



# NEWSLETTER

## PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

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

<https://probusvancouver.com/>

Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities

July, 2026

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 14 at The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre**  
**Speaker: Michael Goehring, President & CEO, Mining Association of BC**  
**Topic: "The resurgence of mining in BC in the current politico-economic context"**

**9:00: Coffee and Timbits**

**9:45: Meeting commences followed by our speaker's presentation.**

### **SCAM ALERT**

**Some of our members have received scam emails appearing to be from one of our directors, requesting them to purchase several hundred dollars worth of gift cards. Please be aware that these are scams and we do not need members to purchase anything for any reason. If you receive one of these emails, delete it immediately!**

### **Michael Goehring**



As President and CEO of MABC, Michael Goehring brings BC's mining sector vision, passion and decades of experience providing public affairs and strategic communications counsel to leading natural resource companies in BC and Canada. He joined MABC following a successful career as partner in the Vancouver office of Canada's largest communications firm, where he built a strong reputation advancing challenging public policy files and delivering successful advocacy and communications campaigns.

Michael is active in the community, having served as vice president of the board of directors of the Vancouver Thunderbirds Minor Hockey Association and president of the board of directors of the Turning Point Recovery Society. He lives in Vancouver with his wife Brenda and twin boys, Christopher and Liam.

A native of British Columbia, he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of British Columbia and pursued Graduate Studies in International Political

### **NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM—TUESDAY, AUGUST 11th**

**Speaker: Tom Lancaster, General Manager - CMHC Granville Island**

**Topic: "Granville Island; Past, Present, Future"**

## Report of the June 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Attendance: **55** Members and Guests

President John Kay started the formal meeting at 9:45 with the customary welcome and recognition of our guests and speaker. As usual, he started with the traditional story. He then asked Richard Spencer to introduce a new member (see Welcome New Members on page 3). John then called on Peter Phillips to present two upcoming activities, details of which are in this newsletter. After thanking today's speakers, Rick Rogers and Glenn Faris, John asked Dr. Nigel Findlay-Shiraz to introduce our speaker, Dr. Marco Marra. Cancer is not one disease behaving in one predictable way. Even cancers with the same name, such as breast cancer or lung cancer, can be genetically very different between patients. Understanding those differences is the basis of precision cancer genomic medicine. Dr. Marco Marra's presentation to Probus took members into a major frontier: the use of genomics to understand, diagnose, and treat cancer.

Dr. Marra began with the genome itself: the full set of genetic instructions found in the DNA inside our cells. DNA is stored in the nucleus, read into RNA, and then translated into proteins, which do much of the work of the cell. Each cell contains roughly two meters of DNA, folded and packed into a microscopic nucleus. Across trillions of cells, this genetic information helps determine how cells grow, divide, specialize, and repair themselves.

Cancer begins when that orderly system is disrupted. Dr. Marra described cancer as a genetic disease because it is driven by changes, or mutations, in the DNA. Some mutations are inherited and can increase risk. Others are acquired over a lifetime through aging, copying errors, environmental exposures, or other stresses on the cell. A helpful way to picture this is through the "brake and accelerator" model. Tumour suppressor genes normally act like brakes, preventing cells from growing out of control. Proto-oncogenes act more like accelerators. In cancer, the brakes may fail, the accelerator may get stuck, or both.

The challenge is that these changes do not happen in a neat, uniform way. Tumours are not simply masses of identical cancer cells. They are communities of tumour cells, normal cells, blood vessels, immune cells, and other supporting structures. Cells in one part of a tumour may differ from those in another, and metastatic cells in a different part of the body may be different again. This helps explain why one treatment may work well for one person and not for another. The dramatic progress in this field has been made possible by the revolution in DNA sequencing. Tracing the story back to the Human Genome Project, the first draft of the human genome was celebrated as a new kind of map. That original work was slow, expensive, and technically difficult. Since then, sequencing has become vastly faster, cheaper, and more accurate. What once required large rooms of equipment can now be done at a scale that makes routine cancer genome analysis possible. Cancer genomics is essentially a search for needles in haystacks: important mutations hidden among billions of letters of genetic code.

BC has been at the forefront of putting these tools to work through the Personalized Onco-Genomics Program (POG) based at BC Cancer. The POG approach begins by comparing two genomes from the same patient: the tumour genome and

the normal genome. The normal genome provides the baseline. The tumour genome shows what has changed. By comparing the two, scientists and clinicians can identify mutations, gene fusions, structural changes, and other clues that may reveal what is driving the cancer and whether an existing therapy might be useful. POG is not simply about inventing new drugs. Much of its promise lies in drug repositioning: taking medicines already available for one cancer or condition and using genomic evidence to identify patients who might benefit from them in another setting. Dr. Marra used the example of chronic myelogenous leukemia, where a chromosome rearrangement known as the Philadelphia chromosome produces a target for imatinib, also known as Gleevec. The broader lesson is that a drug may be developed for one genetic abnormality but prove useful wherever that same pathway is active.

POG has grown from a first experimental case into a major provincial effort involving oncologists, geneticists, pathologists, pediatric specialists, bioinformaticians, patients, and families. Patients consent to participate, samples are sequenced, results are analyzed, and difficult cases are reviewed by a molecular tumour board. Reports are shared with clinical colleagues in a structured way. While much of this remains research rather than standard care, it is steadily pushing toward the clinic. The numbers show both the promise and the complexity of the work. POG has enrolled roughly 2,500 to 2,600 cases, including pediatric cases. In one analysis of 570 advanced cancer patients, each tumour had, on average, more than 13,000 DNA "spelling mistakes." Many may be harmless passengers, but some may point to vulnerabilities that can be treated. A large majority of cases presented to the POG tumour board have had findings that clinicians considered potentially actionable. At the same time, many therapies identified are not yet approved for that precise cancer indication, raising important questions about how healthcare systems, drug approvals, and funding models should adapt. How does BC's work for in a national context? The Terry Fox Research Institute's Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network aims to build on programs like POG to expand precision cancer medicine across Canada. The long-term vision is ambitious: that every patient with a high-risk cancer could receive comprehensive molecular profiling quickly enough to inform care, link them to clinical trials, and generate knowledge for future patients.

Genome science is not magic, and it is not yet a universal answer. But it is a powerful way of reading cancer's instruction manual, one patient at a time, with the hope that better information can lead to better options.

Before ending the meeting, John asked Dr. Rein Bernat to thank Dr. Marra and present him with the customary honourarium.

To view Marco's slide show, [click here](#).

### Rotarians' Investment Club

Our May meeting commenced with guest speaker John Li, Desjardin's Regional Sales Director, accompanied by Cam Runte, our Raymond James representative. The topic was "Bonds": their specific uses and types.

A new Executive was elected for the coming 2026 - 2027 fiscal year.

The Treasurer's report outlined a proposal to adjust the meal arrangements on a trial basis. The Investment Committee Report resulted in 3 recommended buy and sell decisions, which the Members considered and approved. Two member stock presentations were made, but no buying decisions were made.

No meetings are held in July and August, however the Investment Committee reviews the Portfolio during those months and informs members if any changes are recommended.

Our next Meeting will be at 6.30 pm on September 24th at the RVYC at 3811 Point Grey Road.

Prospective members are always welcome to attend several meetings before making a decision to join. A cash investment, required as "Skin in the Game," has shown a good return over the years, supplemented by the knowledge and experiences shared by members.

For detailed information about our 27 year old Investment Club, please contact John Sullivan at 604-263-4486 or at [johnws@telus.net](mailto:johnws@telus.net)

### Probud Insights From The President



July 1<sup>st</sup> is Canada Day which gives the opportunity to celebrate the values of freedom, diversity and inclusivity that is the Canada of

today, and to be thankful to live where we do when we see what is happening in the rest of the world.

For those of us watching the TV presentations of the World Cup it seems that Vancouver is showing itself off to world viewers at its finest. The broadcast is from the Jack Poole Plaza and shows the commentators in front of the North Shore mountains bathed in sunshine. What an advertisement for our city.

Last month Dr Marra bedazzled us with the advances in genome technology, and our July speaker is likely to be just as interesting. We have Michael Goering, the President and CEO of the Mining Association of BC who will bring us up to date on all the changes that are occurring in the mining industry at the present time.

I do want to give a thank you to Peter Phillips, our activities chairman, who is organizing some special social events. All of us who visited the Buddhist temple recently thoroughly enjoyed the visit, and the lunch that was provided. The social side of Probud is a very important aspect of the Club and I encourage members to take advantage of the various activities.

In the meantime, enjoy Canada Day with your families and I look forward to seeing you on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

John Kay  
President



### **PROBUS FRED COTTON BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club will next meet at **9:30 am** on

**Wednesday, September 2** in The Amenity Room at Elm Park Place, 5700 Larch Street (at W. 41st Avenue).

**Please note – no meetings in July or August.**

The book to be discussed when we meet is:

**Sept 2 Embedded: The Irreconcilable Nature of War, Loss and Consequence by Catherine Lang**

For information about the club, contact Ken Yule at [kjyqc@shaw.ca](mailto:kjyqc@shaw.ca) or 604-266-4563



### Welcome Our New Member



Jack Burak  
Family Physician

## **PROBUS Club of Vancouver Social Opportunity Groups**

To see details of how to join any of these groups, click (or ctrl-click) on the heading of each group.

### **The Lunch Group**

There is no convenor for this group which gathers after every monthly meeting (except our October, Presidents' Lunch) at The Local Public Eatery on the corner of Cornwall Avenue and Yew Street. The number of regular lunchers (I got this from AI!) is anywhere from 8 to 12 or more. If you would like to join us, just show up!

### **Tennis—Bill Hooker**

On Thursday, June 25th, 13 hearty players convened at the UBC Tennis Centre to participate in the Probus Invitational Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament. After 20 invitees declined for a host of reasons. Finally, we managed to recruit five Probus members and supplemented with eight outliers. So, with everyone arriving at 1:00 pm, we proceeded to play our usual three hours with different pairings each hour. Scoring continued to be total wins per team with range from 15 to 34, matching February's high score (so watch out, John Fraser and Peter Stephen). The Probus participants were Tim Gibbs, Rick Brenner, Terry Collette, and Fred Lockwood. Bill Hooker subbed in for one of the other players who had to bow out because of a prior injury. The others were Greg Butler, Myra Elson (whose Probus member husband Jan Nordin was in Sweden and thus unavailable), Marty Levine, Catherine Mead, David Morrish (potential speaker on cybersecurity), Eileen Murray (since we always like to have a doctor on board), Walter Schneider and Ian Wallace. The reports from all quarters was an enjoyable session both athletically and socially. We are all looking forward to the next round in October. Bill Hooker at [mayneid@yahoo.com](mailto:mayneid@yahoo.com), your convenient convenor.

### **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**

On June 17, twelve members of The Breakfast Club met at The Sylvia Hotel Restaurant, overlooking English Bay, on a beautiful sunny morning. This icon of Vancouver which once boasted of having the highest roof top restaurant in the city, provided us with one of the best breakfasts of the 23 restaurants, cafes and diners we have visited so far. Our July 15 gathering will be at The Hideout Cafe, on a small section of Glen Drive that is almost impossible to find! Anyone interested in joining us can contact Peter at [peter26@telus.net](mailto:peter26@telus.net).



### **Bridge Club - Jack Zaleski**

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. Anyone interested in joining this "fun" bridge group can get more details from Jack at [jack.zaleski@gmail.com](mailto:jack.zaleski@gmail.com)

## **PROBUS Club of Vancouver—Social Opportunity Groups**

To see details of how to join any of these groups, click (or ctrl-click) on the heading of each group.

### **Policy Discussion Cafe—Jim Matkin**

Canada, with 70% of exports to the US, is racing to find new trading partners, but foreign companies, especially Japanese, keep telling Ottawa that what makes Canada attractive is its access to the US. "This contradiction is the heart of Ottawa's trade diversification." Reuters Mexico Says "Canada is Absent" In CUSMA Talks - Proves U.S. Ambassador Is Right



### **Domestic Pressures Facing Canadian Youth**

While they are not leaving the country in droves, Canadian youth aged 18 to 24 are expressing severe anxiety regarding domestic constraints. According to Statistics Canada reports: [1]

Job Prospects: Over 67% of Canadian students express extreme concern about having no immediate job prospects upon graduation.

Urban Flight: Instead of leaving Canada entirely, young adults are participating in a massive wave of intra-provincial migration. They are fleeing ultra-expensive urban centers like Toronto and Vancouver in favor of more affordable secondary markets in Alberta, Manitoba, and Atlantic Canada. [1, 2, 3, 4]

Fraser Report: Alberta had attracted 538,000 more people than it lost. Quebec and British Columbia, after decades of net in-migration, began losing people in 2023-24

### **Rotarians' Investment Club**

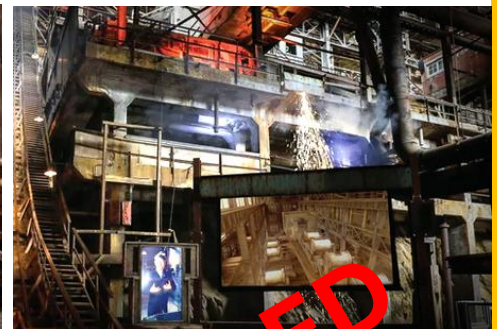
Everything you need to know about how The Rotarians' Investment Club operates can be found by clicking on the above heading. Information on the Club's monthly meetings is featured each month on page 3 of this newsletter. For more information, contact: John Sullivan, Chair Membership, Promotion and Hospitality at: [johnws@telus.net](mailto:johnws@telus.net) or telephone at 604-263-4486

### **Pub Nights—Peter Phillips**

Elwoods pub: we met, we drank, we talked/debated/reminisced...and then reluctantly, we, all 10 of us, dragged ourselves off to face the real world again. Frankly, the rest of y'all are missing out. But, July 9th, 4 pm, we shall do it all again, the patio at Billy Bishop's (1407 Laburnum St, near Kits Beach). Join us! Let Peter Phillips know if you plan to make it,

[pjpphillips@hotmail.com](mailto:pjpphillips@hotmail.com).

**THURSDAY, JULY 23rd—TIME 9:45 AM**  
**A GUIDED TOUR OF**  
**THE BRITANNIA MINE & MUSEUM**  
**150 Copper Drive, Britannia Beach**



We will have a private tour, which requires a minimum of 15 members and guests (and a maximum of 25). There are several new features at the museum which have been added recently. We should plan to arrive at 9:45 to allow for traffic delays.

**We're hoping to organize car-pooling for those who are interested.**

Our tour will include The Underground Rail Tour and Experience BOOM!

The Underground Tour (Our train is booked to depart at 10:30)

The Underground at Britannia Mine Museum offers a glimpse into life at one of British Columbia's largest historical copper mines. Board the mine train, just like miners did in 1914, and travel into an early haulage tunnel. Inside, interpreters demonstrate mining equipment and share insights about Britannia's copper mining history.

Experience BOOM!

Our Award-Winning, multi-sensory attraction. Discover a thrilling light, sound and special effects experience. BOOM! introduces audiences to the story, sights and sounds behind the architectural marvel, Mill No. 3, with an immersive live-action experience -- fun for all ages! This experience offers multiple screens, over thirty speakers, and leading-edge special effects bringing all 20-stories back to life!

30 minutes of your choice of either gold panning, exhibit explore or a live demonstration of how EPCOR works, called Chemistry of Cleanup, Gold Panning, Terra Lab Exhibit

Lunch Options

There are a couple of options for lunch following the tour for those who wish to stay. The Chatterbox Café is in the Museum grounds and offers a variety of sandwiches, snacks and hot drinks. The Autostrada Oyster Bar and Grill is a high-end restaurant with a full food and drinks menu. Both can be viewed on Google.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT**  
**COST: \$50.00 PER PERSON THROUGH ADMITONE**  
**NO REFUNDS AFTER**

**For refunds, please contact xxx@xxxxxxxx**

**To register with AdmitOne, click here**

**Please direct any questions to Peter Phillips at**  
**[pjpphillips@hotmail.com](mailto:pjpphillips@hotmail.com).**

## REPORT ON THE VISIT TO THE INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST TEMPLE AND LUNCH

A group of 19 eager Probus members, wives and guests attended a visually stunning event at the International Buddhist Temple in Richmond.

The perfect sunny weather added a glow to the exotic buildings as the group met up with our Tour Guide, Shirley, who directed us around the key landmarks on the compound. The statues were an early initiation to the principles of Buddhism and how these beliefs can help maintain a healthy outlook on life.

We then moved into the forecourt and viewed a large statue of the Buddha before entering the Temple with its eye watering figures.

Our guide explained the *4 Noble Truths of Buddhism* to us as they appear in grammatical form, as follows:

The 4 Noble Truths offer a spiritual pathway to ending confinement and suffering, along with an understanding of the source and with a view to cessation, by taking the right pathway forward.

We then moved into the restaurant for the last part of the event where we were presented with many large plates of vegan food that offered a variety of tastes and excellent value.

Everyone then left smiling with a sense of having experienced something out of the ordinary, and to maybe explore the experience even further?

