



THE PROBUS CLUB OF OAKVILLE
Established in 1988 - The Fifth Probud Club in Canada

www.theprobudclubofOakville.com



August 21, 2025 – In-Person and Zoom Meeting. *Meeting begins at 10:00 AM. Featured In- Person 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

FEATURED SPEAKER – George Chisholm



Probus Club of Oakville
Speaker Information
August 21, 2025

The History of Oakville and the Oakville Historical Society

We are delighted that George Chisholm, President of the Oakville Historical Society will be our speaker on August 21. He will be telling us about the history of Oakville and the many activities of the Oakville Historical Society.



George Chisholm is a lifelong resident of Oakville. He and his wife live in the 1839 house in which he was raised. For 30 plus years George was a high school shop teacher, mostly at Oakville Trafalgar High School, retiring in 2007. George joined the Reserve Army while in high school and retired with the rank of Captain after 23 years of service. For most of that time he worked with the local Army Cadet Corps, commanding it for two four-year terms. George was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

When George left the reserves in 1992, he joined the board of the Oakville Historical Society, became President the following year and has served in that role most of the time since. His work with the Society includes maintaining the Society's archival centre, the 1829 Thomas House museum in Lakeside Park, making the iconic black and white plaques and conducting guided walks.

"Founded in 1953, The Oakville Historical Society is the official collector of archives for the Town of Oakville, and as a nonprofit, volunteer organization works to preserve and protect the historical heritage of the Town as well as promote it through its various activities and programs. The Society's extensive collections include original documents, pictures, newspapers, maps, albums, letters, diaries as well as a comprehensive historical and marine library."

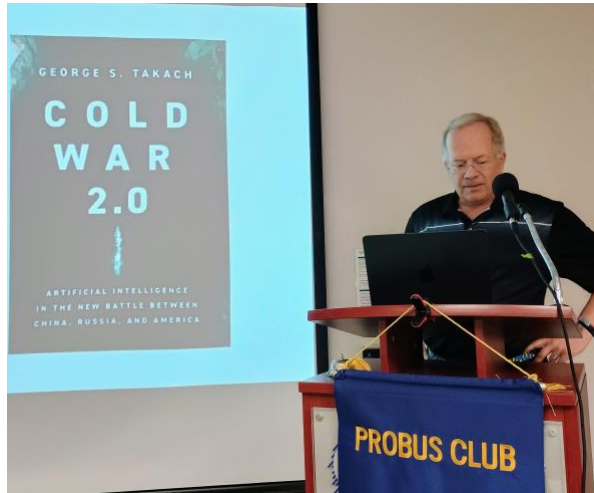


Click the following link to learn more about the

[Oakville Historical Society](http://oakvillehistory.org)

President's Message

We had another really interesting speaker at our July 17 Meeting



George Takach held our audience spellbound with his description of Cold War 2.0

George also joined a record crowd for our post-meeting lunch at Monaghan's



The Activities Committee has selected The Oakville Golf Club as the site for our Annual Holiday Luncheon in December. The date is December 3 at 11:30 AM so mark your calendars. Last year's event was well attended with good food, music and prizes.

We are planning a special recognition at our August 21 meeting for Gerry Sutton's 100th Birthday. Please make sure to join us to wish Gerry well and to sign his Birthday Card.

Dues for 2025-26 continue to be due and can be paid online (instructions on the next page) or to our Treasurer, Ray Henrickson, at our upcoming August 21 Meeting.

Also at the August Meeting, Alex Murphy will be presenting a slate of new Management Committee members to be elected at the September AGM

Stewart Bryan, a Past-President of our Probud Club, passed away on July 18. We have extended our sympathy to his family and have made a donation to the YMCA in his name.

Paul

Dues Payments 2025-2026

For Probus members wanting to make payment to the Club by Interac e-transfer, do the following:

- 1) Access the e-transfer area of your bank's online banking screen.
- 2) Set up the Oakville Probus Club as an e-transfer recipient. Use oakvilleprobusno5@gmail.com as the club's email address. You will only need to set up the Club for the first e-transfer. After that the Oakville Probus Club will be included in your personal e-transfer directory.
- 3) Identify the account from which you want to send the transfer and amount of the payment that you wish to send.
- 4) In the message area specify the purpose of the e-transfer payment. **Do not create a security question/password.** This will prevent the autodeposit from happening.
- 5) Click on "Send". You will receive an immediate response that your payment has been sent and deposited into the Club bank account.



2025-26 Dues are \$75 or \$85 for those who wish to participate in Honours Coffee (participants will be entitled to coffee and Timbits at all 11 Geeneral Meetings without depositing a Toonie). Such a deal! Big Discount!

Members can also pay dues directly to our Treasurer, Ray Henrickson, at our August 21 Meeting

All e-transfers are automatically encrypted and are highly secure. No personal or bank data that is attached to the e-transfer can be hacked or stolen by a third party.



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Minutes of the General Meeting - Probud Club of Oakville

Oakville Public Library

July 17th, 2025

Paul Nelson, President, rang the official bell to open the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

There were 34 members present in person....'Zooming' was not available.

1.0 Minutes

Paul asked if there were any comments, changes etc. to the Minutes of our last meeting, June 19th. These were circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no amendments offered; a motion to approve was offered by Jack Rugg and seconded by Alex Murphy. There was unanimous consent to adopt.

Matters got off-track bigly when, in Gerry's absence, Paul mentioned that he had 'tweaked' the new microphone to **Mach 1** and 'twiddled' some of the buttons on the new speaker thingy-ma-gig that Gerry had explicitly marked 'do not twiddle' with heavy duty Gorilla tape.



Well, next thing, we are listening to **Radio Nepal FM, 103 MHz** which, it became obvious, is mourning the **axing of Bert & Ernie on Sesame Street** because 'you know who' in Washington just gutted PBS & NPR.



A full-throated chorus of our two heroes' duet 'Rubber Duckie' & 'I Love Trash' by the Cookie Monster, and led by new member Andy V., ensued until the Bailiffs restored order. The song fest extended into the coffee break and threatened the time allotted to our Speaker, **George T.**, who also joined in as this was very much a sign of *democratic norms being battered by autocratic 'deep state' forces*, all much to Grant's obvious dismay.

But I digress...best not to mention this to Gerry, eh Paul?

2.0 Membership and Guests

- (a) Jay introduced and welcomed **Andy Vavasour**, as a new member. Andy was born in the **Dominion of Newfoundland** before it became Canada's tenth Province. Andy worked for Newfoundland Tel ('New Tel') for 26 years, retiring as a Project Manager and arriving in Oakville in 2012. In addition to being a *Memorialite* grad, Andy is an accomplished singer and musician (see above).

Heads Up, Andy!

You may be called upon to lead
 singing to honour our
**Centenarian Member and Past
 President, Gerry Sutton**, at next
 meeting .



the

month's

Just bring the saxophone and kettle drums for now, Andy. **Mike P., our Greeter**, can help you roll the kettles upstairs (and downstairs).

- (b) Several guests were Members (**Gord Waldie**; hope that our guests will us and to also consider **in the Club**. The timing is new slate of candidates for Committee and other Officers will be presented in August for confirmation and then additionally at the **September 18th, AGM**. This is an opportunity for **everyone**! Express your interest now!



introduced by **Brock Hobbs**). We be inspired to join **active involvement** relevant as our Management

Club Membership is now **58**.

3.0 Members' Health

Mike Purcell announced that there were **no reports** of members in ill health. **Great news**, which was warmly received. Long may there be many more similar 'nil' reports.

4.0 President's Report

Paul commented that the recent member/guest luncheon at the **Royal Windsor** had been a great success; the Pub raffled off **two** free lunches, even though we were just shy of the number required for the draw (30)!

Thank you to the **Royal Windsor** which also hosted our recent Management Committee meeting (MC), some actions from which are abbreviated here. Other Activity options for the Membership to consider follow on page 4/5.

Annual dues...will remain the same in 2026 as for 2025 **(\$75)**. These may be paid on line - [Pay My Dues On Line](#), or by cheque at the next meeting.

On a related note, Paul noted that monthly **coffee receipts** do not always match our coffee expense and we actually run a deficit. So, **as a temporary experiment** for those who are minded to consider an alternative, Members will have the option to **prepay their total coffee expense for the year** by adding **\$10** to their dues. Let's see if there is an adequate uptake in the next month or two and we can formalize, or re-think alternatives.

Of supreme importance, however, **Gerry Sutton will turn 100** this week (23rd); his tremendous accomplishments to his family; our community; the Club; and to Canada are detailed in a video - [Gerry Sutton - click here](#) - which was made by his family to honour him and his achievements.

There was great interest in seeing this video; Paul has already sent out a special mailing so that members can truly appreciate Gerry and his gifts. **Please try and attend the August 21st meeting when we will honour Gerry with our very best wishes.**

5.0 Reports – Management Committee and Chairs

Vice President

Roy encouraged members, **new and/or older**, to offer their Profile orally to the membership-at-large during a forthcoming meeting. Each of us has a wealth of accomplishments and fascinating anecdotes to offer and share with our fellow members. All we need do is tell Roy (royloldfied@gmail.com) and he will schedule.

Secretary

Tim mentioned that he will be away for the **next two** meetings.

Mike Purcell has kindly agreed to look after Grand Marnier & Bailey's for the coffee/tea; sausage rolls; fries; cakes and dips; LCBO orders etc.

Jack Rugg has kindly agreed to take Minutes and send them to Tim for exaggeration & presentation.



Jack was great chums with U.S. Army Brigadier Gen. **Henry Martyn Robert**, another Engineer, who first published *Robert's Rules of Order* in 1876.

'Back in the day', Jack was a renowned former Club Secretary; he will dust off his **'Commodore 64'** with the new 5 Mb. graphics package ready for action. Thank you, **Mike & Jack**.

Treasurer

Ray presented the Club's recent account activity; cash on hand is **\$4,678.77**. This balance will be bigly enhanced in the next few weeks as members' dues roll in and add to our bank balance. **Thanks, Ray.** Please remember to pay your dues by cheque to Ray, or electronically via: [Pay My Dues On Line](#)

Speakers

Grant Swanson shared the currently scheduled speakers for the next several months, beginning August, 2025.

- August – **George Chisholm**, President, Oakville Historical Society, will speak about the **history of Oakville** and the role and activities of the Society (it was surprising to know how few of our Membership were born/reared in Oakville);
- September – coincident with the end of WWII in the Pacific theatre 80 years ago, **Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Shelagh Stevens**, will speak about her extensive experience in Canada's military and Canada's role since the end of World War II;
- October/November – **Ontario Corps – Emergency Management** - Nina Diaz, Director, Emergency Management Programs and Partnerships. (Nina was scheduled to join us in May, but the Corps had been diverted to help with flood evacuation and forest fire containment in Northern Ontario and elsewhere);
- November – in progress...stay tuned. Great work, **Grant**.

Remember, Members, **if you have an idea for Grant to pursue**, please let him know at: **gswanson@cogeco.ca**

Activities/Memberships

Peter McCormick, a recent new member, described a draft slate of additional activities for the next several months. **Thank you, Peter, and the Activities Team for your initiative.**

The draft activities for (the balance of) 2025 and 2026 will be refined by the Activities Team and presented, with costs, to the Membership at a subsequent meeting.

Events under consideration include:

- i. Hamilton Harbour Tour;
- ii. Haida National Historic Site, Hamilton;
- iii. Wine Trolley Tours, Niagara;
- iv. Dundurn Castle Tour;
- v. Niagara Tunnel Tour;
- vi. Royal Botanical Garden, Burlington;
- vii. 'Jeopardy'-style memorial 'Sesame Street' song contest, featuring 'rock-em, sock-em' compère Hulk Hogan;
- viii. Christmas Luncheon for Members & Guests;
- ix. etc...

Website, Technical Services

No additional comments today. The Team is away; Paul will look for a missing **power cord** for Jack's Commodore 64 and replace the '*do not twiddle*' knobs on Gerry's new speaker toy with fresh Gorilla tape.

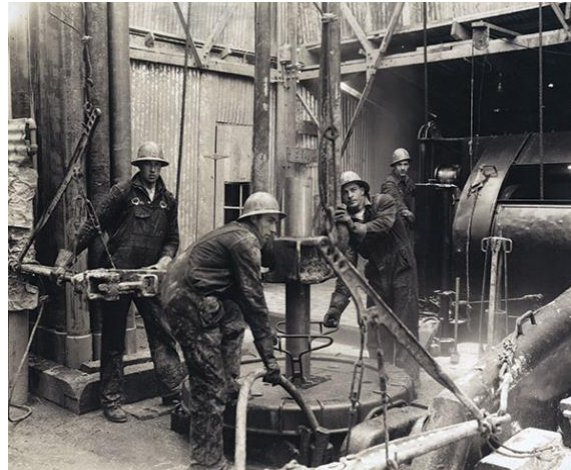
Book Club

This month, the Book Club is pursuing two major milestones in Canada's history – *Oil* and the *1962 Trans Canada Highway* completion.

[Oil Exploration in Canada](#) and

[Building the TCH](#)

Alex Murphy denied that Walmart discount coupons booklets and free introductory '2-4' cases of beer were available to new members, but he did confirm he is **second from right** in the photo.



Investment Club

Dave was not available today. Jack mentioned that another member or two would be welcomed.



There's no cash requirement to join; stay tuned in these uncertain times; even though some markets are at all-time highs, events could change on a dime.

Profiler:

Today's profiler was unable to attend. Roy will contact **Joseph Varadi** to reschedule.

50:50 Draw & Luncheon Count

Today's draw (another big haul, \$53.50) was won by Peter McCormick – congratulations.

There were 21 people for lunch, where **George Takach** continued to attract attention and hold court with members whose interest in geopolitical matters was exceeded only by their overwhelming desire for a beer and a burger.

Excellent interest, Gentlemen! G-r-e-a-t conversations at lunch.

6.0 SPEAKER

Grant introduced today's speaker, **George Takach**, who gave an absorbing and detailed account of the prevailing struggle for supremacy between the World's **Autocracies & Democracies**.

George highlighted the key differences between **Cold War 1** (1945 to 1989) and the reality of the present **Cold War 2.0**, focusing on the subject of **Artificial Intelligence** and its impact on Canada and the USA.

The detail is remarkable and the race for dominance in technology and innovation is all the more chilling as **this is not fiction**; it is a reality that is happening around us today, **the outcome of which will affect us all**.

Grant thanked George for his time and talent and noted that George was donating his honorarium to **Lake Scugog Camp**, a facility for kids, youth and moms in distressed circumstances. Thank you, George.

7.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was proposed by Helmut Erxleben and seconded by Wolfgang Hartmann. A noticeable number of members queued to purchase a copy of George's book. **There's a test next week, so study hard**.

There were 21 for lunch at Monaghan's. Great to see such fellowship, Gentlemen.

The next formal meeting will be **August 21st, 2025 at the Oakville Central Library, 2nd Floor Auditorium**.



Respectfully,
Tim O'Shea,
Secretary,
July 24, 2025

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