

# NEWSLETTER



## PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

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

**NEXT MEETING:** SEPTEMBER 21, 1999  
**TIME:** 9:30AM

**LOCATION:** Stanley Park Pavilion  
**SPEAKER:** Philip Eidsvik, BC Fisheries Survival Coalition

**TOPIC:** Blockade and civil disobedience and the aboriginal agenda - How blockades and other illegal activities have advanced aboriginal affairs in Canada and B.C. in particular.

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Minutes from August 17, 1999

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**Attendance:** 68

**CALL TO ORDER:** President McBride opened the meeting at 10:00am. Two guests were introduced. Club rosters are available. They will be available again at the next meeting. Those not picked up will be mailed.

Ms. Geraldine Marshall, the guest speaker was introduced by President McBride. Her topic "Schizophrenia - Youth's Greatest Disabler". This biochemical disorder of the brain afflicts one in one hundred individuals worldwide regardless of race, culture, upbringing or economic class. The main symptoms that are produced include hallucinations, flat affect, social withdrawal and personality changes. Those afflicted are usually of superior intelligence and usually young. Onset begins in the 16 to 23 year age group. There are a number of misconceptions. It is not a "split or double personality" disorder, rather it is characterized by a shattering (Gn=Schizo) or disorganization of brain function. It is not a mental illness in the usual sense of the word in that the core disease does not respond to

psychotherapy alone. Rather it has been discovered that it is a malfunction of neuro-receptors. These receptors function as nodes or connections between the various wires (neurons) in the brain. The connections are activated by the release of chemicals (dopamine, serotonin and 200 others). Since it has been recognized that the disease is biochemical in origin the development of therapies has shifted to the laboratory and the development of medications. Current therapies result in one third of patients being cured (i.e. permanent remission), one third being stabilized on medication and one third not being able to function adequately.

There are five major clusters of symptoms recognized - each represents different imbalances in brain function and each responding to specific tailored therapy. These clusters are depression, reality distortion, psychomotor poverty (inability to spontaneously move about), fragmented thoughts, flat affect. Early recognition of the onset of the illness and early treatment improves the long term prognosis considerably. Early diagnosis is hampered by the stigma associated with mental illness, the difficulty of differentiating from borderline normal aberrant teenage behavior, denial on the part of parents/teachers and lack of knowledge of the disease.

Ms. Marshall's work with Schizophrenia has centered around education. In the 1980's she recognized that the families of schizophrenics were an important member of the therapy team but were being left out of the loop. Her first task was to get the families and the psychiatrists together. The psychiatrists had to be made aware of the importance of family involvement. The families need to be educated into the nature and the therapy of the disease. School teachers had to

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SEPTEMBER 1999

**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

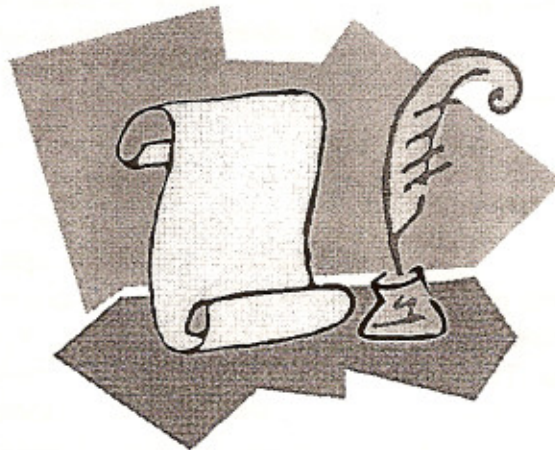
**Rotary Liaison:**  
John Hoyle  
926-2667

become aware of the early symptoms. Her efforts were recognized by the World Health Organization who invited her to develop programs world wide. In addition she has written a book published by WHO - "Information for Families for the illness of Schizophrenia"

**QUESTIONS:**

Genetic factors? - Yes: street drug intake worsens, homeless people a result of hospital shutdowns and in part CLU intervention, although not curative social interaction is any important part of therapy - these are very lonely people; can't force treatment, can only incarcerate if they are of danger to themselves or society; aging is not curative-end up a shell of their former personality.

The speaker was thanked by Stu McKenzie for her interesting and provocative talk.  
Don Farquhar, Secretary



**PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE:**

In your bulletin this month you will notice a form to be filled out telling us of your interests and places of interest you might like to visit as a group.

We are very anxious to have more outside activities for our club this coming year.

Also we would like to know

whether you would like to have a small group of members formed for bridge, bowling, dinner club etc. Please give this a great deal of thought and please mail the form to our office or bring it to the next meeting.

This information is very important to us, as your executive wants to get to know each other much better - this is a great way to accomplish this.

If you have any other ideas or events etc. that we should be looking at - please let us know.

Also, if you would like to sit on the Entertainment Committee; please indicate this on the form.

We certainly appreciate your attention to this request for things to do memo. Please don't hesitate after you receive this memo - fill it out immediately and mail or bring it to the meeting on September 21.

Thank you.

President Pidge McBride

**N O M I N A T I O N DAY**



In accordance with the By-laws of the Probus Club of Vancouver the nominating committee nominate the following members for your consideration to serve our club during the 1999-2000 Probus year.

- John Hopkins - Vice President
- Don Farquhar - Secretary
- Bill Wallace - Treasurer

The President and Past President namely Roy Williams and Pidge McBride are elected automatically.

Any further nominations should be conveyed to the nominating committee at least twenty-four hours prior to the annual meeting on October 19, 1999.

Respectfully submitted by the nominating committee.

- Doug Lambert
- Roy Williams
- Fred Cotton

**If anyone has any articles of interest, stories, jokes etc. that may be of interest to the Probus Group - Please forward to the office!**

