



# NEWSLETTER

## PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

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

Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities

August, 2024

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 13 at The HR MacMillan Space Centre**  
**Speaker: Arran Stephens, CEO & Co-Founder, Nature's Path Organic Foods**  
**Topic: "The Founding and Creating Of An International Food Corporation"**  
**9:00: Coffee and Timbits**  
**9:45: Meeting commences followed by our speaker's presentation.**

### ARRAN STEPHENS



Arran is the co-founder (with wife, Ratana) & chairman of Nature's Path Foods, North America's first organic cereal manufacturer. His passion for organic food started on the farm where he was raised: Goldstream Berry Paradise, located on Vancouver Island; it was there that his father, Rupert, told him to "Always leave the soil better than you found it", where he posted a sign outside the farm: "No Sprays or Poisons Used". They fertilized their fields with manure, compost and kelp. Rupert pioneered the use of mulching with sawdust. The farm was sold in 1956 and they all moved to Hollywood, California, where Rupert pursued his dream to be a full-time songwriter. Arran wrote about this in his spiritual memoirs: *Moth and the Flame* ([www.arransart.org/writings](http://www.arransart.org/writings)). In 1964 while living in New York, Stephens became interested in spirituality and mysticism. In 1967 he travelled to India to study at an ashram for seven months under the guidance of well-known spiritual teacher Sant Kirpal Singh. In August 1967, Stephens returned to Vancouver and opened The Golden Lotus, Canada's first vegetarian restaurant in the heart of Kitsilano.

In 1971, Arran (and Ratana) opened LifeStream Natural Foods, a retailer, manufacturer and distributor of organic foods that was eventually sold to Kraft Foods in 1981. Around that time, Arran and Ratana would go on to open "Woodlands," a successful vegetarian restaurant in Vancouver. In 1985, the Stephens' founded Nature's Path and by 1990 would open North America's first certified organic breakfast cereal production facility in Delta, British Columbia.

From helping to pioneer the Organic food movement to now mentoring the next generation of leaders in the family-run business, they are cereal entrepreneurs with a deep desire to use business to create lasting positive environmental and social change. They're proud to have been recognized as one of Canada's Top Employers and Greenest Employers for many years in a row. They're dedicated to philanthropy with a strong belief in giving back to the communities that they source from, operate in and sell into. At Nature's Path, their mission is to "Always leave the Earth Better than you found it".



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

**Kim Bolan: Journalist with The Vancouver Sun since 1984**

**Topic: BC gangs go global - from the streets of Vancouver to the peaks of transnational organized crime.**

## Report of the July 9th Meeting

*Attendance: 80 Members and Guests*

President Richard Earthy started the formal meeting at 9:45 with the customary welcome and an amusing story. Jack Zaleski introduced a new member (see Welcome Our New Member on page 3). With no activities scheduled before The Presidents' Lunch in October (see page 6 for details and registration), Richard called on Terry Gill to introduce our speaker, Michael Kluckner.

Artist and cultural geographer Michael Kluckner took us through an illustrated talk on the topic of Surviving Vancouver. The title of his new book - he uses surviving as both an adjective and a verb - what has survived in this city, and how people continue to survive in it. While he'll never say never to picking up the pen and paintbrush again, the book is intended to serve as a 40th-anniversary wrap-up of Kluckner's artistic exploration of Vancouver, his hometown. Spanning over four decades, his work has been a testament to the city's resilience, its changing identity, and the importance of preserving its unique character.

At the time that Kluckner started his work in 1984, the city was emerging from a deep economic recession and looking towards the future with a renewed sense of optimism with the city celebrating its centennial and Expo '86 around the corner. It was during this period that he launched his first book in the Woodward's bookstore, "Vancouver: The Way It Was," which captured the city's transformation.

Kluckner reflected on the transient nature of Vancouver's built environment. He shared how his paintings from the 1990s, depicting everyday scenes of people going about their lives, phone booths and hand rakes, had become artifacts of a bygone era, a time when only realtors carried cellphones. The demolition of landmarks like the Woodward's building and the Oakridge Mall redevelopment, now once again in redevelopment, served as a poignant reminder of the city's constant evolution, where the familiar often gives way to the new.

One thing that never changes is the moody Vancouver weather, and its residents standing outside with their umbrellas.

Kluckner's love for Vancouver's natural beauty shines through his plein air paintings, often capturing the rain coming in and the city's weather patterns and seasonal transformations.

One of the key themes that Kluckner highlighted was the enduring presence of Indigenous culture in Vancouver. He marvelled at the subtle yet powerful reintroduction of Coast Salish motifs on the city's storm drain covers, a testament to the ongoing efforts to acknowledge and celebrate the region's rich Indigenous heritage.

Through his work, Kluckner delved deeper into his advocacy for preserving the city's architectural heritage recognizing their inherent value not only as physical structures but as repositories of the city's cultural memory. He jokes that in Vancouver, we do history in dog years especially compared to places like Montreal, Athens, and Paris. Nothing really ever gets old in Vancouver because we don't make enough of an effort to take

care of, save, and adapt old buildings. The conversion of single-family homes into rooming houses, a common practice in the past, was a testament to the adaptability of these buildings and the resilience of the communities that inhabited them. He argues that reusing old buildings is also the eco-conscious path forward.

Kluckner's exploration of Vancouver's past also sheds light on the city's changing social dynamics. He discussed the rise of gentrification and the stark inequalities that have emerged, with the city catering increasingly to a "transnational elite" who make their money in the world economy while leaving behind the needs of its own local diverse communities. The city is no longer creating enough wealth out of its own economy.

Kluckner asks, "why have men lost their way?" Back in the 1970s, a man could get a job with the Gulf of Georgia and collect enough wages to buy a house in South Vancouver or Burnaby, get married, and comfortably raise several kids. Those jobs don't really exist anymore, and today 70% of the unhoused population and 79% of people who die of drug overdoses are men, with construction and extraction workers being four times more likely to die from an overdose as compared to other workers.

Throughout his presentation, Kluckner grappled with the complex question of what it means to truly "survive" in Vancouver. He shared stories of individuals, communities, and corner stores that have adapted and persevered, even in the face of displacement and adversity. Even on his own personal journey, from purchasing a modest home in Kerrisdale he became a passionate advocate for heritage preservation. Like many of us, Kluckner has seen his friends and family "survive Vancouver" by leaving it for Kamloops, Penticton, Vancouver Island, or the Gulf Islands.

While he acknowledged the resilience and adaptability of Vancouver's residents, he also expressed a desire to see the city strike a better balance between preserving its unique character and embracing necessary change. In the end, Kluckner's artistic journey through Vancouver served as a powerful reminder of the city's rich history, its evolving identity, and the importance of preserving its soul in the face of rapid transformation. Reflecting on all of his work observing and documenting his hometown, Kluckner says that it's a mess, but he loves it! Chris Finch thanked our speaker and presented him with the customary honorarium.

Recommended reading by Michael Kluckner:

Surviving Vancouver - The Rooming House - Vanishing

Vancouver - Vancouver Between the Streets

Douglas Todd: 'Surviving Vancouver, in more ways than one' Article in the Vancouver Sun

If anyone is interested in seeing Michael's PowerPoint Presentation, [click here](#).

**Rotarians' Investment Club**

Our June 20th Meeting was well attended, with two guests, a lady and a gentleman who are interested in joining us.

Members shared their highlights on their information sources, later published in the minutes. Thanks were given to the Program Committee for their past presentations, and ideas were shared for future speakers for our meetings. A motion was passed to sell one of our very successful stocks if it reached a certain level before our September meeting. There will be Member Presentations on 3 stocks. The Club has about \$17,000.00 in cash, and a decision to purchase 10 shares of a popular Hi-tech stock was made.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday September 26th in the RYVC Library at 6.00 pm with a no-host bar and the meeting to commence at 6.30 pm.

For information about our Club which is now in it's 26th year, please contact John Sullivan, Membership Chair, at [johnws@telus.com](mailto:johnws@telus.com)

**Probus Insights From The President**



August Words of Wisdom...embrace the warmth of August, both in the weather and in your spirit. Use this time to reflect on the year so far and make the most of the remaining months. Every day is a new opportunity to grow, learn and find joy in the little things.

You will shortly receive the formal notice of our upcoming Annual General Meeting to be held in conjunction with our September 10th Meeting. I am pleased to say our Nominating Committee will be presenting a full slate of proposed Directors for 2024-2025.

This month's speaker will be well-known local entrepreneur **Arran Stephens** who will speak on "the founding and creating of an International Food Corporation".

**Dress code for the August Meeting...**



Remember to **Save The Date October 8th** and plan to attend our October Meeting which will be our **Presidents' Lunch** at The Arbutus Club. Full details to register are contained in this newsletter.

Wishing you all a joyous, safe, and memorable August. Yours in the fellowship of PROBUS,

*Richard*

**PROBUS FRED COTTON BOOK CLUB**



The next meeting of the Book Club will be at **9:30 am** on Wednesday, Sept. 4, in

The Amenity Room at Elm Park Place, 5700 Larch Street, (at 41st Avenue)

**NOTE: THERE ARE NO MEETINGS IN JULY & AUGUST**

The books to be discussed when we meet again are:

Sept 4 **True Reconciliation: How to be a Force for Change** by Jody Wilson-Raybould

Oct 2 **The Party of One: The Rise of Xi-Jinping and China's Superpower Future** by Chun Han Wong

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](mailto:kjyqc@shaw.ca) or 604-266-4563

**Welcome Our New Member**



**Bakul Dalal**  
Clinical Professor of  
Pathology & Laboratory  
Medicine

**IN MEMORIAM**

*It is with regret that we announce the passing of **Morley Strachan on June 28, 2024***

*Our condolences to his family and friends.*

*The PROBUS Club of Vancouver will make a donation in his name to The Vancouver Food Bank.*

## **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**

A total of seven members were present and we welcomed a new member, Alain Boisset, to our July meeting at Sophie's Cosmic Café. The exorbitant cost of street parking (\$6 per hour!) was somewhat mitigated by the Happy Breakfast Special for two eggs, choice of bacon, sausages or ham, potatoes, toast and coffee which was a modest \$15.95 and it was excellent! A total of seven of us were present. Due to the restaurant layout, two separate and lively conversations were happening at the same time. We decided that our August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be at The Westward Ho! Restaurant at the UBC Golf Club, where there is ample parking and it's free!

### **Bridge Club**

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.

### **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.

### **Photography—Hugh Chaun**

So far, Hugh hasn't received any interest in joining this group. Please contact Hugh if you are interested to join the group: Hugh Chaun at **778-488 8657 or [hchaun@mac.com](mailto:hchaun@mac.com)**

### **Pub Nights**

The Probus Pub group continues to go strong: we meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except for August, we'll meet on the 15th) at 4 pm. The location is chosen each month by consensus, looking for variety, ambience, a good selection of beers, and easy accessibility and parking. Usually about 6 or 7 of us, when we can fit it into our busy lives, we enjoy sampling different libations, easy company, and conversation. Of what do we speak? Better to ask what we don't discuss. Our next meeting, on August 15, will be at the Milltown Bar & Grill, [9191 Bentley Street](#) click on address for Google map.

We welcome participants, please contact Richard Earthy at [rdearthy@telus.net](mailto:rdearthy@telus.net), or Glenn Faris at [glennfaris@gmail.com](mailto:glennfaris@gmail.com) if you're interested.

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

### **Policy Conversations Cafe**

The Probus Discussion Group runs a monthly **Conversations Virtual Café**, at the Arbutus Club Bistro on the first Tuesday from 2:30 p.m. We focus on issues in current affairs with a member-facilitated topic followed by free discussion. At the July meeting, the question was discussed whether there was a US promise not to enlarge NATO as has been experiencing a collapse in investment, low productivity growth, and a large and growing government sector, all of which contribute to reduced growth in living standards. We also discussed the shift in Europe against the radical climate agenda highlighted by massive farmer's protests with tractors!" The topic at the August 6th meeting will explore the question, "Canada has been experiencing a collapse in investment, low productivity growth, and a large and growing government sector, all of which contribute to reduced growth in living standards compared to our peer countries in the OECD." WHY and what should we do about the decline?

### **Tennis**

The Third Annual Probus Tennis Tournament took place at noon on May 15th, ten members of the Club, Bryan Atkins, Rick Brenner, John Dawson, Chris Finch, Graeme Foster, Bill Hooker, Al Hurwitz, Fred Lockwood, John Madden and Peter Stephen, bolstered by 6 non-members, Catherine Mead, Alida Mackenzie, Brenda Peterson, Walter Schneider, Jim Sexton and Grace Shaw, gathered at the UBC Tennis Centre's "Bubble" for four hours of doubles play. A number of other Probus members expressed interest in joining us but for various reasons were unable to participate this time.

Play was divided into four strict one-hour sessions with the goal of winning the best two out of three sets but if that could not be accomplished then the teams with the highest number of games won within the hour were the winners of that round. In the subsequent three rounds, the same system applied. However, because of inadequate designed scoring sheets, the data ran a bit amuck and the plan for next time is to amend that deficiency.

The group is now investigating the possibility of having the next tournament sometime in the Fall. Stay tuned.

### **Wine Tasting**

Convenor, John Kay, is currently working on a suitable venue to host the first of these events. He is thinking it may be a good activity for the Fall.

**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**



**THE PRESIDENTS' LUNCH WITH Dr. RYAN D'ARCY**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH**

at The Arbutus Club, 2001 Nanton Avenue.

Morning coffee and tea service will be available from 10:00

Open to members and 1 guest per member



**Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of Canada's most brilliant neuroscientists. Since 2009, Ryan D'Arcy has been helping rehabilitate Trevor Greene, a Canadian war veteran and brain injury survivor, who was attacked with an axe to the head while on tour in Afghanistan.**

Following Dr D'Arcy's presentation there will be a fellowship break, after which a healthy and hearty Gourmet Buffet will be served. There will be a vegetarian soup, assorted white and whole wheat sandwiches and tortilla wraps with a variety of meat, seafood and vegetarian fillings, crudités and salad, and finishing with assorted dessert squares and cookies.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT**

**COST: \$40.00 per person**

**FREE PARKING INCLUDED!!**

To register for the lunch [click here](#)

Please direct any questions to: Al Hurwitz at [alhurwitz@gmail.com](mailto:alhurwitz@gmail.com)