



NEWSLETTER

WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Volume 18 Issue 8, January 2021

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 2, 2021

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 January 24
and the link to the Zoom meeting will be sent February 1, 2021.

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



Speaker: Valerie Jerome

Topic: Is Change in our Future? Racism in Our Schools

Our speaker is a multi-faceted woman! At the age of 15 she became a Canadian senior women's champion in the sprints and long jump, going on to compete for Canada in the Olympics, British Commonwealth, and Pan American games. Valerie has spent much of her life in the athletic arena, competing and coaching. Teaching is her passion and enlarging the learning experience beyond the classroom was important to engage students in public issues which would touch their lives. While at Southlands School, she had her students submit briefs at public hearings to preserve the UEL, now Pacific Spirit Park. As a Canadian educator, Valerie spearheaded a campaign to establish a chair in Black Canadian studies at Dalhousie University and is one of UBC's Faculty of Education's 100 Distinguished Graduates.

Along with a career in education, she was active in the Green Party, running in seven elections - civic, provincial and federal between 1988 and 2000 when environmental issues were not on the radar for the vast majority of Canadians.

Her community involvement includes the Vancouver Writers Festival, Ballet BC, Goh Ballet, Crystal Pite's Kidd Pivot Dance company, Shay Kubler's Radical Systems Dance, Vancouver Youth Theatre, and The BC Black Educators. When Valerie has some free time, she loves birding.

Over the last 25 years, she has given Black History Month talks in schools, universities, colleges, and at community events.

"Not everything that is faced can be changed but nothing is faced until it is faced". James Baldwin

February is Black History Month



Women's PROBUS of Vancouver: www.probusvancouverwomen.com
Contact us: PROBUSwomen.newsletter@gmail.com (replace <at> with@)
PROBUS Canada: www.probus.org
PROBUS International: www.probusglobal.org

A Message from President Barbara Wynn

Happy New Year Dear Members:

The year 2020 was a year of turmoil, anguish and uncertainty. Hopefully, we can now look forward to some good news about COVID-19 and vaccination requirements. Some of us may be vaccinated sooner rather than later, depending on the age criteria.

When I agreed to become President, I did not envisage a year of being 'virtual'. However, it has connected me to other club leaders and challenged me to learn more about technology, including developing a rapport with our various speakers as we traverse the complexities of Powerpoint, slides, musical interludes, and in some cases geographical locations.

At our last meeting we decided to experiment with 'Breakout rooms' following our exuberant and lively 'Bee keeper' speaker Dave Doroghy talking to us from his houseboat on the Fraser River. Although we had a limited number of members stay on, it proved to be a popular decision and was enthusiastically embraced. So please do join us next month following our next talk when Valerie Jerome will speak on her life as a black person living in Vancouver.

Over the Christmas break the North Shore PROBUS club invited us to join them for their Christmas special with 'Pandora's Vox'. We thank them for allowing us to tune in to this lively special performance.

Your past President Davinder Grewal has been diligently putting together the slate for this year's AGM. **There is still one slot to be filled**, that of Vice-President. So please do consider accepting this if asked.

I do hope some of you have managed to get out into your garden or onto your balconies. So far I have spotted snowdrops, the yellow fragrant flowers of Mahonia, and pink blossoms of



Viburnum in bloom. Soon spring bulbs will be making a welcome appearance as the garden unfolds from its winter hiatus.

Meantime, do stay safe and warm.

And on behalf of all the Management Committee:

Our Warmest wishes for a better year.

Barbara

Hardy Bunn, our Newsletter Publisher, sends her wishes for a Happy New Year.

Membership Information

Management Committee Contacts: Please see the last page of this Newsletter for confidential telephone or email contacts when you need or want to send information.

Zoom Meetings: We are becoming more comfortable with Zoom meetings, but if you need help, please do not hesitate to email or call Barbara Wynn or Jane LePorte.

Please mute yourself between 9:45 and 10:00, if you are talking with people in your home; everyone's sound will be muted during the meeting.

Please turn your video off if you are moving around or eating breakfast during the meeting.

If you don't want to Zoom, you may join the meeting via telephone; Barbara Wynn will give you the number and ID number to use.

NEW at Zoom meetings - Breakout Rooms at the end of the meeting for about 15 minutes. Here are a few testimonials from our first session on Jan. 5:

"I was a bit reticent but found the small group good for the soul and it felt good to chat about the speaker".

"A wonderful chance to be in a group small enough to hold a conversation"

"I had been very skeptical about the breakout rooms but I really enjoyed being in a group of three with two members I had not met before."

"A good way to see friends and meet new people."

"I didn't expect to enjoy myself but the small group worked very well."

If you wish to participate, don't leave the meeting and Zoom will assign you to a "room". Two to four other PROBUS members will be there; the conversation is up to you and you may leave at any time - don't forget to say goodbye!

A BIG thank you to President Barbara and her behind-the-scenes Zoom tech spouse, Graeme, for facilitating all the Zoom meetings and making these Breakout Rooms possible.

New Members: A big welcome to a new member of our PROBUS Club.

Isabelle Stroud

We will see her at Zoom meetings and when we meet again in person.

If you know someone who would like to join, the application is on the website, www.probusvancouverwomen.com under Membership.

Update Your Contact Information: To ensure you continue to receive the Newsletter and emails with important information, update any changes to your postal and email addresses or phone numbers in one of these two ways:

1. Email Membership Chair with any changes.
2. Go to the foot of the password-protected Roster on our website, select "Roster Change Button" and a form **will** pop up. Follow the instructions, including "Click this button" at the very bottom of the form.

Newsletter: Material to be included in the next Newsletter should be submitted to Editor Jane LePorte by the 10th of the month.

Note from Newsletter Editor Jane

I am very appreciative for all contributions to the Newsletter, especially to the new team who agreed to write the synopsis of our speakers' talks. Everyone is welcome to share the work!

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

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

Jottings and Jokes

We coaxed Louise Heinrich to tell us more about her grandson, Jamie Drysdale, who was a member of the Canadian Youth Hockey team. They won the silver medal in the 2021 IIHF World Junior Championship game and Jamie will go on to enjoy a splendid hockey career with the Anaheim Ducks.

Of course, all our grandchildren are Stars!!

Winter is just me asking my body, "Hey, are you sick?" and my body answering "Maybe" !

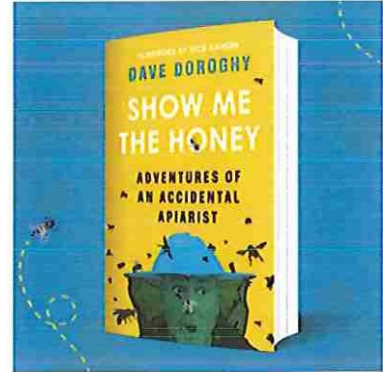
Corona -coaster noun: the ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you are loving your bubble, doing workouts, baking banana bread and going for long walks. The next day you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast and missing people you don't even like.

Lantern Riddle : When I' m three, four and five, I' m like a bow. At fifteen and sixt een, I' m most impressive. Everyone says I' m thirty, but I' m dead by twent y-eight and nine. Hint: Nature.
Answer on Page 5 .

January Sp eaker - David Doroghy

At our first PROBUS meeting of 2021, we were treated to a very entertaining and educational presentation by the Accidental Apiarist, Dave Doroghy. Dave had a very successful career as an international sports marketing executive before stepping away from that and coming under the spell of writing stories and, accidentally, beekeeping.

Dave lives in Ladner on a former barge that he converted into a float home on the Fraser River. Seven or eight years ago his sister asked him if he would consider having one of her beehives on the deck of his float home. She said that she would do all the work and that all Dave needed to provide was the deck space so that her bees could have access to the abundance of flowers that grew in the farmers' fields around him. Of course, over time Dave became the beekeeper of this hive and, in the process, also became fascinated by the life of bees.



Bees can travel up to 5 km from the hive each day and must be able to return to the exact location of the hive each evening. Because Dave lives on a tidal estuary that fluctuates up to 15 feet each day, experts told him that they were doubtful the bees would be able to find their way back to the hive. Fortunately, this did not prove to be a problem. In his first year, the bees produced 100 pounds of honey and won second prize for the best-tasting honey in B.C.!! As bees return from foraging, they communicate with the other bees the direction and distance to the honey. The axis of a figure 8 dance indicates the direction and the velocity of the beating of their wings tells the distance.

Dave shared many other fascinating facts about bees including: at its summer peak a hive may contain up to 40-50,000 bees; in the winter the number shrinks to 3-5,000 who huddle together and flap their wings to keep the interior of the hive at 22-23 degrees; 95% of the bees in a hive are worker bees; a queen bee lays 2 million eggs in her lifetime of 3-4 years; enemies are skunks, ants and disease(beehives are dying because of mites and the hives must be vaporized with oxalic acid to **kill** them); commercial beekeeping would not be viable without the need for the hives in the almond orchards of California each spring.

Dave admits that beekeeping is hard work and expensive. He has discovered that it is far more fun to write about them than to raise them. His book, *SHOW ME THE HONEY Adventures Of an Accidental Apiarist*, is a humorous collection of stories about the lifecycle of bees and beekeeping. In one chapter titled *Queen E. to Queen Bee*, he tells of his visit with Queen Elizabeth who is about 1½ times smaller than he is and about the queen bee who is 1½ times larger than the other bees! Dave read to us from the chapter, *I've Looked At Bees From Both Sides Now* (a play on Joni Mitchell's song), recounting his adventures during the month of July in the mountain out-yard surrounded by½ million bees.

Dave's book was due to launch on March 15, 2020 with promotional events and tours planned, but Covid-19 put a quick end to this. Fortunately, the New York Times gave it a good review and helped sales internationally. It was in the top 1% of book sales on Amazon. His book is available locally and promises to be a fun read.

Joan Williams welcomed Dave, and Barbara Wynn thanked him on our behalf.

Many thanks to Mary Graham for this synopsis of Dave's "honeyed" talk.

Answer to the Lantern Riddle: The Moon. This riddle celebrates the Lunar {Chinese} New Year on February 12.

