



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

www.theprobudclubofOakville.com



May 21, 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 – James Fudurich



Probus Club of Oakville
Speaker Information
May 21, 2026

Bank of Canada: Role and Outlook

We are delighted that James Fudurich will be our speaker on May 21.



James is a senior economist in the Canadian Economic Analysis department, based in the Ontario Regional Office. He conducts research and analysis on key sectors of the Ontario economy and contributes to the quarterly Business Outlook Survey. James will make a presentation on the Bank's role and its latest outlook as presented in the April 29 Monetary Policy Report before answering members' questions.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 2026

There really has not been a lot of activity regarding The Oakville Probus Club to report.

Last month our speaker, George Takach, certainly enlightened us on the situation in Taiwan. I am reading his book and it is a real eye opener.

I attended, on line, the Annual Probus Canada Meeting. There were no major items on which to report. The most discussion was regarding the financial presentation. Sounds familiar!!! Our District 3 representative, Allan Evans, is the new Vice-President for Probus Canada. We certainly wish him every success in his new role.

We held a Pub Lunch at the Royal Windsor Pub which unfortunately was not well attended. The service was slow and as a result Mike Purcell brought it to the attention of the owner. The owner is making amends and the next Pub lunch will have some nice surprises for us.

Unfortunately the Amazon outing had to be cancelled. Not our fault. Apparently they have private tours and they take precedence over public tours. Ours is considered a public tour. The Activities Committee is working hard to establish a new date for our tour. As well they are working on other outings



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Minutes of the General Meeting - Probuc Club of Oakville

Oakville Public Library, Navy St.

April 16th, 2026

DENOTES ACTION REQUIRED

Roy Oldfield, President, checked his favourite watch which doesn't need batteries and proclaimed the meeting open at 10:00:01 EDT, as confirmed by the official Canadian Atomic Clock, Ottawa.



1.0 Membership and Guests

Paul Nelson, substituting for Jay Kell introduced 3 guests...John Miklowski; John Berg and Larry Ladouceur (John Paterson). A warm welcome, Gentlemen.

John M. was a 'walk in' last month and we are delighted to see him return; no pressure, John, but our 'official photographer' will be here in May to record your keen interest and acceptance of the Oath of Membership.

No need for a cheque, John...we can do this now by using a discount feature on the Club's Abacus, lent by Mike T., which was



acquired during his Greek & Chinese Studies not long after he had misplaced the **Elgin Marbles** [Tweedie's Lost Marbles](#).

But I digress, bigly. Back to Membership & Guests.

33 Members, from our full complement of **59**, attended in person today; there were no 'Zoomers'.

Paul went on to describe a 'test' initiative **'Be a Friend – Bring a Friend'** in our drive for membership whereby every **new guest at our May 21st meeting** (max. **5**) will be treated to a **free lunch** at Monaghan's. A reminder was sent to t recently, April 19th.



DENOTES ACTION

Kindly give this initiative serious thought and **confirm your guest's name** to Jay Kell at: jaykell9@gmail.com, or (289) 407 3859'

Jay is also looking to have some help on the Membership Committee. Let's be a friend to Jay, too, and volunteer an occasional hour a month to help him.

2.0 Minutes

Tim O'Shea, Secretary, galloped through the March Minutes, obtaining both a Motion to Approve (Fred MacLellan), and a seconder, Mike P., in 0.8 minutes...all without objection. The time saved was devoted to Members' Health below.



3.0 Members' Health

Mike Purcell (Health News Co-ordinator) had been on vacation in Portugal and has returned safely.



Rory Mahon, who had been repatriated safely after a **mishap in Portugal**, advocated forcefully for Members to ensure that they **carry Medical Insurance** when overseas. He outlined the staggering costs of hospitalization, medicines and air repatriation fees which could entail

serious hardships and anxiety for any uninsured Member. **Rory** is on the mend. 😊

Thankfully, Mike reported no *new* reports of any Member's ill health. Gerry P. is fighting back hard! **Go, Gerry, Go.**

4.0 Reports from Management Committee Members:

President

Roy led off the batting order...

- Our Annual Meeting of **Probus Canada** will be held on May 11th;
 - Roy will represent our Club; **District 3 and the Mothership** seem quite energized. Outcomes to follow;
 - **Membership Dues** for 2026/2027 will remain unchanged (\$**75**). There is also a popular option to prepay all coffee fees for all 11 meetings for an **extra \$10, annually**. All you can drink...a veritable 'drinkåsbord';
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- There may be **room for additional interest groups** to form within our Club to cater to our changing demographic. Already-established Clubs (e.g. the **Investment Club and Book Club**) may be potential early sources of interest for newer and prospective members since the **demographic 'gap' between senior members and new members is ~12 years**. Stay tuned for more insights.



Nomination Committee

Paul indicated that he was overwhelmed with applications next year's slate of Officers, but could cope – barely - for now. If are interested in offering your candidacy for a committee/support role next year **to August**), or to enquire generally, kindly advise Paul Nelson.



for
he
you

(**Sept**

(**pnelson1941@hotmail.com**).

Nominations will close in July in preparation for informing the Membership; voting will take place in August and finalized at our September AGM.

Vice-President

No new items to report from **Ray** who will introduce our Profiler later today, **Hal Buller**.

Treasurer

Ray H. substituted for Wolfgang today. Ray confirmed what Wolfgang had shared with the Management Committee on April 2nd...our finances are in sound shape, and our current Bank Balance as of March 31st was C\$6,523.28.



Speakers Report

Grant Swanson shared the forthcoming list of tentative speakers for today and for the next several months; some speakers' names/topics are being finalized already for October and November:

- **Today** – Back by popular request: **George Takach**, a lawyer and geopolitical analyst, who will be speaking about **Taiwan**, a pressure point in geopolitics and technology; given the changing face of democracy worldwide, Canada's **emerging focus away from dependency on the US** and towards other nations will feature in George's conversation;

- May – James Fudurich, Senior Economist, Canadian Economic Analysis Department, **Bank of Canada**;

- 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; bring your nets, Gentlemen. At least the Monarchs don't stand in line at **US Airports**



before migrating 😊;

- July – **Quantum Computing Explained**...almost finalized;

- August...the big picture of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**;

- September...**Ted Barris**, an acclaimed author and military historian, who will share the stories of **Canadian Aviators and ground crews in the Battle of Britain** in 1940 **WW2 Aircraft**;



- October & November – discussions underway;

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

Investment Club

Dave Patterson

The Club meets monthly at Amica, Bronte Harbour. It is keen to invite new members who may be interested also in expanding the breadth of the Club's activities.

Annual returns (26.5%) on Canadian Equities for the Club's virtual portfolio have far exceeded the local markets. No money down, Gentlemen; just bring your interest and have some fun.



Technical

Gerry... was absent for one of his treatments, but joined us later for lunch. He is regaining energy slowly as he approaches his final chemo treatment and transitions to other diagnostic interventions. 😊 Gerry and his team are keen to expand the breadth of their activities also to cater to emerging interests. Watch this space!



Activities Committee

DENOTES ACTION REQUIRED

Mike Tweedie brought us up to date on planned activities in Peter McC's absence:

- A confirmed visit to the Amazon Facility in Brampton is being finalized for May 20th. There are two times available for the ~24 members & guests attending;

Mike/Peter will ask you to select one of the two times available (9:00 a.m., or 12:00 noon). Stay tuned for the follow up communication;



- Attempts are being made to resuscitate the trip to Dundurn Castle as a result of the Castle Administration changing its group tour protocols;

- The ever-popular Pub Lunch at the Royal Windsor Pub (**Thursday, April 30th**...invite sent). **April 26th** is the **last day to confirm** with Peter (petergmccormick@hotmail.com);
- July 23rd...**Waste Water Treatment Plant** [Wellies & Smelling Salts?](#); more details to follow from Ulrich W., including exact location of the facility;
- Good variety, Guys. Keep up the good work!

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

5.0 Profiler – Hal Buller

Today's Profiler, introduced by **Ray H.**, was **Hal Buller**, a proud former member of our Canadian Military and a recent addition to our Technology Team.

Hal has served **Canada** across a wide spectrum of responsibilities with experience over 32 years inside the Canadian Forces across Ontario and BC. While in BC, Hal was the **Chief Technology Officer for the Army** in the G6 Directorate.



Additionally, he has wide and practical experience in **PEOC** (Provincial Emergency Operations Centres) where has coordinated, amongst other duties, **Amateur Radio** Emergency Centres (ARECs).

At various times, Hal has been Adjutant, G6, Officer Commanding, Deputy Commanding Officer, Regimental Operations Officer, Squadron Commander, Artillery Communications Officer, Training Officer, Finance Officer. **Quite a list of dedicated service, Hal!**

After leaving the military, **Hal** joined the **Canadian Corps of Commissionaires** where he has shared his skills for the past 14 years. This proud organization celebrated its **100th Year** recently.



Great job, Hal. Thank you for your services and for sharing your time and energy with us.

50:50 Draw & Luncheon Count

Ray H. announced a haul of \$50, which was won again (did I say again?) by Mike Purcell. A Stewards Enquiry was called after it was alleged Mike's tickets had Velcro attached inside the draw bucket and his new lawn sprinkler system was installed by one of Ray's numbered companies 😊. Results to follow.

18 members indicated they would attend for lunch.

6.0 Guest Speaker

Grant introduced **George Takach**, our returning Speaker who had intrigued (and worried us) about the state of play in the Taiwan (Formosa) Strait when he spoke with us in 2025. 😞

In George's new book (*Inspired by Taiwan: Why Supporting Taiwan Matters for Global Democracy*), he gave us a whole lot of new facts and more cause to be wary of China and the changing world order influenced, in part, by the antics of our southern neighbour's Administration.

Taiwan is more than the world's technology hub, producing over 90 percent of the globe's most advanced semiconductors. It also hosts a high-performance democracy, a vibrant civil society, and a population comfortable with religious, gender, and sexual diversity. Taiwan's education and healthcare systems command worldwide respect, and its political resilience inspires admiration across the democratic world.



Yet, China claims Taiwan as its own and applies relentless pressure through economic, diplomatic, and military means, stopping just short of open war. Against this backdrop, **Taiwan's success as a democracy** strengthens its resolve to resist coercion and inspires others to defend freedom.

In ‘**Inspired by Taiwan**’, George shows why Taiwan matters—to its own people and to the world—and why democracies everywhere advance their national interests when they support it. This is a call to recognize Taiwan not just as a strategic outpost but as a beacon for the global democracy project.

Great work, George. Thank you.

Adjournment



Roy adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m. to allow time for George to autograph his new book and for the members to depart for lunch.



Our next General Meeting here in the Auditorium will be **May 21st, 2026.**

Respectfully,
Tim O'Shea,
Secretary, April 22nd, 2026

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

Meeting Technical Coordinators	Hal Buller Andy Vavasour	
Marketing Technical Coordinators	Doug Peebles Mike Tweedie	(905) 842-1819 (905) 338-1281
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

