



THE PROBUS CLUB OF OAKVILLE

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



January 19, 2023 – In-Person and Zoom Meeting
Meeting begins at 10:00 AM. Speaker at 11:00 AM.

**Meeting Place – Oakville Public Library - Central Branch –
120 Navy St. Second Floor Auditorium
Plenty of Parking on Water St with Elevator to Second Floor
but we also respect those who wish to participate via Zoom**



FEATURED SPEAKER

Roy Oldfield

Roy Leonard Oldfield will be speaking about:

The Origins, Influences & Contributions of the Freemasons in Canada & Ontario

We are delighted to welcome one of our own Probus members to speak with us about the Freemasons in Canada. Roy is the District Deputy Grand Master for Hamilton District A, having been a member of various Lodges in Ontario & Québec for over 50 years. As a former Master Mason, Roy is also a graduate of the College of Freemasonry.

Roy Oldfield was born & raised in Sunderland, Ontario. After graduation from high school, he attended the Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD) University, Toronto in Interior Design.

Following graduation in 1969, Roy worked for a couple of design firms in Toronto and in 1970 he joined CN Hotels as Assistant Manager of Design and Furnishings; he was promoted to manager in 1972. In 1986, Roy moved to Oakville where he worked for a design firm and then a hotel furniture manufacturer as a project coordinator until he retired.

In addition to his dedicated life, work and advancement in Freemasonry, Roy's activities and interests are varied and include Scouting & Photography where he has been recognized with numerous service awards.

Roy has been married to his wife, Jane, for over 50 years and they have two children Elizabeth & Jeffrey and four grandchildren; he is an active member of St. John's United Church – Oakville, Ontario.

For more information and to inform your questions of Roy on January 19th, please consider, amongst others, the following:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freemasonry_in_Canada

<https://freemasonry.network/masonry-in-the-world/freemasonry-by-continent/north-america/freemasonry-in-canada/>

The President's Message

Dear Fellow Probians,



We finished up 2022 in style with our Christmas Luncheon held at the Oakville Golf Club on December 9th. We had a very good turnout of 61 members and guests. This beautiful facility was made available through Barbara Nelson who is a member of the Golf Club and sponsored our use of the dining room. Jay Kell, Activities Chairman, organized the event and did a wonderful job from start to finish. Everything came off without a hitch. The food and service by the staff was excellent. Bryan Noble won \$75 dollars on Roy's 50/50 draw (I think we are going to have to monitor Bryan's luck a little more closely as he seems to win these draws far too often). Winners of the \$50 Gift Certificates to Pasquale's Trattoria were Tim O'Shea and Gerry Sutton. There were also draws for four bottles of wine. We even managed to get in a few Christmas carols at the end of the meal to finish off a wonderful lunch. Thank you Barbara and Jay. I hope we can do the same thing next year?

So now we need to think about the road ahead. We have secured use of the Auditorium at the Central Library for the foreseeable future, so that is a relief. Chasing around looking for new meeting places is no fun let alone the frustration for members wondering where we will meet each month.

Tim O'Shea, Speaker's Chairman, has lined up some very interesting Guest Speakers for the coming months which you will not want to miss. First up in January will be our very own Roy Oldfield. Roy is a Deputy Grand Master of the Freemasons and will share the history, tradition and impact of the Freemason's in the local community, Ontario and Canada. You may have seen Roy's picture

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recently in the Oakville Beaver presenting a cheque for \$10, 000 to Ian Anderson House. So please come out to hear Roy, you won't be disappointed.

With the pandemic seemingly under control, at least for those who are fully vaccinated, we can get serious about our annual membership drive. It was very hard to ask potential members to attend when a lot of our members had not returned to the live meetings themselves. It would be great to see more of you turning out at the meetings – we miss seeing your smiling faces. Also the fact you can't win the 50/50 draw sitting at home.

At our Management Meeting on January 5th we discussed the ways to attract new members and came to the conclusion the best way is still word of mouth. We all have friends, don't be afraid to ask them to come out to a meeting with you to see what we have to offer. Fellowship, Friendship & Fun – nothing beats that!

The parking issue at the library that I was initially concerned about turned out to be a non-issue. Everyone seems to have figured it out as I have not had a single complaint. Unlike when we used to meet at the hotel where it was one big headache trying to find a parking spot at every meeting.

Again, following our meeting on January 19th, we will adjourn to Monaghan's Sports Pub & Grill, 1289 Marlborough Court (just north of Town Hall) for a lively discussion and lunch. Please plan on attending.



Cheers

Mike



The Probus Club of Oakville

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Probus Club of Oakville

November 17, 2022

Oakville Public Library

Mike Purcell opened by speaking about John Beales and said he would be giving a eulogy at the funeral the next day. He did follow with a joke saying that regardless of the circumstances, John would want the meeting to start with a joke.

1.0 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved with an amendment to correct Keith Bird's name.

Jim Tonner explained that a cheque was going out to Probus Canada for the annual fee of \$3 per member, plus a cheque going to Ian Anderson House in memory of John Beales. He mentioned that there were copies of John's obituary on the table at the back with instructions on how to watch the service on the Mount Pleasant Group website.

2.0 Members Health – No report

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3.0 **Liasson** – no report

4.0 Treasurer's Report

Ray Henrickson said that there had been no activity during the month so the cash on hand was approx. \$7400

5.0 Speakers

Tim O'Shea explained that he had to make a change in the order of the speakers due to cancellations. He did say that one speaker, Mark Doherty, who would have been talking about Ukraine had been asked by his organization not to speak at this time in order to keep certain details from becoming public.

Luckily, he was able to get today's speaker, Denise Davey to substitute.

6.0 Past and Upcoming Club Activities

Jay Kell said that 40 people had already signed up for the December 9th Christmas lunch and added that there would be two draws for \$50 gift certificates to an Oakville restaurant as an added incentive.

Jay also challenged us all to bring a guest to the lunch and the January meeting with the idea to boost membership.

7.0 Membership.

Peter Pretty. confirmed that Andreas Franke had resigned due to health reasons.

8.0 Website/Newsletter.

Paul Nelson has renewed our license for the website. Gerry P. later said that he and Paul had been able to really update the website to include photos of past excursions, (i.e.) Iron Works Museum, plus videos of past speakers. Their work goes on and will be a great selling tool.

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Mike P. stated that with the resignation of Andres we have lost his expertise with the electronics set up and asked if there were any volunteers to take his place. There were no takers but Mike said he would follow-up with some phone calls.

The 50/50 draw was won by Roy McKeon

There was a count of the numbers for lunch at Monahan's and the meeting broke for coffee.

9.0 Speaker Today

Ivor Barlow introduced our speaker this month, Denise Davey.

Denise Davy is a nationally recognized award-winning journalist who specializes in writing about mental health, homelessness and gender issues. She worked at the Hamilton Spectator for 26 years and was twice honoured with the Journalist of the Year award by the Ontario Newspaper Association. She is also a recipient of a National Newspaper Award, plus several Ontario Newspaper Association awards and two awards from the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.

Denise is the author of the book "Her Name was Margaret".

This is the compelling story of how a young girl with a family and regular home life became a woman living on the streets, homeless shelters or psychiatric wards for over 40 years. Denise chronicles Margaret's life, first showing photos of her early life with parents and siblings and then going in for treatment at the age of 19. With the help of the 869 pages of hospital notes she was able to acquire, Denise could follow step by step Margaret's decline.

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The cause of an ever-growing number of homeless people arises from the fact that in the mid 1980s, the federal and provincial governments began closing psychiatric wards and turning the people out onto the streets, relying on medications to keep them acting close to normal. However, there is no follow-up or monitoring so the individuals are left to just drift. Homeless people use the emergency services seven times more often than the rest of the population and it costs about \$80,000 per year to keep these people in slum shelters, ERs, on meds plus the expense of closing tent cities and moving them somewhere safe.

Cities like Hamilton, Medicine Hat and Kitchener have come up with creative plans to have small huts, with electricity and a bed, forming a small community around a larger central hut that has a kitchen and an eating area.

This brings the cost down to about \$12,000 per individual.

Check out the Hamilton program called HATS (Hamilton Alliance Tiny Shelters)

On average, a homeless person dies at the age of 39

Our national cost to care for the homeless is \$7B

The book, Her Name was Margaret, is available at the Oakville Library.

Denise Davey was thanked by Keith Bird.

Mike Purcell closed the meeting.

Jim Tonner

Secretary

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2022-2023 Management Committee

President	Mike Purcell	(905) 845-4097
Past President	John Beales	A Life Very Well Lived
Vice President	Alex Murphy	(905) 337-2924
Secretary	Jim Tonner	(289) 337-6693
Treasurer	Ray Hendrickson	(289) 469-0158
Speakers	Tim O'Shea	(905) 842-5133
Activities	Jay Kell	(289) 487-3859
Newsletter	Paul Nelson	(905) 631-2390
Membership	Peter Pretty	(905) 338-5583
Website	Paul Nelson	(905) 631-2390
Technical Co-ordinator	Gerry Pielsticker	(905) 338-9829

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	Jack Rugg	(905) 820-1973