



## THE PROBUS CLUB OF OAKVILLE

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



January 16, 2025 – In-Person and Zoom Meeting  
*Meeting begins at 10:00 AM. Featured 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 – January 16, 2025**

### **The Voyage of the Vikings**

We are delighted that Lynn Holden will be our speaker on January 16.



Lynn Holden was raised on a farm in Clarkson, Ontario now part of Mississauga. It was there that Lynn's love of nature, open spaces and the adventure of exploration began.

In 1991 Lynn happened to be in L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland when the Viking

ship the “Gaia” arrived from Norway in celebration of the Norse Vikings discovering and settling in Newfoundland a thousand years before. As the ship neared the pier a fog encased it. As this mysterious form approached the shore Lynn’s imagination was tweaked. “Perhaps she should follow in the ship’s wake so that she could document their journey with her photographs.”

At that time Lynn was an educator and professional photographer. For the next thirty years Lynn searched for the clues that the Vikings had left behind. She travelled to Norway where she followed the Vikings to England, Scotland, Ireland, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and back to North America. Then she travelled to Denmark and followed the Vikings to England, France, Sicily and Malta. Her last trip was to Sweden, the Baltic States, Russia, Ukraine and Turkey.

Upon completing her voyage she sat down and wrote about these amazing people. Her book “The Voyage of the Vikings” is illustrated with her beautiful photographs. Lynn now resides in Horseshoe Valley, Ontario and at her summer cabin in Magnetewan with her husband Norm and their Egyptian rescue dog, Shay.

Lynn will be present in person. Lynn will bring books for sale, which she will sign.

**President's Message**



**Happy New Year!**

As I look at political storms brewing around us I am reminded that Probus is a safe, non-political, non-sectarian haven where friends can meet and enjoy each other's company and ideas.

I also continue to be amazed at the life accomplishments of our members and their ability to add substantial convenience and value to our Probus experience at a very low cost.

Peter Pook, an accomplished artist and designer, provided a great kickoff to the holiday season with his November presentation on TOYS. And he also contributed a copy of his

Tightrope board game to our Holiday Luncheon Raffle.

And Jay Kell organized a successful Holiday Luncheon at the Oakville Golf Club that not only featured great food and beverages but also prizes and song provided by Tim the Entertainer.

Grant Swanson has engaged Lynn Holden, author and professional photographer, to present Voyage of the Vikings at our January 16 Meeting. I've had a peek at some of the slides she will be showing, and they are awesome.

And don't forget about our post-meeting lunch get together at Monaghans (on Trafalgar Rd across from Sheridan College).

Speaking of lunch, our Activities Committee is organizing a Pub Lunch at The Royal Windsor Pub on Fiord Drive for January 23.. Mike Tweedie is handling signups both through e-mail and at the January 16 meeting. I hear the Pub will make a draw for FREE lunches!

**Paul Nelson**



the royal windsor

∞ PUB & EATERY ∞

**Probus has a sure cure for the upcoming January BLAHS! A Pub Lunch at the Royal Windsor Pub on Thursday, January 23 at 12 Noon!**

And that's not all! If we turn out 25 members and guests the Pub will provide a **free** meal to one of our Diners. And if we have 5 more Diners, another free meal, with added free meals for every 5 Diners up to 40!

So, if you are felling lucky and want a fun time, email Mike Tweedie at **miketweedie@icloud.com** and let us know you will be coming. Open to members, spouses, significant others, prospective members, friends, relatives, and other guests.

OR you can sign up at our Meeting on January 16. No advance payments required.



Bur don't wait too long. We have to provide the Pub with a guest estimate on January 20.



### **Probus Talks Cars**

What does a 1955 Chevy Bel-Air have to do with the Probus Club of Oakville?

Well, it happens. Sometimes a speaker might have to cancel on short notice. This is both a problem and an opportunity for members to get to know each other by sharing their recollections of their first car, their favourite car or any other car.

Here is how it works. We are looking for about 15 members who will share the make, model, year and colour of their car and be willing to speak about the story behind the car, their recollections or their experiences in the car for about 4 minutes. If you can provide a picture of the car, so much the better. Otherwise, we will try to locate an image from the internet. We will assemble a slide show of these pictures.

On a day when a speaker has cancelled or when we feel the time is right to have the car talk, we will display the pictures and when a picture appears that corresponds to your car, you would speak seated in your chair for about 4 minutes. You will know prior to the meeting when the car talk will occur.

If you would like to participate, please send share the make, model, year, and colour of your car (or an image) to [gswanson@cogeco.ca](mailto:gswanson@cogeco.ca)



## The Probus Club of Oakville

# Minutes of the General Meeting of the Probus Club of Oakville at Oakville Public Library November 21st, 2024

Paul Nelson, President, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. There were 25 members present, with one 'Zoom' attendee.

### **1.0 Minutes**

Paul Nelson asked for a motion that the Minutes for September & October, 2024 be approved. Mike Purcell proposed; Jack Rugg seconded. There were no objections or any other comments. The Minutes for both meetings were approved.

### **2.0 Membership and Guests**

Mike Purcell introduced his neighbour, Jim Stebbing, as a guest; Jim is also a member at a different Probus Club. Jim was welcomed and encouraged to consider what our Club offers to its members.

Jay invested two new members, Cam Davreux and Rory Mahon with their Probus pins and gave a short biography on both members who were welcomed by the Membership. Current membership now stands at **50**.

## **November 2024 Newsletter**

Jay reminded all members that if any annual fees of \$75 are still outstanding those can still be paid via e-transfer, or a cheque mailed (assuming the current strike is settled) to Jay's home address.

Jay was hoping to collect any cheques today for the Christmas Lunch (Oakville Golf Club on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> - \$68,00 per person), but cheques can also be either mailed (assuming the current strike is settled) to Jay, or via e-transfer. Be sure to indicate on the cheque or e-transfer your choice of meals (turkey, salmon or vegetarian). The official invitation was also resent to everyone recently as a reminder.

### **3.0 Members' Health**

(Sad news...a day after the meeting, it was reported that **James Tolmie (Jim) Smith** passed away on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. An obituary is enclosed.

<https://www.koprivataylor.com/obituary/james-smith>

Mike Purcell was pleased to report some other news:

- Ray Henrickson, Treasurer, was attending in person;
- Peter Pretty was also in attending in person.

Welcome back, Gentlemen!

### **4. President's Report**

Paul mentioned that our past President, Alex Murphy, was absent today as he was in Kingston.

Paul enquired as to the Members' interest in receiving additional information, available through an e-video link, on *Probus Member Insurance Benefits* to supplement Ivor Barlow's recent presentation. Paul had received a video presentation from the Probus Director for our area.

There was near unanimous consent; as such, Paul has already sent the [video link](#) again under separate cover, November 24th.

Any member who is interested can follow the on-line presentation which is conducted by a licensed professional at Johnson (Belair) Insurance, a long-time,

established full-service insurance company, and make their personal decision as to whether they wish to proceed.

Two members present mentioned their favourable experience with the Insurer's offerings.

Paul also encouraged members to attend the December 5<sup>th</sup> luncheon at which there will be a well-known entertainer 'Tim the Entertainer' (Godfrey).

## **5. Reports – Management Committee and Chairs**

### Vice President

No formal matters to add.

Roy Oldfield reported that the draw tickets for the meeting were *not* for the traditional 50%-50% draw; instead, tickets were for a draw to be held at the Members' Xmas Luncheon, December 5<sup>th</sup>. The prize will be a game – 'TIGHTROPE', conceived and autographed by Peter Pook, today's speaker (see below). There appeared to be vigorous interest in this *Mindware* game/draw.

### Secretary

Tim O'Shea had no new information to report and thanked Jim Tonner for substituting for him recently.

### Treasurer

Ray Henrickson presented two months of reports. After anticipating forthcoming expenses (e.g. Xmas Luncheon), Ray indicated that the Club is in sound financial shape.

### Speakers

Grant Swanson shared the currently confirmed speakers for the next four months, beginning **January 2025**:



- **Dr. Adam Schoalts**, Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – Author, Explorer, Royal Canadian Geographical Society Fellow;
- **Terry Fallis**, Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – Humourist & Author;
- **Service Canada & CRA**, Mar 20<sup>th</sup> – two representatives who will share their expertise and answer general queries about federal services and annual tax preparation;
- **Gordie Howe bridge construction**, Apr 17<sup>th</sup> - representatives from the project will update us (**by Zoom**) on the scheduled **Sept, 2025** bridge opening.

### Activities/Memberships

Jay Kell had nothing further to add since activities and memberships were covered earlier in this report.

### Website, Technical Services

Gerry Pielsticker described the preliminary activities being undertaken to upgrade the (old) speaker units we use currently with simpler technology;

Gerry has entered into agreement with Sheridan College to have certain technology students review the architecture of our Club's website and to recommend (in conjunction with their supervising Professors) enhancements which might help with, amongst other technical matters, membership outreach and member communication. These services are being provided *without cost*.

### Book Club

On Alex Murphy's behalf, Paul advised that the Book Club Members will be reading the following in December, 2024 & January, 2025:

- Marc Garneau's – “A Most Extraordinary Ride”;
- I
- Renée DiResta's – “Invisible Rulers” - The people who turn lies into reality.

### Investment Club

Dave Patterson provided a short summary of the club's performance YTD (23% return, Jan – September). If anyone would like to join, please contact Dave Patterson. Two members have expressed interest and are in the process of joining.

Dave also mentioned that the organization which hosts their meetings gratis, Amica - Bronte Harbour, is interested in presenting their services to the Club.

### Profiler

Paul welcomed today's profiler, **Dr. Ernest Ewaschuk M.D**

Dr. Ewaschuk described to us, in humble, modest and understated terms, the fascinating arc of his career in Medicine from the Universities of Windsor, Western, Yale and eventually back to Hamilton and Oakville. Ernest specialized at various times in Oncology, Obstetrics & Gynecology and IVF bringing hope and life to countless families who knew the joy of conceiving children naturally and those who yearned for IVF treatments. (One member of our Club shared his thanks to Ernest for the professional guidance and assistance which Ernest had been shown to his family on their personal journey to conceive.)

As a notable feature of his personal character and philosophy, he shared with us how he worked during his early years of study and junior residencies in various locations with the underprivileged, handicapped and Indigenous communities in Canada and the USA.

Ernest retired several years ago and can share his love of cottaging, hunting, fishing, sailing and other interests with his family.

**Thank you, Dr. Ernest Ewaschuk, for your life's work.**

### **6.0 SPEAKER**

Following a short break, Mike Purcell introduced today's speaker (and Club Member) **Peter Pook**.

## **November 2024 Newsletter**

Peter proceeded to take us through his career in toys, both as a senior executive and creator/designer/marketer in a lighthearted and fun way, sharing the remarkable successes of his personal creations - and occasional failures.

In addition to his personal exploits, Peter shared the history of toys through the ages and two things were evident:

- Aside from 21 Century technology, there are few new things in toys. The Egyptians and other civilizations of yesteryear were designing toys thousands of years ago (~3,500 BC);
- Just when you think a toy is old, suddenly it isn't quite so any longer, with new creative wrinkles being bolted on to an existing idea regularly.

Peter is donating and autographing a prize game 'TIGHTROPE', which he co-designed with a colleague, to our Xmas Luncheon. Thank you, Peter, and best wishes for continued success!

Grant Swanson thanked Peter for his work and hosted him for lunch.

There were 16 attendees at lunch.

Paul Nelson declared the meeting closed at noon.

**The next formal meeting will be January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

Tim O'Shea,  
Secretary,  
November 24th, 2024

## ***November 2024 Newsletter***

### **2024-2025 Management Committee**

President	Paul Nelson	(905) 631-2390
Past President	Alex Murphy	(905) 337-2924
Vice President	Roy Oldfield	(905) 847-2062
Secretary	Tim O'Shea	(905) 842-5133
Treasurer	Ray Henrickson	(905) 469-0158
Speakers	Grant Swanson	(905) 510-8202
Activities	Doug Peebles	(905) 842-1819
	Mike Tweedie	(905) 338-1281
	Ulrich Wickhardt	(905) 465-0641
Newsletter	Paul Nelson	(905) 631-2390
Membership	Jay Kell	(289) 407-3859
Website	Gerry Pielsticker	(905) 338-9829
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	Mike Purcell	(905) 845-4097
Auditor	Tony Pinchen	(289) 837-1086
50/50 Draw	Roy Oldfield	(905) 847-2062
Investment Club	Dave Patterson	(905) 844-5894
Greeter	Mike Purcell	(905) 845-4097
Book Club	Alex Murphy	(905) 337-2924