



# NEWSLETTER

## PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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May 2012

**Next Meeting:** May 8th, 2012

**Time:** 9:30 am

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

**Speaker:** DONALD S. MAVINIC, PhD

**Topic:** "A Green and Sustainable Solution to Global  
Phosphorous Depletion".

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**

Visit to UBC Wine  
Research Centre

## DR DONALD S. MAVINIC PhD



Dr. Mavinic joined UBC in 1973 as an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1978 and to Full Professor in 1983. He has been a Professional Engineer since

1974, a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineering since 1994, a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering since 2003, and a fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada since 2005.

From 1984-2010, he was in charge of the Environmental Engineering Graduate Program at UBC. From 1998-2001, he was Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies from 2007-2008, Associate Dean, Faculty of Applied Science; and currently, Associate Head, Department of Civil Engineering. He has published over 250 papers and technical reports, supervised or co-supervised to completion 22 PhD's, and 63 MSc students, and acted as a consultant to over 80 private firms and government agen-

cies, over the last 35 years. He was a founding member of the Board, Qstara Nutrient Recovery Technologies Inc., a UBC spinoff company founded in 2005. In 1992, he was awarded the Albert E. Berry Award by the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, for major contributions to Environmental Engineering in Canada. He has been honored with over 50 invited lectureships and keynote addresses, including the Royal Society of London.

His specialty areas include wastewater treatment, bio solids management, nutrient removal and nutrient recover/reuse. In September 2010, he was awarded the Manning Foundation's David Mitchell Award of Distinction; in November 2010, he was awarded an NSERC Synergy Award; in February 2011, he was awarded a Killam Senior Research Award; and in October, 2011, he was awarded the Meritorious Achievement Award, by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C. (APEGBC); all in recognition of his pioneering research on nutrient recovery from waste streams and the production of high quality, phosphorus based fertilizer pellets, called Crystal Green. In January 2012, he was nominated for the Engineers Canada Gold Medal, by APEGBC.

Because of his expertise in waste and nutrient management, he was appointed to a Special Advisory Reference Panel, Metro Vancouver, for updating the Liquid Waste Management Plan, 2008-2011. He is also a Special Advisor to the US Government and EU, on nutrient recovery technologies and global phosphorus (P) shortages, 2007- present. In September 2010, he was appointed to WTAC, Nunavut Territorial Government, to help develop new wastewater treatment and discharge guidelines for the North. In January, 2011, he was appointed by the Peruvian Government to an expert panel, to help assess wastewater treatment and resource recovery opportunities in Peru over the next three years.

### Report of the April 10th Meeting

**President Don Newman** called the meeting to order at 10:00am. **Brian Wasson** acted as secretary. **Norm Leach**, Vice Chairman of the Membership Committee introduced three new members (see Welcome New Members).

Activities Chairman **Bill Robertson** outlined the UBC Wine Research Centre event scheduled for June 19 (Complete detail inside newsletter). **Don Newman** reminded members of the monthly no host lunch at the Local Public Eatery at Cornwall and Yew.

**Peter Jefferson** introduced the speaker, Dr. Stephen Toope, President and Vice Chancellor of UBC.

Dr. Toope opened his address by saying that his plan is to give us a sense of how UBC leads the country in academic research and how research is conducted at UBC by and with the students.

First of all, UBC is a world leader in health research, particularly in genomics and infectious diseases. It has the largest medical school in Canada, now having a campus in Kelowna and acting in cooperation with the Universities of Victoria and Northern BC.

At the Neuroscience Brain Centre facility the study of memory and memory loss is actively pursued with the objective of transferring the research into treatment regimes at the UBC hospital.

Next, UBC has become a global leader in sustainability and the process of integrating research into application through the continuing Studies Centre for Sustainability. On campus, the university has on-going programs to reduce greenhouse gases such as replacing steam heating pipes with hot water pipes. A building currently being designed at UBC will be the most environmentally benign building in North America. The objective is to have air and water come out cleaner than it went in and to have more energy generated than used.

In recognition of UBC's leading role in scientific research, the Max Planck Society, Germany's foremost research institution has entered into a formal partnership with UBC to establish a joint Centre for Quantum Materials. Evolutionary biology facilities at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum and Biodiversity Research Centre attract a high calibre of research students.

There are many other examples of innovation across the campus such as the Seed Accelerator Fund, a unique partnership between the BC Innovation Council, UBC Alumni and UBC to invest in student entrepreneurs from across the campus. The Fund recently made a \$ 25,000 grant to a group from the Sauder School and Applied Science to develop a surgical marking tape to more accurately mark the site for skin incisions.

The success story of UBC is the integration of students into its research programs. Under the team approach both professors and graduate students, particularly, participate. Some 30% of research students are from elsewhere in the world and bring new talents with them. In 2011 there were 10,000 graduate students on the campus, 2/3 masters and 1/3 doctorate. Undergraduates are not neglected with an opportunity to present their findings to other undergraduates and professors for a variety of awards. The opportunity to be part of a research centre is important. Students feel the excitement of participating in original research. There is no doubt that this learning structure is not for everyone. There has to be a diversity of university campus options at other universities in the province that are more teaching than research oriented.

A major part of the UBC team approach is in its interdisciplinary projects. Professor Larry

Frank leads a group on Sustainable Urban Transportation Systems in association with the School of Population and Public Health. Professor Don Mavnic leads the world in waste handling issues such as landfill management and biological waste treatment. One of his most innovative discoveries is the recovery of phosphorus from flushing water pipes for conversion into fertilizer a practice which has been adopted by a number of cities.

Then there are some examples of cooperation between scientists and industry.

The Nexterra Project works on the cogeneration of electricity and heat from biomass.

A partnering with General Electric is looking into unconventional means to meet the energy requirements of the campus. Pharmaceuticals are licenced so that profits from the developed countries can be used to supply the drug to undeveloped countries.

Dr Toope said we should be proud of what our university is doing.

Dr. Toope then answered questions from the floor. In answer to: "How does a university reap benefits from its R & D research?" he stated that UBC and U of T take a moderate approach to licencing by having a continuing relationship which leads to further research and cooperation. A Stanford study has shown that that successful graduates contribute far more financially to a university than licencing fees. This is UBC's objective.

How do the Arts fare in a research oriented institution? The answer is well. Sustainability is rooted in the social sciences. UBC has an internationally recognized economics faculty and a very strong music school with an ambitious opera program. There have been major investments in the redesigned Anthropology Museum and the Arts Faculty budget continuously increases.

In answer to the question of entrance qualifications, Dr. Toope stated that UBC is experimenting with a broad based application formula, starting in the Sauder School to counter the practice of marks dominated admissions.

What has happened to the concept of students grading their professors? Application has been made to the Senate of the university who then negotiated with the faculty association. We are not there yet, nor are we there with peer group reviews. In a related question, competence in teaching should have equal value as research in tenure and promotion applications.

Why are students graduating with enor-

mous debts? Student tuition accounts for 25-35% of the cost of attending a university in Canada. Half of students graduate with no debt at all. The real failure in BC is the high cost of servicing student debt. We have the highest servicing cost and the lowest level of forgiveness.

Why are Research and Development programs in Canada so unproductive? This is a receptor problem. Universities are doing their job but industry does not pick up the research. Canada does not have the major corporations that are equipped to commercialize innovation. The Shred Credits have proven to be ineffectual in stimulating innovation and appear to have been abused. The Federal Government must take a more active role.

**Ted Horsey** thanked the speaker for his informative address. He pointed out that many of the audience today are UBC graduates who are very pleased to find that their university is in such good hands.

**Brice MacDougall**  
**Honorary Life Member**  
**January 29, 1928 – April 8, 2012**

Brice MacDougall was a charter member of the Probus Club Vancouver and served as the first Speakers Chairman when the Club started meeting in 1997. Brice immediately brought outstanding speakers monthly to our meetings and at the Presidents' luncheon January 26, 2001 President, John Hopkins presented Brice with the first Honorary Life Membership in our Club. John noted, "In recognition of your retirement from the speaker's Chair, the Probus Club would like to honour and acknowledge your tireless efforts in arranging speakers for every meeting since the Clubs founding in 1997." Brice set the standard for speaker that continues today, a key reason for our Clubs immediate and continuing success.

Brice is survived by his wife Miriam, children and grandchildren. He was a partner with Price Waterhouse .



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are midway through an excellent Probus spring series of speakers and activities. In March we appreciated the dynamic Dr. John Sloan (Toward Gentler Care of the Frail

and Elderly) and in April the inspiring Prof, Stephen Toope, President of UBC (Update on Research and Teaching at UBC). In May we will hear Dr, Don Malvinic, Dept. of Engineering UBC (Dealing with Biowaste).

Our hard working Activities Committee in March provided an excellent overbooked program at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum and a visit to the Van Dusen Gardens and its new Visitor Centre on April 16<sup>th</sup>. On June 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a visit to the UBC Wine Research Center featuring fellowship, talks, tours, lunch and wine tasting. Remember for all our activities attendance is pre-paid with no payment at the event.

Many thanks to the members who completed the Presidents' Luncheon questionnaire. Assisted by your feedback the Management Committee approved the 2012/2013 Presidents' Luncheon for members, spouses and significant others as a sit down luncheon at either the Shaughnessy or Marine Drive Golf Club on October 9, 2012. The Speakers Committee is promising a quality speaker for this event.

When a new member is introduced at our monthly meeting, the Membership Committee will ask the new members sponsors to introduce their proposed new member to other Probus members at our pre meeting social gathering.

Our active newly formed Website Committee is working to improve the appearance and ease of use of our website so members use the site as a major resource for Club information.

In closing if you thoroughly enjoyed a Speaker or Activity make a point of thanking the Committee Chair so he can let his committee members know their fine work is appreciated.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

*It is with regret we announce the passing of Rod English on March 22nd, 2012. Our condolences to his family. A donation will be made in his memory by Probus to the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation.*

## SPEAKERS COMMITTEE

The Speakers Committee involves two groups that meet twice a year: the "Think Tank" and the "Speakers Steering Committee."

The Think Tank has some 30 Probus members who each bring three suggestions for speakers and subjects to the group for critique and acceptance. At the last Think Tank meeting in March 2012, 49 excellent proposals were discussed.

The Speakers Steering Committee (the group of sober second thought!) reviews the proposals from the Think Tank plus critiques the recent speakers and their subjects. The key considerations in selecting a speaker or subject are:

- Speaking & Presentation ability - has a committee member heard him or her recently?
- Is the subject matter of vital interest to our Probus members?
- Is the subject topical (or yesterday's news)?
- Have we had the same subject in the last 12 months?

Every effort is made to book Speakers six months ahead. Last minute cancellations happen (as happened in February and March of this year) so a constantly updated "Emergency list" of speakers is maintained.

The following Probus Members are involved in the Speakers Committee - George Adams, John Cruickshank, Mark Cullen, Lloyd Doidge, Jack Farley, Lionel Funt, Eric Hayne, Sholto Heberton, Ted Horsey, Don Hudson, Bill Ibbott, Peter Jones, Michael King, Doug Lambert, Phillip Owen, John Rawsthorne, Bill Sexsmith, David Scott, George Taylor, Gordon Thom, Nick Thornton, Jerry Wennes, Steve Wilson, Wink Andres, Graham Fraser, Stan Clarke, Jim Hudson, Lindsay Mann, Tony Weall, Conrad Rademaker,

Probus Vancouver members who would like to get involved in the Speakers Committee can send me an e-mail at: "brianmaunder@shaw.ca".

**Brian Maunder, Speakers Chair**

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Sil Facchin - Structural Engineer

Carl Jonsson - Lawyer

Don McCarthy - Certified Management Accountant

### **MEMBERSHIP SERVICES TEAM**

Greeters - Martin Christy, Chuck Fortier

Cashiers - Walter Coplick, Jack Grant

Past President Greeter - George Adams

Member Services Desk - Jon Collins



## UBC WINE RESEARCH CENTRE EVENT

**MEMBERS ONLY – \$40 PER PERSON**  
**Tuesday, June 19<sup>TH</sup> - 9:00am To 1pm**  
**The Food, Nutrition and Health Building UBC**  
**2205 East Mall**  
**(Building Just South of the UBC Bookstore)**

**ONLY 11 PLACES LEFT!**

**NOTE: YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED!**

The Wine Research Centre at the University of British Columbia, now 10 years old is one of the best-equipped research facilities in the world for the science and study of all aspects of wine making, vine-growing and wine harvest. It studies both fundamental and applied aspects of grape wines and wine yeasts. A major goal is to aid wineries improve wine quality. The Centre has raised over 17 million dollars in research funding. Its advisory board includes members from noted B.C. wineries: Cedar Creek Estate Winery, Quails Gate Estate Winery, Mission Hill Family Estate Winery and Burrowing Owl Winery.

**9.00 am - Coffee and Pastries in the Building Foyer—Main Level**

**9:40 am - Talk and Question Period with Hennie J.J. van Vuuren, Ph.D. ,Director Wine Research Centre**

Dr. van Vurren is a wine biotechnologist and the founding director of the Wine Research Centre. Initially from South Africa, Dr van Vurren was on staff at Brock University in Ontario before coming to B.C. He will talk on the history of the Centre, how it functions and its latest research efforts including a discovered fermentation process that alleviates the headache when drinking “red wine”.

**11:00 am Group Guided Tours of the Wine Library and Research Labs**

The Wine Library presently houses 7000 bottles of wine (it can actually house 22,000 bottles). Wine makers nominate young wines produced in B.C. and wineries donate 24 bottles of each wine. The wines are aged in the Library under temperature and humidity-controlled conditions. Wines are tasted annually over a period of 24 years and annual feedback is given to the participating wineries. Research labs are located on the top floor of the building.

**12:00 Lunch With Wine Tasting Led By Dr. van Vuuren**

*YOU MAY REGISTER:*

- 1) At Probuss monthly meeting at the Activity Desk
- 2) Pay on-line at Probuss website using Pay Pal
- 3) Mail registration form and payment (\$40 per person): to Bill Robertson  
3711 Puget Drive, Vancouver, B.C.V6L 2T8 e-mail: [robertsonwd@hotmail.com](mailto:robertsonwd@hotmail.com)

**Deadline for registration: June 12<sup>th</sup> Cancellation Deadline June 12<sup>th</sup>**

**NOTE – MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER**

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**I plan to attend:**

**Name:**

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**Phone Number:**

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**E-mail:**

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