



# NEWSLETTER

## PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

PO Box 74539, KITSILANO, Vancouver, BC, V6K 4P4

Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities

April, 2025

President  
Richard Earthy  
604-603-3343  
rdearthy@telus.net

Past President  
Peter Scott  
604-263-1746  
peter26@telus.net

1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President  
John Kay  
604-261-3760  
jkay33@shaw.ca

2<sup>ND</sup> Vice President  
Jim Matkin  
604-263-4723  
james.matkin@gmail.com

Secretary  
Tony Zoobkoff  
604-980-9076  
tony.zoobkoff@outlook.com

Treasurer  
Greg Lonsbrough  
604-261-5083  
quillow@telus.net

Speakers Committee  
Bill Hooker  
604-261-5604  
mayneid@yahoo.com

Membership Committee  
Jack Zaleski  
604-328-4288  
jack.zaleski@gmail.com

Activities Committee  
Al Hurwitz  
778-895-6455  
alhurwitz@gmail.com

Website and Database  
Committee  
Peter Brock  
604-727-0380  
pb@peterbrock.org

Member Services & House  
Committee  
Raymond Greenwood  
604-351-3450  
greenwd@telus.net

Newsletter Editor &  
Publisher  
Peter Scott  
604-263-1746  
peter26@telus.net

Historian/Archivist  
Hugh Lindsay  
604-732-0366

Counsel  
Carl Jonsson  
Bill Randall  
Tim Sehmer

Next Meeting: **Thursday, April 10** at The HR MacMillan Space Centre  
Speaker: Tom Davidoff: Assistant Professor, Sauder School of Business, UBC  
Topic: "Evaluating supply and demand policy responses to Vancouver's  
Housing Affordability Problem"  
9:00: Coffee and Timbits  
9:45: Meeting commences followed by our speaker's presentation.

**DO NOT GO TO THE SPACE CENTRE  
ON TUESDAY, APRIL 8**

**Due to a scheduling conflict with the Space Centre, they  
have asked us to change the date of our April meeting to  
Thursday, April 10.**

### TOM DAVIDOFF



Tom Davidoff is an associate professor in the Real Estate and Strategy and Business Economics groups at the Sauder School of Business, UBC. Prior to joining UBC, Davidoff obtained degrees from Harvard, Princeton, and MIT, and worked in real estate development in Brooklyn and as an assistant professor at UC Berkeley. While at UBC, Davidoff has advised the White House on housing and mortgage policy, and worked with two startup real estate intelligence companies. Davidoff's research on aging, insurance, housing, and public policy has been published in leading journals in finance, real estate, and economics.

### NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER—TUESDAY, MAY 13



**Glenn Faris, Psychiatrist and a member of our PROBUS Club  
Topic: "The Influence of 1930s Canadian Church Missions to  
China on the Subsequent Development of Canada's Leadership  
Role in International  
Development"**

## Report of the March 11th Meeting

*Attendance: 85 Members and Guests*

President Richard Earthy started the formal meeting at 9:45, welcoming guests and members and relating the traditional amusing story. He asked any guests to stand and be recognised, then thanked the greeters, Doug McTaggart and Duane Poliquina and the cashiers, Greg Lonsbrough and Raymond Greenwood. He then asked Jack Zaleski to introduce 2 new members (see page 3). Richard then called on Bill Hooker to introduce our speaker, Margaret Lange. Imagine receiving a phone call from what sounds like your grandchild, their voice trembling with fear, claiming they're in danger and need money immediately. In a panic, you send funds—only to discover later that it was a scammer using artificial intelligence to mimic their voice. This is just one example of the increasingly sophisticated fraud schemes targeting vulnerable individuals, particularly seniors. At a recent presentation to the Vancouver Probus Club, Crime Stoppers shed light on these alarming trends and the critical role they play in preventing crime through anonymous reporting. Many individuals hesitate to report crimes due to fear of retaliation, distrust in law enforcement, or concerns about their own safety.

Crime Stoppers provides a secure, anonymous alternative, ensuring that anyone—regardless of background—can report crimes without fear of exposure. This is especially crucial for immigrants and foreign workers who may have experienced corruption in their home countries and are unfamiliar with local legal protections.

Operating independently as a nonprofit organization, Crime Stoppers serves the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, forwarding anonymous tips to law enforcement without requiring tipsters to testify. Thanks to the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in *R v. Leiper* (1997), Crime Stoppers is legally obligated to protect the identities of informants, ensuring anonymity while helping authorities hold criminals accountable.

Crime Stoppers offers three primary reporting methods: an online platform at [solvecrime.ca](https://solvecrime.ca), a mobile app called P3 Tips, and a 24/7 tip line at 1-800-222-TIPS. With support for 115 languages, these platforms remove language barriers and intimidation, fostering a safer community for all. Tipsters may also receive cash rewards of up to \$5,000 for information leading to an arrest, with payments made securely and anonymously.

Since its inception in British Columbia, Crime Stoppers has helped facilitate over 8,400 arrests and recover \$500 million in stolen property. In 2024 alone, Crime Stoppers BC received 4,555 tips, leading to 60 charges and 16 arrests. Globally, the organization has contributed to over 1 million arrests—averaging one crime solved every 14 minutes.

As crime adapts to new technology, criminals have found ways to exploit some of society's most vulnerable members. With over 8 million Canadians over 65 and those over 50 holding 80% of the world's wealth, scammers are continually devising new fraud schemes to get their hands on this money. Shockingly, 78% of seniors will experience financial abuse. In 2024 alone, more than 70,000 Canadian seniors reported fraud losses totalling \$638 million. Since 2021, losses have exceeded \$2 billion, with only an estimated 10% of fraud cases reported due to embarrassment and fear of appearing vulnerable.

Elder abuse extends beyond fraud, often perpetrated by trusted individuals such as family members, friends, neighbours, or caregivers. Financial abuse can involve manipulating wills, stealing property, or misusing funds. Emotional abuse may include social isolation, intimidation, or gaslighting, while physical abuse can manifest in with-

holding essential care or medication.

Fraudsters are constantly evolving their tactics, preying on emotions and trust to manipulate victims into financial ruin through a variety of scams. One of the most devastating modern scams is investment fraud, commonly referred to as "Pig Butchering." This long-term con involves scammers establishing trust with victims through social media or messaging apps. Over time, they encourage victims to invest in seemingly legitimate endeavours, often showing fabricated profits to encourage further deposits. Once enough money is extracted, the scammer disappears, leaving victims with nothing. Losses can be staggering, sometimes exceeding \$250,000 per victim. Many of these operations originate from overseas and are linked to human trafficking networks forcing individuals to run the scams. Romance scams are another prevalent scheme, where fraudsters create fake relationships to emotionally manipulate and steal from victims. One tragic case involved an 81-year-old woman sending large sums to a supposed love interest in Nigeria. Emergency or loved one scams leverage AI technology to clone voices in as little as 15 seconds, tricking victims into believing a family member is in distress and urgently needs money. Service scams involve fraudsters impersonating banks or tech support, using social engineering to steal personal and financial information. Recovery pitch scams target previous fraud victims, offering false hope of reclaiming lost funds—for a fee—only to scam them again.

Recognizing red flags is key to prevention. Any offer promising guaranteed high returns with no risk should be met with suspicion, as should situations that pressure individuals to act quickly. Scammers often provide vague details and exploit social connections to build trust. By staying informed, we can help prevent crime, protect our communities, and empower seniors against fraud. To stay safe, individuals should be skeptical of unsolicited calls, emails, or messages and verify financial requests, even if they appear urgent. Using strong, unique passwords and enabling two-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security. Personal financial information should never be shared with unverified sources, and suspicious emails or messages should be deleted without engagement. Open discussions with friends and family about scam awareness can help reduce stigma and increase vigilance.

For those in need of support or reporting services, several resources are available. Emergencies should be reported to 911, while Crime Stoppers can be reached at 1-800-222-8477. Other essential services include the BC Guardianship and Trustee (1-800-663-7867), the Senior Abuse Information Line (SAIL) at 1-866-437-1940, and VictimLink BC at 1-800-563-0808. The Ministry of Health Community Care and the BC Community Resource Network also provide assistance.

Crime Stoppers is also always looking for volunteers. For more information, contact Margaret Lange at [mlange@solvecrime.ca](mailto:mlange@solvecrime.ca) or call 604-717-3619. Together, we can make a difference in preventing crime and protecting our most vulnerable citizens.

Greg Lonsbrough thanked our speaker.

To view Margaret Lange's slides, [click here](#). Slide #36 is a video, just under 2 minutes long. To listen to the dialogue, [click here](#). The person speaking is an 81 year old lady and the dialogue is quite difficult to hear clearly, but it's a somewhat scary story!

Probus Insights From The President

Rotarians' Investment Club

Our Thursday, February 27th meeting at the RYYC, provided a presentation from one of our Members entitled "Mergers & Acquisitions" . Ted Rattenbury, who spent many years in corporate banking, and then joined a U.S, M & A adviser. also operating in Toronto & Vancouver. Ted informed us that there are different methodologies used in the due diligence, and that EBITDA is a key metric in the analysis of the company. The March speaker was by Marcus Murdock of BMO Global Asset Management entitled "The Science behind Market Outperformance". April's Speaker will be Teal Linde of the Linde Equity Fund, who spoke to us many years ago, and we are very fortunate to have him as a guest once more. We meet on the last Thursday of every month at the RYYC at 6.00 pm and guests are welcome (we have four lady Members, and would like to have more ladies join our group), but must register with our President Richard Higgins (bravo@shaw.ca) by 5.00 pm Tuesday, March 25th because the dinner numbers are required by RYYC. and we are charged for "no shows". The cost is \$100.00 (cash or cheque please) for an excellent 3 course dinner including wine with the meal, tips & taxes etc. Information about our 26 year old Club is available from John Sullivan (604-263-4486) - johnws@telus.net



Greetings, Fellow Probus Members! April ushers in a season of renewal and growth, a perfect metaphor for our thriving Probus community. As we shake off the last remnants of winter, we look forward to fresh opportunities to connect, learn, and share experiences.



Cherry Blossoms and Mount Fuji, Japan

Our recent activities and social group gatherings have been well-attended, and the engagement from our members has been nothing short of inspiring. Last month, we were informed and inspired by our speaker, Margaret Lange, who spoke on "Seniors' Safety from Crime". And we continue to welcome new members! I'd like to extend my gratitude to everyone who has contributed their time and talents, whether it's organizing events, sharing insights during meetings, or simply bringing a positive spirit to our gatherings. This month, we have a fantastic lineup of activities, including our regular meeting on Thursday April 10th with our special guest speaker - Tom Davidoff, Assistant Professor, Sauder School of Business, UBC. His topic promises to offer new perspectives and thought-provoking insights on "Evaluating supply and demand policy responses to Vancouver's Housing Affordability Problem". Be sure to mark your calendars and bring along a friend or two—our club thrives on new connections and shared experiences. Spring is also a time for new beginnings, and I encourage everyone to explore ways to get involved. Whether you'd like to join a committee, suggest a new activity, or simply share your thoughts, your voice is always welcome. Thank you for being a part of our vibrant Probus community. Vice President John Kay looks forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Thursday April 10th. Note the date change! and continuing to build the warm and welcoming atmosphere that makes our club so special.

Yours in the fellowship of PROBUS,.

Richard

PROBUS FRED COTTON BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will meet at 9:30 am on Wednesdays, April 2 and May 7, in The Amenity Room at Elm Park Place, 5700 Larch Street, (at w. 41st Avenue)

The books to be discussed when we meet are:

Apr 2: Prisoners of the Castle: An Epic Story of Survival and Escape from Colditz, the Nazi's Fortress Prison by Ben MacIntyre

May 7: How Big Things Get Done: The Surprising Factors that Determine the Fate of Every project, from Home Renovations to Space Exploration and Everything In Between by Bent Flyvbjerg and Dan Gardner

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 kjqc@shaw.ca or 604-266-4563

Welcome New Members



Joe Gilling Energy Consultant



Dewey Evans Health Care Consultant

IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Past President Rich Carson on February 27, 2025 Our condolences to his family and friends The PROBUS Club of Vancouver will make a donation in his name to Covenant House Vancouver

## **PROBUS Club of Vancouver—Social Groups**

To see details of how to join any of these groups, click (or ctrl-click) on the heading of each group.

### **Fred Cotton Book Club—Ken Yule**

Information about the book club is featured every month on page 3 of the newsletter. By clicking on the header above, find out full details of the current activities as well as a list of all the books discussed since 2008. The club doesn't meet in July or August.

### **Breakfast Group—Peter Scott**

By popular vote, ten members of the Breakfast Group returned to The Flying Beaver on March 19. Unlike the last time we were there, the float plane traffic was considerably less. No planes were brought across the road to be put into the river and there were only a couple of arrivals or departures. The advantage of this was that it was easier to have good conversations without being interrupted by the noisy engines! The food and particularly the service were outstanding once again and I'm sure TFB will be on our schedule at least twice a year! Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, April 16, somewhere on Granville Island.

Anyone interested in joining us can contact Peter at [peter26@telus.net](mailto:peter26@telus.net).

### **Bridge Club—Jack Zaleski**

Like the Book Club, the Bridge Club doesn't meet in July or August. For information on how the Bridge Club works, click on the heading above for details and how to join. Bridge Club Member Hugh Chaun reports that the Bridge Club (which Jack Zaleski organizes) has had an excellent season of enjoyable games, hosted in rotation in different members' homes.

Anyone interested in joining this "fun" bridge group can get more details from Jack at

[jack.zaleski@gmail.com](mailto:jack.zaleski@gmail.com)

### **Rotarians' Investment Club**

Everything you need to know about how The Rotarians' Investment Club operates can be found by clicking on the above heading. Information on the Club's monthly meetings is featured each month on page 3 of this newsletter.

### **Pub Nights—Peter Phillips**

#### **Probus Pub Night Mar 13, 2025**

The last Probus Pub Night was held on Thursday 13th March at the Shamrock Pub on Dunbar St. in order to promote St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Each of the 6 attendees was forthcoming with the blarney which increased along with the multiple pints of Guinness consumed.

A good time was had by all but it became time to leave when one of the members said he saw a leprechaun in the washroom!

The next Probus Pub night will be at the **Regal Beagle Pub 2283 West Broadway** on 10th April.

You can contact me at: [pjpphillips@hotmail.com](mailto:pjpphillips@hotmail.com), if you are interested?

Please contact Peter Phillips at [pjpphillips@hotmail.com](mailto:pjpphillips@hotmail.com) if you are interested in joining or just show up! They gather on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

## **PROBUS Club of Vancouver—Social Groups**

### **Policy Conversations Cafe—Jim Matkin**

Trump's unjust tariff threats dominated our time.

Tariffs are a tax on domestic consumers and will be inflationary causing prices to rise.

"New tariffs could raise U.S. prices for gasoline, jet fuel and home heating oil, because Canada supplies about 60% of U.S. crude-oil imports and Mexico another 10%, Gresser said. Together, those imports make up about 30% of the crude oil used in the U.S. Many domestic refineries are set up to process Canadian oil, and adjusting away from it isn't a simple task, he added.

The lower 10% tariff on Canadian energy shows that the Trump administration is wary of angering U.S. consumers with higher gasoline prices. Still, Canada could drive up prices if it retaliates with measures that curtail oil shipments."

By Jeanne Whalen.

### **Tennis—Bill Hooker**

The tennis group is looking at another tournament in May, so get in touch with **Bill Hooker** if you would like to be on the list to play.

### **Wine Tasting—John Kay**

22 members of the Probus Club of Vancouver attended an exceptional wine tasting event hosted by John Kay at the Arbutus Club on Feb 25th.

John not only provided 6 excellent red and white wines for sampling, he gave a very informative overview of each wine.

He explained the various growing conditions necessary for the vine to produce its fruit, as well as a description of the fermentation process.

The event left one with a greater understanding of the nuances in wine and how different varieties can elevate a meal.

He had two capable assistants, his son Stephen and his friend Dan, who produced a very nice bottle of his home made wine for the group to taste.

John hopes to organise another wine tasting sometime in 2026.

**The groups below all need members and convenors. In a recent survey, several people indicated an interest in joining one or more of them. If you were one of those and are still interested, please contact Peter Scott at [peter26@telus.net](mailto:peter26@telus.net).**

### **Pensions & Financial Planning**

#### **Lunch Group**

#### **Theatre Nights**

## Report on the St. Paul's Hospital Rooms Mock-Up Visit

**Twenty members showed up at the Mock-Up Rooms for the new St. Paul's Hospital. We were put into two groups for the tour, which included a video presentation and visits to an operating theatre, a maternity room and a patient room. There will be a total of 548 single rooms, each with shower, toilet and space for family members to stay overnight. The existing hospital has 433 beds, most of which are in shared accommodation. When making the plans for the new facility, consultants from around the world were contacted to ensure that it will have the most state of the art of everything.**



# **THURSDAY, MAY 22—9:30 am ANOTHER JOHN ATKIN WALK**

**This time, John will start at The Roundhouse,  
Pacific Blvd & Davie**



- 9:30** Gather at The Urban Fare at 177 Davie St. where underground parking is also available. There is a coffee shop where you may wish to get a beverage and a pastry. No special arrangements have been made.
- 10:00** Meet John at the Turntable on the Davie St. side of the Roundhouse Community Centre. He will lead us along the waterfront telling us about the various industries that were prevalent in the area before it was all taken over for EXPO 86. Who can remember Sweeney's Cooperage or Ondine's Restaurant?

**This event is limited to 25 people, members only**

## **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT**

**COST: \$20.00 per person with full refund if cancelled by May 18.**

To register with EventBrite, [click here](#)

Please direct any questions to:

**Al Hurwitz at [alhurwitz@gmail.com](mailto:alhurwitz@gmail.com)**

**TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025—9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM**



**FOLLOWING CONSIDERABLE INTEREST FROM THOSE MEMBERS WHO WERE NOT ABLE TO GO TO THE NEUROPEAK VISIT IN FEBRUARY, WE HAVE ARRANGED A SECOND TOUR. THIS IS FOR A MINIMUM OF 22 AND A MAXIMUM OF 24 MEMBERS, NO GUESTS THE DECISION TO GO OR CANCEL WILL BE MADE ON MAY 16 SO EARLY REGISTRATION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**

**AGENDA AND DETAILS**

Meeting Point: Mind Expansion Mansion Boardroom (10th floor, CC3 building) – 13761 96 Ave, Surrey

Arrival time: 20 minutes before stations begin.

Program:

A Guided Tour & Interactive Brain Health Experience – NeuroExplorer Program

Introductions & Group Division: 6 people per group.

Four Rotating Stations (30 Minutes Each, with 10-Minute Transitions)

**Education – Nutrition & Supplements for Dementia Prevention**

Led by one staff member (Mind Expansion Mansion).

Focuses on brain health strategies and preventative care through nutrition and supplements.

**Shiftwave / Ammortal / Neuronc Experience**

Led by two staff members (NeuroPeak Treatment Rooms).

Hands-on experience with leading neurotechnology tools.

**Sensory Organization Test (SOT) & NeuroTracker**

Led by one staff member (Gym).

Cognitive and physical assessments, with one participant per group completing the full assessment.

**NeuroCatch Scans**

Led by three staff members (NeuroPeak Multi-Purpose Room).

Each staff member supports two participants, conducting six scans at once.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT**

**COST: \$115.00 per person (includes GST)**

**If fewer than 22 people register, the event will be cancelled with a refund of the full amount less the Eventbrite fees.**

**The decision will be made on Friday, May 16 after which, if it goes ahead, no cancellations will be accepted.**

**To register with EventBrite [click here](#)**

**Please direct any questions to: Chris Finch at [cafb@shaw.ca](mailto:cafb@shaw.ca)**