



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

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

<https://probusvancouver.com/>

Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities

April, 2026

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 14 at The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre

Speaker: Kim Haakstad, President and CEO of the BC Council of Forest Industries

Topic: "Forestry is a solution"

9:00: Coffee and Timbits

9:45: Meeting commences followed by our speaker's presentation.

Kim Haakstad



Kim Haakstad is President and CEO of the BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI), the leading voice for British Columbia's forest sector. COFI represents companies vital to BC's economy, producing lumber, pulp and paper, and bioenergy while championing sustainable forest management and reconciliation with Indigenous

peoples. Kim brings over two decades of experience navigating complex challenges at the intersection of business and government. Before COFI, she served as VP of External Relations at Terramera, collaborating with all levels of government, industry associations, and stakeholders. Her deep understanding of government operations stems from extensive experience as a senior political advisor, including roles as Deputy Chief of Staff to the BC Premier and Chief of Staff to Cabinet Ministers. She has provided strategic counsel to businesses across diverse sectors of the Canadian economy.

Kim's leadership extends beyond the forest sector. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Graduate Diploma in Business Management. She currently serves on the Board of the Digital Supercluster and chairs the Board for the Mom2Mom Child Poverty Initiative, demonstrating her commitment to both innovation and community well-being.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM—TUESDAY, MAY 12th

Speaker: Robert Mackay, Retired Lawyer and Novelist

Topic: "Canada's Forgotten War"

Interesting Facts

Following a question about the number of members and average age when the club was formed was raised at our recent board meeting, Jack Zaleski has managed to find the answer! In the first year, Sept 1997 to July 1998 there were 167 members whose average age was just under 70. This year we are at 215 members with an average age of 82.

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Report of the March 10th Meeting

Attendance: 90 Members and Guests

President John Kay started the formal meeting at 9:45 with the customary welcome and recognition of our guests and speaker. As usual, he started with the traditional story. He then asked Richard Spencer to introduce 3 new members (see Welcome New Members on page 3). John introduced our speaker, fellow member of the club, Geoff Mynett. Fellow member and historian, Geoff returned to the Probus Club with another engaging and wide-ranging presentation on the early history of what is now British Columbia - tracing the period from Alexander Mackenzie's arrival at the Pacific in 1793 to the gold rush of 1858. As always, his talk was full of drama, intrigue, murder, and, in his words, "sex and dominance".

He began by grounding the discussion in the presence of Indigenous peoples, who had lived on this land for millennia with their own laws, cultures, and systems of governance. These were not simple or uniform societies. As explorer David Thompson wrote, "among Indigenous peoples one could find almost every character in civilized society, from generosity to selfishness, from wisdom to folly." At the same time, the fur trade economy depended entirely on Indigenous knowledge and participation. In regions such as New Caledonia, small groups of traders lived among much larger Indigenous populations and relied on them for food, trade, and survival.

The push westward was driven by the fur trade and by intense rivalry between the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company. While the former had long remained coastal and cautious "bureaucrats", the latter operated more like "buccaneers," pushing deep into the interior in search of furs. This competition escalated into sustained conflict, including the Pemmican War, marked by threats, kidnappings, and violence on both sides. By 1821, both companies were exhausted, and their merger marked a turning point in the region's development.

Exploration followed, though not always as intended. Alexander Mackenzie made repeated attempts at finding a route to the Pacific via the Columbia River. His first attempt led him to the wrong river and north to the Arctic. On his second journey, he reached the Pacific, but again not by the intended route. Similarly, Simon Fraser later followed what he believed to be the Columbia, only to discover it was a different and largely unnavigable river. These missteps speak to the uncertainty of the time, even as they led to the establishment of a network of trading posts across the northern interior. These posts became part of existing Indigenous trade systems. For a time, relationships were largely cooperative, but they depended on respect for Indigenous laws and expectations. When those expectations were broken, the consequences could be serious. Take, for example, the 1823 murders at Fort George. The trader in charge, James Yale, had violated established norms by taking an Indigenous woman "under his protection" and leaving the post unattended. During his absence, two Indigenous workers killed two non-Indigenous workers and disappeared with the woman. The incident created immediate uncertainty and raised difficult questions about responsibility, justice, and the stability of the trading itself.

The aftermath unfolded over several years. In 1828, a young James Douglas killed one of the accused. In response, Chief Kw'eh reportedly led a group to the fort, seized Douglas, and held a knife to his throat. According to later accounts, Douglas's young country wife, Amelia, intervened. While the full truth of the story remains unclear, the episode illustrates how quickly tensions could escalate, and how dependent the entire system was on fragile relationships and careful negotiation.

Because the Hudson's Bay Company did not allow European women in its territories, "country marriages" became widespread and were central to the functioning of the fur trade. These relationships, often formed according to Indigenous customs, helped build alliances, provided access to trade networks, and offered traders essential knowledge of language, food, and survival.

These relationships existed along a spectrum. Many were stable and mutually beneficial, while others were clearly exploitative. There were instances of coercion, abuse, and prostitution at major posts, and relationships could end abruptly when traders were transferred. What the women themselves thought, is largely absent from the historical record. Even so, these relationships played a crucial role in maintaining cooperation and enabling the fur trade to function.

This system changed significantly under George Simpson. While his governance probably kept the region under British control, he was a hard and unsentimental businessman who reshaped the company after the 1821 merger. He reduced staff, cut wages, and banned dancing and tents at posts. He also believed Indigenous peoples should be kept in "a proper state of subordination," shifting the relationship from interdependence to control. While Geoff always tries to stay objective as a historian, in the case of George Simpson, he admitted that he has trouble staying unbiased. Simpson also undermined the institution of country marriage, even as he himself engaged in numerous exploitative relationships. After marrying his cousin in England, he imposed Victorian social norms, excluding Indigenous women from company society and dismantling a system that had previously helped bridge cultures.

In the south, the region was shaped by competing imperial claims from Spain, Russia, Britain, and the United States. Increasing American settlement added pressure, leading to the Oregon Treaty of 1846, which established the 49th parallel as the boundary.

The period closed with the sudden transformation brought by the gold rush in 1858, when the arrival of the Commodore in Victoria signalled the beginning of rapid population growth and the creation of the colony of British Columbia, which was covered in more detail in a previous presentation.

As Geoff always reminds us, the past is rarely neat or complete. It is shaped by perspective, by gaps in the record, and by decisions made in moments of uncertainty. Before closing the meeting, John thanked our speaker.

To see Geoff's slide show, [click here](#).

Rotarians' Investment Club

Our March 26th presentation will be by two of our members presenting stocks which were the two top choices from our February "Round Table Stock Reviews". They will be "JOBV Aviation" and "Champion Iron". Members are encouraged to do some research as well on these companies. After some discussion, members will then be asked to consider if either of these companies should be purchased for our Portfolio. Currently we have 10% cash available.

In addition we are expecting to watch a U-tube presentation by the Bank of Montreal on "Middle East Conflict: In Search of Economic and Market Stability." If time permits members will be able to discuss their opinions on this timely topic.

Our meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month and start at 6.30 pm (sharp !) (with a "no-host" bar 6.00 pm) at the RVYC 3811 Point Grey Road. Guests are welcome (we have three lady members) The cost is now \$100.00 (cash or cheque please) for an excellent 3 course dinner for the meal, gratuities & taxes etc. Dinner wine is available at members own expense, in order to keep meal costs at a reasonable level.

If you would like to attend, please email our secretary (Emily - emilybarcket@gmail.com) and myself to confirm your attendance. I will then email the Agenda etc. to you prior to the meeting.

For detailed information about our 27 year old Club, contact John Sullivan at 604-263-4486 or at johnws@telus.net

Probud Insights From The President



It is so nice to see the cherry blossoms as we welcome Spring and there can be few complaints about our winter when we see the rest of the country still having to cope with storms .

Spring always promises renewal and optimism . I am very much looking forward to Kim Haakstad, our April speaker who, as head of COFI, can bring us up to date on the Province's forestry industry. It had always seemed to be the backbone of our economy during our lifetimes, and even gained fame as Monty Python satirised the life of a lumberjack in BC. The pine beetle US tariffs, and perhaps a lack of added value have all combined to relegate the industry to a very small part of the Province's GDP, according to our recent economic presenter. Hopefully, Kim can show us the steps being taken to restore the industry and the towns that have depended on it for their existence.

I encourage all members , especially new members, to take advantage of our various social groups - whether it is the pub group, the breakfast group or the discussion group to name a few .They provide the opportunity to socialize which I think is an important aspect of our club.

You may also consider joining a committee to be more involved and share your thoughts and expertise.

In the meantime, enjoy the Easter break and I look forward to seeing many of you on April 14th.

John Kay
President



PROBUS FRED COTTON BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet at **9:30 am on Wednesdays, Apr 1 and May 6 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. 1 Kingmaker: Pamela Harrison's Astonishing Life of Power, Seduction and Intrigue by Sonia Purnell

May 6 Wolves of K Street: The Secret History of How Big Money Took Over Big Government by Brody Mullins and Luke Mullins

For information about the club, contact Ken Yule at kjyqc@shaw.ca or 604-266-4563



Welcome Our New Members

**John Fraser
Commercial Real Estate Lawyer**



**Gunnar Jonsson
Wireless Communications**

**Kevin Percy
Air quality and effects research**



PROBUS Club of Vancouver Social Opportunity Groups

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

The Lunch Group

There is no convenor for this group which gathers after every monthly meeting (except our October, Presidents' Lunch) at The Local Public Eatery on the corner of Cornwall Avenue and Yew Street. The number of regular lunchers (I got this from AI!) is anywhere from 8 to 12 or more. If you would like to join us, just show up!

Tennis—Bill Hooker

On March 12th 16 stalwart Probus tennis players and some outliers gathered at the UBC Tennis Centre's "Bubble" for three hours of friendly doubles competition. They included Rick Brenner, Chris Finch, John Fraser, Tom Gibson, Jim Henderson, Bill Hooker, Al Hurwitz, Mark Jacobs, Fred Lockwood, David Matheson, Catherine Mead, Pete Parker, Brenda Peterson, Willem Stronck, Keith Switzer and Alan Whitchelo. Play, as before, was very simple: each of the eight teams played another team for one hour. Then they each played another team for the second hour and finally yet another team for the third hour. Scoring was similarly simple: we just tracked the total number of wins for each team over the three hours and Fraser-Matheson emerged on top with 38 wins! Other scores ranged from nine to 29 with four teams tying at 20.

Now that we have done this eight or nine times with three sessions per year, we seem to have established a strong constituency and everyone appears to be looking forward to the next session in the late spring or early summer. We did lose four regulars to injuries or other exigencies, so we advise you to stay in touch and get your bids in early with Bill Hooker at mayneid@yahoo.com, your convenient convenor.

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

On March 18, 13 members of The Breakfast Club travelled almost to the southern extremes of Burnaby where they found The Fraser Park Restaurant. The general consensus of the group was that this was a good choice with generous portions of food. We had two tables that comfortably accommodated us and as usual, at least three lively conversations were happening at the same time. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15th when we will gather at almost the northern extremes of Vancouver, at The Truck Stop Café at 1046 Clark Drive. Anyone interested in joining us can contact Peter at peter26@telus.net.

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. For more information, contact: John Sullivan, Chair Membership, Promotion and Hospitality at email: johnws@telus.net or telephone at 604-263-4486

PROBUS Club of Vancouver—Social Opportunity Groups

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

Policy Conversations Cafe—Jim Matkin

Critical conversations and questions about Musqueam's Aboriginal Title by agreement with the Federal government, Feb 20/26, covering all of the Lower Mainland. Issue: How can private property rights be exempt without any mention? Why signed without consulting other Aboriginal Nations, including the Squamish Nation and Tsawwassen First Nation who have expressed concerns regarding overlapping claims and a lack of prior consultation? Why UNDRIP Cannot Be Fully Implemented?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZlZ8q4lCb8>.



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

Pub Nights—Peter Phillips

A group of 8 tired and thirsty revellers met at Hynes Pub, for lively conversation and a pint or 2 (even some chicken strips). We had a grand time, seems like we can't miss! Next month, we meet at the Sylvia on English Bay, free parking underground, Thursday April 9th @ 4 pm. Join us! Drop us a line, glenndfaris@gmail.com, or Peter Phillips, pjpphillips@hotmail.com.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21—11:30
A GUIDED TOUR OF THE EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY
AT 520 EAST 1st AVENUE, VANCOUVER
(ENTRANCE IS OFF GREAT NORTHERN WAY)



THIS IS A FOLLOW UP TO THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY VISIT IN MARCH TO SEE THE EMILY CARR EXHIBIT. OUR CLUB VISITED THE EMILY CARR INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN ON GRANVILLE ISLAND, ITS HOME FROM 1980-2017. THE INSTITUTE BECAME A FULL UNIVERSITY IN 2008 AND IN 2017 MOVED TO GREAT NORTHERN WAY OCCUPYING A PURPOSE-BUILT FACILITY WHERE CREATIVITY CONTINUES TO SPARK CHANGE. WE VISITED THE UNIVERSITY IN 2019. NOW WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND OUR EMILY CARR EXPERIENCE, AS WE HELP THEM CELEBRATE THE 100TH YEAR OF THE GROWTH FROM A SMALL ART INSTITUTION IN 1925 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TODAY. WITH A GLOBAL REACH OF ART AND DESIGN, IT SHAPES SOCIETY, INFLUENCES CULTURE AND IMAGINES NEW WAYS OF LIVING. WE WILL BE MEETING STAFF FROM THE RECRUITMENT OFFICE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TOUR INCLUDING SPECIALIZED AREAS NORMALLY NOT SEEN BY VISITING PUBLIC. THIS WILL BE AN INTRODUCTION TO THE INCREDIBLE CREATIVITY OF STUDENTS MANY OF WHOM HAVE GONE ON TO STELLAR CAREERS. WE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO VIEW THE STUDENTS' ARTWORK AND SPECIAL EXHIBITS CELEBRATING 100 YRS OF ART HISTORY.

We will meet outside Nemesis Coffee (flower shaped pavilion) at 11:30. There is a large underground parkade, take the first left past Nemesis Coffee. The 84 bus passes the university every 12 minutes and the Main St Skytrain is a short walk away. We will join our hosts inside the front entrance.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT
COST: \$10.00 PER PERSON THROUGH EVENTBRITE.
THE MAXIMUM NUMBER IS 30 MEMBERS AND GUESTS
NO REFUNDS AFTER APRIL 14

To register with EventBrite [click here](#)
Please direct any questions to Chris Finch at chris.finch@shaw.ca
or call him at 604-222-2201

THURSDAY, MAY 21st—9:45 AM **ANOTHER JOHN ATKIN WALK**

This time, John will start on The Crescent
n the heart of First Shaughnessy.



9:45 – Meet John at The Crescent and Tecumseh Avenue.
10:00 - He will lead us on a detailed and in-depth look at the First Shaughnessy area of Vancouver, which was established by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1907 between West 16th Ave, West King Edward Avenue, Oak Street and Arbutus Street. It was designed as an exclusive residential enclave to replace the West End as Vancouver's premier neighborhood. Named after CPR President Thomas Shaughnessy, it features winding roads, large lots and extensive landscaping based on "Garden City" principles.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT

COST: \$25.00 PER PERSON THROUGH EVENTBRITE.

THE MAXIMUM NUMBER IS 25 PEOPLE, MEMBERS ONLY

FULL REFUNDS UP TO MAY 18

To register with EventBrite [click here](#)

Please direct any questions to Chris Finch at chris.finch@shaw.ca

or call him at 604-222-2201

Curated Tour of “That Green Ideal: Emily Carr and the Idea of Nature” - March 13, Vancouver Art Gallery.

Our group of members and guests were greeted by Rabiya, our guide and student artist. We paused at the entrance’s art wall positioning ourselves on ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish peoples. We entered the gallery across the striped Jim Lambie:Zobob exhibit , a unique installation for the Vancouver Art Gallery.

The tour took us along a timeline of Emily Carr’s art from her early years in Victoria at the end of the 19th century through influences from California, early exposure to indigenous villages, training in England, trips to Alaska with her sister, more learning in Europe and her return to Victoria and her attempts to make a living as an artist. She also spent time in Vancouver. The critics of a 1912 exhibit said her work was too “impressionistic” and she sold little. For the next 15 years she gave up painting and spent several years running a boarding house and writing . Fortunately for us, the National Gallery convinced her to exhibit there in 1927 where she was recognized by the Group of Seven and Lauren Harris in particular who became a great friend and supporter. She entered a prolific period of painting and produced many of the pieces we treasure today. Her focus was on forests and indigenous peoples, and she travelled widely on the coast. In her last decade she focussed on environmental issues, and her paintings of clear-cut logging brought us to the end of our great tour.

It is of note that in 1942 Emily Carr (Klee Wyck) donated 170 paintings to the Vancouver Art Gallery and over a 100 were on display.

