



# 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

...to find more about Probuss go to [www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)

December 2004

**President:**

Gordon Thom  
604-739-0714

**Director**

Probuss Canada  
Pidge McBride  
604-274-0446

**Past President**

Tom McCusker  
604-261-4763

**Vice-President**

Denis Creighton  
604-922-6469

**Secretary**

Bill Weatherall  
604-263-3069

**Treasurer**

Bill Manson  
604-988-2365

**Speakers**

**Committee**

Fred Cotton  
604-266-7060

**Membership Committee**

John Hoyle  
604-926-2667

**Visits and**

**Entertainment**

George Adams  
604-926-0906

**House Committee**

Doug Lambert  
604-266-2422

**Newsletter Editor**

Roy Williams  
604-926-4727

**Membership Services**

Ted Daem  
604-732-7758

**Historian and**

**Archivist**

Peter McCabe  
604-224-4870

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 14th 2004

**Time:** 9:30am

**Location:** H. R. MacMillan Planetarium and Space Centre - Lower Level

**Speaker:** Paul Stinson

**Minutes of November 9th 2004**

**Attendance:** 158 including 6 guests

President Thom called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. He requested the members stand to honour Remembrance Day. He then asked Veterans from past wars to stand and be recognized.

Thanks were extended to all members that sent in their annual dues and completed questionnaires. John Hopkins was commended for the quick action taken to improve the coffee arrangements. This request was initiated through questionnaire returns.

President Gordon then asked for committee reports emphasizing that VP Creighton should have nothing to say. Denis immediately confirmed this status!

Director of Probuss Canada, Pidge McBride updated us on the September 2005 Muskoka Rendezvous. He said Australia and New Zealand are planning

large contingents and hoped we would also make a good showing. More information next meeting.

Bill Manson said our finances are in good shape.

When Fred Cotton had his turn he just had to mention that global warming (today's speakers' expected topic) may cause the Eskimos difficulties when building igloos! The speaker for December is Paul Stinson, a biotech specialist.

John Hoyle, responsible for membership, requested the eight new members come forward and give a brief personal background. President Gordon then welcomed all.

Doug Lambert, House Committee, assured us our house is in order and Roy Williams said the cut-off for the newsletter is November 25th.

**Ted Daem**, Member Services, reported all's well.

At Gordon's request Denis introduced the speaker, David Phillips, Senior Climatologist, Environment Canada. David started by saying Global Warming was not his topic but, being a storyteller at heart, entertainment was his game. David has 20,000 weather stories, some of which he shared with us. Statistically only one out of seven killer lightning bolts strikes women; us guys get the rest! The reason being, men present a larger target and women think before stepping out in a storm! Alan Fotheringham's favourite weather story, starts with Jean Chretien and Pierre Trudeau on a government jet. Jean was preoccupied looking out the window, but eventually told Pierre that it was raining outside. Pierre replied, "If it's raining it must be outside." In 1984 an Alberta farmer was struck by lightning more powerful than 10,000 electric chairs. He survived! To illustrate our strange and unusual weather, David told his skydiver story. When the fellow jumped he was thrust higher by an updraft so he detached his primary chute. Quickly, tumbling earthward he pulled the auxiliary's ripcord and landed safely.

Because Canada is so vast, we have many climate patterns inflicting us with weather sensitivity. So much so, that through time, weather became part of our nature. Yes, the Brits have their Royals and we Canadians have our weather!

David admits to stage fright during broadcast interviews, even after years in the business. In 1991 when Hurricane Floyd was causing havoc in Florida, David, who was gathering related information, was cornered by a group of eager reporters and the questions ran rampant. His friend, Lloyd Robertson assessing the situation, quickly brought things under

control. David being flustered, mistakenly addressed his thanks to "Floyd!"

David sensing, a nervous interviewer, will tactfully initiate questions, avoiding a potential problem. When confronted by a pompous interviewer, David used one-word answers to quickly make his point. But when interviewers ignore answers; they are on their own. An example was an answer ending, "and that was the worst storm the Bay-of-Fundy ever had.." The interviewer's response, "That's great" followed by the next question, ruins the show.

Our severe weather has given rise to many useful Canadian inventions. The snow blower and snowmobile are examples. But the intent to patent the toilet complete with seat belt is the strangest. Evidently in Florida the last item to go when a house is being hurricane ravaged is the toilet. Thus the desire to patent the toilet/seatbelt as a safety device!

During the question period, David opined that Kyoto would not save the world. Hypothetically, if a given degradation level was reached under Kyoto in 2080, without Kyoto the same level would happen in 2075. Expressed in another way, it would take 25 Kyotos to stop the atmosphere CO2 from increasing.

David accepts global warming. He cautious however, that the biggest problem isn't the pollutants emitted from exhaust pipes and smoke stacks but rather land use changes. Over the last 100 years 65% of land uses have changed. Forests to farms, farms to urban expansion for factories, dwellings, parking lots etc. Reduced forests hamper nature's regeneration.

Weather reports are now majority computer driven. Human beings are only more accurate over a period of 24 hours.

Is forecasting getting better? With noisy teletypes removed from our weather offices more thunderstorms are detected due to quieter surroundings. The public expects more accuracy today; earlier we were satisfied with a lower mainland forecast but now expect the North Vancouver weather at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Questions were cut off at 11:30 and the President asked Norm Weitzel to thank our speaker.

Bill Weatherall  
Secretary

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I look forward to seeing many of you at our December meeting when I can personally wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. To those of you that will be away or otherwise unable to make that

meeting please know that your friends in Probus will miss you and want to wish you the best for the holidays.

In January, we look forward to seeing all members at our special Probus Presidents' luncheon meeting. This is a time when we recognize our past leaders who have served us well and have made the Probus Club Vancouver into an association that provides all of us with a continuing opportunity for contact, fellowship and information. I encourage all members to attend and show appreciation to these dedicated members.

Most of you have responded to the annual questionnaire and forwarded your annual dues. Thank you for your valued input. Our hard working Treasurer Bill Manson also thanks you. There is no need for lengthy Treasurer's reports as we are again well into the black.. Thanks to George Adams who has been busy updating our records and

tabulating your responses to the questionnaire. The preliminary information is already under review by the Management Committee.

The four immediate Past Presidents: Tom McCusker, Don Farquhar, Norm Weitzel and John Hopkins have agreed to form a committee. Their purpose will be to review and address issues and concerns not normally dealt within the terms of existing committees to insure the long term strength and viability of the Probus Club Vancouver. John Hopkins has agreed to chair this group of four wise men. Their continuing service is appreciated.

One of the things that these men will find valuable is your responses to the questionnaire. If you have any concerns or thoughts on how to improve or sustain the Club they would appreciate your input.

I look forward to seeing you at our December meeting.

Gordon Thom  
President

### NOTICES

**It is with regret we announce the passing of Jack Ewing on Oct. 10th and Alan Giles on Nov. 9th. Our condolences to their families. A donation will be made by Probus to the Cancer Society.**

**Member Services Desk: Ted Daem  
Cash Desk: Frank Willis and Michael Ashby  
Greeters : Don Milliken, Tremayne Perry, John Barton**

### VALENTINE'S LUNCH

Once again, we have arranged to have our Valentine's lunch at the Point Grey Golf and Country Club. This will take place on Friday 11th February, so please mark your calendars accordingly and watch for a further announcement with more details in the next Newsletter.



## 2004 RENEWAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Thanks are due to those who completed the questionnaire which accompanied the Notice of Membership Renewal. Probus relies on volunteers and your suggestions and recommendations are very valuable. Those made on this occasion will be considered by your executive and by the relevant committee chairmen.

You may have noticed already that the system for serving coffee has been re-arranged and far more efficient - this is the result of a suggestion made in the questionnaire.

### PRESIDENTS' LUNCH

This year's luncheon, honouring the Past Presidents of the Club, will be held at the Point Grey Golf and Country Club following our meeting on Tuesday, 11th January.

Members will be charged a subsidized \$20.00 each and guests will be welcome at \$30.00 each. There will be a no-host bar where you will be able to purchase wines and other beverages.

We will start the meeting a half hour later than usual at 10:30. Coffee will be available and an opportunity to socialize with other members from 10:00 am.

In order for the Club to cater the lunch it is important that we have in advance an accurate count of those attending. Will you please advise the Probus office at 604-261-6818 if you will be attending.

Please bring your cheque with you to the luncheon.

### INVESTMENT CLUB

The Rotarian's Investment Club by-law provides an opportunity for members of the Probus Club to be



considered for membership. The Club, which meets monthly for dinner at the RVYC is limited to 33 members who have individually accepted a responsibility to attend and actively contribute in recommending Club

investments and monitoring selected stocks. The emphasis, through member presentations and guest speakers is as much on learning as it is about the actual investment that the Club makes. Meetings are fun and

filled with fellowship.

Due to some retirements there may be an opportunity for one or two new members from Probus to be considered for membership. Membership requires a commitment to contribute, purchasing a share (\$3,000+) of the Clubs investment and a dinner fee, paid annually - \$350. If interested please contact Gordon Thom or Fred Cotton who are charter members of the Rotarian's Investment Club.

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## DECEMBER GUEST SPEAKER

### PAUL STINSON

From 1973 to 1985, Paul worked in International development, primarily in Southeast Asia, with CUSO (in Thailand) and the International Development Research Centre (in Singapore). Since 1986, Paul has worked extensively in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, diagnostics, and medical devices Industries.

He worked for Ciba-Gelgy (now part of Novartis) in Switzerland, Canada, and Zimbabwe from 1986-1993 and as CEO of Boehringer Mannheim India in 1995-96. In January 1997, Paul established CAPRA International, a consulting firm focused on developing business partnerships between Asia and Canada. Between January 1997 and December 2000, he completed consulting assignments for Innovara International in Amherst, Ma: the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics at UBC; Quorum Diagnostics in Vancouver, and the Strategic Industries Branch of the BC Trade and Investment Office in Vancouver.

Paul joined BC Biotech as Executive Director in January 2001. BC Biotech is a private sector Industry association that promotes the development of the biotechnology sector in British Columbia.

Paul holds a BA from the University of Western Ontario, and a MBA from IMD (International Institute for Management Development) in Lausanne, Switzerland. He has been married to Sherry for 24 years and has twin 13 year old sons, who beat him regularly at squash.