



The Probus Club of Burlington Lakeshore

Hi-Lites - February 2025

Monday, February 10

10:00 am

Dr Matthew Miller

The Next Pandemic

Management Committee 2024-2025

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Mike Flintoff, 1st VP
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Keith Weaver, 2nd VP
(289) 856-8523
George Caughell, Secretary
(416) 230-6975
Ken Snider, Treasurer
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Pat Lennon, Speakers
(905) 681-8963.
Gary Kirkwood, Membership.
(905) 577-5475
Ken Clarke, Int. Comm.
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Keith Weaver, Events
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Ken Medland, Sponsors
(905) 818-2902
Rod McGrath, Cheer
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Walter Rosinski, Golf
(905) 336-5734

President's Message

Gentlemen, welcome to the month of February, the shortest month of the year. February is a bit of a utility month, a makeup month for discrepancies in our so-called organized world. Wise people have devised a way to divide the year into months, weeks and hours but in spite of their wisdom and planning it doesn't quite keep in step with the cosmos we love in. So, every four years we throw in an extra day to get us back on track. It reminds me of our personal lives in a way. We plan and organize to the best of our ability only to find that in spite of it all we are still a little out of sync with reality. Perhaps we have already mis stepped in some of our New Years' resolutions and are now playing catchup for the year. It's a good month to do a quick double step and get back with the program.

Wikipedia reminds us that the Roman month Februarius got its name from the Latin term *februum* which means purification. The ancient Romans observed the purification ritual of Februa on the 15th day of this month perhaps a time of self-examination and exploring future expectations.

Then there is the story of a Christian priest, Valentine, who lived and functioned in a pagan world. He was eventually beheaded for his faith and for a miracle which was attributed to him. It was reported that he had restored the sight of the jailer's blind daughter which seemed to upset the "powers that be". The night before he was beheaded the priest send a note to the fortunate young lady and signed it "From your Valentine". We have distilled the essence of the love and affection component of this incident and combined it with chocolate and flowers even to this day. I would highly recommend that you don't overlook this chance to impress your loved one this month.

Then there is the second day of the month. The Romans held the Festival of Ceres on this day to honour the goddess of agriculture. We have downgraded this day to wake up a couple of sleepy groundhogs for a prediction of the arrival of spring. I guess, like the early Romans, we are looking for an end to the frigid winds of winter in favour of the warmth and sunshine of spring.

For us, as Probud members in Burlington, February is an opportunity to build on the great start we had to our new year in January. We welcomed 5 guests at this meeting and included 3 new members who have committed themselves to our fellowship. Let's keep this trend alive going forward.

Continued. . . .

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President's Message Continued

We have a wonderful roster of interesting and educational speakers as well as a multiplicity of enjoyable activities in which to participate. Let's put our collective shoulders to the wheel and move our club to new heights and accomplishments. I send my best wishes to each of you for a happy and successful February!

Tom Williams

Sponsors

Our coffee sponsorship program continues to be successful.

The immediate impact is to provide free coffee but more importantly it gives the retirement homes an opportunity to present their unique benefits.

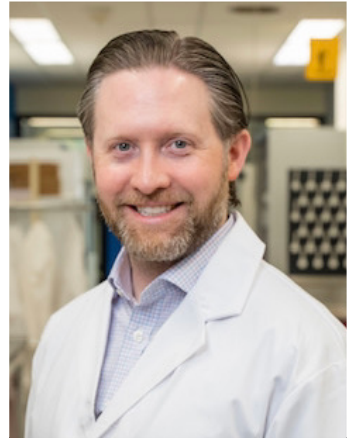


Take a moment, chat with the representatives at our next meeting, you'll be glad you did.

Ken Medland,
Sponsors Committee

Guest Speaker - Dr Matthew Miller

Dr. Miller is Executive Director of Global Nexus, and the M.G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research at McMaster University. He also serves as Co-Director of Canadian Pandemic Preparedness Hub (CP2H). Dr. Miller holds a Canada Research Chair in Viral Pandemics. He completed his PhD in Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Western Ontario, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in



Virology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, NY under the mentorship of Dr. Peter Palese. He was recruited to McMaster University in 2014 and has authored over 90 peer-reviewed publications in leading journals. He has received several major awards and distinctions, including a CIHR New Investigator Award, the CIHR Bhagirath Singh Early Career Award in Infection and Immunity, and an Early Researcher Award from the Government of Ontario, and a Distinguished Alumni Award for Excellence in Basic Science from Western University. He was elected to the Royal Society of Canada College of New Scholars in 2024.

Dr. Miller's research program is focused primarily on pandemic prevention, especially the development of broadly-protective vaccines, antibodies, and therapeutics. He sits the scientific advisory board of several major vaccine manufacturers. He is a member of the Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) COVID-19 Working Group, H5Nx Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Working Group, and Committee to Advise on Tropical Medicine and Travel

Danny Kraftcheck,
Speakers' Committee

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Special Events 2025

A. Amazon Warehouse (Brampton) Tour Reminder

10:00am, Wednesday, Feb 19

- For those who signed up, check your confirmation email from Amazon which has instructions for the tour.
- If you need to cancel, you can do it directly from the confirmation email.

B. Woodbine Mohawk Park

6:00pm, Friday, April 25

- An entertaining evening of standard bred horse racing together with dinner (your own cost) in the Harvest Kitchen. Spouses encouraged.
- Mohawk will give instructions on betting and will provide free tours of the paddock.
- Sign up by emailing Keith Weaver (keithsweaver@gmail.com) or at the Events table at our Probus meetings

C. Summit Station Dairy Farm

1.00pm, Wednesday, May 14, Cost: \$17.00 (includes HST)

- Tour of a large advanced dairy farm on Hwy 52, north of Hwy 403 in Copetown
- Sign up and pay at the Events table at our Probus meetings
- For information contact Malcolm Ramsay

D. Other Planned Events – See Events Table for details

- June 18th, 10am Tour and Wine Tasting, 13th Street Winery
- July 17th, 3.00 pm Norm Foster “On a First Name Basis”, St. Catharines
- August 13th, 9.30 am 80th Anniversary Lancaster Presentation and Museum Tour
- September 26th, 1.00 pm Shaw Festival “Anything Goes”, Niagara on the Lake

Keith Weaver,
Events Committee

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Membership

Membership renewals are all in.

We lost some members due to age and moving out of town. About the same as previous year.

On a positive note, we added 9 new members this calendar year. Two signed up at our last meeting and I have the names of 6 more prospects.

Current membership is at 152 and rosters are available upon request.

This promises to be a great year of speakers and outings.

Please continue to bring guests to the meetings.

Contact me with any questions at gmgak@outlook.com

Gary Kirkwood

Membership

Be a Friend

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Cheer Committee

Paul Lakin –

I have not been able to get an update on Paul. Presumably he is still at Bob Kemp Hospice and those closest to him are providing support and comfort.

Dick Hames –

Dick is still at Joseph Brant Hospital but scheduled for transfer to Wellington Place on Ghent Ave this coming Wednesday. It is a 90 day program, but release can be sooner if suitable progress made and suitable arrangements in place at home.

Please keep both of these individuals in your thoughts and prayers.

Your Cheer Committee contacts or visits members who are ill. In the event of a death of a member, or his spouse, a card of condolence is sent to the family. A memorial donation is made to an appropriate charity on the passing of a member. Please contact me, or any member of the Management Committee, if you are aware of an illness or bereavement.

Rod McGrath, Chairman, Cheer Committee
rmcgrath@sympatico.ca
(905) 332-3941

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Probus Golf News

This year the annual competitive tournament between the Probus Lakeshore Club and the Probus Burlington Club is being organized by the Probus Burlington Club. Last year, our club was victorious and earned the bragging rights.

The tournament is scheduled for Friday May 16th, 2025, at Flamborough Hills GC. Following the completion of the rounds of golf, a luncheon of hamburgers and salad will be served in the dining room. The cost is between \$100.00 and \$105.00, which includes green fees, golf cart rental, lunch and HST.

So, please reserve this date in your calendar.

Signing up for the tournament will take place next March and April during our monthly meetings.

The Probus Lakeshore Club will be holding our golf tournament at the Rockway Vineyards Golf Club on Friday, September 19th, 2025. We have reserved tee time slots for 36 to 40 golfers. The cost will be \$70.00, which includes green fees, golf cart rental and HST.

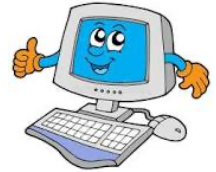
Signing up for the tournament will take place next July and August.

So, please reserve this date in your calendar.

Walter Rosinski, Golf Committee

Technology Interest Group

We are a joint, Burlington and Lakeshore Probus Club group, who get together to discuss current developments in technology including but not limited to computers. We help solve each others technology and computer related issues. We meet the 4th Thursday of the month at 10 am at the Burlington East Presbyterian Church on Walkers Line and have an option to join via Zoom. The cost is \$5 per meeting. If you would like to join us please email Bob Dickison at rgdickison@gmail.com and he will add you to our email list.



**Next Month -
Monday, March 10, 2025**

Melanie Walker
Joseph Brant and Mental Health

