



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

August, 2020

President
Hugh Chaun
604-261-8437
hchaun@mac.com

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

Vice President
Rich Carson
604-261-0974
rcarson75@gmail.com

Secretary
Tim Sehmer
604-263-7332
timsehmer@gmail.com

Treasurer
Doug Cucheron
604-687-2006
dac2004@telus.net

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

Membership Committee
Peter Hamilton
604-730-9975
pwt.hamilton@gmail.com

Activities Committee
Jack Zaleski
604-261-7492
jack.zaleski@gmail.com

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

Membership Services &
House
Raymond Greenwood
604-733-6453
greenwd@telus.net

Historian/Archivist
Roy Williams
604-926-4727
roytwitch@shaw.ca

Director at Large
Ken Waithman
604-688-9793
kwaithman@live.com

Counsel
Brian Wasson
Carl Jonsson
Bill Randall

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 11th at 8 pm
(Please note time change to accommodate our speaker, who is joining us from Australia)
Location: Your Home via Zoom
Speaker: Henry Litton, Hugh Chaun's cousin in Australia
Topic: A Long Shadow Cast Over Hong Kong

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

September 8: Alan Franey, Founder of the Vancouver International Film Festival

Topic: TBA

HENRY LITTON GBM CBE QC



When, at his 80th birthday celebration, Henry was asked: "What would you like to see engraved on your tombstone?" his reply was: "A Good Judge who Served his Community, Loved his Family and never made a bad Line-Call at Tennis."

A third generation Hong Kong believer whose first language was Cantonese, Henry was educated at Diocesan Boys School, Kowloon, King's College, Taunton and Merton College, Oxford. He spent his first year after graduation in law as a school teacher in Switzerland,

attended Grenoble University in France for one term, wandered through Italy and Spain to learn their languages and returned to London to complete his qualifications as a barrister.

He was called to the English Bar the Hong Kong Bar in 1960. He man of the Hong Kong Bar and 1970. He served on numerous land Revenue Board of Review lution Control Appeal Boards ning Appeal Board.

Henry was appointed to the newly established Court of Final

resumed sovereignty over Hong Kong. He retired as a Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal in the year 2000 to take on the role of Non-Permanent Judge of that court for fourteen years until his retirement in 2014 when he was appointed an Honourary Professor at the Hong Kong University Faculty of Law.

When asked "What do you regard as the essential qualities of a good judge?", he replied: "Focus, humility and love of the common man".



by Gray's Inn in 1959 and admitted to served in total seven terms as Chair- was made a Queen's Counsel in government bodies, including the In- and held the chairmanship of the Pol- and chairmanship of the Town Plan-

Court of Appeal in 1992 and to the Appeal on Jul 1, 1997 when China

KEN'S GROANER (a pun contributed by Ken Yule)

One of the pups in a breeder's litter of collies had a strange appetite. Perhaps the breeder's location in the southern United States might explain it. The odd pup spurned regular dog food, was not at all tempted by meaty tid-bits, and hated dog biscuits. Just in time before the little dog succumbed to starvation the owner found he would eat melons. In fact, he doted on them and would touch nothing else. His sibling pups could not understand this and they teased him unmercifully. He became the butt of their pranks until his tail would droop and he would whimper and shiver in a corner. His mother, trying desperately to comfort him, called him to her, saying "Come to me, my melon collie baby."

Report of the July 14th Meeting

Attendance: 83+ Members and Guests

This was our 3rd Zoom meeting and Jack was ready at 9:30 with his Waiting Room open to receive members as they trickled in. A little after 10, Jack handed the meeting over to President Hugh who thanked Jack for his work getting us set up Zoom once again. After a short fishing story, Hugh talked briefly about our lack of a waiting list for new members, in large part due to not having our regular meetings. Last month's Newsletter featured an article on page 1 which reminded members that they can "bring" any number of guests to our virtual meetings and of course, there is currently no charge! Hugh then asked Chris Finch to introduce our guest speaker, Dr. Andrew Trites. Orcas are big, beautiful, charismatic species. If you live on the West Coast, chances are that you've seen a lot of concerning headlines about Orcas, and specifically the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) population that spends part of the year in the Salish Sea. These attention-grabbing headlines have shaped the public perception, however, as is typical with headlines, they don't always tell the whole story or even the truth. While the SRKW population is in trouble, in order to properly diagnose the issue and find effective solutions, it is imperative that we know the facts and use science-based evidence to make decisions.

You may have heard that there are only 72 SRKWs left in the wild. While this headline signals a dwindling population, it doesn't usually tell us how many whales there should be. Researchers have been gathering population data on the SRKWs for decades. In 1960, they counted 78 whales, the whales reached their peak population of 98 in 1996. In 1968, the aquarium industry's practice of removing orcas led to a population dip which then rebounded after they ceased the practice in 1972. In reality, research indicates that the SRKW population has been fluctuating for the last 50+ years, with four periods of decline, which don't demonstrate a clear reason. For over a century, there has never been more than 100 SRKWs, and this most recent decline lasting nine years. There are many reasons for a species to be listed as endangered. In the case of SRKWs, it is because of their small population size, not because of a decline in population. Small populations are highly vulnerable and therefore need to be monitored and protected to ensure long-term survival. Researchers have theorised several causes for the current population decline of the SRKWs, including contaminants, sea traffic and noise, skewed sex ratios, and prey availability.

Killer whales carry contaminants the same way that humans do, and there is no evidence as of yet that demonstrate that they are affecting reproduction or survival rates. For example, the Transient Killer Whales population that preys primarily on marine mammals, has much larger concentrations of contaminants in their bodies. However, their numbers have been growing steadily since the 1970's. While all male mammals accumulate contaminants throughout their entire life, females are able to clear contaminants from their systems through reproduction, which limits the effects on population size.

Much of the attention that the SRKW have received is tied to the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion which would lead to the

7-fold increase in tanker traffic (i.e. one tanker leaving the harbour every day). While this increase in these slow-moving tankers wouldn't really affect noise and traffic levels, there is still a major concern with the devastating damage that a potential oil spill would cause. BC ferries and cruise ships are the cause of the majority of the noise in the Salish Sea.

Since 2000, the SRKWs have birthed 38 calves. Of these 12 have been females and 25 have been males. Scientists don't know what is causing this skewed sex ratio, since the NRKW population is not having this issue. While it could just be probability, the few numbers of female calves entering the population will have a major long-term impact on their overall numbers.

Andrew's team at UBC has decided to focus their efforts on the question of the prey availability. Specifically, they wanted to look at the abundance of Chinook and Chum Salmon, the preferred prey species SRKW due to their high fat and calorie content. Given that NRKW population is growing and individuals are on average larger in size when compared to SRKW, the team hypothesized that the NRKW had access to more salmon than the SRKW. To test this theory, they compared data between two similar geographic areas in the NRKW range and the SRKW range for prey density. Using hydro acoustics in the Juan de Fuca Strait and the Johnson Strait, they found that the fish were of similar sizes in both areas and similarly distributed. However, to their surprise, they found that the SRKW should have access to 4-6 times more fish than the NRKW based on density. Now, Andrew's team is taking a closer look at how accessible the fish are and the SRKWs hunting methods through the use of suction-cupped cameras and drones. Andrew's team is also considering the fact that the SRKWs spend part of their year in California and Oregon where damming in the Sacramento and Columbia rivers led to a significant decline in salmon populations over a century ago. Recovery effort conversations are almost entirely focused in BC, but we consideration to the rest of their range is also critical for their long-term survival.

Finally, another theory for the current decline in SRKWs could be attributed to the growing population of the NRKW. With an estimated 309 individuals, their range is starting to expand, and even beginning to take over the SRKW habitat. While it's not well-documented, it is clear that the SRKWs and the NRKWs have aggressive interactions if they're ever in the same place. While many of the threats to SRKWs is out of our control, the federal government has taken a number of steps to protect the population including the implementation of fishing restrictions, whale watching restrictions, reduction of vessel speeds, and waste water treatment plants. There have also been calls from some First Nation members to reduce competition for salmon by culling seals and sea lions, although this could in turn harm the population of the Transient Killer Whales. Following a lengthy question and answer session, John Madden expressed our thanks to Andrew for his excellent presentation.

To read the Questions & Answers, please go to our PROBUS website at www.probusvancouver.com, click on "Speakers" and then on "Andrew Trites"

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY



I hope every one of you is enjoying the superbly sunny days we are having and that you are able to pursue some of your vacation plans, albeit modified per public health precautions.

We had an internationally seasoned guest speaker at our third Zoom meeting on July 14, at which Dr. Andrew Trites, UBC Professor of Zoology, gave us a fascinating presentation on the two populations of killer whales here along the Pacific coast – the Northern and Southern Residents. His research provided a much-needed objective interpretation of the science, reminding us how easy it is to be swayed by emotionally charged headlines. Just as a Boomerang is designed to return to its original thrower; for us, it may be suitable to coin the term 'Zoomerang', returning to our ever assuring Zoom host, Jack Zaleski, for the next virtual Probud meeting on August 11. Please note that the meeting will be at **8:00 PM**. This is to accommodate a convenient time for both our speaker, Henry Litton, who resides in NSW, Australia (i.e., 17 hours ahead of us) and our members in Vancouver. Details of the meeting are included elsewhere in this newsletter, once again expertly edited and published by Peter Scott.

Some of you may have seen the July 11th *Globe & Mail* article reporting Henry's interview by Nathan Vanderklippe, Asia correspondent in Beijing. Henry later commented to me he is not surprised that his opinion differs from those of many. His view (of the new Hong Kong security law) is "much more modest, confined to the law and the way it is enforced. The problem is that to understand the nuances involved, one needs to read the fine print and journalists don't have time to do that. The opinion of the majority is formed cumulatively by the daily news cycle." We look forward to hearing further from him next month on the controversial move by China to establish its security law.

The Oxford vaccine. A Canadian expert has stated that "there is light at the end of the tunnel" with Oxford's progress on finding a vaccine as "extremely promising." The optimism has to be cautious, however. To quote a renowned GI endoscopist colleague of mine, he entitled his autobiography "*The tunnel at the end of the light*." Developing the vaccine still has a roller coaster of challenges through the tunnel but there is always hope of a medical breakthrough.

Tidbits for thought

The overwhelming impact of plastics. The alimentary canal has to be my favoured anatomical system but what the cartoon portrays is a disturbing review in last Saturday's *Globe & Mail*

headlined "Plastic People." It is known that plastics are extremely resistant to degradation but through the action of sunlight and ocean waves, over a long period of time, they increasingly erode into microplastics that can then disseminate everywhere. Research has shown that plastic particles from the environment are in the food we eat. The review quoted the September 2019 editorial in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* that "particles of a certain size



can pass through the gut lining into our bloodstream" and may be deposited in vital organs of the body with yet undefined serious health consequences. The United Nations recently declared that plastics pollution is the "second most ominous threat to the global environment, after climate change."



"I thought we agreed, no dressing up for video chats."

**Rotarians' Investment Club
HOORAY !**

The end is now in sight as we are having our first Dinner Meeting at RVYC since the pandemic started. RVYC has arranged for us to have a private room where we will have 3 Members per table and up to 6 tables. It will be in August as a trial run, and give us an opportunity to see how our portfolio has performed.

We do not plan to have a guest Speaker.

As previously indicated, the Club has decided that individuals from Probud and Rotary would only be invited when our regular meetings commence, hopefully by September 24th.

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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Keep Smiling, Be Kind & Stay Safe!

John Sullivan,
Membership Chair, RIC.
Email: johnws@telus.net
Res: 604-263-4486

**PROBUS FRED COTTON
BOOK CLUB**

During the current time of physical spacing, The Book Club will meet at 9:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday each month via Zoom. Upcoming books we will discuss:

August 5—*The invention of Nature* by Andrea Wulf
September 9—*Neither Here Nor There* by Bill Bryson

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. Ken will send out the invitation to join the meeting.

IN MEMORIAM

*It is with regret that we announce the passing of
Reg Barclay on June 23
Our condolences to his family and friends
The PROBUD Club of Vancouver
will make a donation in his name to
The BC Children's Hospital Foundation*

THE AUGUST FUNNIES PAGE!

Covid 19 and Other Quickies

All these people are worrying about a baby boom in the next nine months. Two days of homeschooling should nip that right in the bud!

My car probably thinks I died.

The Department of Health is looking to hire couples married seven years or more to educate people on social distancing.

There's a special place in hell for people who 'REPLY ALL' to group emails. Annnnd it's right next to the special place for people who SEND group emails and don't BCC.

Whole Foods parking lot requirements:

- min 2 political bumper stickers
- terrible park job
- bad attitude

Hunter was 4 years old and was staying with his grandfather for a few days. He'd been playing outside with the other kids, when he came into the house and asked, 'Grandpa, what's that called when two people sleep in the same bedroom and one is on top of the other?' His Grandpa was a little taken aback, but he decided to tell him the truth.

'Well, Hunter, it's called sexual intercourse'. 'Oh,' Little Hunter said, 'OK,' and went back outside to play with the other kids.

A few minutes later he came back in and said angrily, 'Grandpa, it isn't called sexual intercourse. It's called Bunk Beds. And Jimmy's mom wants to talk to you.'

On her first day at the Senior Complex, the new manager addressed all the seniors pointing out some of her rules:

"The female sleeping quarters will be out-of-bounds for all males, and the male dormitory to the females."

"Anybody caught breaking this rule will be fined \$20 the first time."

She continued, "Anybody caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined \$60. Being caught a third time will cost you a fine of \$180."

"Are there any questions?"

At this point, an older gentleman stood up in the crowd inquired: "How much for a Season Pass?"



**It took
"Click it or Ticket"
to get people to
wear a seatbelt.**

**I wonder if
"Mask it or Casket"
might work?**

Donald Ray Whatley

This Month's Quote

*If you're not living on the edge,
you're taking up too much space!*

**I have no idea where this originated
but I've always liked it!**