



# NEWSLETTER

## PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

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

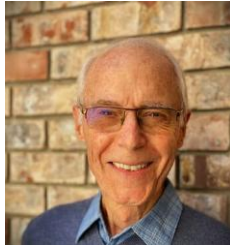
<https://probusvancouver.com/>

Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities

May, 2026

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12 at The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre**  
**Speaker: Robert Mackay, Retired Lawyer and Working Novelist**  
**Topic: "Canada's Forgotten War"**  
**9:00: Coffee and Timbits**  
**9:45: Meeting commences followed by our speaker's presentation.**

### Robert Mackay



Robert (Bob) Mackay joined the Royal Canadian Navy straight out of North Surrey High School. He spent four years at UBC while also training at sea and was then commissioned and spent six years at sea in destroyers and submarines, followed by service at HMCS DISCOVERY, Vancouver's Naval Reserve establishment.

After a few years teaching, he returned to UBC for a law degree.

Founding president of the Trial Lawyers Association of BC, he retired from law to research and write *Soldier of the Horse*, a novel based on his father's time in Canada's World War One cavalry. *Soldier* was followed by *Terror on the Alert*, his novel set during the Cuban Missile Crisis and based on his time in Cold War submarines, both British and Canadian.

Bob is active with the Naval Association of BC and the Canadian Authors Association.

His latest novel *THE FORGOTTEN: A NOVEL OF THE KOREAN WAR* is as true to life as he could make it. He considers it his best work, and so do some former infantrymen:

"This book is a soldiers' story of courage, hardship, professionalism, and dedication to duty; it's a gripping read from Canada's forgotten war in Korea."

"If you want to know what it is like to be an infantryman in battle, read Bob Mackay's newest novel, 'The Forgotten.'"

Bob's talk will be based on research done for *THE FORGOTTEN*, and is entitled

**"CANADA'S FORGOTTEN WAR"**

**NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM—TUESDAY, JUNE 9th**

**Speaker: Dr. Marco Marra, UBC Professor of Medical Genetics**  
**Topic: "TBA"**

President  
John Kay  
604-261-3760  
[jkay33@shaw.ca](mailto:jkay33@shaw.ca)

Past President  
Richard Earthy  
604-603-3343  
[rdearthy@telus.net](mailto:rdearthy@telus.net)

1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President  
Jim Matkin  
604-263-4723  
[james.matkin@gmail.com](mailto:james.matkin@gmail.com)

2<sup>ND</sup> Vice President  
Peter Brock  
604-727-0380  
[pb@peterbrock.org](mailto:pb@peterbrock.org)

Secretary  
Tony Zoobkoff  
604-980-9076  
[tony.zoobkoff@outlook.com](mailto:tony.zoobkoff@outlook.com)

Treasurer  
Greg Lonsbrough  
604-261-5083  
[quillow@telus.net](mailto:quillow@telus.net)

Speakers Committee  
Bill Hooker  
604-261-5604  
[mayneid@yahoo.com](mailto:mayneid@yahoo.com)

Membership Committee  
Richard Spencer  
604-263-9793  
[richard@rhspencer.ca](mailto:richard@rhspencer.ca)

Activities Committee  
Peter Phillips  
604-732-4234  
[pjpphillips@hotmail.com](mailto:pjpphillips@hotmail.com)

Website and Database  
Committee  
Jack Zaleski  
604-328-4288  
[jack.zaleski@gmail.com](mailto:jack.zaleski@gmail.com)

Member Services & House  
Committee  
Raymond Greenwood  
604-351-3450  
[greenwd@telus.net](mailto:greenwd@telus.net)

Newsletter Editor &  
Publisher  
Peter Scott  
604-263-1746  
[peter26@telus.net](mailto:peter26@telus.net)

Historian/Archivist  
Hugh Lindsay  
604-732-0366  
[hughl@telus.net](mailto:hughl@telus.net)

Counsel  
Carl Jonsson  
Bill Randall  
Tim Sehmer

## Report of the April 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting

*Attendance: 85 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 Jim Matkin to introduce our speaker, Kim Haakstad, CEO of the BC Council of Forest Industries. Forestry has long been the foundational backbone of BC's economy. Kim Haakstad, COFI's new CEO and president, offered a timely look at how the sector is performing today and where it may be headed next.

To start, a bit of scale. BC is vast, with 95 million hectares in total and roughly 59 million hectares of forest. Despite common perceptions, only about 0.3% of publicly owned forest land is harvested each year. It is a surprisingly small number and one that challenges the familiar image of widespread overcutting. Forests here are managed over generations, with replanting built into the system. In some coastal areas, we are now even harvesting third-growth forests.

Still, despite this long-term approach, the industry is facing a crisis. One of the clearest indicators is the growing gap between how much timber could be harvested sustainably and how much actually is. Right now, the province is harvesting less than half of its allowable annual cut. That shortfall has real consequences. More than 20 mill closures have occurred since 2023, and approximately 10,000 jobs have been lost in just the past year. This is particularly unfortunate as forestry jobs tend to be well paid and are often concentrated in smaller, resource-dependent communities. When a mill shuts down, it affects far more than the workers inside the gates. It impacts contractors, suppliers, local businesses, and entire towns. In many cases, those people cannot find jobs in their communities again. So what is driving the decline? Part of it is cost. BC has become the most expensive jurisdiction in North America for forestry operations. Regulatory processes have grown longer and more complex. What once took under a year can now take two to three, and each mill may require a dozen or more permits annually. Add in high operating costs, fibre shortages in some regions due to wildfire and beetle damage, and ongoing trade disputes with the US, and the economics quickly become challenging. Canadian lumber entering the U.S. can face combined duties and tariffs approaching 45 percent. At the same time, global competition is intensifying, with faster-growing species like Brazilian eucalyptus entering pulp markets and increased production in Europe and Asia. Many operators are simply waking up trying to lose less money than they did yesterday.

Meanwhile, the industry itself has changed dramatically. The days of beehive burners, where leftover wood was simply burned, are gone. Today, nearly every part of a harvested tree is used. Forestry now operates as an integrated system. Sawmills rely on pulp mills to buy their residual chips, and when one part of the system weakens, the others feel it. On the ground, practices now include more selective harvesting, greater wildlife retention, and more diverse replanting

strategies that take climate change into account. Monoculture planting has largely given way to more resilient forest profiles. There is also a growing emphasis on partnerships with Indigenous communities. Ownership and collaboration are increasing, bringing traditional knowledge, especially around land stewardship and fire management, into modern forestry practices.

Wildfire risk is another key theme. Active forest management, particularly around communities, can reduce fire intensity. For example, in Logan Lake, fuel reduction and fire breaks are believed to have helped protect the town from a major wildfire. And then there is the "solution" side of the story. It turns out that wood, is having something of a moment. Unlike steel and concrete, it stores carbon rather than emitting it, making it an attractive material in a climate-conscious world. Advances in mass timber construction now allow for wood buildings up to 12-18 storeys high, and BC has been a leader in this space. Every beam and board effectively becomes a carbon storage unit. Forestry's reach also extends into daily life in ways we often overlook. Beyond homes, furniture, and paper products, wood and wood by-products show up in packaging, bioenergy, and even the hidden structural components of everyday items. In some communities, forestry operations also support district energy systems and wastewater treatment.

The Q&A portion highlighted just how complex and interconnected the sector has become. Questions touched on everything from the decline of pulp and paper to invasive species, log exports, and the challenges of innovation. A recurring theme was that forestry operates as a tightly linked ecosystem. There was also a clear tension between environmental protection and economic viability. Regulations are essential, but when they become overly complex or slow-moving, they can limit activity without necessarily improving outcomes.

Perhaps most striking was the divide in perception between urban and rural communities. In cities, forestry is often viewed primarily through an environmental lens. In smaller communities, it is an economic lifeline. Bridging that gap may be one of the sector's biggest challenges *and* opportunities. Forestry is not just part of BC's past. It remains deeply embedded in its present and, potentially, its future. It supports communities, contributes to climate solutions, and produces materials that are, for now, difficult to replace at scale. So, the next time you sit at your wooden table, open a cardboard box, or reach for toilet paper, you might pause and consider just how often forests show up in your day. John then called on Geoff Mynett to thank the speaker and present her with the honorarium which she will donate to a charity of her choice.

To see Kim's slide show, [click here](#).

### Rotarians' Investment Club

Our March meeting commenced with an interesting video, "Middle East Conflict: In Search of Economic and Market Stability." Presented by the BMO Capital Markets division. Several members familiar with sentiments inside Iran then shared their understanding of the current conflict. Later, two members presented unusual stock opportunities, and the group decided to invest in one: an electric vertical take-off aircraft intended to operate as an air taxi service. Two member's stock presentations are planned for our April 30th Meeting. Our meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month and start at 6.30 pm (sharp !) (with a "no-host" bar 6.00 pm) at the RVYC 3811 Point Grey Road. Guests are welcome (we have three lady members) The cost is now \$100.00 (cash or cheque please) for an excellent 3 course dinner for the meal, gratuities & taxes etc. Dinner wine is available at member's own expense, in order to keep meal costs at a reasonable level. If you would like to attend, please email our secretary (Emily at [emilybarcket@gmail.com](mailto:emilybarcket@gmail.com)) and myself to confirm your attendance. I will then email the Agenda etc. to you prior to the meeting. For detailed information about our 27 year old Club, contact John Sullivan at 604-263-4486 or at [johnws@telus.net](mailto:johnws@telus.net).

### Probud Insights From The President



A very Happy May Day to all of you. The cherry blossoms are so beautiful these days they actually take my mind off the traffic congestion, road closures and construction activity. I am sure you feel the same way. It's a pity they will soon be over! Our speaker in May will be Bob McKay, whose topic will be Korean War and the story of an infantryman. It is often described as the forgotten war. I will be most interested to hear him as my knowledge of the war is limited. I understand that Korea was a Japanese colony and in 1945 the country split into two parts at the 50<sup>th</sup> parallel with the Communists in the North and the USA supporting the democratic South. It was the proxy war between two competing systems and I don't think an official peace treaty has been signed 70 years later. We have a number of social activities planned for the near future including visits to the Emily Carr University and the Buddhist Temple in Richmond. As Jack Zaleski mentioned at our last meeting we have switched from using EventBrite as our booking agent to a Canadian based agent called AdmitONE. This site should be used when signing up for social events. I continue to encourage you to invite guests to our meetings as I am convinced that personal introductions to the Club are the best source of new members. They will be essential as the demographics are working against us at the moment. I hope you will enjoy the longer lighter evenings, have memorable experiences and remember to stay active. I look forward to seeing many of you on May 12<sup>th</sup> and don't hesitate to contact me or any Board members if you wish to do so. Your input is valuable.

John Kay  
President



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

The Book Club will meet at **9:30 am on Wednesdays, May 6 and June 3 in**

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

The books to be discussed when we meet are:

**May 6** *Wolves of K Street: The Secret History of How Big Money Took Over Big Government* by Brody Mullins and Luke Mullins

**June 3** *The Whole Story: Adventures in Love, Life and Capitalism* by John Mackey.

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



### Welcome Our New Member



Tim Temple  
Family & Palliative Care  
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**

Now that we have done this eight or nine times with three sessions per year, we seem to have established a strong constituency and everyone appears to be looking forward to the next session in the late spring or early summer. We did lose four regulars to injuries or other exigencies, so we advise you to stay in touch and get your bids in early with 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 April 15, 13 members of The Breakfast Club met at The Truck Stop Café at 1046 Clark Drive. This long-established Vancouver landmark was delighted to have us in their small in size but enormous in providing a great eating experience restaurant. Our May 20<sup>th</sup> gathering will be at Au Comptoir, the well-known French restaurant at 2278 West 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, near Vine St. 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)

### **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

## **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 Conversations Cafe—Jim Matkin**

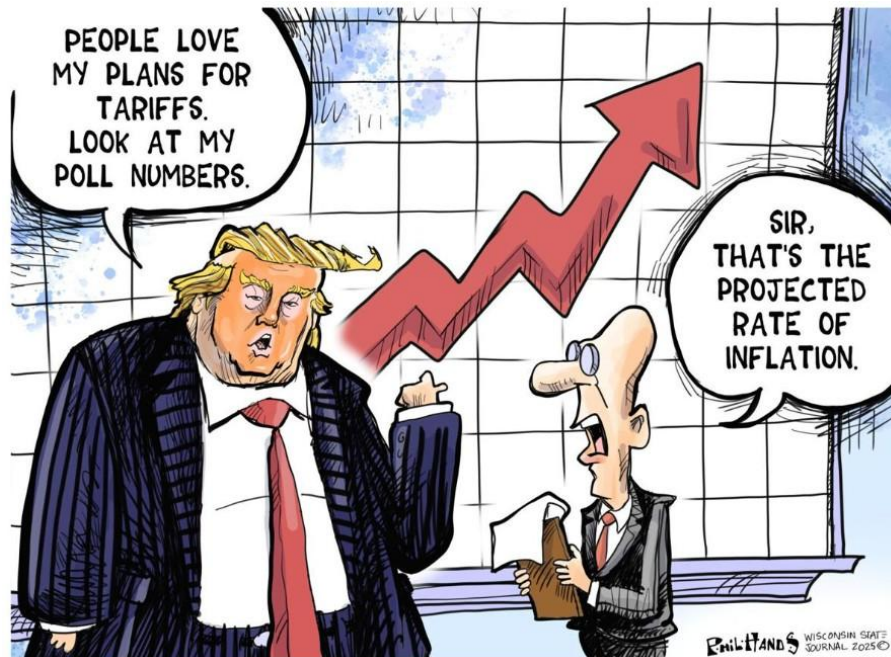
The **April 2, 2026**, landmark ruling by the [BC Court of Appeal](#) in *The Nuchatlaht v. British Columbia* has fundamentally changed the ownership landscape for [Nootka Island](#). This decision marks the first time in Canadian history a First Nation has successfully won [full Aboriginal title](#) over their entire claim area while private industry loses the Forest Act protections.

### **CANADA FIGHTS BACK**

Why Canada refused to negotiate the 5 ultimatums threatening CUSMA?

"Most People Don't Realize Why Trump Begged Canada and got Rejected." Bill Clinton

<https://youtu.be/3NFL36icXGU>



### **Pub Nights—Peter Phillips**

It was a setting out of a Hollywood movie as we looked out over English Bay at the beautiful scene from our location in the bar at the Sylvia Hotel .....and then back to reality, watching the faces of the 10 thirst quenchers present who were eager for another drink. Good health and merriment then continued as the conversational tone for the rest of the time together.

Join us for our next Probus Pub get together @ Milltown Pub 9191 Bentley St #101, Richmond (access it from South Vancouver). Thursday 14th May @ 4 pm

Contact Glenn Faris [glenndfaris@gmail.com](mailto:glenndfaris@gmail.com) for more details and to confirm attendance

# **THURSDAY, MAY 21st—9:45 AM** **ANOTHER JOHN ATKIN WALK**

**This time, John will start on The Crescent**  
**in the heart of First Shaughnessy.**



**9:45 – Meet John at The Crescent and Tecumseh Avenue.**

**10:00 - He will lead us on a detailed and in-depth look at the First Shaughnessy area of Vancouver, which was established by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1907 between West 16th Ave, West King Edward Avenue, Oak Street and Arbutus Street. It was designed as an exclusive residential enclave to replace the West End as Vancouver's premier neighborhood. Named after CPR President Thomas Shaughnessy, it features winding roads, large lots and extensive landscaping based on "Garden City" principles.**

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT**

**COST: \$25.00 PER PERSON THROUGH ADMITONE**

**(Please note that we have changed our booking service provider)**

**THE MAXIMUM NUMBER IS 25 PEOPLE, MEMBERS ONLY**

**NO REFUNDS AFTER MONDAY, MAY 18**

**For refunds, please contact Peter Scott at [peter26@telus.net](mailto:peter26@telus.net)**

**To register with AdmitONE [click here](#)**

**Please direct any questions to Chris Finch at [chris.finch@shaw.ca](mailto:chris.finch@shaw.ca)**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 18th—10:00**  
**A GUIDED TOUR AND LUNCH AT**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST TEMPLE**  
**9160 Steveston Highway, Richmond**



**We will meet at the main entrance to the building at 10 am**  
**At 10:30 the guided tour will start following which, you will be**  
**free to explore other areas before the vegetarian lunch**  
**is served in the restaurant**

**Come and experience the visual delights of this traditional and**  
**authentic style of Imperial Chinese architecture.**  
**Perhaps you will experience a spiritual awakening as you**  
**wander through the exotic grounds around The Temple!**

**THERE IS A MINIMUM GUARANTEE OF 15 TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.**  
**THE COST OF \$40.00 PER PERSON INCLUDES THE COST OF LUNCH**  
**AND A DONATION FOR THE TOUR**  
**MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO INVITE GUESTS**

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT**  
**COST: \$40.00 PER PERSON THROUGH ADMITONE.**

**(Please note that we have changed our booking service provider)**  
**NO REFUNDS AFTER FRIDAY, JUNE 12**

**For refunds, please contact Peter Scott at [peter26@telus.net](mailto:peter26@telus.net)**

**To register with AdmitONE [click here](#)**

**Please direct any questions to Richard Earthy at [rdearthy@telus.net](mailto:rdearthy@telus.net)**

## GUIDED TOUR OF THE EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY

Members and their guests met at the Nemesis Café on the outdoor plaza to enjoy fellowship and coffee. At 12:00 we met our tour guide Medhavi, who is a third-year film student

The University campus is in a 4 -story building in False Creek Flats. The first two floors are open to the public and include large floor and wall spaces and galleries for exhibits and sales that are held throughout the year. The tour occurred between the end of term and the May exhibits. The top two floors contain many of the specialized studios such as academic programs and continuing education courses in sustainable design, writing, photography, new media art, visual arts, game development, interactive media, animation, industrial design, product design, ceramics, sculpture, communication design, and illustration. woodworking, printing, film, animation, metal work, ceramics, textiles and photography. Long hallways allowed us to view these workspaces without accessing them. We did enter the ceramics studios, where we were able to chat with students and view some large artistic pieces. We toured the photo studios including the dark room where mainly black and white techniques are perfected.

We also observed several indigenous design elements such as artistically carved doors on the lower levels and a large pole carved by Bob Demsey. There is also an Aboriginal Gathering Place ( AGP) for mainly indigenous students to find fellow students, resources and space for cultural practices.

We also learned that EC University is part of the Great Northern Way Campus that is shared with BCIT, SFU and UBC. This larger campus provides post graduate training and research facilities.

Most graduates find careers in commercial, educational, academic, and entrepreneurial fields. Some go on to become national and international artists. We were indeed impressed that students entering the campus were given complete licence to be as creative as possible in a collaborative and interdisciplinary environment.

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