

Contact us at: collingwoodprobus@gmail.com

2021 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY MARCH 4, 2021 – ZOOM
[10:30 am start] | [10:15am – start of pre-meeting hook-up period]

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- PRESIDENT: MIKE MARTYNUK • PAST PRESIDENT: GREG GEEN
- SPEAKERS: RUBEN ROSEN • SOCIAL: DOUG BROWN
- MEMBERSHIP: JOHN MEGARRY • VICE PRESIDENT: TERRY BILLO
- SECRETARY: GREG GEEN • TREASURER: GERRY MCGHEE
- NEWSLETTER: GORD HALL

NEWS OF THE IMPORTANT KIND

► **MARCH 4 (Thursday) February's Speaker's Topic at our Zoom Presentation will commence at 10:30 am on March 4, 2021**

Zoom app. opens at 10:15am \ Meeting starts at 10:30am. (Watch for the Zoom Meeting invitation coming on Wednesday, March 3, 2021).

Speaker: Author John Boyko will present on his forthcoming book: "The Devil's Trick. How Canada Fought the Vietnam War."

The subject looks interesting !

More than forty-five years after the fall of Saigon, John Boyko brings to light the little-known story of Canada's involvement in the American War in Vietnam. Through the lens of six remarkable people, some well-known, others obscure, bestselling historian John Boyko recounts Canada's often-overlooked involvement in that conflict as peacemaker, combatant, and provider of weapons and sanctuary. When Brigadier General Sherwood Lett arrived in Vietnam over a decade before American troops, he and the Canadians under his command risked their lives trying to enforce an unstable peace while questioning whether they were merely handmaidens to a new war. As American battleships steamed across the Pacific, Canadian diplomat Blair Seaborn was meeting

secretly in Hanoi with North Vietnam's prime minister; if American leaders accepted his roadmap to peace, those ships could be turned around before war began. Claire Culhane worked in a Canadian hospital in Vietnam and then returned home to implore Canadians to stop supporting what she deemed an immoral war. Joe Erickson was among 30,000 young Americans who changed Canada by evading the draft and heading north; Doug Carey was among 20,000 Canadians who enlisted with the American forces to serve in Vietnam. Rebecca Trinh and her family fled Saigon and joined the waves of desperate Indochinese refugees, thousands of whom forged new lives in Canada.

Through these wide-ranging and fascinating accounts, Boyko exposes what he calls the Devil's wiliest trick: convincing leaders that war is desirable, the public that it's acceptable and combatants that what they are doing and seeing is normal, or at least necessary. In uncovering Canada's side of the story, he reveals the many secret and forgotten ways that Canada not only fought the war but was shaped by its lessons and lies.

▶ We are looking forward to getting back to normal in the months ahead with the usual Club events & activities. We have tentatively booked our beloved Christmas Luncheon for December 2, 2021 at the Alpine Ski Club's lovely facility.

▶ To keep current, check out our up-to-date website:

www.probuscollingwood.ca.

▶ **Updated Member Incentive Program**

Upon bringing a friend as a guest to any of our Zoom meetings, the Membership Chair will generate a "Guest Pass" card that captures the guest's contact info, plus the name of the introducing Member. If the guest ends up joining the Club, then the introducer will receive a LCBO gift card certificate or, if he prefers, three fifty \ fifty tickets at the next monthly meeting following payment of the new member's annual dues.

OUR FEBRUARY ZOOM MEETING

THE OPENING

- Members joined in from their homes to a rendition of O’ Canada.
- President Mike extended greetings to all Members. He reminded Members of the importance of i) inviting friends to a Zoom meeting – please advise John Megarry and he will send a ZOOM INVITE by e-mail ii) not forgetting Valentine’s Day on February 14.

Mike also noted that we were six months away from the Club’s September Annual General Meeting. [Hopefully we will be able to be together in person] .

PROFILE

Representatives from the recently (2019) formed Collingwood Arts Culture and Entertainment Group (“ CACE”) spoke to our members on their objective of promoting the building of a regional arts, culture and entertainment centre in Collingwood to serve the South Georgian Bay area.

The Group believes that it is important to have the complex in the downtown area with the theatre having “back stage capacity”.

It was noted that the Town has initiated a feasibility study. Significant local funding will be required – the Federal Government has apparently funded up to fifty per cent of similar projects.

CACE’ s website may be found at www.collingwoodarts.com

OUR SPEAKER – CLUB MEMBER TERRY FITZGERALD

Our own Terry Fitzgerald has been a car nut all his life. He was an amateur sports car builder and racer in his youth. His love of cars has continued throughout his adult life – more recently he has become focused on electric vehicles [“EVs”] and in particular on battery powered ones [“BEVs”].

Terry's insights into electric vehicle ownership have been enhanced by his ongoing research and time spent working as a contracted Product Specialist for Plug'n Drive at the Electric Vehicle Discovery Centre (EVDC) in Toronto. Plug'n Drive is a not-for-profit organization that is accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles for their environmental and economic benefits to our world.

He has driven twenty different models of BEVs (Battery Electric Vehicle) and PHEVs (Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle) from thirteen different manufacturers on a regular basis.

During the last few years Terry has worked on a book spelling out the ins & outs for those considering the purchase or lease of an EV or BEV. The result is the recently published ninety-nine page book :

*What You Really Need to Know About Electric Vehicles:
Find Out if an EV is Right for You*

which is now available on Amazon [Kindle enabled]:

www.amazon.ca/What-Really-About-Electric-Vehicles-ebook/dp/B08Q3N5WYQ

Terry's book is of particular interest to those Members who may be considering the purchase or lease of a BEV – interest has been increasing given the number of BEVS seen in our area in recent months.

Terry's talk addressed one small segment of his book – the various “myths” that are out there including:

- **ELECTRIC CARS ARE MODERN INVENTIONS**
 - not so – first EV made its debut around 1830
 - 1893-1896 – first Canadian made electric cars in Toronto

- **TOO EXPENSIVE - A POOR INVESTMENT**

Cost are paid out front – they eventually pretty much even out the longer you own. Long term ownership can be an economically sound decision.

- **PERFORMANCE**

- not a negative \ top speed of about 160 kph \ one gear transmission
- great initial acceleration
- very fast BEVs can compete head-to-head

- **RANGE IS LIMITED TO SHORT TRIPS**

- not so – Tesla is presently the leader
- most BEVs can travel between 200-500 km on a single charge

- **THEY TAKE TOO LONG TO CHARGE**

- the most convenient place and time to charge is at home while you sleep.
- publicly available charging stations (Level 3 - Rapid Chargers and Tesla's Superchargers) that reduce charging time, even more, are being installed on an ever-increasing rate across Canada & the U.S.

- **BATTERIES DON'T LAST VERY LONG AND WILL NEED TO BE REPLACED**

- Tesla warranty – 8 years / 160,000 km
- Tesla – 90 % battery capacity after 241,000 km

- **EVS ARE UNSAFE**

- “A reasonable consideration , but fear not”.

- **TOO MANY EVS WILL IMPACT THE POWER GRID**

- society is and will adapt \ overnight charging occurs at a time of lowest electricity demand – smooths out power demands

- **BATTERY PRODUCTION AND THEIR DISPOSAL WILL NEGATE BENEFITS**

- source of the electricity used in battery production is the key variable.

- spent batteries still have over ten years of useable life such as backup batteries for functions such as data centres.
- gives example of 875 kWh to operate a home oven annually for one hour per day compared to the 1,667 kWh to operate the BMW ie annually – 10,000 km.

Terry : “ The industry is evolving at rapid speed and what I have shared today is just a glimpse of what is to come” .

“ Probably between 2021-2025 there will be a significant number of new offerings”.

Editor: Thanks Terry for your dedication, hard work & service !

Editor anecdote: Every Tesla owner I run into I ask:

“ What is the one negative about your Tesla ? Without fail there is none – response = “ overwhelming enthusiasm”

Latest example: An eighty- three year old gentleman retired physicist \ business person . Thrilled with his new Tesla SUV – the “Y” model – spent months researching.

**DAYS ARE NOW THANKFULLY LONGER \
SPRING IS COMING!**

Note: Any opinions expressed herein are solely those of the newsletter editor unless otherwise specifically indicated \ source attributed. Errors are the responsibility of the editor. Feedback\ Suggestions are most welcome ►► gord@halllaw.com.
