

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

DECEMBER 2013

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Speakers:

Gordon Adair
604-230-9122

Special Events:

Colin Ritson
604-926-6976

2013 Christmas Luncheon

Monday, December 9th

11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Capilano Golf and Country Club

with lots of

**Food, Fun, Fellowship and
Holiday music by the Classic Carollers**



Mark Your Calendars with these Important Dates...



January to March Meetings at Chief Joe Mathias Centre

Monday, January 13, 2014 - John Helliwell - *World Happiness*

Monday, February 17, 2014 - Danny Catt - *The Arctic*

Monday, March 10, 2014 - Bob Evans - *BC Health Care System*

President's Notes



As our Christmas Lunch draws near, it signals the beginning of another festive season, a time to celebrate and reflect on the vitality of our club and the variety of activities enjoyed this year.

Our membership continues to move towards the 400 mark as our renewal rate this year exceeded 94% - the highest renewal rate I can recall. This ongoing interest in our club is a tribute to our members and our volunteers who work throughout the year to ensure we have interesting, informative and engaging programs.

In reviewing the special events and the topics that our speakers addressed during 2013, we, as members, were privileged to have an eclectic choice in both areas.

We enjoyed talks from health and pharmaceutical authorities. We were informed of 'Medical Myths you need to learn about before it's too late'. We were updated by the Business Council of BC on our provincial economy and learned about the economic impact of shipbuilding in our region.

We attended 'Twelfth Night' at Bard on the Beach. We tasted fine wines at UBC and visited Van Dusen Gardens. We played bridge and golf. We saw how the Covanta Energy plant converted garbage to clean energy.

We were updated on different types of investor schemes and the steps we can take to be 'Fraud Aware'. We learned about the social impact of technology; we were informed about 'Internet Scams, Shams and Flim Flams'. We heard from the Poet Laureate and received practical tips for long term travel itineraries. The President of Capilano U gave a timely presentation on the 'Changing Landscape of Post-Secondary Education'.

In the midst of all this activity, we took time in August to celebrate our Club's 10 years of conviviality and fellowship.

A very active year, but not over yet. In December we will tour the Vancouver Convention Centre and hold our Annual Christmas Lunch. Thanks to all members and volunteers for keeping our club vibrant!

To each of you I extend the best wishes of your Management Committee for a Happy Holiday Season for you and your family.

Don Leier

2014 Committee Support Group

We are delighted to recognize our members who provide valued support and share in the workload of the chairs of the committees. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact the appropriate Chair.

Communications, Chaired by Darryl Stodalka

- * Linda Metcalfe, Assistant Shorelines Publisher & Editor, Website

House, Chaired by Bill Caulfield

- * Phil Boase
- * Bob Clarke
- * Jon Strom (Past Chairman)

Membership, Chaired by Larry Terrace

- * Bill Guernsey

Speakers, Chaired by Gordon Adair

- * Ken Bryden
- * John Elliott
- * Bev Machesney
- * Ernie Maguire

Special Events, Chaired by Colin Ritson

- * John Elliott
- * Barry Heselgrave
- * Mike McMahon
- * John Pennefather
- * Mike Sommers
- * Phil Boase, Bridge and Golf



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Thanks to Our Greeters

A big thanks to those members who responded to the November call for Greeters. The signup sheet will be available again at the January meeting for any members willing to perform this valuable function for the Club.

Also, many thanks to those who provided a friendly welcome at our 2013 meetings.

Bill Caulfield



New Member Introduced and Greeters at November Meeting



Paul Tyson, P. Eng. and Financial Advisor



Ron Defieux and Bruce Jamieson

Brief Background of a Recent New Member



Don Laishley (*member since March 2013*) was born in Nelson, BC and has lived in West Vancouver since 1969, other than 7 years in Alberta. He graduated from UBC with an honours BSF and also a program for Senior Executives from MIT. He was a Registered Professional Forester both in BC and Alberta and a Professional Economist in BC. He was employed as a consultant with Sandwell and Forestal International and a manager with Champion Forest Products and Weldwood of Canada. His forestry consulting career took him worldwide to 44 countries. Don was a member of many forestry organizations world-wide and continues to support UBC, MIT and U of Alberta.

Special Events Slated for 2014

Note: There are still ten seats available at our Christmas luncheon. On a ‘first come first served’ basis, these places will be released by phoning Colin Ritson at 604-926-6976 with a ‘my cheques in the mail’ commitment.

From your Special Events Committee, here is a provisional program of tours for the remaining 2013- 2014 year.

- Ballard Power Systems - A plant visit and fuel cell technology explained.
- UBC Wine Research Centre - A ‘walk about’ of the centre followed by an onsite lunch and wine tasting extravaganza.
- Translink - A visit to their facilities and operations centre.
- Boeing Aircraft Company - A day long bus tour to their assembly facilities in Everett, WA.
- Bard-on-the-Beach - Picnic lunch and show.
- Vancouver Gastown - A guided walking tour through historic ‘old’ Vancouver.
- Abbotsford Airshow - A day long bus tour to this well known event.
- Brewery Tour - A visit to a working brewery followed by a ‘Tasting’.

Your comments on the proposed program would be appreciated as would suggestions for alternatives. Please contact Colin Ritson at colinritson@shaw.ca.

Colin Ritson



Last Month Speaker - Mahara Sinclair, An Epic Journey



President Don Leier thanks speaker Mahara Sinclair

To take a two week cruise on a luxury ship is one thing, to crisscross six continents for three years is quite another. This is what Mahara and her husband Ken did from 2008 to 2011. The list of countries is daunting, but it was obvious from their slides and her narrative that they had many wonderful trips and experiences.

Mahara stated that they decided to go for adventure, and not sit on their assets here and wait until “the owl called their names”. So they made a plan, sold their house in West Vancouver, bought a small condo in White Rock and set off.

Argentina, India and Egypt were high on their list of favourites, which in themselves would provide enough geography, history and culture for a lifetime. They found that the secret is slow travel, and spending lots of time in one good central place. For example, they rented an apartment in Buenos Aires for two or three months, got to know the city, and took week long excursions from there. This also allowed them to make good friends whom they could visit upon their return. They did this in a number of countries with great success. Mahara and Ken are both passionate birders, which gave them another focus and took them to where the birds live.

Mahara has a website, “LaughingBoomer.com”, as well as a long list of suggestions and tips including:

1. Tours can be less expensive than individual travel and less stressful in the long run.
2. The Internet is not necessarily the best place to find information. Friends and a good travel agent who have been there are good sources.
3. Do the harder trips when you are younger, and the easier tours when older.
4. Shop around for better deals on health insurance.
5. Some larger tours offer “no worry” insurance, with a 24 hour cancelation clause.
6. If you plan to be out of BC for 7 months, you can get a two year extension on your BC health insurance.

7. Do it now! In twenty years you may not be as healthy!

The Sinclaires will be leading a tour to Africa in 2015. You can contact her at maharasinclair@gmail.com.

Ken Bryden

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Monthly Quote

*“When you mind your own business,
you realize that
it probably needs to be dealt with
more than anyone else’s”
- Daniel Chidiac*

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: 8:45 am to 9:30 am
Club business and speaker: 9:30 am to 11:15 am

Members are welcome to bring a guest to a meeting.

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Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed
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