



PROBUS Club of Cambridge Newsletter

June 2, 2022

It was an unusual meeting to say the least, but it demonstrated the club's ability to be flexible and pivot in different directions when required. We had 65 people in attendance, including 3 guests.

We celebrated two of our members – Bob Mitten just had his 80th birthday, and Bob Howison was inducted into the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame.



Bob McBlain and I had the pleasure of inducting four new members – Ross Earnshaw (sponsor Tom Lebrun), John Short (sponsor John Hall), Paul Witmer (sponsor Fred Vaughn) and Will Stoltz (sponsor Dave Bechtel). As our District Governor Martin Capper noted last month, new members are the future of our club, and I am confident that these inductees will take the club in the right direction.

John Hill made a beautiful “Piece of History” that he presented to Ivan Robinson for his 100th birthday. A picture and more details are below.

I want to congratulate Dave Bechtel for giving a great vignette outlining his interesting background and describing a life well lived. Also, Dave has recently agreed to join our club's Management Committee as Assistant Treasurer.

Before the coffee break, I encouraged all members to bring their own water in reusable containers or bring their own mug for coffee to reduce the waste we are creating. My personal goal is that we reduce our waste by 50% by the end of the calendar year.

At this point in our meeting, we had to make a dramatic turn. Merely hours before our meeting was to begin, we were advised that our guest speaker, Colleen James, was ill and unable to attend. This is where our inimitable Dan Clements, who was vacationing in the Azores, found and delivered to myself and the technology committee, recorded Ted Talks by Bill Gates (about how to avoid future pandemics)

and Malcom Gladwell (who was interesting, entertaining and taught us so much about spaghetti sauce).

And to all members in attendance, remember your sworn oath – what happened at the meeting stays at the meeting!

Feel free to forward this newsletter to a friend who may be a prospective future member. Consider also providing your friend's email address to Bob McBlain, our Membership Chair, for further follow-up.

. . . Ron Woynarski, President

Recording of May 25 Meeting

Click on the button to view our last meeting recording.

Dave Bechtel's vignette begins at the 20:30 minute mark.

[Watch the Meeting Recording](#)

TED Talks on May 25

Unfortunately our planned speaker, Colleen James was unavailable due to illness, so instead we viewed two great TED Talks:

[We can make COVID-19 the last pandemic](#) - a Bill Gates TED Talk

Building a pandemic-free future won't be easy, but Bill Gates believes that we have the tools and strategies to make it possible -- now we just have to fund them. By investing in disease monitoring, research and development as well as improved health systems, Gates believes we can "create a world where everyone has a chance to live a healthy and productive life -- a life free from the fear of the next COVID-19."



[TED Talk - Gates](#)

The second TED Talk was from Malcolm Gladwell with a thought provoking look at choices and happiness.

[Choice, happiness and spaghetti sauce](#) - a Malcolm Gladwell TED Talk

"Tipping Point" author Malcolm Gladwell gets inside the food industry's pursuit of the perfect spaghetti sauce -- and makes a larger argument about the nature of choice and happiness.



TED Talk - Gladwell

Dave Bechtel's Vignette

Dave Bechtel grew up in Preston, Cambridge, in a construction family. After attending a two-room rural school, Pine Grove, which is now the Borealis Grille & Bar, he attended Ryerson in Toronto taking the business administration course, focusing on accounting.



Of course, after finishing Ryerson he came back to the family businesses in Cambridge – Bechtel Construction and Preston Building Supplies.

He spent 20 years in various partnerships in house construction and retail building supplies, until the recession of the early 1980's with it's high interest rates. During that time, he married Muriel Martin from Waterloo and the started their family of two children – Greg and Krista, who are now in Edmonton and Toronto respectively. Dave and Muriel also have two wonderful teenage grandchildren in Toronto.

In the early 1980's they were forced to liquidate their businesses and Dave had to look at what he wanted to do with his life at 40.

He became involved with a large housing complex being built in Toronto. It included family housing units, seniors' apartments, residential care units, and a nursing home under Ministry of Health. As it neared completion, he was asked to become

the first administrator when it opened. Although he knew nothing about health care, he accepted the challenge and moved his family to East York in Toronto.

After ten years at St. Clair O'Connor Community as Administrator and 10 years at Belmont House in downtown Toronto as Director of Finance & IT, his wife Muriel's job as Conference Minister for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada brought them back to Kitchener. He then experienced another career change and became a Certified Financial Planner with Kindred Credit Union in New Hamburg.

Leaving Belmont House at 60 was retirement number one, leaving financial planning at 65 due to health issues was retirement number two. Since retiring he has been doing accounting for various small non-profits and preparing personal income tax returns. His objective was to do that until 70 - and then 75 - and now at 80 and he still hasn't achieved his third retirement.

Dave says "Life has been, and still is. an interesting journey!"

To watch Dave Bechtel's vignette, go to the "Watch the Meeting Recording" button above and go to the 20:30 minute mark.

A Piece of History

John Hill made a “Piece of History” from a section of American Chestnut to commemorate Ivan’s 100th birthday.

It includes a statement from Ivan’s presentation at the April celebration. *“What I love most about my life is all the people I have shared it with.”*

To help save the American Chestnut, 500 nuts were planted in 2002 at the Onondaga Tim Horton camp. There are now 14,000 surviving trees as they try and build resistance to the blight killing the trees.



Guest Speaker on June 29

Mark Rector is a Communications Professor from Humber College. His topic is "Oh Canada! Our Home and Inventive Land"

We will learn about all of the great innovations and inventiveness in this great and vast land of ours. From the compound steam engine and gasoline of the Industrial Revolution, to the telephone and light bulb (yes, the light bulb) of the Victorian era, to the Canadarm and BlackBerry of today.

The stories of Bell Canada, Northern Telecom, the Robertson screw company, SPAR Aerospace, Easy-Off and the invention of hockey! They are all here, as are 150 more great stories, in a light, easy to read, pick

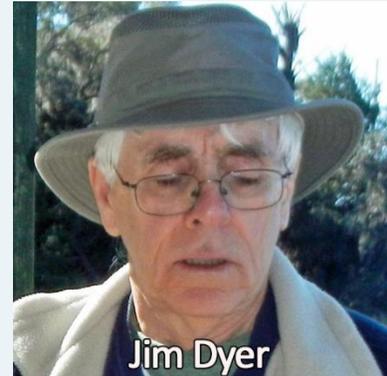


up and put down format of short vignettes and some longer, detailed histories of some of the biggest names in Canadian history.

June Vignette

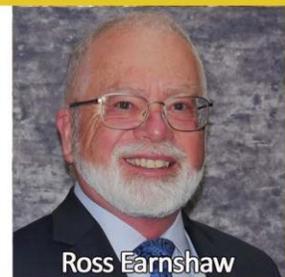
Vignette presentations are a long-standing tradition in PROBUS that are an important part of enabling us to get to know something about our new members and broadening our network of PROBUS colleagues.

Jim Dyer will share his background and past experiences with us when he presents his vignette at our May meeting.



. . . Mike Jeans, Vignette Chair

Welcome to our club!



Ross Earnshaw earned degrees in music (piano performance), science and law. He moved to Cambridge in 1977 for a career in law as a commercial and estate litigation specialist, retiring at the end of 2019.

He has been recognized several times as one of Canada's leading corporate commercial litigators.

He served as a trustee of the Waterloo Region Law Association (including a two-year term as president), served as chair of the Real Estate Liaison Group and been a board member of LibraryCo, and the Cambridge Public Library Board from 1989 - 1994.

He is a regular at the Saturday morning farmer's market. He lives with his partner, Suzanne, and their pet cat. Suzanne and him sing in two local choirs. He has two adult sons living in Ottawa.

Welcome to our club!

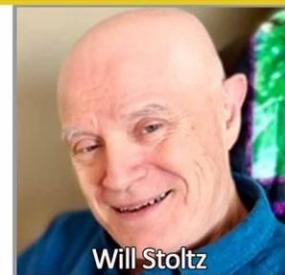


John Short is a 5th generation Preston lad! He grew up and went to school there and then went on to embrace many careers.

Back in the 70s when stereos were the rage, he sold audio visual equipment. He went on to manage a MacDonald's Restaurant, he worked for a steel Company, he drove Taxi in Vancouver for 10 years and last but not least he programmed the Laser/Plasma for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

John's interests are audio, history and computers, and now PROBUS. John has stepped up to help out with setting up our meetings, beginning with his very first meeting.

Welcome to our club!



After a few years in financial asset management, Will Stoltz spent a lifetime building and nourishing various community building projects for people in need.

Will worked in Corrections for 20 years doing life coaching and co-ordinating groups for people serving time who wanted change.

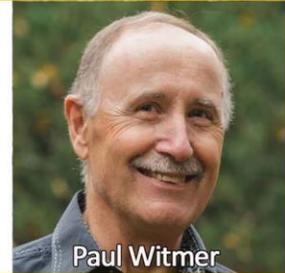
He has served on numerous community agency boards including the House of Friendship and Community Justice Initiatives.

Extensive volunteer work included providing hot meals to those in need, sending surplus dried food to millions at risk and creating groups like Friendship Circles.

In 2012 he hosted the International Plowing Match at his Roseville Farm.

Will now lives at Fairview Retirement Complex. His priorities now include time with family, especially his 6 great grandchildren, grandkids (who are now launched into a secure financial situation), church missions and quartet singing.

Welcome to our club!



Paul Witmer was born in Cambridge and grew up on a dairy farm on the Back Hespeler Road (Franklin Blvd). He attended GCI and graduated BS (Agr) from U of Guelph in 1973.

Paul bought the family farm and continued with dairy and cash crops.

For several years, he raised emus while working for Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA). In the last 20 years, he managed a large horse farm which recently was transitioned into cannabis production.

Paul has been married to Mary for 48 years and they have 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

Large G-Scale model railroad is his main hobby as well as travelling.

He was a member and past President of the Cambridge North Rotary Club (30 years)



Billiards

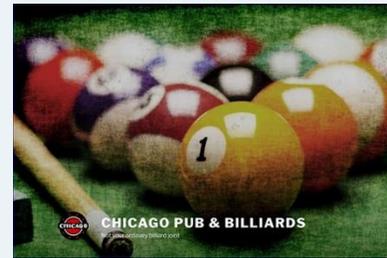
We gather at Chicago Billiards (at the Delta) on the 3rd Friday of every month, for some billiards fun. Come for 12 noon if you'd like lunch before billiards. Come for 1 pm for billiards.

Whether you are an experienced player or wanting to learn the game you are welcome to join us.

Click on the "Billiards" button for more details and to register.

Please contact me for assistance registering or with any questions.

. . . Colin Brighton, 519-267-1182



Billiards



Annual Golf Tournament

August 24, 2022

Grand Valley Golf Club

The team scramble format means that golfers of all skill levels can play and enjoy the fun of the day.

Tee-off at 12 noon, stay for dinner and prizes after the game!

To register click on:

Golf Tournament

For more information, please contact:

. . . Miles Lauzon, mileslauzon@rogers.com, (519) 222-5122

Blue Jays Event

BLUE JAYS day for our Club is September 13th.

We have reserved a block of tickets so you can have up to three adult guests join you.

The bus leaves the RONA store parking lot on Eagle Street, just east of Hespeler Road at 11:00 am for a 1:07 pm game against the Tampa Bay Rays.

The game ends about 4 pm and our bus takes us home to Cambridge. There is an optional dinner at a Cambridge restaurant at your own expense (restaurant TBD)

Tickets, including the bus trip to and from, are \$80 per person and reservations/payment can be made on the club website. Simply click on the Blue Jays button to the right, under the Blue Jays logo. Or you can pay at our monthly meeting.

On the web currently, the ticket prices for the Third Base Line (where our block of tickets is located) are going for up to \$80 --- if you plan on attending, please book soon.

For more information or if you have difficulty with registering on line, please contact:

. . . Norm Steele, steelenorm013@gmail.com,
(519) 212-0303



Blue Jays

Trivia Contest

This month Bob McBlain provided the question and answers.

Mike Jeans and Paul Tunks tied for first place and John Snelgrove came in a close second.

We are taking a break from Zoom trivia to enjoy the spring and summer weather and will return on the third Wednesday of October.

. . . Mark Maloney, 519-241-0349



You are receiving this email because you are a club member or have expressed an interest in the past.

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