



PROBUS Club of Central Edmonton Newsletter

January 2022

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Club News:

We lost long time Club member Dick Southworth. Dick was a great supporter of the Club serving on the Executive in a variety of position, including president. He was someone we looked forward to seeing and speaking with. The club held one minute of silence at the subsequent meeting in his honor. He will be greatly missed. Following obituary was published in Edmonton Journal January 29:



Richard "Dick" passed away on January 21, 2022, at the age of 81. He suffered a cardiac arrest while skiing, doing something he loved. He was an active member of the Rocky Mountain Seniors Ski Club.

He was predeceased by his loving wife of 55 years, Donna and parents Norah and William Southworth.

He will forever be in the hearts of his family: son Scott; daughter Joy; son-in-law Brad; granddaughters Sofia and Laura; sister Ann Frederickson; niece Signi (George) and their daughters Lily and Sara; nephew John (Kerrie) Frederickson and their children, Jesse and Elise, as well as numerous cousins, relatives, and friends.

Richard was born in Flin Flon, Manitoba and was raised in Island Falls. He attended middle and high school at Luther

College, in Regina. He went on to study at University of Saskatchewan and spent most of his career as a High School Physics teacher and later, an administrator at Alberta Teachers Association. His career took him to Uranium City, Manitoba, Calgary, Alberta and East Africa.

He found great purpose in his community work and fellowship with the Edmonton Al Shamal Shrine, The Masonic Lodge, Kiwanis Music Festival, Rotary Club and Canadian Mental Health Association. His volunteerism, optimism, and passion for life, was appreciated by all who knew him.

A Memorial Service and celebration of life will take place at a future date. Memorial donations can be made in Richard's name to Canadian Mental Health Association, 300-10010 105th St. NW. Edmonton, AB T5J 1C4 To send condolences, please visit www.fostermcgarvey.com.

Member news:

Scott Watson shared his origins and experiences. With respect to his roots, Scott's grandfather migrated from Scotland. He stated that he gained many valuable lessons from

his grandfather and father. While he was active in sports as a youth, his real passion was playing trumpet. He was quite skilled winning medals and other recognition. It became a lifelong activity.

He attended the university of Alberta School of Business. While at the U of A he played in the jazz band as lead trumpet for all 4 years. Graduating in early 80 he found the job market was tough. He started with the Continental Bank collecting debt, he was "Scott the repo man". His size (5 foot 5) was not necessarily conducive to the job. His next job was working in the TD bank, this position had himself working throughout Alberta.

He wanted to live in Edmonton, so he left the bank and started law school. This was the day after he married his high school sweetheart. After gaining his law degree he and his wife went on a trip through Europe. He shared some anecdote from this trip. After the trip he launched into his career in law. With his financial background he focused on business and financial transactions. He became active in the Canadian Bar Association (CBA). Taking on more and more responsibility in the CBA. His family travelled with him when he was on CBA business, he and his family were able to have many experiences. After the CBA, he was elected as one of the Benchers for the Law society.

After close to 30 years of practice he decided to retire in 2017. He now can spend more time with family (wife and 2 sons), plays in 4 bands, hikes and kayaks in the summer, and snowshoes in the winter. He is Board chair of the Canterbury.

He has, like many members, had a remarkable life. I thank him for sharing it with us.

January 18 – Presentation

Chris Vollum of CMV social media spoke to us about social media. Focusing on 4 "apps" which he felt were most important to young people these days, they were:

- Twitter, great for news
- Instagram, all visual
- Snapchat, key here is that stuff disappears, but the user can always take a screenshot
- Tik Tok, this one is about music

We were exposed to a brief demonstration on how to operate each of these apps. The point being to allow us to get comfortable with them.

What was most important for us was how our grandchildren may use social media and how we can use social media to get closer to them and perhaps influence them in a positive way. He spoke extensively about the children he teaches. They are focused on their phones. They do not want to be left out. Also, they do not want to be embarrassed online because it does not go away and can travel the world.

He suggests that we start by asking them about their use social media. Then ask them what they want immediately when they post something. They will likely answer they want "likes". Then ask what if they did not get a like. The point being that this can become very damaging. Here is what you want to do? Consider:

- what inspires them,
- what their interests were,
- what captures their attention, and
- what brought them joy.

Using this information, you can speak to them about how they use social media to help them with these areas by turning social media into a tool to further their knowledge.

Another strategy is to get them to help you learn how to use social media, but you need to be sincere in this endeavour. Ask them for permission to follow them on their social media accounts.

He next spoke about content evaluation. When kids get to high school the content they produce will likely be evaluated by other, for example perspective employers. He shared the following quote from a recruiter "I have now dropped 15 recruits because of their twitter posts, likes or retweets." There are 2 points:

1. Your stuff will be evaluated so make it meaningful
2. Do not click like on content you do not support. People will look at it. To often people click like because it was a friend, though they may find the content repugnant.

We then benefited from his knowledge of the 4 apps and how to use them. Each has tutorials to assist as you work with them. I think this was one of the presentations that can make difference in our lives, just follow his suggestions. I thank him for his wisdom.

January 25 – Presentation

Presentation delivered by David Phillips, entitled "What's Happening to our Weather: 2021, the year climate change hit Canada hard". David started by speaking about his 50 years of experiences in the weather forecasting business. He noted that Canadian were obsessed with weather. We live in one of the coldest countries in the world. And weather affects many of the events we experience.

Some facts he shared:

- Men are struck by lightning 4 times more than women
- Average sneeze reaches hurricane speed
- Hurricanes assigned a female name have killed more people than ones assigned a male name

He also shared examples of why it is important to check the forecast before engaging in outdoor activities. One example was of a man who tried skydiving for the first time only to be surprised by severe winds, which ultimately led to severe injury. In another case, a farmer in Didsbury was caught in a lightning storm and struck, leaving him clad in only the waste band from his underwear.

We then we treated with a review of cloud types and several amusing formations.



This is one example he shared. He referred to Canadian weather as delightfully unpredictable. There are weather sayings from each part of the Country, for example in Newfoundland its said that if you look out the front door and don't like weather, look out the back. He stated that Canadians are very inventive because of the weather, sharing several winter related inventions by Canadian: Snow mobile.

In an average year Canada experiences 2 to 3 tropic storms, perhaps 80 tornadoes, 3 million lightning strikes and temps from +40 to -50, in short it is varied. Starting with 1996, he reported his view on the top 10 weather events in the year. He noted that in the recent past we have had some interesting weather. Though in late 1990's one year was so tame, he had trouble getting his 10 events identified. The last few years some significant events we experienced, include:

- Fort McMurray and Slave Lake wildfires that provided their own weather
- The slave lake fire and its weather
- 2005 Edmonton tornado
- 2013 flood in Calgary

But there has not been anything like the last year – 2021 was wild. In June and July, western Canada was under the “heat dome”. We experienced record breaking heat and a drought. This weather resulted in hundreds of weather-related deaths. Then there were the atmospheric rivers which dropped massive rains in BC. Later in the year, November, eastern Canada had the “Super Storm”. In 2021 BC was burned. Oddly Alberta had far fewer fires, but the massive fires around us covered us with smoke. It was worse than ever!

Yes, human activity contributed to the conditions that produce this weather. We are facing 2 challenges, these are:

1. Reducing our impact on the weather conditions
2. Learning to live in world that gives us frequent severe weather

These days we hear a great deal about what is needed to address the first point. However we hear little about the actions needed to address the second, such as changes in build codes and public policy. All this will cost money. But it is needed.

David provided an interesting presentation.

Interesting aside

- In this tale a landlord is plagued by a leprechaun who, each evening prevails upon him to lend the leprechaun a half (then a quarter, then an eighth and so on, this joke (?) can and has gone on for over an hour) of a banana and a piece of string. Each night, an explosion occurs in the room given to the leprechaun, increasing in violence as the quantity of banana decreases, beginning with a mere ruffling of the bedclothes and ending in the complete destruction of the inn. Finally, with his inn utterly destroyed the landlord begs to know what the leprechaun has done and the leprechaun at last agrees to tell him but only on the condition that the landlord never tells anyone the secret. And to this day he never has.
- It seems there were two frogs sitting on a lily pad, when all of a sudden, a fly came along. One frog put out his tongue, ate the fly, and started laughing hysterically. Soon the other frog joined in the laughter.
Later in the day, the other frog ate a fly and the two frogs burst out in laughter. As time went on, the frogs enjoyed the flies so much that the sight of a fly would cause them to double up with pleasure (if it's possible for frogs to double up!). But of course, the most pleasure came when the fly was actually eaten.
A third frog hopped up to the first two and asked what was so funny. The first frog answered "Time." "Huh?" asked the third frog. The second frog explained: "Time's fun when your having flies".

Well, that's 2 for the price of none.

Stay Health and Enjoy the Holiday Season