



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

[www.theprobudclubofoakville.com](http://www.theprobudclubofoakville.com)



**October 16, 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 – Virginia Heffermen**



Probus Club of Oakville  
Speaker Information  
October 16, 2025

### **What's at Stake in Ontario's Ring of Fire?**

We are delighted that Virginia Hefferman will be our speaker on October 16.

The Ring of Fire is a 5,000-square-kilometre crescent of ancient volcanic rock rich in nickel, copper, and other metals considered critical to the global transition to renewable energy.

The metal deposits lie hidden beneath the swamps of the James Bay Lowlands of northern Canada, the second-largest temperate wetland in the world. The area is home to several thousand Indigenous people in communities accessible only by plane or winter road. The deposits, too, are stranded by a lack of infrastructure. Canada and the province of Ontario have pledged billions of dollars towards a critical minerals strategy, including building an all-weather road to the Ring of Fire. Will the sense of urgency created by Trump's aggressive stance towards Canada fast-track development?

Virginia Heffernan is a former exploration geoscientist and author of **Ring of Fire: High Stakes Mining in a Lowlands Wilderness (ECW Press)**.



She has an MSc from the University of Toronto's School of the Environment and an MFA in creative non-fiction from the University of King's College. Her articles have appeared in publications such as *Explore*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Literary Review of Canada*, and *Maclean's*.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/virginiaheffernan/>

Virginia will bring copies of this book for purchase and signing.

**SUMMARY OF “FACE-TO-FACE” MEETING**

September 10, 2025

**Probus District 3**

Probus was started in 1965 / 1966 in England

Ontario District 3 is one of 15 English Districts in Canada. There are 8 Districts in Ontario. District 3 goes from Burlington to the Beaches and as far north as North York. There are 5200 members in District 3 and it is the largest in Canada.

**Why were we there?**

- **Friendship**
- **Knowledge**
- **Fellowship**
- **Fun**

There is a Standard Constitution of Probus Canada. On the website.

Clubs operate on their own.

Belair Direct is the new insurance carrier. It is no longer Johnston. Insurance coverage is for Health, Travel & Car.

Probus Canada started in 1988. John Morris started it in Canada.

**October is Probus Month**

Probus offers awards for volunteers. There are 3 levels of citation awards. I will be researching them further.

We, as Probus Members can receive a 20% discount on printing at Staples. Information is on the Probus Website. Go to Club Reference Guide – Info & Resources for the information.

Website for Probus Global is: [probusglobal.org](http://probusglobal.org)

There was a sharing of ideas session and the following is what resulted from the session.

**PROBLEMS**

- **Participation**
- **Volunteers** – Perhaps two people to a position to make the work load easier and if one is away the other can fill in.
- **Acknowledge Members**
- **Develop a Meet & Greet Book** – What each group does.

### **IDEAS FOR SUCCESS**

- **Thank the Past Presidents**
- **Thank the volunteers**
- **Call members that do not attending and say hello and ask what would bring them out.**

For further information and knowledge visit the **probuscanada.ca** website. There is a wealth of information there.

This is a summary of the meeting which I found very informative and useful.

The other members of our club that attended were Jay Kell, Ray Henrickson and Gerry Pielsticker.

### **The following points were added by Ray Henrickson**

- The size of clubs varies across the district with the largest being in Collingwood with 650 members. Several clubs have a membership of 200 – 250 members but all of these are mixed clubs. The membership of men only clubs is significantly less.
- Men's only clubs are no longer permitted to be created. All new clubs must have mixed membership.
- Several clubs have membership waiting lists. Some charge \$25/year to be on the waiting list. Some charge separate initiation fee.
- Larger clubs pay their speakers \$300 – 350 plus some reimburse travel expenses.
- Some clubs limit the terms for treasurers and other positions.
- Some larger clubs no longer accept cash or cheques. All payments must be made by e-transfer or credit card.

Roy Oldfield

President

The Oakville Probus club

## **President's Message**

OCTOBER 2025



It gives me a great deal of pleasure to write this Presidents Message as your new president. I would like to thank all of the Probus Members for placing the confidence in me to be the president. I only hope that I can fulfill the position as well as my predecessors.

October is **PROBUS MONTH** so enjoy all that Probus has to offer you.

I am looking forward to an exciting year. Our speaker chair, Grant Swanson, has a number of interesting speakers lined up for the meetings. Our next speaker is Virginia Heffernan, an exploration geoscientist. She will speak about the Ring of Fire. This should be an interesting presentation as it is currently in the news. Please let Grant Swanson know if you have any ideas for speakers or if you have a specific topic that you would like presented.

Our Activities Committee has planned a number of activities and are working on more for our enjoyment. **Pub Lunches** are continuing, a visit to **Little Canada** November 6, 2025, in Toronto, has been

planned and of course our **Christmas Lunch**, at the Oakville Golf Club, will be held on Wednesday December 3, 2025. Spouses and significant others are always welcome to our outings and activities.

At the September meeting we had Lt. Col (Ret'd) Shelagh Stevens speak to us on a variety of subjects related to the Canadian Military where she served, as well as the United Nations. Col. Stevens divided her presentation into Peacekeeping (old & new) and the key issues surrounding the Canadian Defence Department and Coast Guard. It was a very enlightening presentation and many members raised interesting questions.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting.

Roy Oldfield

President



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### Minutes of the General Meeting - Probud Club of Oakville

#### Oakville Public Library, Navy St.

**September 18th, 2025**

**Roy Oldfield**, our new Sheriff, opened the first scheduled meeting of our new fiscal year, immediately following the AGM, at ~10:10 a.m.

There were **32** members present in person, including (2) two Zoomers (coincidentally the exact same number as attended the AGM a few minutes prior), proving that everyone's bladder was working well, **or** that Roy was, indeed, a captivating speaker and the No. 1 star attraction. Our new Sheriff quickly established the tone with **two ground rules and standards for the year**, viz:



- (a) All MC would be uniforms, consistent fashions of exemplified in Roy's the 'Sound of Music'. Presidents would be allowed to wear an alternate classier choice, however, if the temperature fell below -16°C.



required to wear with trendy yesteryear, as favourite movie Only Vice-

- (b) Uniforms would be supplied free by **CN**, Roy's former employer, and handstitched by fellow pensioners. CN had a long-lost surplus box car, which was mysteriously found in Oakville, full of junk left over from Roy's upholstery & furnishings career. As Roy



pointed out:





*"It's true the material may be mouldy,  
'Cos the box car was a mid-70s oldy,  
If we each take a turn to stitch and sew fabric,  
Those uniforms will turn out just magic".*

But I digress – bigly.

## 1.0 **Minutes:**

Alex Murphy moved that the Minutes of the **August 21, 2025 regular meeting** be approved. Andy Vavasour seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the Probus members present.

## 2.0 **Reports from Management Committee Members:**

### **President:**

Paul, our outgoing President was on vacation and unavailable. Paul's final report was contained in his September newsletter which was sent out in advance of the meeting. **Thank you for a great year under your leadership, Paul.** Retirement Chain of Office, *via Canada Post*, to follow, maybe. Aarrff. 😞



### **Vice-President:**

Four (4) members of the Management Committee attended the **Probus Canada District 3 "Face-to-Face" meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2025**. They were Ray Henrickson; Gerry Pielsticker; Jay Kell and Roy Oldfield. A number of ideas and information were presented and Roy will give a **full report in the October 2025 Newsletter.**

One point of was that one of Clubs in alone has



**650 members** (and there are others in the nearby area) with a waiting list of many more and a **\$25 charge to stay on the waiting list.**

interest that mentioned was the Probus Collingwood approximately

*Wow...how would we manage that coffee bill and the bathroom line-up?*

## Activities Committee:

Peter McCormick that our **Christmas** for Members & be held again at the **Golf Club** (on the Sixth Line); mark calendars for **Wednesday, December 3rd**. Details to follow.



advised **Luncheon** Guests will **Oakville** west side of your

Peter also advised the following:

- A tour of an Amazon warehouse facility is planned for 2026;
- A tour of "Little Canada" is now planned for **November 6th**. This will involve taking a 'GO Train' to Toronto. An initial show of hands indicated that **22 members, and partners**, would be interested.

**(Completed)** Last, Peter advised that **The Probus Club of Old Oakville** is looking for members from our club to join them on a **Grand River Tour on Saturday, October 4th**. They have organized this but need more people to join them to meet a minimum number of participants required. The cost is \$75 PP and includes lunch.

## Treasurer:

Ray Henrickson advised financial position is **\$8,089** bank balance, 2025. Good job, Ray.



that the club's sound with a as of August 31,

Hmmm...now that Ray chance Wolfgang will **Blue Jays tickets, coffee & train fare?** It may be time to buy him a beer or three at Monaghan's?

is gone, any still fund us **free**

## Investment & Technical Chairs:

Nothing additional to report beyond what was presented earlier at the AGM.

## 3.0 Membership and Guests

Nothing additional to report beyond what was presented at the AGM. No new Members were inducted today.



#### 4.0 Members' Health:

Mike Purcell did not attend today's Mike's wife, Verna, had successful surgery and we wish her well. else present was aware of any with Members' health at the time of the meeting.



meeting.  
eye  
Nobody  
issues

That is good news all around.

*(Editor's Note: This comment preceded the sad news that Grant L. Gooding, a former President, passed away just a few days later on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.)*

#### 5.0 Speaker's Report

For the purposes of time management today, Grant Swanson shared **only the planned speaker for next month**. A full list of planned speakers for November & Q1, 2026 will be shared at our next general meeting.

- **October, 2025** - **Virginia Heffernan**, Principal at GeoPen Communications and an exploration geo-scientist, who will talk to us about **Ontario's Ring of Fire**. Virginia's BIO will be circulated with October's Newsletter.

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

#### 6.0 50:50 Draw



Today's draw (\$43) was won by Cam Davreux. Healthy drinking, Cam!

## 7.0 GUEST SPEAKER

Our speaker today, introduced by Grant, was Lt. Col (Ret'd) Shelagh Stevens whose detailed biography was outlined in the President's September newsletter distributed September 13th. Her 'Zoom' presentation coincided with the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the ending of WWII in the European & Pacific theatres of war.



Col. Stevens divided her presentation (also available shortly on our Club website) into Peacekeeping (old & new) and the key issues and challenges surrounding the Canadian Defence Department and Coast Guard.

She outlined the beginning of concerted peacekeeping after WWI (League of Nations) which was subsequently replaced by the establishment of the UN in 1945. The Suez crisis was the first international peacekeeping force. At that time and for 50 years, Canada was a known and accepted leader in peacekeeping.

She described the changing nature of peacekeeping from purely military to a blend of military and civil, particularly where local warlords influence

### PERSPECTIVES FROM AROUND THE WORLD - Canada



"Not men only. Not women only. Modern peacekeeping needs a mix of qualified men and women involved in every aspect of the peace process."

events and tend to destabilize further warring governments. Interaction with civilian populations of different beliefs and ideologies has affected the nature of eligible peacekeepers in Canada's Forces.

Modern peacekeeping requires a mix of men and women, where once it was considered a male-dominated occupation.

Col. Stevens then pivoted to describe the major issues affecting Canada's Defence Department. These included: pay & recruitment; the changing influence of the USA vs. Europe in military policies and advanced weapon procurement systems.



Given the changing nature of politics in the US, our procurement capabilities need to change urgently to the extent

that we may need to buy different types of armament from different countries to refine our capabilities that were often single-sourced (e.g. F-35 *and* the Swedish Saab Gripen aircraft).



Grant thanked Col. Stevens for her service to Canada and for the presentation, all slides of which will be available additionally on our Club website shortly.

## **7.0 Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the general meeting was made by Mike Tweedie and seconded by Andy Vavasour. The motion was approved by the Probus members present; Roy Oldfield adjourned the meeting at 12:00 Noon.

Our next meeting here in the Auditorium is **October 16th, 2025**.

There were **16** members for lunch. Excellent interest, Gentlemen!

Respectfully,  
Tim O'Shea,  
Secretary, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025



## 2025-2026 Management Committee

President	Roy Oldfield	(905) 847-2062
Past President	Paul Nelson	(905) 631-2390
Vice President	Ray Henrickson	(905) 469-0158
Secretary	Tim O'Shea	(905) 842-5133
Treasurer	Wolfgang Hartmann	(905) 257-6811
Speakers	Grant Swanson	(905) 510-8202
Activities	Peter McCormick	(905) 827-9274
	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	Alex Murphy	(905) 337-2924
50/50 Draw	Ray Henrickson	(905) 469-0158
Coffee Pickup	Tim O'Shea	(905) 842-5133
Investment Club	Dave Patterson	(905) 844-5894
Greeter	Mike Purcell	(905) 845-4097
Book Club	Alex Murphy	(905) 337-2924
	Cam Davreux	(905) 338-1974