



THE PROBUS CLUB OF OAKVILLE

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



July 20, 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 – July 20, 2023



Dr. Myriam Nafte

Abridged BIO

**Dr. Myriam Nafte
Forensic Anthropologist, Crime Scene Investigator and Artist**

This month, we are delighted to welcome, via 'Zoom', Dr. Myriam Nafte – **a renowned authority and professional in the field of Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation.**

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She is a **visual artist and skeletal biologist** with a long history of drawing and analyzing the human body - both living and dead. For **over twenty-five years, Myriam has worked with law enforcement to investigate and identify human remains in a forensic context while honing her skills as an artist.**

Today's presentation will be in **2 parts...**

...in the first half, Dr. Nafte takes us through the fast-evolving field of **police forensics** with an overview of the protocols governing death scenes, expert witnesses, and the processing of physical evidence;

...in the second half of the presentation, we will be introduced to the highly **specialized area of identifying human remains.** Determining a biological profile, the manner versus cause of death and the challenges of facial reconstructions are all brought to life through real life images and case studies. Due to the nature of the physical evidence she's recovered, it has been **Dr. Nafte's experience to work alongside law enforcement, scientists and homicide investigators as part of a collaborative team.** Along with the important procedures involved with such collaborative efforts, she will discuss some of the most challenging cases of her career. **Welcome Myriam!**

For additional perspectives on the life and work of Dr. Nafte and her professional community, you may wish to consult, amongst others:

<https://www.myriamnafte.com/cv-info>

<https://www.csfs.ca/what-we-do/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCex5KIfnPc> (training video for RCMP et al).

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JULY 2023

DEAR FELLOW PROBIANS:

WARM AND SUNNY DAYS HAVE ARRIVED – THAT WILL SOON GIVE WAY TO THAT OPPRESSIVE HEAT AND HUMIDITY WE MUST ENDURE HERE EVERY YEAR IN THIS PART OF ONTARIO – BUT IT TOO WILL PASS AND WE WILL BE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE COLD – IT'S THE CANADIAN WAY!

OUR SPEAKER LAST MONTH, BARBARA DICKSON, COVERED THE STORY OF THE “BOMB GIRLS” – BARBARA WAS AN EXCELLENT SPEAKER, COVERING A TOPIC NO ONE OR AT LEAST VERY FEW HAVE EVER HEARD OF AND MADE IT SPELLBINDING IN THE TELLING. SHE PROVIDED FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS OF THE LIVES OF SOME OF THE OVER 22 THOUSAND MEN AND MOSTLY WOMEN WHO RISKED THEIR LIVES DAILY WHILE HANDLING HIGH EXPLOSIVES IN A DEDICATED EFFORT TO HELP WIN THE WAR. THE GREATNESS OF A STORY IS IN THE TELLING. FOR THOSE WHO MISSED HER PRESENTATION, THAT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE AS THEY MISSED ONE OF THE BEST SPEAKERS OF THE YEAR - WHICH IS TOO BAD ALSO AS GREAT SPEAKERS DON'T COME ALONG EVERY DAY.

OUR BUDGET FOR 2023 /24 WAS PRESENTED AT OUR LAST MEETING BY OUR TREASURER RAY HENRICKSON. AS STATED, WE ARE TRYING TO HOLD THE LINE AS BEST WE CAN, BUT COSTS FOR EVERYTHING ARE INCREASING SO THE SMALL MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE OF \$5.00 IS A BARGAIN FOR SURE. LOOKING AHEAD, IF THERE IS A BRIGHT SPOT IT'S THE FACT WE ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE MEETING AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY WITH ONLY A VERY SMALL INCREASE IN THE RENT AND EVERYONE SEEMS SATISFIED WITH THE LOCATION.

WE DID INDUCT A NEW MEMBER LAST MONTH, MIKE TWEETIE AND HAD ANOTHER GUEST COLIN ROSS ATTEND THE MEETING SO THINGS ARE LOOKING UP. NOW IF WE COULD JUST GET A FEW MORE OF OUR EXISTING MEMBERS TO TURN OUT FOR THE MEETINGS THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL. ARE YOU READING THIS GUYS?? COME ON OUT TO THE NEXT MEETING – REKINDLE YOUR APPRECIATION FOR THE GREAT THINGS PROBUS OFFERS..

ON THAT NOTE, A SUGGESTION AT OUR LAST MEETING BY FRED MACLENNAN, THAT WE SEND OUT INFORMATION ABOUT THE GREAT SPEAKERS THIS YEAR, BOTH PAST AND FUTURE, TO FORMER MEMBERS IN THE HOPES THIS WILL SPARK INTEREST IN RETURNING TO THE CLUB IS A GREAT IDEA. THANK YOU FRED, WE WILL GET RIGHT ON IT.

I MENTIONED IN THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER THAT VERNA AND I WERE AGAIN RETURNING TO PORTUGAL IN 2024 AND IF ANYONE WAS INTERESTED IN JOINING US WE WOULD

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PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRIP. SINCE THEN WE HAVE HAD 20 PEOPLE INDICATE THEY WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US. PEOPLE ASK WHY DO WE LIKE PORTUGAL – WELL THEY SAY A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS – – THIS IS THE MAIN BRIDGE CROSSING OVER THE DOURO RIVER IN PORTO. JUST ONE OF THE MANY WONDERFUL PLACES TO VISIT IN PORTUGAL.



LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE MEETING NEXT WEEK. ALSO ALLOW TIME IN YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE AFTER THE MEETING TO JOIN THE GANG FOR LUNCH AT MONAGHAN'S, IT ALLOWS MORE TIME FOR GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS.

CHEERS

MIKE





The Probus Club of Oakville

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Probus Club of Oakville

June 15th 2023

Oakville Public Library

Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes of the May General Meeting was made by Jack Rugg and seconded by Peter Pretty. Jack Rugg pointed out a typo on one page which has been corrected on the master copy. The minutes of the last meeting were then unanimously accepted.

Members' Health

No report.

Treasurer's Report

Ray Henrickson said the end of May bank balance is \$5,592 after expenses. Ray presented the budget for the coming year and explained each line in detail. The membership fee of \$75 was used and based on a membership of 40, it means dipping into the reserve in order to pay for everything we need to run the club. i.e. rent, coffee, speakers, zoom capabilities, website etc. The members present were in agreement as to the plan. Peter Pretty will be sending out a letter to all members regarding payment and reminded

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everyone that the direct deposit to the club is the easiest way to make payment.

Speakers

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

Author Barbara Dickson is today's speaker. She is the author of the "Bomb Girls"

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

The speaker in August will be Larry Cain.

The September guest will be Wendy Rinella, CEO of the Oakville Community Foundation

Dr. Catherine Copeland would be either October or November.

Tim also introduced his guest Colin Ross and mentioned just a few highlights of his career as a banker and low handicap golfer. We look forward to hearing from Colin in the future.

Past and Upcoming Club Activities

Jay Kell was very pleased with the turnout at the tour at the McMichael Gallery and is working on other similar events. The Christmas Lunch has been set for December 14th and will again be at the Oakville Golf Club.

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Membership.

Peter Pretty introduced Mike Tweetie as our newest member and presented him with his name tag and pin. Mike promised to be our profiler next month.

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Website/Newsletter.

Gerry Pielsticker put our website on the screen and did a quick run through on the new features and what was available to see at a glance. He has invited 800 of his closest friends on the “next door” website to have a look and join us here if they would like to learn more.

He also put up the three slides that he and Tim O’Shea worked on to show the members what they are getting for their \$75 fee.

The three posters, “what we do” and “where we are headed” and “what Probus offers you” outline what a good deal we have here.

Check out the website to once again see the improvements.

Profiler- Michael Dwyer

Michael gave a brief look at one time in his life when he and his family had the excursion of a lifetime. Originally from Montreal he came to Toronto in 1972 and joined the National Yacht Club where he sailed his 25’ C & C. He loved racing on the lake but wanted to go on a much longer excursion. After much searching, he found a two masted Oyster 46’ in Fort Lauderdale that needed some work which he did during the fall of 1998. In June 1999, he set sail from Annapolis to the Virgin Islands. He arrived in Virgin Gorda just as hurricane Lenny hit the island.

Lenny is known as “wrong way Lenny” as it took an unusual path but it was a very strong cat 4 storm. Michael has many stories to add to the brief insight into his life and we look forward to hearing them.

Mike Purcell won the 50/50 draw with ticket #703339

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SPEAKER

This month, we were delighted to welcome Barbara Dickson, an award-winning, best-selling, multi-published author and local historian. Barbara was introduced by Alan Screen.

Barbara has lived in Scarborough all of her life and about 25 years ago became curious about the local legend of the underground tunnels in the Warden and Eglinton Avenue area. Her research took her to the Ontario Archives, City of Toronto Archives, and Scarborough Historical Society and led to hundreds of newspapers articles, GECO newsletters and telephone interviews.

Barbara was fortunate to be able to talk to women who actually worked at the GECO munitions plant and have access to the personal papers of the owners of the company, Robert Hamilton and his brother Philip.

The story is not only about how GECO, (General Engineering Company) planned and built a munitions plant in just 7 months but how they staffed it and ran the operation employing 21,000 men and woman. There were 17,000 women working at the plant, working three shifts, six days a week. The amazing part is that these women were all new hires, office workers or house wives who still had a house to run and perhaps kids to take care of while many of their husbands were also in the service. This is the reason for the sub title “Trading Aprons for Ammo”.

The munitions plant was built on 347 acres of expropriated farm land. In the 7 months, GECO put in 2 ½ miles of tunnels, almost 2 miles of roads, and put up 176 buildings. The plant included its own hospital, fire station, and cafeteria that could put out 1,100 meals an hour and over the time the plant was in operation it served in excess of 6,900,000 meals.

Originally the plant was built to supply only 7 types of ammunition but ended up making over 41 types and by the end of the war they had produced 256,700,000 million fuses, primers, tracers and other types. This was all done with over a 99% acceptance rate and zero fatal accidents. All fuses were originally filled and tamped by hand using the yellow powder tetryl. This was very dangerous given that some fuses required up to 76 operations from start to finish. The push to make it as safe as possible led to inventions such as the

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electric hygrometer which maintained the humidity at 55% stabilizing the powder. They also built in ventilators over certain work stations to remove the tetryl dust plus in 1943 they moved to automatic stemming machines which eliminated the hand tamping operation completely. This alone increased production threefold.

GECO also built a second plant, DIL Pickering. This was on 3000 acres and included a staff of 9,000 employees who were housed on location. This eventually became the start of Ajax.

The title of Barbara's book, Bomb Girls, is appropriate as the story is not just about GECO but how the staff of 17,000 woman made it all come together and how they worked to make it such a success. When the Eglinton Crosstown LRT is finished, the Golden Mile stop will feature a huge mural dedicated to Scarborough's Bomb Girls.

If you did not get a chance to buy the book at the meeting, it is available on Amazon.ca.

Barbara was thanked by Jack Rugg

Mike Purcell declared the meeting closed.

Jim Tonner

Secretary

June 20, 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