



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

www.theprobusclubofoakville.com



September 17, 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 – Ted Barris



Probus Club of Oakville
Speaker Information
September 17, 2026

Battle of Britain: Canadian Airmen in Their Finest Hour

We are delighted that Ted Barris will be our speaker on September 17.



“Never in the field of human conflict...” are Churchill’s words that set the 113 days of the ***Battle of Britain*** in the summer of 1940 apart from all others, as the greatest aerial battle in history. As the German Luftwaffe sought to destroy the Royal Air Force, gain air

superiority, and invade the British Isles, Commonwealth fighter pilots scrambled from U.K. airfields day after day and flew Hurricane and Spitfire fighter aircraft to thwart Hitler’s plan. They won but paid dearly.

Among the 2,937 aircrew in this first test of Allied skill, resilience, and courage, over 100 pilots flew with the “Canada” patch on their shoulder, and another 200 erks (ground crew) kept their fighters in the air. And Churchill orated that never was “... so much owed by so many to so few.”

In his 22nd book of nonfiction, ***Battle of Britain: Canadian Airmen in Their Finest Hour***, Ted Barris has assembled unknown stories of Canadian airmen, ground crew, as well as engineers, aeronautical designers, medical officers and civilians who answered the call and turned back the very real threat of Nazi invasion. You know the outcome of the ***Battle of Britain***, but now you’ll meet the Canadians who helped secure victory in this WWII life-and-death struggle.

Ted Barris is an award-winning journalist, author, and broadcaster. His writing has regularly appeared in the national press and in magazines as diverse as ***Air Force***, ***Canada's History***, ***esprit de corps*** and ***Zoomer***. He has also worked as host/contributor for most **CBC Radio** network programs, **NPR** in the US and on **TV Ontario**. He taught journalism at Toronto's Centennial College for 18 years and has written a weekly column/weblog ***The Barris Beat*** since 1983.

[Ted Barris • author | journalist](#)

Ted will bring his book for sale and signing.



Hawker Hurricanes climb to meet Luftwaffe attack, 1940

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 2026

Probus Members,

I would like to take this opportunity, as my year as president comes to an end, to say thank you to all who made my year as President of The Oakville Probus Club easy and memorable.

I have truly enjoyed the experience of being your President and I look forward to joining those Past Presidents who have preceded me.

The members of the Management Team have been extremely helpful and have made my year very easy.

Past President, Paul Nelson, kept me on the straight and narrow and reminded me I needed to prepare a President's Report for the Newsletter.

Vice President, Ray Hendrickson, filled in for me when I was not available. As well, he did a wonderful job selling the 50/50 tickets. Thank you Ray.

Secretary, Tim O'Shea, has kept us aware of what took place at the meetings and added some humour to the minutes. Also, thanks to Jack Rugg who filled in for Tim while he was visiting the homeland, Ireland, as well as other exotic destinations.

Membership Chair, Jay Kell, has been able to increase our membership during the last year. Well done Jay.

Treasurer, Wolfgang Hartmann, kept our books in good order. You did a great job, Wolfgang.

Speaker Chair, Grant Swanson, has done a remarkable job in having many fine speakers present their topics at our meetings, Thank you Grant for a wonderful job.

Activities Chair, Peter McCormick, picked up part way through the year and with his team of Ulrich Wickardt, Mike Tweedie and Doug Peebles, have managed to

put together some great activities, not the mention the Pub Lunches. Gentlemen, we appreciated your efforts.

Book Club Chair, Alex Murphy and Cam Daveroux have kept the Book Club on track. Cam took over from Alex in February and is doing a fine job, as did Alex previously.

Technology, Gerry Pielsticker, along with his team Hal Buller, & Andy Vavasour, have made remarkable progress with the technology. Especially the audio portion of the meetings as well as other technology. Thank you gentlemen.

Investment Club, Dave Patterson. This group of members are making money "HAND OVER FIST " to bad it is not real money versus only on paper. Keep up the good work!

In addition to the above members, the regular members of The Oakville Probus Club were always present to enjoy the meetings and fellowship. Without you there would not be a Club. Thank you to all who attended in person as well as on line.

One of the highlights of my year was being able to celebrate the 101st birthday of Gerry Sutton. Gerry does not miss many of the meetings, if any, and we will miss him as he is moving to Gananoque at the end of September. We certainly wish him well and we hope that he will enjoy his new home. That area of Ontario is certainly an interesting area to explore. All the best Gerry.

Of course we also enjoyed the Christmas Lunch at the Oakville Golf Club, where we had a tasty meal as well as entertainment, not to mention the draws for wine & chocolates.

I would like to extend "**OUR**" thanks to Gerry Sutton for the generous luncheon we had at Paradiso after last month's meeting. Gerry it was a wonderful lunch and good fellowship.

I am not going to even try to recap all of the meetings or events that occurred during the year. Suffice it to say that I believe we had an enjoyable and successful year and I look forward to many more years as a member of the Oakville Probus Club.

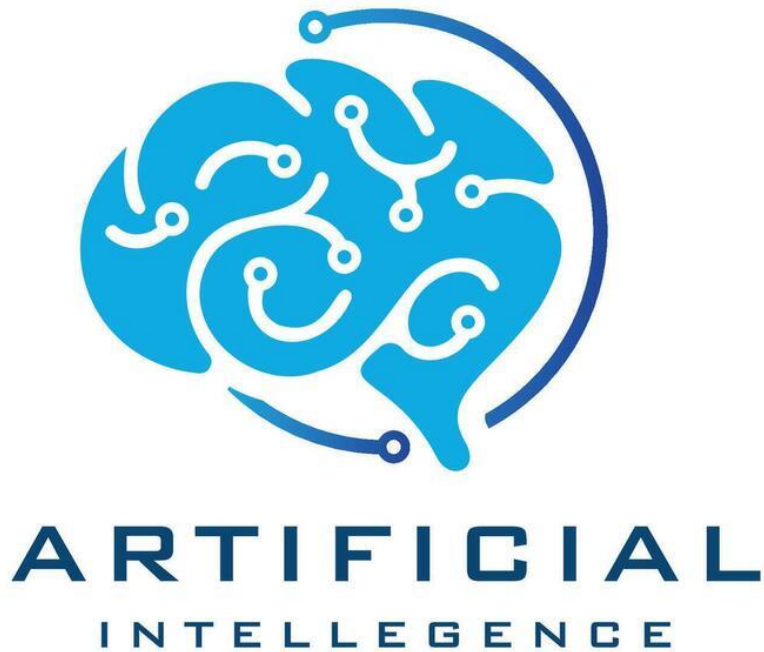
Roy Oldfield

President

2026--2027 Management Committee Nominees

President	Ray Henrickson	(905) 469-0158
Past President	Roy Oldfield	(905) 847-2062
Vice President	Grant Swanson	(905) 510-8202
Secretary	Tim O'Shea	(905) 842-5133
Treasurer	Andy Vavasour	(709) 727-8180
Speakers	Paul Nelson	(905) 631-2390
Activities	Peter McCormick	(905) 827-9274
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

Nominees will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting on September 17.



**CURIOUS ABOUT AI?
A New Probus Special Interest Group**

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly becoming part of our everyday lives. But what can it actually do for us?

We are considering forming a small group of Probus members who would like to explore AI in a relaxed, friendly and practical setting.

NO TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED.

We would meet once a month to:

- **Discover what AI can—and cannot—do**
 - **Try useful AI tools together**
 - **Share experiences and ideas**
- **Explore how AI can help with everyday activities**
- **Discuss the opportunities and challenges AI presents**

Initial membership would be limited to 15–20 members. Members could bring a laptop, iPad or smartphone, although simply coming with your curiosity is enough to get started.

Interested? Contact Paul Nelson at pnelson1941@hotmail.com or sign up at our September 17 Meeting.

Minutes of the General Meeting - Probus Club of Oakville

Oakville Public Library, Navy St.

August 20th, 2026

DENOTES ACTION REQUIRED

Roy Oldfield called this final meeting (for his Presidency) to order at 10:00 a.m.



1. Membership and Guests

Jay Kell indicated that there were no new members to introduce; our Club has 61 members.

28 Members attended in person today; there were no 'Zoomers'.

Jay outlined again the three available options to pay for forthcoming Membership Dues (unchanged at C\$75, September, 2026 to August, 2027), including the option, for an extra \$10, to have free coffee & 'Timbits' for all 11 meetings.

Payment by internet to the Club's membership tab is preferred [Click Here to Pay My Dues](#), but other payment forms are acceptable – 'snail mail' to Wolfgang H., or payment in person at the September 17th AGM meeting. Keep those annual dues pouring in, Gentlemen!

Jay acknowledged Rory Mahon who has stepped up to offer Jay some assistance to manage the Membership Committee's activities. Great team spirit, Rory!

2.0 Minutes

Tim reviewed the Minutes from July 16th and acknowledged the comment provided by Andy V. (Technology Team) with respect to the correct use of 'Chrysalis' vs. 'Cocoon' (June presentation) to identify the pupal stage of the Monarch Butterfly and its metamorphosis. Quite a mouthful! Good catch!

A **Motion to approve the Minutes** (Gerry P.) was seconded by Peter McC. and approved without objection by those in attendance.

Next month – for something completely different – at the 10:45 a.m. break, new President-elect **Ray H.** will

award the first ever combined Probus degree in *Entomology, Etymology & Sound Recording* to **Andy** for his diligence.



3.0 **Members' Health**

Mike P. Thankfully, there were no new reports of Members' ill health.

Mike acknowledged **Gerry Sutton's** generous invitation to members who attended the August 20th meeting **to join him as his guests for lunch at 'El Paradiso'** (conveniently opposite the library) after the meeting.

Wow...such a heartwarming and thoughtful way to acknowledge the friendships that Gerry has made at our Club over many **(25)** years. **Thank you, Gerry. Best wishes upon your planned relocation to Gananoque, On.**

4.0 **Reports from Management Committee Members**

President - Roy thanked Ray H. for presiding over last month's meeting.

Roy commented once again that we are looking into forming some new, small interest groups **in addition to the Book Club and the Investment Club** to acknowledge the interests of a younger member demographic. Let us know if there are any groups that interest you, potentially. Thus far, negligible response. Perhaps a wine club, a breakfast club, a dinner club, walking club etc.? **(See also Technology – Page 4).**

Nomination Committee – **Paul Nelson**

All Nominations for the 2026-27 **Management Committee** have been identified, with the **exception of Speaker Chair**. Nominations, which were read out to the floor, and are also included in the 'AGM pre-read', will be



presented formally at the AGM meeting, **September 17th**; at that time, Paul will also acknowledge the contributions of the MC-Support Team Members.

Vice President - Ray Henrickson - Ray reported that today's Profiler will be Larry Ladouceur. See page 6.

Treasurer



Wolfgang shared the July, 2026 transactions...our finances are in sound shape, and our current Bank Balance, as of July 31st, was **C\$8,403.72**. This higher balance reflected the receipt of a number of annual membership dues. Thank you, Wolfgang, for your stewardship. **Andy Vavasour** is the Treasurer-elect for 2026-2027.



Speakers - Grant Swanson – reported that today's Speaker, **Kevin Matsui**, will be telling us all we need to know (and may have forgotten) about **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.

- Coincident with the timing of the Battle of Britain's 86th



Anniversary,
Ted Barris, well
known Author,

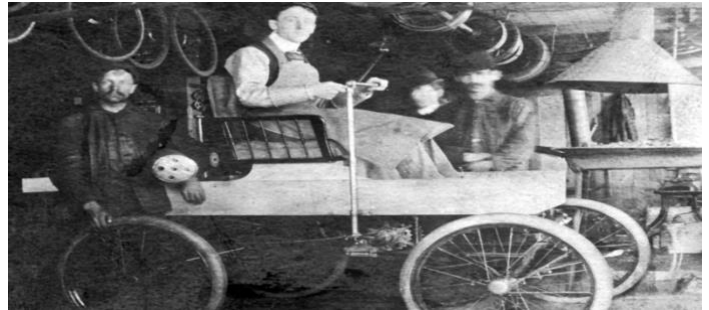


will be telling us about
Canadian Air Crews amidst
the ever-present dangers of

war and their team accomplishments during WWII in

**September. ..."Never in the field of human conflict was
so much owed by so many to so few"** (**Winston
Churchill**);

- October - Katherine Clark, who extensive experience with 'Médecins Sans Frontières', both in Canada and in faraway countries including Chad, Central African Republic, and South Sudan;
- November - Advocacy Center for the Elderly – Ermanno's daughter is a lawyer there. They represent seniors who have been scammed or subject to elder abuse. Grant is in the process of discussing arrangements;
- December – **no general meeting** – Christmas Luncheon, December 3rd;
- January – Ron Foss, who is the grandson of the inventor of the 'Fossmobile', which was arguably built before Henry Ford's car. He has stories about its creation and use and has built a working replica of that car. [Canada's own Fossmobile, 1897](#)



Remember, Members, if you have an idea for Grant's successor to pursue, please let Grant/him know at: gswanson@cogeco.ca. Great line-up, Grant!

Investment Club – Dave Patterson - The Club will return in September from its summer hiatus;

Technology - Gerry P. All systems are 'GO' and our presentation recording/speaker technology is functioning well. Good job, Team.

Assuming interest, the Team is planning to host a number of "how do I do/fix x-y-z on my computer, or other portable gizmo"? and/or stage a number of technology demos for the Club. etc.? Great initiative, Guys!

Gerry also informed us that he is now dealing with Lung Cancer 😞 after a spot was found (early) on a lung. This is his *eighth separate fight with Cancer*; his mood, as always, is optimistic and we wish him well. **Go, Gerry, Go!**

On another serious note, Gerry is offering his time to treat **former member Bryan Noble**, who is in declining health, to a periodic ride in the country and an ice-cream when Bryan's health allows.



Great way to help **Penny, Bryan's wife**. If you want to join Bryan & Gerry some day for a country jaunt, let Gerry know.

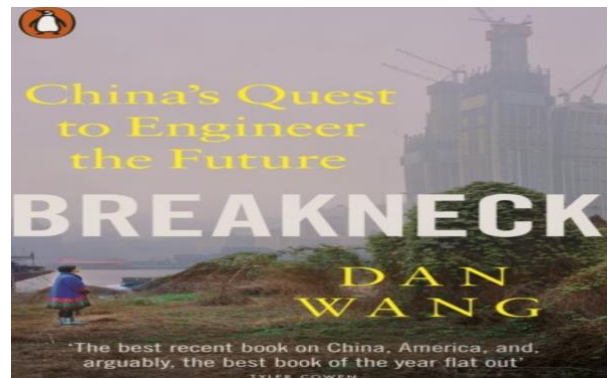
Book Club

Cam Davreux reported that the group is thriving and currently reviewing "**Breakneck**": China's Quest to Engineer the Future" by **Dan Wang**.

Cam figures that the abbreviated works of **Dickens, Shakespeare, or Tolstoy**, combined, in the language of Pashtun, or Seminole, might have been simpler.



Author Wang raises some serious matters for sober and extended review.



Current estimates are February 2027 to complete Chapter 41 (all 610 pages 😊). The Club will shortly take on reading **PM Carney's book, "Values"**.

Check in with Cam Davreux if you are interested in becoming a member (camdavreux@gmail.com).

Activities

DENOTES ACTION REQUIRED

Peter McCormick brought us up to date on planned activities:

- ✓ On **August 27**, there will be a Tour of **HCMS Haida and the Hamilton Harbour Trolley**. Haida Tour is **free** while the Trolley Tour is about \$10 per person; **confirm your interest ASAP**, please to Peter;
- ✓ A Pub Lunch is scheduled for **September 24** at the Royal Windsor Pub; **sign up now** so we have an accurate count;
- ✓ A **Train Tour** is being planned for the **South Simcoe Railway on October 17**. Senior tickets (\$14) and 'Other' tickets (\$17); these are expected to be available on September 8 and **will require sign ups**;
- ✓ A **Toyota tour (Cambridge Plant)** is being planned, **November 5**. The Tour **will be free**, but government ID will be required for security purposes. Bus rental is being investigated;
- ✓ The **Christmas lunch is scheduled for December 3** at the Oakville Golf Club, Sixth Line.

Finally, Peter & the Team will be asking each of us **to offer 3 suggestions for an Activity** which can be considered by the Team. If we don't participate, then we can't complain! **Wow...busy Team!** Details to follow.

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

4.0 Profiler – **Larry Ladouceur**

Ray H. introduced **Larry Ladouceur**, a recent new member, who shared his life's story in Sales, Insurance & Marketing with pedigree companies and how his wife and family lived and worked across Nth. America.



graduation. He spent 4 years in Sales at **Colgate Palmolive**, rooming with 6 other young men in Forest Hill, Toronto;

▪ Larry attended school in **Tecumseh, Essex County** and decided to leap into the world of real work straight after

- He decided to return to education and entered the University of Detroit, graduating in 1966 and then marrying his wife of 60 years, Diana; he returned to Sales at Proctor & Gamble, where he remained for 5 years, having been recruited by his former colleague and officer at Sea Cadets;



- Larry then joined Michelin Tire in 1971 working across the US before he resigned to join Kimberly Clark in Commercial Paper Sales, moving with his wife, Diana, and three children (Brad; Brett & Kelly) to Ventura, California;
- Canada beckoned again, and the family left the US in 1974 to return to Tecumseh, where Larry joined the Detroit Free Press, in Detroit, for one year (back then cross border work was much easier and less complicated than today). And so, having worked for 10 years in the US, Larry also qualified for a US Pension;
- Co-Operators Insurance was his next job for 5 years, before he dipped his toe into Real Estate. Here, as many may recall, life was good until the recession(s) of the early/mid/late 80s when BOC interest rates peaked at ~21%. It was a period of high inflation (~12%) and poor economic growth; in 1981, the average 5-year fixed mortgage rate in Canada reached an alarming record of about 21 percent (see [BOC Stats for a nightmare memory lane/deep dive](#));
- Larry left that chaos and re-entered Insurance becoming the Marketing Manager at Allstate Insurance for Southern Ontario, before retiring at age 66.
- Just to make life even more interesting, Larry & Diana sold their home, cashed out and bought a 30' camper trailer, touring Nth America for 7 excellent years.



Amongst
Larry's
leisure
activities are

sailing and mountain biking!

Before living in Oakville, Diana & Larry settled in Bracebridge for 12 years.

- (Editor's Note: Phew...by my count, Larry has had 36 jobs in two different countries and lived in 29 places and is 93 years old

( I'm so dizzy...) just like Tommy Roe.

- Two of Larry's defining and guiding mantras are:



"That's life" & "Pick yourself up and get back in the race". It sure looks like that wherever he learned these, they have served him and his family well.

Thanks for sharing these adventures and choosing to join The Probus Club of Oakville, **Larry!**

5. 50:50 Draw & Luncheon Count:

Ray H. announced the winning ticket was held by **Peter McCormick who won \$38.00.**

There were **20 attendees** for lunch at 'El Paradiso', generously **hosted by Gerry Sutton** and greatly appreciated.

6. Speaker – Kevin Matsui

KEVIN MATSUI, our guest today, was the Managing Director, University of Guelph's **Centre for Advancing Responsible and Ethical Artificial Intelligence (CARE-AI)**. Kevin leads efforts to grow the **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Deep Learning and Data Science** community on campus at U. of G. and ensures that it is well connected externally (<https://www.care-ai.ca/>);

Kevin began by testing our knowledge of AI by teasing us with several examples of what *may* be AI or what *may* also be *programmed learning*. Think, for example, of the buttons on your toaster/microwave/dishwasher, or the conditional formulae built into an excel spreadsheet **vs.** a Chatbot AI Agent. **It is evident that we use AI more often that maybe we had thought!;**



AI programming, particularly machine learning (ML), works differently from traditional programming.

Instead of relying on explicitly defined rules, AI models learn from data and make

decisions based on patterns.

In AI, the programmer does not explicitly define every possible rule. Instead, the system is trained on large amounts of data and it *learns* to make decisions based on data. (Source: [Geeks for Geeks](#));



Kevin was able to make us feel more comfortable about the AI phenomenon generally (e.g. how new cooling systems **vs.** water are emerging for massive data centres; how some jobs may be replaced by AI swifter than others (e.g. *data entry* junior jobs) and how, overall, the likelihood that AI will create more, albeit different, jobs than it takes away, over time. **Medicine and agriculture** look to benefit almost immediately. New opinions on AI emerge daily. Sorting **fact from fiction** is a daily challenge also!

Great presentation from a **great Ambassador** for the University of Guelph, **Kevin**. Thank you.

7. Adjournment

Roy adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.
Our next **Annual General Meeting** & monthly General Meeting will be here in the Auditorium, **September 17th, 2026.**



Respectfully,
Tim O'Shea, Secretary,
August 25th, 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

Key Support Positions

Meeting Technical Coordinators	Hal Buller Andy Vavasour	(905) 825-3231 (709) 727-8180
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	Cam Davreux	(905) 338-1974