



# NEWSLETTER

## PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

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

Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities

December, 2024

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 10 at The HR MacMillan Space Centre**  
**Speaker: Colin Armstrong: President & CEO of HTEC**  
**Topic: "The Development of Hydrogen Technology"**  
**9:00: Coffee and Timbits**  
**9:45: Meeting commences followed by our speaker's presentation.**

### COLIN ARMSTRONG



Colin is a professional mechanical engineer with more than 35 years' experience in the hydrogen sector. He is a founder of HTEC and has lead the company since 2012. Colin is the driving force behind the development of British Columbia's hydrogen station network, opening Canada's first retail hydrogen fueling station in 2018. The first six stations – in Greater Vancouver and Victoria – will be in operation in 2020 and will enable the deployment of the first 1,000 zero-emission fuel cell electric vehicles in the province. Prior to HTEC, Colin led hydrogen initiatives at Sacré-Davey Engineering, including an integrated waste hydrogen utilization project and the fueling project for a fleet of fuel cell buses operating in Whistler. Colin was also an investor and the lead engineer at Dynetek Industries (high-pressure carbon fiber gas storage cylinders) and worked at Ballard Power Systems to develop fuel cell manufacturing systems. Colin has been on the Board of the Canadian Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association since 2011. Colin has been recognized for the contributions he has made to the hydrogen sector. He received the Canadian Hydrogen Convention 2024 Hydrogen Leader of the Year Award and is a 2022 Clean50 Honoree.



### NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

**Roddy MacKenzie**

**Topic: "WW2 Bomber Command, The RCAF's Greatest Achievement, Churchill's Greatest Triumph"**

## Report of the November 12th Meeting

Attendance: xxx Members and Guests

President Richard Earthy started the formal meeting at 9:45, welcoming guests and members. We then had a moment of silence followed by a few words by Laurence Binyon from *For The Fallen* to commemorate Remembrance Day. Alan Whitchelo introduced 3 new members (see Welcome New Members on page 3). Richard called on Chris Finch to make some trophy presentations following the Probus Tennis Tournament (see page 5) and to introduce our speaker, Dr. Lori Daniels.

Have you ever been given an evacuation order? It's a terrifying experience that far too many British Columbians have faced in recent years as climate change fuels increasingly severe and destructive wildfires. Dr. Lori Daniels, Professor of Forest Ecology at UBC, painted a sobering picture of the growing threat of megafires and the urgent need for transformative change in how we manage our forests.

One of the key points Dr. Daniels emphasized was the role of climate change in driving the intensity and frequency of wildfires. In 2023, a record-breaking 15 million hectares of forest burned across Canada, with British Columbia alone accounting for 2.8 million hectares of that total. The province experienced 38 days under a state of emergency due to wildfires, the fourth time it has done so since 2017 – a stark contrast to the pre-2017 era when such prolonged emergencies were rare. Last year, over \$1 Billion were spent in direct costs trying to put out BC wildfires, with indirect costs estimated to be 2-3 times that. These massive wildfires are impacting air quality, human health, the forest industry, agriculture, vineyards, recreation, water quality and supply, greenhouse gas levels, and the economy.

Dr. Daniels explained that the changing climate is not only increasing the risk of ignition through factors like lightning strikes, but also creating the perfect conditions for these fires to grow into uncontrollable behemoths. Heat domes, extreme drought, and shifting weather patterns have all contributed to the rise of the "era of megafires."

But the roots of the crisis reach back over a century of misguided forest management practices. Historical photographs, tree ring data, and TEK reveal how the exclusion of Indigenous peoples, and therefore fire, from these ecosystems has fundamentally altered their composition and resilience. Historically, the forests of British Columbia's interior were shaped by frequent, low-intensity surface fires that maintained an open, park-like structure. Indigenous communities actively managed these landscapes, using fire as a tool to cultivate the land and support their way of life. However, over the past century, the policy of fire suppression to "protect" our beautiful forest ecosystems has transformed the diverse, fire-adapted ecosystems into dense, homogeneous stands of trees that are now highly vulnerable to the extreme fires we're seeing today – the fire suppression paradox.

"We've created these very homogeneous landscapes, those blankets of trees that we associate with beautiful British Columbia but are highly altered landscapes and highly susceptible to fire in an environment that is becoming more and more fire prone," Dr. Daniels explained.

The consequences of this shift are staggering. For example, in the Jasper National Park fire of 2024, the combination of a century of

fire exclusion and the impacts of the mountain pine beetle epidemic created the perfect conditions for a catastrophic blaze that burned 32,000 hectares and destroyed 30% of the town. Dr. Daniels argued that while Parks Canada had implemented some proactive fire management strategies, including the Fire SMART program, the scale of the problem was simply too vast to address in the short term.

Mountain pine beetle has also played a significant role in exacerbating the wildfire crisis. Since 1996, BC has not experienced a winter cold enough to kill off the beetle larvae that live under the bark of the trees. This has allowed the beetle populations to surge, leading to the infestation of 19 million hectares of forest. Historically, the mountain pine beetle was not able to spread east of the Continental Divide into the forests of Jasper National Park and Alberta. However, the century-long policy of fire suppression has created a continuous, homogeneous landscape of mature pine forests that have become prime habitat for the beetle. This has allowed the beetle to cross the divide and impact new areas. As the mountain pine beetle kills off the pine trees, it leaves behind vast amounts of dead, dry biomass that acts as highly flammable fuel for wildfires. In the areas affected by the beetle, the fuel loads on the forest floor have increased dramatically, contributing to the extreme fire behavior seen in recent years.

So, what can be done? Dr. Daniels outlined a multi-pronged approach that involves diversifying our wildfire management strategies, rethinking forest management practices, and embracing the knowledge and practices of Indigenous communities. One key aspect is the need to move away from the traditional model of fire suppression and instead allow some wildfires to burn under controlled conditions. This "modified response" approach can help restore the natural role of fire in these ecosystems and create a more diverse, resilient landscape. Dr. Daniels also emphasized the importance of thinning overstocked forests, reintroducing prescribed burns, and increasing the presence of fire-resistant broadleaf trees. Importantly, Dr. Daniels stressed the need to draw on both Western science and Indigenous knowledge to guide these efforts. She highlighted the successful partnerships her research team has forged with First Nations communities, who have a deep understanding of historical fire regimes and the role of fire in maintaining healthy, productive landscapes. Encouragingly, there are currently 10 pilot studies underway in the province applying these methods.

The challenges ahead are daunting, but Dr. Daniels remains hopeful that with the right approach, we can learn to coexist with fire and build more resilient communities. This will require brave and bold leadership, as well as a willingness to make difficult decisions that may not always be popular.

Richard Kerekes thanked our speaker

To view Dr. Daniel's slides, [click here](#)

### **Correction in November Newsletter**

Hugh Chaun thanked Dr. Ryan D'Arcy following his presentation at the Presidents' Lunch. With apologies to the two Hughs, Chaun and Robinson

**Probus Insights From The President**



As we approach the holiday season, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the year we've shared together. 2024 has been a year of growth, camaraderie, and enriching experiences for all of us in the club. From our stimulating guest speakers to our varied activities, such as last month's successful Visit to Seaforth Armoury & Museum and the Curated Tour of the (reopened) Museum of Anthropology at UBC and engaging Social Groups, it's clear the spirit of friendship and learning is alive and well. I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your participation, enthusiasm, and contributions to our club. A special thank you goes out to our hardworking Directors and committees whose dedication behind the scenes makes everything possible. The holidays offer us an opportunity to slow down, reconnect with loved ones, and enjoy the simple pleasures in life. I hope you all take this time to recharge and come back in the New Year ready for more great moments with your PROBUS colleagues.



On behalf of the Board, I wish you a joyful holiday season filled with peace, warmth, and laughter. We look forward to seeing you in 2025 as we continue to grow, learn, and support one another. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! But I still expect to see many of you at our meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Yours in the fellowship of PROBUS,

*Richard*

Our members may be interested in the Fall, 2024 edition of PROBUS Canada Connections, the quarterly PROBUS Canada newsletter. If so, [click here](#).

**Rotarians' Investment Club**

Our October Meeting was attended by 12 members plus two ladies who have expressed interest in joining our Club, and our guest speaker, Doug Smith of Graphite One. This company has major mining interests for synthetic and natural graphite in Alaska. Later, the Club declined to purchase shares in the company since future gains appear to be beyond our Club's expectations. The changeover to Raymond James is now completed, so one new member was approved, and trading can resume. ArcelorMittal had been considered in September, and after discussion, a purchase was approved at this meeting. A presentation of Fluence Energy was made by a Member, and a purchase was voted on and approved by those present. The Portfolio Review resulted in the decision to sell our holding in one successful stock, and sell half our holding in another very successful stock, both at "market". Probud Members who may be interested in joining our Investment Club (now in its 26th year) should contact John Sullivan at 604-263-4486 ([johnws@telus.net](mailto:johnws@telus.net)) Our next meeting will be on Thursday November 28th at RYVC at 6.00 pm for the no-host bar and starting at 6.30 pm.



**PROBUS FRED COTTON BOOK CLUB**

The next meeting of the Book Club will be at 9:30 am on **Wednesday, January 8**, in



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

The books to be discussed when we meet again are:

**\*\*\*NOTE THE DATE—A WEEK LATER THAN USUAL\*\*\***

Dec 4: Elon Musk by Walter Isaacson

Jan 8: Fire Weather: The Making of a Beast by John Vaillant

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 New Members**



**Don Yule**  
Insurance lawyer



**Carl Jones**  
UBC Ophthalmologist



**Frank Barazzuol**  
Teacher

## **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**

Our November meeting was sadly a non-event! After two phone messages to the café, which weren't returned, a small number of us arrived to find the café closed, despite its website claiming it'd be open. The owner came out and apologised profusely and informed us that unfortunately he had just been told that his lease wasn't being renewed and he planned to vacate as soon as possible. Maybe we'll find him at his new venue—he's going to let us know where it is.

Our December 18th meeting will be at The White Spot on West Broadway.

### **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—Richard Earthy**

The Probus Pub group continues to go strong: we meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 4 pm. The location is chosen by consensus, looking for variety, ambience, a good selection of beers, and easy accessibility and parking. Usually there is about 6 or 7 of us, when we can fit it into our busy lives. On November 14 the group met at Portland Craft on Main Street which offered an extensive selection of craft beers from a variety of local breweries. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Dec 12th at 4:00 pm at Darby's Pub at 2001 Macdonald Street in Kits. This is a final chance visit this over 40 year old pub which will close shortly for redevelopment. It offers 40 different beer taps.

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

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

#### **NOVEMBER 6th MEETING**

The last meeting proposed that we discuss Canada's military at our next meeting on November 6th. I suggest we broaden our discussion to poke at the wars today!

The question for the world is: Do we want to go back to the age of imperialism? If not, Russia must be stopped in Ukraine and international law restored to working order.

<https://youtu.be/JB9yJmjCa1A>

## PROBUS Club of Vancouver—Social Groups

### Tennis—Bill Hooker

Chris Finch and Bill Hooker are pleased to be able to report the results of the Fourth Annual Probus Tennis Tournament which was held at the UBC Tennis Centre's "Bubble" on Thursday, October 24th. Altogether 17 players participated in a three-round format with winners competing with winners and losers with losers after the initial round. Fourteen of the players were Probus members along with three non-members. There could have been all Probus members except for some unavailability constraints that kept several interested men out this time.

These were the top team results: David Matheson & Roland Sartorius - Gold. Bryan Atkins & Alan Whitcelo - Silver. John Dawson & Al Hurwitz and Richard Earthy & Ken Tolmie tied for Bronze. The other teams were Catherine Mead & Rick Brenner; Brenda Peterson & Walter Schneider/Bill Hooker; Graeme Foster & Tony Sheppard; Chris Finch & John Madden. Chris Finch was in charge of prizes for the first three teams and everyone seemed to feel rewarded by the opportunity to engage in such a congenial three hours of spirited play.

The staff at UBC seems to like us and presented us with four cans of tennis balls and three UBC Tennis t-shirts. We are looking forward to another spring tournament. Members who would like to participate are encouraged to contact Bill Hooker.

### Wine Tasting—John Kay

Convenor, John Kay, is currently working on a suitable venue to host the first of these events.

**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.**

### Pensions & Financial Planning, Lunch Group, Theatre Nights

#### **BENEFITS OF A GOOD VOCABULARY!**

I recently called an old Engineering buddy of mine and asked what he was working on these days. He replied that he was working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum and steel under a constrained environment."

I was impressed until, upon further inquiry, I learned that he was washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision.

(With thanks to George Adams)

#### **TV Tray for Seniors**

Don't laugh. Patent pending

You're just upset that you didn't think of this great invention.

And you know that you are going to forward this on...



A couple at an airport in the States are waiting to board a plane to Europe. They look over to see a line of Canadians, all dressed in parkas, waiting to board a plane back to Canada.

The wife says 'I wonder where they are going' and the husband says 'well I guess I'll go ask them'.

So he strolls over and asks the last person in line 'where are you flying to?' And the fella replies 'Saskatoon Saskatchewan'. The husband walks back to his wife and she asks 'so where are they flying?' And the husband replies 'I don't know they don't speak English'.