



THE PROBUS CLUB OF OAKVILLE

Established in 1988, The Fifth Probud Club in Canada
www.oakvilleprobus.com



November 18, 2021 - Zoom and IN-Person Meeting Meeting begins at 10:00 AM. Speaker at 10:30 AM at **Trafalgar Park Community Centre – 133 Rebecca Street, Oakville – New Home of the Probud Club of Oakville**

Ian Hamilton – Author



At the start of the 1980s, China sits on the precipice of a new era of economic growth and prosperity, but not everyone is welcoming it.

This exciting and tumultuous time is the setting for best-selling author **Ian Hamilton's** new book in his Uncle series, *Foresight: The Lost Decades of Uncle Chow Tung* (House of Anansi). Already a beloved character in Hamilton's celebrated Ava Lee series of books, this novel marks the second in a new series telling Uncle's story.

When Premier Deng Xiaoping begins creating Special Economic Zones across China in an effort to boost the nation's strength, Triad leader Uncle worries that it will impact on his current businesses. If he wants to save his organization during these changing times, he'll have to get inventive.

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We're very happy to have Ian at Probus to discuss the intense level of research that went into his new novel, why he dedicated the book to his former publicist, and why he wishes he was a little more like Uncle.

The President's Message

Dear Fellow Probians,

Well, we have our first meeting under our belts at Trafalgar Park Community Centre and we believe it was a success – everyone who attended seemed pleased. We did have a couple of technological hiccups, but that is to be expected – despite the fact we had a trial run on the Monday before our meeting and everything worked fine at the time.

We have some GOOD NEWS. As of Monday, November 1st the Town of Oakville began transitioning to standard capacities in all Town owned community centres. Distancing and capacity limits have been lifted in venues where proof of vaccination is required. So you will still be required to show proof of vaccination and provide identification when you enter the community centre.

As mentioned at our last meeting a Communications Committee, headed up by Roy McEwen has been reconstituted in hopes of increasing attendance at our meetings – so if you haven't yet you will receive a call to remind you of the meeting on November 18th.

At the time of writing this memo, **The Bistro is scheduled to be open and we would like to support it. So on your way in please pick up a coffee, tea, hot chocolate or whatever – the price is right and it does support a good cause.**

More GOOD NEWS– we have created a new position of Travel Coordinator for our Club. Jack Talbot has kindly agreed to take on this role. His primary responsibility will be keeping in touch with the Travel Coordinator of other Probus Clubs to see what exciting new travel plans may be forthcoming and coordinate the efforts of our members wishing to join in on those programs. It is a win – win arrangement.

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There will be other aspects to this role of which you will hear more about in the future. Thanks Jack.

And thanks to another Jack, Jack Rugg has willingly stepped forward to fill the role of Greeter. His big smile and handshake when meeting members and potential members at the entrance to the room is a great asset. Thanks Jack.

Your new Management Committee is here to steer the Club, but we are always looking for new ideas – and there is no such thing as a bad idea. If you have an idea that you think would benefit the membership, whether it be an activity - speak to Russell, a speaker you have heard who is very good and think we would enjoy – contact Alan. On any other matters PLEASE contact me or any member of the Management Committee.

Starting in January we will make a concerted effort to raise awareness of our Club and hopefully attract new members. This is your Club so we are looking for everyone's participation in this effort. The first thing you can do is return to the meetings, if you are fully vaccinated. Socializing is a very important aspect of what Probus is all about. Our goal is to reach a minimum of 70% attendance at all our meetings. To kick this campaign off there will be a draw for a \$50 Gift Certificate to Pasquale's Trattoria on Lakeshore the first time we meet our target. You have to be there to win. Attending by Zoom will not count.

We will also be providing Business Cards at the November meeting for each of you to take away for handout to potential new members. As soon as we get 5 new paid up members we will have a draw for a \$50 Gift Certificate to Pasquale's Trattoria. Remember both the new member and the member who introduced them to the Club will be eligible for the draw. What could be easier?

A final note – as Henry Ford once said “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

Cheers, Mike

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PS: We have more exciting news which we will share with you in January, stay tuned.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 21/21

Wayne Gallant proposed the adoption of the August meeting Minutes. The Minutes were adopted unanimously.

Michael Purcell, President called for reports:

Secretary John Beales reported that he had completed and submitted the update to the Halton Community Services Database outlining all the contact information for the club. He also reported that it was the time of the year to update the club information to Probus Centre re the new Executive, head count and pay fees. He will attend to this.

Treasurer Tony Pinchen reported that as of August 31st the club had a balance of \$8,226. During September we had a net of fee revenue and expenses of \$375 for a balance of \$8,601. We currently have a total of \$423 in outstanding cheques to be cashed producing a true cash balance at the end of September of \$8,177.

Speaker: Alan Screen reported that today's speaker is Donald Smith who will speak on Indigenous matters.

In November Ian Hamilton an author will speak on Chinese topics. Tim Burrows will return in January to give us an update on the topic of electric cars.

Activities Russell Mewse reported that unfortunately we have had to forfeit our deposit to the Atrium for the Christmas luncheon as we were in no position to commit to a specific number of attendees at this time.

Membership Peter Pretty reported that we have 56 paid up members and 1 unpaid renewal for 57 members. We started last year with some 70 members but due to resignations and deaths the total has shrunk to 57. He hoped we could build the number up again.

Web Site Paul Nelson had nothing new to report

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President Mike Purcell gave an enthusiastic update to the members,

He stressed the need to reinvigorate the membership now that we are emerging from phase 3 of the pandemic lockdown. As of today we are limited to 36 attendees in the Pine Room but with restrictions removed it can accommodate 120. He urged all members to actively try to recruit new members. He then announced 3 new initiatives:

1) The Communications Committee under Roy McEwen has been reconstituted. Roy will be assisted Don Jack, Brian Noble, Jim Smith and Tony Pinchen. They will be calling to remind and encourage members to attend our meetings.

2) The club has acquired 4x \$50 gift certificates to Pasquale's restaurant in Oakville. They will be used for a random draw at meetings to encourage turnout over 70%.

3) Some of the gift certificates will be used as a random draw for new members and their sponsor.

The 50/50 draw has been cancelled for the immediate future due to the Town regulation for a license fee for raffles which renders our draw unprofitable. A compromise is being sought.

Arrangements have been made for lunch at Chuck's Roadhouse at 379 Spears Road.

That being the conclusion of the business of the meeting we moved on to the speaker for today.

Donald Smith is a retired professor of History at the University of Calgary. He was raised in Oakville and educated at U of T, Laval and back to U of T for his PhD

His topic covered the lack of recognition of the indigenous history, culture and treaty rights by the predominantly Anglo influenced population of Canada up until the 1960's. He spoke of his book "Seen But Not Seen" which deals with this issue.

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He became aware of the indigenous history when he was working on his MA at Laval. There he was exposed to a highly detailed record of indigenous records which alerted him to the problem.

In thinking about the matter he realized that growing up in Oakville he was not aware of any of the indigenous history of the area. The total lack of any recognition or understanding of such matters amazed him and sparked an interest that powered his academic career.

Although his presentation was interrupted by technical difficulties he delivered an impassioned talk pointing out that only now after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the unmarked graves in the residential schools that Canadians beginning to truly become aware of serious issue facing the country.

Due to the connection problems we were only able to ask a few questions. However, it was an interesting and important topic.

Following the presentation Mike Purcell declared the meeting adjourned.



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The following Management Committee is Currently In Place

2021-2022 Management Committee

President	Mike Purcell	(905) 845-4097
Past President	Ivor Barlow	(905) 845-0241
Vice President	Alex Murphy	(905) 337-2924
Secretary	John Beales	(905) 844-4654
Treasurer	Bob Denham	
Speakers	Alan Screen	(905) 639-2390
Activities	Russell Mewse	(905) 827-6007
Newsletter	Paul Nelson	(905) 631-2390
Membership	Peter Pretty	(905) 338-5583
Website	Paul Nelson	(905) 631-2390
Liaison	Mike Purcell	(905) 845-4097

In addition, the following Key Support Positions have been filled by appointed Members.

Key Support Positions

Equipment	TBD	
Member Welfare	Alex Murphy	(905) 337-2924
Auditor	Charles (Chuck) O'Neil	(905) 825-0054
50/50 Draw	Roy Oldfield	(905) 847-2062
Photographs - 1	David Johnson	(905) 338-6076
Photographs - 2	Peter Pretty	(905) 338- 5583
Greeter	TBD	