



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

November, 2026

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10 at The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre

Speaker: John Redmond, Military Archivist

Topic: "A Military History of BC"

9:00: Coffee and Timbits

9:45: Meeting commences followed by our speaker's presentation

John Redmond



Born in PEI to an old Atlantic Canada family, John is the son of a Haligonian Regular Army officer and a Cape Breton Gael (still alive at 106). He spent his youth travelling back and forth across the Dominion of Canada, attending nine schools in twelve years, ending at Vancouver College.

After graduating from UBC with a BA in Asian Studies, John spent four years in Japan, then returned to Canada and UBC to earn his MED in TESL. He worked first as a language instructor at his alma mater, then as a coordinator of

international programmes. Having had his fill of focus groups and budget analysis sessions, he joined the faculty of Kwantlen Polytechnic University as a faculty tutor in English, retiring in 2012. His brief military career included service with cadets in Fort Churchill, Manitoba, and Vancouver, as well as time with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, from which his father removed him in order that his university grades improve. Contact with the Canadian Army was renewed at UBC when, in 1991, Dr. Peter Moogk of the History Department invited him to the unveiling of a plaque honouring those who served at the Point Grey Battery in World War Two. From that time to now he has served as a volunteer, and then curator from 2021 to 2026 at the museum of the 15th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

John's hobbies include military history, the folk arts of Japan, Cape Breton music, family history, and modelling (as in "plastic models", not posing).

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM—TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8th

Speaker: Max Cameron: Professor, Department of Political Science & School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at UBC.

Topic: "The Mid-Term Elections" and Max's new book, "Divided We Fall"

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Report of the October 13th Past Presidents' Lunch Meeting

Attendance: 87 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 proceeded to open the Special General Meeting that had been called to take place prior to the AGM, for the members to vote on 3 motions, 2 of which were mostly cleaning up the bylaws, but the first motion was to change our bylaws to open our membership to women, which was narrowly passed. John then proceeded to the AGM, presenting the Financial Statements for the year and to introduce the incoming board of directors. After thanking the retiring directors, John closed the AGM and called up our new President, Jim Matkin, whose opening remarks were to thank John for his work over the last 12 months. Jim then asked Peter Phillips to the podium to report on activities.

Jim then called on Bill Hooker to introduce our speaker, Dominic Vogel.

Whether we like it or not, we live in the digital age. Dominic Vogel has spent the last two decades working in cybersecurity—fighting cybercrime, not committing it! As a cybersecurity strategist, he walked us through the threats we face and how we can respond. Keeping ourselves and our organizations safe takes more than leaving things to the IT department.

Dominic began with a wake-up call that hit close to home: the 2024 London Drugs cyberattack. The company closed 79 stores across Western Canada for ten days, while pharmacists filled prescriptions by hand. Employee information was stolen, and the attackers demanded a \$25 million ransom, which London Drugs refused to pay. For a region that had often viewed major breaches as a problem for large organizations elsewhere, the attack was a reminder that no one is immune. The consequences went beyond the disruption and financial cost. The release of employee records also had implications for trust and reputation. This is a good illustration of why cyber risk must be treated as a business risk, alongside financial and operational risks.

There are three key reasons data breaches keep happening. First, many organizations rely on aging “legacy” systems that were not designed for today’s threats and may no longer receive security updates. Second, leadership blind spots allow known vulnerabilities to go unaddressed. Third, growing digital complexity—from cloud services and remote work to new AI tools—creates more potential entry points for attackers. These problems can compound one another. Technical teams may know about a vulnerability but struggle to explain its business implications to executives. Leaders may lack the knowledge to ask the right questions or assume that having an IT team means the risk is being managed. Dominic admitted that earlier in his career he sometimes relied on technical jargon to get through presentations - a habit he now recognizes as widening the communication gap.

Cybercrime has grown from teenage hackers experimenting at their computers into a business for organized criminal groups. Artificial intelligence is adding fuel to the fire. In the past, poor spelling and grammar could help reveal a fraudulent email. Today, AI can produce convincing messages quickly and in enormous quantities. Scams reach us through email, texts,

phone calls and social media. Carrier pigeons may be the only hacker-proof form of communication left - not necessarily reliable, but hacker-proof! Even a cybersecurity expert can be caught off guard. Dominic recently received a call that appeared to be from Telus, offering him a \$50 monthly discount after 20 years as a customer. He was delighted—until the caller asked for his driver’s licence to verify his identity. Since they had called him, he realized something was wrong. He joked that he should have known better than to expect Telus to offer him a discount!

The volume of scams is exhausting. Dominic believes telecom companies should be held accountable for doing more to address fraudulent calls and messages on their networks. He encouraged people to contact their elected representatives and called for stronger regulatory pressure. He also suggested that older generations’ willingness to question things can be an advantage, expressing concern that younger generations may be losing some critical-thinking skills. Whatever our age, questioning an unexpected request remains an important defence.

So, if the bad guys are using AI, what about the good guys? Cybersecurity teams can use it to identify suspicious activity and respond more quickly, freeing analysts from the exhausting task of searching through vast amounts of information. But prevention alone is not enough. Resilience also means detecting breaches early and responding quickly. That preparation can determine whether an attack becomes a speed bump or a sinkhole.

Dominic estimates that at least 80% of organizations outside the largest enterprise sector give cyber risk too little attention at the board level, perhaps discussing it only once a year. He encouraged board members and volunteers to ask simple questions: What data are we collecting, where is it stored, and who uses it? How is it protected? Would we know if we were breached, and how would we respond? Do we have cyber insurance? You do not need to be a technical expert to ask. Better questions can help close the gap between technical teams and leadership. Plus, they help Future Dominic avoid spending the rest of his career giving the same talk about ever more breaches.

Dominic has also seen organizations spend substantial time and money replacing processes that already work in pursuit of small efficiency gains with AI. Before adopting a tool, leaders should consider whether it improves the process and whether the necessary security is in place. Put a broken process through AI, and you may simply get garbage faster.

For individuals, Dominic recommended treating unexpected messages with healthy skepticism and contacting a bank or company through a number you already know if concerned. He also encouraged us to think carefully about what personal information we share with AI tools and to keep a human involved in important decisions. Cybercrime may be a growing challenge, but asking questions, thinking critically and preparing to respond can help make us all more resilient.

Blair Russell thanked Dominic and presented him with the customary honourarium.

To view Dominic’s slide presentation, [click here](#).

Rotarians' Investment Club

At our October 29th meeting, the guest speaker was David Pike, Head of "America at World Energy Intelligence," who provided an excellent presentation on the topic: "Navigating a Changing World - Geopolitics, Energy and Disruption." David is a world leading energy journalist with 40 years of experience in oil, gas, renewables and nuclear energy.

We have had two or three Probus and Rotarian members inquiring about joining our successful Investment Club, and we look forward to seeing them at our future meetings.

Prospective members are always welcome to attend several meetings before making a decision to join. A cash investment is required as "Skin in the Game," which has shown a good return over the years, supplemented by the knowledge and experiences shared by members.

Further information is available from John Sullivan at johnws@telus.net ; phone 604-263-4486.

If you are interested, I would be pleased to forward our Agenda and detailed information to you about one week before our next meeting, which is usually the last Thursday of each month. Our December meeting will be a social one including our "significant others" and enjoying the Christmas Buffet at the RVYC.

604-263-4486 (landline) or johnws@telus.net

Probus Insights From The President



How did voters choose the Greens on the left in Vancouver and the Conservatives on the right in British Columbia?

Perhaps the answer lies in the familiar Canadian political adage: governments are defeated more often than they are elected. Despite their different political outlooks, Pete Fry and Lorne Doerksen offered something voters evidently wanted change.

Affordability, health care, and housing were central concerns in both elections. Yet behind these immediate pressures stands a larger challenge: our tariff and trade dispute with the United States. Whatever our political preferences, our future well-being depends heavily on how we respond. Premier-designate Doerksen's emphasis on business investment reflects concerns long expressed by the Business Council of British Columbia. The Council sees natural gas and liquefied natural gas development as opportunities to reach new markets, generate public revenue, and create economic partnerships with Indigenous communities. Expanding overseas trade could also help advance Canada's goal of reducing our dependence on the American market.

The stakes are considerable. BCBC's September analysis estimated that approximately \$3.8 billion—about 14 per cent of B.C.'s goods exports to the United States—could be affected by the new 50 per cent American tariffs. Canadian counter-tariffs also increase costs for businesses that rely on imported equipment and materials. These external pressures give us added reason to address the barriers to investment, employment, and affordability within our own control.

These are worthwhile subjects for thoughtful discussion among our members. One of the pleasures of Probus is the opportunity to exchange ideas, question assumptions, and learn from people whose experiences and opinions differ from our own.

Our club, too, is embracing change. By opening membership to both women and men, we begin a new chapter as a mixed Probus club. I look forward to the new friendships, experiences, and perspectives this will bring. Please help us make that welcome a warm one by inviting someone to join us.

Jim Matkin - President



PROBUS FRED COTTON BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will next meet at **9:30 am on Wednesdays, Nov 4 and Dec 2** in The Amenity Room at Elm Park Place, 5700 Larch Street (at W. 41st Avenue).

The books to be discussed when we meet are:

Nov. 4 *Infinity Machine* by Sebastian Mallaby

Dec. 2 *The Crisis of Canadian Democracy* by Andrew Coyne.

For information about the club, contact Ken Yule at kjyqc@shaw.ca or 604-266-4563

IN MEMORIAM

*It is with regret that we announce the passing of
Otto Forgacs on October 4, 2026*

Our condolences to his family and friends.

*The PROBUS Club of Vancouver
will make a donation in his name to
BC Schizophrenia Society*

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

The Fall Tennis Tournament will take place on Wednesday, October 28th. The full report on the winners will be in the December newsletter.

If you are interested in joining the tennis players, contact Bill Hooker at 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 October 21, 15 early risers gathered at Café Zen on Yew Street. The consensus was that the food was excellent and the portions were generous. Our next gathering will be on November 18 at The Breakfast Table, 3014 Granville Street.

Anyone interested in joining us can contact Peter at 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

PROBUS Club of Vancouver—Social Opportunity Groups

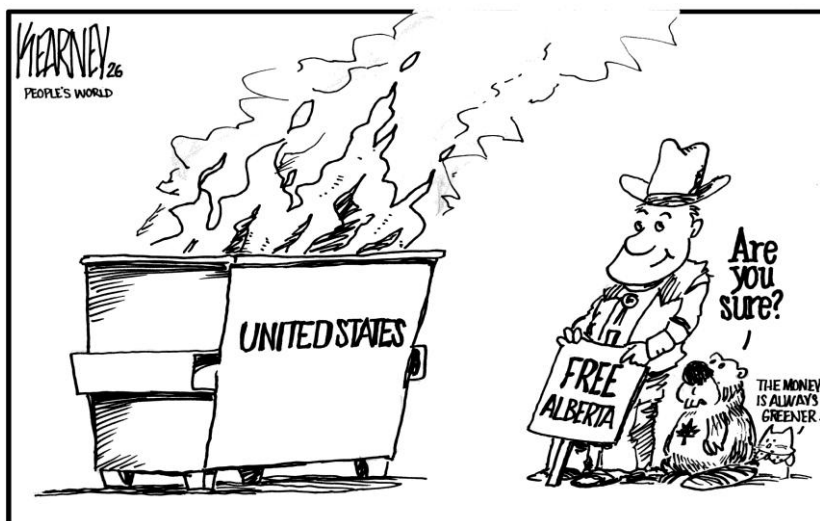
To see details of how to join any of these groups, click (or ctrl-click) on the heading of each group.

Critical Conversations Cafe—Jim Matkin

We have an open agenda with a focus on questions and provocative cartoons.

If you are interested in attending a Meeting, contact Jim Matkin -

james.matkin@gmail.com



Why did the Alberta separatists vote come in at 23.2% less than the polls at 30%?

Why did the Conservative win an historic election Oct 24th?

What change should we expect in Vancouver under the Fry Mayoralship?

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** or telephone at 604-263-4486

Pub Nights—Peter Phillips

11 eager Thirst Quenchers took full advantage of the free parking and excellent views across English Bay, as they assembled at reserved tables at *The Sylvia Hotel* on 8th October. The weather was perfect, the beer was tasty and the company was vibrant as they shared a trip down memory lane, when reviewing some of the comics they had read as adolescents! All in all, a very successful event. So join us for our next get together/thirst quencher at the **Wolf and Hounds Pub, 3617 West Broadway on Thursday November 12th @ 4.00 pm**. If you wish to beerdate with us, contact Peter Phillips at **pjpPhillips@hotmail.com**