

# NEWSLETTER

## PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

#252-2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver B.C. V6M 2B5 (604) 261-6818

*Clubs for retired and semi-retired professional and  
business persons, former executives and others*

**NEXT MEETING:** August 15, 2000

**TIME:** 9:30AM

**LOCATION:** Stanley Park Pavilion

**SPEAKER:** Alard Ages, Institute of Ocean  
Sciences

**TOPIC:** Interaction between tides and river flow  
in the Fraser River

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**Minutes from July 18, 2000**

**Attendance:** 93 including 5 guests.

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**Roy Williams** opened the meeting at 9:55  
**Richard Landahl** reported on the Saturna Island  
outing. 50 members and wives had the privilege  
of visiting a winery and enjoying a gourmand's  
lunch on this relatively inaccessible island.

**Tom McCusker** announced that there will  
be a Chinatown Luncheon and Tour for members  
and guests on October 11th. Details are on the  
enclosed broadsheet. Numbers will be limited to  
50 and will sell out, so sign up early. On October  
28th there will be a buffet at the Cloverdale  
Trotting Races - Cost \$28.00 per person.

Advanced sign up is required. **John Catchpole**  
announced that there is an invitation from Interfor  
to observe helicopter logging and a sawmill  
operation at Squamish in September. This trip  
will be restricted to *Probus* members. **Brice  
Macdougall** has arranged for Alard Ages to speak  
to us at the August Meeting.

The guest speaker, **Martin Collacott**,  
former Canadian Ambassador in Asia and the  
Middle East considered two issues in his talk -  
refugees and immigration policy. Dealing with  
refugees is based on humanitarianism.  
Immigration policy is based on the national  
interest and while attracting less public attention

than refugee issues in recent months, has a greater  
impact on the country because of the much larger  
number of people involved. Most people feel  
there are major problems with the refugee  
determination system as it is presently  
implemented. The speaker made brief reference  
to the Chinese boat people who cost our country  
\$40 million and the 4% (16 individuals), accepted  
would probably not have been accepted by any  
other country. The main features of our refugee  
problems are: Canada takes more refugees for  
permanent resettlement than any other country on  
a per capita basis; we offer a more generous  
combination of welfare, legal assistance, free  
medical care and citizenship for successful  
claimants than any other country; in Canada we  
have stretched the definition of refugee to cover a  
wide variety of situations that go far beyond what  
was intended in the UN convention on the Status  
of Refugees; many thousands of failed claimants  
have not been deported; a 1985 interpretation of  
the Charter of Rights has in large measure been  
responsible for the creation of a lengthy, many  
layered and very costly refugee determination  
system; among the claimants child molesters,  
terrorists and drug dealers have been allowed to  
stay in Canada because of "large and liberal"  
judicial decisions. The speaker made the point  
that Canada cannot solve all the world's social  
and political problems through our refugee  
determination system. All of this is unfair to legal  
immigrants who have waited their turn and are  
sometimes confused by the public with those who  
are taking advantage of the refugee system. Also,  
there are complaints from the USA because many  
of those who make claims in Canada end up being  
smuggled into the country. A further problem is  
that, in an effort to reduce the number of bogus  
claimants arriving in Canada, we are often

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**AUGUST 2000**

**President:**  
Roy E. Williams  
926-4727

**Past President:**  
Pidge McBride  
274-0446

**Vice-president:**  
John Hopkins  
985-8422

**Secretary:**  
Don Farquhar  
948-9908

**Treasurer:**  
Bill Wallace  
222-2365

**Speakers  
Committee:**  
Brice Macdougall  
922-5321

**Membership  
Committee:**  
Dick Matthews  
922-0358

**Visits and  
Entertainment:**  
Tom McCusker  
261-4763

**House  
Committee:**  
Doug Lambert  
266-2422

**Greeters  
Committee:**  
Norm Weitzel  
925-3574

**Rotary Liaison:**  
John Hoyle  
926-2667

reluctant to issue visas to visitors from certain countries who may be bona fide but could easily claim refugee status after their arrival.

As early as 1985 with the Neilson Task Force Report of the Federal parliament it has been known that there are major problems with our refugee system. Many subsequent review reports, committees and commissions have recommended changes in vain. Why have these been blocked? There is a powerful pro-refugee lobby. Refugee lawyers and advocacy groups receive much of their funding from public sources and are concerned about loss of income if the system were changed. Those interested in preserving the current system have been highly effective in applying political pressure and political parties are reluctant to antagonize them. While other countries are looking at measures to make themselves unattractive to people smugglers, Canada has thus far failed to deal seriously with the fundamental problems.

The speaker then addressed immigration. He stated that research has shown that the economic assumptions associated with increasing immigration such as the advantages created by having an economy of scale, the benefits to the hosts of creation of new jobs, bringing in of new capital, tax support for retiring boomers, and the filling of labour market gaps were not in fact valid. This was demonstrated in a comprehensive report produced by the Economic Council of Canada in 1991. Many subsequent studies confirmed that immigration brings at best minor and sometimes even negative economic benefits to the host community.

In the last two decades, with greater priority being given to bringing in relatives of people already here rather than to qualified independents, there has been a marked decline in the skills and literacy levels of newcomers. As a result, the percentage of immigrants living in poverty has increased and their contribution to the economy has dropped dramatically. Research has shown that the arrival of large numbers of unskilled immigrants has resulted in wage compression and job losses for many Canadians in many industries. Some parts of the private sector are enthusiastic supporters of high immigration levels because of the pool of cheap labour it provides.

The social benefits for immigration also need to be reviewed. While we think of immigrants as filling Canada's vast open spaces, more than 90% now concentrate in metropolitan areas where infrastructure is already overburdened and where they are likely to settle into increasingly large ethnic communities with limited need or opportunity to integrate into the mainstream of Canadian society. If immigration has in the past contributed to enriching and diversifying Canadian society it now threatens to create division and social tensions.

Our current immigration policies have been developed not on the basis of Canada's national interests but because of pressure from special interest groups. These include immigration lawyers, organizations receiving government funding, areas of the private sector seeking cheap unskilled labour and groups representing those who wish to bring in large numbers of relatives. Politicians in turn cater to these special interest groups in the hopes of gaining votes at election time.

It is ironic that, while critics of the system are often accused of being racist, it is our current immigration policies which threaten to produce a situation where some of the anti-immigrant, anti-foreigner reactions we have seen in Europe could begin to emerge in Canada.

There is little prospect of reform if political parties think the current system can be used to obtain votes and no one objects to it. Only if large numbers of Canadians insist on a sustained and informed review of our immigration policies will we be able to halt what amounts to a national disaster taking place in slow motion.

The speaker was thanked by Bill Ibbott for his interesting and provocative presentation.  
Don Farquhar, Secretary

**The Following is the nominating Committees report for the Probus Club year 2000/2001.**

### EXECUTIVE

President - John Hopkins  
Past President - Roy Williams  
Secretary - Don Farquhar  
Treasurer - Bill Wallace

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Membership - Dick Mathews  
Activities - Tom McCusker  
Greeters - Leo Sauve  
House - Doug Lambert  
Speakers - Brice Macdougall

*Additional nominations can be made at our annual general meeting in September.*



### **AUGUST GREETERS ARE:**

Laffin Tompkins  
Stan Clark

## ALARD AGES

Born 1924 in Soestdijk, The Netherlands. After graduating from the Gymnasium in Leiden and the Nautical College in Amsterdam, I left German - occupied Holland to serve with the Dutch Merchant Navy in Atlantic. I returned to liberated Holland in 1945 and went back to sea as a deck officer with the "Nederland" line until my emigration to Canada in 1953. After two years as a Chairman with the Saskatchewan Land Survey, I moved to the Canadian Hydrographic Service in Victoria and participated in charting the coastal waters of B.C. and the Western Arctic in the summer months while attending U.B.C. in the winter. Upon completing my master's degree in hydraulic engineering (M.A.Sc.) in 1969, I joined the Tides and Currents Section at the Institute of Ocean Sciences in Patricia Bay to study the water movement in estuaries and the physics of oil spills. This research involved predictive computer models and field studies to verify these models. Much of my work over the past thirty years has focused on the tidal part of the Fraser River, the interaction between tides and river flow, salinity intrusion and sediment transport. I retired in 1991 but continued work with the Institute as an emeritus research engineer.

## ACTIVITIES

**1. Anyone for bridge????** Probus Club members wishing to participate in Mens Social bridge should contact Newt Hopkins 929-5954, Fax 929-2750 or Email [newt\\_hopkins@telus.net](mailto:newt_hopkins@telus.net) before August 31. A fax or Email contact would be helpful. Sign up with preferably a partner (Probus Member or Friend) or as a Single and we'll match you up with a partner.

Suggested format is to make up a schedule of games with a member being responsible to host one game (one table) during a specified month, host it at his home at a time agreeable to the other three players and send the scores in to an appointed bridge scorer. Plan to schedule three games before the year end and then schedule one game each month for the first 4 months of 2001. The final evening of bridge will be with all bridge members together. All games would consist of 20 hands normal rubber bridge. Comments or suggestions would be welcome. If we can interest 6 couples. We will go with it!

**2. A day trip to Squamish.** A trip has been arranged to visit Interfor's operation at Squamish. We'll see helicopter logging as well as a modern sawmill. Interfor will host a sandwich lunch for us. We plan on chartering a bus to and from West Vancouver. Space is limited as first come first serve. Members only. The date of the trip is September 20, 2000. John Catchpole (922-1182) and Bill Manson (988-2365) are in charge of the arrangements. More details to follow but sign up early.

**3. A day at the races.** We plan to go to the harness races at Cloverdale on October 28th. The price is \$28.00 per person for dinner and admission. Spouses welcome. Space limited and no transportation is provided. Sign up at the August meeting or call the office. Thanks to Pidge McBride and Tom McCusker for organizing this, and all the others for organizing the various activities.

