



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

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

Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities

February, 2025

President
Richard Earthy
604-603-3343
rdearthy@telus.net

Past President
Peter Scott
604-263-1746
peter26@telus.net

1ST Vice President
John Kay
604-261-3760
jkay33@shaw.ca

2ND Vice President
Jim Matkin
604-263-4723
james.matkin@gmail.com

Secretary
Tony Zoobkoff
604-980-9076
tony.zoobkoff@outlook.com

Treasurer
Greg Lonsbrough
604-261-5083
quillow@telus.net

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

Membership Committee
Jack Zaleski
604-328-4288
jack.zaleski@gmail.com

Activities Committee
Al Hurwitz
778-895-6455
alhurwitz@gmail.com

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

Member Services & House
Committee
Raymond Greenwood
604-351-3450
greenwd@telus.net

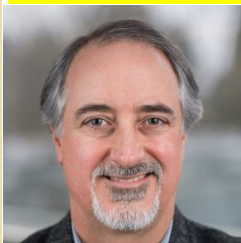
Newsletter Editor &
Publisher
Peter Scott
604-263-1746
peter26@telus.net

Historian/Archivist
Hugh Lindsay
604-732-0366

Counsel
Carl Jonsson
Bill Randall
Tim Sehmer

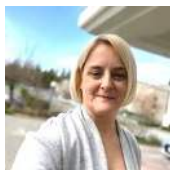
Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 11 at The HR MacMillan Space Centre
Speaker: Max Cameron: Professor, Department of Political Science & School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at UBC. Vice President, Latin American Studies Association (LASA) University of British Columbia
Topic: "The Rising Political Power of Oligarchy in the Americas."
9:00: Coffee and Timbits
9:45: Meeting commences followed by our speaker's presentation.

MAX CAMERON



Maxwell A. Cameron (Ph.D., California, Berkeley, 1989) specializes in comparative politics (Latin America), constitutionalism, democracy, and political economy. He is the author or editor of a dozen academic books as well as over fifty peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. His books include: Democracy and Authoritarianism in Peru, The Peruvian Labyrinth, The Political Economy of North American Free Trade, To Walk Without Fear: The Global Movement to Ban Landmines, Latin America's Left Turns: Politics, Policies and Trajectories of Change, Democracia en la Region Andina, New Institutions for Participatory Democracy in Latin America, The Making of NAFTA, Strong Constitutions, and most recently, Political Institutions and Practical Wisdom. Cameron has held visiting positions in the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at Notre Dame University (1996) and at Yale University, where he was the Canadian Bicentennial Professor in 2005. In 2006 he served as political advisor to the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Peru. He founded the "Andean Democracy Research Network" to monitor and report on the state of democracy in the Andean region which received funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Martha Piper Fund, SSHRC, IDRC and the Ford Foundation. He is currently part of a research excellence cluster on the "global challenges to democracy." Since 2011 he has served as the Director of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions in which capacity he has worked with a team to organize the Summer Institute for Future Legislators every year since 2013. In 2011-12 he was a Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence, and in 2013 he was awarded a UBC Killam Teaching Prize. Cameron is a frequent commentator on politics in the media. He enjoys biking, skiing, scuba diving, and playing guitar. He is currently blogging about practical wisdom.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER—TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025



Margarett Lange, Outreach & Events Manager, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Topic: The Crime Stoppers Program

Report of the January 14th Meeting

Attendance: 140 Members and Guests

President Richard Earthy started the formal meeting at 9:45, welcoming guests and members. He then thanked the greeters, Glenn Faris and Joe Krapiec. Chris Finch and Al Hurwitz talked about the two activities happening in February (see pages 6 & 7 for details and registration.) Jack Zaleski came up to the stage to introduce 4 new members (see Welcome New Members on page 3). Richard then called on Dean Winram to introduce our speaker, Roddy MacKenzie.

As we approach the centenary of the Royal Canadian Air Force, Roddy Mackenzie delivered an insightful and deeply personal presentation to the Probus Club, highlighting the remarkable yet often-overlooked contributions of Bomber Command during World War II. Through extensive research and a personal connection—his father, Roland Waldo Mackenzie, who flew 34 combat sorties as a Bomber Command pilot in 1944—Mackenzie shed light on the immense sacrifices and strategic significance of this multinational force.

Mackenzie traced the origins of Bomber Command's significance back to the close wartime partnership between Winston Churchill and William Lyon Mackenzie King. These two leaders, both born in 1874 just 18 days apart, had a contentious first meeting in Canada in 1900. However, by the time they met again in London decades later, their relationship had evolved into one of the great political alliances of the 20th century. Central to their shared vision was the belief that "to win the war, you had to control the air".

This conviction led to the creation of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in 1939. Canada contributed \$1.6 billion to this effort. The program ultimately trained 131,553 aircrew, producing some of the finest pilots in the world. The scale of this operation was immense; the asphalt used to construct the 200 training school runways could have paved a two-lane highway stretching from Ottawa to Vancouver.

From its inception, Bomber Command was a multinational force, consisting of airmen from across the Commonwealth, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Britain. Additionally, squadrons from occupied nations such as France, Czechoslovakia, and Poland fought under its banner. In total, airmen from 62 nations served in Bomber Command. Notably, Canada played a unique role, with the Canadian Bomber Group being the only independent bomber group within the force.

Bomber Command's mission encompassed four distinct "wars": the air war against the Luftwaffe, the war at sea to target enemy supply lines, the war in direct support of Allied ground forces, and the strategic bombing campaign against Germany's industrial economy. Mackenzie detailed how Bomber Command executed each of these roles, demonstrating its importance to the broader war effort.

Despite its effectiveness, Bomber Command paid a staggering price in human lives. Mackenzie revealed that one in four British, Canadian, and Australian personnel who died in WWII were killed while serving in Bomber Command. The psychological burden on those who returned was equally immense, as they had witnessed

firsthand the destruction and loss wrought by the bombing campaigns.

Despite its immense contributions, Bomber Command's legacy remains controversial. Mackenzie lamented that its achievements have been largely defamed or "airbrushed out of existence" due to the contentious nature of strategic bombing. He pointed specifically to the raid on Dresden in 1945, which has been the subject of persistent propaganda and misinformation. While critics argue that the bombing of Dresden was an unnecessary act of destruction, Mackenzie countered that it was a legitimate military target and part of a broader strategy to cripple Germany's ability to wage war.

One of the reasons Bomber Command's achievements have been downplayed is that the Allies themselves never fully understood its impact. Intelligence inside Germany was poor, making it difficult to assess the full extent of the bombing campaign's effectiveness. However, the Germans knew exactly what Bomber Command had accomplished. According to Mackenzie, German military leaders, including Erwin Rommel, Adolf Galland, and Albert Speer, acknowledged the devastating toll that the strategic bombing campaign had taken on Germany's war effort. Speer, who served as the Reich Minister of Armaments and War Production, famously stated that Germany's failure to defeat Bomber Command was its "greatest lost battle of the whole war."

Beyond German perspectives, Allied leaders also recognized the decisive role of Bomber Command. General Dwight D. Eisenhower praised it as "one of the most effective parts of our entire organization," while Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery stated that he doubted "whether any single man did more in winning the war than Sir Arthur Harris," the commander of Bomber Command.

Another misconception that Mackenzie sought to dispel was the notion that Bomber Command simply engaged in indiscriminate bombing. He provided examples of remarkable precision, such as a targeted raid on Hitler's Bavarian headquarters that left the surrounding town unscathed. By contrast, he noted an instance where a formation of American B-24 Liberator bombers mistakenly bombed Zurich, Switzerland—an error that led to a court of inquiry, though the pilots were ultimately found not guilty. These examples highlight the complexity of aerial warfare and the high level of skill required by Bomber Command's aircrews.

In closing, Mackenzie emphasized the need for a more balanced and historically accurate recognition of Bomber Command's legacy. While its missions came at an immense human cost, their efforts were instrumental in bringing an end to the war. The sacrifices made by Bomber Command were not in vain; they played a critical role in crippling Germany's war machine and paving the way for victory.

President Richard thanked our speaker.

Recommended Reading: Bomber Command: Churchill's Greatest Triumph by Roddy Mackenzie

Rotarians' Investment Club

With the completely different politics south of the border, which we witnessed recently, it should be easy to pick lots of winners, if we stick to the US stock market!
Our Thursday, January 30th 2025 meeting was at the RVYC, with a presentation from the BC Securities Commission entitled " Investment Scams & Crypto Currency" but since it was after the Probus notice deadline no information is available. Several prospective new members were also in attendance. We meet on the last Thursday of every month at the RVYC at 6.00 pm and guests are welcome (especially ladies !) but must register with our President, Richard Higgins at 604-733-9861, at least two days prior to the meeting because of the dinner numbers required by RVYC. The cost is \$100.00 which includes a couple of glasses of wine with the excellent 3 course dinner, taxes & gratuities.
Information about our 26 year old Club is available from John Sullivan (604-263-4486 - johnws@telus.net)

Probus Insights From The President



As February unfolds, we find ourselves amidst the quiet beauty of winter, a time for reflection, growth, and connection. This month, let us celebrate the warmth of camaraderie that defines our Probus community.

In January, we kicked off the year with enthusiasm and determination, and it is inspiring to see how our members are actively contributing to making our club even more vibrant. Whether through attending social groups – Conversation Cafe, Pub Night, Breakfast Group, Investment Club, Book Club, Bridge Club - sharing expertise, or volunteering as a Greeter or Parking Lot Attendant (Thank you Mel), your participation is the heart of Probus.

Each year, the Club's Historian/Archivist, currently Hugh Lindsay, updates the Club's history since its inception in 1996. Thank you, Hugh for doing that. To read the entire history of our club, [click here](#). We had record post-Covid attendance at our January Meeting to have Roddy MacKenzie inform us about **Bomber Command: Churchill's Greatest Triumph**. Looking ahead, February brings a variety of activities and opportunities to connect. I encourage each of you to explore our upcoming activities and events and extend a warm welcome to new members joining us. It's through these interactions we continue to strengthen our bonds and live up to the Probus spirit of fellowship and lifelong learning.

This month we will have a visit to the Neuro Peak Physiotherapy & Performance Centre run by Dr. Ryan D'Arcy (SOLD OUT) and the first gathering of the Probus Vancouver Oenophiles* at The Arbutus Club. Further details in this newsletter.

A quick reminder to mark your calendars for our February meeting—it's shaping up to be an engaging session with a great speaker lined up. Max Cameron, UBC Professor, will speak on "**The Rising Power of Oligarchy in the Americas**".

Let's strive to make the most of every gathering and support one another as we embrace the year ahead together.

Thank you for your unwavering energy, kindness, and commitment. May this month bring you warmth, new perspectives, and joyful moments.

Yours in the fellowship of PROBUS,

Richard



PROBUS FRED COTTON BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will meet at 9:30 am on Wednesdays, February 5 and March 5, in The Amenity Room at Elm Park Place, 5700 Larch Street, (at West 41st Avenue)

The books to be discussed when we meet are:

Feb 5: *Around the World on a Motorcycle 1928 to 1936* by Zoltan Sulkowsky

Mar 5: *Our Biggest Fight: Reclaiming Liberty, Humanity and Dignity in the Digital Age* by Frank H. McCourt Jr.

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 kjoyqc@shaw.ca or 604-266-4563

Welcome New Members



Peter Reid
Medical Product Sales



Clare Stevens
Commercial Real Estate



David Spicer
Mechanical Engineer



Bruce Morrison
Emergency Room Doctor

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

Eight of us met at 9 am on Wednesday, January 15 at Helen's Grill, 4102 Main Street at East King Edward Avenue where we enjoyed some excellent food and the typically lively conversation. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, February 19 at 9 am at Paul's Omlettery at 2211 Granville St. Anyone interested in joining us can contact Peter at peter26@telus.net.

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

Pub Nights—Richard Earthy

Probus Pub Night Jan 9th 2025

There was an exceptional turnout of the Probus Pub Thirst- Quenchers as they met at the *Elwoods Pub on West Broadway*. For some of us it was a spiritual awakening as we revisited the legacy of the old days of British Pub Crawling!

The mood was jocular and welcoming, which increased in intensity, with the supply and good selection of very cheap beer!

And then a new focus was brought to the gathering when a question was asked of them One by one.....

" *What one word would you use to describe Donald Trump?*"

The response from each member varied from thought provoking to the unprintable.

The exercise was then repeated with the request for a single word to describe Justin Trudeau and who will replace him as Liberal Party leader.

The responses could have filled a note book but as some of the members started to slide under the table the evening eventually closed with positive gestures and good humour along with the desire to continue the pub-crawling experience again next month.

So stay tuned

Cheers

Peter Phillips—Chief A-Pint-Tee

Please contact Richard Earthy at rdearthy@telus.net, or Glenn Faris at glenndfaris@gmail.com if interested.

PROBUS Club of Vancouver—Social Groups

Policy Conversations Cafe—Jim Matkin

NOVEMBER 6th MEETING

We opened our discussion on the never ending struggle between free traders and protectionists in the context of US Canada relations. Winston Churchill famously said: *"It is the theory of the Protectionist that imports are an evil. He thinks that if you shut out the foreign imported manufactured goods you will make these goods yourselves, in addition to the goods which you make now, including those goods which we make to exchange for the foreign goods that come in. If a man can believe that he can believe anything. [Laughter.] We Free-traders say it is not true. To think you can make a man richer by putting on a tax is like a man thinking that he can stand in a bucket and lift himself up by the handle."* [Laughter and cheers.] Feb 14, 1904

<https://winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1901-1914-rising-star/the-free-trade-league>

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.

Wine Tasting—John Kay

After considerable effort, John has been able to make the arrangements for a **wine tasting event**. It will be held at The Arbutus Club on Tuesday, February 25 from 12:30 to 3 pm. There will be a Power-Point presentation on wines followed by a tasting. Cost will be approximately \$50 per person. Spouses are invited. See page 7 for registration and all details.

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

For those who didn't see it, this has to be one of the best of the famous Penthouse marquees. Elon Musk didn't think it was at all amusing and banned the club from X!



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025

9:50 AM TO 1:30 PM



**AN INTERACTIVE TOUR OF THE NEURO PEAK
PHYSIOTHERAPY AND PERFORMANCE CENTRE
LOCATED AT CITY CENTRE 3, UNIT 1009,
FLOOR,
13761 96 AVE, SURREY.**

**TRE
10th**

This unique tour is the result of an invitation from Dr. Ryan D'Arcy, who spoke to us at the Presidents' Lunch in October, on the remarkable progress being made on understanding, managing and under-treating brain dysfunction and trauma.

invitation from Dr. Ryan D'Arcy, who spoke to us at the Presidents' Lunch in October, on the remarkable progress being made on understanding, managing and under-treating brain dysfunction and trauma.

SOLD OUT

AGENDA

Meet at
City Centre
vide

Mind Expansion Boardroom on 10th floor of Centre-3 (parking nearby) to sign waivers and divide into groups of 6. There will be 4 stations of 30 minutes each and we will rotate through them.

Station 1: Focus on brain health and preventative strategies through nutrition and supplements

Station 2: Focus on general wellness and stress management technologies.

Station 3: Cognitive and Physical assessments through various hands-on tech-

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT

COST: \$15.00 per person. We will be making a donation.

To register with EventBrite, [click here](#).

Cancellation deadline—Tuesday, February 4

Please direct any questions to: Chris Finch at cafb@shaw.ca

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025



**THE FIRST GATHERING OF THE PROBUS
VANCOUVER OENOPHILES WILL MEET AT THE
ARBUTUS CLUB FROM 12:30 TO 3:00 PM
NOTE-THIS EVENT IS LIMITED TO 30 PARTICIPANTS.
SPOUSES ARE WELCOME**

Come join us for a delightful afternoon of **wine tasting** at **The Arbutus Club!** Get ready to sip and savor a selection of **fine, decent value wines** while mingling with fellow wine enthusiasts. Whether you're a seasoned sommelier or just enjoy a good glass of wine, this event is perfect for anyone looking to expand their palate and have a great time. Don't miss out on this opportunity to indulge in some fine wines in a relaxed and social setting. Cheers!

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT

COST: \$50.00 per person

To register for yourself and any guests (including spouses) [click here](#)

Cancellation deadline—Tuesday, February 18

Please direct any questions to: John Kay at jkay33@shaw.ca