



## NEWSLETTER

# PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

[www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com)

August 2011

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday August 9th, 2011

**Time:** 9:30 am

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

**Speaker:** Thomas J. Ruth

**Topic:** Isotopes

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 18th** – Tour of Burnaby  
Convania (Waste to Energy)  
Renewable Facility

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Tour of Seymour  
Capilano Filtration Plant

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## THOMAS J. RUTH, PhD

**S**enior Research Scientist, TRIUMF and Research Scientist, BC Cancer Agency, Vancouver, British Columbia

Dr. Ruth received his PhD in Nuclear Spectroscopy in 1973 from Clark University in Massachusetts and trained as a postdoctoral fellow and staff chemist under Dr. Al Wolf at Brookhaven National Lab in New York at the dawn of modern positron emission tomography (PET), from 1976-1980.

A member of the University of British Columbia/TRIUMF PET program since 1980, Dr. Ruth took the role of director (1989-2008). His research has resulted in more than 200 peer-reviewed publications and invitation to numerous conferences worldwide.

Recognized for his expertise in the field of radioisotope production for biosciences, Dr. Ruth has received appointments to multiple international committees, including the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Dr. Ruth is a member of the American Chemical Society, Division of Nuclear

Chemistry and Technology, the Canadian Society of Nuclear Medicine, the Society of Nuclear Medicine, the Canadian Association of Radiopharmaceutical Scientists, and Society of Radiopharmaceutical Science. He is also on the editorial board of Current Radiopharmaceuticals and the editorial advisory board of Radiochimica Acta. Dr. Ruth serves as reviewer for a number of international scientific journals and for national and international granting bodies, including the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Ontario Science and Technology, the Atlantic Innovation Fund, and the U.S. National Institutes of Health.



Dr. Ruth is a senior research scientist at TRIUMF, adjunct professor of Chemistry at Simon Fraser University, B.C., adjunct professor in the faculties of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia, adjunct professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Victoria, B.C., research professor of medicine at Vancouver Hospital and research scientist at the B.C. Cancer Research Centre.

## Report of the July 13th Meeting

*Attendance: 145 Members and Guests*

President **Bill Sexsmith** called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. **Ken Yule** acted as Secretary.

Membership Chair **Conrad Rademaker** introduced three new members (See "Welcome New Members"). Activities Committee member **Bob Nugent** urged members to register soon for the limited spaces on the tour of the Burnaby Convanta Renewable (Waste to Energy) Facility on August 18.

**Doug Lambert** introduced the guest speaker Dr. Patrick Moore who approaches environmentalism scientifically rather than emotionally. (See July Newsletter for biography).

Dr. Moore's thesis is that humans are intelligent creatures who are part of nature, not an enemy of nature, and are trying to develop a sustainable environmental, economic and social balance. He advocates cost-effective, reliable, clean, safe energy technologies, using what is most abundant and available.

Forests represent 70% of the world's renewable energy and hydro power 20%. We should be growing more trees and using more wood, not steel, concrete and plastic. Geothermal heat pump technology could eliminate the use of fossil fuels for heating and air conditioning. Wind and solar power are expensive and unreliable, and should only be used "off the grid".

The way to reduce fossil fuel consumption is through technological improvements (such as battery-operated and hybrid cars), which encourage the use of alternative energy sources, and not by trying to cut oil off at the source as Greenpeace is doing.

Dr. Moore considers nuclear energy to be safe. The only fatalities from radiation from nuclear power stations were at Chernobyl and due to inadequate design. Coolant problems (Three Mile Island, Fukushima) are addressed by design improvements. Many more people have died from mining coal, fossil fuel inhalation, and collapsing hydro dams than from nuclear power stations. Uranium is plentiful, including in seawater, and so nuclear power can provide energy for centuries after fossil fuels are exhausted.

Genetic science should be used to improve food nutrition, reduce the use of pesticides, and increase

the efficiency of agriculture. Hundreds of thousands of children on a rice diet go blind each year because of vitamin A deficiency, although "golden rice" incorporating corn genes containing beta carotene which converts into vitamin A has been available for twelve years. Thus, it is possible to turn a grain of rice into a vitamin pill. Its use, however, is opposed by environmental activists. Useful chemicals should be banned only if there is reliable evidence they cause harm.

Aquaculture - farming instead of hunting fish- provides employment and supplies 50% of the world's seafoods. It does not endanger wild salmon. The antibiotics are at safe levels, and there are more PCBs in wild than farmed salmon. The excrement provides food for other marine life, and if tidal flushing were inadequate to disperse it, the first to suffer the oxygen deficiency would be the farmed salmon.

Climate change is not a cause for alarm or panic. The best approach is scepticism. There is no proof that humans are the main source of climate change: the planet has been warming since the end of the Little Ice Age around 1750, the evidence of warming and cooling in the 20th century does not establish the causes, and computers cannot predict temperatures decades ahead.

The worst environmental problem in the world is poverty. The poor cannot afford to replace trees they cut for firewood, or to treat their sewage. The key to reducing poverty and population growth is the mechanization of agriculture. In subsistence agriculture labour is an asset; with mechanization, families need not be as big, and people are freed up to do other things. Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett are professionalizing international aid to meet this problem.

Dr. Moore responded to a number of questions from the audience as follows:

Greenpeace is unalterably opposed to nuclear power.

- The funding of Greenpeace and other environmental groups by American corporations is not as conspiratorial as may be thought; the environmental movement opposes pipelines to the U.S. as well as to the west coast, and opposes offshore oil, oilsands oil and coal fired power plants. Tides Canada's charitable status should be reviewed because of its political activities.

- Thorium is no safer and no less difficult than uranium as a source of nuclear power; both are fertile and must be converted to fissile by bombardment, and they have the same fission by products.
- Nuclear waste products are not waste, but can be recycled. They need to be kept safe in 80 ton casks in storage sites on concrete pads with security, and then can replace new uranium when it becomes prohibitively scarce.
- Site C is the best answer for B.C.'s future power needs. It is the most cost-effective; it uses clean hydro; the land to be flooded is marginal; and the previous damming means there are no migratory fish issues.
- The Brazilian Amazon forest is the least damaged forest in the world. Brazil has an excellent system of parks and large native reserves. Clearing native vegetation near a waterway is prohibited, and 50% of the land must remain in native vegetation. Mechanization and more efficient agriculture would stop or reduce the need for expanded agricultural land.

**Bill Ibbott** thanked Dr. Moore for a most fascinating presentation which was particularly reasonable and extraordinarily enlightening.

President Sexsmith reminded members of the Probus-Canada Rendezvous 2011 on September 13-15.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

What a welcome relief to hear from Dr Patrick Moore as he presented his views on the practical side of creating and nurturing a safe and sustainable environment. In no small measure he opposes some of the policy advocacy of Greenpeace



which he co- founded. According to Dr. Patrick, even the controversial Canadian oil sands with their continuing improvement on conservation and ecological practices will remain a viable source of fossil fuels. He reasoned that the technology for the safe utilization of nuclear fission technology with its diverse set of applications ranging from energy development to specific medical applications will be with us for the foreseeable future.

At our next meeting we will be continuing our theme of the nuclear fission story with Dr Thomas Ruth's presentation on "Can accelerators solve Canada's isotope crisis?" This is all about our growing dependency on radio isotopes in modern medical diagnostic techniques. It is our intention to continue to bring guest speakers to our Club who will provide an informed view on the major policies and programs of the day which in turn will challenge our traditional understandings and leave us better informed. See you in August.

### **Welcome New Members**

**Andy Blokmanis** – Physician/Surgeon/  
Educator

**Walter Holmes** – Insurance Broker

**Hugh Lindsay** – Chartered Accountant

### **MEMBERSHIP SERVICES TEAM**

**Greeters** – John Crosby, Zig  
Hathorn

**Cashiers** – Gordon Dungate,  
Denys Ford, Tim Gibbs

**Member Services Desk** – Jon  
Collins



## NOTICES

Probus Club Vancouver August 2011

### TOUR OF BURNABY CONVANIA RENEWABLE FACILITY

5150 Riverbend Drive, Burnaby, B.C.

Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011



This is a unique opportunity for 30 members to learn how our garbage is turned into steam and electrical energy. The facility is the only such site in the Province. Detailed information about the tour and directions for driving to the facility is

being sent to all members in a separate release. The cost for this members only event is \$20.00. Coffee and muffins will be served at 9:30AM with the tour starting at 10:00AM.

*You may register in one of three ways:* using Probus on-line website and Pay/Pal; at the Activities desk at the next meeting or by sending a cheque payable to Probus Club Vancouver to Bill Robertson - 3711 Puget Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6L 2T8. Contact Bob Nugent at (604)264-7763 for information.

### Rotary Probus Bridge Club 2010 – 2011 Season

Congratulations to our winners!!

1st Place and trophy winners- Lindsay Mann and Conrad Rademaker

2nd Place - Chuck Lew and David Clark

3rd Place - Brian Mamchur and Jack Zaleski

#### Most Slams:

1st Place and trophy winners -Brian Mamchur and Jack Zaleski

2nd Place - Ted Horsey and Tony Wooster

3rd Place - Brian Carpenter and George Plant tied with Gordon Thom and Don Farquhar

New Members are welcome to join. Next season's bridge will commence again at the end of September (Details later).

### TOUR OF SEYMOUR CAPILANO FILTRATION PLANT

Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

This is another excellent opportunity for 45 members to learn all about the treatment of water drawn from both the Seymour and Capilano reservoirs. Here is a chance to hear first hand about the history and need for this landmark project.



Coffee and muffins will be served in the plant meeting room at 9:00AM followed by a lecture and tour of the facility.

A no host luncheon will held after the event at the Holiday Inn Pantry Restaurant. The cost is \$20. Detailed information and directions for driving will be provided in a separate release.

*You may register in one of three ways:* using Probus on-line website and Pay/Pal; at the Activities desk at the next meeting or by sending a cheque payable to Probus Club Vancouver to Bill Robertson - 3711 Puget Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6L 2T8. For more information or questions contact tour organizer, John Bishop at (604)926-8728

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT-2011

The Nominating Committee comprised of Chairman, Nick Thornton, Bill Sexsmith and Don Newman submitted the following slate of nominees for 2011-2012:

President and Director: Don Newman  
Past President and Director: Bill Sexsmith  
Vice-President and Director: Wayne Audette  
Secretary and Director: Brian Wasson  
Treasurer and Director: Richard Carson

#### The following have agreed to serve as Committee Chairmen:

Speakers Committee: Brian Maunder  
Membership Committee: Conrad Rademaker  
Activities Committee: Bill Robertson  
House Committee: Doug Lambert  
Newsletter Editor: Roy Williams  
Membership Services: Jon Collins  
Historian & Archivist: Gordon Thom

Any additional nominations (with prior agreement to stand) must be conveyed to the Nominating Committee at least 24 hours in advance of the September Annual General Meeting. A nomination for one of the top five positions would also carry a nomination for one of the five directors.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held in conjunction with our regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011.