

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

APRIL 2013

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Monthly Meeting at Capilano Golf and Country Club 420 Southborough Drive, West Vancouver, 604-922-9331



Monday, April 8th

with speaker

Fred Wah

Parliamentary Poet Laureate of Canada

"Poetry's My Pension Plan"

Fred Wah was born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan in 1939, but he grew up in the West Kootenay region of British Columbia. After teaching in the Kootenays and at the University of Calgary, he now lives in Vancouver.

He was one of the founding editors of the poetry newsletter *TISH* in the early 1960's, instigated the writing program at David Thompson University in Nelson, and has been involved since the mid-80's with the Kootenay School of Writing.

He has published a number of books of poetry, and his biofiction, *Diamond Grill*, has been a popular text in the study of racialized writing. A collection of critical writing, *Faking It: Poetics and Hybridity* (2000) was awarded the Gabrielle Roy Prize for Writing on Canadian literature. Recent books of poetry include *Sentenced to Light, is a door*, and a selected edited by Louis Cabri titled *The False Laws of Narrative*.

He is Canada's current Parliamentary Poet Laureate. For more information visit <http://www.fredwah.org>.

Bill Sexsmith Elected Director for District 2, B.C.

Probud Centre-Canada's March newsletter, *The Probud Letter*, announced the appointment of Bill Sexsmith of the Vancouver Probud Club as the newly elected director for District 2, British Columbia for a three year term commencing April 30th. Our congratulations to Bill! View the Centre's March newsletter at <http://www.probus.org/cnews113a.pdf>.

Mark Your Calendars with these Important Dates...



Upcoming May Meeting at Capilano Golf and Country Club

- Monday, May 13th - James McCormack, Professor, UBC
"Medical Myths You Need to Learn About"

Upcoming Special Event - see page 2 for more details

- Covanta (rescheduled) - Monday, April 15th
- VanDusen Gardens Tour - Monday, May 6th

President's Notes



You will notice from the announcement concerning Bill Sexsmith, that we have a new Regional Director of Probus Canada. Bill was elected with the support of our North Shore clubs and is replacing our own founding member, John Leonard, who so capably served two terms on our National Board. A hearty 'THANK YOU' John.

It is of interest to note that the North Shore, with its three clubs each having 300 plus members, enjoys by far the largest representation in Canada. Our formula of stimulating speakers, interesting special events, and fraternization through other activities continues to fulfill the basic purpose of a Probus Club.

The first such club for active retirees was formed in Caterham, England in 1966, spreading to New Zealand and Australia in the mid-70s and to North America in 1987 with the opening of Cambridge, Ontario's club.

Caterham had formerly been the Rotary Club of Caterham and early Probus growth was sponsored by Rotary Clubs. Probus Clubs are now located throughout the world.

Canada has 225 active clubs with a total membership approximating 31,000. Our charter number was 154 ten years ago.

The concept of providing regular gatherings to those who, in retirement appreciate opportunities to meet with others through Probus continues strong as evidenced by our growth.

Fraser Grant



Bill Sexsmith and our own, John Leonard

Special Events

Covanta - 15 April

This tour (and lunch) has been rescheduled to go on 15 April which is after the maintenance shutdown. There is room for a few more members and their guests at a cost of \$28 each. Please contact Mike McMahon at 604.926.1088 or mike@mcmtax.com or Colin Ritson at 604.926.6976 or colinritson@shaw.ca.

Reminder. Long sleeves, long pants and sturdy walking shoes are required.

VanDusen Botanical Garden Tour - 6 May

There are still openings for this tour on 6 May for members and their guests at a cost of \$21 each. After 14 April registrations will be open to non-members. A full description of the tour appears in last month's *Shorelines*. Lunch is not included. To register please mail your cheque to: The Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver, PO Box 92042, West Vancouver B.C., V7V 4X4.

Mike McMahon



March Greeters



Rick Smyth and Don Roberts

New Members Welcomed and Introduced at March Meeting



Christer Arneson
Pulp & Paper



Alan Finnie
Insurance



Terry Hodgins
Forest Industry



Don Laishley
Forestry



Grant McCormick
Telecom Engineer



Roddy MacKenzie
Pulp & Paper

Brief Backgrounds of a Few Recent New Members



Alec Caruth (*member since February 2013*) was born in Heswall in Cheshire, England and now lives in West Vancouver. He attended College of Estate Management in London where he qualified as a Chartered Surveyor before moving to Vancouver in 1967. After obtaining a Diploma in Town Planning from Sydney University, Australia, Alec worked in property consultancy in London, England and in property development in Sydney, Australia. In 1974 he returned to Canada where he enjoyed a 30 year career in commercial property development primarily with British development companies Grosvenor International and Laing Properties.



Chuck Handy (*member since February 2013*) has lived his life in Greater Vancouver, and now lives in West Vancouver. After graduation from Magee Secondary High School and trying a variety of jobs, Chuck settled into manufacturing as his career interest, first with Ocean Construction Supplies, a major brick and block manufacturer, where he rose to Foreman before moving to sales. His next career venture was as General Manager of a Vancouver manufacturer of roofing materials, and his final career position was 12 years as General Manager of the Canadian operations of a Fortune 500 company producing coatings for fiberglass boat manufacturers and as well as custom colourings compounds for the plastics and injection moldings industries.



Garrett Polman (*member since February 2013*) was born in Rotterdam, The Netherlands and came to Canada as a young child. He presently lives in West Vancouver. Although he grew up here, his education goals and his career interests were pursued around the world. After a Diploma in Economics from University of London, he received a PhD from University of Chicago with graduate studies in Berlin and Oxford. In his professional career, Garrett worked for Department of External Affairs (9 Years), Treasury Board (4 years) and served as Financial Controller (20 years) at JPMorgan/Chase Bank. From his world travels he has skills in 8 languages. In retirement Garret pursues his strong interests in a variety of public policy areas.

Last Month Speaker - Detective Mark Fenton, VPD, Internet Fraud



Fraser Grant with speaker Detective Mark Fenton

Internet fraud is a world wide, multi-billion dollar business, and is a threat to anyone with a computer. It exists because of greed, gullibility and desperation. You have no idea who you are dealing with, you don't know their real name, or where they live, and you can't read their body language. A single person who is lonely can be lured through online matchmaking, and sold a story, then talked into sending thousands of dollars which he or she will never see again. That's desperation, and it's an expensive lesson.

The majority of online crime is fraud. One innocent looking scam was a walk-in bath for seniors, which was never delivered. By going to the Better Business Bureau website, you can find information about a local company and its owner; and you can see if there are complaints against it. You can also put any name into a Google search and see what comes up. Try your own name.

Email scams are very common. If you don't know who the sender is, don't open it. If you open an email and see a coloured warning bar at the top, that's a warning not to open the attachment. You can then go into Messages and block the sender. Money scams often come from West Africa, some of the clues are: "Mr. X, barrister, you've won \$2,000,000", "I am a Christian", and "Esq." There are bank scams, Revenue Canada scams, and a UN scam. The list is endless. They will ask for all kinds of personal information, which you should never give them. If you get an email from the Royal Bank, for example, asking for banking information, hover over it with your cursor, and at the bottom of your screen, it might say, Joe's Used Car Sales, Kingsway. That's a good clue it's not the Royal Bank. Christian [church] websites are often targeted, probably because the scammer thinks they are used by trusting people.

Buying pharmaceuticals online is another practice to avoid. If you do get medication at a discount, it could well be made in Bangladesh, China, etc. and be useless or dangerous.

Businesses can be seriously damaged by disgruntled or terminated employees. They can take critical information with them on a memory stick, and cause no end of trouble. This may not be a criminal act, but can only be addressed in a civil suit.

Mark Fenton made other interesting points: children should have their own computer, and be monitored; don't use "WIFI" in public places for banking; internet cafes can track anything you send; use a separate credit card with a low limit for online shopping; some internet providers have better security than others, use email filters, and don't assume that "cloud" computing is always secure.

All this information, and more, can be found online using your favorite search tool as well as at this [link](#).

<https://vancouver.ca/police/crime-prevention/for-individuals/index.html>

Two book suggestions from the West Van Library: *Dark Market* by Misha Glenny, and the novel *419* by Will Ferguson.

Ken Bryden

Monthly Quote

*"I have the simplest of tastes.
I am always satisfied with the best!"*
-Author Unknown

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

Members are welcome to bring a guest to a meeting.

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



Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed
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