



The PROBUS Pilot



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

February 2021

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Tuesday, February 9, 10am, via ZOOM*

Tim Burrows: Should Your Next Car be Electric?"

Tim is a retired Vice President of Forty Creek Distillery and a graduate of the University of Toronto where he earned an honours degree in psychology. Tim has owned and driven battery-electric cars for the past 7 years and has logged over 250,000 kilometres without the need for gasoline or diesel fuel. He now enjoys sharing his EV experience with others and breaks down many myths and misconceptions about electric vehicle ownership.



His talk is entitled "Should Your Next Car be Electric?" and in it, he makes the case that we are nearing the 'tipping point' when electric cars will replace those powered by gasoline. Tim also touches on the state of self driving technology and what autonomous cars could mean for the future. Tim is a member of the Electric Vehicle Society, a non-profit organization which works to promote the understanding and adoption of electric mobility in Canada. In his role there, he chairs the EV Society's Mississauga Chapter.

<https://www.timtalkstesla.com/>

Zoom meeting details will be emailed to members on Sunday, February 7.



The Prez Sez

To all members of Probus Western Ottawa:

We enjoyed our first Zoom speaker a couple of weeks ago with about 60 people attending.

John Boyko was a dynamic presenter who impressed us so much that we are getting him to return later in the year with another topic. It was also great to see our members for a short visual meeting prior to his talk.

Many thanks to Charlie, Ray and Peter for pulling this off very smoothly. Hopefully we will have more of our members join our next presentation coming up on February 9. We hope to see more of you at that time.

Our other activities remain at a standstill and this will continue for some time. This month we are welcoming some new members to the group (see page 4) and I look forward to meeting them in person.

In the meantime, stay safe and think positive!

- Ron Armstrong, President

At our January Meeting



Our speaker in January was John Boyko, author, historian, and opinion editorial contributor to many newspapers and magazines. His presentation discussed how we should remember Sir John A. MacDonald and was extremely well received, so much so that we have invited him back in June (topic listed in future lineup).

John presented the many facets of Sir John's life, as a man who created Canada, built Canada and saved Canada, but one who left a tainted legacy.

Here are some brief points from his presentation and his responses to questions afterwards.

This meeting was not recorded.

Creating Canada

- In spite of his drinking, for which he was notorious, Sir John was incredibly charismatic, charming and had a great ability to win consensus.
- Most of Canada's constitution was written by him. He wanted a very stable democracy that avoided the mistakes of the U.S. Their constitution gave most power to the states whereas Sir John felt the federal government should have the most power. For example, consider the recent US election versus our last election. In the US each state has the power to make up its own election rules, whereas Elections Canada dictates the rules for all of Canada.

Building Canada

- Sir John protected Canada's economy by building high tariff walls.
- He enabled growth through immigration and westward expansion.



Saving Canada

- Following the US civil war, BC held a referendum on whether to join the US or Canada. In spite of US pressure, Sir John convinced BC to join Canada, committed to building the longest railroad in the world within 10 years and made that dream a reality.
- In the US civil war, Canada supported the South by sending arms & munitions while Britain supplied the South with ships. When the North won, Lincoln essentially warned Canada the US would make Britain & Canada pay reparations. However, Sir John managed to avoid these penalties and even won the right to have Canada recognized as a sovereign state for the first time in a treaty ratified by the US, British and Canadian Parliaments.

His Tainted Legacy

- Sir John was a man of his time. Britain viewed British, white, Christian men as superior to other cultures and felt they deserved to rule the world.
- There were not enough white workers to build the railroad, so Canada imported the cheapest labour they could find – Chinese – and gave them the most dangerous jobs and the least pay. When the railroad was complete, they shipped them home and imposed a huge head tax (~5 years salary) on any one who wished to stay or return.
- Native peoples had their land stolen and were forced onto reservations. Sir John initiated a policy of what today is called cultural genocide (then called knocking their culture out of them for their own good). This was done by separating their children from their parents and forbidding them to speak their own language, with severe punishment to follow any transgression.

US/Canada Cultural Differences (responses to questions)

- The US state exists to safeguard life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The Canadian state exists to safeguard peace, order and good government.
- The US favours individual rights. Canada is more oriented to group rights.
- The US tries to be a melting pot of all cultures. Canada recognizes we have many cultures under one state and seeks to protect them.



Our lineup of future speakers (via Zoom)

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.

Speaker information is also available on our website:
(www.probuswesternottawa.ca).

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 – John Boyko

The Devils Trick – How Canada Fought in the Vietnam War



Valentine's Day Quotes



- "You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."
– Dr. Seuss, Author
- "Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile."
– Franklin P. Jones, Engineer
- "Grow old with me! The best is yet to be."
– Robert Browning, Poet
- "All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."
– Charles M. Schulz, Cartoonist
- "To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance."
– Oscar Wilde, Playwright
- "If love is the answer, could you please rephrase the question?"
– Lily Tomlin, Actress
- "Love is like an hourglass, with the heart filling up as the brain empties."
– Jules Renard, Author
- "Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."
– Lao Tzu, Philosopher
- "I saw that you were perfect, and so I loved you. Then I saw that you were not perfect and I loved you even more"
– Angelita Lim, Writer



Member Recommendations

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.



Marie Armstrong

My Book Club read *Original Highways* by Roy MacGregor about Travelling the Great Rivers of Canada. It was a great success with lots of history but also includes a discussion of how these rivers have been often negatively impacted by our present needs.

Marg Demers

I am just finishing a collection of three short stories that interconnect one with another. It is called *The Christmas Box Collection* but it is not Christmas stories. Richard Paul Evans is the author and the cost was \$10.99. There are three stories: The Christmas Box, Timepiece and The Letter. The stories connect a couple named Mary Anne and David with a housekeeper and an assistant among others. I have enjoyed reading it and enjoyed both the superior use of language and the twists and turns of the plot. A good read for one or two afternoons.

Ray Jones

Self-published by Terry Fallis in 2007, *The Best Laid Plans* won the Stephen Leacock Award for humour and Canada Reads in 2011. I have never read a book before or since that frequently had me in such paroxysms of laughter that I actually had to stop reading in order to catch my breath. A sequel, *The High Road*, published in 2010 was just as good. The two books satirically describe the hilarious backroom machinations of Canadian politics as a reluctant candidate runs for office (Plans) and, after being elected (Road), then sets out to save the nation.



Welcome to the new members who have joined since March 2020 (total membership now 172)

Edith Anderson
Colin Billows
Harold Brassard
Dave Brown
Adele Cummings
Ronald Danielsen
Paul & Kathleen Kompass
Linda Miller-Nesbitt
Maureen O'Callaghan
Patricia Perlberg
Christine Phillips
June Stuart
Penelope Williams

Chuckle Corner



This is why I have trust issues

