



# PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

Clubs for Retired & Semi-Retired Professional & Business Persons, Former Executives & Others

#252 - 2025 West 42 Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5

Telephone: (604) 261-6818

NEXT MEETING - Will be followed by a luncheon!

Date: December 15, 1998

Location: Stanley Park Pavilion

Time: 9:30 AM

Speaker: Philip Shier

TOPIC: Experiences as a short term advisor in elections in emerging democracies  
Albania 1996 Bosnia September 1998

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November 17, 1998 meeting. Attendance 134. Fifteen guests were introduced.

President McBride reminded the membership of the annual Christmas luncheon after the next meeting.

**TREASURER:** Bill Wallace once again disappointed the membership by failing to declare a dividend. We have 184 paid up members, with 19 delinquent accounts. Six new members enrolled today. We now have \$10,000.00 in the bank., so we are in good financial shape.

**THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED:** If the members have information regarding someone who needs help please leave a message with Doug Lambert at 261-6818

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Bill Manson received 23 suggestions for outings. He will poll the membership.

**SPEAKERS:** Brice Macdougall announced that next month Philip Shier a retired labour lawyer will speak on his experiences.

John Catchpole introduced our speaker - Mr. Gordon Campbell, leader of the Liberal Party of BC. Mr. Campbell explained that his position had little power within the legislature. All actions of the government are at the sufferance of the ruling party. Mr. Campbell stated that this is "our province" meaning belonging to all the citizens. That we have rich assets that have to be managed properly and that all citizens have the responsibility to participate in this management. He urged all of us to become politically active. "Democracy is not a spectator sport".

The Province is in very bad financial shape at present. The Premier has lost the trust of the people. The economy has been run for seven years by amateurs - not one of Mr. Clark's "A Team" members have business experience. We have a net emigration because of job loss - 17,000 forestry jobs gone in one year. The provincial debt will have doubled to \$37B since the NDP assumed office. The high income, corporate capital, machinery and equipment taxes have driven investment from British Columbia just when the overseas meltdown has toasted our resource industries.

His answer - replace the government one and one half years from now at the next election. How? - by avoiding splitting the anti-NDP vote. He presented evidence that a small swing in Reform votes to the Liberals would ensure victory for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Campbell then spoke of the Liberal's 9 point economic plan copies of which were circulated at the meeting. The highlight - cutting personal income and small business tax immediately. It has been shown repeatedly that doing this will boost the economy. Why haven't the NDP done this? their doctrinaire socialist attitude and union style discipline within the party will not let the members stand up to Premier Clark. Will this not increase the provincial debt? - not if the infusion of money into the economy creates more government revenue. He also rated re-establishment of trust with the people as a high priority.

After a lively question period the speaker was thanked by Charlie Sale and presented with a small gift.

**President**

Pidge McBride  
274-0446

**Past President**

Fred Cotton  
266-7060

**Vice-President**

Roy E. Williams  
926-4727

**Secretary**

Don Farquhar  
948-9908

**Treasurer**

Bill Wallace  
222-2365

**Speakers  
Committee**

Brice Macdougall  
922-5321

**Membership  
Committee**

John Hopkins  
985-8422

**Visits and  
Entertainment**

Jim McPherson  
922-2742

Bill Manson  
988-2365

**House Committee**

Doug Lambert  
266-2422

**Greeters Committee**

Norm Weitzel  
925-3574

**Rotary Liaison**

John Hoyle  
926-2667

# Thirty years of Probus Clubs

By Bud Crookes  
ENTERPRISER-BULLETIN SPECIAL

Since 1965-66, when the idea of PROBUS (Professional or Business retired or semiretired persons) first began in Welwyn Garden City in England, the growth around the world was not anticipated.

After 30 years, there are 300,000 members worldwide, with about 1,300 Probus clubs now in the United Kingdom, some 600 in the rest of Europe, 60 in South Africa and a phenomenal 1,750 in Australia-New Zealand alone. In Canada, Probus began in 1987 and is now growing at the rate of 40 per cent per year, with 60 clubs and 5,000 members. Since the name was cleared in the United States, clubs have begun in Washington State and Central Aroostook in Presque Isle, Maine.

Probus Centre-Canada, Inc. is operated by a board of four officers, five past presidents from Rotary and five past presidents of Probus clubs. It is not an official program of Rotary International, but all clubs have been sponsored by Rotary clubs.

Probus in Collingwood and Wasaga Beach, towns with a population of 20,000, began with 39 members in the Probus Club of Georgian Triangle in 1987, sponsored as all Probus Clubs by two Rotary Clubs in those towns. It grew to 250 members by 1995, the largest in Canada, and was immediately followed by a Probus Men's Club in Wasaga Beach (social clubs can decide gender), a Women's Probus Club of Pretty River, and a second Men's Probus Club of Blue Mountain in Collingwood. (Clubs may also be combined men and women, decided by those at the first interest meeting.)

The meetings are once monthly, usually for a morning with the attraction of a topical speaker. There are no attendance rules and fees are usually \$25-50 a year. The purpose of the club is strictly to bring together those with a background of responsibility, and club activities are enhanced with optional social events, dinners, shows, sporting events, cards, or other gatherings. Probus clubs are not service clubs, but if you attend a meeting and speak to the members, you will find a sea of volunteer service through other organizations and clubs.

Few members of Probus are Rotarians (5 per cent), and most of these hold membership in both Probus and Rotary, but forming such clubs is an excellent community service. Quoting a letter sent to the President of the Rotary Club of Collingwood, Tom Baulke, from the President of Probus Centre-Canada, Inc., John Morris, PDG, writes:

"...the Rotary Club of Collingwood is providing fellowship for retired professional and business executives. In total, 365 retirees benefit from this community project... a living monument to Rotary service that will last for years at no further cost to Rotary, while providing growing comfort and satisfaction to the recipients of the concern."

December 15  
Meeting &  
Lunch

9:30  
a.m.

## A LIGHTER MOMENT

Boss: "You're 30 minutes late again. Don't you know what time we start work here?"

Employee: "No, sir. They're always working when I get here!"

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The difference between a Pessimist and Optimist:

The optimist looks out the window in the morning and says: "Good morning, God."

The pessimist looks in the morning and says: "Good God! Morning!"

Season's  
Greetings!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December 1998 - Another Year!

We are coming to the end of another year -- a time when we should be thankful for all the blessings that are bestowed on us. A time also when we think of the less fortunate people in this city and also the world. May God Bless!

We look forward to our December meeting and lunch; a time when we can socialize and wish our friends the very best for the festive season. The charge is \$5 for the meeting and \$5 for the lunch. Guests are welcome. Bruce Macdougall has lined up an interesting speaker for this occasion.

I would like to express our appreciation to the Probians (that is the name we are referred to) who man the cash desk - Greeters and Membership - they do a great job - thanks, fellows! Remember we always need volunteers to act on committees - get involved! Let us know if you want to help. Volunteers are needed for introducing and thanking the speakers. Please contact Bill Ibbott.

We are enclosing a short resume of the history of Probus Clubs - it is most interesting. Hope you enjoy.

To you and yours, may you have a wonderful Christmas season and may '99 be a healthy and prosperous year!