



# NEWSLETTER

## PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

5846 Angus Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 3N8, Phone and Fax 604-261-6818

**Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities**

[www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com)

March, 2015

President  
David Scott  
604-408-9021  
david@scott.ca

Past President  
Jon Collins  
604-261-2468  
jonkay@telus.net

Vice President  
Jack Zaleski  
604-328-4288  
jack.zaleski@gmail.com

Secretary  
Richard Carson  
604-261-0974  
acarson1@shaw.ca

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

Speakers Committee  
Norm Leach  
604-733-3866  
nleach65@gmail.com

Membership Committee  
Brian Maunder  
604-222-2391  
brianmaunder@shaw.ca

Activities Committee  
Doug Jones  
604-228-0504  
jonzee88@hotmail.com

Web Site Committee  
Hugh Lindsay  
604-732-0366  
hughl@telus.net

House Committee  
Doug Lambert  
604-266-2422

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

Membership Services  
Tony Weall  
604-261-2144  
tony.weall@telus.net

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

Counsel  
Brian Wasson  
Ken Yule  
Ted Horsey

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10th**  
**Time: 9:30 am**  
**Location: H.R. MacMillan Planetarium**  
**and Space Centre, Lower Level**  
**Speaker: Jim Chu—Chief Constable**  
**Vancouver Police Department**  
**Topic:**

### April Speaker

**April 14th: Dr. Angus Reid, Chairman**  
**of the Angus Reid Institute**

**Topic: The Translink plebiscite.**

## Chief Constable Jim Chu



A 36-year veteran with the Vancouver Police Department, Jim Chu graduated from Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School, where he played rugby, in 1978. Joining the police department a year after his high-school graduation, he continued his education at the

same time, going on to earn a Bachelor of Business Administration from Simon Fraser University, and an MBA from the University of British Columbia. His police training includes the FBI Advanced SWAT course. His early assignments included patrol constable, School Liaison officer, and Planning and Research. He was promoted to corporal in 1989 and then detective in 1990. He held investigative assignments in the General Investigation and Robbery Squads, then returned to patrol as a sergeant in 1991. In 1996, he was assigned to head the Recruiting Unit, and he developed the VPD's applicant guide and the department's first website in 1996.

In 1997, Jim was promoted to inspector and became the Vancouver Police Project Manager on the E-Comm project. This entailed managing the VPD transitions onto the E-Comm radio system, the new dispatch facility, the PRIME-BC Records Management system and a new mobile computing and data access platform. He then returned to patrol as a district commander in 2001. He was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2003 and was appointed Chief Constable in August, 2007. He was awarded a Provincial Library Trustee

Association "Super Trustee" award in 1999, as well as an honorary degree from the Justice Institute of B.C. in 2010 and a Distinguished Alumni award in 2010 from Simon Fraser University. In 2011, he was named as one of 25 "Transformational Canadians" by a national media organization.

He has been invested by the Governor General as an "Officer" of the Order of Merit of Police Services, for service beyond the call of duty.

Jim is married to Vicki, who is a retired Vancouver Police officer, and they have four adult children. In his spare time, he plays on an "old-timers" ice hockey team.

He recently announced his retirement from the police force.

### **TWO NOTES ABOUT ACTIVITIES**

**When you receive your Probuss Newsletter by email and check the Activities page, please do not reply to the email with requests to be registered or questions about any particular activity. The registration instructions will include the name and email address of the Activities Committee member who is in charge of that event. Please address any requests or questions to that person. Please remember that you are not registered for any activities until payment has been received.**

### Welcome New Members

**Nis Schmidt – Surgeon**  
**Bill Phillips – Anesthesiologist**  
**Rob Leeson – Real Estate Developer**

## Report of the February 10th Meeting

*Attendance: 183 Members and Guests*

The meeting was chaired by Jack Zaleski. John Gunn acted as Secretary of the meeting. Three new members were inducted by Peter Hamilton (see Welcome New Members). Doug Graham advised that the special tour on Tuesday, March 17 is sold out. Members can put their names on the waiting list. Tickets are still available for the baseball game on July 22.

Registration can no longer be made on-line but must be done at the Activities Desk at a monthly meeting or by following the instructions on the Activities page of the newsletter. Past President Jon Collins, a former senior employee at Teck Corporation, introduced our guest speaker, **Don Lindsay**, the company's CEO.

Who would have expected that a 102 year old mining firm digging mainly for coal, zinc, copper and bitumen, could be so interesting, so philanthropic, so environmentally sensitive, and have such a fluent and loquacious CEO. Mr. Lindsay, with very few props, and with a delightful sprinkling of humour, gave us a first-rate understanding of the vagaries of the mining business, the astounding volatility of resource prices with which they have to contend, and the political, fiscal and social influences they have to anticipate and factor into their activities. In passing, it should be mentioned that Teck Corp, a Vancouver company, has been rated the most sustainable mining company in the world.

Teck Corp's main product at the moment is much cleaner coking or steelmaking coal. Teck and the Australian BHP, are the world's major producers. Due to a drastic drop in the spot price for this coal, all other Canadian companies previously in the business, have closed. It could be some time before the price re-balances to a sustainable figure.

Teck is also the third largest producer in the world of **zinc**. As well as its industrial use, zinc is a vital dietary item and millions of people in the world suffer from a deficiency. It is especially crucial in brain development in young children. Teck is very active in correcting this problem in Africa and elsewhere and has worked with UNICEF. They have had phenomenal results, with five million children now getting the required dose of zinc in their diet and they expect to double that in the near future. By adding relatively small amounts (1%) of zinc to the typical Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium fertilizer in China, the crops have improved hugely and the zinc ends up improving the health of those consuming those crops. The price of copper has also dropped to a new low figure, but this is mainly due to manipulative trading by some Chinese hedge funds. There is not really a current over-supply of this commodity.

Teck, with its partner Suncorp, is in the process of building a production facility in the Alberta Tar Sands. Right now the company is happy with the low oil price since a lot of oil is consumed during the construction and the supply of skilled

labour has greatly improved. For Teck, it will be good if the price of oil returns to the higher level only when they are in production! He emphasized that in all commodity plays, you have to have a long term view and be patient enough to ride out the down cycles, knowing that invariably there will be a turn-around. For example, the Fort Hills operation has a 50 year projection - that's what he means by long-term thinking. This corporation is a remarkably good corporate citizen, supporting the Vancouver Aquarium, BC Children's Hospital, the whole Olympic movement and the environment, an example of which happened at one of their open pit mines. There, the recovery of the landscape resulted in a new cover of verdant grassland which successfully attracted many big horn sheep - so many in fact, that they had to "Export" some of the sheep to the USA. Big Horn Sheep - another Teck commodity! They even have fish swimming in their tailing ponds!

Lindsay talked about the three "I"s, **Income, Influence, Innovation**. The increase in world-wide income is projected to create a world "middle class" of three billion people, mostly in Asia, with staggering demands for resources. 100 years ago the focus of the world was on **London and Frankfurt**, then **New York and Washington**; now it is moving to **Beijing and Mumbai**. The influence of the internet and especially the social programs will be profound. A company like Teck, operating world-wide, has to be tuned in to all sorts of regional situations which can profoundly affect their various operations. Today there is no such a thing as a **local issue** - all issues can become world-wide overnight through social media.

Towards avoiding these situations, among other things, Teck gives an amazing amount of attention to safety on the job and they have an enviable company-wide record in this respect. Lindsay aims to have the safest mining operation in the world and every employee is empowered to enforce the safety rules. The innovation aspect is particularly noticeable in the huge increase in power and versatility of computers and Lindsay sees huge strides being made in this area - even speculating that it would not be far off when their huge trucks will be remotely operated - a truck in a desolate location in Alaska being driven by an operator sitting in front of a console in Vancouver. This, and 3D printing, will change the way we carry out much of our daily work.

This was a remarkable talk and space does not allow us to do it justice.

Doug Horswill, also a former Teck employee, thanked the speaker and spoke glowingly about Mr. Lindsay's outstanding leadership qualities.

*For the unabridged version of the above, please go to our Probus website at [www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com).*



**ROTARIANS' INVESTMENT CLUB**



Next meeting is Thursday February 26th at 6.00 pm at the RVYC.

The topic to be reviewed as a panel discussion by 3 of our esteemed and knowledgeable members is:

**"Fresh insights on personal taxes for those who think they know everything there is to know"**

Guests are welcome to attend and enjoy intelligent company, good food and wine for \$60.00 including taxes etc. and learn what our investment Club has to offer.

Please indicate your attendance by calling or emailing our Vice-President, Phil Webber at 604-263-9247; email: [philwebber@shaw.ca](mailto:philwebber@shaw.ca) before noon on Wednesday 25th February as we have to give attendance numbers to RVYC.

**ATTENTION ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!**  
**ANYONE WHO ATTENDS ANY OF OUR SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND TAKES A CAMERA, IS ASKED TO SEND COPIES OF THEIR PICTURES TO OUR EDITOR AT PETER26@TELUS.NET. WE WILL TRY TO INCLUDE SOME OF THEM IN OUR PROBUS NEWSLETTER.**

**MEMBERSHIP SERVICES TEAM**

Many thanks to our hard working team last month:

**Cashiers—Don Jones & Craig Harrold**

**Greeters—Gordon Dungate & Eric Watt**

These are great jobs and lots of fun requiring commitment and enthusiasm. If you would like to get in on this great opportunity, please contact **Tony Weall** at [tony.weall@telus.net](mailto:tony.weall@telus.net) or 604-261-2144 and you can join in.



**THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Members who attended the February 10th meeting were treated to an enlightening presentation by an extraordinary man. Don Lindsay, President and CEO of Teck, demonstrated the impact a man of vision, dedicated to the rights of individuals and with an honest concern for the environment, can have on society and our way of life. In an industry berated for its lack of corporate social responsibility in the past, Teck is a leader and boasts that among its products is the export of long-horned sheep from its environmentally friendly mine site in Kamloops.

By special request I have included my introductory remarks:

*As I was lying around the other day, pondering the problems of the world, I realized that at my age I don't really give a rat's ass anymore.*

*If walking were good for your health, the postman would be immortal.*

*A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water, but is still fat.*

*A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years*

*While a tortoise doesn't run and does mostly nothing, yet it lives for 150 years.*

*And you tell me to exercise?? I don't think so.*

*Just grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to remember the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.*

*Now that I'm older here's what I've discovered:*

*I started out with nothing... and I still have most of it.*

*My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with... prunes and all-bran.*

*I finally got my head together... and now my body is falling apart.*

*Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.*

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*If all is not lost... then where the heck is it?*

*It was a whole lot easier to get older, than to get wiser.*

*Some days, you're the top dog... some days you're the hydrant.*

*I wish the buck really did stop here... I sure could use a few of them.*

*Kids in the back seat cause accidents.*

*Accidents in the back seat cause kids.*

*It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.*

*If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.*

*It's not hard to meet expenses... they're everywhere.*

*These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter. I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder... what am I "here after"?*

*Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded!*

Our speaker at the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be Constable Jim Chu, the Chief of Police for Vancouver. I hope to see you there.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TOUR OF THE PACIFIC MUSEUM OF THE EARTH AND THE EARTH SCIENCE BUILDING AT UBC

**Tuesday, March 17 at 9:30 am**

This event is sold out with a wait list. Those who are registered have two alternatives on how to get there:

1. take the UBC bus to the terminus and then walk 1.2 km (15 mins) in a southerly direction to the Earth Science Building
2. take your car (car pool if you can) to the West Parkade (entrance from NW Marine Drive – take University Boulevard and turn first right). The PME is located a few minutes walk east of the Parkade.

For a map of UBC see: <http://www.maps.ubc.ca/PROD/index.php>

9:30 Meet for coffee at the Earth Sciences Building on West Mall south of University Boulevard.

10:00 Tours start (there will be 3 separate tours, the Globe, the Museum and the Earth Science Building).

Following the tours, those wishing to linger at the facility are welcome to do so or join others for lunch at a nearby restaurant (suggestions and map will be provided).

### **VANCOUVER CANADIANS BASEBALL GAME AT SCOTIA BANK FIELD IN NAT BAILEY STADIUM AGAINST THE EUGENE EMERALDS**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2015**

**OPEN TO MEMBERS, GUESTS AND FAMILIES**

We have booked 40 seats in the brand new facility called The Porch. Located just beyond the left field fence, The Porch is a new covered section at Scotiabank Field, designed for groups who are looking for a fun, laid-back area to enjoy a C's ball game.

You will get a never-before-seen vantage point of the Canadians as they fight toward a fourth Championship and enjoy some of these exciting benefits:

- Luxurious, covered seating in "Club style" seats complete with a tray/counter for your food and beverage;
- Thrilling views from home run territory;
- Exclusive area, ensuring privacy;
- Special all-you-can-eat buffet menu with all your ballpark favourites, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, corn-on-the-cob, salads, desserts, ice cream, water and pop;
- Walk-up service bar.

**9:30 am: Box Office opens**

**12 noon: Gates open and buffet lunch commences**

**1:05 pm: PLAY BALL!!**

Car pooling is suggested

For directions to the ballpark, go to [www.canadiansbaseball.com](http://www.canadiansbaseball.com), click on "CLUB INFORMATION" and go to "Directions to Scotiabank Field".

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**Registration:** At the Activity Desk at the Probus Meetings on March 10th and April 14th. OR

1. Mail Registration Form and Payment (**\$50 per adult; \$35.00 per child aged 4 to 12**) to: Doug Graham, 2068 W. 35th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6M 1H9. Email: [douggraham@telus.net](mailto:douggraham@telus.net)
2. Make checks payable to the **Probus Club of Vancouver**.
3. Remember - you will not be registered until payment is received.

I plan to attend: Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ (please put "Baseball" in the MEMO line)

Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL THOSE WHO INDICATED IN THE PRELIMINARY SURVEY THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND  
ARE NOT REGISTERED UNTIL THEY HAVE CONTACTED DOUG GRAHAM AND SENT IN THEIR CHEQUE**