



# NEWSLETTER

## WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Volume 18 Issue 6, November 2020

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, December 1, 2020

9:45 a.m. - You are welcome to log on to Zoom

10:00 a.m. Meeting online via Zoom. Please be on time.

A reminder of the meeting will be sent November 22  
and the link to the Zoom meeting will be sent November 30.

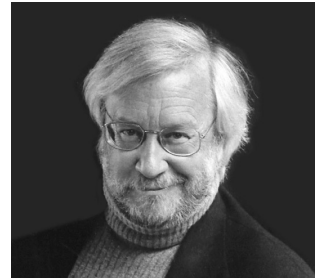
If you wish to join by telephone: please call Barbara Wynn for the number and ID #.

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**Speaker:** Scott McIntyre, CM, OBC, LLD (Hon)  
**Co-founder and retired CEO of Douglas and McIntyre publishing company**

**Topic:** *"In the Shadow of Two Empires: Creating Canadian Literature"*

Scott McIntyre is best known for his role as co-founder and retired CEO of the pre-eminent Canadian publisher Douglas and McIntyre. His career also embraced over 40 years of government relations and industry association experience. Between 1986 and 2005, he was involved in Canada's international trade negotiations as a member of the Cultural Industries Sectorial Advisory Group on International Trade (SAGIT), and was influential in the development and implementation of the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity.



Scott has remained an active member of BC's arts and culture community since his retirement from D&M in 2012. Some of his many current community positions include Past-Chair of the board of the British Columbia Achievement Foundation, where he remains on the board. He is on the advisory boards of the Global Reporting Centre, the Museum of Anthropology, Green College and the Vancouver Institute, all at UBC. Scott has recently joined the Board of PEN Canada.

Scott holds an honorary Doctor of Laws from SFU, and is a member of the Order of Canada. His significant contributions to Canadian publishing have been further recognized by a Queen's Golden Jubilee medal in 2002 and her Diamond Jubilee medal in 2012. In 2012, he was also awarded the inaugural IVY award by the International Festival of Authors in Toronto for his substantial contributions to Canadian publishing. In 2016, he received the Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to book publishing in British Columbia. He was awarded the Order of British Columbia in 2019.

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Women's PROBUS of Vancouver: [www.probusvancouverwomen.com](http://www.probusvancouverwomen.com)  
**Contact us:** [PROBUSwomen.news<at>gmail.com](mailto:PROBUSwomen.news@gmail.com) (replace <at> with @)  
PROBUS Canada: [www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)  
PROBUS International: [www.probusglobal.org](http://www.probusglobal.org)

## Membership Information

### A Message from President Barbara Wynn

Dear Members,

We continue to stay connected, virtually, through our interesting series of Zoom talks. These will continue into 2021/or until we can meet again in person at the PGGC.

Our last talk was a departure from the usual, with a stimulating talk by Darcy Gaechter, who spoke to us from Colorado. She offered a fascinating account of her months-long kayak trip the length of the Amazon. The response to Darcy's talk so far has been very positive.

The Management Committee, and especially the Speakers Committee, has managed to find interesting speakers who are familiar with the technology required to enable these talks.

As we enter into the ninth month of COVID-19, I know that these last months have not been easy for many of you, I think, especially of those who have lost family or are unable to visit relatives. We also express our deep sympathy to friends and relatives of those among our own Club members who have passed away.

This has been an unusual time to be your President. Not being able to meet members personally, scrambling to organize our first virtual meetings, and learning the intricacies of the internet have posed challenges, but also brought many rewards. I look forward to your feedback, as do the rest of the Management Committee.

We encourage you to invite new members to join our Vancouver Women's PROBUS club. Should you wish to invite a guest to listen to one of our talks, just forward them the link when you receive it.

Take care and please stay safe and warm.

Barbara

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**Zoom Meetings:** You may join the meeting any time after 9:45 AM but after 10:00 AM there is a *possibility* you may not be able to join the meeting. If you need help setting up to access Zoom, do not hesitate to email or call Barbara Wynn or Jane LePorte. (See the last page of the Newsletter for our contact information.) Your sound will be muted when the meeting starts; however, your lovely face may still be on the screen. If you will be moving around, drinking coffee, or not paying rapt attention, please turn off your video.

**Management Committee Contacts:** As noted in the July newsletter, the last page of all newsletters has confidential email addresses and phone numbers for the use of members only.

**New Member Application:** The application for new members is on the website, [www.probusvancouverwomen.com](http://www.probusvancouverwomen.com), under "Membership" if you have friends who would like to join. The current cost for new members is \$40, which includes the initiation fee.

**Membership:** Please update any changes to your postal and email addresses or phone number to ensure you continue to receive the Newsletter and emails with important information.

There are two ways of doing this:

1. Go to the foot of the password-protected roster on our website, [www.probusvancouverwomen.com](http://www.probusvancouverwomen.com); select "Roster Change Button" and a form will pop up. Follow instructions including "Click this button" at the very bottom of the form.
2. Email Lois Lindsay with these changes.

**Newsletter:** Material to be included in the next Newsletter should be submitted to Jane LePorte by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Correspondence:** If you know a PROBUS member who should receive a get-well or condolence card, please let Davinder Grewal know.

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**I JUST TOLD MY  
 SUITCASES THAT  
 WE AREN'T GOING  
 ON VACATION THIS YEAR.  
 NOW I'M DEALING WITH  
 EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE.**

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### November Speaker – Darcy Gaechter

Darcy told us about her incredible journey, kayaking the Amazon River from the Source in the mountains of Peru to the Sea in Brazil – 4,300 miles in 148 days. She is the first, and only, woman to complete this extraordinary feat of strength and endurance, although her biggest fear was being murdered, which had happened to other people when traversing this mighty river. Luckily, Darcy survived, and she returned home to begin writing her book “*Amazon Woman*”.

Her team members, partner Don Beveridge and David Midgely aka Midge, spent many hours planning the trip; obtaining letters asking for safe passage by the Ashaninka people who are very suspicious of outsiders for very good reasons; arranging for delivery of sea kayaks at the end of the whitewater part of the trip, and the list goes on. Well laid plans also have a few surprises along the way.

The official source of the Amazon River was found – a stream barely wide enough for the kayaks – and the adventure began. Soon, and for twenty-five more days, they were in raging Class Five whitewater rapids, and through a canyon being dynamited for a dam. Darcy and Don have been world-class whitewater kayakers for many years; however, Midge, an English computer geek who had never kayaked, Had A Dream. In ten years of kayaking holidays in Ecuador, where Darcy runs Small World Adventures to guide on her favorite rivers, he was taught the skills he needed to accomplish his dream, and convinced Darcy and Don to accompany him.

The transfer to sea kayaks for the remaining four months gave her many stories of life in the villages along the river, the sometimes tenuous dynamics of the team, and being escorted by the Peruvian Navy in a portion of the Red Zone to keep them safe. Ferocious storms with torrential rain, high winds and huge waves made life exciting – not your Sunday paddle on English Bay.

The Women's PROBUS theme of Women & Power is a natural for this speaker as she inspires other women to push themselves to extraordinary heights when following their passion. Darcy told us she was frequently told she could not do extreme kayaking because she is too small, is a woman, follows a vegan diet, needed to "settle down", etc., etc.

Our members who are Alumni of UBC will see Darcy's name in the newsletter (sent on November 12) in the "*UBC in the News*" section with a link to her virtual interview on the NBC Today show. This interview is also on her website [www.darcygaechter.com](http://www.darcygaechter.com).

Her book, "*Amazon Woman*", was published earlier this year – incredibly bad timing as many in-person book launches and presentations were cancelled due to COVID-19. One of the launches was scheduled at Book Warehouse, and the store on Main at 25<sup>th</sup> has copies; or ask for it at your favorite book store. Another option: Amazon (the shipping company, not the river!) has the book, an e-book for Kindle, and an audio version.

Darcy is planning another adventure in 2021 – Source to Sea on the three rivers coming from the Sacred Headwaters Plateau in Northern British Columbia: the Stikine, Skeena, and the Nass.

**Pop-ups for the lexophiles:**

*A girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarian Club, but I swear I've never met herbivore.*

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Please, please, please help fill it by sharing:

- A book you love
- A poem or quotation
- A great restaurant experience
- A favorite trip
- A joke

Send to: Jane LePorte, Newsletter Editor

Email: [leporte@telus.net](mailto:leporte@telus.net)

by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month

