



NEWSLETTER – February 2022

WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Next meeting: **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**

9:30 a.m. - Arrival Point Grey Golf Club
10:30 a.m. - Meeting 3350 S.W. Marine Drive, Vancouver

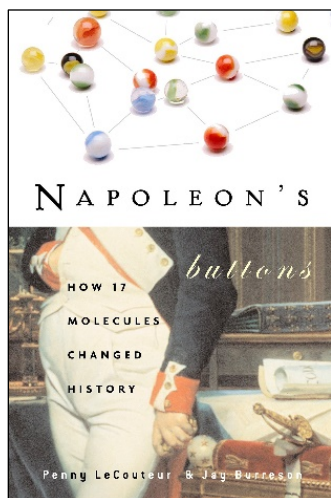
*Please bring your vaccination document, personal ID, and wear your mask.
See page 3 for more information.*

Speaker: Dr. Penny Le Couteur
Topic: Molecules That Changed History

Bio: Penny Le Couteur has a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in chemistry from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Barbara. She was a founding faculty member at Capilano University in North Vancouver where she taught in the Chemistry Department for over 30 years and was Dean of Arts and Sciences when she retired. She was an advisor for curriculum development at several universities in Eastern Indonesia, wrote distance education chemistry courses for B.C.'s Open



University, and co-authored a Canadian grade 12 chemistry textbook. Her 2003 popular science book, *"Napoleon's Buttons: Seventeen Molecules That Changed History"*, was selected as one of three finalists for an award by the U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine. It was described by Entertainment Weekly as *"a splendid example of better reading through chemistry"* and has now been published in nine different languages.



Talk Summary: There are a number of molecules that have changed history but for chemists certain synthetic dye molecules – mauve, alizarin, magenta, indigo – have to be considered the basis of a global organic chemical industry that today produces pharmaceuticals, plastics, explosives, textiles, fertilizers, synthetic oils, paints and all the other organic compounds that the modern world depends on. Other compounds can be said to have changed culture, law, medicine, trade, agriculture, exploration, health, and society. Penny will discuss why and how *"Napoleon's Buttons"* came to be written and review why the seventeen molecules chosen made it into the final version.

Women's PROBUS of Vancouver: <https://probuswomen.com>
Contact us: PROBUSwomen.news@shaw.ca
PROBUS Canada: <https://probus.org>
PROBUS International: <https://probusglobal.org>

A Message from President Leslie Chang

Dear Members:

Welcome back! Our next meeting on Tuesday, March 1st, is in-person at the Point Grey Golf Club in our usual space and time. This will be my first in-person meeting as President. I am excited and looking forward to seeing you all after a long pandemic hiatus. Indoor masking and vaccine passports will still be required. Our Newsletter Editor, Jane LePorte, and Webmaster, Estelle Jacobson, will keep you updated through our monthly Newsletter and PROBUS emails.

The 2022 Lunar New Year is the year of the Tiger. I have been busy putting good luck money into red “*Lai See*” envelopes for my children and grandchildren. Traditionally, the lucky red envelopes are given to unmarried children. Denominations are given in lucky pairs and red colours if possible. The red signifies good luck and happiness.

I am also filling goodie bags with cookies and sweets in preparation for Valentine’s Day.

Even though these holidays will have passed by the time you receive this newsletter, I would still like to wish you all a very Happy Lunar New Year and Happy Valentine’s Day!



Wishing you an abundance of happiness, health, and good fortune for 2022!

Sincerely yours,

Leslie Chang

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

First Women's Probus In-person Meeting in Two Years

Our March 1 meeting at Point Grey Golf Course has been highly anticipated and it will be wonderful to see everyone again.



We will follow the Provincial Health Office's guidelines regarding COVID-19 restrictions.

The doors will open at 9:30 AM – **please have your vaccination card and person ID ready to show Point Grey Golf Club staff.**

Masks must be worn from the time you enter the building until you depart. Please pick up your badges at the A-L or M-Z tables in the meeting room.

Coffee and tea will not be available at this meeting.

The meeting will start at 10:00 AM.

You will receive an email giving you all the details and it **WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO REGISTER** we are looking forward to seeing our members in person

Announcements

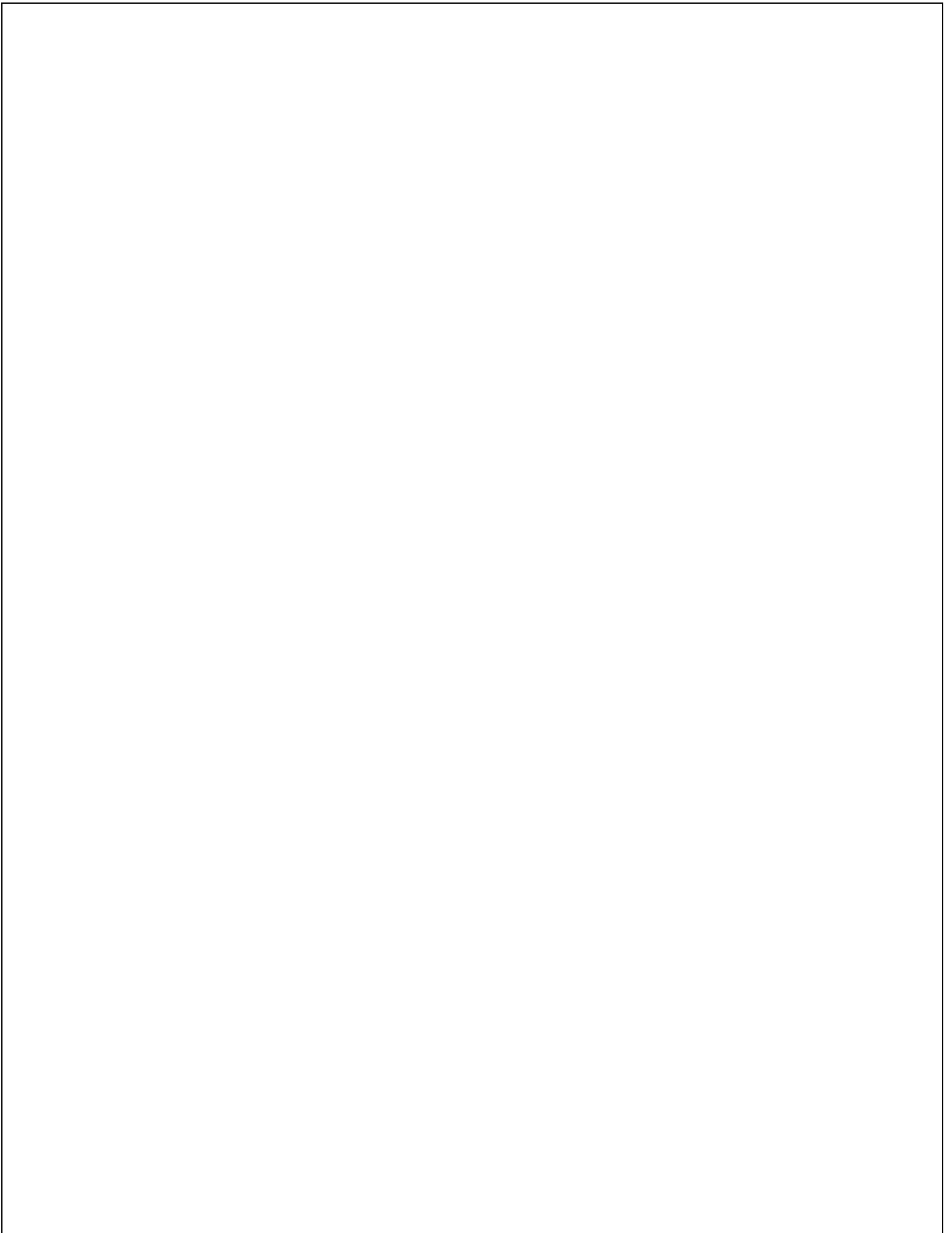
Reminder: Please turn off your cell phones, and as a courtesy, no perfume at PROBUS meetings.

The golf club has a defibrillator, if anyone has a problem during a meeting.

Management Committee Contacts: Women's PROBUS members will find the *confidential* phone numbers and email addresses on the last page of their Newsletter.

Update Your Contact Information: Have you moved, changed your email address or phone number? Please update your profile on the Club's website <https://probuswomen.com>.

Newsletter: Contributions of stories, poems, jokes and brainteasers are welcome. Please send them to the Newsletter Editor by the 10th of the month.



Topic of the Day

**Doctors in Canada were asked for their opinion on the question:
Is it time to ease COVID restrictions?**

Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

Gastroenterologists had a sort of a gut feeling about it, but Neurologists thought the government had a lot of nerve.

Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted.

Many Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while Paediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and Pharmacists claimed it would be a bitter pill to swallow.

Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "*put a whole new face on the matter.*"

Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but Urologists were pissed off by the whole idea.

Anaesthetists thought the whole idea was a gas, and Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the assholes in politics.

If any politicians are reading this, it's a Joke!



FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Dr. Trevor Heaver, Shipping in Vancouver



Have you ever sat on one of our beaches and wondered about all those ships in the harbour? I am sure many of us have done so. I have even sat there and attempted to sketch them in the distance.

On February 1, PROBUS members had the opportunity to learn more about these ships. We were fortunate to have Trevor Heaver, Professor Emeritus, UBC, Transport and Logistics, explain what is going on with shipping in Vancouver.

Dr. Heaver began his talk by demonstrating how nautical terms have become part of our conversational language. So, we began to learn the ropes about shipping in Vancouver.

He then explained how ships are measured by size and capacity. We learned that how ships are anchored is determined by their size and what the swinging circle for each ship requires. The largest ships in the world can be accommodated here in the outer anchorages and in English Bay there are 18 such anchorages. The Vancouver Port Authority also assigns anchorages in the Gulf Islands; Nanaimo has a port authority as well.

There are four categories of freighters that we see in Vancouver. They are dry bulk carriers, tankers, container ships, and special vessels such as Ro-Ros for cars.



Dry bulk carriers come in different sizes and have different roles, and these are what we often see in English Bay. They may be delivering steel and machinery and taking away wood pulp, for example.

A second category is tankers. They rarely anchor in English Bay but rather east of the Second Narrows Bridge. Interestingly, they may hold fuel oil or edible oil.



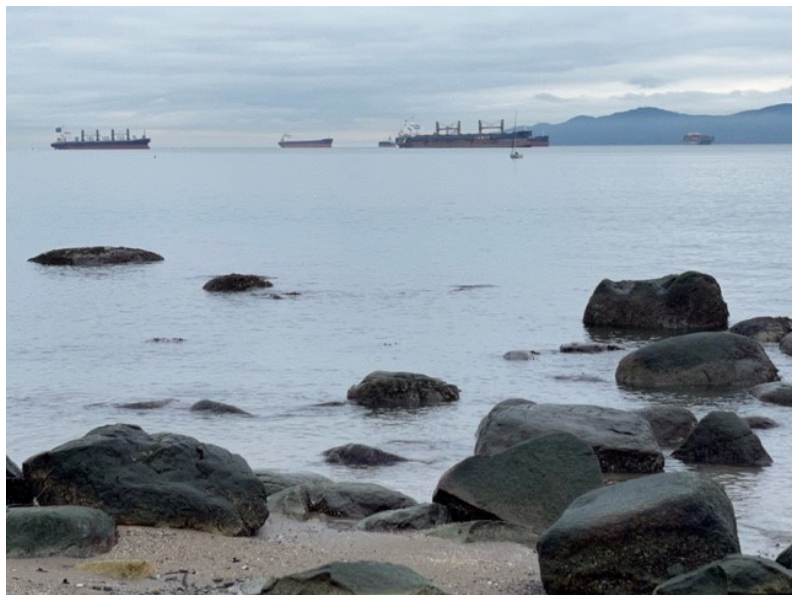


Then we have container ships, which don't usually anchor in English Bay, although a couple have been seen in the last month. These ships are now larger than ever before and, infamously, one of these got stuck in the Suez Canal recently. They have been known to lose containers overboard in rough seas. There is a big demand for consumer goods in North America, but due to the pandemic and weather issues, terminals were closed.

An interesting point Trevor made was that we are importing high-value products and exporting low-revenue products, primarily to send the containers back to China. Container ships don't anchor; if they don't have cargo bookings, they unload and depart immediately. Bulk carriers arriving to load specific cargo, e.g., coal, grain, and fertilizer, may have to wait in the harbour.

Ships need, by law, local pilots to come into our harbours, and we were shown how tricky it is to get on and off these ships. Pilots give orders when on board, but the captain is responsible for getting the ship into port.

Dr. Heaver finished his fascinating talk by telling us how normal it is for crews to be on ships away from home for nine to twelve months, which gave us a new way to look at these ships. During COVID, they were confined on board even when in port. When Dr. Heaver was a passenger on a ship a few years ago, they didn't even have access to email except when in port.



Joan Williams made the introduction, Leslie Chang thanked him, and Meredyth Kezar summarized this enlightening talk, adding her own pictures of these massive ships we see every day.

Editor's book recommendation: *Moby Duck* by Donovan Hohn, which addresses many marine issues.

