



# NEWSLETTER

## PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

PO Box 74539, KITSILANO, Vancouver, BC, V6K 4P4

Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities

www.probusvancouver.com

January, 2018

President  
Hugh Lindsay  
604-732-0366  
hughl@telus.net

Past President  
Doug Jones  
604-228-0504  
jonzee88@hotmail.com

Vice President  
Brian Maunder  
604-222-2391  
brianmaunder@shaw.ca

Secretary  
Tim Sehmer  
604-263-7332  
timsehmer@gmail.com

Treasurer  
Doug Cucheron  
604-687-2006  
dac2004@telus.net

Speakers Committee  
Hugh Chaun  
604-261-8437  
hchaun@mac.com

Membership Committee  
Peter Hamilton  
604-730-9975  
pwt.hamilton@gmail.com

Activities Committee  
Richard Carson  
604-261-0974  
rcarson75@gmail.com

Website and Database  
Committee  
Jack Zaleski  
604-261-7492  
jack.zaleski@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor  
and Publisher  
Peter Scott  
604-263-1746  
peter26@telus.net

Membership Services &  
House  
Raymond Greenwood  
604-733-6453  
greenwd@telus.net

Historian/Archivist  
Roy Williams  
604-926-4727  
roytwitch@shaw.ca

Counsel  
Brian Wasson  
Carl Jonsson  
Bill Randall



**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 9 at 9:30 am  
**Location:** H.R. MacMillan Space Centre  
**Speaker:** Dr. Ron Burnett, CM, OBC.  
President & Vice Chancellor, Emily Carr  
University of Art + Design  
**Topic:** Urban Renewal and the  
Creative Sector

### NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

**February 13: Bob Ross, Member  
of our club.**

**Topic: "North Korea—what I  
learned and didn't learn during  
my visit in September"**

### RON BURNETT



Dr. Ron Burnett has been President + Vice-Chancellor of Emily Carr University of Art + Design since 1996. In 2013, Dr. Burnett received the Order of Canada and in 2015, he received the Order of British Columbia. He was awarded the *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the French government in 2010 and received the International Digital Media and Arts Association Outstanding Leadership Award. He received his BA, MA and PhD from McGill University in the areas of media arts, communications and cultural studies. Dr. Burnett began his career as a post-secondary professor and administrator at Vanier College in Montreal where he founded the Creative Arts Department. He went on to work at LaTrobe University in Melbourne, Australia and then became the Director of the Graduate Program in Communications at McGill University.

In a career spanning forty years, Dr. Burnett has published three books; book chapters and reviews; over 150 articles; as well as two monographs. Internationally known for his work in media and distance

education, he served on an "eminent persons panel" at UNESCO in Paris to advise on the development of Internet resources for the Third World. He is currently the Chair of the BC Association of Institutes and Universities (BCAIU) and a member of the Executive Committee and Board of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design. He is a member of the Learning Development Institute Board, the BCNet Board, and was formerly the Board Chair of the Knowledge Network. In 2012, Dr. Burnett received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in honour of his significant contributions and achievements and in 2002, he received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for service to Canada and Canadians. He was inducted into the Royal Canadian Academy of Art in 2003 and was voted Educator of the Year by the Canadian New Media Association in 2005. Dr. Burnett is an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate Program in Film and Video at York University, Toronto. He is the William Evans Fellow at the University of Otago in New Zealand and is a Burda Scholar at Ben Gurion University, Israel.

## **Report of the December 12th Meeting**

**Attendance: 145 Members and Guests**

President Hugh Lindsay opened the meeting and welcomed the guests present, especially our speaker, Penny Lyons and her assistant, Christine Smith. He then told an amusing story of the priest who was stopped for suspected DUI. John Pearkes introduced three new members into PROBUS. Following the presentation to them of their name badges, Hugh called on Rich Carson, Chair of the Activities Committee, to tell us that there are still tickets available for the VSOJ concert on April 30 and to get a show of interest in a tour of the Ballard Power Systems plant in Burnaby. The survey indicated sufficient interest for Rich to proceed. He then called on Chris Finch to conduct a similar survey to see what interest there would be for a bus tour to Whistler to tour the Squamish Lil'Wat Cultural Centre and the Audain Art Museum. Provisional details of both these activities are featured on page 5.

Hugh then asked Raymond Greenwood to thank the greeters and cashiers and Dave Matheson to introduce our speaker, Penny Lyons.

Founded in 1982, Seva Canada's mission is to restore sight and prevent blindness in the developing world. Penny began her talk by sharing an anecdote about Seva's work in Nepal. She introduced our members to Dhana Kadka, an 80-year-old subsistence farmer in Nepal, who has been blind from cataracts for the past five years. One day he hears an announcement on the radio about a new eye clinic in a nearby city. He travels there on foot and the surgery is performed in about half an hour.

"The next morning you're back," says Penny. "Someone comes and removes your bandages. You slowly open your eye and you can see. For the first time in five years you can see. Your beloved land is spread before you, your son is crying and they are the most beautiful things you've ever seen."

We hear that there are 36 million blind people in the world today including 29 million who don't have to be blind. She believes, however, that we can rid the world of preventable blindness, a debilitating and poverty-inducing condition.

In May 1980 the World Health Organization finally confirmed the global eradication of smallpox and some of the people who worked on that in India dreamed of applying the same spirit of service to other efforts intended to alleviate human suffering. Seva, which means "service" in Sanskrit, was the result. They currently work in 11 developing countries in Central America, Africa and Asia and have restored sight to over 4 million people. Lyons says that blindness is the seventh largest health disability in the world but 80 percent of cases can either be treated or prevented which, in turns, breaks the cycle of poverty for some of the world's poorest people. She says that the majority of the world's blind are women and girls, not because they go blind more often than men and boys, but because it's much more challenging for them to access care.

Furthermore, the restoration of sight has been shown by health economists to be one of the single most cost-effective ways to reduce poverty.

Most of the world's blindness is caused by cataract which can be treated with a five to 15 minute procedure that costs about \$50. However, many of the world's blind live in remote locations in the developing world. They are frequently fearful of doctors, travel and foreigners so Seva has built the capacity to deliver surgery, glasses and medicines to people in remote and rural areas. In their 2016-17 fiscal year Seva restored sight to 96,084 people

through cataract surgery and provided basic eye care services such as glasses and medicine to 1,448,969 more people. They accomplish this by ensuring universal access to their services - nobody is denied treatment because they can't pay.

To overcome the challenge of accessing people in some of the poorest and most remote regions in the world, Seva Canada engages with existing community organizations such as local microfinance groups which are run by women. Seva Canada trains these women to detect eye disease during their consultations with other members of the community and refer any cases of eye disease to eye clinics. The women aren't paid for this service but it does increase their social status.

Seva Canada also accesses people in remote areas through screening camps which are supervised by eye care professionals who provide free screenings, glasses and medicine. They refer people who need further care, such as cataract surgery, to hospitals.

Vision centres provide primary eye care year-round. This, in turn, helps prevent significant vision problems later on and acts as a way to refer patients who may need surgery to the hospital.

Seva's second strategy is sustainability in terms of finances and human resources. Lyons says that eye care is one of the very few health interventions that can make a profit while still serving those who are too poor to pay. Seva accomplishes this by charging for their services on a sliding scale so that the rich subsidize services for the poor including surgeries and screening camps.

In terms of human resource sustainability, Seva ensures that all eye care professionals are very well-trained and have access to all of the equipment they need to do their job properly.

"No matter how poor you are, you know what is good quality and what is bad quality and so we need to make sure that our cadre of professionals are very well trained and experts in what they do," she says.

In addition to direct services Seva Canada also generates a great deal of research related to their work. They also train their partners in the field on how to do research and they are now publishing their own papers which vastly improves the quality and continuity of their programs.

The majority of Seva Canada's funding comes from foundations, grants and individual donations.

Unlike many other health programs eye care can generate revenue and attract investors. This, in turn, allows vision centres and hospitals in some of the poorest regions become financially sustainable.

Because eye care generates revenue, Seva Canada is able to access funds that are not typically available to charitable services such as from investors who will provide both debt and equity financing to support social good.

"It's not often that you will hear the head of a charity talking about debt and equity financing but it is truly the only way we are going to meet the need where it actually exists," says Lyons. Dave Matheson thanked the speaker and presented her with the customary honourarium.

*For an unabridged version of the above which includes questions and answers, go to our PROBUS website at [www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com), click on "Speakers" and then on "Penny Lyons"*

## Rotarians' Investment Club

Our January 25th meeting features  
**Jayant Bhandari**

on the topic of - " **INDIA: Hope or Illusion** " It should also give us an opinion on the several ETF Funds etc. available to investors. I visited India 2 years ago and got a very positive view of their economy and enterprising endeavours.

Since the next Probus Newsletter will arrive after that meeting, please make a note to contact our President, Tim Gibbs at 604-910-2666 (Cell) or [timgibbs@hotmail.com](mailto:timgibbs@hotmail.com) if you would like to attend, on or before January 23rd. Our meetings start at 6.30 pm promptly, with a no-host bar at 6.00 pm, and usually finish by 9.30 pm. Please bring a cheque for \$60.00 for the excellent 3 course dinner, with dinner wine, coffee, gratuities etc.

We do have to pay for no-shows - so please be sure to attend if you had booked to come.

For information about our Club, please contact John Sullivan - 604-263-4486; [johnws@telus.net](mailto:johnws@telus.net)

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our December speaker was **Penny Lyons**, Executive Director of Seva Canada, an organization that works to establish locally managed eye care programs to restore sight and prevent blindness in the developing world. Blindness affects 36 million people around the world—most of whom are condemned to a cycle of poverty. In a comprehensive and moving presentation, Ms. Lyons described how Seva (pronounced "say-va") supports locally-run, fee for service organizations that are financially self-sufficient and located close to their patients. Instead of sending volunteer Canadian professionals to provide eye care services and operations, Seva supports the training of local professionals and community health volunteers. It's an impressive and effective organization. **Dave Matheson** did double duty as introducer and thankер—mentioning personal experience that nicely complemented the speaker's presentation. Thanks Dave. Our **Activities** and **Speakers** Committees have been working hard on their programs for 2018.

**Rich Carson** and his Activities team are planning a visit to Ballard Power Systems in Burnaby, and a bus trip to Whistler (organized by **Chris Finch**) to see the **Audain Art Museum** and **Squamish-Lil'wat Cultural Centre**. They have also partnered with Vancouver Women's Probus to secure discount tickets to a **Vancouver Symphony Orchestra concert** at the Orpheum on Monday, April 30, 2018.

**Hugh Chaun** and the Speakers Committee have also been busy and have confirmed speakers for January through April: January—Dr. **Ron Burnett**, Pres & Vice Chancellor, Emily Carr University, February—Probus member **Bob Ross**, speaking on North Korea, March—Kevin Diamond, CEO of TransLink and April—**Prof. Paul Evans**, UBC, speaking on "China and the World". Our January speaker is Dr. **Ron Burnett**, President and Vice Chancellor of **Emily Carr University of Art + Design**, The University recently moved from Granville Island to a new building at 520 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue—near Great Northern Way. We look forward to hearing how things are going in their new home. **John Pearkes** introduced and welcomed three new members: **Ron Markey**, **Francesco Piccone** and **Robert Vroom**. Every month, as I listen to the introductions, I am reminded of the breadth and depth of experience of our members—whose contacts are so valuable in securing speakers. If you can help us identify and approach prospective speakers, **Hugh Chaun** would be glad to hear from you.

**Happy New Year—Drive Carefully**



## PROBUS FRED COTTON BOOK CLUB



The Book Club meets at 9:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday each month (except July and August) at the White Spot, Georgia & Cardero.

Upcoming books we will discuss:

**Jan. 3: "Lost City of the Monkey Gods"**  
by Douglas Preston

**Feb. 6: "The Only Cafe"**  
by Lynden MacIntyre

For further information contact Ken Yule at [kjyqc@shaw.ca](mailto:kjyqc@shaw.ca) or 604-266-4563.

## Thanks to our December Member Services Team

**Greeters: Rob Leeson & Peter Stephen**  
**Cashiers: David Mordant & Mike Patton**

ONE OF THE LONG TIME TRADITIONS OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER, IS TO MAKE A CHARITABLE DONATION IN MEMORY OF A MEMBER WHO HAS DIED. IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THIS TRADITION IN A TIMELY MANNER, PLEASE NOTIFY PETER SCOTT AT [peter26@telus.net](mailto:peter26@telus.net) OR 604-263-1746 WHEN YOU HEAR THAT WE HAVE LOST A MEMBER.

## Welcome New Members



**FRANCESCO PICCONE**  
DEVELOPER & INVENTOR



**RON MARKEY**  
DENTIST



**ROBERT VROOM**  
PHYSICIAN

**The PROBUS Club of Vancouver is delighted to provide this opportunity to attend one of the VSO's concerts for an extremely attractive price.**

This has been arranged through

Estelle Jacobson, a member of the PROBUS Ladies Club and whose husband is a member of our club.



**SARAH CHANG** *Violinist*

One of the most dynamic and scintillating performers in the classical world to-day

**CONSTANTIN TRINKS** *Conductor*



**Monday, April 30, 2018 at 8pm**

*The VSO have offered us tickets at the generous price of \$33 (normally \$70).*

*Because of the substantial discount, tickets will have to be purchased by 1st April,  
**No Refunds.** This offer is open to members and friends.*



**PROGRAM**

BRUCH - Violin /concerto No. 1 in G minor  
Probably his most popular piece of music

SCHUBERT – Symphony No 9. In C Major, *The Great*

One of the most impressive orchestra pieces of music you can hear in live performance



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_

**WHICH PROBUS CLUB?**

Men's \_\_\_\_ Women's \_\_\_\_ Vancouver West Mixed \_\_\_\_

**CHEQUE** (# of tickets X \$33) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made out to Vancouver Symphony Orchestra  
Mail form and cheque to: Estelle Jacobson □ 1192 Nanton Avenue □ Vancouver, BC V6H 2C5

TICKETS **WILL NOT** BE MAILED - PICK-UP WILL BE AT MONTHLY PROBUS MEETING

Please indicate preference for Orchestra \_\_\_\_ or Balcony \_\_\_\_ seating.

Both offer section 1 seating. - I will endeavor to fill all requests but cannot guarantee your choice!

This concert is selling well, so don't delay.



## **THE ACTIVITIES PAGE**

***YOUR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE HAS BEEN BUSY RESEARCHING INTERESTING OUTINGS FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP TO ENJOY. HERE ARE TWO POSSIBILITIES WHICH THEY ARE PROPOSING, TO GET 2018 OFF TO A GOOD START.***

# BALLARD®

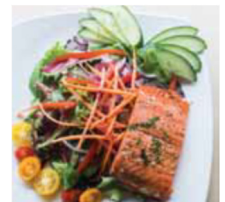
**A SHOW OF HANDS AT THE DECEMBER MEETING INDICATED THAT THERE WAS ENOUGH INTEREST IN A TOUR OF THE BALLARD POWER SYSTEMS PLANT IN BURNABY. THE COMMITTEE WILL WORK WITH BALLARD TO FIND A SUITABLE DATE, SOMETIME IN MID TO LATE APRIL, FOR WHAT PROMISES TO BE A MOST INTERESTING TOUR OF A VERY PROGRESSIVE BUSINESS. MORE DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS THE PLANS ARE MORE DEFINITE.**



**FIRST NATIONS  
MUSEUM**  
TOURS + GIFT SHOP + CAFÉ



**Skwxwú7mesh Łil'wat7úl  
Cultural Centre  
WHISTLER**



# &

## **AUDAIN ART MUSEUM**



**IF YOU HAVEN'T VISITED EITHER OF THESE MUSEUMS, NOW IS THE TIME! THIS OUTING, PROPOSED FOR MAY 30, IS COSTED AT APPROXIMATELY \$115 PER PERSON AND INCLUDES TRANSPORT TO WHISTLER AND RETURN, IN A DELUXE COACH, COFFEE AND SWEETS SOMEWHERE, A WESTCOAST BUFFET LUNCH AND TOUR AT THE SQUAMISH LIL'WAT CULTURAL CENTRE AND A GUIDED TOUR OF THE ARCHITECTURALLY RENOWNED AUDAIN ART MUSEUM.**

**FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS THE PLANS ARE MORE DEFINITE WITH, REGISTRATION STARTING IN JANUARY**