



NEWSLETTER – July 2022

WOMEN’S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Next meeting: **Tuesday, August 2, 2022**
9:30 a.m. - Arrival Point Grey Golf Club
10:00 a.m. - Meeting 3350 S.W. Marine Drive, Vancouver

Masks are optional but recommended.

We wish to acknowledge that we meet on the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

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Speaker: Joost Bakker, Architect
Topic: Vancouver – Evolving Public Space

A fourth-generation architect and a founding partner of the DIALOG Vancouver studio, Joost focuses on innovative urban design, mixed-use, institutional, and cultural projects.

His passion for enhancing the public realm has led to his involvement in projects across Canada, China, the United States, and Denmark. Within Canada, Joost has contributed to meaningful and memorable public spaces, such as the internationally recognized Granville Island, the Governor General award-winning Richmond City Hall, and the student union building at the University of British Columbia, called “*The Nest*”. Joost recently completed Rainbow Park, a new urban park in the heart of downtown Vancouver.



Joost contributed significantly to the public life of his community. He is currently on the Board of the Western Front and is past president of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation and the Contemporary Art Gallery.

PROBUS Canada: <https://probus.org>
PROBUS International: <https://probusglobal.org>

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

July 5 Meeting: President Hodie Rondeau called the meeting to order and thanked greeter, Isabelle Stroud.

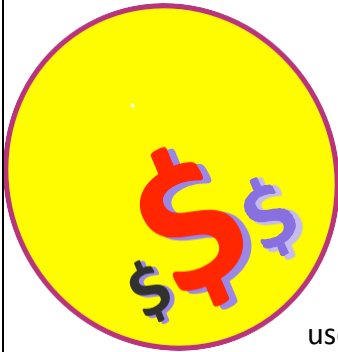
Guests, and new member Catherine Pallen, were welcomed by the approximately 80 members present.

*****MARK YOUR CALENDAR ***** the December meeting will be on the 13th not the 6th.

Speaker's Committee: Three new members have joined this committee who will continue the tradition of booking dynamic and topical speakers for our meetings. They are also new members of Women's PROBUS:

Jo-Anne Perley-McField, Sydney Hook, and Wendy Baker

Suggestions for future speakers are welcome.



Annual Membership Fees Are Due: Members with an email address have received notification that the 2022-2023 membership fees of \$80.00 are due by September 15. This notice gives instructions on how to pay by credit card, which is preferred. You also have the option of paying by cheque, payable to Women's PROBUS at the August or September meetings, or by mail to Treasurer Barbara Paterson, 5749 Athlone Street, Vancouver, BC V6M 3A1.

PROBUS Canada Health/Travel Insurance: If you would like to know more, use this link:

<https://www.probus.org/probus-news/insurance/>

At a District meeting, our Executive were told that many members in other Clubs did not like the Zoom meetings but remained members because of this insurance. Check it out to see if it meets your needs.

Guests: Invite your friends to be your guests at a meeting and to join Women's PROBUS. If they go to our website, www.probuswomen.com, and click **Join Us**, they will see the application. Our dues are \$80.00 per year payable by September 15 with a one-time initiation fee of \$20.00.

Communication: Various updates and reminders will be sent via brief emails and will also be in the Newsletter.

Action Items

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. Please contact them if you have any questions.

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 brain teasers are welcome. Please send them to the Newsletter Editor any time you wish.



Thoughts for the Day

Why is it when we talk to God we’re praying, but when God talks to us, we’re schizophrenic?

-Lily Tomlin

Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.

-Nikita Khrushchev

You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough.

-C.S. Lewis

I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.

-Thomas Edison

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JULY SPEAKER

Geoff Mynett, Author and Historian
Story of Pioneer BC Doctor Horace Wrinch

In 1880 at age 14 Horace Wrinch left his family’s farm in Essex, England, and spent 20 years in Quebec developing his skills in the medical field with the unrealized goal of using this knowledge as a missionary in China. In 1990, after marrying his wife Alice, a teacher, nurse and also a missionary, they headed west to Hazelton, BC, which had great need for a doctor at the time.

Hazelton in north-central BC was first established in the 1840s Gold Rush, and the area was still only accessible by horse or boat in the early 1990s. All supplies such as food and medical equipment to the population of early settlers and the Gitsan First Nations came on the Bulkley or Skeena rivers, and not at all during the winter.

Dr. Wrinch performed surgeries in the patients’ homes, bringing a board to serve as an operating table! In 1904, Horace and Alice built a home, half of which served as a 22-bed hospital. In subsequent years, church services were held in the hospital, the Red Cross was established in the

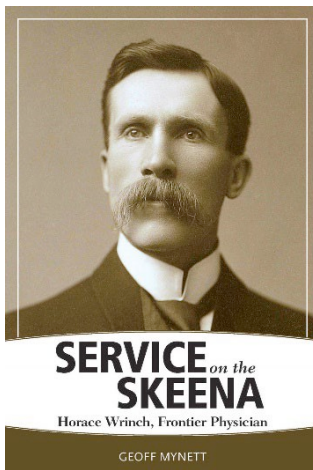
region, a nurses training school was opened, and a hospital farm fed the Wrinch family (five children), patients and staff during the winter months. Horace introduced “private insurance” where \$1 per month would provide free medical treatment; for every dollar the hospital received fifty cents.

In 1918, the Spanish Flu arrived and Horace was the only doctor between Terrace and Vanderhoof. He quickly closed all gathering locations and established overflow hospitals, resulting in minimal deaths both in the non-indigenous population and the Gitksan population.

In 1918, Horace was involved with the first BC Hospital Association and initially Board members put up personal money to keep hospitals running. In the 1920s he served two terms as a BC Liberal Party MLA, although he refused to vote along party lines. As a supporter of BC public health care, he proposed legislation three times, but was unsuccessful due to opposition from doctors who did not want government setting their fees. This legislation did not pass until after WWII.

Tragedy struck in 1923 when Alice passed away from cancer, age 53, and the grief-stricken First Nations population played music for her procession. While raising five children, she was enormously committed to community work in her own right. Sadly, author Geoff Mynett did not find much, if any, information about her in archives and libraries in Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, Hazelton and Smithers when doing his research for this book.

Horace stayed in Hazelton for another 13 years and when he died at age 73 the Vancouver Sun described him as “the most influential and best-liked man that ever blessed the central BC district with his presence”. He refused to have a new hospital named for him “because he wasn’t dead yet”.



Some of His Accomplishments:

- Doctor and Surgeon
- Hospital Administrator
- Established nurses training school
- Methodist Minister
- Farmer
- Community Leader
- Politician
- Entrepreneur
- Developed first health insurance in BC
- Pioneered a vaccine for the Spanish Flu

We heard a fascinating and well researched story about this pioneer doctor, and Geoff Mynett has written other books set in the region of BC where Dr. Wrinch lived. www.geoffmynett.com

Geoff was introduced by Jane LePorte and VP Meredyth Kezar thanked him on our behalf, acknowledging he generously donated his honorarium to the Vancouver Food Bank.

Jane LePorte summarized the life and times of this dynamic man.

