 11 – Some tales of mankind's first voyage to another world.*

Rob gave us an amazing talk based on research he has done to develop a number of books on manned space flight, especially from the perspective of little known facts and realities he uncovered, (much to the amazement of NASA as well as

numerous other entities involved in the Apollo Program). His talk went deeper into the information he developed in his role as the owner and founder of Apogee Books.

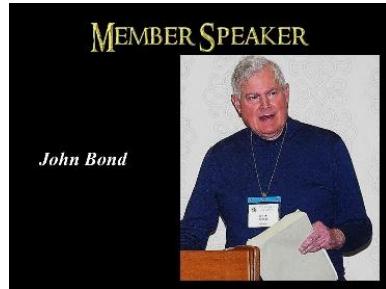


He is a member of the International Astronautical Federation and American Astronautical Society History Committees and is the Space Curator at the Canadian Air & Space Conservancy in Toronto. He is a director of the General Astronautics Research Corporation. He has written or edited over 150 books on space flight including the award-winning series "The NASA Mission Reports." Robert has appeared on dozens of radio and television programs in Canada, the USA and England. His books and videos have been seen on CNN, History Channel, Smithsonian TV, the CBC, the BBC and CBS 60 Minutes. He produced the first virtual reality panoramas of the Apollo lunar surface photography and the first time-synchronized multi-camera angle movie of the Apollo 11 moonwalk and moon landing. He consulted on the Discovery Channel TV series "Rocket Science" and "Mars Rising" and the science fiction web series "Deep Six".

In 2002 Godwin's Mission Reports series won the Space Frontier Foundation's Best Presentation of Space Award. In 2007 the International Astronomical Union's Committee for Small Body Nomenclature approved the naming of a main belt asteroid after Robert for his efforts in documenting space history and raising public awareness about Near Earth Objects. "4252 Godwin" is an absolute magnitude 12.7 minor planet. He has staged space exhibitions in the USA and Canada and has spoken at countless venues including the Canadian Embassy in Washington DC. In 2013 he co-authored a biography of Arthur C. Clarke with Fred Clarke, brother of Arthur. In 2014 he co-authored "2001 The Heritage and Legacy of the Space Odyssey" with Frederick I. Ordway III, who was technical adviser to Stanley Kubrick for the film "2001 A Space Odyssey". In October 2015, his essay "The First Scientific Concept of Rockets for Space Travel" contributed a previously unknown chapter to early space history by revealing that a Scottish/Canadian Presbyterian Minister named William Leitch was the first scientist to determine, for the correct reasons, that rockets were the best method for powering space flight. In 2018 he co-authored a history of the International Space Station under contract to NASA.

Truly one of our better speakers who was totally enjoyed by all who were there.

Member speaker: John Bond



The Legacy of Rome...Based on John's background as a civil engineer (with a speciality in railroad bridges), John walked us through the amazing structures the Romans built, be they roads, temples, bridges, aqueducts and the Coliseum. He told us how they were built and about the ingenious engineering used at the time that has lasted until today. A great member speaker special interest talk.

Future Speakers

In March, our guest speaker will be John Percy PhD., whose topic is “Misconceptions about the Universe from Everyday Life to the Big Bang Theory. Our member speaker will be Gord Stovel whose topic will be “On Being a Member Speaker”.

In April, our guest speaker will be Moira Welsh, Toronto Star Investigative Reporter, whose topic will be “Recycling, Where Does it All Go”. Member speaker will be Glenn Higginbotham.

ACTIVITIES – BILL HARRIS

BREAKFAST CLUB: The Breakfast Club meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. at Artisano's Restaurant on Iroquois Shore Road. The Breakfast Club is an informal gathering of Probus Club Members, friends, and guests. There are always lots of laughs and jokes, amidst a variety of discussions. It is a great way to get to know other Probus Members better, and they to get to know you. No reservations needed. Just show up at 9 o'clock on the 2nd or 4th Wednesday of the month for an hour or so and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, or a full breakfast, all while sharing friendship with fellow Probus members. For more information, contact **Bill Harris** at billharris@bell.net.

CAMERA GROUP: The January meeting was held at **Ron's** pad, and members were introduced to ‘being more creative’ by producing abstract photographs using various techniques to achieve shots that emphasized the use of colour rather than shape or form. For more information contact **Ron Thornbury** at rthornbury@cogeco.ca

CRIBBAGE GROUP: Cribbage players arrange to play amongst themselves at various locations, usually in individual residences. **Brian Emo**, the group leader, tabulates the scores for the group. Under the Cribbage Group format, members get to know each other well and many long-term acquaintances have ensued. New participants are always welcome, however. **Brian** would like to hear from any Probus member who enjoys playing cribbage and meeting new friends. Members can reach **Brian** at, bndemo@sympatico.ca.

DINNER GROUP: The February Dinner Group dined at the Thai Coconut, 3455 Fairview Street, Unit 11, in Burlington. The group dined at this restaurant previously and enjoyed themselves, and consequently elected to return. All Probus Members are welcome to join the group subject to space availability.

DISCUSSION GROUP: Starting in April, **Don Kirkwood** will lead a new Probus Discussion Group. He is looking for participants. A simple format will be maintained. One of the group members will speak for two to five minutes on topic may not be one where the speaker has expertise. It can be a researched subject matter, or perhaps an elaboration of a subject introduced by a Probus speaker at one of our meetings. Other topics could include an adventure holiday, politics, food and drink, health sciences, hobbies, etc. It sounds like a fun way to keep ourselves mentally agile and informed through our fellow members. For more information, contact **Don Kirkwood** at; dwwk@bell.net.

EUCHRE GROUP: The Euchre group meets at Noon, at Monaghan's Sports Pub and Grill on Trafalgar Road across from Sheridan College every 1st and 3rd Friday. The next meeting is on February 28th. Monaghan's offer tasty pub-style food at reasonable prices. The Euchre group require a minimum of 4 players, therefore, if you intend to play, please advise, **Curt Allen**, the Euchre Club Leader, in advance of your intention to play. **Curt's** email address is curtis.allen@sympatico.ca.

INVESTMENT GROUP: The investment group meets on the third Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the Oakville Club. The group manages two phantom portfolios containing Canadian and U.S. shares. The group has an annual challenge for its members. The members are allocated \$10,000 and asked to pick three stocks for capital appreciation. The person with the best return gets a prize. Congratulations go to **Bill Titgemeyer** on winning the stock-picking competition for the second year in a row. The other winners were **Bill Hambleton** and **Pat Fitzgerald**. The results were as follows:

Gold Medal: Bill Titgemeyer with an annual return of 108.31%.

Silver Medal: Bill Hambleton with an annual return of 46.48%.

Bronze Medal: Pat Fitzgerald with an annual return of 36.11%.

Overall Return = 22.67%

For more Investment Club information, contact **Brendan Barnet** at; husruin@yahoo.ca, or **John Vipond** at jvipond@cogeco.ca.

LIVING ALONE GROUP; (LAG): LAG has regular meetings scheduled in February on each Friday 7, 14, 21, 28. The group gathers at 10 a.m. at Mo's Family Restaurant. Members who have spouses in care facilities, and not living at home, are invited to join the LAG every Friday. For more information, contact **Ron Thornbury** at; rthornbury@cogeco.ca.

LAWN BOWLING GROUP: The Oakville Lawn Bowling Club and the Old Oakville Probus Club have a joint venture. The Lawn Bowling Club will be hosting Open Houses on Saturday, May 9th, Sunday, May 10th and the weekend after that - May 16 and 17. The open houses run from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. All Probus members are encouraged to try the sport by attending one or more of the open houses. Several Probus members are already members of the Lawn Bowling Club. There will also be opportunities during that week to practice and learn from trained coaches. Probus members have until the end of May to decide if they want to join. The fee is \$170 for the season - May to early October, and you can play as much as you want. Bowls are free for the first two years. Contact **Mark Cox** with your questions at markwcox1970@gmail.com.

LUNCH & POOL GROUP: Nineteen members of the Probus Lunch & Pool group celebrated a Christmas lunch at Monaghan's on November 17th. We were served, as usual, by Kenzie with our choice of one of three specials prepared for us. Twelve played pool while the rest just enjoyed chatter. We meet every Tuesday at Noon at Monaghan's in Marlborough Court, opposite Sheridan College on Trafalgar Road. For more information, contact **St. John Blakeley** at; stjohn.blakeley@sympatico.ca

MARATHON BRIDGE: The games are ongoing, and they will finish in May with a final lunch. The next season will start in September. For more information, please contact **Peter Morris**, the Marathon Bridge leader at peterjmo@bell.net

SPECIAL EVENTS – JOHN BUTLER

Special Events completed since the Last Newsletter were:

The Annual Christmas Lunch took place on December 8th, following the regular December Meeting. Of the 72 Members and guests who attended the Meeting, 46 stayed for the Lunch. As lunch was served in the other half of the Ballroom it was very convenient for members to transfer from Meeting to Lunch. With a cash bar in the foyer, those who were so inclined were able to enjoy a beverage with their meal. A plated 3-course lunch was served, consist of a very tasty soup, roast turkey with all the trimmings, and an excellent chocolate dessert. Unfortunately, as the Meeting ran late, the meal was not as warm as some members would have liked. The event wound up with a very entertaining Trivia competition organized by Dave Hutchison and Ed Nickerson.

On February 18th, a group of 40 members and guests went to see "Cabaret" at Sheridan College in Oakville. Although Sheridan chose this year to introduce a significant price increase, they also offered free parking, which helped offset the increase. The show lived up to the Sheridan reputation and "Cabaret" was an excellent production, enjoyed by all in the Probus group. Unfortunately, Sheridan had also changed the seating arrangement and the upstairs seating was less than ideal. Will avoid those in future.

Future Events scheduled or planned are:

MARCH 4th – For only \$22 Members can enjoy a buffet breakfast before the March Monthly Meeting. Breakfast will be available from 8.30 to 9.30 am and it will include: Scrambled Eggs, Crispy Bacon and Sausages, Home Fries, Pancakes and Syrup, Muffins & Croissants, a Fruit tray, Fruit juices, Tea and Coffee. A tasty Breakfast with fellow Members will make a great start to the day.

This is value for money – but you MUST sign-up by February 26th.

April 15th – A tour of the Amazon Fulfillment Centre at 8059 Heritage Road, Brampton, Ontario, L6Y 0C9 has been arranged. The tour will start at 9.30am - but Members must be there before 9.20am for registration. The cost is \$10.00 pp and, as there is no bus, car-pooling is recommended. This is a one-hour walking-tour that will take you through the operations process of what happens after a customer clicks "buy" on Amazon.com. After a 10-minute briefing the rest of the time is on foot, with one set of stairs involved. Amazon has provided guidelines "to help create the best tour experience", including rules about what can and cannot be taken on the tour and a requirement for all attendees to have a valid government issued photo ID when checking in for

the tour. Members who have signed up and paid for this tour will receive a copy of the guidelines by email before the end of May. **Cost is \$10.00pp and the Deadline for sign-up and payment is April 6th**

May ?? – A tour of the McMaster University Nuclear Reactor in Hamilton is being planned. Details will be made available as soon as possible.

June 16th – A matinee performance of Gypsy at Shaw has been booked. This includes a Coach from Oakville to Niagara on the Lake, a buffet lunch at the Queens Landing Hotel and the matinee performance of "Gypsy" at the Shaw Festival. As the coach is from our usual supplier, we can expect a very comfortable ride to and from NOTL. The buffet lunch is again at Queens Landing Hotel, and will include soup, salads, Roast Beef, and assorted desserts. Those who enjoyed the lunch for the last 2 years won't want to miss this. This musical is based on the life of Gypsy Rose Lee and Momma Rose, the ultimate stage mother. Stephen Sondheim's timeless musical allows us to follow their extraordinary story about sex, power and longing., with legendary songs such as "Let me entertain you" and "Everything's coming up roses".

The coach will leave from Oakville Place parking lot – between the Hudson's Bay Store and the QEW – at 10.30 am, arriving at 11.45am. It will also take passengers from the QL to the Theatre and stay there until the all passengers are on board after the show. The Coach driver can only drop off or pick up passengers at the above locations.

Ticket price for Coach and Theatre is \$85 pp.

Ticket price for Coach, Lunch and Theatre is \$120 pp, including gratuities and HST.

The added cost for the 13 Gold seats is \$10 pp. These are on a first come basis.

Deadline for signing up for this event is April 29th.

For more information or to reserve tickets, contact John Butler or Jim Davidson.

MEMBERSHIP – ROGER SANDERS

Four new members were welcomed to the club in recent months. They were Niten Barra, Richard Simms, John Kousik, and Peter Langham. John and Richard received their Probus pins at the February meeting.



Current club membership stands at 137.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The nomination period for the 2020-2021 Management Committee is ongoing and will close on May 31. We have received several nominations but we still require many more for the 8 positions available. We are in special need of a member with computer and internet skills to be nominated for Communications Chair with responsibility for managing the club website. The website is the key to our whole communications system and we need to continue the excellent work of Wayne Blackburn and Rick Schwartz who have developed and operated the site. We are counting on the membership to nominate our next club executive. Please send your nominations to Peter Morris at peterjmo@bell.net. Nomination forms are available at the meetings or on the club website.