



# The PROBUS Pilot



Probus Club of Western Ottawa – serving the western half of the National Capital Region

January 2021

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**Tuesday, January 12, 10am, via ZOOM\***

## JOHN BOYKO: Sir John's Echo

John Boyko will explore how we should remember Sir John A. Macdonald by acknowledging mistakes made but also how our primary founder and first prime minister created, built, and saved Canada.



JOHN BOYKO

### SIR JOHN'S ECHO

John Boyko is an author, historian, and opinion editorial contributor to *The Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star*, *Calgary Herald*, *Montreal Gazette*, *Maclean's*, and more. He also writes for the Canadian Encyclopedia. Many of John's interesting articles may be viewed here: <http://www.johnboyko.com/>.



John has written seven books addressing Canadian 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. His most recent book is *Sir John's Echo: The Voice for a Stronger Canada*. During a television interview, TVO's Steve Paikin put it bluntly: "John Boyko, you have done it again!" John's next book, *The Devil's Trick: How Canada Fought the Vietnam War*, will be published in April 2021.

John has earned degrees from Trent, Queen's, and McMaster Universities, served on and chaired many boards, and has been elected to municipal office. John lives in the Village of Lakefield, Ontario.

\* ZOOM meeting details will be emailed to members on January 10.



## The Prez Sez

To all members of Probus Western Ottawa:

2020 is behind us and we are all looking forward to a brighter future in 2021.

Your Management team has decided that Zoom will be our best method of offering an opportunity to listen to speakers from across the province/country. We may, at times, also offer opportunities for our members to get together virtually. Our trial meeting in December was well attended and we are all looking forward to our first speaker on January 12, 2021. We are hoping, in the future, that we will be able to present other opportunities for those who are not comfortable with Zoom.

In the meantime, stay safe and think positive!

- Ron Armstrong, President

## At our December “Coffee Session”

Our first attempt at a ZOOM session with our membership took place on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. We were privileged to have Martin Buscher from the Beaver Valley club join us as a technical expert, assisting Peter van Boeschoten & Ray Jones.

The meeting seemed to go quite well with minimal issues and lasted nearly an hour. There were 32 devices logged in (including Martin Buscher) and 7 of those logins had an additional person on screen. So there were at least 39 people attending. Below is a screen capture from a laptop in gallery view. A second screen view (not captured) would have shown the remaining attendees.



## Our lineup of future speakers

Here are our upcoming speakers (subject to change). All meetings start formally at 10 am on the second Tuesday of each month. To allow time for informal socialization or just to ensure you have no technical issues with the ZOOM application, you will be able to join the call after 9:30 am.

A link to the ZOOM session and further instructions will be emailed to the membership on the Sunday prior to each meeting. More information about each speaker will be provided in the newsletter for that month.

Please pass ideas on to Charles Boole via [program@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:program@probuswesternottawa.ca)

### February 9 – Tim Burrows

*Should Your Next Car be Electric?*

### March 9 – Jacqueline Gori

*Life Changing Experiences with her Service Dog*

### April 13 – Alberto Suarez-Esteban

*Nature's Apprentice Farm*

### May 11 – Roman Talkowski

*Climate Change*

### June 8 – Pending

*TBD*





# Chuckle Corner



### Quote of the Month

Among other things I think humor is a shield, a weapon, a survival kit. So here we are, several billion of us, crowded into our global concentration camp for the duration. How are we to survive? Solemnity is not the answer, any more than witless and irresponsible frivolity is. I think our best chance lies in humour, which in this case means a wry acceptance of our predicament. We don't have to like it but we can at least recognize its ridiculous aspects, one of which is ourselves.

- Ogden Nash (1902 - 1971)



Read any good books lately? Seen any good movies (at home of course)? Submit your recommendations to this newsletter (link below) to share with your fellow members.