



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

June, 2021

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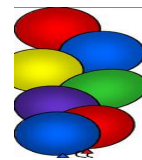
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Carl Jonsson
Bill Randall

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 8 at 9:30 am
Location: Your Home via Zoom
Speaker: Professor Gerald Baier
**Topic: The Next Federal Election—
When can we expect it?**

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

July 13: Dave Doroghy

**Topic: "111 Places in Vancouver
You Must See"**



Happy 100th Birthday!



The June issue of the PROBUS Club of Vancouver's Newsletter is in honour of the first Centenarian and Active Member of our Club. In a few days time, on Saturday, June 5th, Dr. Sam Gibson will celebrate his 100th birthday. Sam was born on this day in 1921, in Belfast, Northern Ireland. After travels to many regions of the world, partly as a Medical Officer with the Royal Air Force and partly when he was training in ophthalmology, he and Norah eventually found their way to Vancouver. Here, Sam and Norah raised their family of 3 while Sam became a highly respected and well known Ophthalmologist. Sam joined our club in September, 1997 just 4 months after the club was chartered. Sam has been an ardent member ever since, attending meetings in person right up until the pandemic prevented us from meeting in person.

**CONGRATULATIONS, SAM ON REACHING YOUR 100th BIRTHDAY!
ALL YOUR PROBUS FRIENDS HOPE YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY!**

PROFESSOR GERALD BAIER



Associate Professor Gerald Baier (Ph.D, Dalhousie) joined the UBC Political Science department in 2003. He is Faculty Associate with the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs and Acting Director of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI).

His teaching and research interests are in Canadian politics with a focus on the Constitution, federalism and public law. He is a regular commentator on federal politics in national and local media. His past research has explored the role of judicial decision-making in the shaping of federalism in Canada, Australia and the United States. He is presently conducting a comprehensive study of the Supreme Court of Canada's institutional character and processes.

Report of the May 11th Meeting Attendance: 118+ Members and Guests

Jack Zaleski started the Zoom meeting at 9:30 and invited members to join a Breakout Room of their choice until the regular start of the meeting at 10, when Jack handed the meeting over to President Rich for his opening remarks and "Joke of the Month". Rich then asked Jack to introduce our new member (see Welcome New Member on page 3).

Richard Earthy gave us an update on the Activities that his committee is working on (see pages 4 and 5). Rich then asked Bill Hooker to introduce our speaker, Professor Paul Evans, speaking to us for the third time.

A lot has changed since Paul last presented to the Club, but it is clear that China remains as strong as ever. We're dealing with a more repressive and assertive China under Xi Jinping. Though we're seeing cold and possibly dangerous geopolitics play out, a very lively and warm commercial business continues. Despite all the tensions between the two countries, Canada-China trade was up last year by 12%. Moreover, people-to-people contact between China and Canada is still high. Chinese student enrollment at the major Canadian universities remains stable, and while tourism has gone down this year due to Covid, there doesn't seem to be a political reason for the decline.

When talking about Canada-China relations, six issues are top of mind.

1. The Three Ms: The imprisonments of Meng Wanzhou, Michael Kovrig, and Michael Spavor are on the minds of many Canadians and Chinese. The main difficulty standing in the way of solving this diplomatic issue is an emotional problem. Canadians feel anger towards the unjustified detainment of the Michaels. On the flip side, the Chinese feel the same way about the imprisonment of Meng Wanzhou. They are frustrated that Canada just followed the request of the United States in a process that is aimed at trying to restrict Chinese technological capabilities.
2. Hong Kong: The latest development in Hong Kong is playing through in a number of dramatic ways. Not only are we distressed by the protests in Hong Kong, but also in its connections in Canada. With the passing of the National Security Law in Hong Kong last July, now most of the syllabi at UBC come with a disclaimer warning students and faculty that they had best be careful about how they are approaching subject matter that can be seen as sensitive, in the places where our students are resident.
3. Xinjiang and the Uyghurs: The fate of the Uyghurs and the growth of ethno nationalism in China are important to many Canadians. In February, Parliament made a unanimous declaration of genocide in regards to China's persecution of Uyghurs in Xinjiang.
4. Taiwan: The situation with Taiwan is much more complicated than it was three years ago in terms of geopolitics. There are concerns about the increasing military around Taiwan, and some Canadians are calling for the government to recognize Taiwan as an independent country.
5. Interference and influence activities: Jonathan Manthorpe's book, "The Claws of the Panda," has triggered a process making Canadians much more aware and concerned of Chinese influence and interference activities in Canada. How should we be understanding these activities, putting them in proportion and responding to these actions?
6. Huawei 5G decision: This crucial decision will position Canada not only on one particular Chinese company but on how far

we're going to try to disengage to decouple from Chinese high-tech players of multiple sorts. For Evans, this is the most critical decision that the government faces, although he is skeptical that they will take a position before the next election.

We're wrestling through a bunch of tough issues in a very complicated geopolitical setting. Of course, this list could also be extended to include a whole host of other issues, including the South China Sea and the Arctic.

Paul Evan's prognosis is that China isn't going away. China is a stronger, more visible international player. They are more present and influential in many international institutions. They are the first major economy emerging out of the pandemic, and they are by far the world's largest trading Nation. Many are seeing the current Canada-China relationship as a violent storm that we need to weather before reverting to the kind of interactions that we had in the past. However, Evans cautions that this perspective misses a bigger picture. Instead, we need to look at our current situation as a sign of seasonal or climate change wherein many of the practices we employ in working with China will need to be significantly adjusted for the indefinite future.

Evans then offers a prescription noting that his old ideas on engagement are not sustainable or achievable in this new context. While China can be an economic partner, we can no longer work on the assumption that China is growing into an economy or political system that is going to be compatible with many of our values. China is not moving to converge with North American politics any time soon. In federal level discussions, two general approaches are emerging. In the context that we are in an era of long-term *strategic competition* with China, the thought is that Canada needs to work hand-in-hand with like-minded governments to find ways to confront and push back against China. Essentially, expanding military containment of China in preparation for Cold War 2.0. While this is already happening to some degree, Canada would participate as a much more forceful partner with the United States in this approach.

The second approach is the *strategic engagement* of China, aka Canadian style. This takes a more complex and nuanced approach that considers China an adversary and potentially an enemy in some areas, but as a participant and a cooperator in other areas. Evans refers to this as the Three Basket Approach. The first basket is where Canada must push back, criticize, and possibly place sanctions against China in partnership with our allies in certain areas such as domestic interference issues, territorial actions by the People's Republic of China, and human rights violations. The second basket is where we must, and can, cooperate with China to solve significant challenges such as climate change, global health, and some development issues. The last basket includes the unknown gray zone areas. This includes areas where there may be some common ground between Canada and China that we need to explore together, such as peacekeeping matters, labour policies, and matters related to ageing.

We are facing a tougher and more emotional situation when it comes to Canada-China relations. Still, we need to keep a sense of balance about China and bring a perspective that draws on our tradition of engagement with China with a more realist and hardline framework than we have before.

Bud Wong thanked our speaker.

To read the Questions & Answers, please go to our PROBUS website at www.probusvancouver.com, click on "Speakers" and then on "Paul Evans"

Rotarians' Investment Club

Our April Meeting (courtesy of Zoom) was our AGM with a very capable Committee of Members that has been assembled for the coming year. We did not have a guest speaker, but presentations of two stocks were made, although the Club was not convinced to acquire shares in either company!

Our finances are in good shape and the Club's portfolio increased by over 14.0% in the past 12 months.

Our **Thursday May 27th Meeting** will again be by Zoom and will commence with our Guest Speaker, Alex Dolesky of Canaccord Genuity giving us a fascinating speech entitled **"Introduction to Crypto Currency"**. Zoom will enable us to ask questions - and a number of tough questions have already been provided to him, so his replies will be eagerly awaited!

Watchdog reports will follow with updates on our Portfolio, decisions to hold or sell will be reviewed. Two stock presentations will be presented by Members with a vote to consider adding to our portfolio (which could also mean selling something) We usually hold about 12 -14 positions.

Club members have agreed to extend invitations to our monthly Zoom Meetings at no cost to Probus and Rotary Club

Members who may be interested in joining our Investment Club. Zoom Meetings are held at 5.00 pm on the last Thursday of the month, and last for 2 to 2 1/2 hours. If you would like to join us or receive club information, please contact myself at

johnws@telus.net

or our new Membership Chair, Gabrielle Dickert at

gabrielledickert@gmail.com,

to receive a link to our meeting on May 27.

Our Investment Club was formed in April 1998 by members of your Probus Club and the Rotary Club of Vancouver.

John Sullivan, retiring Membership Chair

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY



Hello again.

Konrad Adenauer once said "I reserve the right to be smarter today than I was yesterday". We cannot guarantee to make you smarter but will

continue the efforts to make you better informed.

At our last Zoom meeting Professor Paul Evans, speaking on Canada/China relations, attracted our largest Zoom audience yet with a comprehensive summary of the current state and answers to or comments on a number of issues posed

by members. At our next meeting Professor Gerald Bayer will contemplate the next federal election which will occur whether we wish it or not. Thanks to Bill Hooker and his committee for their success in securing a continuing line up of interesting and informative speakers. We are seeing more members joining the pre-meeting chat rooms organized by our Zoom master Jack Zaleski. The reading group I joined had a wide variety of recent titles to talk about and I now have a longer reading list. Let Jack know if you would like to add a topic to the choices for chat rooms.

By the time you read this our second Zoom activity will have occurred. I hope you enjoyed the chance to travel virtually across Africa with Peter Scott. Thanks to Richard Earthy and his team for coming up with innovative ideas for Zoom activities. I'm looking forward to more Zoom activities and before too long, in person attractions.

In addition to meetings and this newsletter, you can keep informed on club affairs through our website, ably managed by Alain Boisset. The Speakers section includes a summary of the presentation, the Q&A session and a transcription of the full presentation. You can also access the Probus Canada website that provides information on the clubs organized across Canada that represent a significant number of the 4,000 plus clubs worldwide.

The time at which we will emerge from group activity restrictions is out of our control. However we will be prepared to see all of you back at the Planetarium before too long.

PROBUS FRED COTTON BOOK CLUB



During the current time of physical spacing, The Book Club will meet at 9:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday each month via Zoom. Upcoming books we will discuss:

June 2—Magdalena: River of Dreams by Wade Davis

July 7— Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan

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.

Ken will send out the invitation to join the meeting.

Welcome To Our Newest Member



Robert Hornal
Resource Management Consultant

IN MEMORIAM

*It is with regret that we announce the passing of
Brian Wasson on May 4th*

Brian was our Club Secretary from 2010 to 2012 and a long-time member of our Legal Counsel and Book Club.

Our condolences to his family and friends

*The PROBUS Club of Vancouver
has made a donation in his name to
The Vancouver Hospice Society*

ENGAGING OUR MEMBERS

ON TUESDAY, JUNE 22 AT 10 AM,
OUR MEMBER, JOEL ALTMAN, WILL PRESENT A PROGRAM
“ELDER CARE & ESTATE PLANNING.
LETTING THE GENIE OUT OF THE BOTTLE”



Joel is willing to share the knowledge he has accumulated from over 40 years as a lawyer. Prior to his retirement in 2016, Joel practiced in the areas of Wills and Estates as well as in Corporate and Commercial Law. He has also advised on many issues surrounding Elderly Care.

Working with a client's other professional advisors, he has designed Estate Plans to meet a wide variety of client needs including succession planning for their business interests. Over the years, he has drafted hundreds of Wills and administered many Estates. In both cases, where there was or was not a Will, he assisted the personal representative to meet the various legal requirements.

The constant objective was to complete the administration as quickly as possible and with sensitivity to the loss suffered by the family.

Be prepared and make things easier for your loved ones when you pass on (which everyone eventually does!).

To make this session pertinent to our members, please submit your questions on practical issues in Elder Care and Estate Planning in advance to jaltman@shaw.ca.

As a retired member of the Law Society of BC, Joel is not permitted to give legal advice.

There will also be lots of opportunity to ask questions in the session.

And Joel will also share anecdotes from his many experiences. He has seen it all for example!

An elderly successful doctor, a bachelor man about town in San Francisco, finds he's becoming more lonely with age and is easy pickings for a much younger ruthless and scheming gold digger with 3 prior marriages.

Stay tuned for more by registering for the session because you could not possibly make this story up

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT—HERE'S HOW
Click on this link or copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvc--oqTlvH9fAQhtZzOkIAMUn2XnvSWsy>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing more information including the Zoom link to join the meeting.

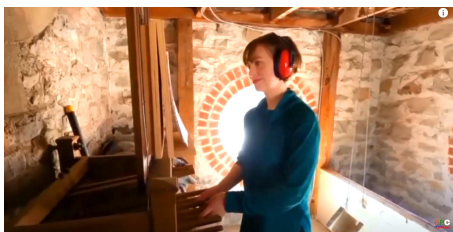
THIS MONTH'S PETE'S PICKS

(An activities committee initiative)

As we continue to share Pete's Picks with you each month, Pete is exploring life with vaccinations, now that it seems most, if not all of our members, have had at least their first jab.

He starts in Banff, listening to the church bells playing a rather unusual song!

Don't forget, you might have to Ctrl+Click on the links and some do have ads so be patient!



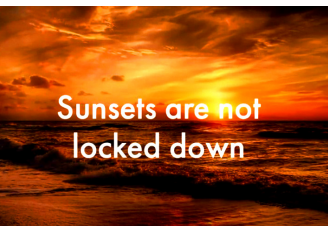
As Pete makes his way out of the lockdown, this song and the bells were awesome to hear.

<https://youtu.be/XdoPjIGFWds>



While he was in Banff, he went to visit his 95 year old aunt who had just received her 2nd jab. She's pretty excited about it!

<https://youtu.be/NywqkdXnqYU>



Yes, it is lonely and we're still locked in our "bedrooms" but just remember, not everything is "locked down". Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7vEoP88y6Y>



Pete, like most of us, has been "shot". If you still need convincing that you should be "shot", have a look at this video "Hallelujah! Have a New Jab".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnbOKH9Oe9s>

Probus Professional Dialogue Pilot Program

Following discussions with the Richard Earthy and Jack Zaleski of the Activities Committee, Mark Dwor and Joff Grohne propose to lead a pilot project called “ProDialogue”.

ProDialogue is small group of Probus members who will meet by zoom five times a year for about 60-90 minutes

The purpose of a ProDialogue Group is to provide the opportunity for members to discuss significant issues of their lives in an open, supportive, and trusting environment within a small group.

Possible Themes may include

We expect the group will start to generate its own topics but here are two suggested themes:

1. What has the Covid pandemic made me realize?
2. What worthwhile contributions can I make and to whom?

Outline of the Process

Maximum number of participants would be 10 including the two group leaders.

Joff Grohne and Mark Dwor will be co-leaders in chairing the first one or two sessions and then will alternate for the rest of the year.

Meeting materials would be prepared by Mark and Joff and sent directly to participating members ahead of each meeting.

The satisfaction level of members in the ProDialogue Group would be monitored by the group leaders and those findings shared with the participating group members and with the Probus Executive.

Guiding Principles of ProDialogue

To engage in candid conversations about relevant matters of our present and future Lives while adhering to these guidelines:

- Agree to be challenged on our opinions and assumptions
- Keep comments constructive
- Demonstrate the desire to listen and to learn
- Seek to understand before responding
- Ask clarifying questions
- Pledge to keep confidential all that was said at the meeting
- No recording of the sessions.

Meetings will be held at 10:00 am on the first Wednesday in the following months: July, September, November, January, and April. Start date for the Pilot program will be July 7th, 2021.

Intention for future expansion

Mark and Joff have committed to be the leaders for one year but they have not precluded a longer involvement and contribution. It is expected that based on the Probus membership there are many people who could lead a group such as this and that Mark and Joff could also help to set up a Leadership Committee.

If you are interested in joining the first ProDialogue group, please contact Mark or Joff for any further questions you may have.

If you wish to join ProDialogue and are prepared to attend at least 4 of the 5 meetings annually, please contact Jack Zaleski for official enrollment.

Please note the group will be limited to 8 members, excluding Joff and Mark. First come, first in.

Jack Zaleski (Contact for registration)

E-mail: jack.zaleski@gmail.com

Mark Dwor (for questions)

E-mail: mark@northeastcorner.ca

Phone: (604) 662-3908

Joff Grohne (for questions)

E-mail: joff.grohne@gmail.com

Phone: (604) 209 2698

THE JUNE FUNNIES PAGE!

FUN FOOD FACTS

WHEN THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION opened in Philadelphia on June 6, 1876, many visitors were delighted with the first bananas they had ever tasted. Refreshment stands did a brisk business selling them for ten cents apiece. Before this time, bananas were rarely seen or eaten in the United States.

ON THE EVE OF HIS EXECUTION, Louis XVI was of good appetite and had a supper of two chicken breasts and cookies accompanied by Malaga wine. In contrast, his wife, Marie Antoinette, could only manage a few spoonfuls of consommé just before she lost her head nine months after her husband.

THE PLAGUE, it was announced on July 15, 1603, was responsible for the deaths of over eleven hundred people a week in London alone. That summer, the city was almost a ghost town and anyone forced to stay took care to walk in the middle of the street, chewing orange peel or smoking tobacco. The price of rosemary, also considered a preventative, soared from 12 pence and armful to 72 pence for just a small bunch.

SOME NEW & SOME OLDIES BUT GOODIES!

Parents are justifiably upset when their children don't get into the college of their choice. An admissions counsellor took a call from an irate mother demanding to know why her daughter had been turned down.

Avoiding any mention of the transcript full of Ds, the counsellor explained that the daughter wasn't as "competitive" as the admitted class.

"Why doesn't she try another school for a year and then transfer?" suggested the counsellor.

"Another school," exclaimed Mom. "Have you seen her grades?"

A fellow walked into a drug store and headed to the back to speak with the pharmacist. "Do you have anything for the hiccups?" he asked. Without warning, the pharmacist reached over and smacked the man on the shoulder. "Did that help?" he asked.

"I don't know," the startled man replied. "I'll have to ask my wife. She's waiting in the car."

What's the difference between a United States senator and a Canadian senator? In America you must win an election to become a senator. In Canada you have to lose one.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN??

HOW WE PLAYED "ONLINE"



BEFORE THE INTERNET!

Who remembers?



WAITING TO CALL LONG DISTANCE AFTER 7PM BECAUSE IT WAS CHEAPER

Who is old enough to remember when...



You needed two keys for one car?

I SURVIVED:

SPANKINGS...
LEAD PAINT...
RUSTY PLAYGROUNDS...
SECOND-HAND SMOKE...
TOY GUNS...
NO SEATBELTS...
NO HELMETS...
DRINKING FROM THE HOSE.
"SHARE" IF YOU DID TOO!

My curfew was lightning bugs. My parents didn't call my cell, they yelled my name. I played outside, not online. If I didn't eat what mom cooked, I didn't eat.

WHO REMEMBERS



THIS HAPPENING?

DOES ANYBODY ELSE REMEMBER HEARING, "KEEP CRYING AND I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO CRY ABOUT." IN THEIR CHILDHOOD?

This Month's Quote

When I consider how my life is spent, I hardly ever repent—Ogden Nash