



**THE PROBUS CLUB OF OAKVILLE**

Established in 1988 - The Fifth Probus Club in Canada

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

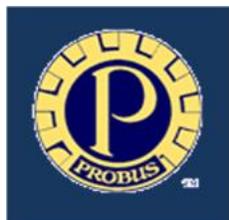


**February 19, 2026 – In-Person and Zoom Meeting.** *Meeting begins at 10:00 AM. Featured In- Person Speaker at 11:00 AM.*

**Meeting Place – Oakville Public Library - Central Branch –  
120 Navy St. Second Floor Auditorium**

**Plenty of Parking on Water St with Elevator to Second Floor**

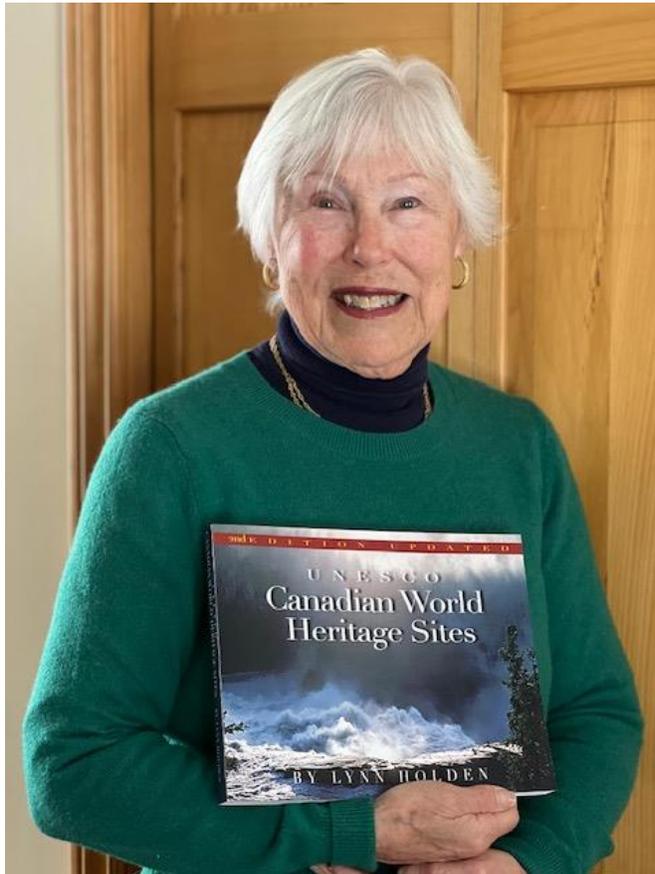
**FEATURED SPEAKER – Lynn Holden**



Probus Club of Oakville  
Speaker Information  
February 19, 2026

**Canada World Heritage Sites**

We are pleased to welcome back Lynn Holden as our speaker on February 19. Who can forget her stories last year about the journeys of the Vikings! She will be speaking about the World Heritage sites located in Canada. How many of these sites do you know or have visited? Perhaps there are some ideas for a Canadian vacation.



Lynn says “My journey across Canada began in 1982. While whitewater rafting down the Nahanni River I came across a plaque designating the Nahanni National Park and Reserve as a Canadian World Heritage Site.

During the next two years, I visited two more UNESCO sites. I decided to find out how many more there were in Canada and where they were located.

Over the next forty years I sought out and photographed all 22 sites plus ten tentative ones. During Covid I downloaded my slides onto the computer and wrote up about

each site. Since then I have also done a book “Beyond the Sites” which is a memoir of my adventures while seeking out each site.

I was raised on a farm in Clarkson Ontario, became a physical education teacher and then a professional photographer. I now live in Horseshoe Valley north of Barrie, Ontario.”

Lynn will be present in person and will bring books for sale.

**President's Message**

February 2026



Well, **“OLD MAN WINTER”** did us in and we had to cancel the January meeting due to the snow storm. As well we certainly have had some very, very cold weather, an **“OLD FASHIONED WINTER”**

Fortunately it did not hold us back from having a very successful PUB LUNCH in January. The Royal Windsor Pub was very generous in providing two free lunches as well as a couple of hooded sweatshirts, **“HOODIES”** to use the term that they are really known as. We are well looked after at the Royal Windsor. If you are able make sure that you plan to attend the next Pub Lunch. The Activities Committee will let us know when they are planning the next one.

It has come to my attention that guest that attend outings are not covered by the Probus Insurance. This being the case a waiver form is available to be signed by a guest who is attending a Probus Outing. I have been advised that it is not a requirement that the waver form be signed. We will be discussing this subject at the next management Committee meeting.

**Again I repeat - - -** The Activities Committee is planning outings throughout the Winter and Spring months.

Remember, if you commit to being interested in an event, please ensure that you sign up when the event is organized. A lot of work goes into planning and cancelling an event is not what the Committee enjoys having to do.

The weather has changed and I trust that everyone is enjoying the milder temperatures. It will take a lot of warm weather to melt some of the large piles of snow in some of the parking lots.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Roy Oldfield

President



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

Oakville Public Library, Navy St.

November 20th, 2025

**DENOTES ACTION REQUIRED**

**Roy Oldfield**, President, rang the opening bell at 10:00 a.m. and called upon the members present to take note of dramatic new arrangements for the Christmas Luncheon (**pages 5-6**).



Read on "all ye of good faith and appetite...".



#### **1.0 Membership and Guests**



There were **35** Members present today, plus **1** **guest**. Unfortunately, there was no 'Zoom' facility available due to Gerry P.'s unplanned hospital absence at short notice. We hope there was no inconvenience to prospective 'Zoomers' and that you can catch up on all the proceedings herein. Hats off to **Andy Vavasour** who jumped aboard to save the day and figure out the 'techy stuff' in Gerry's/Doug's/Hal's absences.

Jay shared that we had one guest today, **Bob Mady**, who is also a Probus Member at **Alta Vista, Ottawa**; Bob was introduced by Jack Rugg - a former work colleague.

In keeping with our enviable history of unparalleled generosity towards out-of-town fellow Probus Member Guests, Bob became entitled to his choice of:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: A surplus toaster from Mike Tweedie's recent garage sale; **or**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Two surplus toasters from ... **or**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Three surplus...you get the picture...



## 2.0 Minutes

Tim briefly reprised the Minutes of the last meeting and asked for a motion that the Minutes of the **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 regular meeting** be approved. Mike Purcell proposed; seconded by Jack Ruggg (who noted certain exaggerations in the Minutes and a misspelling of his surname, Rugggg). The motion was approved by the Probus members present without dissent or further comment. Phew!



## 3.0 **Members' Health**

**Mike Purcell** shared some unsettling news:

- **Bryan Noble** is fighting Cancer; Bryan was a member until last year when he found it harder to attend in person. Best wishes, Bryan, for some prompt relief from your challenges;
- **Doug Peebles** is undergoing testing for an undiagnosed illness; we hope to see you back at the techy controls soon with your team members, Doug;
- **Gerry Pielsticker** is undergoing treatments for lymphoma (he gave his permission for the Club to know).

This is his 7<sup>th</sup> (**seventh**) duel with the 'big, bad C' in various forms and we wish Gerry full steam ahead as he embarks on several rounds of chemotherapy.



**Knock it out of the park, Guys. We're rootin' for you All!**

Mike also phoned in the anticipated number of luncheon attendees (21), including our Guest Speaker, at Monaghan's, only to be told it might be a tad cramped in reserved area as a was already well into the the plum pudding.



our usual biker fraternity 'parked' and festivities and

Harley enthusiast Grant indicated 'no problemo' as he left the building...he would sort things out when he arrived. Grant was last seen heading South? on Trafalgar wearing his favourite 'I'm a Retired Consultant' bandana.



#### 4.0 Reports from Management Committee Members:

##### President

Roy led off the batting order by sharing that he had participated in a Probus presentation, in Honolulu, with Wolfgang) on technology focusing on:



1. how to attract and maintain members; and
2. how to keep them informed and advised as to what is going on in our Probus Club.

##### The purpose of the presentation focused on:

- Building our Probus presence using Facebook to connect with the community;
- Helping Probus Clubs make an informed decision about establishing a business Facebook page;
- Suggesting how to use a business Facebook page to raise our public profile; to support member recruitment; and to showcase our Club's activities to the broader community.

##### ACTION ITEMS

In order to understand this opportunity better, Roy will coordinate with the Tech Team to review whether there is anything further which can be

done by our Club to advance the overall objectives outlined above; our Club's website has received accolades already for its initiatives and we may be able to render assistance to other local Clubs in pursuit of a common goal;

**Roy** is also concluding discussions with the Central Library concerning our meeting dates in 2026. He has secured an undertaking that there will be **no 'black out' date(s)**, as happened in 2025. Thus, all our 11 meetings next year, **2026**, will be on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** monthly at the current location in the Central Library;

An updated **Membership List** is being sent next week to members via our Club g-mail site. **Kindly advise any amendments to Jay Kell (jaykell9@gmail.com)**. The list will be amended quarterly, as necessary.

### **Vice-President**

**Ray** indicated he would be introducing today's 'profiler' Cam Davreux later in the meeting. **Ray is travelling to Australia to see family and will miss our Christmas Luncheon.**

Safe trip, Ray!



### **Treasurer**

**Wolfgang** shared a current statement with the Membership. Our current Bank balance is **\$10,971.34**, although we have some bills pending. (*Author's Note: Read on for Wolfgang's 'explosive' input to the Christmas Lunch*).



### **Speaker's Report**

**Grant Swanson** shared the forthcoming list of tentative speakers today and for Q1 & Q2, 2026. **Great line-up, Grant.**

- Today, November 20th - **Lola Reid Allin**, a professional pilot, professional SCUBA diver, photographer, adventurer, world traveler, author ([Lola](#)) and public speaker, who will present her experience becoming a pilot...a career path that few women were encouraged to pursue;

- December – **No meeting**.
- January - **Don Siydock**, Director Regional Field Services, Emergency Management Ontario will speak about emergency management in Ontario;
- February – to be arranged;
- March – **Ermanno Pascutto**, a **fellow Probus member**, who has had a very interesting career as an international lawyer; Ermanno gave us a taste of his life's work several months ago when he shared a short profile;
- April – Back by popular request: **George Takach**, a lawyer and geopolitical analyst, who will be speaking about **Taiwan**, a pressure point in geopolitics and technology, which has relevance for both President Trump and Prime Minister Carney;
- May – To be arranged;
- June – **Margaret Larsen**, an **Oakville senior** who has been recognized for her efforts to support the survival of the **Monarch** butterfly; Margaret will be presenting with some hands-on exhibits.

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

### **Investment Club**

**Dave Patterson**...nothing additional to report as the Club follows the labyrinth of daily news which affects the Markets. This paper tiger Club continues to do well and has **earned superior returns since it began** 23 years ago!

### **Technical**

**Gerry**...no news to report Gerry is gearing up to fight the Hospital. Hope to see full throttle soon, Gerry.



today as his battles in you back at

### **Activities Committee**

Peter McCormick advised that our Christmas Luncheon for Members & Guests will be held, at the Oakville Golf Club (Sixth Line, L6H 6M1), totally AL FRESCO (which means outside, not a Venetian warlord).



Hmmm...When pressed by eagle-eyed members about the Club's Bank balance, Peter confessed to losing the meal selection records and associated deposits after a memorable forgettable night at the Casino crypto slots. **Major, major 'Whoopsie, Peter!**



So, our deposit for the event was late and the Golf Club insisted that this now be a patio-only, BYOB, self catering, 'al fresco' event.



Adjusted last minute timings for this 'Christmas Carol'-themed 'AL FRESCO' event will be as follows:

10:00 a.m.	Guests, members and MC arrive with individual tents at rear entrance to Golf Club to avoid front entrance security. Canoes will be provided to access the cliffs from Sixteenth Mile Creek. Assembly point is the 11 <sup>th</sup> Hole if you can find it;
10:15 a.m.	Mike P. arrives with communal BBQ, towed behind his Turbo Fiat Smart Car, for a surprise Christmas pig roast, without the pig;
10:16 a.m.	Wolfgang brings spare plutonium, tritium and all the heavy water fixings from his garage for quick BBQ ignition in case the neighbours get suspicious and gate crash the party;
10:20 a.m.	Guests shovel snow to prepare outdoor area for tables and chairs and decorate the tarpaulins with festive greenery; members watch
10:30 a.m.	Guest Accordion player (no fee) warms up her fingers and knobs;
10:45 a.m.	Peter arrives, in full orange prison uniform, with chicken wings/pizza/raw burgers, potatoes, sauces and frozen apple pies; since he can't find the original selection choices, anarchy may rule!
11:00 a.m.	🎵 'God Save the King' 🎵, followed by MC emergency meeting to figure out the problem of how to serve everyone quickly and cheerfully without the food going cold
11:05 a.m.	Roy communicates solution to Guests who are not happy campers, even though they are outside in toques, gloves and stilettos looking for a bartender;
11:10 a.m.	Ulrich announces that 50-50 draw tickets go on sale (10 for \$5; 9 for \$11); Alex does the math and buys 27 for \$33;
11:15 a.m.	All food mixed together in giant buckets and heaved into BBQ. Yuk!
11:20 a.m.	Guests take turns at stirring mess; Wolfgang gives the 2-minute pre-ignition warning to stand back and take cover;



11:22 a.m.	<p><b>Wolfgang</b> suits up with welder's mask and a l-o-n-g match; calculates temperature required for an express cook out: <math>(x + a)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k a^{n-k}</math>); turns heat dial to 5,2750 °F and steps back, bigly, quickly;</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>I-G-N-I-T-I-O-N</b></p>	
11:25 a.m.	<p>Resulting flame seen by orbiting satellites and recorded on geiger counters world-wide; Sixth Line becomes the new centre of the Universe;</p>	
11:25:01:09	<p>Food all cooked, bubbly and ready to be served, with Noël-themed straws &amp; Timmies cups; cutlery redundant; new Guinness Book record set for most liquid nuclear food served en masse outdoors;</p>	
11:45 a.m.	<p><b>Cam</b> arranges plastics clean up by an environmentally friendly backhoe service in keeping with his work experience;</p>	
11:50 a.m.	<p>Accordion player begins an energetic rendition of ♪..While Shepherds washed their socks at night, all seated 'round the still.....♪; everyone joins in, if only to keep warm;</p>	
11:55 a.m.	<p><b>Ulrich</b> absconds without announcing winner of 50-50 draw; leaves footprints in the snow, so it won't be long, Ulrich...<b>Alex</b> files complaint with MC about ticket prices;</p>	
11:57 a.m.	<p>'♪ O Canada' ♪ rings out across Oakville; Santa sets his compass;</p>	
11:58 a.m.	<p>Guests, Members - departure for Sixteen Mile Creek and home.</p> <p>MC stays to debate next year's variations on a luncheon theme</p>	
11:58:30 a.m.	<p>The two miscreants (<b>McCormick &amp; TBA</b>) will be summoned by the President to a speedy trial at the next MC meeting in January to account for their follies. (Editor: It needs to be <i>two</i> miscreants, otherwise, a new picture is required).</p> <p>Reports to follow in February.</p>	
11:59 a.m.	<p><b>Scrooge's</b> alarm clock goes off...<b>it's all been a (bad) dream!</b></p> 	

## ACTION REQUIRED

Peter also advised the following events for members and guests which are in the planning process and for some of which will be dependent upon winter weather:

- A tour of the high-tech, robotic **Amazon, Brampton** fulfilment/warehouse facility is planned for early 2026, with preliminary details to follow in an e-mail to each Member next week;
- A tour of **Dundern Castle National Historic Site** - **Dundern**, with a preliminary e-mail to follow to all members next week;
- A tour of the **Oakville Transit Facility Control Room & Bush Wash** where the new super-duper wash/rinse will be tested on the BBQ to remove recent gamma-ray stains;
- The ever-popular Pub Lunch at the Royal Windsor Pub.



Great energy, Guys. Well done!

If you have any follow-up questions, please contact Peter at:  
[petergmccormick@hotmail.com](mailto:petergmccormick@hotmail.com)

### 5.0 Profiler – Cam Davreux

Ray introduced Cam to the membership who shared with us the fascinating tale of his life's work & career.

Cam's grandfather emigrated to Canada in 1881 and farmed in SW Manitoba; his son, Cam's Dad, started a garage business and made 'snow planes' in the wintertime.

Cam was born in 1938 and is a proud child of the Prairies, where he attended the Brandon Campus of the U of M, graduating in 1959 and followed that with an MBA in 1963 from Western. He later found his way to Calgary and began working at Canadian Industries Ltd, later ICI, following multiple mergers. Much later, **Ralph Klein, the Premier of Alberta**, asked Cam to tackle the problem of plastics disposal in the pesticide industry.

A great deal of Cam's working career has been devoted to leading and consulting with plant science companies which make plant biotechnology, pesticides and herbicides for agriculture and urban use. Either as an employee or business owner specializing in recycling and life-cycle programs for agricultural products, Cam has been recognized nationally and internationally for his leadership in sector-leading stewardship initiatives.

Following his retirement in 2012, Cam gives his time and considerable energies to Crimestoppers, the Oakville Symphony and other Community Service organizations.

He and his wife, Maili, live in Oakville.

**Thank you for sharing, Cam. Great job!**

## 6.0 50:50 Draw & Luncheon Count (21)

Today's draw (\$52.50) was won by Rory Mahon, a fellow Irishman, who promised 'yours truly' a new shillelagh in exchange for a keg of my home brew...as if?

## 7.0 Guest Speaker

Harvey Rotrand introduced our featured speaker, Lola Allin, a pioneer who has broken multiple 'glass ceiling' barriers in her wide-ranging career.

Lola shared with us the manner in which she began her interest in aviation at a time when very few women were 'allowed' to consider 'a highway to the sky' as an option. She had been discouraged at an earlier age to pursue her interest, although her husband eventually enticed her into flying lessons. The rest is history as she embraced flying, eventually becoming a successful commercial pilot and flight instructor like a duck takes to water.

The road to becoming and being accepted as a commercial pilot was a long, distressing one, humiliating at times, but she pressed on. In reality, little has changed comparatively in 2025 where the number of female flight deck aviators in major commercial airlines in Nth. America is still very low (~6%).

She describes herself as a thrill seeker, but as a calculated risk taker. She is also a scuba master diver and respected photographer who has given much of her time to young females who are considering flying for a living whilst acknowledging how she was influenced by others female aviators who have become legends.

Lola spoke for nearly an hour, non-stop; it was clear that she had captured our attention, continuing to share her exploits with the group later at lunch.

**Thank you, Lola!**

## 8.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the general meeting was made by Paul Nelson and seconded by Jack Rugg. The motion was approved by the Probus members present. Amidst the upturning of chairs and the clamour of members to be **Rory's** best friend (for a day), **Roy adjourned the meeting** at 12:10 p.m. and wished all Members and their families good cheer for the Christmas Season and 2026.



Our next General Meeting here in the Auditorium is **January 15th, 2026.**

There were **21** members for lunch, easily displacing the rowdy bikers.

Mischievously,  
Tim O'Shea,  
Secretary, November 25<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