

President's Notes



This July-August brings us the Paris 2024 Olympics, their second in 100 years. The opening ceremonies gave tribute to our weather just of late – heavy rain. I admired French perseverance in putting the enormous show on outdoors as planned but severely drenched by rain. It had rained here yesterday, and I noticed locals walking without umbrellas with the same drenched look as performers in France. But our rain is welcomed in fighting the incredible number of forest fires throughout BC. Hopefully, you will have an August 1st holiday enjoying pleasant weather without forest fire clouds or smoke scent in the air. But it is a reminder that many workers are engaged in serious life-threatening activities for which we need to be thankful.

Moving on with AGM preparations for September 9th, your Nominating Committee is pleased to announce a recommendation slate for our Management Committee (MC) for 2024/2025. I thank the new candidates coming forward to fill the open positions. Their photos and bio will appear in the September newsletter. Club members can also submit other nominations up to 14 days before the AGM. The regular Zoom recording will not take place at that meeting. This is done to encourage in-person attendance as 15% of our membership must be present for the vote on the proposed new board. Join us for our year-end meeting to wrap up another year enjoying the camaraderie of in-person meetings and sharing personal experiences as well as those from Special Event outings. There will be more events this next Probus year and an exciting announcement for our Christmas luncheon.

Regarding our administration, Linda Metcalfe will continue her terrific support for the MC and our members with announcements and newsletter organization. However, we need a new Scribe or Assistant for our current Scribe Darlene Dean. This task, the newsletter preparation of a speaker's delivery, is made easier with write-ups being done from recordings and potentially having them converted to text for minor editing. Please contact my address below if you have an interest in this role. Also in administration, we received a letter of recognition for our continued donation of \$1,000 yearly to the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation. Our club's name will be displayed in the new Paul Myers Tower main floor.

By now you will have received your annual renewal notice. With the small increase in annual fees, we are projecting a healthy financial future. Please remember they are to be paid by the AGM in September by cheque or by

e-transfer according to the instructions sent out.

On a national basis, Probus Canada has been encouraging greater communications with all clubs across Canada. Go to their website at <https://www.probuscanada.ca/> for more information. They have pictures and videos of members in action. Some of ours may appear as well. We are part of over 250 clubs in Canada, with over 35,000 members. That's a sizable organization of clubs like us enjoying socializing with retirees, under our current national theme,

“Getting Together: Staying Together” with friendship, fellowship, and fun.

Terry McLeod, President

Contact: president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Call for MC Nominations

Nominations Committee is in the process of establishing recommendations for the 2024/2025 Management Committee which normally is elected at our September Annual General Meeting. I have included our bylaw related to this.

Bylaw No. 4 – Election of Officers

1. A Nominating Committee consisting of the President-Elect, President and a Past President (if available, otherwise a Club member in good standing) shall present to the Annual General Meeting a slate of candidates for election to the Management Committee.
2. Any further nominations (with prior consent to stand) shall be conveyed to the Nominating Committee at least 14 days prior to the Annual Meeting.
3. When more than one candidate is nominated for an office, voting for that position shall be by ballot.

We have recruited Alex Campbell as Secretary, Gordon Adair as Treasurer, Ron Nalewajek as Speakers Chair, Darryl Stodalka as Communications Chair, Harley Cameron as House Chair, and Steve Wilson as Special Events Chair, Rick Ryan will fill the President position, and Terry McLeod will remain on the MC as Past-President. The Vice-President position is under consideration.

We now have a proposed slate for our 2024-2025 MC for election at the AGM. Members may still put their name forward until 14 days prior to the AGM on September 9th, 2024.

If you have any interest to fill a position or have questions relating to the above, please give me a call at 604-926-0239 or send an email.

Terry McLeod President

New Members Introduced and Welcomed at July Meeting



Ralph McClellan hails from Toronto and has lived in West Vancouver for the past 22 years.

He attended the University of Toronto and graduated with a P. Eng. and subsequently received his MBA from Harvard. Ralph has been self employed in real estate investment and worked in Toronto and Calgary.

His interests include golf, cycling, hiking and bridge.



Ron Nalewajek was born in Montreal and has resided on the North Shore for 25 years.

He graduated from the University of Alberta in Mechanical Engineering and has been involved in industrial construction in Western Canada and the USA. Projects include mining, oil and gas, sewage

and water treatment, pulp and paper, power generation and chemical processing with PCL industrial, HMW construction and Ledcor.

Ron's interests include woodworking, home renovation, travel, skiing and power boating.



Drew Wood, originally from San Francisco, has resided in West Vancouver from over 25 years.

Upon graduation from high school Drew embarked on a career in sales of construction equipment throughout Western Canada. After retirement he also is engaged in service work in the downtown east side.

Drew enjoys golf, tennis, pickleball, and skiing.

Special Events

Hydra Energy Tour

Seventeen members attended the July 17th tour to the Hydra Energy facility on Annacis Island.

We were shown the prototype hydrogen unit which can be installed in diesel transport trucks as an add on hybrid fuel source which displaces up to 30% of the diesel fuel, thus reducing carbon emissions. The participants enjoyed the interactive question and answer session and we were very impressed with the in depth knowledge of our tour guide Tyson White.

This was followed by a video presentation of a hydrogen production facility being built in Prince George to provide hydrogen fuel for trucks that have been retrofitted with the hybrid add on. There was also discussion of the business model of Hydra and the two ways they market their product to penetrate the transportation industry.

Following the tour, Watch for upcoming events in September at the HR Macmillan Space Center and in October at the Monova Museum and costumed guided tour of the old shipyards. View some tour photos are on the next page.

Steve Wilson, Special Events Committee

HR McMillan Tour Wednesday Sept. 4, 2024

The Special events committee is pleased to announce our next tour on **Wednesday, September 4, 2024** to HR McMillan Space Centre 1100, Chestnut Street, Vancouver.

The theme of the presentation is “**Out There**”

“For thousands of years, humans thought that the Earth was the centre of the universe. Thanks to our curiosity, Imagination and urge to explore, we now know that planets like our Earth are nothing special in the cosmos. Discover more about the quest for planets beyond our solar system.”

Date of Event: Wednesday September 4, 2024.

Address: HR McMillan Space Centre 1100, Chestnut Street, Vancouver.

Cost of the tour: \$45.

Transportation: We do have bus reserved for this tour. Those taking the bus should arrive at the Senior Centre before 9 am.

Parking: For those driving there is ample parking at Space centre. Cost is \$4.30/hour.

Duration of the presentation: 3 hours (10 am to 1 pm).

Lunch: 1:15 pm at Boathouse (1305 Arbutus Street) which is very close to the Space Centre.

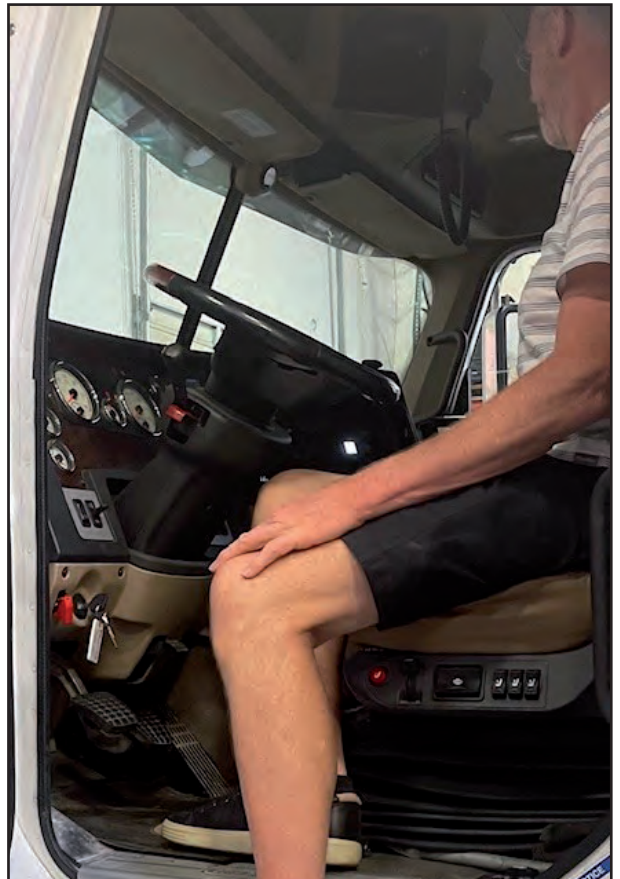
Expected return time to Senior centre: 3 pm.

Arvind Thakore, Special Events Committee

Photos from the Hydra Energy Tour



Plan to enjoy an event and meet your fellow members.



Member Photos from the July Meeting



President Terry welcomes new members Ralph McClellan, Ron Nalewajek and Drew Wood.

Below are members enjoying fellowship prior to the speaker presentation.



Member Photos from the July Meeting



*Fun
Fellowship
Friendship*

Membership Renewals

On July 20th renewal invoices for \$115.00 for the 2024-2025 Probus membership year were sent to all members. The renewal fee is due by August 31, 2024. Payment may be made by cheque or by e-transfer using Interac. Instructions were included in the renewal message.



Please indicate by return email if there are any updates required in your personal information such as changes in your home address, email address, telephone number, etc. to ensure that you receive information on club activities.

Your prompt response will be greatly appreciated. **Note that if you are paying by Interac, please ensure that you use the correct email.** Feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns by email.

A desk will be set up at the August meeting to receive cheque payments. We have an exciting program planned for the coming year.

Ron Ash, Membership Chair

Upper Left - VP Rick Ryan and Peter van Drimmelen.

Below- Special Events Chair Steve Wilson (in checkered long sleeved shirt) next to greeter and two other members.



Last Month Speaker - Issam Laradji, Professor, Artificial Intelligence



President Terry McLeod (on left) thanks speaker.

Issam Laradji - Staff AI Research Scientist at ServiceNow; Adjunct Professor at UBC

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being used more and more for applications that are helpful such as “CHAT GPT” which is really a writing assistant to help you make messages look nicer. Before AI can be useful in an application, the action it will accomplish has to be quantified and be very specific. AI applications are software and behind the scenes are made up of millions of numbers – computers only use #'s and the larger the application, the more computing power it requires to run.

The general fear acknowledged is that AI will become more intelligent than people. However, the program is built by people and does not “think” on its own. The program is only as good as the people who developed it. Also, a really important fact is that you always need a human vetting the decisions AI might make.

Our speaker provided the following summary points for us to consider:

- **Risk of Losing Creativity and a Mindful Life:** Over-relying on AI can diminish our creative outlets that are important for a healthy, mindful life. Tasks like writing and producing art serve as valuable opportunities for mindfulness, creativity, and personal

growth. When we encounter resistance, such as “writer’s block,” it is a chance to explore these feelings further, which can lead to cathartic and transformative experiences. However, we often take the path of least resistance by using AI to complete these tasks, resulting in content that may not fully align with our vision. This would diminish the quality of the content but also robs us of the potential profound personal growth that can come from overcoming creative challenges.

- **Expert writers, artists, and coders are more needed than ever.** Much of the AI-generated content we see today is starting to look similar and “boring”. Perhaps that is because most of the models are being trained on similar datasets that encompass a big chunk of the internet. While AI can create aesthetically pleasing images and well-written text at first glance, these often lack depth and substance. AI models merely regurgitate the patterns they have learned to satisfy a precisely defined mathematical function. Further, their upper bound is limited by the quality of the data they receive. Therefore, human experts are always essential in this case for elevating the quality of the content to a higher level, while also addressing reliability challenges as LLMs can hallucinate (they just don’t know when to shut up or say I don’t know).
- **Apocalyptic Scenarios Are Unfounded:** While AI can be useful for specific use cases, such as being a writing assistant, fears of it causing apocalyptic scenarios like the “paperclip challenge” are largely unfounded. Current AI models are statistical in nature and require clear, mathematically defined objectives to function. The “paperclip challenge” suggests a scenario where an AI, tasked with making paper clips, becomes so single-minded that it consumes all resources to achieve its goal (maybe self-replicating and enslaving humans in the process). However, defining such a goal in a precise statistical mathematical format is extremely difficult (impossible I would say but maybe I am missing something). The most we could achieve in this context would be to spend years training a paperclip detector, an AI that can identify paperclips in an image.
- **Despite all these statements,** I see AI as incredibly valuable when used as a human assistant and within the scope of its capabilities and of course with carefully crafted prompts and with reliable benchmarks to test these AI models on.

Summary prepared by member Darlene Dean

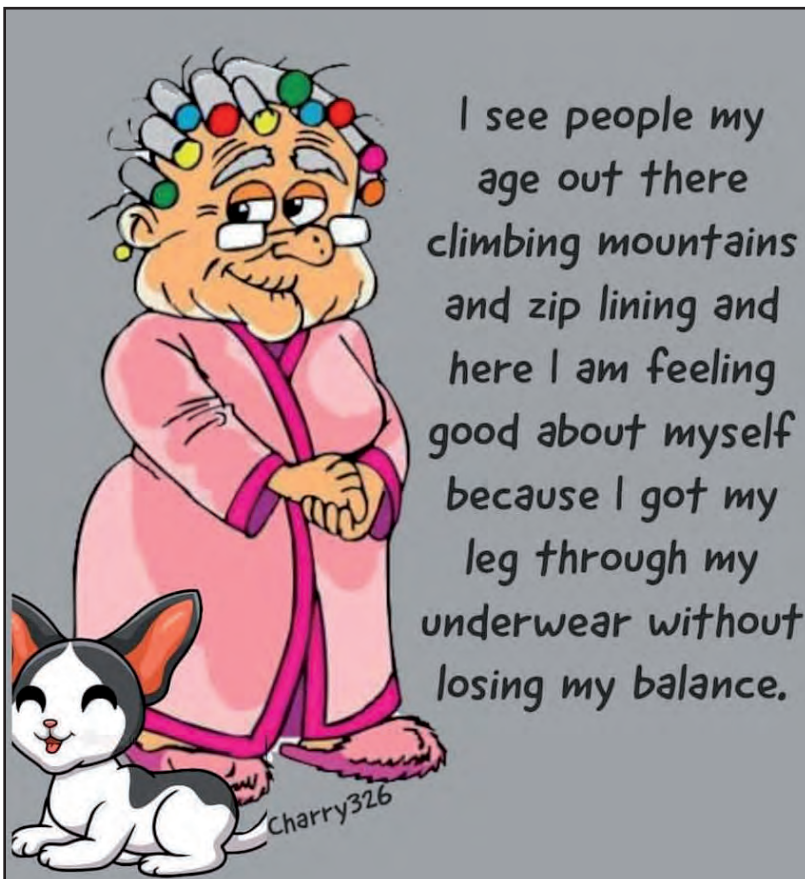


**I NEVER
THOUGHT I
WOULD BE
THE TYPE TO
GET UP EARLY
IN THE
MORNING AND
EXERCIZE.**

I WAS RIGHT!



It's better to grow old with a sense of humour than to grow old with no sense at all.



Just bought a head of lettuce. Should I throw it away now or wait two weeks like I usually do?

