



Envision: *Looking forward while recognizing the past*

Management Committee

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The President's Column

All of you will agree that we are gradually coming out of COVID restrictions and have started regular activities including travelling. However, how comfortable we feel about the current situation is a different question.

We started live club meetings in December and then had to pause in January and February and then started again from March onwards. Given that many of you are not yet comfortable coming to live meetings, we continue to have Zoom access to these meetings. It is my impression that we really enjoy meeting one another personally and hopefully it will not be necessary to provide Zoom access much longer.

Your management committee is hard at work to bring back pre-COVID level of club activities as you will read from their respective reports in this Newsletter. One of the key challenges we continue to face is finding a permanent home for our club meetings. The Oakville Trafalgar Community center where we have been meeting is not available during the summer months, mainly July and August. This is true of all community centers. Also, the facility can be booked only three months at a time. We will continue to our efforts to find a permanent home for club meetings. I would like to thank Doug Francis for all his efforts in arranging meeting locations since we have started having live meetings.

I would like to touch upon a subject which should be of importance to all of us. Our long-time member Rogers Sanders always puts together an attendance report at the end of each
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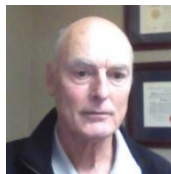
Niten Barua



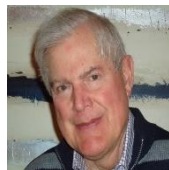
Hugh O'Neill



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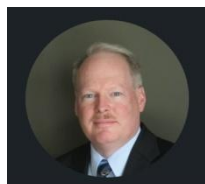
Hugo Kamerling



Jim Davidson



Rick Schwartz



Stephen McWilliam

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club meeting. In his report for June meeting, he has done an analysis and pointed out that only about 40-60 (including Zoom attendance) members have been attending in the last year. We understand some members still have reservations about coming to live meetings. However, it is important that we all make a collective effort to think about increasing meeting participation. The management committee has started discussing this issue, and welcomes your feedback on this issue.

Lastly, this is the time for renewing your membership. Hope all of you will renew your membership before the deadline date of August 30th.

Hope everyone is having a good summer and wish you all and your families all the best.

Niten Barua

President

Communications Tip

To access any of our past speakers, including a brief write-up and a link to the recording of the meeting of that date, simply:

Go to probusoldoakville.ca, then

Go to the “Speakers” tab, then

Go to “[Click here for a list of our past speakers](#)”, then

Navigate to the speaker you are interested in, and click on the red hyperlink labelled, [Click here to link to the Zoom recording](#).

Past Speakers

January: At our meeting on January 5th via Zoom, our speaker was Tim Speed, representing the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. He spoke about “The Dambusters”, the true story of [Operation Chastise](#) when the [RAF's 617 Squadron](#) attacked the [Möhne](#), [Eder](#), and [Sorpe](#) dams in [Nazi Germany](#) with [Barnes Wallis's bouncing bomb](#).

February: Our February speaker, for our meeting held February 2nd was Probus Old Oakville member, Dr. Karl O’Sullivan. Karl is a recently retired Psychiatrist, and will speak to us about “How do you define mental illness: Perspectives from over 50 years in the field.”

March: At our March meeting held March 2nd, our guest speaker was Marlis Butcher, FRCGS. Her topic was “Exploring Qausuittuq National Park In the High Arctic.”

April: Our guest speaker for our April 6th was Professor Mark Rector. His topic was the subject of a book he recently published, entitled “OH CANADA! Our Home and Inventive Land!” He reveals many inventions and inventors that are Canadian, that we may have not known or forgotten about. Very entertaining.

May: For our meeting on May 4th, our guest speaker was Dr. Parmjit Singh, PhD. He spoke on the topic of “Mindfulness for Better Health, Well-being & Joyful Living.” His talk included some audience participation in the form of exercises to begin to understand the concept of Mindfulness.

June: At our June 1st meeting, we were challenged by our guest speaker, Denise Davy, who spoke about the scourge of homelessness in Canada through her book, "Her Name Was Margaret - Life and Death on the Streets."

July: Our July 6th meeting enjoyed being regaled by stories and anecdotes from Mark Hebscher, former sports broadcaster, who was promoting his book, “The Greatest Athlete (you’ve never heard of),” about George Orton, a Canadian Olympic gold medalist.

Membership Committee

Report

We have nine new members since the December 2021 Newsletter, bringing us to 116 members.

Richard Armata has returned after sitting out during the pandemic. He worked in accounting and corporate photography.

Reiner Jaakson is another former member who has returned after the pandemic. He is a former university professor specializing in geography.

Jake Avery joined in January. He worked in management at IBM and is interested in our Dinner and Investment Groups as well as golf.

Hany Michael joined in March after a career in chemistry and chemical engineering. He has interests in golf, photography and investing.

Michael Eggers also joined in March. He worked in the chemical industry in purchasing and logistics. His interests are in golf and our Investment Club.

Wayne Hogan joined in April after a career in sales and marketing for computer firms. He is interested in our Golf Group.

Kirk Godfrey joined us in May. He is a retired teacher with interests in golf and photography.

Bruce Norman has recently joined our Club. His career was in accounting, teaching and sales and has an interest in our Investment Club.

Bill Ardell has also recently joined. He worked in management at Southam Inc. and has interests in our Dinner and Investment Clubs.

We were very sorry to hear of the passing in February 2022 of **George Hastings and Jim Tourangeau**, both enthusiastic golfers in our Wednesday group.

Our next fiscal year for our Club is coming up and it is time for returning members to send in

next year's dues. The amount of \$65.00 is the same as the previous year. Payment can be made either by cheque or Interac Transfer. Instructions for making payments are on the website (probusoldoakville.ca) under the Contact/Payment tab. It would be a great help if everyone could take care of this by the end of August.

In more normal circumstance, with "Snowbirds" away in the winter and "Cottagers" away in the summer, we normally have a turnout of a little over half the membership at our monthly meetings. Many of you will already be aware of this but we have now convened 22 monthly "Zoom" meetings since September 2020, and our already good experience, although still not like "the real thing", continues to get better each month. These meetings feature excellent speakers. In fact, our attendance is about the same percentage that it was for our normal meetings.

I just wanted to point out that with Zoom meetings, you can actually "attend" from Florida or Muskoka just as if you were sitting in your office or kitchen here in Oakville. Please contact me directly if you didn't realise how easy attending our monthly meetings can be and would like to try it out. Several of us are ready and willing to do some Zoom testing with you to make sure you are ready for our next meeting in August. If you prefer, of course, Rick Schwartz makes a "Recording" of each meeting and sends out an email to us all with a "hyperlink" to the recording. If you simply click on the hyperlink, you can see and hear the whole meeting.

We encourage all members to promote the benefits of joining Probus to their friends and acquaintances.

John Bond

Membership Committee Chair

Remember – dues for the 2022/23 year are now due. The cost remains unchanged at \$65.00. Please visit our website, www.probusoldoakville.ca, and navigate to the Contacts/Payments tab to learn how to remit your dues.



"I replace forgotten memories with stuff I make up."

Secrets to Inner Peace

If you can start the day without caffeine,

If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,

If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,

If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment ,

If you can conquer tension without medical help,

If you can relax without alcohol,

If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

Then You Are Probably

The Family Dog!

The Purpose of Probus

“Our goal is to provide Fellowship, Friendship and Fun for men and women in their retirement and semi-retirement years.

We are a volunteer-based, non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian fellowship organization with over 4,000 clubs worldwide, 255 being Canadian clubs made up of over 38,000 members. Our clubs are all about encouraging healthy minds and bodies and socializing with other retirees in the community.

In PROBUS you’ll find a wealth of new experiences and a much expanded social network. The opportunities abound in each club with awesome guest speakers, a broad range of interesting activities and social events, stimulating conversation and the chance to explore your community, Canada and the world with new friends.”

“The emphasis is that the club be simple in structure, be free of the constraints and obligations of service clubs, involve members at a minimal cost. The club is directed primarily to providing fellowship between members who are compatible with each other, and the opportunity for development of acquaintances. Clubs can be all men, all women, or combined men and women, decided usually at the first interest meeting by those attending. (The spouses of club members are often included in the club social activities).

Activities in clubs vary with each club:

- **Each club** will hold a general monthly meeting on a set day of each month.
- **The monthly Probus Club meeting** comprises of about 30 minutes of business, at which time each activity group leader will report on their activities, 30 minutes coffee break, and 60 minutes to hear a guest speaker as well as have discussion.
- **EVENTS** (between meetings): Club member visits to organizations or places, sports and social activities of every conceivable nature (examples of typical Social Events can be viewed under the [A Day in the Life](#) menu). Arising out of their membership activities there is a self-

generating goodwill, a sense of belonging, a diverse background of interests, ensuring for PROBUS a highly successful future as a firmly established part of the community. Indeed the general public often recognize that although the club itself is not involved in service work or fundraising, the persons in the PROBUS clubs, are perceived to be collectively but separately involved in a wide range of volunteer pursuits, even greater than most service clubs.

- **Club Interest Activities** - Members within each club organize their own range of ongoing activities, examples being walking, hiking, bridge and euchre, books, theatre lunch & breakfast groups, wine tasting, art appreciation and many others. The members themselves decide on the activities they choose to have and the activities they choose to participate in. A list of typical activities can be found under the [A Day in the Life](#) menu.

So as you can see, a key to success of our club is the involvement of members in organizing activity groups based on their interests, and a potential leader’s ability to motivate other members to join with him in that interest. We, at *Probus Old Oakville*, have been quite successful over the years in fulfilling the basic goal of the club; i.e. to have an excellent monthly speaker at each meeting where members can mingle and socialize. We also have strong member-interest activities including golf and the *Living Alone Group*. COVID-19 seems to have put a damper on what had been a very successful monthly dinner group, along with **bridge** and an emerging **euchre group**. The *Lunch and Pool* group was the first activity to resume with in-person meetings and attracts typically up to a dozen members each *Tuesday at Monaghan’s*.

Interest groups will always go through phases and may disappear or be re-invigorated by new members to the group. This can happen when the group leader feels that he has done all he can for the group, or when the composition of the group changes and the needs of the group then change. So because of this, it is possible that one of our current groups will either naturally dissolve, or will adapt to the changing needs of the group -

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Perhaps leadership will change and develop new approaches to members at different skill levels so that they will receive value from membership.

The vitality of Probus Old Oakville depends on members volunteering their time to both help organize, and to enjoy the various activities that members find of interest. If you wish there were

an activity offered by Probus Old Oakville that is not currently available, please let one of the **Management Committee** members know – even if you cannot lead the activity itself, as an MC member may know of someone who shares your interest and could be capable of and willing to volunteer to lead a group.

Future Speakers

August: On August 3rd, we will be hosting as our guest speaker and member speaker, our past president, Tim Douglass. He will be speaking to us about some family history – his ancestors were lighthouse keepers in the UK. Thus, his talk is entitled, “My Family and UK Lighthouses.”

September: In September, on the 7th, our guest speaker is another member, Dr. John Chattoe. You may recall that he spoke to us before COVID changed everything. Well, he has continued to learn about Virtual and Augmented Reality, and will tell us what he knows about this emerging technology.

October: On October 5th, we will hear from Catherine Soplet, the granddaughter of a veteran of WWI, Tommy Ricketts, a member of the Newfoundland Regiment and decorated with the Victoria Cross. She will speak about “My Grandfather’s Experiences in WWI.”

November: to be booked

Presidents’ Luncheon November 30th:

Our very special guest speaker will be Alan Mallory who took his family to climb Mt. Everest. He will be speaking about their experiences and challenges.

December: On December 7th, our reprise guest speaker is Susan Hyatt, CEO of Silver Sherpa, who will continue her discussions with us on “Smart Ageing: What’s Your Plan? Planning for financial health and estate problem avoidance.

Communications Update

The communications group continues to be responsible for the club’s website, its newsletter, management of our Zoom meetings and audio/visual support to our in-person meetings. At the moment, **Rick Schwartz** and **Steve McWilliam** handle all of this activity, but we could really use some help. In particular, if you have some knowledge of Microsoft Word from your past working life, you could be very helpful with the Newsletter. And if you are interested in learning something about how websites work, our current website has been established for a couple of years now, and is mostly in what we call “maintenance mode” meaning that the content is kept current, but the design work is complete. So it really is just a matter of learning how to do that maintenance activity, for which I am very happy to provide training and backup. Please contact **Rick Schwartz** if you would like to help.

Activities

The Activities area has been one in flux over the past six months. The further lockdown due to COVID during the winter caused some of the activities to pause temporarily. Here is the latest update on all of them:

Bridge Group: The Bridge Group has struggled during the last two years due to Covid 19. We had 9 teams but had to abandon our games in March 2020 when the pandemic struck. We started again in October 2021 with only 5 teams, but had to abandon that season after a few months when Covid cases surged. We are hoping to restart the group this fall, hopefully with a larger number of teams than last year. The format and rules would be like that in past years with roughly 2 games played per month until May. Games are played at one of the team's homes with an equal number of home and away games during the season. Potential players should select their own partner who could be a spouse or friend and not necessarily a Probus member. If you are interested in playing or getting more information, please contact Peter Morris at peterjmo@bell.net.

Pool and Luncheon Club: Led by St, John Blakeley is still meeting every Tuesday at noon at Monaghan's (Trafalgar across Sheridan College). Participation each week is generally 10 - 12 members, but not the same people every week. Pool has become more popular again, so usually two tables in play with 3 to 4 at each table. Nice food and a good time is had by all.

Golf: A friendly, non-competitive, fun game. Open to all members, spouses and guests. Every Wednesday morning around 8:30, we play 9 holes at the Oakville Executive Club, except on the first Wednesday of the month (the day that our monthly Probus meeting is held in the morning), when we tee-off at 2:00 p.m., and play either or both of 9 and 18 holes, depending on sign-up numbers and demand. Power carts are available. Please contact Hugo Kamerling at 416-460 0438 or email hukamerling1@gmail.com. Snacks/drinks available at the patio after the game.

Dinner Group: Monthly. After having been suspended for a couple of months, this activity will be restarting again in the 3rd week of October. Please contact Hugo Kamerling at hukamerling1@gmail.com. You can look forward to a great dinner and a fun evening. Spouses/dates welcome.

Car rally: This is actually a special event under Jim Davidson's purvue, but is included here. With sufficient interest for participation, the next car rally will be held in October. Please contact: Jim Davidson at j davidson@cfaw.ca. This rally is planned for the lovely country side in North Burlington and south of the 401. Easy routing, fun questions, and don't worry: time element is not an important factor. Family fun.

Other activities: Investment Group (continues to meet every month on the third Monday), Euchre (has not yet begun but Curt Allen is looking for expressions of interest) and LAG (Living alone Group) continues each Friday morning at 10:00am on Zoom - contact: Ron Thornbury (rthornbury32@gmail.com).

Camera Club: After a hiatus, this group is beginning to plan its next meeting. The focus will be evaluation and comparison of members photos during a nice get together. For information: Rick Schwartz /Hugo Kamerling.

For any questions, you can email me at hukamerling1@gmail.com.

Hugo Kamerling
Activities Chair

Special Events – It’s Time We All Got Together Again

Presidents’ Lunch and Probus Old Oakville 25th Anniversary.

Set your calendar for November 30, at the Oakville Golf Club. Our club with spouses and guests will finally return to our premier social event of the year, The Presidents’ Luncheon. This year it's very special, as we will also be celebrating our club’s 25th Anniversary.

We all know from experience the Oakville Golf Club is a wonderful location for an event such as this. Hopefully, by November 30th, it may also be decorated for the Christmas season. To mark our anniversary we will have special guests, we will honour our Founder and Charter Members, and duly recognize our members who have served as President over the past quarter century.

In addition, we will have a very special speaker for this event. Most of us have been through the experience of organizing the “Family Vacation”, and we all wanted these moments to be special and memorable. How about one where **THE FAMILY VACATION IS TO CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST?**



In 2008, **Alan Mallory** and his family took on the challenge and became the first family of four to set foot on the summit. It was a two-month journey filled with emotion, loyalty, boldness and terror and the experiences the team encountered during the expedition were as incredible as they were terrifying. From staggering across ladders spanning bottomless crevasses and fighting the many altitude-related sicknesses to climbing through a blizzard in the dead of night and two members of the team almost losing their lives, every segment of the climb was an exhilarating venture.

Alan is an international speaker, author and professional development trainer who is passionate about leadership and human performance. He studied engineering at Queen’s University and has worked all over the world as a mechanical engineer and project manager, but his true passion is in working with people to reach new heights in the way we think and the actions we take. Alan has always had a keen interest in discovering what drives us to do what we do and how we can use this knowledge to improve our lives and the lives of those around us.

Alan is also a college professor, avid adventurer, and outdoor enthusiast. He enjoys many different activities, but his favourite activities are those spent out in the wilderness and those that involve strategy and problem solving. He speaks English and Spanish and loves to travel the world and explore new places.

Jim Davidson, Special Events Chair

And now for The Last Word:

A nice calm and very respectable lady went into the local pharmacy, walked up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said,

"I'd like to buy some cyanide."

The pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?"

The lady replied, "I need it to poison my husband."

The pharmacist's eyes got big and he explained, "I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband, that's against the law! I'll lose my license! They'll throw both of us in jail! All kinds of bad things will happen. Absolutely not! You CANNOT have any cyanide!"

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife.

The pharmacist looked at the picture and said, "You didn't tell me you had a prescription."

Submitted by *Tony Last*

The End