



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

March, 2021

President
Rich Carson
604-261-0974
rcarson75@gmail.com

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

Vice President
Tim Sehmer
604-263-7332
timsehmer@gmail.com

Secretary
Brian Street
604-837-8534
brian@brianstreet.com

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

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

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

Activities Committee
Richard Earthy
604-603-3343
rdearthy@telus.net

Website and Database
Committee
Alain Boisset
604-801-5592
alain.boisset@telus.net

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

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

Historian/Archivist
Hugh Lindsay
604-732-0366
hughl@telus.net

Counsel
Brian Wasson
Carl Jonsson
Bill Randall

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 9 at 9:30 am

Location: Your Home via Zoom

**Speaker: Danny Catt, Program Head: Fish,
Wildlife & Recreation Program at BCIT**

Topic: Arctic Mysteries, Arctic Magic

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Apr 13: James Brander

**Topic: Post-Pandemic Economic
Recovery**

DANNY CATT



Danny has led Adventure Canada natural history and photography programs for over twenty-five years. Danny studied wildlife ecology on Canada's west coast and did post-graduate studies in east Africa.

Danny worked for many years as a Park Naturalist and planner in Kootenay National Park in the Canadian Rockies and his career with Parks Canada spanned thirteen years. He also taught at three universities in eastern Indonesia for the Canadian International

Development Agency (CIDA) before returning to Canada to teach at the post-secondary level which he has done for the past twenty-two years. Danny is presently the program head of the Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation program at the BC Institute of Technology.

When not teaching, Danny works as a biologist and photographer on expedition ships in the Arctic, sailboats on the Pacific coast, guides small groups on specialized itineraries, and lectures on cruise ships all over the world. Danny has a passion for travel and has explored and photographed the people, landscapes, and wildlife of close to one hundred countries. His photographs have been published in Canada and abroad with credits including the *New York Daily News* and *Globe and Mail* as well as *Chinese Geographic*, *Macleans*, and *TIME* magazines.

Danny has been recognized for his work and in 2016 was invited to join the Commission on Education & Communication for IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature. In 2012 he was inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and in 2011 was named a member of the prestigious New York City based Explorers Club. A past Rotary Scholar, Danny was selected for two years running (2009 and 2010) as the Canadian recipient of the Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award by Rotary International. The City of Burnaby, where Danny resided for many years, honored him in 2008 with its Environment Award.

In "Arctic Mysteries, Arctic Magic" Danny shares photos of his adventures in the Canadian and European Arctic over the past 25 years. Danny, whose passion for conservation was sparked by travels throughout the province as a boy, has explored and photographed the people, landscapes and wildlife of close to 100 countries. His photographs have been widely published in Canada and internationally, including in the *Globe and Mail* and *New York Daily News* newspapers as well as *Chinese Geographic* and *TIME* magazines.

Probus Activities Committee

In an effort to revitalize our club's activities, albeit on a limited basis due to Covid-19, Richard Earthy has agreed to take on the role of Chair of the Probus Activities Committee. To get started, he invited a group of 'wise men' to participate, on February 16th, in a virtual Brainstorming Session to gather input to set the future direction for the Activities Committee. The result was more than fifty Members accepted the invitation and participated. The Key Takeaways from the session:

- * There is considerable interest in having a range of activities.
- * Members prefer to include spouses.
- * Quarterly is about the right frequency.
- * Assuming quarterly, we have identified enough potential activities to cover the next 40-50 years!
- * Eleven (11) Members have agreed to join the Committee with another ten susceptible to arm twisting. Stay tuned!

Report of the February 9th Meeting

Attendance: 107+ Members and Guests

Jack Zaleski started the Zoom meeting at 9:30 and explained that we were trying a different format with the breakout rooms. Jack had set up 10 rooms each with a different topic and invited the members to join whichever they wished. The breakout rooms were open until 10 when Jack handed the meeting over to President Rich for his opening remarks after which he asked Jack to introduce our first 2 new members for several months (see Welcome New Members on page 3). With no further announcements, Rich called on Chris Finch to introduce our speaker, coming to us from his home in Nanaimo.

Douglas White is a practising Snuneymuxw lawyer and negotiator for First Nations across Canada. He presented a short snapshot of the history of Aboriginal title and the political and legal processes that have led to the relationships between Indigenous peoples and the Crown today.

The relationship between the Crown and Indigenous peoples in Canada has been fraught with conflict and tension since colonizers first arrived. It is an issue rooted in deep complexity, misunderstandings, and historical erasure. For example, between 1850-1854, Governor James Douglas negotiated 14 treaties with the First Nations of Vancouver Island. However, in 1963, when two Snuneymuxw men, Clifford White and David Bob, tried to defend their off-season hunting activities with the terms of one of these treaties in Nanaimo, the courts were completely unaware of the existence of such an agreement. From 1860-1960 this treaty was completely denied as the province decided to shift its policies away from this formal recognition. Through a powerful tradition of oral history, the Coastal First Nations maintained this treaty's existence for generations while the Crown operated under a lens of historical denial for over a century. Despite the lack of common knowledge of such a treaty by the judge, White and Bob worked with Frank Calder and Thomas Berger to establish that there was, in fact, a treaty for the area. Through the appeal process, they took the case up to the Supreme Court and won. This set in motion a series of events that would open change history.

This alternative conception of law in 1963 really shook things up. There remained a massive omission in the law - the basic premise that Indigenous peoples have had their own societies with their own laws, orders, and traditions pre-contact. These laws were not extinguished once the Crown asserted sovereignty in 1846. They continue to carry on today. In 1967, Calder, along with other Nisga'a elders, sued the BC government, declaring that Nisga'a title to their lands had never been lawfully extinguished through treaty or by any other means. While both the BC Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal rejected the claim, the Supreme Court of Canada made a ground-breaking landmark ruling. In 1973, the court ruled that Aboriginal title had indeed existed at the time of the Royal Proclamation of 1763. The Supreme Court's 1973 decision was the first time that the Canadian legal system acknowl-

edged the existence of Aboriginal title to land and that such title existed outside of, and was not simply derived from, colonial law.

This ruling opened the doors to 40 years of the court system entertaining Aboriginal title cases. While courts accepted these cases, it became clear that the court system's adversarial nature made it very ill-equipped to manage the complexities of Aboriginal rights and titles. Judges were willing to provide some theory and support in establishing facts but advised that these conflicts would be much better resolved at a negotiation table as opposed to the court system. Politicians needed to do the work to establish solid foundations and relationships with the Indigenous peoples to find real on-the-ground models for proper relations and solutions.

The Calder case led to a wave of activism that resulted in the withdrawal of the White Paper and the implementation of Section 35 to the Constitution Act in 1982. Section 35 articulated that rather than pitting Aboriginal peoples against the Crown in the litigation process, both must work together to reconcile their interests within a larger context of the Crown's obligations toward the Indigenous peoples in Canada. There was a condition that there needed to be constitutional conferences to talk about the substance of Section 35 and what it meant with more specificity. Unfortunately, these conferences were unsuccessful, leaving no substantive agreements, answers, or clear directions between the parties. Instead of working together in something like a cooperative federalism, conflict on the ground has continued, and the Aboriginal title cases are still being decided on in the court system.

Considering that Canada has operated under a model of sovereignty that is dispersed between the federal crown and provincial crowns, a cooperative federalism that also includes Indigenous Nations would make sense. However, up until now, the Crown has been too concerned about giving Indigenous people the power to veto instead of seeing this model as an opportunity to work in a manner that is firmly rooted in the idea of recognition and respect for each other. Finally, with the Truth and Reconciliation Report's recommendations, the Crown now has some kind of a framework to pave the path forward. In tandem with the years of continued Indigenous advocacy, Canada as a country is in a critical moment where we need to decide upon our most cherished values and principles and decide what we want our future relations to be based upon. Armed with this roadmap, we're finally seeing significant shifts in the right direction. If Canada takes the right steps, this could be a remarkable moment in our country's development.

Bill Hooker thanked Doug for his excellent talk, a remarkable effort, as he had only about a minute of warning!

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

Rotarians' Investment Club

The year 2021 started with an excellent presentation by Murray Leith, EVP Investment Research, of Odium Brown, via Zoom.

Our February 25th Meeting will also be via Zoom with a presentation by Marcus Vander Leek of North Growth Management. Rudy North, the Founder, gave our Club two presentations in our formative years, so we welcome a return visit. Their US Equity Fund made an incredible return of 26.85% in Canadian Dollars in 2020.

We had hoped to have our customary formal dinner at the RVYC in February, but Dr. Bonnie Henry scotched that, but we anticipate returning to our dinner meetings at RVYC in the near future. Unfortunately in 2020, for our several dinner meetings, our numbers were restricted to 12 members. We have received interest from several PROBUS & Rotary members to attend when things get back to "normal".

Our Investment Club was formed in April 1998 by members of your PROBUS Club and the Rotary Club of Vancouver. Information about our Club is available by contacting me.

Keep Smiling & Stay Safe !

John Sullivan,

Membership Chair, Rotary Investment Club

Email: johnws@telus.net Res: 604-263-4486

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY



What a busy month. Groundhog Day, Family Day, Lent and Valentine's Day. Well, as Sean Connery observed "Love may not make the world go round but I must admit that it makes the ride worthwhile." While we enjoy our own rides, I don't know if that extends to the wild ride of Perseverance to Mars and its graceful landing.

Your PROBUS Club has also been active. The introduction of chat rooms before our February meeting enabled a number of discussion groups to discuss selected topics. We plan to continue this innovation until in-person meetings are again possible. We will keep looking for topics that will generate lively discussions and I encourage you to sign in shortly after 9:30 am to participate in a group of your choice.

Over one hundred people, including a number of invited guests who had particular interests in the topic, attended the February meeting to hear Mr. Doug White discuss Indigenous Law and the history of treaties and negotiations with Canadian provincial and federal governments. The number and variety of questions confirmed the substantial interest from our members. As usual a synopsis of the presentation and the questions and answers are available on the web page.

Our new Activities Committee Chair Richard Earthy has already been busy with a well-attended virtual brainstorming session to discuss possible future activities and to attract committee members. Richard has indicated that he now has ideas for many years of activities and the committee will be trying to bring as many as possible to fruition. There may be some that can be arranged even with social distancing.

Next month Danny Catt will be talking to us about his photographic expedition to the Arctic. A fuller description of his subject matter is on the front page of this newsletter.

I look forward to joining you at the meeting,

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:

March 3—Restoring Democracy in an Age of Populists and Pestilence by Jonathan Manthorpe

April 7— The New Silk Roads by Peter Frankopan

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.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret that we announce the passing of
Ralph Carder on December 29

*Our condolences to his family and friends.
The PROBUS Club of Vancouver will make a
donation in Ralph's name to
The Lions Gate Hospital Foundation*

Welcome New Members



Simon Taylor
Lawyer



Robert Pinsent
Geologist

THE MARCH FUNNIES PAGE!

Old Irish Angler

The rain was pouring down. There standing in front of a big puddle outside the pub was an old Irishman, drenched, holding a stick, with a piece of string dangling in the water.

A passer-by stopped and asked, "What are you doing?" "Fishing" replied the old man.

Feeling sorry for the old man, the gent says, "Come in out of the rain and have a drink with me."

In the warmth of the pub, as they sip their whiskies, the gentleman, being

a bit of a smart ass, cannot resist asking,

"So how many have you caught today?"

"You're the eighth", says the old man.

ANOTHER PUN FROM KEN YULE

Cornelius van Bouter was a Dutch captain. He loved to roam the seven seas in his sailing ship, but he always tried to be in port in Rotterdam for Christmas. He was extremely fond of the Yuletide season: he would feast on marzipan and Holland gin, become a jowly good fellow, and decorate his ship with festive ornaments. He insisted on a Christmas tree; every year he would order one, to be lashed, decorations and all, atop his main mast.

One year, having reached home port in time, he placed his customary order and went off to meet with the ship's owners. When he returned, he was shocked to see that the tree was being delivered but not to his ship. It was being carried aboard the vessel moored ahead. Irate, he tried to rectify the situation by grabbing his bullhorn and bellowing, "Avast, you idiots, you're treeing up the wrong barque."

You think it's bad now? In 20 years our country will be run by people home schooled by day drinkers....



This Month's Quote
"Winston, if you were my husband, I'd put poison in your coffee" . . . Lady Nancy Astor
"Nancy, if you were my wife, I'd drink it" . . . Winston Churchill