



June 2021

Envision: *Looking forward while recognizing the past*

Management Committee

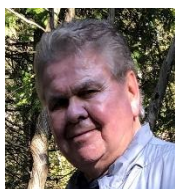
President: <i>Hugh O'Neill</i>	905-849-6391
Past-President: <i>Curt Allen</i>	416-705-3632
Vice-President and Chair Fellowship Committee: <i>Gordon Stovel</i>	
Secretary: <i>Don Kirkwood</i>	905-335-4463
Assistant Secretary: <i>Niten Barua</i>	905-845-1734
Treasurer: <i>Doug Francis</i>	416-804-1267
Chair, Membership: <i>John Bond</i>	905-844-0670
Chair, Speakers: <i>Alan Ellis</i>	905-844-3564
Chair, Activities: <i>Hugo Kamerling</i>	416-518-1827
Chair, Special Events: <i>Jim Davidson</i>	905-847-2806
Director, Communications & Website: <i>Rick Schwartz</i>	416-709-9259
	905-842-6869



Hugh O'Neill



Curt Allen



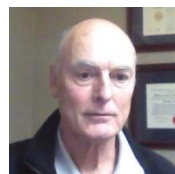
Gord Stovel



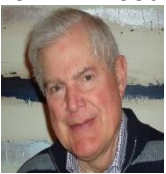
Don Kirkwood



Niten Barua



Doug Francis



John Bond



Alan Ellis



Hugo Kamerling



Jim Davidson



Rick Schwartz

The President's Column

What a wonderful Spring in Oakville with the promise of a summer just as good. A few members of the club have taken full advantage of the weather thanks to Hugo Kamerling and his successful golf outings. Thanks also to Jim Davidson and Ed Nickerson who arranged another car rally. The rest of us are still limited to virtual meetings. When will we be able to get together for meetings, pool, bridge, lawn bowling and going on trips? I would estimate November unless there is a disaster such as the appearance of a vaccine resistant variant. Incidentally, that is the month of our twenty fifth anniversary. Wouldn't it be nice to reopen with a massive party?

The management committee (MC) has turned its attention to the start of another Probus year starting in September. Our first and most important issue is to identify a meeting place. Commercial organizations are currently unable to make commitments because of an uncertain future. Curt Allen is working hard to identify a place with a good atmosphere that will provide us with the catering we require. At present we are sure of only one thing; it will cost much more than the pre-pandemic prices. For this reason, our Treasurer and the MC decided to increase our fees by a modest amount compared to 2020/21. The annual fee is now set at \$65. Central to our success will be the number of members who rejoin. Many of the MC will continue with their work. Knowing them, as I do now, the management and organization will be excellent. Early payment of dues will inform their work so, please, rejoin early.

Some of you may be curious about the proposed amalgamation of the two south Oakville Probus Clubs. Interestingly, our club of "Old Oakville" was an offshoot of Probus Oakville some 25 years ago.

The President's Column contd.

There were too many members for a single meeting hall. I was in constant discussions with the President of Probus Oakville with whom I formed a very good relationship. As time went on, we decided that the negotiation teams were identifying as many problems as solutions. Therefore, we decided to put off further discussions until 2022 when both clubs could review the post pandemic realities. This was ratified by your MC at the last meeting.

Looking at the membership list it appears we have attracted about five new members annually over the past five years. Already we have attracted five high quality members this year. To me, this means there is still a need for Probus in Oakville, and we are attractive to friendly, retired, business and professional men.

This is my last newsletter and I wish to thank those of you who helped me, with friendship, in the service of all members. Personally, it has been a bit of a challenge. Like most of you I am in Probus seeking like-minded men with whom to socialise. Lockdowns, restrictions and personal pathology have precluded meeting anyone new. I wish you all well and hope to see some of you next year,

Hugh John O'Neill, President

Report from the Past President

Next Management Committee 2021-2022

It is safe to assume that we will return to in person meetings in the very near future and we will back to our normal meeting process. Hence it is time to organize the next management committee. Early indications are that several current management committee members would like to stay on which is awesome and very much appreciated!

As the position of President is limited to one term, our Club needs to identify a candidate who would take on this important responsibility. Therefore, we are seeking is your assistance. Kindly please make any suggestions directly to me. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Next Monthly Meeting Place

Further to the updates given at recent monthly virtual meetings, I have had discussions with the Oakville Club about a possible return. While they have not said yes or no at this point, I have been advised to call back when the club opens to groups of 50 or more. This will be done and you will be kept in the loop. Discussion has also been held with the Holiday Inn and thus far they have been non-committal. Based on feedback from members at the monthly meetings, I have sensed that a return to the Oakville Club would be very welcome. In any event, discussion with potential locations has revealed that we should expect to pay increased prices.

Volunteers in General

Just a few thoughts about finding volunteers to help with some of the heavier management team functions. The membership, speaker and special events roles work best with a few volunteers to pitch in and make the load lighter and have some fun meeting and working together. Should anyone wish to pitch in on these teams please let me know.

Curt Allen, Past President

Membership Committee Report

After 16 months of pandemic restrictions, our Club is strong and healthy and has a roster of 115 members. An updated membership list was sent to all members in mid-June.

We also sent out our Notice of Membership Renewal. It is vital for us to confirm our membership roster by the end of July for the start of the next fiscal year, and we ask that you send in your fee by cheque or Interac as soon as possible.

The rollout of Covid-19 vaccines in our community brings optimism of a return to in-person meetings, interest clubs and special events later in 2021.

We have one new member, **William Landry**, who joined in May 2021. His sponsor is Jim Davidson. Bill has retired from a career in costing, corporate security and data centre operations. He loves chess and world travel, and when operating again, he is a candidate for our Dinner Club.

We were sorry to hear of the passing in early March 2021 of **Bill Barnes**, a Charter member of our Club for the past 25 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 10 monthly “Zoom” meetings since September and our already good experience, although still not like “the real thing”, continues to get better each month and we have 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.

As a separate issue, we do like to recognize birthdays at our monthly meetings and someone usually lets us know if he is aware of any of our members’ birthdays but I note that our records really should include our birthdates but somehow have been missed out. A couple of years ago we amended our membership application form to include this information, but our legacy records have not been updated and I would be grateful if all of you who joined before 2019 would be kind enough to send me an email

johnlynda@cogeco.ca with your birthdate so we can make sure we don’t miss anyone going forward. If any of you are aware of any members who don’t use email much and are aware of that member’s birthdate, please don’t hesitate to step in and help out by sending me the information.

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

John Bond
Membership Committee Chair

Social Events Committee Report

During this past year dominated by COVID restrictions, we did manage to host a Car Rally in October enjoyed by 24 people and we are running another one on the 29th of June this year with hopefully a similar number of participants.

As we approach this pandemic ending, you are reminded of some of our past events enjoyed by many members and as a committee we are anxiously looking forward to getting back together with more events going forward.

Past events include visits to:

Live plays at Sheridan College
Shaw Festival at Niagara On The Lake
McMaster Nuclear reactor
Elora & Hydro Electric Plant
Presidents Club Luncheon’s with
special guest speakers
Baseball Games
Christmas Luncheon’
Member Breakfasts
Golf Tournaments
Distribution Centres i.e. Amazon

Looking forward to more and better future events

Jim Davidson
Special Events Committee Chair

Activities Committee Report

Camera Club: Group leader: Ron Thornbury

The next meeting of the Club will be on July 23rd. At each of the meetings the emphasis is on the images created by each member. Each member then presents the CC with reasons **Why** they took the shot, and **How** they took it. During and following each presentation, members discuss what has been shown, and then a project is assigned to complete for the next meeting.

LAG - Group Leader: Ron Thornbury

The group continues to meet via ZOOM every Friday morning, with each member making contributions which is then followed by jovial and lively discussion on various topics. Before departing, LAG enjoys the tale-telling of Tony Last, and so we leave each meeting smiling, according to the rituals of theatre! The group will continue to meet each week and look forward to once again meeting each Friday at Mo's Family Restaurant.

Activities Committee Report Cont'd

Lunch and Pool Group: Group leader: St. John Blakeley

About half the group signed up for Zoom meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. If anyone else would like to receive the invitation please contact St. John at stjohn.blakeley@sympatico.ca. Hopefully live meetings will commence again in September/October, when such meetings will be allowed because of the Covid situation.

Investment Club: Group leaders Brendan Barnet and John Vipond

At present 16 members meeting monthly via zoom. Trying to beat the stock market is fun and a challenge. No real money is used, but good discussions about (paper) investments/portfolios are interesting and may be helpful in developing your own private portfolio. Please contact one of the two group leaders for more information.

Golf Club: Group leader: Hugo Kamerling

Although most activities of our Probus Club temporarily are taking place via zoom meetings, because of Covid restrictions golf, at present is the only "live" activity of our Club, besides the car rally which took place on June 28. Weekly Wednesday morning golf games for members and spouses (with incidental guests) are organized at The Oakville Executive Club: all games commence at 08.20 a.m. at the 9-hole Angel's View course, with foursomes teeing off at 10-minute intervals. The only exception is the first Wednesday of the month, when tee-offs will start at 2,00 p.m., because of the regular monthly Probus meeting during the morning of that day. Average participation is approx. 20 -23 players at present, but additional players are very welcome. After a relaxed game, there will be time for socializing at the recently re-opened patio of the club, with coffee/drinks and snacks. A good time to meet some of your other Probus members again.

For further information, please contact Hugo Kamerling at hukamerling1@gmail.com

The following activities have been temporarily suspended because of the present Covid situation, since in person live contact will be required.

Hopefully, reactivating during the coming months will be possible.

Dinner Club - Group leader: Hugo Kamerling
Euchre Club - Group leader: Curt Allen
Lawn Bowling. - Group leader: Mark Cox
Mixed Bridge Club - Group leader: Peter Morris
To be redeveloped: Cribbage Group and Discussion Group

Last but not least, a very big "Thank you" to Rick Schwartz, who also as Communications & Webmaster, is kept more than busy with organizing the zoom meetings for all our Club activities. We could not have done this without assistance.

Hugo Kamerling Activities Committee Chair



Some photos: Compliments of Hugo Kamerling, taken at Oakville Executive Golf Course

Now for some Humor: Compliments of Ivor Mansell

1. I dialled a number and got the following recording: "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes".
2. Man comes home, finds his wife with his friend in bed and shoots his friend dead. Wife says "If you continue to behave like this, you will lose ALL your friends"!
3. My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.
4. Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.
5. The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.
6. I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.
7. What's the difference between stress, tension and panic? Stress is when your wife is pregnant, Tension is when girlfriend is pregnant, and Panic is when both are pregnant.
8. Teacher: Do you know the importance of a period?
Kid: Yeah, once my sister said she has missed one, my mom fainted, dad got a heart attack & our gardener ran away.
9. A woman asks a man who is travelling with six children, are all these kids yours?" The man replies, "No, I work in a condom factory and these are customer complaints".
10. A young boy asks his Dad, "What is the difference between confident and confidential? Dad says, "You are my son, I'm confident about that. Your friend over there, is also my son, that's confidential."
11. Nominated as the best short joke this year...
A three-year-old boy was examining his testicles while taking a bath. "Mom" he asked, "are these my brains?" "Not yet," she replied.

Request from Allan Elis

As thoughts and plans turn to the Speaker's schedule for 2022, we would like to invite our members to: a): notify us of any speakers that they have seen and/or are aware of that would be of interest to the club; and b): now that we will be live, to personally consider to offer to present to the club. For club members, this latter category would include a 45 minute + 15 Q&A presentations as well reinstating the shorter - 10 minute + 5 Q&A - info/fun talk. Please let us know which category of presentation you would like to present together with topic.

April Guest Speaker

Rabbi Stephen Wise, Shaarei-Beth El Congregation of Oakville



The Challenges of Judaism in the 21st Century

Rabbi Stephen Wise is the spiritual leader of Shaarei-Beth El (SBE) Congregation of Oakville. He is excited to be part of a congregation as diverse, storied and unique as SBE; leading meaningful worship experiences for all, teaching thought provoking courses for adults and children, providing inspiring programming and being a catalyst for social activism.

This month we tried out a new format, wherein rather than having a prepared presentation, our speaker was "interviewed" by member Gord Stovel, to draw out thoughts and comments that relate to the topic. Gord began by asking the Rabbi what he thought about the differences between Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Rabbi Wise began with the similarities - they are all monotheistic religions (believe in one God), have a core text (Torah, Old and New Testaments, and the Koran, respectively), include group prayer to God and have core values that are similar. Differences typically relate to who each recognize as prophets.

Gord asked Rabbi Wise if he has ever been confronted by the need to identify as a Jew, what situations that might have occurred in and how he handled it and how it made him feel. The Rabbi described small acts of anti-Semitism that occur frequently, and some larger cases he remembers when he was a student at a private Jewish school in Toronto, when playing sports against teams from other non-Jewish private schools. His experiences have grown into his role consulting with schools in the area when acts of hate against other religions need to be addressed. He noted that he has never felt in any particular danger in Canada, but related a situation where he was in Denmark for several months and was advised to not be identifiably Jewish, particularly in terms of wearing his kipa, which he normally does. In that case, though, the difficulty in the country appears to have arisen in the immigrant Muslim community.

Gord led the discussion on through a description of the major Jewish holidays and how they are celebrated. They then moved on to the issue of territorial disputes and the armed conflict that has arisen as a result - Christians, Jews and Arab Muslims have lived in the territory now known as Israel for thousands of years, so in Rabbi Wise's view, conflict will occur although the goal is obviously some kind of peaceful co-existence.

The Rabbi concluded by indicating his pride in his faith and fellow Jews who "punch above their weight" particularly in fields such as medicine, the law, finance and creative arts (e.g. movie making, including writing, producing, directing and acting).

One member asked the Rabbi for his comments on the movie "Unorthodox". His opinion was that it was good, but that anyone who does watch it should also watch a few episodes of "Shtisel" to get a more balanced view on the lives of Orthodox Jews.

Before joining SBE in 2007, Rabbi Wise spent two years as the assistant Rabbi at Temple Beth El in Boca Raton, FL. Rabbi Wise was ordained from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in May of 2005, has a BA from the University of Toronto and an MA from Brandeis University. Rabbi Wise is the chair of the Interfaith Council of Halton, a member of the Reform Rabbis of Greater Toronto, and a member of the Halton Police Service multi-faith taskforce. Rabbi Wise is an author and speaker on Israel and her role in Tikkun Olam, with his first book "Israel: Repairing the World".

Rabbi Wise and his wife Cheryl, the director of Education at SBE, have 3 children, Jacob, Talia and Alexa.

May Guest Speaker

Hassaan Basit, President & CEO Conservation Halton



Conservation Work in Halton

Hassaan joined Conservation Halton in 2004 and held progressively responsible leadership positions. Hassaan spent the past 4 years developing and implementing the current strategic plan called “Metamorphosis”. The implementation of this plan has led to a significant improvement of the organization in all target areas.

The Ontario government decided to form local Conservation Authorities after Hurricane Hazel. It was considered that local administration and management of issues like flooding, soil erosion, deforestation etc. would be more effective than being managed by the provincial government from a central location. Halton Conservation is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario. It was formed in 1963 as a result of amalgamation of authorities 12 mile & 16 mile creek. The board of directors for this authority is comprised of elected municipal representatives from various local municipalities and citizen appointees.

Managing public safety due to environmental hazards such as flooding and soil erosion as a result of climate change is a primary responsibility for the organization. The other major focus area is meeting increased demands for nature and parks as a result of continued population growth. A few years back the Halton Conservation Authority (HCA) realized that the organization needed to revitalize and modernize in order to meet growing demands, increase efficiency and attain long term sustainability. Therefore, four years ago a strategic plan was developed.

The four-year strategic plan objectives have been completed now and it is entering into the next phase. The priorities for the current planning period are: Natural Hazards and Water, Conservation and Restoration, Educational Empowerment (school children or outreach events) and Engagement, Nature and Parks, Organizational Sustainability, Digital Transformation and Innovation, People and Talent. The authority continues to make progress in all the areas. Of note, HCA now manages four dams under its responsibility digitally. Similarly, visitors now can make reservation for park visits on line.

HCA has organized some special events, such as: Hops and Harvest Festival: An annual festival to bring together local breweries, food and nature. Last winter as a result of COVID, HCA organized an immensely popular special event called “Winterlit” at Mountsberg where the park was illuminated with little lights so that people can walk around.

A very significant of achievement of HCA is that the management of parks is not tax payer funded. It is completely self-funded from user fees. HCA is responsible for managing the following parks:

1. Crawford Lake
2. Mountsberg
3. Robert Edmonson
4. Hilton Falls
5. Kelso/Glen Eden
6. Rattlesnake Point
7. Mount Nemo

June Guest Speaker

Professor Tony Tarantini, Sheridan College



Bachelor Animation Program at Sheridan

The current Bachelor of Arts Honors Animation Program at Sheridan has evolved through four stages: it started in 1968 just as courses, became a 3-year diploma program in early 70's, then some international courses were added and in 2004 became a 4-year Honors Bachelor program in animation. Faculty members are both full and part time and most of them have industry experience. The program recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The program is practice/production based to develop a unique and innovative professional to meet the constantly changing needs of the industry. Being a college program, everything is application based. The objective of the program is to provide education and practical training in order to develop specialized generalists who are then able to recontextualize their skills in many industries and creative platforms. There are a number of different options for specializations. In addition there are programs outside of the Bachelor program.

The students are expected to understand the total animation process and at the same time they specialize in a particular area. The program organizes an industry day annually so that potential employers can meet graduating students for possible recruitment. The invitation to the annual industry day includes a short film highlighting work of students. This way employers will have some initial idea of the capabilities of potential recruits.

Sheridan was named top Animation School in world in 2019 according to Animation Career Review's 2019 ranking of top international colleges excluding US. A large number of Sheridan's graduates work in the film industry in Los Angeles and they are very successful. They have produced some very interesting and creative films. Many of them have been either nominated or received various awards in different film festivals.

Professor Tony Tarantini considers teaching to be his raison d'être. He has taught a wealth of animation and visual arts courses and workshops. His areas of animation expertise are: animation production, directing, storyboarding, layout, design, and art direction. He believes in helping students develop a vision of their creative identity and instill in them a belief that they can access their potential and realize it.

He has been teaching at Sheridan College since the year 2000 and is currently the third year Layout and Art Direction teacher, Student Advisor, and Mentor to four production teams. In addition, he is the Animation Industry Day Coordinator for the Sheridan College exciting year end event where animation graduates from both the BA Program and three other certificate programs showcase their talents to an International Animation Industry.

Tony is a veteran of the animation industry with more than 20 years of creative and management experience. He has worked in many areas of animation production. He has contributed to features and animated TV series: Magi-Nation, Redwall, Timothy ,Ewoks, Beetlejuice, American Tail, Dog City, Rupert, Tales From The Cryptkeeper, Eek the Cat, Neverending Story, Blazing Dragons, Sam and Max, Ace Ventura, Pippi Longstocking and award winning animation productions that have had international recognition like the Care Bears, Little Bear, Babar, George shrinks, The Magic School Bus, Franklin and the award winning short film "Tomboy".

Tony holds an MA from York University (Toronto, CA) where he researched the effects of digital technology on the Greater Toronto Area Animation Community (GTAAC). He is also a graduate from the Ontario College of Art & Design University (Toronto, CA). He is fluent in Italian and studied painting, drawing, and art history for two years in Florence, Italy, a place he frequents regularly and where he teaches often. He is a veteran motivational speaker and lecturer with credits that include, Ottawa International Animation Festival (Ottawa, Canada), Communication University of China (Beijing, China), Nemo Academy (Florence, Italy).