



THE PROBUS CLUB OF OAKVILLE

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



February 20, 2025 – In-Person and Zoom Meeting
Meeting begins at 10:00 AM. Featured Speaker at 11:00 AM.

**Meeting Place – Queen Elizabeth Park Community Centre
2023 Bridge Road -Oakville**

**Plenty of Free Parking, but we also respect those who wish to
participate via Zoom**

FEATURED SPEAKER – February 20, 2025

Tracing The Roots Of A Novel



We are delighted that **Terry Fallis** will be our speaker on February 20.

Bestselling writer and two-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, Terry Fallis, will present his ninth novel, *A New Season*, and share what lies beneath the story. He'll also touch on the personal connections he has to the novel, read a short excerpt, and respond to questions.

Terry Fallis is the author of nine novels, all of them national bestsellers—including six #1 bestsellers—and all published by **McClelland & Stewart/Penguin Random House**.

The Best Laid Plans was the winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour in 2008, and CBC's Canada Reads in 2011. It was adapted as a six-part CBC-Television miniseries in 2014, and a stage musical in 2015. ***The High Road*** was a Leacock Medal finalist in 2011. His third novel, ***Up and Down*** (2012) was the winner of the Ontario Library Association Evergreen Award and a Leacock Medal finalist in 2013. His fourth novel, ***No Relation*** (2014) won the 2015 Leacock Medal. His fifth, ***Poles Apart*** (2015) was a finalist for the 2016 Leacock Medal. Upon their release, his next four novels, ***One Brother Shy*** (2017), ***Albatross*** (2019), ***Operation Angus*** (2021), and ***A New Season*** (2023) were all instant national bestsellers.

In 2013, The *Canadian Booksellers Association* named Terry Fallis the winner of the **Libris Award** as **Author of the Year**.

Terry has also written for many publications including Maclean's, Canadian Geographic, Reader's Digest, Toronto Life, The Globe and Mail, the National Post, and the Toronto Star. He also teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies. He lives in Toronto. For more information visit www.terryfallis.com and subscribe to his newsletter at <https://terryfallis.substack.com>.

There will be books for sale by Terry's book seller, Chris from A Different Drummer Books

Terry will be present in person.

President's Message



Viking Meets Viking at Jan 16 General Meeting

Our Treasurer, Ray Henrickson, congratulates Author, Lynn Holden, on a fun and engaging presentation on her book - Voyage of the Vikings. (If Vikings did not really wear horned hats, how come these two have them?)

Thirty-one (31) hungry and hearty members and guests braved the January weather to “beat the blahs” at the Royal Windsor Pub.

This Pub has become a great “go to” location for Pub Lunches because of the food, good service and the free lunches based on attendance and raffled by the owners

The January 23 outing saw lucky diners winning 2 free lunches!

Grant Swanson has organized an outstanding February 20 Speaker, Author and Humourist Terry Fallis.

Remember – The February 20 Meeting will be held at Queen Elizabeth Park Community Center Multi 1-2 . 2023 Bridge Road in Oakville.

And Grant is also interested in hearing feedback on his idea about members being prepared to share their First Car experiences at a General Meeting.

Personally, I loved my first car but it used oil like a hungry beast

Our February post-meeting lunch is targeted for the Bronte Sports Kitchen at the corner of Bronte and Speers Roads. Close to QEP.

Paul Nelson





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Minutes of the General Meeting of the Probud Club of Oakville at Oakville Public Library January 16th, 2025

Paul Nelson, President, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. There were 39 members and guests present, plus one 'Zoom' attendee.

1.0 Minutes

Paul Nelson asked for a motion that the Minutes for November 21st, 2024 be proposed, seconded and approved. There were no objections or any other comments. The Minutes for that meeting were approved.

2.0 Membership and Guests

Mike Purcell confirmed that his neighbour, **Jim Stebbing**, whom he had introduced as a guest at the November meeting had signed up to join us; Jim was also a member at a different Probud Club. Jim was welcomed and encouraged to consider what our Club offers to its members and to become an active Member.

Jay Kell also introduced two other new members **Peter McCormick (Roy Oldfield and Brian Cargill (Keith Bird))**. Current membership now stands at **53**. Welcome Gentlemen; thank you, Sponsors.

The new Members will be formally inducted at our next meeting and encouraged to join any one of several Committees.

Two other guests, **Rob Campbell & Ian Renshaw**, who had found us via Google, were also introduced and asked to consider us formally. Thank you for taking the

time, Gentlemen. We hope that you will make our Club your home when you return to the next meeting.

Finally, Grant Swanson introduced his brother who was visiting from Ottawa.

A busy morning! Great work by the Membership Team! Now let's try for **75 with everyone's** help!

3.0 Members' Health

There were no matters to report. Mike did, however, mention two recent birthdays - Tim O'Shea & Ray Henrickson - which were noted in song.

4.0 President's Report

Paul thanked Jay Kell and other members of the Activities Committee for a great Christmas Luncheon. Of note also was that **Tim Godfrey**, our Luncheon Entertainer, had joined the Club. Welcome Tim!

Members should note that the meeting **for February only (20th)** has been moved to accommodate the Central Library. As such, we will be meeting at the **Queen Elizabeth Park Community & Cultural Centre, 2302 Bridge Rd, Oakville, ON L6L 2G6. (February Meeting)**. Additional reminders will be sent to the Membership in advance of February 20th. Please mark this date in your calendars now. Free parking is available. Lunch will be held at the **Bronte Sports Kitchen. Stay tuned for full details.**

5.0 Reports – Management Committee and Chairs

Vice President

Roy Oldfield reported that the draw for the December meeting at the Christmas Luncheon had been very well received. The game prize – 'TIGHTROPE', was conceived and autographed by Peter Pook, one of our own Members. Approximately \$200 in game prize tickets were purchased.

Roy also conducted two (2) draws, including a bottle of wine. The traditional 50:50 draw was won by Joe Moher (~\$64, before split, as there was a stray 25¢ coin in the kitty). Mike Purcell won the bottle of wine donated by a member (thank you).

Secretary

Tim O'Shea reported that, following the death of James (Jim) Tolmie Smith, aged 90, on November 22, 2024, he had contacted next of kin in Fredericton. The family appreciated our Club's condolences and acknowledged that a donation in Jim's memory would be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation.

Tim also mentioned that, for Members' convenience, the approved Minutes of General Meetings are located in a separate tab on the Club's website (see 'Membership Features'; 'Archives' and follow the prompt).

Treasurer

Ray Henrickson presented the latest financial report. After accounting for Speakers' fees, Insurances and the Christmas Luncheon, the Club has a balance at the Bank of \$5,712. Ray indicated that the Club continues to be in sound financial shape.

Speakers

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

January – Lynn Holden – "The Voyage of the Vikings". Lynn is a professional photographer who has travelled to all the places the Vikings went – in person; she will describe the influences which the Vikings have had on Canada and elsewhere;

February – Terry Fallis, Canadian Author, humorist, will present his ninth novel "A New Season" – in person;

March – Two representatives from CRA and Service Canada in time for tax season – one speaker will be present in person and the other remotely;

April – Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority – The Gordie Howe Bridge – remote presentation on the planned opening of the bridge in September, 2025;

May – 'Ontario Corps' – emergency management – arrangements are in progress. This initiative was announced recently by the Ontario Premier, Doug Ford.

The Corps will be a group of skilled professionals and volunteers whom the Province can deploy to help communities dealing with emergencies such as natural disasters, while also promoting civic engagement.

June – Adam Schoalts, explorer and wildlife biologist, will present his book "Where the Falcon Flies", the story of his solo canoe journey from Lake Erie to the Arctic, including practical tips to help with the planning of your next 3,400 km canoe trip – in person.

Grant also indicated an interesting and fun idea that would be a good 'reserve' in the event of a cancellation by a speaker at very short notice such as we have had this month (Schoalts).

He suggested that the Members could be polled, for example, as to their favourite car in their childhood. Together with pictures of the car and special memories, the content could be held 'in reserve' until it was used as back up, or alternatively, Member could volunteer to present their own favourite in short 4-5 minute segments at an agreed time. Grant will initiate a suggested process/format for volunteer members to pursue this initiative.

Activities/Memberships

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

Mike Tweedie/Doug Peebles reported upon the forthcoming Members' Luncheon at the Windsor Arms Pub on January 23rd.

Guests, partners are also invited.

To date we have **22 people interested, 7 of whom are spouses**. Ideally, we should have a minimum of 25+ in order for a member to receive a free meal in a draw sponsored by the Pub. The more multiples of 5 attendees (minimum 25), the greater the number of free meals, potentially.

Website, Technical Services

Gerry Pielsticker premiered the new wireless speaker/microphone technology described in previous reports.

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.

Additionally, Gerry has the Oakville Library engaged in our initiatives, the result being that we are interacting with an eligible wider audience, some of whom we hope to invite/join our Club.

Book Club

Alex Murphy advised that the Book Club Members (6) will be reading a broad range of books during the coming year.

New members are invited to join the Club where the format is informal with drinks/snacks on a rotating basis at members' homes. This is followed by lively discussions on the assigned book for a particular month and stimulating exchanges of views on current affairs (e.g. 'social influencers') and related matters that might also engage the full Probus Club generally. Please chat with Alex if you would like further information.

Investment Club

Dave Patterson provided a short summary of the club's performance YTD (25% return, Jan to Dec, 2024). If anyone would like to join, please contact Dave Patterson. Two members have expressed interest and are in the process of joining.

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

One of the Investment Club's members (Ermanno) reported that he had recently stayed with a host in Los Angeles whose home was destroyed later in the fire tragedies there.

Profiler

Paul welcomed today's profiler, Grant Swanson

Grant, who is married with two children and has two grandchildren, recently took over the Speaker Chair's duties; he has worked extensively in the public & private sector in North America and offshore.

Amongst other areas of work, Grant has done extensive work in Financial and Regulatory Services. These are areas which we may not necessarily see or understand intuitively; both the legislation and accompanying regulations that govern organizations in Provincial Governments are designed to keep us safe financially.

For example, Guarantee Funds have been established in various sectors to protect against failures of Banks, Mortgage Companies, Trust Companies etc. Some of these initiatives were in response to various national and global financial crises in the 1980s. Canada did relatively well in this regard because of established laws, some of which may take many years to contemplate, discuss, harmonize and enact.

Thank you, Grant, for sharing a little of your career with us in the short time available.

6.0 SPEAKER

Following a short break, Grant, who has Icelandic blood in his veins, introduced today's speaker, **Lynn Holden**, who had joined us at short notice. Thank you, Lynn.

Lynn gave us a lively and engaging presentation on the influence of the Vikings (who only wear horns in Hollywood movies) in North America and elsewhere. Fascinatingly, many of us may be surprised that we have Viking blood in our veins.

Lynn's described how her inspiration to trace the Vikings' influence came in 1991 as the *Gaia*, a Viking longship from Norway, arrived in Newfoundland in celebration of the

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1000 years since their ancestors discovered North America. She decided to follow in the wake of Gaia in order to photograph the Viking voyages, as they made their way from Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

She has journeyed across the world and visited significant world heritage sites to supplement her knowledge of how some of us came to be who we are today.

Ray Henrikson thanked Lynn for her stimulating presentation; Lynn was our guest also for lunch.

There were 19 attendees at lunch...a great turnout reflecting the enthusiasm within the Club.

Paul Nelson declared the meeting closed at noon.

The next formal meeting will be February 20th, 2025.

Tim O'Shea,
Secretary,
January 19th, 2025

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