

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

December 2014

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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2014 Christmas Luncheon

Monday, December 8th

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 2015 Meeting at Capilano Golf and Country Club

- Monday, January 12th - *Speaker To Be Announced*

Bridge Club Welcomes New Members - see page 2 for details

President's Notes



We were fortunate to have Don Vicic and three of his colleagues, Tom Hodson, Ray Richards and Brooke Campbell share their experiences touring the WW I and WW II battlefields at our November meeting. Thanks also go to Gord Adair who helped put their presentation together. This was a great example of our Probus team putting on a first class presentation to a very large and appreciative group the day before Remembrance Day 2014.

We now turn our minds to Christmas 2014 and events leading up to this festive season. Most of us have long since left behind the excitement of awaiting Santa Claus and his gifts. I recall more than once getting up at 2:30AM or so on Christmas morning and rousing our whole family to see whether I had been a good boy or not!! If we are fortunate, we now live this through our grandchildren at least until they are old enough to "figure it all out"! In any event, I hope that you have wonderful experiences this Christmas season or at the very least, good companionship and great memories.

On a completely separate note, the month of March is national PROBUS month in Canada. Your Management Committee will be turning its mind to what if anything we might do to celebrate PROBUS within our Club. If you have any ideas in this regard, please send a note to Linda or to me and your Committee will entertain your idea at our next meeting.

Barry Heselgrave
Contact -

president@northshorevancouver.ca

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2015 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 Grant Gisel

* John Baker

Membership, Chaired by Jack Yasayko

* Bill Guernsey

Speakers, Chaired by Gordon Adair

* Ken Bryden

* John Elliott

* Bev Machesney

* Ernie Maguire

Special Events, Chaired by Colin Ritson

* John Elliott

* Mike McMahon

* John Pennefather

* John Walker

* Phil Boase,
Bridge and Golf



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Bridge Club 2015

The bridge club is planning for the 2015 year and welcomes new members.

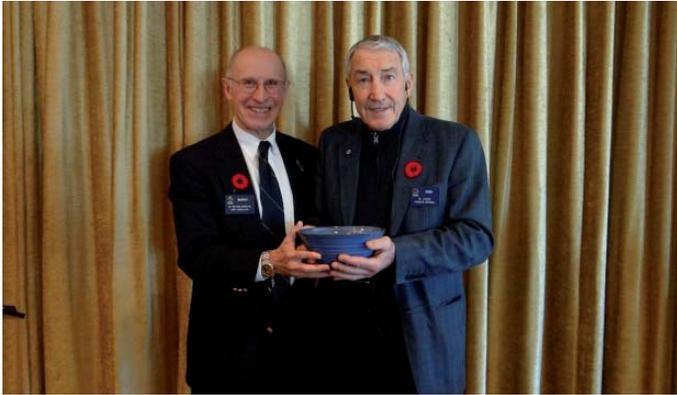
Generally the Club meets at 7:30 PM on the second Monday of the months of January to June, September and October for a total of eight rounds of contract bridge. Currently there are two groups of eight players plus spares. The schedule integrates on a random basis all sixteen players into two groups of eight to be played in Club members' homes.

The group will be entering into its 12th season and has been a popular addition to the main club's activities.

If you are interested please contact Phil Boase by email at pjboase@telus.net.



Last Month Speaker - Don Vivic



President Barry Heselgrave thanks speaker Don Vivic

“The Battlefields of Europe”

Don Vivic treated us to a fascinating slide show of his tours of the battle fields of WW1 and WW2. He was accompanied by Tom Hodson, and was aided in the talk by Tom, Ray Richards and Brooke Campbell. They had an excellent guide, David Patterson Brigadier General, Canadian Army, whose knowledge was critical to the trip.

When listening to the talk, the colossal waste and futility of WWI quickly became apparent, and how it set the stage for WW2, and discord to this day. He said that within one week, all the major combatants were involved, not realizing how long it would last and at what cost. It soon descended into trench warfare, with trenches running from the Swiss border to the North Sea. Don said that the combatants were producing up to 4 million shells per month. As Gwynne Dyer wrote, “*Destruction equals production.*” By Christmas of 1914, there were one million casualties, including dead and injured.

At this point Tom took over the discussion and re-visited his grandfather’s grave in Paschendale. He died on October 26, 1917, along with 2500 other Canadians. Tom read excerpts from his father’s letters to his son.

Then Ray Richards, a travelling companion on earlier trips, talked of the Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae, MD, who went overseas with his horse. The day after McCrae’s good friend was killed, he wrote *In Flanders Fields*. Then Ray recited the poem beautifully.

Don returned to the talk, saying that the summer of 1916, and the Battle of the Somme, included everything bad about the war. Over a million soldiers were wounded or killed, including 24,000 Canadians, and the first tanks joined the battle. The allies dug a very long tunnel under the German positions, filled it with 30 tons of explosives, and killed a large number of German soldiers. Don talked about Vimy Ridge and Passchendale, both major but indecisive battles in which Canadians were involved and suffered many casualties.

Don and Tom also visited a number of WW2 battlefields, which included Dieppe and Normandy. Perhaps the greatest lesson that came from the Dieppe landing was what not to do later when planning the invasion at Normandy. This landing included 6,000 ships, 25,000 planes, and 155,000 troops who landed on the first day, plus 25,000 airborne. Over 2.5 million troops would eventually land there. The Germans logically believed that the Allied soldiers would cross at Calais, the narrowest point, and where there was a harbour. That is what the Allies wanted them to believe. In fact, the British floated over their own modular Mulberry Harbour, assembled it on the beach, and called it Port Winston. A pipeline called PLUTO (pipeline under the ocean) was even laid across the English Channel to supply much needed fuel for the invasion.

This was a most interesting presentation and very timely, coming just before Remembrance Day. We were honoured to have two veterans from WW2, George O’Leary and Bill Cox in the audience with us.

Ken Bryden

New Members Welcomed and Introduced at November Meeting



Jim May
Chartered Accountant



Bill Winnett
BC Hydro

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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>