



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

April, 2020

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**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, ALL MONTHLY  
PROBUS MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED.  
ONCE THE WORLD IS BACK TO NORMAL,  
WE WILL RESUME OUR MEETINGS.**

Information on the Coronavirus globally changes hourly and no one can predict how it will affect our communities in B.C. and across Canada in the foreseeable future. Without universal testing, it is impossible to assess who may be asymptomatic carriers amongst the public and until an effective vaccine becomes available, continuous spread of the infection is anticipated. After careful consideration, our Probus board and management **have decided to cancel our regular monthly meeting on April 14th.** We will monitor the situation in the weeks and months ahead and will inform you of the status of future meetings as time evolves.

We sincerely hope that the course of COVID-19 will gradually become more favourable to allow a return to normality. Please also note that all other Probus activities are cancelled for now.

Keep healthy and stay safe.

Hugh Chaun  
President  
604-261-8437

## Report of the March 10th Meeting

*Attendance: 127 Members and Guests*

President Hugh Chaun opened the meeting, welcomed the members and guests present, especially our speaker, Mike Harcourt. One new member was introduced by Dave Smith (see Welcome Our New Member on page 3). Raymond Greenwood thanked his Greeters and Cashiers. Jack Zaleski gave a brief explanation of possible upcoming events.

Chuck Lew introduced our speaker. Mike Harcourt served as a City Councilor from 1972-1980, as mayor of Vancouver from 1981-1986, and as Premier of British Columbia from 1991-1996. While Mike has stepped down from his political career, he continues to research and advocate for sustainable cities. He argues that with staggering population growth rates, Vancouver and the Lower Mainland have become too successful. A net average of 45,000 people move into Metro Vancouver every year for its stunning mountain views, urban greenery, and incredible food culture. This influx has resulted in unaffordable housing for the younger generations, exorbitant childcare costs, and the third-worst traffic congestion in North America after Mexico City and LA. Mike has dubbed this a result of the Urban Tsunami, a phenomenon occurring in developed and developing countries around the world, whereby people are trading in their rural lives to move into big city centres. Currently, 95% of Canadians live in and around 120 cities, which is similar to many other countries. As the global population grows, it is anticipated that 7 billion people will be living in cities.

In North America, we use more than its fair share of the Earth's resources, four times its carrying capacity. Given this existing overuse of the planet's resources, as other parts of the world develop and try to match our lifestyle, there is a very real concern that our planet will soon become unlivable in the next few decades. Luckily, cities are not pre-ordained. They are about choices and consequences. Take, for example, the city of Detroit, which made some major investment errors. These poor decisions, coupled with serious corruption, the city experienced severe urban decay with many residents and businesses abandoning their homes and buildings,

eventually leading to the city filing bankruptcy in 2013. However, this has given the city an opportunity to learn from their mistakes and rebuild with sustainability as a top priority.

A Booz Allen Report estimates that over the next 25-30 years, \$350 trillion will be invested in cities. That's \$12 - \$14 trillion a year with \$185 trillion going towards private sector development and \$165 trillion going to the public sector – mostly built and financed by the private sector financing bonds. This level of investment presents a significant opportunity. If done correctly, these investment decisions can make a critical impact in achieving a prosperous economy, a healthy environment, social equity, diversity, and creativity and innovation globally. As we also learned from Peeter Wesik and Andrew Ramlo back in July, the two key changes to creating sustainable cities are to reinvent the suburbs into densified, mixed-use neighbourhoods and to connect them through rapid transit. These changes will require cooperation between governments and the private sector as well as the development of community energy plans.

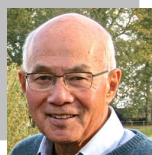
Community energy plans aim to reduce GHG emissions and focus on renewable resources. Mike's former organization, QUEST (Quality Urban Energy Systems for Tomorrow), had the goal of getting every community in Canada to adopt a community energy plan. In 2017, 275 communities representing 60% of Canada's population had implemented a smart energy community plan that leverage clean technologies.

As our cities become more and more populated, they will be a key factor in battling climate change and ensuring that everyone has access to adequate and affordable housing, a clean water supply, and proper sewage and waste maintenance. With governments and the public sector working together, we can achieve a high quality of life in our cities and communities.

***To read the Questions & Answers, please go to our PROBUS website at [www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com), click on "Speakers" and then on "Mike Harcourt"***

**Recommended Reading: Vancouverism by Larry Beasley**

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

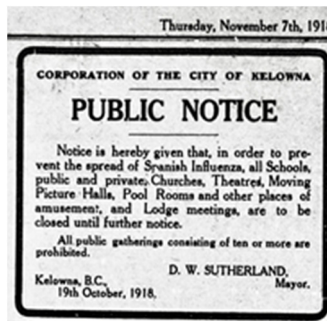


Acclimatizing "TO STAY AT HOME", one is invariably drawn into contemplating which point on the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic we have reached in Canada. It is possible that we are moving onto the upward slope but we have no concept how steep that curve will be before the desirable "flattening" is achieved. I hope you all received our important PROBUS notice of March 15 that our scheduled regular monthly **meeting on April 14 has been cancelled**. Although we need to maintain our flexibility and commitment, I have to add it is very likely that our meeting on May 12 will need to be cancelled as well. We will update you on this later on, in April, after our plan to hold a board and management committee teleconference.

Some of you may have recently come home from abroad. I am sure you have followed Peter Scott's exemplary adherence to the national public health advisory to "Go straight home and self-isolate for fourteen days." Peter, however, has not been idle and has been busy with PROBUS matters. His self-quarantine incidentally ends by April 14. He has thoughtfully offered to go to the Space Centre that morning to let those members who missed our earlier email notice of the meeting cancellation know, and as well to phone and tell those members who receive their newsletter by snail-mail. Thank you, Peter! Below are some other COVID-19-related musings to share with you.

Firstly, the **Economist** reported that in India, there are apparently magic cures. "At a recent event in Delhi, members of a fringe cult celebrated the curative properties of cow urine. 'It should be served to **all tourists** on arrival to cure them, for the protection of India'... 'We are even sending a little pack to President Trump, to keep him safe from corona', enthused a Hindu nationalist group."

You may be safe, if you have plans to visit India, the travel ban may last for months and the pandemic may have experienced its last breath! All the best to you all and your families, and keep your Probud spirits up; see you soon, hopefully!



**Rotarians' Investment Club**

Regrettably, our Meeting for March 26th had to be cancelled, since we had lined up Murray Leith of Odlum Brown as our Guest Speaker. However he has indicated that he would be available for our May 28th Meeting, but RVCY has informed us that it is unlikely they will be open in May. If that changes, then Probud Members on our Guest List emailing will be informed as soon as we know for sure. Otherwise please assume there will not be a May meeting. If you would like to be informed of future meetings, or to learn about our Club (which started in 1998) then please email me as set out below.

Odlum Brown Ltd. has been a well known & respected Vancouver owned investment advisor since 1923. They manage our account (although Club members make the buy/sell decisions at our monthly meetings) and keep Members informed of their activity every month.

Our meetings are normally on the last Thursday of the month and held at the RVCY at 3811 Point Grey Road, commencing at 6.30 pm sharp, with a no-host bar at 6.00 pm.

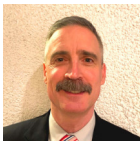
Our Investment Club was formed in April 1998 by members of your Probud Club and the Rotary Club of Vancouver, and provides Members with interesting thoughts, ideas and knowledge in a convivial atmosphere.

Be careful & stay healthy !

John Sullivan—Membership Chair, R.I.C.

johnws@telus.net Office D.L: 604-714-4773 (locked out - but leave a voicemail, please. Or call me at home - 604-263-4486)

Welcome Our New Member



**Brian Street—Realtor**

Thanks to our March Member Services Team

**Greeters—Bob Wood & Ed O'Brien**  
**Cashiers—Ken Waithman & John Rae**



**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:

**April 1 and May 6 meetings are CANCELLED**

**June 3 (we're hopeful!)—Educated by Tara Westover**

A list of books read since the Club began in 2008 may be found on the Club website by clicking the "Book Club" link. For further information contact Ken Yule at kjyqc@shaw.ca or 604-266-4563.

**THURSDAY, MAY 19 (postponed due to COVID 19)**

**JOIN YOUR FELLOW PROBUS MEMBERS AND GUESTS WITH A VISIT AND TOUR OF**



**WHERE: THE ISMAILI CENTRE, 4010 CANADA WAY, BURNABY**  
**WHEN: MEET AT THE CENTRE AT 9:45 AM FOR A 45 MINUTE TOUR AT 10:00 AM**

**COST: \$10 PER PERSON—GUESTS ARE WELCOME!**

**THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRE FOR COFFEE, MUFFINS ETC. SO IF YOUR DAY CAN'T START WITHOUT A CUP OF JOE—BE WARNED!**

**REGISTRATION**

**REGISTER ONLINE WITH PAYPAL (PREFERRED)—OR**

At the Activity Desk at the PROBUS meetings on and May 12, with cash or cheque for \$10.00 per person OR Mail this registration form to Jack Zaleski, 1741 SW Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V6P 6B1 enclosing your cheque Additional information: Jack Zaleski at jack.zaleski@gmail.com

**Deadline for Registration and Cancellation is Tuesday, May 12**

**MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER**

**NOTE - YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED**

I plan to attend: Name \_\_\_\_\_ and bring \_\_\_\_\_ (# of guests)

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed for: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash enclosed for: \_\_\_\_\_

## COMING EVENTS

(subject to cancellation due to COVID 19)

### A JOHN ATKIN WALK IN JUNE

Exact date and location to be  
announced as soon as it is known



### BARD ON THE BEACH IN JULY

### MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Exact date and details will be announced  
once they are confirmed