



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

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

Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities

November, 2023

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 14 at 9:00 am at The HR MacMillan Space Centre
Speaker: Colonel Scott Raesler, Commander 39 Canadian Brigade Group
Topic: "The Canadian Armed Forces in a rapidly evolving geopolitical security environment: national objectives at home and abroad"

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

December 12: Guy Immega, Retired aerospace engineer, entrepreneur and author.

Topic: "Global cooling by solar radiation management in space."

COLONEL SCOTT RAESLER



Colonel Raesler enrolled in the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada as a private soldier in 1986. Commissioned as an Officer in 1988, Colonel Raesler has since filled every leadership role within an Infantry Battalion ranging from Platoon Commander to Commanding Officer. Prior to assuming command of 39 Canadian Brigade Group, Colonel Raesler also filled key staff roles with the Peace Support Training Centre, the Army Doctrine and Training Centre, and at the Reserve Directorate of Employer Support. During this period, he also completed the Canadian Forces Joint Command and Staff Program and the Canadian Security Studies Program.

Colonel Raesler has participated in two operational deployments to Croatia in 1993 and Kosovo in 2001. Later Colonel Raesler went on to work as an Intelligence Manager, Security Advisor and Trainer with the United Nations for seven years in Eastern Europe, Afghanistan, Haiti, the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia. During this period, Colonel Raesler also earned his M.A. in Conflict Analysis and Management through Royal Roads University.

Following his work with the United Nations, Colonel Raesler spent an additional four years travelling the world as the Deputy Director of Hostile Environment Awareness Training for World Vision International, a humanitarian and development NGO. In the private sector, Colonel Raesler managed the Department Operations Centre for the Vancouver Police Department during the 2010 Olympic Games before forming his own Risk Management consultancy.

Since 2015, Colonel Raesler has been President of 3Si Risk Strategies Inc., a security and risk management consulting firm located in Delta, British Columbia.

Report of the October 10th Meeting

Attendance: 102 Members and Guests

Members and guests started to arrive at The Arbutus Club for coffee and conversation at 9:30, following which, President Richard Earthy called the meeting to order at 10 am sharp with the customary welcome to members, guests and our speaker, Brandt Louie. After continuing the tradition set by Past President Ted Daem of telling a humorous tale, Richard asked Judge Bud Wong to introduce his friend, Brandt Louie. Brandt's family story is like the stories of many other Chinese-Canadians. Like so many others, his is an integral part of the nation's history. Seto Fan Gin, Brandt's maternal great-grandfather arrived in Victoria in 1862, pre-confederation. His son, Seto Ying Shek (aka Seto More) was highly regarded in the political, scientific, and cultural communities. He led a committee to study the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923. This committee made proposals to oppose the harsher elements of the law and helped reduce the total exclusion of Chinese immigrants into Canada. In 1898, Brandt's paternal grandfather Hok Yat Louie, immigrated to Canada with a \$50 Head Tax. In 1903, before the implementation of the Exclusion Act, he formed the H.Y. Louie Company, now one of the largest employers in the province and one which Brandt and his family continue to proudly lead today.

While leading a family business means the Louie will probably never officially retire, he has been able to step back a little with his sons, the fourth generation of Louie's, taking leadership roles. Reflecting on this new phase of his life, Louie reflects on how retirement is not an ending, but a beginning. As it says on the Probus Canada webpage, retirement is a time in life when it is easy to become complacent, but it shouldn't be. It is an opportunity to direct one's life in new ways. Since stepping back, Louie has had more time to pursue personal interests and find meaningful ways to contribute to the future and to Canadian Society as a whole.

Currently the issue concerning Brandt the most is the current state of trust in world. The Edelman Group and Ipsos have both reported that trust overall has been declining globally over the last decade, and the situation is not improving. Of the four institutions measured (government, business, NGOs, and media), business stands out as the most trusted. Business leaders therefore have a strong role to play in rebuilding trust. In response, the World Economic Forum just announced that Building Trust will be the theme for the conference in January, 2024.

This erosion of trust comes hand-in-hand with the unprecedented volume and complexity of global issues emerging over the last few years. The UN Secretary General has described the current situation as "a category 5 hurricane". East-West tensions are now layered with a North-South divide. Once reliable democracies are crumbling amongst ally nations, including the United States, and the Climate Emergency remains an unsolved ever-escalating concern.

With perceived government inaction on these major issues, people are looking to business leaders to bridge the gaps. For

example, during the onset of the pandemic, people were seeking answers and support at grocery stores, one of the few accessible places at the time.

Trust is only gained with truth. However, what is culturally true for one group of people, is different for another. Only when everyone shares their truth and stands up for it, we can better understand each other and rebuild the trust that has been lost. Something that isn't acknowledged can't be fixed. Once a very private person, the pandemic jostled Brandt into action, and in 2020, he decided to get involved in a national strategy for Anti-Asian racism. He has since written op-eds for major newspapers, spoken at youth forums and at private events, participated in a live-streamed conversation with Justin Trudeau, and even played a role in the publication of two children's books all with the goal of educating the community on the history of Asian-Canadians in this country. He talks about the role of Asian-Canadians in building the Pacific Railroad and WWII, the highly discriminatory Chinese Exclusion Act and Immigration Act of 1885 with its accompanying massive Head Tax, and breaking the harmful stereotype of Asian-Canadians as "model minorities". The label of "model minority" implies that Asian-Canadians are compliant and ensures that they are perpetually seen as foreigners no matter how deep their roots are in this country. The truth of Canada's history has been systematically distorted and erased causing so much harm to the Asian community and Canada as a whole. Sadly, the loss of potential will never be known, but sharing the truth is still vital for undoing some of this harm and for the future.

"A family, a community, a country; is made up of the stories it tells. Over time these stories form culture and history and whether we're aware of it or not; they become our future.

The danger to us as a society then, is if we dismiss, eradicate, or worse forget those stories." – Brandt Louie in the Vancouver Sun

In his commitment to not become complacent, Brandt remains actively involved in many organizations including the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation, supporting the ongoing efforts to revitalize the national historic site amidst challenges of crime, drug use, and sub optimal housing. They are currently working on getting Chinatown declared as a UNESCO World Heritage site signifying how important the area is to all Canadians.

Brandt leaves us with a few pieces of advice that he often shares at his speaking engagements:

- Be your own compass
- Diversify your own thinking
- Silence is not action
- Make trust your only currency
- Be an informed optimist

Finally, Brandt asks, "are you up to the challenge?"

President Richard thanked Mr Louie and presented him with the customary honourarium.

Recommended reading: I Am Not a Ghost by David Bouchard and Zhong-Yang Huang

Rotarians' Investment Club

The Rotarians' Investment Club met on Thursday, October 26. Attendees enjoyed a fabulous 3-course dinner prepared by the yacht club along with a wine pairing.

Two stock presentations were shared on AZUL (a Brazilian airline) and ORSTEAD (a Danish company).

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 30 at 6:00pm. We invite prospective members or those who are interested in learning more about our club to attend one of our meetings. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by email to:

Gabby Dickert, President, at gabrielledickert@gmail.com, 778-668-9361

Guest fee \$110.00. Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, 3811 Point Grey Road, Vancouver

Probus Insights From The President



Last month's meeting was our annual Presidents' Lunch at The Arbutus Club. This event honours our Past Presidents who have given their time and talents to keep our club on track since its founding in 1997. Twelve of our Past Presidents were in attendance. I am pleased to report we had over one hundred members and guests attend which has us back to our pre-Covid level. We were honoured to have Mr. Brandt Louie, OBC, Chairman of H.Y. Louie, the third-largest private firm in British Columbia, as our guest speaker. He delivered a truly inspiring message. He believes the state of trust in the world has been on a decline for the last ten years. As we cannot rely on politicians, i.e., 'government inaction' or the media, i.e., 'fake news', the role of business leaders is to restore trust. It's very easy to become complacent. Silence is not action. Until a few years ago, Mr. Louie had always been very private, but he has been prompted to take action. He is no longer silent and recently made a presentation to the Senate of Canada expressing his views. After his stimulating address, he welcomed and answered all questions posed to him - political or otherwise - very candidly, including his views on Chinese Interference in Canada's Elections. He believes the United States has more influence on Canada than China! Thank you for a motivating talk, Mr. Louie.

Good News! **Al Hurwitz** has agreed to become **Chair of the Activities Committee** and a Member of our Board of Directors. Thank you for stepping up, Al. On another topic, many of you may not be aware of the very competitive health, travel and home insurance offered to Probus Members through Probus Canada. For details, visit <https://www.probuscanada.ca/club-reference-guide/insurance/policies/healthtravel> and https://www.belairdirect.com/en/savings.html?organization_source=targetmarketwfrp1006

A note about our **November Meeting...** As it falls very close to Remembrance Day, we will pause for a few minutes to reflect on Canada's contributions in all wars. And we have made a change in our speaker line-up and will be addressed by Colonel W. Scott Raesler, CD, 39 Canadian Brigade Group Commander on **"The Canadian Armed Forces in a rapidly evolving geopolitical security environment: national objectives at home and abroad."**

Looking forward to seeing many of you on November 14th.

Yours in the fellowship of PROBUS,

Richard



PROBUS FRED COTTON BOOK CLUB



The next meeting of the Book Club will be at 9:00 am on Wednesday, November 1, in

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

The next books we will discuss are:

Nov 1: Dead in the Water by Matthew Campbell and Kit Chellel

Dec 6: One Man in His Time by Michael Audain

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

IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret that we announce the passing of

Leo Dooling on March 29, 2023

Our condolences to his family and friends

The PROBUS Club of Vancouver will make a donation in his name to Covenant House Vancouver

An empty page? Not on my watch!

Thanks to Rick Goehring for circulating some of his favourite bits of humour (some are even clean!) to his friends. Here are some from a recent email.

In a Laundromat:

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT.

In a London department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS..

In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN.

In another office:

AFTER TEA BREAK, STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD.

Outside a second-hand shop:

WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?

Notice in health food shop window:

CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS...

