



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

www.theprobudclubofOakville.com



September 18, 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 – Lieutenant -Colonel Shelagh Stevens



Probus Club of Oakville
Speaker Information
September 18, 2025

Canada's Military Role since the Second World War

We are pleased to welcome Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) Shelagh Stevens, as our speaker on September 18.

Eighty years ago in September, the Second World War (in the Pacific) ended. Today we will learn about the history of Canada's longstanding UN deployments over the almost 80 years of peacekeeping since then. Shelagh will also provide her unofficial perspective on Canada's military today and building for the future.



In 1987 Shelagh served her first peacekeeping mission in Egypt (1.5 years) with the Multinational Force and Observers, followed in 1989 by her first UN peacekeeping tour in Namibia (UNTAG) (one year), another in Croatia (UNPROFOR) (seven months) and was then seconded in 1995 for three years to UN headquarters in New York where she served in what would now be the Department of Field Support.

On the basis of her extensive experience and expertise, Shelagh was also contracted by the US State Department to give UN instructor, staff officer and logistics courses and exercises from Mongolia to Tunisia, from Malaysia to Ukraine. Moreover, as she is bilingual, she also worked for the Organisation de la Francophonie (OIF) offering the courses and training in French in Mali, Sénégal, Burkina Faso, and Chad.

At the time Shelagh left the military, she had more peacekeeping experience than any other woman in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Shelagh is a member of the Perth Probus Club.

You can learn more about Canada's military by checking the following links:

[National Defence - Canada.ca](https://www.crest.ca)

"The Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) support a strategic vision for defence in which Canada is strong at home, secure in North America and engaged in the world. "

[Home](#) | [Canadian Armed Forces](#)

“The CAF serves on the sea, on land, in the air, and in space and cyberspace with the [Royal Canadian Navy](#), the [Canadian Army](#), the [Royal Canadian Air Force](#) and the [Canadian Special Operations Forces Command](#).”



President's Message

A new Management Committee will be elected at our September 18, AGM !



I want to thank our membership for allowing me the privilege of serving as President for the past year.

Our **Management Committee** has been a potent force for our success this year and our new Committee is likely to do even better.

Jay Kell started things off in December with a great Holiday Luncheon while **Mike Tweedie** and the Activities Committee followed with two well attended Pub Lunches and a visit to the Canadian Warplane Museum.

Not to be outdone, **Grant Swanson** has polished our crown jewel Speakers Program with interesting thought-provoking presentations month after month.

Gerry Pielsticker provided prospective members to Jay Kell's Membership program through a new attractive Website while also working with **Doug Peebles** and **Hal Buller** to enhance Onsite Speaker and remote Zoom Presentations.

Roy Oldfield began the task of revitalizing our Profiler Presentations while managing our 50/50 Program and giving a boost to the Activities Committee with **Peter McCormick**.

None of this would have been possible without **Ray Henrickson's** attention to our Club's finances.

Meanwhile, **Tim O'Shea** documented our meeting Minutes in his sometimes whimsical and often fun-to-read style honed by years of study in various pubs.

Our year was brightened by reports of continued Investment Club success by **Dave Patterson** and **Jack Rugg** while **Alex Murphy** kept us informed of Book Club selections.

My thanks to **Mike Purcell** and many others for tons of support (including Monaghan's Sports Pub & Grill 🍷)

Paul Nelson



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Minutes of the General Meeting - Probud Club of Oakville

Oakville Public Library

August 21st, 2025

Paul Nelson, President, rang the official bell to open this very special meeting at 10:00 a.m. in which we recognized Gerry Sutton's 100th Birthday.

There were 37 members present in person, including one 1 'Zoomer' from Caledonia (Alba) who was being swarmed by midges in a Ft. William peat bog.

1.0 Minutes

- Jack Rugg proposed a motion that Tim O'Shea's Minutes of Meeting, including all his exaggerations and fabrications, be approved as they are essentially correct. It is duly noted that we did not, in fact, listen to Bert and Ernie on Radio Nepal, FM 103.
- Helmut Erxleben seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by the Membership.

Hmmm...fake motion...I was there in Katmandu singing along with B & E

Reports:

Paul mentioned that customary reports from other Chairs of several Committees (Technical/Website; Profiler; Secretary; Book Club; Investment Club) were being deferred this month in order to create the appropriate time to honour our special centenary member Gerry Sutton.

There was rapt attention, wild applause and animated conversation to this piece of breaking news, with the President banging his gavel (as is his wont) to the point of destruction.



news,
banging
wont) to

Eventually, the **raging grannies**, who were providing discreet security to this **ticket-only event**, were ushered in to restore order.

A **motion to have no reports ever again** (so as to always have an early exit to Monaghan's) **from these Chairs was narrowly defeated** after Jack R. (our resident Oracle on all matters constitutional and interim Secretary) pointed out that such disgraceful behaviour only happened bigly below the *45th Parallel*.

Doug P. wondered if the 45th parallel was also a prime number, but **Wolfgang H.**, our prospective new Treasurer, said that was unlikely because the first principal of accounting and nuclear physics is a $\sqrt{\text{one uranium atom}}$, not parallel cells in a trigonometric 'Excel' format; however, the 47th Parallel **would be a prime number** if we were all prepared to move to the Southern Hemisphere.



As such, [moving the monthly meeting](#) to the 47th Parallel, somewhere East of Bolivia, will be studied and Wolfgang will provide potential costs next month. (*Editor's Note...Mercy, mercy how did we get here again? I better cut short my peat bog vacation, or consult with the local [Kinross Probus Club](#)?*) 😊 It was noted that the grannies decamped without paying for their coffee, or cake. 😊

Treasurer:

Ray was in a sulky mood powerful Office of the that he had never won a Mike P. had won six in called glue



today as he left the most Treasurer; he thundered 50/50 draw, whereas recent months. Ray

called glue for an Audit to be conducted since he believed had been inserted into the ticket receptacle contrary to environmental regulations when on Town property. You're going to be busy, Wolfgang.

The membership finally got Ray to 'chill' and record that our financial situation continues to be in good shape with a July balance of **\$7,172.94**. Maybe next year, Ray?

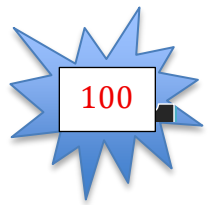
Activities:

Peter McCormick advised that a planned visit to the Haida National Historic Site, Hamilton and a related Hamilton Harbour Tour, originally scheduled for September, would have to be cancelled as the season for group tours finishes at the end of August.

And now...



Gerry Sutton's 100th Birthday Celebration:



Mike Purcell gave a brief speech congratulating Gerry on this wonderful **100th milestone** and a long life full of achievement.

A video, approximately 9 minutes long prepared by Gerry's family, was shown and featured Gerry sitting in his wingback chair as he recounted some highlights of his life.

Details included:

His time at Queen's University where he completed his undergraduate degree, met Margaret and married her on his Graduation Day. Then, he completed a one year's Masters Programme;

His career at the Bank of Montreal where he was involved in Economic Research Reports.



The Sutton family history with the military. His older brother was killed in WWII. Two of his children were in the Canadian Military. Gerry always attends the Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the

Oakville Cenotaph and his daughter from Kingston joins him.

Following the video, cake was served for all and a large Birthday Card signed by most of the Club members was presented to Gerry. There was also a message from Tim O'Shea who was in Scotland on the day of the meeting congratulating Gerry.

2.0 Membership and Guests

Jay Kell introduced three (3) new members today:

- (a) Martin Swales;
- (b) Brock Hobbs;
- (c) Kevin Abraham
- (d) Additionally, one (1) introduced by a Club Member (Chris Freeman). We hope inspired to join us and Kevin also consider in the Club. The our new slate of candidates for your Management Committee and other Officers presented today review and final confirmation at September 18th,



guest was Member (Chris) that Chris will be that Martin, Brock & active involvement timing is relevant as



was for

the AGM.

This is an opportunity for everyone! You can still express your interest!

Way to go, Jay. Keep those members coming!

4.0 Members' Health

Mike Purcell announced that the sad news that Stewart Bryan, our Club President in 2016-2017 passed away on July 18th. A donation will made in his memory, with his family's concurrence, to the Alzheimer's Society

5.0 Past-President's Report: Nomination of Officers for 2025/2026

In the Invitation to this August meeting, a **Notice of Motion** was included. It was not read out at the meeting, but members were referred to Pages 4 & 5 of the meeting Invitation which outlines the candidates proposed for 2025/2026. They are as follows:

<i>President:</i>	<i>Roy Oldfield</i>
<i>Past President & Nominating Committee Chair</i>	<i>Paul Nelson</i>
<i>Vice-President:</i>	<i>Ray</i>
<i>Henrickson</i>	
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Tim O'Shea</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Wolfgang</i>
<i>Hartmann</i>	
<i>Speaker Chair:</i>	<i>Grant</i>
<i>Swanson</i>	
<i>Membership Chair:</i>	<i>Jay Kell</i>
<i>Activities Committee:</i>	<i>Mike</i>
<i>Tweedie</i>	
<i>Doug Peebles</i>	
	<i>Ulrich</i>
	<i>Wickardt</i>
	<i>Peter</i>
	<i>McCormick</i>

Other functions by appointment

<i>Member Welfare</i>	<i>Mike Purcell</i>
<i>Investment Club chair</i>	<i>Dave</i>
<i>Patterson</i>	
<i>Book Club chair -</i>	<i>Alex Murphy</i>
	<i>/ Cam</i>
	<i>Davreux</i>
<i>Coffee pick-up</i>	<i>Tim O'Shea</i>
<i>Auditor</i>	<i>Alex</i>
<i>Murphy</i>	
<i>50/50</i>	<i>Ray</i>
<i>Henrikson</i>	
<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Mike Purcell</i>

Speakers

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

- **September** – coincident with the end of WWII in the Pacific theatre 80 years ago, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) 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**. Keep working on that guy in the Vatican.

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

50:50 Draw & Luncheon Count



Today's draw (another big haul, **\$54.00**)

was won by Mike Purcell – your round, Mike.



6.0 SPEAKER

Our Speaker today, introduced by Grant Swanson, was **George Chisholm, President of the Oakville Historical Society** and a direct descendent of one of our founding fathers (his great-great grand uncle, William) of Oakville. George is a lifetime resident of Oakville. He and his

wife live in the 1839 house in which he was raised. George's full biography may be found [here](#).

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 the historical heritage of the Town as well as promote it through its various activities and programmes. The Society's extensive collections include original documents, pictures, newspapers, maps, albums, letters, diaries as well as a comprehensive historical and marine library.



Highlights from George's presentation included an account of how the Oakville area emerged geologically, following an ice dam collapse many centuries ago, and by whom it was discovered. He traced the occupation of current lands from 1669, through the American Revolutionary War, to incorporation in 1857 and up to the present day where we can boast a population of ~225,000.

A sawmill and a grist mill were built in Oakville in the 1820s and 1830s and wooden



shipbuilding was also a major industry in Oakville until steel hulled ships came into being. The Oakville Basket Company factory was a major employer in town making baskets for the many fruit farmers in the area in Oakville's early days. Established in 1871, it finally closed in 1984.

Grant offered many thanks to our Guest from the Membership, none of whom, surprisingly, had been raised in Oakville.

7.0 Adjournment

The Chief Librarian interrupted the meeting to inform us that **most of the toilet facilities in the Library were out-of-order** due to flooding in this

heatwave. Only one unit was working on the eighth floor and the elevator was decommissioned also.

Arrrgghh?

Gerry claimed privilege, despite his birthday actually being in July, but his voice was lost in the stampede and he was last seen scraping multiple bootmarks from his centenary suit.



Fred MacLennan leapt up (s-l-o-w-l-y) and for an early adjournment at 11:53 the members could alternative 'relief' arrangements at Monaghan's.



stood called a.m. so make

Our next meeting here in the Auditorium is September 18th, 2025.

There were 13 members for after a cake-memorable most of whom to be 'besties' Mike P. & Gerry arrows) and to sit next to them. Excellent interest, Gentlemen! conversations at lunch.



lunch filled, meeting claimed with S. (see wanted G-r-e-a-t day &

Respectfully (from Mull, Inner Hebrides, with bigly input from Jack Rugg),

Tim O'Shea,
Secretary,
September 2nd, 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