



## MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF NEWMARKET GENERAL MEETING

**Hybrid WEDNESDAY 18 January 2023**  
**Newmarket Legion**

**O Canada**

*Live on-screen – with choral accompaniment.*

### **President's Welcome**

*Vice President Paul Bath*

- Standing in for President Bill Kidd, Paul welcomed a happy crowd enjoying a return to Wednesday meetings.
- Five guests were introduced:
  - Floris Sparling – guest of husband Robert Sparling
  - Claudius Zujew
  - Bill McTavish & Brian Keddy – guests of Paul Bath
  - Larry Wright ZOOMed in from Palm Beach

### **Management Reports:**

- **Secretary.**

*Doug Wrigglesworth*

- The December meeting minutes were reviewed.
- Correspondence from PROBUS Canada to Management regarding proposed amendments to the Constitution was referred to the membership.

- **Treasurer**

*Sunny Lau*

Sunny reported on our fiscal status. Despite some recent essential expenses, our bank balance stands at nearly \$5000.

- **Web Site**

*Sunny Lau*

- Webmaster Sunny reported that several updates have been made and encouraged members to visit and find all kinds of good information therein.

- **Marketing Plan**

*Past Pres Dick Furlong*

Dick reported on the several discussions the Committee has had and the decisions made so far.

- **Membership**

*David Elms*

*(From Dominican Republic – but on his way home)*

- The last meeting saw 29 at the last meeting plus two guests and ten on ZOOM.
- Membership to date 73, with several prospects
- TODAY! 36 in person and four attendees online.

- **Programs**

*Dave Brisley, Doug Magee*

- Dave reviewed the sparkling list of upcoming speakers we will enjoy over the next few months.

- **Technology**

*Bill Docherty*

- Bill updated members on the process that continued to improve. After hours of trials, we are down to a need of one more cable ...
- It was great to see and hear *O Canada* this morning.

- **WHO AM I?**

*Two members bared their lives to us this morning.*

**Bob Thivierge** told us of a retail management career that included various positions in several locations. He climaxed his engaging talk with a rather scary incident involving a vicious shoplifter and severe injury to himself that led to a safer policy for store management.

**John Gallagher** regaled us with his adventures as a young and enriching life as a Boy Scout in his native England. His experiences included attending the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. He was also a competitive runner, and after moving to Canada later, he trained with some well-known Canadian runners. This led to an opportunity to run as a torch bearer for the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal. His career began with the Toronto Dominion Bank and he later became a private advisor in Retirement Planning.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Dr. David Chandross**

*Professor in Curriculum and Higher Education at Toronto Metropolitan University*

**TOPIC:** *Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Mankind”*

Your Correspondent could not possibly, in a paragraph or two, adequately summarize what was a brilliant, thought-provoking presentation.

Among his statements:

- The development of AI may be the opening of Pandora’s Box.
- We (i.e. humans) are not rational – we are emotional.
- While we know the sun shining on a mirror causes the mirror to shine – we only refer to the mirror doing the shining.
- In discussing the possibility of robots:
  - Robots only reflect the emotions of users.
  - AI is reasoning without emotion.
  - Descartes's “*Cognito, ergo sum*” may well be an essential concept as AI floods our world.

Dr. Chandross opened to this old mind a new way of thinking about what may face our civilization in the years to come.

A Brilliant hour.

**Adjournment – 12:10** to lunch at *The Buttery*.