

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

April 2014

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Special Events:

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

Monday, April 7th

with speaker

Danny Catt, B.Sc., M.Sc.

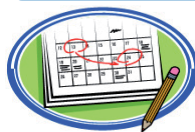
Renewable Resources Technology, BCIT, Ecologist, and Photographer
"Canada's Arctic - A Photographic Journey"

Danny is a wildlife ecologist, world traveller and internationally published photographer. For the past 25 years, he has explored and photographed the people, landscape and wildlife of over 60 countries around the globe. Wherever he travels, Danny's photographs capture the beauty and awe of the natural world and its creatures – from the curiosity of seals in Antarctica to the majesty of Polar Bears in the Arctic. His photographs have been published in Canada and internationally – in the Globe & Mail, New York Daily News, Chinese Geographic, TIME Magazine and others. Danny's photographic journey through Canada's Arctic will include commentary about its current issues, people, history, and features, and his own experiences there.

A graduate of SFU, Danny has taught ecology and conservation in BCIT's highly regarded Fish, Wildlife & Recreation program since 1996. Previously he worked for 13 years with Parks Canada in environmental education and park planning. When not teaching, Danny works as a trip leader, photographer and naturalist for adventure travel companies around the world.

As a Rotary Foundation Scholar in the early 1990s, Danny studied at the College of African Wildlife Management in Tanzania, on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. He is a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (2012), and a Member of the prestigious New York City based Explorer's Club (2011). For two consecutive years (2009, 2010) he received Rotary International's Service to Humanity Award. In 2008 the City of Burnaby, where Danny lives and teaches, honoured him with its Environment Award.

Mark Your Calendars with these Important Dates...



May Meeting at Capilano Golf and Country Club

- Monday, May 5, 2014 - Speaker TBA

Special Events - Skytrain (Translink) Tour- See page 2 for more details..

Our Probus Club's Yearly Meeting Schedule

Second Monday of each month, except when changed to avoid conflict with special holidays.
View our current schedule of meetings at <http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/meetings.htm>

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.

President's Notes



Our Probud Volunteers

There is a lot of volunteer activity in our PROBUS club that happens before, during and after our meetings and events to ensure their success. Thanks to our club's dedicated volunteers our members are provided with many opportunities for fellowship - from enjoying a coffee before the meetings, to interacting with our speakers, to playing bridge or golf or attending a special event.

Throughout the year, we have 40+ volunteers (over 10% of our membership) involved in greeting members, planning and managing our club, enlisting our speakers and directing our special events.

Every month, the 10 members of the Management Committee (the MC) meet to review the operating status of the club and between these management meetings, they often meet with the volunteers of their committees to receive feedback and formulate plans for future activities.

An example of the broad involvement of our volunteers is the plans being formulated for a pancake breakfast to be held at our August meeting. This involves our MC to plan and coordinate, our special events committee to manage, our house committee to secure the venue and enlist greeters, our speakers committee to determine what type of program, our communications committee to prepare the publicity and our finance committee to review the economic requirements.

Our club could not operate without these volunteers and while they seek no recognition, they are deeply appreciative of the warm support and interaction of members at our meetings and special events.

In May the nominating committee, headed by Past President Fraser Grant, will begin its search for members to serve on the 2014/15 committees. Our club thrives on the strong participation of its members, so if your schedule allows, please give consideration to volunteering your service and talents.

Don Leier

Contact - president@probud-northshorevancouver.ca



Special Events - Skytrain Tour

Translink (Skytrain) Tour - Monday 28 April 2014

This Special Event is scheduled for Monday 28 April, 2014, at the Skytrain Headquarters in Burnaby. The Event will run from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon, and will be followed by lunch at a restaurant to be determined. Information concerning directions to the venue and the restaurant, costs, available parking, safety considerations, photography, etc. will follow by e-mail.

This Event will include an overview of the Skytrain Operations, a presentation explaining Compass and its implementation, and tours of the Skytrain Control Centre and of the Skytrain Maintenance facility.

The Event is limited to 30 members – there will not be space for spouses/partners or guests.

You may register with Mike McMahon at 604.926.1088 or mike@mcmtax.com. As is usual your registration is not confirmed until payment of the cost of the tour has been received.

Mike McMahon



Parking Regulations In Effect



Capilano's busy golf season is now underway and they are asking "all guests" to comply with their parking regulations.

A shuttle service is available from the lowest "Visitor Parking" area to the Clubhouse. Those displaying a valid physical handicap tag in their windshield may continue to park in the designated stalls provided across from the main Clubhouse entrance.

March Meeting Greeters



Greeters Jack Yasayko and John Zaplatynsky

New Members Welcomed and Introduced at March Meeting



Bill Troy
Construction



Jack Hamilton
Physician



Philip McLeod
Audit and Accounting

Special Events - UBC Wine Research Centre Tour

UBC Wine Research Centre Tour of Tuesday, March 4

In spite of the rain, it took no arm twisting for a large group of members to tour the UBC wine research facilities. It is headed by Dr. Hennie van Vuuren, an affable and highly knowledgeable professor from South Africa. He enjoys his work! We first listened to a lecture on some of the research they are doing. Through genetic engineering the centre has developed a red wine yeast that will not give people headaches. Unfortunately the large producers won't touch it because of possible (US?) lawsuits, and smaller wineries which do use it won't say which wines are made with the yeast.

After the lecture we had a tour of their world class labs, and then the "wine library". To our delight there were no books but 8,000 bottles of wine, with one valued at \$26,000. This and many others are acquired by private donations, or from wineries.

Finally we had a delicious cold plate lunch and tasted four of his favourite wines, which he described. They are:

1. Quail's Gate Dry Reisling (BC Liquor)
2. Springfield Life from Stone (Liberty Wines)
3. De Toren Fusion Five (BC Liquor)
4. Penfold's Shiraz BM28 (BC Liquor)

The sources are shown in brackets.

Ken Bryden



Last Month Speaker - Dr. Robert Evans



Speaker Dr. Robert Evans thanked by Don Leier

Dr. Robert Evans - Health Care in BC

“Health is merely a state of inadequate diagnosis.”

Bob Evans has been professor of health economics at UBC for many years, and is well known by the medical professional. He has now lost his eyesight, and has retired.

The title of his talk was “Who pays, who gets and who gets paid.” Well, we know the answer but not all the details. He began by stating that there is a lot of misinformation about health care put out by the media. They either don’t do their homework, or simply don’t understand. For example, we are always told that health care costs continue to rise, but relative to GDP, they have dropped for the last four years. We are also told that seniors are the main cause for that increase, but in fact seniors contribute about 1% to any cost increases. Physicians’ services are increasing at only 0.4 to 0.5% a year and long term care costs are increasing at about 2% a year. Drug costs are pushing up the health care costs, as are more frequent and costly lab tests.

We are also told that there is a doctor shortage. This over simplifies the problem. There is a doctor shortage in small towns and in the North, and there can be temporary shortages elsewhere. There are many new grads coming from our medical schools, there are Canadian grads trained out of Canada who want to return, and there are many foreign doctors who would like to practice here. The shortage is not in supply but in licensing. There will soon be an over supply of doctors in BC.

It is fairly simple economics to predict the future health care costs. Demographic trends are predictable, and those can be matched with the age-use curve (how people historically need medical services from birth to death). The result is about 1% cost increase per year. So increasing health care costs are attributable to these other factors.

Referring to his opening remarks (well, some of them), the healthy and wealthy tend to pay more for services they don’t use, and the poor and sick pay less in taxes and often

need greater health care. Compare the healthy professionals in West Vancouver to the drug addicts in the Downtown East Side. The latter pay little or no taxes, but need more care.

Many questions followed and were answered with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

On Friday, March 21, I had a further conversation with Bob Evans to try to answer some questions.

1. What do seniors cost the health care system? There is no readily available answer, but it is significant.
2. What are some of the other major costs? Prescription drugs add about 15%, long term care about 10% (this is very approximate), and acute hospital care is very close to 30%. This includes lab work, MRI’s etc.
3. Total cost? Nationally, it was \$211 billion in 2013, and in BC, \$17 billion.
4. Are there other countries who have a better system? Not particularly. Each good health care system has its strengths and weaknesses; each must be tailored to that country, and Canada’s is one of the best.
5. When asked which is the best system, on reflection Evans said the best is the American Veterans Health Administration. This came as a surprise. It is separate from Medicare and Medicaid. There are three reasons: the VHA has excellent doctors, and is tied to the medical schools. It has a high degree of computerization and automation, and was doctor designed. Evans said there is an excellent book on this titled Best Care Anywhere, by Phillip Longman, (\$12 through Amazon)

Ken Bryden

Monthly Quote

“Happiness is not something you get in life. Happiness is something you bring to life. - Anonymous

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

Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed
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For Information on Probus Clubs in Canada, visit
Probus Canada: <http://www.probus.org/canada.htm>