

December 2020 Newsletter

PROBUS CLUB OF WHITE ROCK & SOUTH SURREY General Meeting Wednesday December 9, 2020

Zoom Meeting No 8



This month our speaker was Mr. Andy Chan Sales Associate at Oceana Parc. an independent living retirement community in White Rock. Andy spoke to us about the challenges of operating in these difficult times and told us about the demographics of White Rock. He described how many functions at Oceana Parc are able to continue with COVID-related protocols including recreational facilities. Our Probus Club member Vince Holmes, who lives at Oceana Parc said Andy had given an honest representation of life

at the facility. Andy also pointed out that the retirement community in the area was largely middle to upper middle income, and enjoyed the amenities such as restaurants and performing arts available in our community. Most rely on traditional media for information and specifically newspapers, television and radio but that there is some current migration towards the internet during this pandemic. Andy spoke of the advantages of independent retirement living including daily contact with people as opposed to living alone. He said there is always help available if you need it. Andy answered questions from members about costs saying one-bedroom units are available for as low as \$3,000 per month. A three bedroom unit can cost \$12,000 per month. He did not provide figures for occupancy but said there is a waiting list for units with a view of the ocean.

Our Probus Club was able to hold one meeting at Oceana Parc just before the COVID pandemic happened this spring. President Brian Sullivan said our club

maintains a good relationship with Oceana Parc and intends to return to holding meetings there when the pandemic is over. Brian did point out that we do not endorse any facility.



Our January speaker is Dick Drew, retired broadcaster and author who has written about Canadian Achievers. Dick has written books including The Canadian Achievers which contains interviews with hundreds of successful people in business and entertainment.



Our February speaker is Glenda Standeven who will speak about what men don't like to talk about – prostate cancer. She'll do it in a whimsical way but her message is serious.



Our March speaker will be Baden Smith (Percy's son) who is Director of Information Security for Save On Foods. Baden will have a Power Point presentation regarding internet security and advice on how to avoid being defrauded.



Our April speaker is Mark Bulgutch co-author with Peter Mansbridge of a new book titled “Extraordinary Canadians” He is an outstanding CBC producer who has been responsible for major broadcasts for many years including eight Olympics and major events.

Management Committee and Activities

Management Committee

Presidents Message

Merry Christmas to all our Surrey-White Rock Probus Members from your Management Committee.

With Christmas coming and all the restrictions we are all facing due to Covid 19 our ability to connect with friends and family has been severely curtailed. The Management Committee wanted to create an opportunity for our members to connect with friends and family.

Many of you will already be familiar with the virtual meetings we have been having via Zoom. Our licence with Zoom allows us to have meetings for longer time frames and a better connection. We want to extend this out to you as well.

So, if you have friends within Probus you would like to connect with, friends outside of Probus or family you would like to see and talk to, we will set up the meeting for you. Here is how it will work:

Once you have a group in mind you would like to have a Virtual Zoom meeting with, you will send an email to Bill Carlson (**Bill Carlson** wacinbc@gmail.com) requesting a meeting be set up. He will need the date and time. You may want to offer a couple of alternatives in case of timing conflicts.

Either Bill Carlson or Bill Jones will send you an email with an invite to your scheduled meeting, probably two or three days in advance. You will then forward this same invite to those you wish to meet with. You may want to add your own personal invitation in the email so your guests will know what it is all about.

That's it. All that is left to do is for you and your guests to click on the invite at the appropriate time and day and your meeting will initiate.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to connect with friends and family.

Merry Christmas

Your Probus Management Committee.

Probus Club of White Rock & South Surrey

Activities

Walking Group

The walking group has had successful walks and will continue when possible. Contact Al Zemrau azemrau@shaw.ca to be added to the Group Distribution list. Please note that due to provincial health regulations all activities in this group maybe suspended for a period.

Investment Group

The group is running again on so please contact Chuck Haller at hall9033@telus.net if you want to receive an invite to the virtual meeting.

Book Club Group

Please contact Bill Jones at bjones17@shaw.ca if you want to receive an invite to the virtual meeting.

Snowshoe Group

The snowshoe group has started up again. Contact Al Zemrau azemrau@shaw.ca to be added to the Group Distribution list. Please note that due to provincial health regulations all activities in this group maybe suspended for a period.

Member News

George Garrett has just been honoured by the Surrey News Leader in its Community Awards Program because of his work with the Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society. He has won the top Volunteer Award. Congratulations George. George says he is humbled but delighted.



Please welcome Mark Ouellette our newest member. We now have 99 members.

Interest of the Month

Before covid we had in the club an item that we called “Who is that man” and it was a presentation once a month by one of our members who would give a 5-10 minute summary of their life with the emphasis been their working life. We are reintroducing this item through the newsletter instead of in-person. We would like some volunteers to do a write up of about 500 words on themselves and you

can send it to bsdl@shaw.ca. If we get a number of people I will contact you and let you know what month your story will be in the newsletter.

Barry Gaynor

I was born in Liverpool England and moved to Toronto when I was 6 years old. Went to Ryerson University and studied Chemical Engineering with a major in food science. After graduation I went to work for Canada Packers (chemicals div.) (Maple foods) in the product development lab. We manufactured soap products and raw materials that could be formulated into finished product such as dish detergents, shampoos, etc. In 1973 the company asked me to move to Vancouver as a sales rep in order to answer customer's technical questions instead of sending messages back and forth across the country. When I first moved here it never stopped raining but by the end of summer I told my boss not to ever think about moving me back to Toronto. I lived down at Kits beach.

I met Linda (1/2 Newfie-1/2 Nova Scotia) late that year and got married the next year. We now have had two children and three grandchildren.

After about 4 years as a sales rep I wanted a change and so started to work at a detergent manufacturing company called Savolite as plant manager/sales rep/ lab mgr./purchaser and spent the next eleven years there. I was then approached by one of our suppliers to go into business as his partner as his wife wanted to retire. Everything went well until my partner had heart attack which took him out of the day to day business for about a year. Fortunately during this time we were approached by two men who worked in detergent sales and we started a partnership in a company called Protonics Chemical Corp. After about a year my original partner was bought out and the three of us started to grow the business with me overseeing the plant, office and product development with the other two doing sales. We sold detergents to restaurants, nursing homes and truck washes. Our other partner left after seven years so we were down to two owners and wanted give back to our long term staff so awarded them the shares from our partner. We got to be known in the industry and started to get businesses that wanted us to make products under private label. One customer was Mountain Equipment Co-op and after a few trial samples we got to manufacture under their label "Biocycle" which was a bicycle chain cleaner. We thought it was a small item at first but over the years we ended up selling thousands of cases a year.

My last partner was younger than me and had children in their teen's so wanted to spend more time with them so we decide to sell a large portion of the business but stay on as management. I lasted about two years and decide to retire four years ago. The company started with three people and ended up with 24 wonderful staff (not just employees). Unfortunately the company has not done well with the hospitality industry being shut down but it is still operating.

Now retired I have been doing a lot of golfing, skiing and curling along with house projects. Currently editor of the Probus newsletter.

Smiles and Chuckles

The older we get the more we're like computers. We start out with lots of drive and memory, then we eventually become out dated, crash at odd moments, acquire errors in our systems and have to have some parts replaced. A REBOOT might help. We won't say where.





"YOUR DAD IS A UNION MAN, ISN'T HE?"



Spend quality time with your loved one



