



## PROBUS Club of Central Edmonton Newsletter

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### *October 17 Presentation on Teaching Mothers to be Teachers:*

*(summary provided by David Armstrong)*

Dr. Gem Munro spoke about his lifelong passion to educate the “poorest of the poor” through the Amarok Society which he founded. Its activities are primarily focused on the city slums of Bangladesh, with other initiatives in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Africa. He and his family lived in those slums for some years to see the challenges faced by the its population.

Dr. Munro saw lives wasted through the lack of education and was persuaded that lives could be improved by building on the available resources – namely, mothers who wanted more for their children. The scale of the problem is seen in the literacy rate where one third of the children are illiterate. Moreover, the average vocabulary of 600 words compares very badly with a standard of 15,000 words. Given the size of the challenge, he trained mothers not only to educate their children but to train other mothers to teach them, using his own teaching materials.

He also saw that mothers were socially and politically isolated, were living in a male-dominated society and for whom life made little sense. He recruited mothers to promise to teach at least five children.

With lesson tablets provided by Rotary Clubs in Canada and Bangladesh, Dr. Munro established a network of teaching mothers, monitored their progress and now delivers 20,000 lessons to slum children every day. Some mothers and children are also taught English which provides them with a competitive advantage when seeking government resources and employment opportunities. The mothers are now known as ‘the women who do good things’.

Dr. Munro has encountered opposition from police, slum lords, gangs and husbands. Seeing the benefits, some husbands are now requesting more classes to be opened, while the mothers find that they have a life which now makes more sense.

### *October 24 Presentation and Lunch with Five ProBus Clubs:*

*(summary and photos provided by Wayne McKendrick – thank you, Wayne)*

Approximately 80 members from five PROBUS clubs in central Alberta joined a cross-club meeting as part of PROBUS Month. This was held at the Ramada Hotel by Wyndham in south Edmonton. Members represented the Probus clubs of Edmonton South, Edmonton Central, Leduc, Red Deer and Camrose.

This very successful event was hosted by the Edmonton South Club. Nineteen members of our Edmonton Central club attended - a very good turnout exceeded only by the Edmonton South Club!

Gary Mar, KC and CEO of the Canada West Foundation, spoke on a number of subjects of great interest to the attendees. Through his excellent “story telling” approach Gary dealt with global geopolitical issues, public policy and politics in Canada and the US (the need for leaders focusing on problem-solving rather

than political salesmanship), and a number of other subjects. Gary readily addressed subjects raised by the attendees in his lengthy Q and A.



Gary explained the role and value to Albertans and Western Canadians (and in fact all Canadians) of the work done by the Canada West Foundation, a not-for-profit and independent non-partisan public policy think tank. You can learn more about the Canada West Foundation from its website.



Following Gary Mar's presentation, Dennis Pommen (our retiring regional director) was presented with a gift in recognition of his past many years supporting new and existing PROBUS Clubs in Alberta.

*October 26 Tour of the Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology at U of A:  
(summary and photo provided by Sheila Garner – thank you, Sheila)*

The Dino Lab tour was hosted by Clive Coy, chief technician of the laboratory. He showed the eight of us some of the lab's very interesting discoveries. The lab restores some rare specimens with the painstaking and intricate work of over 100 volunteers (often young students and retirees).

The first specimen shown to us was a Duck billed Hadrosaur, which was 73 million years old, below left. The second specimen was the complete skeleton of a Chasmosaurs Belli, 75 million years old, below right.



The third specimen was a Styracosaurus (a type of ceratops), also 75 million years old, shown above left. Only six examples have been found and Alberta has the best and most complete specimen. It would be 5 metres long, 2 metres tall and weigh 2 tons. It is not on display in a museum due to a lack of funds.

*We used to remember that:*

The poem "In Flanders Fields" was first published in.....the satirical British magazine Punch in 1915.

Jean Drapeau was mayor of.....Montreal, and he snagged the World Fair (Expo '67) from Russia.

The Bluenose was the the winner of.....the International Fishermen's Cup in 1921.

In 1930, Gilbert LaBine broke the world monopoly by.....discovering radium, later uranium in NWT.

Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) changed its name.....from Newfoundland (NF) in 2001.

'Canada extends to beacons, buoys, lighthouses, and.....Sable Island', treated as part of Nova Scotia.

Separate colonies of Queen Charlotte Islands, Vanc Island and BC.....merged as the Colony of BC in 1866.

Samuel Hearne was the first European to reach the Arctic overland from Churchill in 1771.....proving that the northwest passage did not exist at a lower latitude, nor was copper found at Coppermine River.

Have a great month – and keep well