



# 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

February, 2016

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 9th at 9:30 am**  
**Location: H.R. MacMillan Planetarium and Space Centre, Lower Level**  
**Speaker: Indira Samarasekera, Retired President, U. of Alberta**  
**Topic: "Ripples and Waves: National Competitiveness and Universities".**

### OUR MARCH SPEAKER

**March 8: Rudy Buttignol**  
**President & CEO, Knowledge Network**  
**Topic: Growth and Development of Knowledge Network**

### Indira V. Samarasekera



Dr. Indira V. Samarasekera, Ph.D., F.R.S.C., F.C.A.E., D.Sc., O.C., served as the 12th President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Alberta, from 2005-2015, one of Canada's most respected research-intensive universities. Dr. Samarasekera is internationally recognized as one of Canada's leading metallurgical engineers for her groundbreaking work on process engineering of materials, especially steel processing. She has consulted widely for industry worldwide leading to the implementation of her research discoveries. Dr. Samarasekera has also devoted her career to advancing innovation in higher education and the private sector, providing national and international leadership through invited lectures and participation on national and international boards and councils. She was awarded the Order of Canada in 2002 for outstanding contributions to steel process engineering. In 2014 she was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in the US as a foreign associate, the profession's highest honour. As a Hays Fulbright Scholar, she earned an MSc from the University of California in 1976. In 1980, she was granted a PhD in metallurgical engineering from the University of British Columbia. She was Vice-President Research and held the Dofasco Chair in Advanced Steel Processing at the University of British Columbia prior to becoming President of the University of Alberta. She is currently a Senior Advisor to Bennett Jones, LLP, and a Distinguished Fellow in Residence at the Liu Institute for Global Issues at UBC.

### FUN FACTS ABOUT PROBUS

There is a village in Cornwall, England, called **Probus!** It is famous for having the tallest church tower in Cornwall. The place name originates from the church's dedication to **Saint Probus**, one of three martyrs of the Diocletian persecution (about 304 AD). And yes, it does have a **PROBUS Club**, naturally called **The PROBUS Club of Probus!**

**Editor's note: This information was sent to me by Ross Davidson, editor of The Cargill Combined PROBUS Club in New Zealand.**

### ROTARIANS' INVESTMENT CLUB

The January meeting will be on Thursday 28th, at our **new time of 5.30 pm for a no-host bar and the meeting to start at 6.00 pm sharp!** The guest speaker will be Mark Trevitt of the Business Development Bank of Canada, and his topic is:

**"Investing in the 'Age of Disruption'**  
*What an Accelerating Rate of Technological Change Means for Investors."*

We will also have some new stock proposals on the table and the watchdogs review of the Club's portfolio. Guests are welcome to attend and enjoy a 3 course dinner with wine and a convivial conversations and ideas for an all inclusive cost of \$60.00 (cheques preferred) If you would like to attend, please contact President Phil Webber at 604-263-9247 ([philwebber@shaw.ca](mailto:philwebber@shaw.ca)) or John Sullivan at 604-263-4486 about membership.

## Report of the January 12th Meeting

*Attendance: 188 Members and Guests*

President Jack Zaleski opened the meeting with a sobering reminder of what life was like 100 years ago. Life expectancy for men was 47 years - there would not have been many of us at a Probus meeting that year! John Gunn acted as Secretary of the meeting. Two new members were inducted into Probus by David Muller (see "New Members" for details).

Activities Chairman, Ian Patterson, spoke briefly on three upcoming events - on February 26<sup>th</sup>, a tour at UBC of the sustainable test facility and then on March 14<sup>th</sup> is the special \$33.00 VSO event. Those who have registered could pick up their tickets at the table after the meeting. This concert will include the famous Beethoven Emperor Concerto for Piano (#5) with Alexander Melnikoff. On Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup>, a visit to the Vancouver Aquarium including a presentation by John Nightingale - the head of the Aquarium, plus a behind the scene tour is being proposed. The cost will be \$50.00. (Bear in mind that it costs \$29 just to enter the Aquarium as a tourist.) A show of hands indicated that there was probably enough interest for this event to go ahead.

Raymond Greenwood, our Member Services Chair, thanked the excellent service performed by the greeters and cashiers at our meeting. Raymond also encouraged members to join in the upcoming Sun Run. Bill Cheb then introduced our guest speaker, Ms. Kim Baird, who was Chief of the Tsawwassen Band for thirteen years. In her presentation, she pointed out that a new chief was elected after her 13 years, and the controversy was widely reported in the Vancouver media. It was interesting that, to some extent, this was the first time such things garnered much media coverage. Since that time, the Tsawwassen Band has been much in the news.

As background to her remarks she pointed out that she was involved in the first Band to arrive at an agreement with BC through the treaty process with strong focus on Self Government by the Bands. Among other very notable aspects of the Band is the current construction of a huge mall, value about \$800 million, covering an area of over 1.2 million square feet, in partnership with the Cambridge group and development of other areas for industrial use. Their proximity to the huge shipping facilities is important, as well as the ferry terminal. In addition to all this activity,

there are also some residential components - in short, the Band appears to be making much out of their land area. All this development, which is bound to be good for the community and the Band members, could not have been undertaken without the treaty process being completed. To some extent British Columbia is in the forefront of new ideas for conciliation and new arrangements. There is really no end in sight for changes within First Nations and their relationship with the Crown. At the same time there is so much work to make various Bands sustainable. Among the most important events lately is certainly the Supreme Court pronouncement regarding land claims, brought to court by the Tsilhqot'in Band in BC. Among other things is a new realization, to some extent as a result of the Supreme Court decision, that First Nations now have huge clout regarding mineral rights on their lands. Over 300 agreements have been recently signed by First Nations with various resource developers and the process continues apace. A total value around \$6 billion has been mooted in the press from these agreements. In short, First Nations are open for business, but not at any cost. In pipeline negotiations, for example, there are several competing interests - business vs the environment etc. also community benefits and not forgetting some historic grievances which should have been settled long ago.

Make no mistake, the establishment of this country was based on racial prejudices enforced for well over a century which undermined First Nations aspirations in every way imaginable. Untangling this web of attitudes is nearly impossible. It is a dark history and our recent truth and reconciliation process is only part of what is needed to right this appalling wrong, including residential schools which, we should remember, only ceased to operate in the 90's. The fact that First Nations, Industry, and the Federal Government can actually work in parallel to solve some of these problems is not rocket science; it is just common sense.

Kim Baird was quick to give credit where due - specifically Kinder Morgan and BC Hydro - both of whom she suggests had a much more enlightened viewpoint on matters where there were competing interests in various projects. Site C, for example, has historic problems which have not been resolved and it appears they will be addressed by Hydro.

*(Report of the January 12th Meeting—continued)*

The appalling levels of poverty which still exist in some aboriginal locales can be traced clearly to the "Indian Act" and Ms. Baird makes it clear that this act, which has been in force for over 100 years, should be abolished. Because of the Indian Act and other regulations, industry often finds itself in a sort of limbo when dealing with Bands. The rules appear not to be clear. Interestingly, our December speaker, Duncan Davies of Interfor mentioned this as a major problem for forest companies wanting to carry out logging on lands within the First Nations jurisdiction. It is obviously encouraging to see a First Nations person appointed as Federal Minister of Justice and certainly there are many issues to address in that realm, including murdered and missing women, land claims, treaty processes. What has been accomplished in Tsawwassen can be a template for further improvements in other jurisdictions. Ms. Baird provided so many details that it is hard to summarize. One could simply say that, given the dreadful treatment the aboriginal populace as a whole has suffered over centuries and the enormous complications resulting from the Indian Act, from the interaction of multiple levels of government involvement and the awesome bureaucracy which bestrides the process being attempted, those of us not of the aboriginal community must watch in awe that so much is now nevertheless being accomplished in some areas. It is daunting to speculate how much more is still to be done in order to set right the appalling results of our treatment of that community.

*For a version of the above which includes questions and answers, please go to our PROBUS website at [www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com), and click on "Speakers" then on "Kim Baird"*

**IN MEMORIAM**

*It is with regret that we announce the passing of  
Dave Campbell on December 28, 2015,  
Denis Creighton also on December 28, 2015  
and Grant Hammond on January 11, 2016*

*Our condolences to their families and friends  
The PROBUS Club of Vancouver will make  
donations in their names to the following:*

*The United Way of the Lower Mainland,  
The Paul Sugar Palliative Support Foundation  
and The Renal Care Division of The St. Paul's  
Hospital Foundation respectively*

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



A hearty welcome to our newest members, Bill Randall and Walter Maughan. You will recognize them with the red sticker on their badges. Please make them feel welcome.

On January 12th, Kim Baird gave us an informative and thought provoking insight into the current difficulties facing both our Nation and Province in our efforts to close the socio-economic gaps that separate Aboriginal people from other British Columbians. The task is daunting. Today, there are approximately 200,000 Aboriginal people in British Columbia including First Nations, Inuit and Métis. There are 198 distinct First Nations in the province, each with their own unique traditions and history. More than 30 different First Nation languages and close to 60 dialects are spoken in the province. BC is currently negotiating some 140 treaties with these First Nations peoples. Progress is being made but it is a slow process. The Tsawwassen First Nations Treaty is a prime example of what can be done but it took 12 years. In February we look forward to Dr. Indira V. Samarasekera speaking on the Future of Higher Education. Once again, Happy New Year to you all. May 2016 bring love, joy and laughter to your lives.

**Thanks to our December  
Member Services Team**

**Cashiers—Richard Barker & Ian Reid  
Greeters— John Boone & Iain Harris**

**We would also like to acknowledge Peter Jones, who,  
I'm told, cycles from his home on 2nd Avenue, up  
the hill to 10th Avenue, then to our meeting, with  
the donuts!**

**Now that's what I call "biking the extra mile" for us!**

**Welcome New Members**

**Bill Randall—Lawyer  
Walter Maughan—Independent Investor**



**GUIDED TOUR OF UBC'S  
CENTER FOR INTERACTIVE RESEARCH  
ON SUSTAINABILITY (CIRS).  
AND BIOENERGY RESEARCH AND  
DEMONSTRATION FACILITY  
(NEXTERRA)**



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016**

**OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY**

**The Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) was developed in response to the challenge of creating a more sustainable built environment. Its intention is to be an internationally recognized research institution that accelerates the adoption of sustainable building technologies and sustainable urban development practices in society. Research within the Centre engages issues related to, and which shape, sustainable buildings and urban development patterns. Such research requires understanding complex cross-scale and cross-discipline issues and developing new concepts and tools that are integrative, synthetic and which actively create positive synergies between systems.**

**Nexterra is a leading provider of plant-scale, energy from renewable-waste systems that generate energy and fuels for a range of customers, including district energy providers, industrial process plant operators and independent power producers. Nexterra systems integrate seamlessly with customer operations, providing both environmental and operational advantages, including high reliability and class-leading emissions performance. The UBC consortium lead by Nexterra was developed initially as a pilot to provide a hot water system for heating UBC buildings.**

- 9:30 am** Meet at CIRS Atrium (at the main entrance). Coffee and Muffins.
- 10:00 am** Introductory talk.
- 10:20 am** Tour of buildings
- Availability:** 40 guests. Two groups of 20, switching places half way through the morning.
- Cost:** \$20.00 per person
- Parking:** Car pooling recommended. Best parking lot is in the West Parkade at 2140 Lower Mall. The Parkade is accessed via University Blvd off NW Marine Drive. CIRS building is located 100 m SE of the Parkade on West Mall – Building has horizontal orange stripes!
- Registration:** At the February 9th PROBUS meetings or by mail to:  
**Gary Derkson, 4407 Haggart St., Vancouver, BC, V6L 2H4**  
Email: gderkson@gmail.com. Telephone: 604-734-7516

**Registration Form**

- 1. Make checks payable to the PROBUS Club of Vancouver.**
- 2. Remember - you will not be registered until payment is received.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_

**To check that you are registered, go to the Activities section of the website.**

**The PROBUS Club of Vancouver is delighted to provide this opportunity to attend one of the VSO's concerts for an extremely attractive price.**

This has been arranged through  
Estelle Jacobson, a member of the PROBUS Ladies Club and whose husband is  
member of our club



**ALEXANDER MELNIKOV CONCERT**  
One of Russia's most highly-decorated pianists

14 MARCH 2016 - 8 P.M ORPHEUM THEATRE

Distinguished conductor **Christopher Seaman** PROGRAM  
**Walton's** intense and powerful *Symphony No. 1*

**Beethoven's** Piano Concert No. 5 in E flat major, "*Emperor*" *Piano Concerto*

Pre-concert talk Nicolas Krusek, Conductor, at 7:05pm in the Auditorium Free to ticket Holders

**The VSO have offered us tickets at the generous price of \$33 (normally \$70). Because of the substantial discount, tickets will have to be purchased and paid for by the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. No Refunds. This offer is open to members and friends.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_

CHEQUE (# of tickets X \$33) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made out to Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Mail form and cheque to:

Estelle Jacobson

1192 Nanton Avenue

Vancouver, BC V6H 2C5

Tickets will be distributed to those who have purchased them at the PROBUS meetings on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. Michael Jacobson will be at the table in the lower lobby at the meeting on February the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**PLEASE NOTE: The final purchase date is February 9th**