



THE PROBUS CLUB OF OAKVILLE

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



January 20, 2022 – Zoom Meeting

Meeting begins at 10:00 AM. Speaker at 10:30 AM. **Trafalgar Park Community Centre – 133 Rebecca Street, Oakville – Temporarily Not Available for In-Person Meetings but you can log in at 9:45 to chat with friends.**

Speaker: Tim Burrows - Electric Cars



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Tim is a retired Vice President of Forty Creek Distillery and a graduate of the University of Toronto where he earned an honours degree in psychology. Tim has owned and driven battery-electric cars for the past 6 years and has logged over 200,000 kilometers without the need for gasoline or diesel. He will speak to us firsthand why vehicles powered by electricity are better than gas cars in nearly every way.

Tim is a member of the Electric Vehicle Society which is a nonprofit organization which works to promote the understanding and adoption of electric mobility in Canada. In his role there, he chairs the EV Society Etobicoke Chapter at Humber College.

Tim can answer frequently asked questions about 'where to charge' and 'how long it takes to charge'. He predicts that in the near future, self-driving cars will significantly reduce death and injury on our roadways and have other profound effects on society.

The President's Message

Dear Fellow, Probians,

Happy New Year although there has been very little to be happy about of late as COVID or at least the Omicron variant continues to march across the country, making the pandemic a personal experience for almost everyone. We all know of family, friends or neighbors who have contracted COVID – it almost seems unavoidable now. The good news is it seems those infected now are having less severe symptoms and it's over rather quickly. My hope anyway.

Needless to say, our January meeting will be back to using Zoom, which isn't all bad, but certainly eliminates the social aspect of getting together for an in person meeting. Our new Zoom Moderator, Gerry Pielsticker will be sending out the link for you to attend in due course. The Link will be open by 9:45 to allow for some socializing time prior to the start of the meeting at 10:00.

Despite the setback of the closure for January's meeting we are very optimistic we will be able to reconvene in Trafalgar Park Community Centre in February – (I like to be optimistic, but if we can't return, we have Zoom to fall back on anyway).

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We have extended our rental contract for another 3 months and hopefully this will be our home for a long time to come. The plan is to have the Bistro open at 9:00 AM on the morning of our meetings, so when we do get back, plan on arriving a bit early and enjoying the fellowship prior to the start of the meeting.

Starting with the February meeting, assuming we can meet, we will return to our pre COVID Agenda, that is:

- Meeting will start at 10:00.
- Business portion will be from 10:00 to approximately 10:20.
- Profiler or member speaker – 7 to 10 minutes.
- Break for coffee at the Bistro.
- Reconvene at 10:55 for our Guest Speaker at 11:00
- Meeting adjourned at 12:00.
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If we are able to attend the meeting at Trafalgar Park C C, then we should be able to again go for lunch at Chuck's Roadhouse, 379 Speers Road. I am looking forward to that, so we are able to spend more time getting to know fellow members and learn more about their backgrounds.

Probus Canada just issued a new Operating Manual for all the Clubs in Canada. It is a very thorough, well thought out piece of work that has been developed by Club volunteers. A key point in the document was contained in a paragraph on finding and keeping volunteers and I quote: *“Remember the Club only exists because of willing volunteers. If members do not step up to volunteer, then your club will not be able to carry on – it needs members’ time commitments to function”*. So please, if asked to assist or take on a role in the club don't be shy. You will find the experience very rewarding. Remember **it is your Club – it's all about participation.**

Things to look forward to:

As you may recall we reached out to The Old Oakville Probus Club last year to look for synergistic opportunities. A few of us joined their weekly golf outings at the Oakville Executive Golf Club which proved to be great fun. We also have been given the opportunity of joining a group of their members at Monaghan's Sports Pub & Grill, 1289 Marlborough Ct for lunch. The fellows meet every Tuesday (when the restaurant reopens after this latest shutdown) at noon for fellowship and to play a little pool. I plan to attend when I can and hope you will join me. I

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am not much of a pool player, but I do enjoy lunch and from what I hear Monaghan's offers a very good lunch.

A final note – One area that we could really use some help with is identifying potential guest speakers. Alan Screen has done a wonderful job over the last year finding speakers, but even he needs help. So please, if you are aware or know of a great speaker you think the other members would enjoy hearing contact Alan.

Cheers,

Mike

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2021

VENUE: TRAFALGAR PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE.

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON 27, BY ZOOM Unknown

THE PRESIDENT MIKE PURCELL ASKED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2021, MEETING. ALEX MURPHY MOVED AND JACK TALBOT SECONDED. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED.

MIKE PURCELL WELCOMED GUESTS: JAMIE MC CRAE, TIM O'SHEA AND JACK KEARNS ON ZOOM. MIKE THEN ASKED FOR COMMITTEE REPORTS.

SPEAKERS ALAN SCREEN ADVISED THAT THE SPEAKER FOR TODAY WILL BE IAN HAMILTON AN EMINENT CANADIAN MYSTERY NOVELIST DISCUSSING HIS CAREER AS A PROFESSIONAL WRITER IN CANADA.

ALAN REPORTED THAT THERE WILL BE NO DECEMBER SPEAKER AS THERE IS NO MEETING BUT OUR JANUARY SPEAKER WILL BE TIM BURROWS WHO RETURNS TO GIVE US AN UPDATE ON ELECTIC CARS.

SECRETARY JOHN BEALES REPORTED THAT WE HAD RECEIVED OUR ANNUAL FEE NOTICE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PROBUS CANADA. THE ANNUAL NOTICE REQUEST UPDATES OF THE NEW MEMBERSHIP TOTAL FOR THE COMING YEAR AND NAMES OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE. FEES COVER OVERHEAD FOR PROBUS CENTRAL AND INSURANCE FOR ALL CLUBS WHICH THIS YEAR HAS BEEN

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INCREASED. THE D & O INSURANCE HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM \$.5 MILLION TO \$1 MILLION. THE INDIVIDUAL CLUB COVERAGE HAS BEEN INCREASED TO \$1 MILLION AND THE TOTAL ORGANIZATION COVERAGE TO \$10 MILLION. THIS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITH NO INCREASE IN FEES TO THE MEMBER CLUBS. THE DOCUMENTATION AND FEES WILL BE MAILED FOLLOWING TODAY'S MEETING.

TREASURER TONY PINCHEN REPORTED THAT THE CLUBS SEPTEMBER 30/21 BALANCE WAS \$8,601. DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, WE HAD \$811 IN EXPENDITURES FOR A REVISED BALANCE OF \$7,839. AS WE HAVE NO PREPAID EXPENSES THE BALANCE IS ALSO THE TRUE ADJUSTED BALANCE. MEMBERSHIP PETER PRETTY REPORTED THAT WE HAVE 57 MEMBERS AS OF OCTOBER 31ST.

ACTIVITIES RUSSELL MEWSE NOTED THAT OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON WOULD HAVE BEEN AT THE START OF DECEMBER BUT HAD TO BE CANCELLED. THERE ARE NO ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME. HE ALSO ASKED FOR A SHOW OF INTEREST AS TO WHETHER MEMBERS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A PUB LUNCH WITH SPOUSES IN JANUARY. THE RESPONSE WAS STRONG SO WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO AN EVENT BEING SCHEDULED IN JANUARY AT THE ROYAL WINDSOR PUB. DETAILS WILL BE PUBLISHED LATER.

WEB SITE AND NEWSLETTER PAUL NELSON PUBLICLY THANKED ANDREAS FRANKE FOR HIS FINE WORK IN SETTING UP THE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND CONNECTIONS FOR OUR MEETING TODAY. PAUL ALSO THANKED MIKE CASSADAY FOR HIS WORK RUNNING OUR ZOOM MEETINGS DURING THE PANDEMIC AND ANNOUNCED THAT THIS WAS MIKE'S LAST MEETING AS HE HAS MOVED AWAY.

PAUL THEN ASKED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE OVER FROM MIKE AND GERRY PIELSTICKER VOLUNTEERED. GERRY WAS WELCOMED TO THE ROLE WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM.

MIKE PURCELL HANDED OUT NUMEROUS CLUB CARDS AND ASKED MEMBERS TO HELP IN RECRUITING MORE NEW CANDIDATES. BY SIGNING THE CARDS AS SPONSOR THE MEMBER WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A DRAW FOR A \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR DINNER AT PASQUALES AFTER EVERY 5 NEW MEMBERS ARE SIGNED.

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MIKE THEN INTRODUCED JACK TALBOT AS THE NEW CLUB TRAVEL COORDINATOR.

JACK WILL LIAISE WITH OTHER CLUB TRAVEL COORDINATORS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON ANY GROUP TRIPS BEING PLANNED. THROUGH THIS EXCHANGE OUR MEMBERS WILL BE KEPT UP TO DATE ON TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THROUGH OTHER CLUBS. SPECIFICALLY, JACK REPORTED ON SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE NOW

THEY WERE:

- 1} JUNE 2022 TRIP TO NORWAY WITH A MULTI DAY STOP IN ICELAND.**
- 2} SEPTEMBER 2022 A TRIP TO GERMANY, SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA INCLUDING A VISIT TO THE PASSION PLAY AT OBERAMMERGAU, AND A SUPPLEMENTAL TRIP TO VIENNA. THE COST IS \$6,000 PER PERSON WITHOUT THE VIENNA OPTION.**
- 3} 2023 A BEST OF JAPAN CRUISE AROUND JAPAN WITH A ONE DAY STOP IN SOUTH KOREA.**

ALAN SCREEN INTRODUCED THE SPEAKER WHO WAS IAN HAMILTON, A BEST-SELLING CANADIAN NOVELIST.

IAN HAMILTON WAS BORN AND EDUCATED IN SCOTLAND. HIS CAREER STARTED IN JOURNALISM AT THE CALGARY HERALD AND THE REGINA POST

HE JOINED THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY OF YOUNG CANADIANS AS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS. FROM THERE HE WENT ONTO NUMEROUS COMMUNICATIONS ROLES IN DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES. HE ULTIMATELY, HE BECAME A TRADE COMMISSIONER AND CANADA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO NEW ENGLAND.

AFTER LEAVING THE GOVERNMENT HE WENT INTO BUSINESS IMPORTING AND EXPORTING FISHERIES PRODUCTS. THIS BUSINESS TOOK HIM TO OVER 30 COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR TO ASIA WHERE HE DEVELOPED A FASCINATION WITH CHINA.

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UNFORTUNATELY, THE TOLL OF TRAVEL AND BUSINESS LED HIM TO FALL CRITICALLY ILL. DURING HIS PERIOD OF RECOVERY HE DECIDED TO TAKE UP WRITING AS A NEW CAREER AT THE AGE OF 63.

HE CLAIMS THAT THE IDENTIFICATION OF HIS PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS AND PLOT ARC CAME TO HIM WHILE RECOVERING FROM SURGERY UNDER HEAVY MEDICATION.

REGARDLESS OF THE ORIGINS OF HIS IDEAS, IAN HAS BECOME A BEST-SELLING MYSTERY NOVEL AUTHOR. HIS CHARACTER AVA LEE IS THE SUBJECT OF SOME 15 NOVELS AND HIS UNCLE CHOW SERIES HAS 3 EDITIONS. HE HAS ALSO DONE A SEMI BIOGRAPHICAL SINGLE BOOK CALLED BONNIE JACK WHICH IS MOSTLY BASED ON HIS FATHERS LIFE.

HE EXPLAINED TO US HIS DAILY ROUTINE AS A WRITER AND THE WAY IN WHICH HE DEVELOPS THE STORYLINE AND THE CHARACTERS. THE BOOKS ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY BASED IN CHINA AND S.E. ASIA WHERE HE HAS A VERY STRONG FOLLOWING, HE REPORTED THAT HIS CHINESE FANS ARE SURPRISED TO FIND OUT THAT HE IS NOT CHINESE.

HIS PRESENTATION DETAILED THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF GETTING AN AGENT AND A PUBLISHER TO WORK WITH HIM. HE ALSO DISCUSSED HOW THE PROCESS OF GETTING PUBLISHED WORKS, NEGOTIATIONS ON ADVANCES, FILM RIGHTS ETC. THE AUDIENCE SAT IN RAPT ATTENTION AS HE DESCRIBED HIS FASCINATING CAREER.

AT THE END OF HIS PRESENTATION, HE ENTERTAINED QUESTIONS FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES. HE ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON HIS PROCESS, THE FINANCES OF THE BOOK BUSINESS AND QUESTIONS ON CHINA. SINCE HIS BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT IN CHINA, HE HAS BECOME FASCINATED BY THE CULTURE AND HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY. HE WAS ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON PRESIDENT XI AND THE PROGNOSIS FOR HONG KONG AND TAIWAN. THEY WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC.

HELMUT ERXLEBEN THANKED THE SPEAKER FOR HIS STIMULATING PRESENTATION. THAT BEING ALL THE BUSINESS, 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	