



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

July, 2016

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 12th at 9:30 am
Location: H.R. MacMillan Planetarium & Space Centre, Lower Level
Speaker: Indira Samarasekera, Retired President of the University of Alberta.
Topic: "Reading the Ripples, Detecting the Future Wave in Higher Education"



DR. INDIRA 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. Dr. Samarasekera is internationally recognized as one of Canada's leading metallurgical engineers. 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 professions 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. While there, building strong international partnerships was a signature feature of her leadership. Several institutional level agreements, notably with the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, the Li Ka Shing Foundation, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Bombay, Delhi and Roorkee, illustrate the University of Alberta's commitment to being a global institution working with the international community to find solutions to shared challenges. Under her administration, a renewed vision *Dare to Discover*, was established and close to \$1.5 billion in capital construction was completed. The University's endowment doubled to \$1.2 billion during her term and the University of Alberta raised over \$1 billion in philanthropic contributions. Dr. Samarasekera has received honorary degrees from the Universities of British Columbia, Toronto, Waterloo, Montreal, and Western in Canada, and Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland. She received the Peter Loughheed Leadership Award from the Public Policy Forum in Canada in 2012, and named one of 5 runners up for the Nation Builder of the Year by the Globe and Mail in 2010.

OUR FUTURE SPEAKERS

August 9: Brian Reid, PhD.
See below

September 13: TBA

October 11: Ujjal Dosanjh

THE CIA COMES TO PROBUS VANCOUVER!

On August 9, our speaker will be Brian Latell, PhD. Brian served many years with the CIA, and is the former National Intelligence Officer for Latin America, the highest ranking CIA position for the region. His latest book is *Castro's Secrets: Cuban Intelligence, the CIA and the Assassination of John F. Kennedy (2012)*. With the current thaw in US - Cuban relations this will be a timely and fascinating update.

Thanks to our June Member Services Team

**Greeters—Mark Johnson
& Glen Wilson**
**Cashiers—Tony Zuubkoff
& Elliott Phillips**

Report of the June 14th Meeting

Attendance: 202 Members and Guests

In a break from tradition, our coffee and donuts social was held upstairs in the Museum of Vancouver, where members were offered tours of the new EXPO exhibits which have just opened. Thanks go to Amanda Burrows for arranging this for us. President Jack Zaleski opened our regular meeting and related an amusing story about Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson on a camping trip.

David Muller introduced three new members (see "Welcome New Members" on page 3). Our speaker, Maria Howard, CEO of The Alzheimer Society of BC, (ASBC) was introduced by Orrin Webber.

Maria thanked us for inviting her to start a conversation about dementia, including Alzheimer's, the most prevalent form of dementia. She began her presentation with a story – one of several she told to help illustrate issues around living with dementia and creating dementia-friendly communities. Bill was diagnosed with Alzheimer's shortly after retirement. He continued living as before, including playing cards with friends on Saturday evenings. One evening, on the way home, he did not recognize where he was, began feeling nervous and called his wife from a gas station. They decided he should sleep in his car until morning, hoping sleep would help him remember his way home. This incident made Bill's family begin to worry about what could happen in the future. It was people like Bill's family who united to form the ASBC in 1983. The ASBC supports people with all forms of dementia, their families and care partners to help them live the best quality of life and have the information they need to make the best decisions for their families. It supports research into a cause, biomarkers and other diagnostic tools, and a cure, sponsoring a professorship at UBC. It educates the public to help people better understand dementia and how they can help create dementia friendly communities.

The ASBC partners with the BC Ministry of Health on a Dementia Registry. The registry provides quality data on where the 70,000 British Columbians with dementia live, what their age is, what level of education they have and more. Approximately 10% are under 65 years old with some affected as young as in their 40s. The numbers of those with dementia will grow as baby boomers age and as life expectancies continue to rise.

While there may be some genetic factors involved in dementia, it is not primarily genetic. Nor is it a normal symptom of aging. It is a progressive terminal and unpreventable disease, and there is no known cure. However, a dementia diagnosis is not the end of quality of life. Maria emphasized that every member of the community has a legacy they have built, care about and want to continue, whether it's family, career, volunteering or artistic expression. The ASBC works to start

the conversation with people as early on in their journey as possible, to help them understand what is happening and help them make the best decisions for their families.

The First Link program enables the ASBC to help people across BC work through their diagnosis and next steps. Because people who just learned of their diagnosis do not usually want to talk about it at first, the program keeps trying to connect with patients, their families or care partners until they are ready for some form of support. It helps support difficult conversations, including questions about driving, living at home, being independent, eventual transition to a care home if required and decisions around estate planning and wills. These are very important issues and better addressed when not in crisis mode. The program also includes a help line for information and support.

The Dementia Registry shows over 60% of those living with dementia are living in community, not in residential care homes or assisted living. The ASBC and the Public Health Agency of Canada promote the idea of dementia-friendly communities, which recognize that quality of life does not end with a dementia diagnosis and that everyone wants to live and participate in a community.

Maria gave a great example of dementia-friendly community. Mary lost track of where she was going as she was going get a prescription filled. Rather than going to the pharmacy, Mary went to the bank. The teller could have done any number of things when Mary presented her prescription, but handled the situation perfectly. She called Mary's doctor to inform him and Mary's family, called the pharmacy across the street to let them know, then walked Mary across the street to the pharmacy, enabling her to safely get her medicine, while the doctor's office could involve Mary's family. She showed compassion and awareness and helped protect Mary from harm and distress.

The ASBC is unique amongst many health care societies with 80% of its funding coming from donations. Only a small portion of its funding comes from the Ministry of Health for the First Link program. The ASBC does this by design: because government funding priorities frequently change, the ASBC prefers to rely fundraising to ensure consistent services to those affected by dementia. Hugh Robinson thanked our speaker.

To find out about leadership volunteer opportunities with the Alzheimer Society of B.C. please contact Patrick Estey, Director, Resource Development, at 604.742.4902 or pestey@alzheimerbc.org.

For a version of the above which includes questions and answers, please go to our PROBUS website at www.probusvancouver.com, click on "Speakers" and then on "Maria Howard"

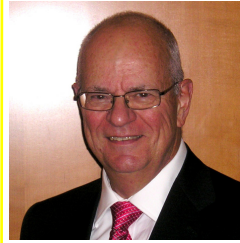
Rotarians' Investment Club

Because of the Canada Day weekend our meeting will be Thursday June 23rd (Brexit Day!) so unfortunately Probus Members will miss the opportunity to attend. The speaker is Jeff Lutner of RBC Dominion Securities whose speech is entitled:

**"Strategic Investment Planning
What Market; What Location; What Currency"**

Members on our "Guest List" have been informed of the earlier date with an Agenda, and if you are interested in attending future meetings with a view to joining us, please e-mail me at johnwsullivan@shaw.ca and I will forward an information package to you. However there will not be a meeting in July, and the August Meeting is a social one with our "significant others" John Sullivan, Membership Chair. 604-263-4486.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I first want to welcome our newest members, John Gadsby, John Ritchie and David Richardson. Please make them feel welcome when you see them at our

future meetings.

On June 14th, we welcomed Maria Howard from the Alzheimer Society of BC who spoke on "Understanding and Living with Dementia". She gave a thought-provoking and enlightening talk on the nature of the disease and the impact on both the patient and his/her family. It made all of us more aware of the need for understanding, patience and willingness to help whenever we can.

The world is a constantly changing place and yesterday's vote in support of Brexit has fueled the fire once again. Let's hope for a quick return to reality and common sense. Britain will survive as will we all.

Our speaker in July will be Dr. Indira Samarassekera speaking on Ripples and Waves: National competitiveness and Universities.

Welcome New Members

**John Gadsby
Mining Engineer &
Linguist**



**John Ritchie
Civil Engineer**



**David Richardson
Human Resources
Management**

IN MEMORIAM

*It is with regret that we announce the passing of
Kenneth Weaver on May 21, 2016 and
Bill Ibbott (a past member) on May 26, 2016
Our condolences to their families and friends
The PROBUS Club of Vancouver will make
donations in their names to the following:*

*The Union Gospel Mission and
The St. Paul's Hospital Foundation
respectively*



**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!!
UJJAL DOSANJH HAS BEEN
CONFIRMED AS THE SPEAKER
AT OUR ANNUAL
PRESIDENTS' LUNCHEON.
THE LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD
ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT
THE ARBUTUS CLUB**



FRASER RIVER PADDLE- WHEELER TOUR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27



We have arranged a Fraser River Tour for 60 passengers (members and guests). The cost is \$60 per person and for that you will get to enjoy a three hour cruise leaving Westminster Quay to head up river past the Port Mann Bridge. A buffet lunch, which includes Caesar salad, baron of beef, roast chicken, potatoes, vegetables, dessert and hot beverages, is included. A live commentary will describe the history of the River and the points of interest, as we cruise along. Our vessel will be a replica paddle wheeler. There will be seating available at tables for you to enjoy your lunch. Some outside seating is also available.

A visit to the Fraser River Discovery building, just steps from the dock and a walk along the quay, will add to your experience, following the cruise.

We recommend car-pooling; parking nearby is available, requiring a very short walk to the dock. Alternatively, you could take the Skytrain and walk 2 blocks to the dock.

- 9:30 am** Coffee and a muffin available—details on location (somewhere in the market) to follow
- 10:00 am** Board Paddle Wheeler
- 10:30 am** Vessel sails
- Cost:** \$60.00 per person
- Parking:** Car pooling recommended. Best parking lot is off Columbia St. at Quayside
- Registration:** July 12th PROBUS meeting—see registration form below

**THERE ARE ONLY A FEW TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE
IF YOU WISH TO SIGN UP, PLEASE EMAIL:
DOUG GRAHAM AT douggraham@telus.net
TO SAY HOW MANY TICKETS YOU WANT.
REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED
UNTIL PAYMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED!**