

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

MARCH 2012

VOL. 10, NO. 3

Management Committee

President:

Alex Tunner
604-921-1610

Vice President:

Fraser Grant
604-921-6660

Secretary:

Dave Walker
604-922-4047

Treasurer:

Terry Hirst
604-925-8145

Past-President:

Dan Potts
604-913-0600

Committee Chairs

Communications:

Ron Penhall
604-988-3087

House:

Jon Strom
604-925-1779

Membership:

Don Leier
604-925-7690

Speakers:

Gordon Adair
604-230-9122

Special Events:

Barry Heselgrave
604-922-9481

**Probud Canada
Regional Director:**

John Leonard
604-924-9286



Next Meeting

Monday, March 12th, 2012

with speaker

Dr. James A. Boutilier

Asia-Pacific Advisor, Canada's Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters

"Emerging Maritime Threats in East Asia"

Dr. James Boutilier is the Asia-Pacific Advisor at Canada's Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters in Esquimalt, British Columbia.

Dr. Boutilier attended Dalhousie University (BA History, 1960), McMaster University (MA History, 1962), and the University of London (PhD History, 1969). Dr. Boutilier has held posts at various universities throughout his career, including the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, Royal Roads Military College in Victoria, British Columbia and the University of Victoria. Dr. Boutilier's field of expertise is Asia-Pacific defence and security.

He published *RCN in Retrospect* in 1982 and has written extensively on maritime and security concerns. He lectures nationally and internationally on political, economic, and security developments in the Asia-Pacific region.

With the dramatic growth of the Chinese Navy and mounting American and Indian concerns about Chinese regional and global ambitions, analysts have begun to talk about a naval arms race in East Asia as the maritime environment becomes increasingly brittle and problematic. Dr. Boutilier's talk will examine the changing balance of maritime power in Asia and the reasons for concern.

Also, visit <http://www.vanguardcanada.com/EngagingAsiaBoutilier> to view an article by Dr. Boutilier in the *Vanguard* magazine, *The China conundrum: To engage or contain?*, an interesting read and a preview of what to expect at our March meeting.



April Meeting

Monday, April 16th - Jamie Taras

Director of Community Relations with BC Lions

Last Month Speaker



Gordon Adair, Dr. Brian Day and Alex Tunner

Straight vs. Crooked Thinking in Reforming Our Health Care System

Our February speaker, Dr. Brian Day, is a well known Orthopaedic Surgeon, a Past President of the Canadian Medical Association (2007-2008), and Founder and Medical Director of the Cambie Surgery Centre (1996). The Centre is a private, for-profit hospital facility owned by shareholders, operating outside Canada's publicly funded health care system.

Dr. Day has long advocated reform of Canada's system to allow for more competition as a means of reducing waiting times. That would result in savings, since patients would be treated before their condition worsened – thus, “we're paying for the privilege of waiting”. He supports the end of *Block Funding* for hospitals in favour of *Patient Focused Funding*, where revenue follows the patient. And, he believes that features of some European systems should be adopted in Canada.

Dr. Day pointed out that we actually have a multi-payer system – groups such as the Armed Forces, Workers Compensation, RCMP, prisoners and politicians are exempt from the public system, and able to access private care. Furthermore, many items are not covered, by the public system – e.g. dentistry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, artificial limbs and ambulances. And, 70% of Canadians supplement their public coverage with extended (private) insurance.

Dr. Day made many interesting observations about Canada's health care system:

- The rate of increase of costs is unsustainable, and costly new technologies are coming.
- *Block Funding* does not provide hospitals with a strong incentive to improve efficiency.
- There are many chronic patients in hospitals who should

Continued on Page 4...

Special Events

George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary

We still have a few vacancies for this tour. Please sign up by Wednesday, March 28th recognising that we have about 4 vacancies remaining. As a reminder, please advise Barry Heselgrave if you would like to attend by contacting him by e-mail at bach@ripleroad.com or by telephone at 604-922-9481 **no later than March 5th** (on vacation thereafter) **or** you can contact Mike McMahon by e-mail at mike@mcmtax.com or by telephone at 604-926-1088 from March 6th through to March 28th.



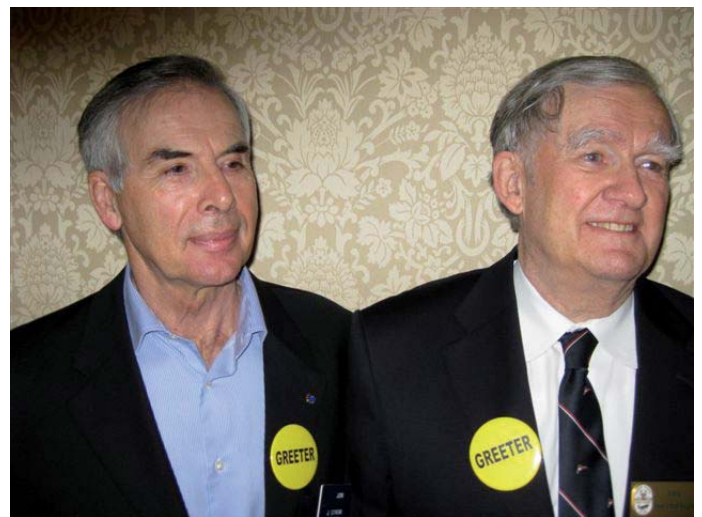
Emily Carr University Tour - Tuesday, May 8th

We have planned a tour of Emily Carr University for Tuesday, May 8th. The tour includes:

1. An overview of the University.
2. A tour of the annual exhibition of graduating students' output.
3. A presentation of the creative application of industrial design in the health sector.
4. Lunch on Granville Island.

Transportation will be via carpool to Granville Island. We are restricted to 40 Members. We expect the cost to be about \$35.

February Greeters



Jon Strom and Ian Thompson

New Members Welcomed and Introduced at February Meeting



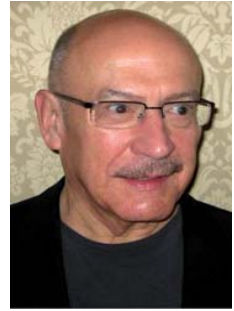
Jim Boyd
University Executive



Bill McAllister
Lawyer



Terry McGauley
Consulting Engineer



Bob McMillian
Management Consultant

Brief Backgrounds of a Few Recent New Members



Bill McAllister (*member since February 2012*) was born and grew up in Vancouver and has lived in West Vancouver since 1975. He graduated from University of British Columbia with a BComm and LLB in 1959. For the next 46 years Bill practiced law in Vancouver acting principally as counsel in all BC courts. Currently Bill is active with the West Vancouver Streamkeeper Society whose purposes are to develop, promote and maintain best practices for sustaining productive creeks, watersheds and wetlands and to protect, promote and facilitate the restoration of local fish and other aquatic stocks.



Bob Nowell (*member since October 2011*) was born in Toronto where he lived for 28 years before moving to Kamloops and Kelowna, and ultimately to North Vancouver where he has lived for the past 35 years. Bob is a Certified General Accountant and over the past 25 years he has served as Chief Financial Officer for companies listed on the TSX Venture Exchange engaged in the hi-tech, bio-tech and mineral exploration sectors. Outside of business Bob has been an active member of Rotary for 20 years.



Arvind Thakore (*member since October 2011*) was born in India in a Kahanv, a small village in Gujart State, moving with his parents in 1955 to Kampala, Uganda, and in 1966 to Vancouver. He presently lives in West Vancouver. Arvind graduated with a BSc in Biochemistry and an MSc in Organic Chemistry from Simon Fraser University. Afterwards he worked first for 5 years as research scientist with BC Research and then for 30 years as Environmental Engineer and Technical Superintendent in the pulp and paper industry.

Probus Golf

**Golf with your Probus Pals on the 3rd Monday, May to September
Venues and Competition Details to be Announced
Mark your calendar for an Early Afternoon Start**



Once again by popular demand. Event sign-up fee of \$10 (for prizes), with dinner optional and at your own expense. Please include your handicap factor when expressing interest. You are not required to commit to all 5 events. Please respond to **Phil Boase** at pjboase@telus.net if you are interested in joining us for an informal game of golf.

President's Notes - "Volunteering"



Volunteer organizations are a vital component of our society. Although we rarely pay much attention to them in the daily hurly-burly, it's a sure bet that every Probud member has been an active volunteer in several organizations along the way. At any given time, roughly half of adult Canadians are involved in volunteer work, and they devote an average of one work-month of time annually to volunteering – that's about 160 hours.

Speaking "idealistically", volunteering is fundamental to a healthy democratic society. Voluntary organizations play a fundamental role in community health and vitality, and are essential agents in building "social capital".

Speaking "practically", there are some 160,000 registered non-profit and volunteer organizations in Canada, about half of them charities. If one includes unregistered ones, there are many more and, together generate considerable economic activity.

In the case of Probud our national organization, Probud Canada, is registered federally; however, of over 200 clubs, only one is registered – that's the Probud Club of Vancouver. For liability reasons, they decided to register as a Non-Profit Society under the BC Society Act. That's an issue our Club is currently looking into. The question is, whether the "hassle" of doing so (actually not that much) is worth the extremely low probability of it ever being useful. Your Management Committee would like to hear opinions from some of the great legal minds among our members.

Canada's GDP is \$1.6 Trillion, and the non-profit and volunteer sector accounts for 7%, or over \$100 Billion annually – that's comparable to the retail industry. Leaving out the large organizations associated with universities, hospitals and the like, still leaves some 3% of GDP, or \$50 Billion annually for the many small ones.

The sector even has "trade associations" like Volunteer Canada "to strengthen citizen engagement and voluntary action", and Imagine Canada "to support charities and non-profits in serving their communities".

Thus, the many "little" organizations like ours are surprisingly important to the economy. Furthermore, the fellowship and stimulation our activities generate, have a positive impact on our physical and mental health.

So, the point of all this is to encourage you to step-up to the "plate", and spend an "inning" volunteering with our Management Committee. You'll be happier, healthier and live longer.

Alex Tunner

Last Month Speaker Cont'd

not be there; but they are "cheap", so the incentive is to keep them.

- Canada does not score well internationally in health care value-for-money.
- Canada has, per capita, ten-times as many health care administrators as Germany.
- Canada has data on hospital performance, but it's not released to the public.
- The annual cost of health care is \$1100 for those under 20; for those over 80, it's (10x) \$11,000; for those over 90, it's (20x) \$22,000.
- In the past 10 years, 80% of new health care jobs in BC were for Administrators (Korbin Commission).

Dr. Day referred to the Supreme Court's 2005 *Chaoulli-Zeliotis* decision, which found (4:3) that Quebec's prohibition of private health insurance and its impact on limiting access to private health care was arbitrary, not justified under the *Charter*, and not connected with maintaining a strong public system. The issue of whether BC residents should have the same protection as in Quebec is now being tested in the BC Supreme Court.

Dr. Day recommended reading a classic guide to logical thinking and to ferreting out untruths and distortions: *Straight and Crooked Thinking* (R.H. Thouless, first published 1930, most recently revised 2011 – Hodder & Stoughton).

Alex Tunner

Meetings

Second Monday of each month, except when changed to avoid conflict with special holidays on that day; in addition, our Christmas Luncheon replaces the December meeting.
Dress Code: Business Attire. Jeans are **NOT** permitted.

Coffee and fellowship: 9:00 am to 9:45 am
Club business and speaker: 9:45 am to 11:30 am

Capilano Golf and Country Club

420 Southborough Drive
West Vancouver, BC V7S 1M2
Phone: (604) 922-9331

Visit: <http://www.capilanogolf.com/public/club/index.aspx>

"Shorelines" © A monthly publication of
The Probud Club of North Shore Vancouver



<http://www.probud-northshorevancouver.ca/>

Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed
and may be sent by e-mail to:

newsletter@probud-northshorevancouver.ca

or by mail to:

Probud Club North Shore - Communications Chair
P.O. Box 92042
West Vancouver, BC, V7V 4X4