



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, 2019

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

Past President
Hugh Lindsay
604-732-0366
hughl@telus.net

Vice President
Hugh Chaun
604-261-8437
hchaun@mac.com

Secretary
Tim Sehmer
604-263-7332
timsehmer@gmail.com

Treasurer
Doug Cucheron
604-687-2006
dac2004@telus.net

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

Membership Committee
Peter Hamilton
604-730-9975
pwt.hamilton@gmail.com

Activities Committee
Jack Zaleski
604-261-7492
jack.zaleski@gmail.com

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

Newsletter Editor
and Publisher
Dave Pulfrey
604-263-6780
dlpulfrey@gmail.com

Membership Services &
House
Raymond Greenwood
604-733-6453
greenwd@telus.net

Historian/Archivist
Roy Williams
604-926-4727
roytwitch@shaw.ca

Counsel
Brian Wasson
Carl Jonsson
Bill Randall

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 9th at 9:30 am
Location: H.R. MacMillan Space Centre
Speaker: Peter Wesik and Andrew Ramlo
Topic: "Busting Generational Generalisms: A Facts-based Understanding of Canada's Shifting Demographics"

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

August 13: Dr. Omar Kassam

Topic: "The Ismaili Religion"

PEETER WESIK & ANDREW RAMLO



Peeter Wesik is the Chair of Wesgroup Properties, a family real estate company with a diverse portfolio of commercial and residential real estate located mainly in Greater Vancouver.

Peeter previously practiced law as a partner at Russell & DuMoulin (now Fasken) He is a current Director of the Royal BC Museum and St. George's School.



As Director of Urban Futures Incorporated, Andrew works with many of Canada's leading investors, retailers, and developers, as well as many of Canada's most rapidly changing municipalities, public agencies, and crown corporations.

With a focus on dimensions of change - be they demographic, economic, or societal -- he shows how the data can be used to manage the challenges and opportunities organizations and individuals will face in the decades to come. Andrew is a member of the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC); he sits on PIBC council and currently serves as the PIBC Membership Committee Chair and Secretary Treasurer. Andrew has organized and taught courses for both UBC and Simon Fraser University (SFU), in addition to providing ongoing workshops and seminars for programs at the British Columbia Institute of Technology and SFU's City Program.

PROBUS VANCOUVER HISTORY **Twenty years ago**

The following appeared in the July, 1999 Newsletter:
(Researched by William Spits.)

AN ELEMENT OF PROBUS TRIVIA

By pure coincidence it was recently discovered that in Cornwall, England, there is a small town called "Probus" (located on the A390 highway, half way between Truro and St. Austel). Further "probing" bared rather two interesting facts:

1. The church in Probus is named St. Probus. Research tells us that this Probus lived in the days of the Roman persecution of Christians.
2. When thrown to the lions, like Daniel, the beasts shunned him and left him unharmed. For punishment the Emperor subsequently ordered him tortured and murdered. As a martyr to his faith he was later raised to Sainthood.

From Roy Williams,
Historian & Archivist

PROBUS VANCOUVER BRIDGE CLUB



Our PROBUS Vancouver Bridge Club has limited openings for new members. The Club plays Rubber Bridge in private homes from mid-September until mid-June. PROBUS members may join as singles or as twosomes with their partners, who do not



need to be Probus members.

Members who are interested should contact:

Carl Jonsson: 604-261-6687 or 604-640-6357 – Krokabo@shaw.ca, for more details.

Report of the June 11th Meeting

Attendance: 165 Members and Guests

President Peter Scott opened the meeting, welcomed the members and guests present, especially our speaker, Vanessa Ascough. He then told a brief history of the life of our oldest member. That person is Dr. Sam Gibson who had celebrated his 98th birthday the previous week. Our members did a very creditable job of singing Happy Birthday, to Sam.

Jack Zaleski introduced three new members—see page 3, and also talked about the main activity currently planned by his committee, Bard on the Beach's production of Taming of the Shrew. Raymond Greenwood thanked his Member Services Team. Geoff Burgess introduced our guestspeaker, Vanessa Ascough.

Archibald Stuart-MacLaren, born 1892 in Oxfordshire, was one of the most distinguished and promising RAF pilots of his generation. His granddaughter, Vanessa Ascough, has chronicled his life and now gives presentations on her grandfather's life and avocation.

In 1922, his love of long-distance flying and adventure led him to start making plans to be the first person to fly around the world. An attempt had been unsuccessfully made by Wilfred Blake earlier that year. MacLaren's crew consisted of himself, Flying Officer William Noble Plenderleith and flight engineer, Sergeant W. H. Andrews, two fellow adventurers. The British Air Ministry did not want to risk another failure after the last attempt, so they were not interested in this mission. The flight was therefore funded entirely by private investors. Vickers designed two identical planes made of wood, canvas, and some metal reinforcements for the mission – the Vickers Vulture amphibian biplane G-ABHO and G-EBGO, the only two that were ever built of this kind. The planes had dual controls with a range of 1,150 miles and a cruising speed of 85-90 mph. The crew had a limit of 10 lbs of personal luggage each, as weight was a huge factor in the flight's ability to succeed. They also brought along a shotgun, a fishing rod, and tinned beef rations. The undercarriage, specifically designed for this flight, could be raised and lowered by hand from the cockpit to allow for landing on both land and sea. Napier line provided the engines, Shammex the fuel, and Burberry the coats. The flight was documented through photographs and the Times newspaper.

They mapped their route from West to East. Starting from Calshot in Southampton Water and then down through Europe and the Mediterranean, through the Middle East, to India, Burma and China, up through Japan and Kamchatka, the Aleutian Islands, to Alaska and then through Canada to the Atlantic crossing, through Portugal, Spain and back through France and finally, London. With a total planned distance of 23,254 miles in an estimated flying time of 293 hours. At the same time that these plans were announced, the Americans, Portuguese, Italians, and French also announced that they would be making attempts to fly around the world.

After months of data collection on things such as landmarks, compass variations, and local time changes, they were ready for takeoff. An exhilarated crowd sent off the Vulture G-ABHO at noon on March 25th, 1924 in what appeared to be perfect conditions. Thirty-five minutes into the flight however, the crew ran into fog and bad weather which caused them to fly completely blind at 50 feet above the water, narrowly missing cliffs. They had to make their first stop of the trip. Unfortunately, this would be a common theme.

Throughout their journey, they had to make several emergency stops, replaced a few engines, and relied on the kindness of locals. On May 21st, they flew towards Bangkok for the tropical leg of the journey. It was the monsoon season at the time in the tropics, sometimes flying through solid sheets of water at 500 feet. This is the stage in the journey in which Major Wilfred Blake had failed, in 1922, on his attempt around the world. On May 24th, the plane took off for the last time, falling like a stone in the water just minutes after takeoff. The crew managed to make it out unscathed but the extreme weather conditions throughout their journey had made the plane unsalvageable. Luckily though, there was still the spare aircraft, G-EBGO. It was in a packing case in Tokyo, 4,000 miles away and it arrived 18 days later with the help of the American Destroyer crew that was also attempting their flight around the world. They were able to continue moving forward on their trip until August 4th when heavy fog and rain caused them to crash in cold and tumultuous waves in the Bering Sea. The crew was safe, but the plane was destroyed and the mission came to a close. MacLaren wrote, "I am not ashamed to say that I wept bitterly. We have failed. But we did our best. We were beaten in the end by fog alone." In the end, they managed to cover 13,100 miles in 195.25 flying hours and 130 days. With open cockpits, a finicky wooden hull, bad weather, sandstorms, heatstroke, weight issues, hunger, exhaustion, deafness, cracked hulls, engine replacements, the crew wouldn't have ever made it as far as they did without their own determination, the help of locals and friendly rivals, or the hospitality of international governments.

On September 28th, the American world flight ended successfully in Seattle. It took them 175 days to cover 27,534 miles. MacLaren went out to Seattle to greet them and show them his respect for their help on his own journey. The crew never sadly never saw each other again. MacLaren retired from the RAF in 1930. He died in Madeira in 1943 at the age of 51. Vanessa continues his love for adventure and exploration, and is currently working on his biography.

To read a longer summary and the Questions & Answers, please go to our PROBUS website at www.probusvancouver.com, click on "Speakers" and then on "Vanessa Ascough"

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I'm starting out this month on a sad note. As I announced at the June meeting, Andre Gerolymatos, who had spoken to us on several occasions, died on May 30. He was scheduled to speak last year and had to cancel due to his health problem. Hugh Chaun sent a beautifully worded note to his family on our behalf—thank you, Hugh. It can be seen on the home page of our website.

On a happier note, I understand that the outing to Stave Falls and the Abbey was most successful and I'm sorry I wasn't able to go as I was in Kelowna. A few of Chris Finch's photos can be seen on page 5.

Our Bard on the Beach outing this year is to Taming of the Shrew, one of Shakespeare's favourite comedies full of disguise and confusion! We currently have a very few tickets available but if you're interested—act fast!

An old tradition is coming back to our PROBUS Club. Over the years since its chartering in 1997, there have been at least 2 trips for members, one to China and, I believe, one to Scandinavia. Now, Raymond Greenwood has arranged a cruise to Alaska for next May. Details are on page 6.

Our speakers on July 6 will be Peeter Wesik and Andrew Ramlo, who will try to help us understand Canada's shifting demographics.

Rotarians' Investment Club Fellowship, Learning, Investing Have you thought of joining the Rotarians' Investment Club?

Come as a guest to our next meeting and then decide whether it is for you. You will enjoy an interesting evening with some of your PROBUS and Rotary friends. The Club meets monthly for fellowship, review of recent activity in our club's US and Canadian stock portfolio, to recommend trades (buy, sell, hold) as well as to consider new opportunities in publicly listed companies. There is usually a presentation at each meeting from invited industry professionals with first-hand knowledge of various topics related to financial investing. During the lively round table segment, RIC members debate new equities of interest to them, present and propose changes for the Club's portfolio. The RIC was formed in 1998 by members of the Vancouver Rotary and PROBUS Clubs with a common interest in financial investing. Meetings are generally attended by 20 - 24 members and guests. You do not have to be a member of Rotary or PROBUS to join, but preference is given to members of these Clubs. Except for July and August, we meet the last Thursday of the month in a comfortable private setting at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, 3811 Point Grey Road, Vancouver. Starting at 6:30 pm sharp, with a no-host bar from 6:00 pm and an excellent three course dinner with wine. PROBUS and Rotary members interested in joining RIC are welcome. Guest fee \$75.00. Annual dues cover monthly meals.

A portfolio buy-in is required.

For information contact: John Sullivan, Chair Membership, Promotion and Hospitality. Email johnws@telus.net Office 604-714-4773

Welcome New Members



John Young
Manufacturer of Plastic Components

Jay Powell
Anthropologist & Linguist



Chris Hunt
Family Medicine



Thanks to our June Member Services Team
Cashier—Paul Beckman & John Hill
Greeters—Hugh Robinson & Ron Riter

PROBUS FRED COTTON BOOK CLUB



The Book Club meets at 9:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday each month (except July and August) at the White Spot, Georgia & Cardero.

Upcoming books we will discuss:

September 4—Alibaba: the House that Jack Ma Built by Duncan Clark

October 2—Twelve Rules of Life by Jordan Peterson

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 or 604-266-4563.



TUESDAY, JULY 23rd



**ATTEND THE 7:30 PM PRODUCTION OF
THE TAMING OF THE SHREW
OPEN TO MEMBERS AND ONE GUEST
\$54 PER PERSON**

The 2007 'spaghetti western' version of *The Taming of the Shrew* – one of Bard's most beloved productions – is the inspiration behind this hilarious Wild-West love story, where two fierce kindred spirits finally meet their match in each other. Petruchio, the sharpest-shooting cowboy in the West meets Kate, the prickliest gal in Padua, and their throw-down contest of wills and wits will leave you laughing out loud as they bicker and battle their way towards a splendid, healing love.

We have reserved 50 "A" seats at a discounted price of \$54 each, including tax. We have also reserved space in the picnic area prior to the performance and hope to have a celebrity speaker address us. Picnic meals can be ordered from the Bard's website. There is a 5% discount offered for groups of 10 or more

The play starts at 7:30 pm.

Registration Form

REGISTER ONLINE WITH PAYPAL (PREFERRED)—OR

Make cheques for \$54.00 per person, payable to the **PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER.**

1. Take Registration Form and payment to the June 11 PROBUS meetings or mail to:
Doug Blackman, 3844 West 15th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2Z9.
Email: dblackman45@gmail.com for more information.
3. **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND CANCELLATION IS TUESDAY, JUNE 11.**
4. Remember - you are not registered until payment is received.

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Phone _____ # of tickets (max 2) _____ Cheque enclosed for _____

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

PHOTOS FROM STAVE FALLS AND WESTMINSTER ABBEY OUTING



PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Join your fellow members and their guests on a cruise to
Alaska in May 2020 with Holland America

Special group rates & amenities exclusively for the Probus Club Members



Explore Alaska with Holland America Line

From calving glaciers to foraging wildlife, Gold Rush history to native cultures, no one knows the Great Land better than Holland America Line. Enjoy the real Alaska—plus exceptional onboard programs and entertainment—in classic cruise style.

Book now for the best savings.

Date	Port	Arrive	Depart
May 23	Vancouver		4:30pm
May 24	Inside Passage (Cruising)		
May 25	Tracy Arm	9:00am	9:30am
May 25	Juneau	1:00pm	10:00pm
May 26	Skagway	7:00am	9:00pm
May 27	Glacier Bay	7:00am	4:00pm
May 28	Ketchikan	11:00am	7:00pm
May 29	Inside Passage (Cruising)		
May 30	Vancouver	7:00am	



7-DAY ALASKAN INSIDE PASSAGE

May 23, 2020

Koningsdam

FARES FROM*

Interior Stateroom	CA\$1,429
Ocean-View Stateroom	CA\$2,339
Verandah Stateroom	CA\$2,469
Suites	CA\$3,129

This fabulous Alaska Adventure will include special bridge tournaments, a hosted cocktail party and all the fine cuisine of the Holland America Line.

To inquire about reservations: Call Dana McGregor at 604-717-1749

For general inquiries about the cruise: Call Raymond Greenwood at 604-351-3450



Holland America Line®
 SAVOR THE JOURNEY



Prices are per person based on double occupancy. All savings are already included in fares shown. Subject to availability. Taxes, fees & port expenses are an additional CA\$267.