



The PROBUS Pilot



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

May 2021

Vol: 12 No: 9

Tuesday, May 11, 10am, via ZOOM*

Roman Talkowski: *Climate Change*

Roman Talkowski has been a resident of Burlington for the last 20 years and has spent most of his working life in Sales, most recently 17 years in the plastics industry.

He always had an interest in environmental matters and, having retired 3 years ago, can now volunteer his time to this cause.

In March of last year, he travelled to Atlanta and trained with Al Gore's organization, *The Climate Reality Project*, to learn more about Climate Change.

He is also the co-founder of *Halton Action for Climate Emergency Now* (HACEN pronounced 'hasten') which is a Halton Region focused advocacy group calling for meaningful municipal action on Climate Change in Burlington, Oakville, Halton Hills and Milton.

Roman has a Bachelor of Science degree, a Masters in Environmental Studies and an MBA.

In his presentation, Roman will pose three questions in the context of Climate Change and address each one. They are:

- Must We Change?
- Can we Change?
- Will we Change?

****Zoom meeting details will be emailed to members on Sunday, May 9.***



The Prez Sez

To all members of Probus Western Ottawa

Spring flowers are out in full bloom and a few lawnmowers are out and about which makes summer very close.

This is the time of year when new management team members are recruited for positions that are open starting in September. Some retiring members have been in their positions for many years and I would like to take this time to thank them for their faithful service. The management team needs a strong dedicated group to make club decisions for its future, especially during these very uncertain times. Please let us know if you can help.

One decision the management team is facing is the possible use of hybrid type meetings when our Church becomes open to us. We may be faced with a restriction in the number of attendees for a considerable time even after opening. This could mean having to implement a registration program for a limited number of attendees. Hopefully this would be in combination with live Zoom presentations and recordings on YouTube.

Thanks again to Charlie, Ray and Peter for putting together very professional presentations and our members for participating. So far 101 members have joined us for at least one Zoom meeting and all of our speakers have been excellent. We look forward to seeing even more of you join us the future.

In the meantime, stay safe and think positive! - Ron Armstrong, President



At our April Meeting

Our speaker in April was Alberto Suarez-Esteban, a Spaniard who developed a deep fascination and passion for nature. With a PhD in Ecology, he currently teaches "Ecosystem and Environmental Change" at Carleton University and operates Nature's Apprentice Farm, a small organic farm in Pakenham.

Alberto presented a fascinating look at our soil's ecosystem and the damage we do by digging. Surprisingly, we can grow all kinds of food in compost layers spread on the ground. He extended an invitation to all who are interested to visit his farm and see some of the produce he harvests & sells.

More Information at: <http://www.naturesapprenticefarm.ca/>
<https://www.facebook.com/naturesapprenticefarm>



Other Resources

- The No-Till Organic Vegetable Farm by Daniel Mays
- The Living Soil Handbook by Jesse Frost
- Teaming with Microbes: A Gardeners Guide to the Soil Food Web by Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis
- www.kissthegroundmovie.com

This meeting was recorded and has been posted on YouTube (*email with link sent April 11*). It is available until May 11. Please contact membership@probuswesternottawa.ca if you did not get this email.

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.

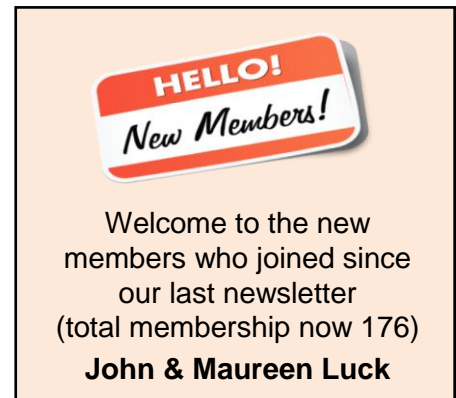
For past speaker info, see our newsletters which are available on our website: www.probuswesternottawa.ca

June 8 – John Boyko

The Devil's Trick – How Canada Fought in the Vietnam War

September 14 – Tim Moses

End of Life Planning



We would like to know who is participating in our Zoom meetings.

Please encourage interested friends to contact membership@probuswesternottawa.ca. Members will receive our monthly newsletter and links to our virtual meetings and any YouTube recordings that we are permitted to make. Tips on using the Zoom application are provided with Zoom link emails.

Membership is free until face-to-face meetings resume!

Election of New Executive and Appeal for Volunteers

Our new executive for 2021-2022 needs to be identified and elected in June, our last meeting before the summer break. The new executive team takes over in September.

At right is the situation as far as we can determine at this point. Ron Armstrong will move from his present role of President to Past-President; Peter van Boeshoten moves from Vice-President to President. Marg Demers, Martha Maslen, Charlie Boole and Mary Jones, who were Past President, Secretary, Speaker Program and Publicity respectively, have asked to be relieved of their responsibilities. We thank them for their dedication and exemplary service to our club.

The rest of the executive is prepared to serve another term.

Obviously, some positions are more critical than others during this time of Zoom. However, identifying individuals for all vacancies will smooth the transition to in-person meetings. It also provides those volunteers with the opportunity to socialize with others in the club at monthly executive meetings, while awaiting a return to "normalcy". All departing executive members are willing to assist newcomers with their assumptions of the roles.

The most critical vacancy is the Speaker Program. Without someone in this position, we may have to cancel future meetings. Fortunately, Charlie has identified speakers for the entire year and the task just requires someone to follow up as he describes below.

It's also critical to have a Vice-President since this entails a commitment to serve as president in 2022-2023.

Following are Job descriptions for the vacant roles.

Speaker Program: Acquiring Speakers for our Probus Club is both interesting and varied. Duties are

- to seek out and secure speakers for our monthly meetings.
- to introduce each speaker at the meeting.
- to accompany the speaker to the lunch following the meeting with other members (when lunches resume)
- to compile a schedule of forthcoming speakers and a file of possible speakers for the future.
- to obtain from each speaker a photo, a bio of the person, title of presentation with a short summary. This information is to be sent to the President, Publicity person and Newsletter editor in a timely fashion.
- to attend monthly Board meetings.
- to work collaboratively with other members of the Board.
- to work within the guidelines of Probus Canada and the local Club. For instance, speakers should be non political, non business oriented and be of a topic or life experience of interest to our age demographic.

To assist the new person who is interested in taking on this role, the present holder of this position, Charlie Boole, is willing to work with you for up to six months, if required, in order to acquaint you with the role. Furthermore you will be provided with a list of forthcoming speakers, a file of possible future speakers and other relevant material. This list covers speakers willing to speak via Zoom and in person for approximately 10 months! This will give you an ample opportunity to get comfortable with the position and the other Board members.

Finally, you will have the opportunity of transitioning the Speaker Program from Zoom to in-person in a timely and well managed fashion.

For more information on this position feel free to contact Charlie Boole at: program@probuswesternottawa.ca If we exchange phone numbers then we can discuss in greater detail the finer points of the position and give any further information as required. I look forward to hearing from any interested person. – Charlie Boole

Your 2021-2022 Management Board

President:	Peter van Boeshoten
Past-President:	Ron Armstrong
Vice President:	TBD*
Secretary:	TBD*
Treasurer:	Desna Sulway
Members-at-Large	George Steeves +1 TBD*
Membership:	Barbara Bole
Speaker Program:	TBD*
Lunches:	Marie Armstrong
Outings:	TBD* (2 positions)
Publicity:	TBD*
Newsletter:	Ray Jones
Website:	Bill Johnston
Policy Advisor:	Peter Doyle
Coffee Coordinator	George Steeves
Setup Crew	David Stafford & Peter Durose
Euchre Club	Pat Stoate
Cards and letters	Betty Jean Bone

* To be formally identified and elected at a time to be announced

Vice-President (for more info, email vice-president@probuswesternottawa.ca)

- serve a one-year term
- act on behalf of the President in the President's absence
- attend all Management Committee meetings and Club meetings
- pursue opportunities to learn the role of President in preparation for assuming that office

Outings (for more info, email president@probuswesternottawa.ca)

- research places and activities
- determine costs, dates, directions where Members can go to participate in an event
- present chosen events to Club Members at a meeting in order that they can sign up to attend
- coordinate with a venue for a determined number of Members
- collect fees, if applicable, for an event, and pass money to Treasurer for payment of attendance tickets. If necessary, use personal credit card and receive reimbursement from Treasurer.

Secretary (for more info, email secretary@probuswesternottawa.ca)

- record and transcribe Minutes of all Executive meetings
- distribute Minutes to Executive members for approval at next Executive meeting
- maintain an up-to-date file of approved Minutes
- any other correspondence as may be required

Publicity (for more info, email publicity@probuswesternottawa.ca)

- Advertise monthly in the Citizen "Our Town" column.
- Advertise in any other local newspapers or news outlets for our area
- Arrange payment for advertising where needed

Member-at-Large (for more info, email president@probuswesternottawa.ca)

- attend all Management Committee meetings
- an opportunity to see how the executive functions without any specific duties
- may be asked to assist in some capacity on occasion

Please consider putting your name forward for one of these open positions. This is a good opportunity to work closely with others on the executive. You will receive a lot of support no matter what position you select. Email Ron Armstrong at president@probuswesternottawa.ca or call 613-831-0547 to make your wishes known.

Chuckle Corner

