



THE PROBUS CLUB OF OAKVILLE

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



June 15, 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 – June 15, 2023



Barbara Dickson – Author of “Bomb Girls”

June 2023 Newsletter

This month, we are delighted to welcome **Barbara Dickson**, an award-winning, best-selling, multi-published author and local historian.

In this presentation, she focuses on the invaluable contribution made by Canadian women — “[bomb girls](#)” — engaged in war work especially in munitions factories such as [GECO](#) and DIL ([Defence Industries Limited](#)) during the Second World War.

Barbara’s first non-fiction book, entitled *Bomb Girls: Trading Aprons for Ammo*, was released in September 2015. She has completed a follow-on book, entitled, *Bomb Girls: United for Peace*, which will feature over 100 memorable bomb girl stories. Copies of “**Bomb Girls**” will be available for purchase at the meeting (C\$27).

- Today, the **story of Canada’s “bomb girls” continues to gain ground** with impressive visibility here at home and abroad (see full BIO below). [Toronto’s Mural Routes](#) unveiled a mural honouring Scarborough’s bomb girls located in the subway breezeway on St. Clair Avenue East, east of Warden Avenue. When built and opened finally, the new **Eglinton Crosstown LRT** will feature pictures of Scarborough’s Bomb Girls at the Golden Mile stop.
- Two new streets in south Scarborough (north of St. Clair Avenue East, east of Warden Avenue) “Fusilier Drive” and “Cleaside Road” — commemorate the invaluable work also.

In separate presentations, **Barbara** also brings awareness to important but little-known stories of nineteenth-century Canada including the impact and legacy of [Irish immigration](#). From a personal & medical standpoint, [life with multiple sclerosis](#) — MS — is another important topic in Dickson’s speaking portfolio. Lastly, Dickson — as a parent of her child who has undergone a [heart transplant](#) — speaks about organ transplantation in Canada especially through **her perspective as a mother**.

Welcome, Barbara!

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For a full biography of Barbara's interests and achievements and to inform your questions at the presentation, please consider amongst others:

<https://www.barbaradickson.ca/>

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/women-and-war>

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/classroom/fact-sheets/women>

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JUNE 2023

DEAR FELLOW PROBIANS

WHEN I SIT DOWN TO WRITE THE NEWSLETTER EACH MONTH I INITIALLY DRAW A BLANK – WHAT CAN I SAY I HAVEN'T ALREADY SAID? I SIT THERE TWIDDLING MY THUMBS FOR AWHILE – UNTIL SOMETHING COMES TO MIND – LIKE BASEBALL. THE BLUE JAYS NEVER SEEM TO CHANGE – THEY ARE UP AND DOWN LIKE A ROLLER COASTER, MONOAH PITCHED GREAT LAST YEAR, THIS YEAR HE CAN'T HIT A BARN DOOR – DRIVES YOU CRAZY. DO YOU REALIZE ITS 30 YEARS SINCE THEY WON THE WORLD SERIES? WE WON'T MENTION THE LEAFS THAT WILL PUT YOU OVER THE EDGE!

WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL GREAT SPEAKERS THIS YEAR. I REALLY ENJOYED HEARING FROM OUR SPEAKER IN MAY, CAPTAIN CAROLINE MCGUIRE – SHE WAS FUNNY AND INFORMATIVE. OUR SPEAKER IN JUNE, BARBARA DICKSON, TALKING ABOUT THE BOMB GIRLS ALSO LOOKS VERY INTERESTING. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK TIM ON FINDING SUCH INTERESTING SPEAKERS.

THERE IS A BRAND NEW LOOK FOR OUR WEBSITE – GERRY HAS BEEN BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL WORKING ON IT. HE MADE THE FINAL TOUCHES EARLIER THIS WEEK TO WHAT LOOKS TO ME TO BE A FIRST CLASS WEBSITE – ONE THAT WE CAN ALL BE VERY PROUD OF – IT CERTAINLY IS MUCH BETTER THAN SEVERAL OTHER CLUBS WEBSITES THAT I COMPARED IT TO. GO IN AND CHECK IT OUT FOR YOURSELF – THEN LET GERRY KNOW WHAT A GREAT JOB HE HAS DONE. THANKS GERRY FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

IN A RECENT ISSUE OF PROBUS GLOBAL NEWSLETTER IT COVERED AN INTERESTING TOPIC – “WISDOM ABOUT GETTING OLDER” WHICH I ENJOYED AND THOUGHT I WOULD PASS THE INFORMATION ALONG TO YOU:

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“THE YEAR’S BETWEEN 50 AND 70 ARE THE HARDEST. YOU ARE ALWAYS BEING ASKED TO DO THINGS, AND YOU ARE NOT DECREPIT ENOUGH TO TURN THEM DOWN” - T.S. ELLIOT

“AT AGE 20, WE WORRY ABOUT WHAT OTHERS THINK OF US...AT AGE 40, WE DON’T CARE WHAT OTHERS THINK OF US... AT AGE 60, WE DISCOVER THEY HAVEN’T BEEN THINKING OF US AT ALL” - ANN LANDERS

“IT’S PARADOXICAL THAT THE IDEA OF LIVING A LONG LIFE APPEALS TO EVERYONE, BUT THE IDEA OF GETTING OLD DOESN’T APPEAL TO ANYONE” - ANDY ROONEY

“WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I WAS CALLED A RUGGED INDIVIDUAL. WHEN I WAS IN MY FIFTIES, I WAS CONSIDERED ECCENTRIC. HERE I AM DOING AND SAYING THE SAME THINGS I DID THEN, AND I’M LABELED SENILE” – GEORGE BURNS

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT – IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING ABOUT THE GOLDEN YEARS?

THIS WEEK, THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE MEETING TO HAMMER OUT A BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR. A MAJOR CONCERN I HAVE GOING IN IS THE NEED TO INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP. WE LOST 2 MORE MEMBERS LAST MONTH WITH THE PASSING OF JACK TALBOT AND LIONAL LATTER. WE CURRENTLY HAVE 49 PAID UP MEMBERS. WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP SO IF ANYONE HAS A BRIGHT IDEA – DON’T HOLD BACK, WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE AT THE MEETING NEXT WEEK.

CHEERS

MIKE





The Probus Club of Oakville

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Probus Club of Oakville

May 18th 2023

Oakville Public Library

Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes of the April General meeting was made by Jack Rugg and seconded by Alex Murphy. The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously accepted.

Members' Health

Alex Murphy gave us an update on the upcoming visit by Anita Annon and the rules regarding attending will be very strict.

Given that the cut- off date of May 5th has passed, re inclusion on the list of those interested in a presentation by the Minister of Defense Anita Anand - our MP-members should note that we would now only accept names of members and guests for a waiting list pending a possible situation where people currently on list cannot attend once final date is chosen. If a member wants to have his name on the waiting list, such member should email Alex Murphy at alsmurphy@hotmail.com and include addresses of possible guests.

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There will be a limit to the number of attendees (a) as the space will have capacity limits (b) the other probus club will have interested parties and (c) the minister's office has preferences re numbers

There will be NO admission for those not on the list - and only those on the list will receive confidential information re the location and time.

All interested parties will need to provide their names and names of any guests AND their addresses for security reasons.

It was reported by Don Jack that Lionel Latter had just passed away after being checked in at the hospital.

Treasurer's Report

Ray Henrickson said the end of March bank balance is \$5,715 after disbursements in April of \$435.20

Ray commented that the direct deposits for the McMichael tour worked great as he could see who sent the money and it was very easy to follow.

Ray was taking care of the 50/50 draw this month in Roy Oldfield's absence and it was won by Paul Nelson

Speakers

Tim O'Shea outlined the schedule of speakers for the coming months

Air Canada pilot Captain Caroline McGuire is the speaker today.

Author Barbara Dickson in June Author of the "Bomb Girls"

Forensic Anthropologist Dr. Myriam Nafte aka CSI Investigator in July.

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The speaker in August will be Larry Cain.

Author and columnist Kevin Donovan is a possible. His new book on the murder of the Shermans will be out soon.

Past and Upcoming Club Activities

Jay Kell was on holiday and so there was no report

.

Membership.

Peter Pretty told us that he has a membership application from Mike Tweetie and that he would introducing him as a new member next month.

Website/Newsletter.

Paul Nelson expanded on the direct deposit feature and said that it can accessed directly from the website.

Gerry Pielsticker commented on how great the visit was to the McMichael Gallery and that photos can be accessed on our website.

Profiler- Keith Bird

Keith stepped in at the last minute as our original profiler Michael Dwyer had to cancel at the last minute.

Keith touched on a number of issues but the main thing he wanted to highlight was the British Home Children in Canada.

This was a program introduced by a British doctor and philanthropist who wanted to get London orphans and street children off the street and into homes. This was the beginning of Foster Homes. This program was expanded to include Canada

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and from 1869 to 1948, over 100,000 children were brought to our shores. They would arrive in Halifax and then be sent out to farms and households where they could live and work.

Keith's grandmother and her brother were two of the kids that arrived in Canada this way. His grandmother to a farm in southern Ontario, her older brother to the Ottawa area. This brother later joined the British Army to fight in WW1 to defend the very country that shipped him out to Canada.

NOTE: Check out **Home Children Canada** website.

Also Goggle **Dr. Thomas John Barnardo**

Keith also talked about more local and current issues including the town's policies regarding growth and progressive decisions.

I think there is a few more subjects that Keith would like to cover in depth when given a chance.

Our speaker Captain Caroline McGuire was introduced by Tim O'Shea

This month, we were delighted to have Air Canada pilot Capt. Caroline McGuire, who commands a Boeing 737 'Max'. Caroline began her flying career in 1986 and eventually joined Air Canada in 1999.

Caroline originally attended UBC to study Psychology, but while working in the Caribbean, she met a flight crew who extolled a career of a pilot and that started her on the road to get a pilot's license. Caroline returned to Vancouver, completed her Psychology degree and trained as a pilot in the summers. Caroline

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took lessons at the Pacific Flying Club, flying out of the Boundary Bay Airport. It is interesting that after only twelve hours of lessons, she was asked to sole with a take off and landing right there.

NOTE: As you get more and more hours under your belt, you can get a private license with 50 hours flying, 250 hours qualifies you for a commercial license and then on to twin engines, Visual Flight Rating and Instrument flight rating. It is an expensive undertaking for any individual to go this route and it is one reason why there is a shortage of pilots. As part of any program, Ground School is a major part where one learns about the engines, air frame, electrical systems as well as the specs of each plane they will be flying. An alternate to taking this route would be to join the military and train to be a pilot there.

After graduating, Caroline became an instructor in Vancouver, and then on to be a pilot in Canada's Northwest Territories flying a Twin Otter, both with floats and Tundra Tires. This was with Waglisla Airlines which was a great learning experience. Caroline then returned to Vancouver to fly a small twin turboprop, Navajo, which carried cargo and a small number of passengers. As a 'bush pilot', Caroline and her colleagues often helped fuel the aircraft, load cargo/luggage and then fly. She was often the sole pilot to remote locations in Canada's West Coast such as Bella Bella, Campbell Island in the Central Coast Region.

Caroline has had only one MayDay when flying down the BC coast and heading into Boeing Field when one engine "clam shelled". Luckily, the whole engine fell off which made it easier to fly as there was no drag on that one wing. No doubt she remained calm the whole time.

In 1995, Caroline joined Kelowna Flightcraft Airlines to fly the Boeing 727. She started as a second officer, flying Purolator cargo and Greyhound operations between Vancouver, Winnipeg and Hamilton. She became a first officer a short time later. Moving to Ontario in 1997, Caroline flew the de Havilland Dash 8 for Air Ontario, now Jazz. An opportunity arose to take a short leave of absence from Air Ontario and to fly a Dash 8 for Air Gabon, in Equatorial Africa. There, her fluency in French and her experience in the Far North here, made her a natural candidate to fly over the jungle and around many thunderstorms, relying on

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instincts and nerve instead of sophisticated infrastructure to take supplies into remote oilfields.

Caroline joined Air Canada in 1999 and the first six months was spent at Ground School and simulators. About this time, Air Canada went into bankruptcy and was restructured and Caroline took maternity leave. She returned as a relief pilot and chalked up the hours.

During COVID, Air Canada was the first major airline to convert passenger planes to accommodate freight and bring in PPE from all over the world to supply Canadian Hospitals, clinics and the public.

Caroline has seen service as a First Officer and/or 'relief pilot' on the Airbus A320, A340, Boeing 777 and now as Captain on the Boeing 737 'Max', primarily across North America and the Caribbean. Very shortly, she will retrain as a Captain of the 787 'Dreamliner', flying to Europe, Asia and other destinations. This will mean more time at Ground School and the simulator.

On the day of the flight, the pilot must be there 1 ½ hours in advance, review the complete list of notices, passengers, weather enroute, have alternate landing spots along the way etc. In short, be prepared for anything. The Captain, or the 1st Officer does the physical check of the plane as well.

Captain McGuire is a proud member of the industry's 5%-ers (female pilots in a male-dominated profession) who mentor graduate-entry female pilots-in-training so as to raise the number of females in command in our skies.

Ulrich Wickardt thanked our speaker.

Jim Tonner

Secretary

May 29, 2023

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2022-2023 Management Committee

President	Mike Purcell	(905) 845-4097
Past President	Alex Murphy	(905) 337-2924
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) 407-3859
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