



## WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Next meeting: **Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023** (Note – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)  
9:30 a.m. - Arrival / 10:00 a.m. - Meeting  
Point Grey Golf Club, 3350 S.W. Marine Drive



**\*\* April is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women's PROBUS Club of Vancouver \*\***

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

*Masks are optional but recommended*

**Speaker:**

Cecelia Reekie

Cecelia Reekie is a member of the Haisla First Nation, who lives in Aldergrove with her husband. Cecelia's traditional name is nuyem dzeets 'iksdu qwia.

**Topic:**

Our Shared History



Cecelia is a cultural presenter with the Langley School District and facilitates many different workshops for students from Grade 2-12. Cecelia has also presented in many other school districts be it Pro D or directly with students, faith organizations, businesses, and non-profit organizations as well.

Cecelia believes in understanding OUR shared history in Canada, in reconciliation and in having a country where everyone can find space and belonging.

Women's PROBUS of Vancouver: <https://probuswomen.com>  
Contact us: [probuswomen@gmail.com](mailto:probuswomen@gmail.com)  
PROBUS Canada: <https://probus.org>  
PROBUS International: <https://probusglobal.org>  
Women's PROBUS on [FACEBOOK](#)

## MARCH SPEAKER

### Douglas Justice

#### Ornamental Cherry Trees in Vancouver

Douglas Justice, from UBC Botanical Gardens, gave a beautifully illustrated presentation on Vancouver's Flowering Cherry Trees. Barbara Wynn introduced Douglas. She has known him for over 23 years and, apart from his being a self-proclaimed show-off, told us that he is an expert in many different genres and has authored several books.

Douglas agreed that he is a show-off, a trait he inherited from his father, Clive, a botanist and landscape architect. His interest in trees of all sorts began at an early age when he roamed the streets of Vancouver noticing the phenology or seasonal cycle of various trees.

Vancouver has an ideal climate for cherry trees. In the 1930's and 1950's Japan sent hundreds of cherry trees to Vancouver and to Washington DC. Our early ones were planted in Stanley Park with the Ojochin or Big Lantern variety being planted by the cenotaph which memorializes the Japanese Canadians who fought and died in WWI. Lanterns were traditionally placed in windows to help guide the souls of soldiers home. In the 1950's the city began planting the trees on boulevards and in parks around the city. Some of these early varieties can also be seen in the Nitobe Gardens.

Douglas was involved with the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival (Sakura) from its beginning in the early 2000's. This festival is hugely successful because it taps into our need to celebrate beauty; our good fortune to live in this beautiful city and it can be enjoyed by all because it is free!

He had already been cataloguing Vancouver's cherry trees prior to this and soon produced a handbook of all the trees. Helping with this project were "Cherry Scouts"; volunteers across the city who post pictures on the UBC Botanical Garden site [www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca](http://www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca) for others to see and

comment on. The handbook is available through the Cherry Blossom Festival, UBC Botanical Gardens and VanDusen Botanical Gardens.

Cherry trees are reasonably long lived if they are not stressed. Some of our trees are considered 'ugly cherries' now because of problems with graft incompatibility. In some the root stock may begin to take over and then a dual colour blossom arrives. In others a canker disease can develop around the graft, the bark can crack at the graft leading to pests or suckers can emerge from the graft. The UBC Gardens nursery is now experimenting with using cuttings to

propagate the trees. There are 35 trees in production in the nursery. This is a long process and therefore trees from cuttings are not often sold in nurseries.

Douglas shared some lovely pictures and stories about various varieties. Here are a few he mentioned:

Kanzan – the most popular cultivar in the world. Its double flowers last longer than single flower species due to the hormones in double flowers being higher.

Shogetsu – moonlight through the pine trees. Beautiful one in Nitobe Gardens.

Ichihara-tora-no-o-tiger tail – 57th and Fraser. 70 years old. It may be the only one outside Japan. UBC is trying to propagate it.

Atsumori – commemorates a young samurai who died in war. Near Lord Byng.

Ama-no-gawa – heavens river (Milky Way). Fragrant and upright.

Mikuruma-gaeshi – royal carriage returns. Both double and single flowers.

Akebono – Daybreak – Soft pink at the entrance to Shaughnessy Golf Club. Planted by Douglas's father.



*Meredyth Kezar, who was a "Cherry Scout" at one time, thanked Douglas with our honorarium in a card she has painted of cherry blossoms. "There is no stranger under the cherry tree." Kobayashi Issa*

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**HELP WANTED** - Our AGM is coming up...

As per the earlier email, our AGM is coming up & it has been suggested that we move to 2-year terms for the Management Committee positions. This is a common length for not-for-profit organizations & allows for more continuity & reduces learning curves. Ideally, we will stagger terms so that there isn't a completely new team every 2 years. Many of our team have been doing this for much longer (e.g. Thank you, Barb, for 10 years!)

At this point, Leslie, Hodie & Meredyth have agreed to continue their positions for the next year.

To date, all responses have been positive, so assuming we go for the 2-year terms this year, we will not need a President, Vice-President, or Past-President. The following would be the openings that need champions:

- **Treasurer** – track our money
- **Newsletter Editor** – gather information and the Webmaster will format the Newsletter
- **Membership** – most new members join online now; you will welcome them
- **Activities** – Form a committee to organize a few outings and tours.

We understand that your time is valuable, which is why we are looking for individuals who can commit to just a few hours each month. As a member of our executive team, you will have the opportunity to use your expertise and leadership skills to make a positive impact in the community.

Please note that our previous committee members are great with help & support where needed... we're all in this together!

Please contact Past President Leslie Chang [lchang@telus.net](mailto:lchang@telus.net) for more info.

### 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.

#### Newsletter:

Contributions of stories, poems, jokes and brain teasers are welcome. Please send them to the Newsletter Editor any time you wish.

#### 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>  
Or email [womensprobus@gmail.com](mailto:womensprobus@gmail.com)

### Isn't It The Truth

Old(er) age is coming at a really bad time.

Happiness is not having to set the alarm clock.

Our people skills are just fine. It's our tolerance for nincompoops that needs work.

### **Thank you! Hardy Bunn,**

Here is a story about Hardy Bunn who has been publishing and mailing our Newsletter, and maintaining the roster since 2006 until we went "in house" in January.



She was born in Estonia, and later immigrated to Canada with her family. After raising her own family, she decided to start a business - during the 1984 recession! In a less-than- respectable old building on Beatty Street (the rent was affordable) she offered office suites with excellent business support services. With drive and determination her business grew and is now in the iconic Marine Building where Hardy has an entire floor of beautifully furnished office suites.

As well as a successful businesswoman, Hardy is an avid photographer, keen gardener, and enjoys getting together with her family. Perhaps one day she will retire and join Women's PROBUS