



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

www.theprobusclubofoakville.com



March 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 – Ermanno Pascutto



Probus Club of Oakville
Speaker Information
March 19, 2026

A Career in Investor Protection: From Hong Kong Markets to Canadian Courtrooms

We are pleased to welcome one of our members, Ermanno Pascutto, as our speaker on March 19.



Following his earlier talk on his professional background, Ermanno Pascutto will return to discuss some of the most interesting episodes from his career as a securities regulator and investor advocate.

His remarks will include several cases from his time as **Executive Director of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission**, including:

- **Alan Bond**, a famous Australian entrepreneur whose activities eventually led to imprisonment.
- Five year engagement with **Jardine Matheson**, one of the most powerful business groups in Hong Kong with roots going back to the early days of British trade in China. They were the hong that inspired books by James

Clavel including Tai Pan and Noble House.

- The extraordinary business empire of **Li Ka-shing**, long regarded as the most successful businessman in Hong Kong.

Ermanno will then describe how he later helped establish **FAIR Canada (the Canadian Foundation for Advancement of Investor Rights)**, an organization created to strengthen investor protection in Canadian financial markets by giving retail investors a professional voice.

Among the early issues FAIR Canada tackled were:

- The risks associated with **leveraged and inverse exchange-traded funds (ETFs)**.
- The widespread practice of **mutual funds paying trailer commissions to discount brokerages**, despite those brokerages not being permitted to provide investment advice.

These issues ultimately led to Ermanno occasionally serving as an **expert witness in securities litigation**, where questions about investor protection and industry practices are tested in court.

March 2026 Newsletter

For members who own mutual funds through discount brokerages, there may even be **money in it for you.**

Time permitting, he may also discuss another expert witness case that he is currently working on.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 2026

Welcome to **SPRING?????** Well we thought it was **SPRING** last weekend however we were fooled by the weather that appeared on Friday and Sunday this past week. According to the calendar March 20th is the first day of spring. Let us hope that the weather improves.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that Barbara & Paul Nelson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently. Congratulations to both of you. May you have many more anniversaries to celebrate.

At our last meeting the speaker offered a very interesting talk on the National Historic Sites in Canada. It certainly brought to our attention that there are many different places to visit in Canada. All, of which, offer an opportunity to explore our great country from Coast to Coast.

The lineup of speakers that Grant Swanson has arranged for the next few months are thought provoking and will offer some insight into a number of different subjects.

Our Activities Committee s busy endeavouring to arrange some outings. If you are able please sign up and attend the events that they are offering.

I hope that those who are ill, are improving. Rory, I trust that you are now home and on the mend. We wish you a speedy recovery.

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.

February 19th, 2026

DENOTES ACTION REQUIRED

Roy Oldfield, President, rang the opening bell at 10:00 a.m. and called the Membership to order for our **first meeting of 2026**.



A Happy, Safe & Healthy New Year, Everyone... 😊

1.0 Membership and Guests

Mike Purcell introduced **John Ball** as his guest. Welcome John. We hope to see you installed as a Member soon! We accept all forms of payment, including food stamps and gasoline vouchers - payable to the Club Secretary, In Trust.



Jay Kell installed new Member, **Rob Bentley**, and welcomed him to the Club.

Our Club now has 59 Members; there were 28 attendees at today's meeting.

Minutes

Since the January, 2026 meeting was cancelled because of inclement weather and the December, 2025 meeting was replaced by our Christmas Luncheon, the only Minutes up for review were those of **November 20th, 2025** which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Gerry P. moved that the November Minutes be approved; seconded by Michael D. The **Membership present approved the Motion** without further comment.



Tim O'Shea, our absent Secretary, is currently in New Zealand herding sheep, hurriedly, and working on his Sheep Shearing 101

Certificate as the ratio of Kiwis to sheep population there is dwindling – bigly.

[No sheep left in NZ by year 2199 - True Fox News report.](#)

The world record for shearing a sheep is **38 seconds**...held by a Kiwi. Tim took 73 minutes after stopping for a few quick pints and a pie. His face has been 'cropped' so as not to embarrass the sheep!



Jack Rugg had kindly agreed to take the Minutes and forward to Tim upon his return.

Ngā mihi, Jack! (I think that means 'thank you' in **Maori**, or you have ketchup on your tie – not sure???)

2.0 Members' Health

Mike Purcell shared the following news:

- Paul Nelson is celebrating his 60th Wedding



Anniversary and was unable to attend. Way to go Barbara & Paul!

- Alex Murphy is recovering from surgery. No more vacuuming or emptying the dishwasher for a while Alex. See you soonest!
- Rory Mahon returned early by medi-vac from his vacation in Portugal after breaking his pelvis. Ouch! Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Rory.

Mike also phoned in the anticipated number of luncheon attendees (15). Mike is off on vacation for the next 6 weeks. Have fun (and be safe) in Portugal, Mike!

3.0 Reports from Management Committee Members:

President

Roy led off the batting order...



- Roy congratulated everyone involved in the planning and entertainment (Tim Godfrey; Verna Purcell) of a very successful Christmas Luncheon, with special thanks to Peter McCormick & Jay Kell;
- The initiative by Probus Canada to consider expanding partnerships, to other than existing suppliers - *Belair Direct & Staples*, was not pursued further at this time, despite 72% of existing Clubs tendering their opinions in favour;

- PROBUS Canada will continue to provide Commercial General Liability and Management Insurance, with the addition of **Cyber Insurance** for 2026;
- The subject of (optional) **Waivers** for Guests attending Probus functions will be discussed at the next Management Committee meeting, April 2nd; the recommendations will be shared at the General Meeting, April 16th, 2026;
- As a result of a query at the Management Committee Meeting concerning the **RELOCATION OF THE LIBRARY** in 2031, we have answers, as follows:
 - A 1. There is a planned event space as well as meeting rooms that could accommodate our meetings in the new facility;
 - A 2. At this time, we are estimating an opening by **June 2031**;
 - A 3. There will likely be a 2-3 month gap where neither facility is available just prior to the new facility becoming available;
 - A 4. **Detailed design** of the new facility is anticipated to commence in **Q2 2026**. Once design is complete, there should be a better sense of construction timelines and space facilities etc., etc.;
- **Photographer**... We would like to have a photographer at our meetings; stay tuned for further details.

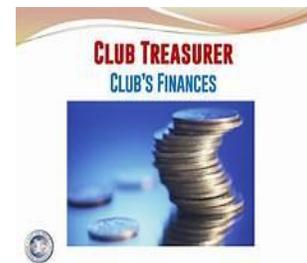


Vice-President

No items to report from **Ray**.

Treasurer

Wolfgang declared a healthy Bank balance of **\$6,846.12**, following the payment of our obligations to our hosts at The Oakville Golf Club and other recurring expenses.



Speaker's Report

Grant Swanson shared the forthcoming list of tentative speakers today and for the next several months. **Great line-up, Grant**, particularly given the last-minute rearrangements you made as a result of the inclement weather recently and the cancellation of our January meeting. (P.S....We'll let **you win the 50/50 draw today** as a tangible mark of our appreciation, but don't tell anyone.)



- Today...**Lynn Holden**, repeat presenter, author, historian and professional photographer, focusing on **22 World Heritage Sites in Canada**;
- 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; but who knows what his presentation will actually focus on given **the events in the Middle East** and the potential aftermath of the War (oops... 'USA special military initiative');
- May – In process;
- 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
- July, or August...the emerging big picture of **Artificial Intelligence**;
- September...**Ted Barris**, an acclaimed author and military historian, who will share the stories of **Canadian Aviators and ground crew in the Battle of Britain**.



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

Investment Club

Dave Patterson...nothing additional to report as the Club follows the labyrinth of daily news which affects the Markets. No doubt various stocks will do better or worse for a while as the **War in the Middle East** will have ripple effects that could affect us all!

Technical

Gerry... great to see you back! The Club website is up to date; he and Doug P. will update our Club's marketing materials on *Instagram, Facebook and Linked-In* so as to attract more new members.

Activities Committee

DENOTES ACTION REQUIRED

Peter McCormick & **Mike Tweedie** brought us up to date on recent and planned activities by the Activities Committee.

- There were **30** attendees for the Probus Pub Lunch on **Thursday, January 29th**. It was held at the **Royal Windsor Pub** (a.k.a. GHQ, E.) on Ford Drive in Oakville;

Mike Tweedie won the 50/50 Draw (\$50) **and** a free lunch. Mike Purcell won the second free lunch;

Two (2) free Hoodies, donated by the Pub, were won by Alex Murphy and Rory Mahon, both of whom are on the current D/L; ☹️

- A planned event at Dundurn Castle was interrupted by an unplanned ticketing change by the Castle Administrators which is much less convenient. **Stay tuned** as we will try a more coherent attempt at this attraction;
- A tentative visit to the **Amazon Facility in Brampton** is being planned for in late March or May. There are seemingly **onerous registration requirements** for the ~10 interested Members. **More details to follow at our next General Meeting;**



- The ever-popular Pub Lunch at the Royal Windsor Pub.

Great energy, Guys. Well done!

If you have any follow-up questions or event suggestions, please contact Peter at: petergmccormick@hotmail.com

4.0 Profiler – Peter McCormick

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

Peter was born in Toronto in 1945. He is married with two sons.

Peter talked about his career in business. He worked for CN initially in the accounting department. Then, he was recruited for the Data Centre at CN Programming. It used a computer system from Digital Equipment Corp. for payroll and other corporate functions. As it worked quite well, in 1991 he was chosen to market it internationally to small international telephone companies, mostly in Africa. In one African country where they thought they had a sale and were about to sign a contract, the person they were negotiating with got a call from the country's President advising him *not* to sign anything. **So, no deal!**

In 1997, Peter and associates were on a business sales trip to Damascus, Syria. Peter said it was a scary place to do business so, again, no sale was made.



He said it was an interesting place to see, though, and he had a great dinner there (*Peter top, third from left?*).

After retiring from CN Programming, he took a part time job at a furniture store for 16 hours a week to keep himself occupied.

After that, he was a leader at Scouts Canada so his two sons could be Beavers. He is still involved in Scouts Canada in an administrative position.

Thank you for sharing, Peter. Great job!
Instead of Timmies, could you bring some



lightly marinated Shawarma & Mutabal dip? 😊

5.0 50:50 Draw & Luncheon Count (21)

As forecast, **Grant** scooped today's proceeds of \$45. Well deserved!

6.0 Guest Speaker

Grant introduced **Lynn Holden**, our speaker today, now living in Horseshoe Valley, north of Barrie. She had talked at the club last year regarding the Vikings and their history and influence in Canada.

Today's topic focused geologically and culturally on the **22 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Canada**, enlightening & encouraging us with some ideas for a 'stay in Canada' vacation. This is so relevant as we see the world shrinking, temporarily, as a result of the 2026 Middle East War 'Special US Military Initiative'.

Lynn recounted... "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**. There are about 1,500 UNESCO World Heritage Sites across the whole world."

During COVID-19, Lynn downloaded her slides onto the computer and wrote up about each site. Since then, she has authored a book "Beyond the Sites" which is a memoir of her adventures while seeking out each site.

Two possible future World Heritage Sites in Canada that may be applied for, in or around 2028, are:

- **Heart's Content Transatlantic Cable Station, NL**, where the first Transatlantic telegraph cable originated around 1867;
- **Wanuskewin Heritage Park, SK**. [Park link](#)



One of her book sites, amongst others, is attached [here](#) for additional reference (Haidi Gwaii Museum).

Thank you, **Lynn**! A fascinating labour of love and dedication to Canada.

7.0 Adjournment

Roy adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Our next General Meeting here in the Auditorium is **March 19th, 2026**.



There were 15 members for lunch at Monaghan's.

Tim O'Shea,
Secretary, March 3rd, 2026

(with thanks to **Jack Rugg**).



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