



Envision: *Looking forward while recognizing the past*

Management Committee

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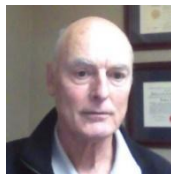
Niten Barua



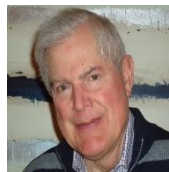
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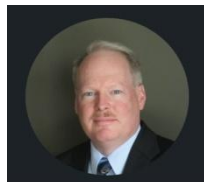
Hugo Kamerling



Jim Davidson



Rick Schwartz



Stephen McWilliam

The President's Column

Another year is coming to an end. Last year at this time, we were under strict Covid restrictions. We could hardly meet people in person, not even during Christmas. Despite a slow vaccine rollout, the infection rate gradually came down with the increase in vaccination rate. Finally, we could start meeting some people again towards the end of the summer when some restrictions were lifted. Then after Thanksgiving in mid-October, restrictions were almost completely lifted. As such, we had our first live meeting in December, which we all thought went very well. This was the third in-person club meeting for me. It was nice to see and meet other members. As you will read in the activities report, we continued with several activities through Zoom, despite all the restrictions and started several live club activities (Golf, dinner club and pool group) as restrictions were eased. Golf remains very popular. Dinner group was well attended on the last three occasions. Furthermore, the special events committee has been planning activities for 2022. Our membership number remains very strong. In fact, 8 new members joined our club last year. We are still in the process of finding a permanent location for club meetings and we intend to make a decision in the coming year.

Recently, the world has come to know about the new COVID strain, "Omicron". Data suggests that this strain is more contagious than prior variants but it appears to be less severe than the Delta variant. As a result, the infection rate has been going up significantly.

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However, the good news is that the increase in ICU admissions has been proportionately much lower than the rate of increase in infections. Furthermore, based on initial data, the booster dose provides additional protection against this variant. Another positive development is that Ontario has moved up the date to get a booster dose for all age groups and it is expected that all eligible people should get their booster dose within about two months. As such, it is reasonable to expect that the infection rate will decrease in a relatively short time and the ICU admission rate will remain manageable.

I am optimistic that the recent resurgence in Covid infections, as a result of the Omicron strain, will either subside in the near future, or the situation will not be that dire and we will be able to return to our normal day-to-day activities soon. Nonetheless, the management committee has decided to go back to Zoom meetings for January and we will continue to monitor the situation.

We have an extremely dedicated group of people on the Management Team who are keen to ensure that the club is functioning well, and the Club meets the expectation of its members. I am grateful to each of the management committee members for their support and dedication. We will continue to do our best to ensure that our club remains vibrant and successful.

My best wishes to you, your family members, and friends. Enjoy the holiday season and New Year's celebrations and, hopefully, we can return to a more normal time of "Fellowship, Friendship and Fun" in 2022.

Niten Barua
President

January Speaker

At our meeting on January 5th via Zoom, our speaker will be Tim Speed, representing the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. He will speak 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 Speaker

Our February speaker, for our meeting to be held February 2nd or 3rd (to be determined) will be Denise Davy, who will speak to us about the content of her latest book, "Her Name Was Margaret," which deals with the situation of homelessness.

March Speaker

At our March meeting (the 2nd or 3rd, to be determined), our speaker will be Probus Old Oakville member, Dr. Karl O'Sullivan. Karl is recently retired Psychiatrist, and will speak to us about "How do you define mental illness: Perspectives from over 50 years in the field."

"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it." - Henry Ford

Membership Committee

Report

After 22 months of pandemic restrictions, our Club is strong and healthy and has a roster of 111 members. An updated membership list will be sent to all members in December.

The rollout of Covid-19 vaccines in our community brings optimism of a return to in-person meetings, interest clubs and special events, although as mentioned in The President's Column, all in-person activities are on hold at least for January.

We have two new members since the September Newsletter. **Ian Howard** joined in September 2021. His sponsor is John McLaren. Ian worked as a consultant for startup companies and was a music disc distributor. He is very interested in Bowls. A Club activity he hopes to join is the Dinner Club. Secondly, **John Jervis** joined in November. He worked at the Labatt Brewery and is interested in our Pool/Lunch, Dinner Group and LAG Group.

With the promise of in-person meetings, the following previous members have rejoined after a few months' sabbatical: **Richard Armata, Mark Cox, Bill Harris, Peter Langham and Paul O'Brian**.

We were sorry to hear of the passing in November 2021 of **Hendrik Bykerk**, a member of our Club for the past 16 years.

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 16 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 July. 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



Activities

On December 8, just before the present outbreak of Omicron, The Dinner Group got together for its annual special Christmas dinner. A total of 26 attendees enjoyed a lovely dinner at Piatto Restaurant on Dundas Street near Mississauga Road. Further Dinner Group Activities have been canceled for the coming weeks until Omicron is brought under control. The guidance of the Ontario government will be followed as we decide when and how to resume.

Also, all other current live activities have been cancelled for the moment. These are the Tuesday Luncheon and Pool Group, and the Bridge Group.

An update will be circulated, as soon as more news becomes available.

Looking a bit ahead to the middle of April, our Probusters golf season will start again. Please contact me at the email address below if you are interested in joining our weekly golf outing at The Oakville Executive Club Every Wednesday morning, 9 holes will be played. Golf is open to all members and spouses/partners. Anybody who already played last year does not have to contact me.

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

Hugo Kamerling
Activities Chair



Special Events

Provided here is a listing of Special Events past, and potentially future, as a review to elicit good memories as well as providing those events that your SEC has identified for future events. We are presently restricted from committing to an event, particularly, but not limited, to financial commitments, until such time as we can safely plan and execute on agreed-to events.

Please take a look at the list that many of you have had the opportunity to enjoy in the past and hopefully again in the not too distant future.

- Presidents' Luncheons
- Muskoka Steamer Trip
- McMaster Nuclear Plant Visit
- Shaw Festival in Niagara On The Lake
- Lexus Plant Tour – Cambridge
- Sheridan College Live Plays
- Car Rallies
- Blue Jays Games

In addition to the above, we are also looking at some of the following events for consideration:

- Amazon Distribution Facility
- Region of Halton Water Plant
- Honda Motors Plant Tour – Alliston
- Independent Electricity System Operator – Oakville

Please stay safe and well and as soon as we can safely provide more special events you will be advised.

Jim Davidson, Special Events Committee Chair

Communications

This fall we were able to attract a volunteer to help with the communications function: **Stephen McWilliam**. He has already become a significant contributor, organizing the monthly Probus Zoom meetings, and providing technical support to the speaker at our December live meeting.

On another front, Rick has been busy updating the probusoldoakville.ca website. Please go take a look – new photos on the home page, and the speakers page has been updated to include all that are known for the coming year, as well as write-ups on the last twelve speakers for 2021. In addition, a new feature is that the recording of each meeting has now been transferred to a non-public area of YouTube, and, at the top of the write-up for each speaker, there is a link to that recording of the meeting. Please give it a try – go to probusoldoakville.ca, click on the “Speakers” tab, and then click on “[Click here for a list of our past speakers.](#)” For each of our meetings, you will be able to click on red text “[Click here to view the Zoom recording](#)” to launch a video recording of the meeting, including the speaker.

Rick Schwartz, Communications Director

And now for a bit of humour:

At this time of good cheer and increased consideration of one's fellow man.....

A couple is in bed sleeping when there's a rat-a-tat-tat on the door.

The husband rolls over and looks at the clock, and it's half past 3 in the morning. I'm not getting out of bed at this time," he thinks, and rolls over. Then, a louder knock follows. So he drags himself out of bed, goes downstairs, opens the door, and there's a man standing there. It didn't take the homeowner long to realize the man was drunk.

"Hi there," slurs the stranger, "Can you give me a push?"

"No, get lost. It's half past three and I was in bed," says the man as he slams the door. He goes back up to bed, tells his wife what happened and she says, "That wasn't very nice of you. Remember that night we broke down in the pouring rain on the way to pick the kids up from the baby-sitter and you had to knock on that man's house to get us started again? What would have happened if he'd told us to get lost?"

"But the guy was drunk," says the husband.

"It doesn't matter," says the wife. "He needs our help and it would be the Christian thing to help him." So the husband gets out of bed again, gets dressed, and goes downstairs.

He opens the door, and not being able to see the stranger anywhere, he shouts, "Hey, do you still want a push?"

And he hears a voice cry out, "Yeah, please."

So, still being unable to see the stranger he shouts, "Where are you?"

The drunk replies, "Over here, on the swing."

Submitted by Alan Ellis.

Mask Guidance from Public Health Canada

- Consider the different types of masks available for public use:
 - non-medical masks
 - medical masks
 - respirators
- Choose a mask that's clean, dry and damage free.
- Choose a mask that fits well and fully covers your nose, mouth and chin.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before and after touching or removing a mask.
- Use the ties, bands or ear loops to put on and take off your mask.
- Improve the fit of your mask by:
 - adjusting the flexible nosepiece
 - adjusting the ear loops, ties or bands so that the mask fits snugly against your face
- **If wearing a non-medical mask, choose one that's made of multiple breathable layers, including:**

- at least 2 layers of tightly woven fabric and
- a third middle filter layer
- Keep your mask on except when:
 - eating or drinking
 - communicating with someone who is hard of hearing or who reads lips
- If you have to remove your mask:
 - put it back on as soon as possible
 - ensure other measures are in place, such as:
 - physical distancing
 - choosing a well-ventilated or outdoor space to communicate in
- Store your mask in a clean paper or cloth bag if you plan to wear it again.
- Change your mask when it's dirty, damp or damaged, and keep it out of reach of others.
 - Store soiled reusable non-medical masks in a waterproof bag or container until they can be cleaned.
- Wash reusable non-medical masks (in a washing machine or by hand) with hot, soapy water, and dry completely before wearing again.

Throw dirty, damp or damaged disposable masks and used filters in the garbage or use a mask recycling program if one is available.

October Guest Speaker

David T. Chapman, photographer and speaker



Storm Chasing in Ontario

David T. Chapman started doing

photography at the age of 16. He is self-taught in the art of photography and has been pursuing his career professionally since the age of eighteen. He learned at a very young age from his father to appreciate his environment in the surrounding countryside. He enjoys taking photographs of weather phenomena, especially lightning, as well as scenery and nature. David likes to seek out unusual examples of nature such as albino robins, ice crystal formations and frozen water droplets. To date he has found multi-petalled Ontario trilliums, the highest of which had 33 petals.

David is also a professional speaker and enjoys entertaining and educating a good crowd. His main areas of expertise are Weather/Aurora Borealis, Local interests and Ontario: the Scenery, Birds and Wildlife of Ontario.

David spoke to us about “Storm Chasing in Ontario” although really what we received was a lesson on all kinds of cloud and weather phenomena as they tend to occur in the Niagara and GTA regions. His work really began to take off around 2010 when it became much easier to find storms using smartphones. Prior to that they used AM radios to try to assess the static level generated by lightning.

Our speaker presented us with an amazing array of photos and videos of weather phenomena he has observed in the GTA and Niagara Peninsula. You are encouraged to go to our website (<http://probusoldoakville.ca>) for a more complete write-up, as well as a link to a recording of the October meeting. Click on the link to past speakers under the “Speakers” tab on the site.

November Guest Speaker



**Dr. Lloyd
McCoomb, B.A.Sc,
M.S., PhD, Civil
Engineering,
retired CEO,
Greater Toronto
Airports Authority,
and member,**

Probus Club of Old Oakville

"Lessons from a Mega-Project: The Toronto-Pearson Project (1998 - 2008)"

In December of 1996, the Federal Government turned over the keys to the airport to a private sector corporation set up to take the development and operation to the next level. At the first board meeting for the new organization (and Lloyd suggested any of us with our business backgrounds could have been members of the board), work began to create a Vision for Pearson.

They began by looking at the Problem: Growth and Obsolescence. They had inherited Terminals 1, 2 and 3 (with some constraints – Terminal 3

was a build and operate consortium, Terminal 1 was falling down and Terminal 2 was limited by a 20 year lease to Air Canada) with a capacity of 28m passengers per year, growing at 1 million per year on a 1996 base of 25m. Terminal 2 had been built as a stop-gap pending decisions around the Pickering site, and was not a high-quality solution. Plus, there was an amazingly convoluted road system that needed to be addressed.

Initial concepts began with an incremental approach – “connect the dots” – to join Terminals 2 and 3. This was a relatively cheap approach, but doesn’t solve all the problems that needed addressing. The board decided to begin by asking what would a new airport look like if you tried to do what’s right. This included creating a rewarding journey for travelers, communities and the project team; building an airport that would serve, satisfy and delight; and becoming a welcoming gateway which would symbolize Southern Ontario and Canada. The thought behind this work is that “Visions Motivate”.

With this direction set, Lloyd and his team set about designing and building the airport we have today. Please take a look under the “Speakers” tab of our website (probusoldoakville.ca) and click on the link to past speakers for a fuller write-up of his presentation, along with a link to the recording of the meeting.



December Guest Speaker



**Susan Hyatt, BSc
(PT), MBA, CEO &
Co-founder of
Silver Sherpa**

Susan is passionate about changing the way we look at ageing and is determined to empower her clients with innovative ways to embrace the longevity revolution.

As an entrepreneur in her third retirement, Susan draws on more than 40 years of experience as a corporate strategist, management consultant, business executive, teacher, expert in transforming health care systems, dealmaker, and clinical physical therapist. Known for her pragmatic common-sense approach, she is widely quoted on smart ageing, eldercare, and estate planning issues.

Smart Ageing: Living Well on Your Own Terms

It all began with Susan's own personal crisis sparked by having to relocate her parents in Ontario while working in England. In her experience, there was no overall project manager to help her get the job done. Thus, that is the role that Silver Sherpa fills – it is a management consultant that assists and empowers you on your ageing journey from now until you die.

Key to their offering are the concepts Plan, Navigate and Connect. They combine health care expertise, estate planning knowledge and project management skills. Planning is the key, because without a plan, all you are doing is hoping. 17% of the population is currently 65 or older, while in ten years the number will be 22%. And during this decade there is estimated to be \$250 billion in wealth transfer. Of that group, it is estimated that 15% would be in the Special Needs category. Susan observed that it is difficult to manage care and associated transitions later in life. Your

nominated Attorneys for Personal Care may not be prepared or able to act for you.

Overlaying all of these challenges are the unique ones brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic – how do you stay safe? Susan shared a model that involves multiple layers to improve success at managing COVID risk. Included are physical distancing/staying at home if sick, masks, hand & cough hygiene, avoiding touching your face, if in a crowded space limit time there, fast and sensitive testing and tracing, ventilation/filtration/outdoor activity, government messaging and financial support, quarantine and isolation and ultimately vaccines.

Back to Smart Ageing, a crisis can trigger a situation where an individual feels like they are in a maze: Health and Medical care, the community, retirement living options (where?), financial and legal advisors, family and friends, home care and other elements, all of which are elements that may affect you during your crisis. Needless to say, navigating all of these by yourself while in crisis will be next to impossible.

What will often happen in this kind of environment, where time is of the essence, many stressful decisions must be made, expert knowledge must be accessed, and money issues need to be sorted out: the kids will get the call. And likely they have not been prepared to address all of these issues either.

At this point time ran out, and some good questions were posed and answered. One topic of questioning was what types of things are Silver Sherpa's Oakville clients interested in? It turns out that a fast-growing area for consultation is the whole area of "Smart Travel." With travel rules changing as rapidly as they have been in recent weeks, just knowing what you need to know is difficult to stay on top of. They feel they can add value to this area for their clients by knowing the rules and researching for their clients the absolute latest as travel plans are made.

It was clear that there is a lot of interest, and Susan has been booked to address us again next November. Go to probusoldoakville.ca for more information and a link to the recording.

The Last Word

Submitted by Tony Last

There was a blonde with the glorious name of Candi. She had long, blonde hair, blue eyes and she was sick of all the blonde jokes. So one day, she decided to get a makeover, so she cut and dyed her hair. She also went out and bought a new convertible. With her new car, she went driving down a country road and came across a large herd of sheep in a field. She stopped and called the shepherd over.

"That's a nice flock of sheep" she said.

"Well thank you" said the herder.

"Tell you what.... I have a proposition for you." said the woman.

"Okay," replied the herder.

"If I can guess the exact number of sheep in your flock, can I take one home?"

"Sure."

So, the girl looked at the flock, surveying it from left to right for about ten seconds and then replied, "382".

"Wow!" said the herder, "That's amazing. You're exactly right. Go ahead and pick out the sheep you want to take home."

So the woman went and picked one out and put it in her car.

The herder watched this and then said to her, "OK now I have a proposition for you".

"What's that?" she asked.

"If I can guess the real colour of your hair , can I have my dog back?"

The End