



NEWSLETTER

WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Volume 18 Issue 5, October 2020

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 3, 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 October 25

and the link to the Zoom meeting will be sent November 2.

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

Speaker: Darcy Gaechter

Topic: Kayaking Source to Sea on the Amazon River – 4,300 miles in 148 days

As a perspective on this incredible journey – more people have walked on the moon than have kayaked the length of the Amazon River.

Darcy is the first and only woman to accomplish this dramatic athletic feat and survived. Her book, "Amazon Woman", is a highly engaging story of the challenges and joys her team of three encountered in five months of paddling.



She has also authored the "Kayaker's Guide to Ecuador" where she spends half the year (sadly not this winter due to COVID-19) running Small World Adventures to guide and teach on some of her favorite rivers in the world. After honing her writing skills for many years, and

combined with her Master's degree from UBC in Environmental History, she has a solid background in research, academic writing and adventure travel writing for popular media.

Darcy is considered one of the world's best kayakers with over two decades winning races and leading expeditions in eighteen countries. She was the only woman paddler in Anson Fogel's film "Wild Water", and has been an inspiration to other women athletes in a predominately male sport.

When not kayaking, the Ecuadorian Rivers Institute and other non-profit organizations benefit from her organizational and writing skills as they work to protect rivers in that country.

Many people want to hear Darcy's story and while COVID-19 prohibits in person events, she is actively promoting and sharing "Amazon Woman" to the broadest possible audience worldwide in many formats.

Note: The book title does not describe Darcy's person; she is very diminutive!

Women's PROBUS of Vancouver:

www.probusvancouverwomen.com

Contact us:

[PROBUSwomen.news<at>gmail.com](mailto:PROBUSwomen.news@gmail.com) (replace <at> with @)

PROBUS Canada:

www.probus.org

PROBUS International:

www.probusglobal.org

Membership Information

A Message from President Barbara Wynn

Dear Members,

As we enter late Fall, where the days are crisp and the chestnuts have rained heavily down onto the boulevard, and as I rake the fallen leaves I can only reflect on how the changes the last eight months of Covid-19 has made its lasting impression.

Many of you will have celebrated Thanksgiving quietly this year without family; others may have had a small group, and yet others braved the elements to sit outside under a canopy with propane heaters to keep you warm. However you celebrated , I do hope you had a warm and relaxing Thanksgiving.

Your Speakers committee has been working hard to line up a full slate of speakers. To date we have had five 'online meetings' with speakers who have informed and challenged us to think about our surrounding environment.

We have several more promising speakers lined up to look forward to as winter descends and the days grow shorter and darker.

We would really appreciate your feedback and suggestions on our virtual programming and newsletter.

There is a lovely quote from the author and poet Katherine Mansfield:

'Everything in life that we really accept undergoes a change'

I think we are going through that change now.

Stay safe and warm,

Barbara

Thank you, VP Leslie Chang, for a COVID-19 experience story:

My husband Ross had to temporarily close his medical office for two weeks because of COVID-19 exposure. The 14-day countdown seemed to progress in slow motion as I tried to keep our rambunctious 4-month-old puppy quiet and happy while Ross isolated, and tried to work from home via Zoom meetings and telemedicine. It was a balancing act of keeping my puppy occupied and content and attending to our contractor's requests for our driveway renovations while Ross conducted his medical practice virtually from home. I was so relieved and happy to find out that the person with COVID-19 recovered and that no one else in his office got sick.

A Message from Newsletter Editor Jane LePorte: With only one COVID-19 experience story received, perhaps different topics would appeal?

Such as -

Your favourite book – and why

A memorable concert or piece of music – details please

Your first kiss – absolutely we want details

A poem or a quotation

What would you like to share?

Submissions could be anonymous, if you wish; it would just be nice to hear from you.

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.

Community Program Opportunity: The United Way's Better at Home agencies match seniors who either need support with non-medical essentials or wish to volunteer to provide this support. During these Covid times, a phone call just to chat can be rewarding for both parties. Register at www.bc211.ca or call 211.

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 Members: We welcome one new member to the Women's PROBUS Club of Vancouver:

Margaret Davis

We look forward to "seeing" her at our Zoom meetings and when we meet again in person.

The application for new members is on the website 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; 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 15th of the month.

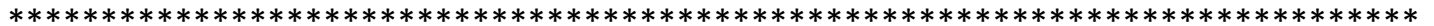
Correspondence: If you know a PROBUS member who should receive a get-well or condolence card, please let Davinder Grewal know.



Women & Power

Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception.

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg



October Speaker – Professor Paul Evans

On October 6, 2020, we had an excellent Zoom session with Dr. Paul Evans. Dr. Evans has been a Professor at the University of British Columbia since 1999, teaching Asian and trans-Pacific International relations. Last April, 2019, he delivered an excellent talk on Chinese-Canadian Relations to our PROBUS group at the Point Grey Golf Club. Much has happened since then so that we all looked forward to this session.

He noted that it was exactly fifty years since Canada and China renewed diplomatic relations when Pierre Elliott Trudeau was prime minister.

He had two goals in this talk. The first was to update us on the state of Canada -China relations and the second to look at what is unfolding and where there may be ways forward in managing our relationship with China in order to avoid major problems.

The State of Canada-China relations

The two Michaels, Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, are still in detention. The Huawei CFO, Meng Wanzhou, is still under house arrest in Vancouver for the extradition requested by the United States. Nothing has really moved in a year.

There has been a deterioration of the US-China relationship since a year ago. Chances of an inadvertent military exchange are the most likely since the 1970s.

There have been various Chinese actions that show a tightening of rules. There has been a crackdown on dissent, closer party control, territorial disputes at sea, detention of Weegers in Western China and violation of human rights. The situation in Hong Kong has seen a new national security law and repression of dissent.

Representatives of the Chinese government are more forceful and pushing back.

In Canada, public attitudes have soured feelings about China, and increasing support for hard actions and sanctions against China, although it is unclear if this is the view of a majority of Canadians. There are also less positive attitudes towards the United States. There are also concerns about China interfering within Canada.

On the economic front, China was the first into Covid but first out and is back into positive growth.. Despite bans and restrictions of some Canadian goods, exports to China are up from last year by 2-1/2 per cent. Enrolment of Chinese students, even if virtual, is up from last year.

Managing and Coping with our Relationship with China to Avoid Major Problems

The situation with the two Michaels and Madame Meng are a fundamental impediment to even regular relations with China. A possible solution is that Washington would negotiate with China about Madame Meng, but unlikely in the short term. Second possible solution would be that Justice Holmes issues an order to release her in her second ruling, which also is unlikely as she seems to be leaning towards an extradition order. Third possible solution would be that the Trudeau government would intervene and release her, which is also unlikely until cases conclude. China won't release the Michaels until she is released.

Conservatives seem to be wanting a harder line with strategic confrontations. The Liberal government is soon to announce a new framework due to a recognition of harder context we are now in. This would mean push-back on human rights issues and domestic interference and work with other countries. We must cooperate in 18 different categories. Number One is climate change. There are finally areas where we are not in agreement, but may get to a mutual understanding; e.g., nationality issues. Dr. Evans sees quiet diplomacy as giving Canada the best results with China.

Members had other interesting questions and Paul gave thoughtful answers. He also had interesting reflections on Zoom versus in-person meetings, but despite the disadvantages of Zoom, I think all our members present thoroughly enjoyed this stimulating meeting.

-Meredyth Kezar

Many thanks to Meredyth for summarizing Paul Evan's talk on this very complex, and ever-changing, subject.

Pop-ups for the lexophiles:

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.