



# The Probus Club of Burlington Lakeshore

## Hi-Lites - July 2022

Mon., July 11  
10:00 am

At the AGB

John Boyko  
The Devil's Trick

### Management Committee 2021-2022

Malcolm Ramsay, President  
(905) 681-8109  
Jim Thurston, Past-President  
(905) 319-9352  
Ken Medland, 1st Vice Pres.  
(905) 818-2902  
John McArthur, 2nd Vice Pres.  
(905) 631-7162  
Al Ayre, Secretary  
(905) 632-6736  
Dave Little, Treasurer  
(905) 681-6147  
John McArthur, Speakers  
(905) 631-7162  
Ken Medland, Membership  
(905) 818-2902  
Dave McKenzie, Hi-Lites  
(905) 639-7529  
Mike Hill, Special Events  
(905) 467-2223  
Jim Gilleland, House  
(905) 634-6490  
John Hughes, Cheer  
(905) 333-4910  
Ken Medland, Ext. Publicity  
(905) 818-2902  
Dennis Colameco, Golf  
(905) 639-7921  
Jim Barnett, Curling  
(905) 639-8624

### Malcolm Ramsay's Presidential Message

Our day began with a leisurely drive, in brilliant sunshine, through Cedar Springs, Kilbride and then north on the First Line Nassagaweya. In the air-conditioned comfort of the Acura, we flew over the dull roar of the thousands tearing along the 401 and continued north to Wellington County arriving at our destination in Fergus three minutes ahead of our ETA.

Two kilometers west of the town of Fergus, situated on a hill overlooking the Grand River, is an imposing edifice constructed of local limestone in 1877. This grand building was known then as the "House of Industry and Refuge" (aka The Poor House). In response to the lack of a social safety net as we know it today, the County of Wellington provided a home for the poor, homeless destitute, people of Wellington County, it operated as a Poor House and Industrial Farm until 1947. It then served as the County Home for the Aged until 1974, when it became the Wellington County Museum and Archives. An Archives wing was added, opening in 2010.

Thanks to Mike Hill, our Events Chair, who recommended this little-known piece of our history and organized a guided tour for June 23<sup>rd</sup> in which several of our members participated. A few more were expected. We suspect not all GPS systems are created equal and that some may still be trying to find Wellington County Road 18! We were impressed with our guide who led us through the house and the adjacent barn and shared the personal histories of many of the inmates and other interesting characters who lived and worked there over the seventy years it operated as a Poor House. Here is a link to more information [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellington\\_County\\_House\\_of\\_Industry\\_and\\_Refuge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellington_County_House_of_Industry_and_Refuge)

June has been an interesting month for us a Probus. One week prior to our visit to Fergus, we were entertained at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara on the Lake by the Oscar Wilde play, "The Importance of Being Earnest" described as, a trivial comedy for serious people. This play, first performed in 1895 was set within the social conventions of late Victorian London, the play's major themes are the triviality with which it treats institutions as serious as marriage, and the resulting satire of Victorian ways. The play is famous for its quotes which, when delivered so quickly in the dialogue, can be missed if one gets distracted. Typical of those English farces. We thoroughly enjoyed the show and again, thank Mike Hill for arranging such great seats for us.

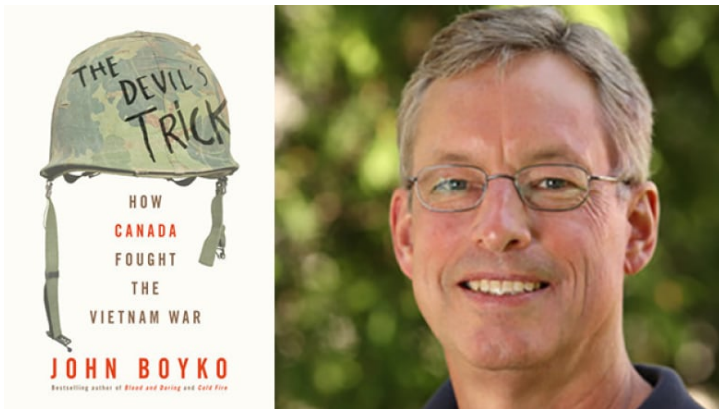
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### ... Malcolm Continued

We continue to be encouraged by the overall attendance to our meetings. My preference would be to see more attending in person because I believe the social interaction is an important component of being a Probus member. No doubt Zoom and YouTube together with the valiant efforts of Ken Medland have been instrumental in maintaining our membership over the past two years and for that we are grateful. I encourage you to attend on July 11<sup>th</sup> to listen to John Boyko's account of "How Canada fought the Vietnam War".

### Guest Speaker - John Boyko



John Boyko has written eight books addressing History and Politics including the national bestseller *Blood and Daring: How Canada Fought the American Civil War and Forged a Nation*, that was shortlisted for a Governor General's award for its French translation, and *Cold Fire: Kennedy's Northern Front* that was short listed for the Dafoe Prize. Boyko is an op. ed. contributor to *The Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star*, *Maclean's*, and more. He also writes for the Canadian Encyclopedia.

Boyko's newest book *The Devil's Trick: How Canada Fought the Vietnam War*, was published in Canada and the United States by Knopf Penguin Random House last April.

Through the lens of six remarkable people, some well-known, others obscure, *The Devil's Trick* recounts Canada's often-overlooked involvement in that tragic conflict as peacemaker, combatant, and provider of weapons and sanctuary. In uncovering Canada's side of the story, he reveals the many secret and forgotten ways that Canada not only fought the war but was shaped by its lessons and lies.

*The Devil's Trick* is available any bookstore or online through Amazon or Chapters.

<https://www.amazon.ca/Devils-Trick-Canada-Fought-Vietnam/dp/0735278008>

<https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/the-devils-trick-how-canada/9780735278004-item.html>

John will have books available for sale at the meeting.

John was born in Hamilton, grew up in Peterborough and now lives in the Village of Lakefield. He has earned degrees from Trent, Queen's, and McMaster Universities. He has served on and chaired many boards, and has been elected to municipal office. You can follow John on Twitter @johnwboyko or at [www.johnboyko.com](http://www.johnboyko.com)

Brian Duncombe  
Speakers' Committee

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### Events Committee

**Poor House Tour** – we had a beautiful day for our tour. By all reports, everyone enjoyed the tour which was conducted by a Wellington Museum employee.

**The Importance of Being Earnest** – Again, positive feedback from participants.

**Damn Yankees** - Thursday, September 8 2022 at 2:00 pm. Price \$82.00 each Tickets are still on sale for Damn Yankees. You can order tickets at the meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> or contact Mike Hill at 905-467-2223 or [mhill2@cogeco.ca](mailto:mhill2@cogeco.ca).

**Power House Tour** - We have 20 registered for this event so it will go on as planned on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Bob Miller has used his legendary negotiating skills to secure free parking for our group. This will reduce the cost of the tour substantially.

Tickets are \$41.00 per person. Register at the Events Table at our July meeting, or send e-mail to Bob Miller at [rmiller@cogeco.ca](mailto:rmiller@cogeco.ca)

**Probus Month Flag Raising** – Put Oct 3rd at 9:30 am in your calendar to attend the raising of our Probus flag at City Hall. Invitations to the other Burlington clubs went out the first week of June and response has been very positive.

**Holiday Lunch** – Planning for this year's special lunch has begin and details will be released as our plans progress

Mike Hill, Events Committee



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### Membership

It looks like Summer is finally here and we are starting to welcome new and existing members live at the Art Gallery!

We have already done a new initiative, we secured a display table at the recent "Retirement Expo" and signed up a new member, and will finalize another this week. Attendance was low due to the oppressive heat but made a lot of new sources, Retirement homes, etc.....and we viewed it as a success.



The very common question at the Expo was..." what's Probus?" which provide a great opportunity to talk about the Best Men's Club in Burlington!

At our next meeting on July 11, there will be a Probus information card on your seat. Please add your name and telephone number and share it with a friend, neighbour, or golf buddy and tell him what a great club you belong to.

### Membership Continued

Better still invite him to join you on July 11 as your guest. We have a number of new members and guests already booked!! As always, we have some great speakers lined up for your enjoyment and a lot of exciting news coming shortly.

If you are a new member and haven't attended a live meeting YET, please attend and be sure to pick up your member badge. I'll be at the room entrance and would love to put faces to names 😊

Ken Medland,  
Membership Chair  
[kenmed1620@gmail.com](mailto:kenmed1620@gmail.com)

### Notes from the House

Although the Province has eased up on mask mandates in various sectors, your Management Committee feels that it is wise to continue encouraging our members to wear a mask while attending our meetings at the Art Gallery. We are a vulnerable group due to our age.

If you are unable to attend our meetings in person, please join us on Zoom. Watch for an invitation via email.

Our thanks to Mike Tipping and Rod McGrath for acting as greeters at our June meeting. Thanks also to Frank Kovacs for selling the 50/50 tickets. As always, if you are willing to help out with greeting or selling 50/50 tickets, please let me know.

Jim Gilleland  
House Committee Chair  
[jgilleland@cogeco.ca](mailto:jgilleland@cogeco.ca)



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## Hi-Lites - July 2022

### Cheer Committee

The Cheer Committee will contact or visit members or spouses who are ill. In the event of bereavement, a card of condolence will be sent to the family, and for a member, a memorial donation will be made to a charity of their choice.

CONDOLENCES go to the family of Ted Pollock who was a member of our club since 2019. Ted's Celebration of Life was held at Smith's Funeral Home on June 4, 2022. Ted's wish. "Always look on the bright side of life. May you enjoy a round of golf, a glass of wine, and have many laughs in his honour."

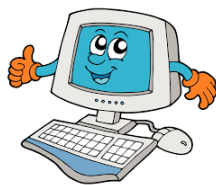
Please inform John Hughes if you are aware of anyone, who has an illness or bereavement, for appropriate action.

John Hughes - (905) 333-4910

[johnhiltonhughes@gmail.com](mailto:johnhiltonhughes@gmail.com)

### Computer Interest Group

We are a joint, Burlington and Lakeshore Probus Club group, who get together to discuss current developments in the computer fields and help solve each other's computer related issues. We meet the fourth Thursday of the month at 10 am. Currently we meet via Zoom but plan to get back to live meetings later in the Spring. The cost is free until we go to live meetings. If you would like to join us, please email Bob Dickison at [rgdickison@gmail.com](mailto:rgdickison@gmail.com) and he will add you to our email list.



### Golf is Great!

Not much to report on the golf scene this month other than I am still waiting for the trophy to be engraved.

I would like some feedback as to where you would prefer to have our Fall Golf day this year. Rates at some courses have just gone through the roof and Seniors rates have disappeared. October seems to be a good time of year for our group as most member course activities are over by mid September.

After five years, I think it is time for someone to take over the golf tournament. This coming year, all the tournament arrangements are being made by the Burlington Probus club. We only have to get the foursomes from our group and ask for prizes. I will be available to help.

Enjoy this fine summer weather....play your best golf.

Dennis Colameco  
Golf Committee



### Next Month's Regular Meeting

Monday, August 8, 2022

Speaker: JDM Stewart

Topic: Behind the Scenes