

# Shorelines

## NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

February 2015

[www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca](http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca)

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Colin Ritson  
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### Monthly Meeting at Capilano Golf and Country Club

420 Southborough Drive, West Vancouver, 604-922-9331

Coffee and Fellowship: 9:00 am, Club Business and Speaker: 9:30 - 11:15 am



**Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*with speaker*

**Barry Forbes**

TransLink Board Vice-Chair

*“Metro Vancouver Transportation Needs and Future Challenges”*

Mr. Barry Forbes, TransLink Board Vice-Chair, will speak to the future transportation needs, challenges and key decisions related to public transportation in Metro Vancouver. “With a million more residents expected in the region over the next 30 years, residents of Metro Vancouver are at a key decision point. Regional mayors have laid out their vision for renewed transportation investments to respond to growth, and the people of the region will vote in a plebiscite in 2015 to determine if and how to pay for those investments.”

Mr. Forbes retired as the president and CEO of Westminster Savings Credit Union in December 2012, having led the organization for more than 34 years. Under his leadership, Westminster Savings became one of Canada’s largest and most successful credit unions. He was a strong advocate for credit unions both nationally and internationally, having served on numerous industry boards and committees, and as a frequent public speaker.

Mr. Forbes has broad director experience and currently serves as a director of E-Comm 911. His past experience includes the Fraser Health Authority, Mercado Capital Corporation, Co-operative Trust Company, Credit Union Central of BC, the Credit Union Deposit Insurance Corporation and Pacific Network Services. In the not-for-profit sector, he has served as a director of the Burnaby Hospital Foundation, the Credit Union Foundation of BC, Westminster Savings Foundation and is currently past chair and member of the Simon Fraser University Surrey President’s Advisory Council.

Mr. Forbes is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee medal, Simon Fraser University’s Chancellor’s Award, the credit union industry’s Distinguished Service Award, and the President’s Award from the City/Chamber of Commerce of New Westminster. He has a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Commerce and Economics from SFU.

### Mark Your Calendars with these Important Dates



**March Meeting at Capilano Golf and Country Club**

- Monday, March 9th, 2015

**Special Events** - see page 2 for more details...

- Schedule of Proposed Special Events for 2015.

## President's Notes



You should know that I am on Maui looking out at the ocean, the palms and a few sun worshippers while listening to the sound of the ocean. How in heavens name does one write a monthly President's letter under such circumstances? I will ruminate for a moment on the concept of "going on vacation" even though more or less retired. At home, like many of you, I seem to be busy doing "things" with a "to do" list that varies in length. However, the list is always there! A vacation gives one the opportunity to relax without the "to do's". It seems odd, but even when retired, we need a break or vacation from time to time.

I have several friends who spend up to five months or so a year in warmer climes such as Arizona, Hawaii or Southern California. They are generally not on vacation but have chosen to live in a different setting, usually in the winter. I have often wondered whether they have a "to do" list and a busy schedule while away? After inquiring, some of my friends are busy with home maintenance, strata activities and the like while in their winter homes. I hope that most people manage their schedules better than I do, otherwise they will need a vacation periodically in addition to spending time in two homes.

In closing, if you are managing your retirement time in a leisurely manner, I commend you. If not, you will want to consider a vacation this winter as my wife and I have done! Aloha.

*Barry Heselgrave*

Contact - [president@northshorevancouver.ca](mailto:president@northshorevancouver.ca)



## Special Events - 2015 Schedule

### Proposed schedule of Special Events for 2015:

- February 6th, Viking Air (Cancelled)
- February 24th, Vancouver Convention Centre
- March /April, Neptune Terminals/Vancouver Ship-yards
- May 12th, Canadian Museum of Flight
- July, Bard on the Beach
- August/September, Sea to Sky Gondola
- September, Museum of Anthropology
- October, BCIT Marine Pilots Training Facility
- December, Christmas Lunch

Another busy year in the making!

*Colin Ritson*

## Vancouver Convention Tour

The Vancouver Convention Tour is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24th at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch at the Cactus Club in a designated area with each participant responsible for his own lunch. We will suggest travel by sea bus with directions to follow.

The Client Services Coordinator Mr. Rod MacLean will be our host and will show areas on the tour not accessible to the public. The tour will include the conference area under the sails, the black/grey water plant, the grass roof, the huge kitchen, the special equipment in the conference rooms and the ground floor area which can hold two to three thousand people.

The signup will follow our next meeting. The tour is coordinated by John Pennefather and Gary Grant of the Special Events Committee.

## New Members Welcomed and Introduced at January Meeting



**Steve Granger**  
Investment Industry



**John Langstaff**  
IBM

## Last Month Speaker - John R. McKearney



Past Pres. Don Leier thanks VFD Chief John McKearney

Chief McKearney gave us a wide ranging and detailed description of the mandate and activities of the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service. Firefighters no longer just fight fires, but are involved in many aspects of the community. He calls them “safety practitioners”. The department gets its message across using social media: Facebook, Twitter, and its own website.

McKearney says it is a lot easier to prevent fires than to fight them. Therefore, the firemen are out doing inspections of homes, restaurants, commercial buildings, and businesses where there can be a dust build up, or other accelerants. The VFRS must also be prepared for a major earthquake.

Much of the work dovetails with social work and community health. This includes shutting down slum landlords, having a youth outreach program, and offering the fire halls as safe havens for sex trade workers. VFRS was proactive at Occupy Vancouver and the Oppenheimer Park protest for better housing. The firefighters all have a high degree of emergency medical training, which is necessary as they are often the first responders.

The makeup of the staff is important in any fire department. The members must be highly trained, physically fit and should come from a variety of backgrounds. The chief looks for a good mix of men and women, who may have backgrounds in firefighting, the military, police, paramedic organizations and IT (Information Technology).

The situations they are asked to attend are varied. They helped with the Kelowna fires, sent a team to the Johnston Landing slide, Haiti, and New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina; and they were very involved in the Olympics. The Stanley Cup Riots presented a major problem of getting the big trucks into the fires because of the huge crowds. The safety of the firemen was paramount.

The City of Vancouver has twenty fire halls, 811 total staff, approximately 750 firefighters, with 132 on duty at

any time. The budget is \$101 million for 2015. There is an ongoing replacement program of trucks and equipment, including smaller, more agile rescue and medical units that can operate in large crowds. There are also plans to purchase two forty foot fireboats.

In running a large department such as this, it is critical to respond to the needs of the community, be willing to change and keep up to date, to have the correct data and prioritize the needs and demands placed on it. The Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service of today is a much different organization from the old fire department of years past.

*Ken Bryden*

## January Greeters



Greeters Alistair Duncan and Grant Gisel

# Happy Valentines Day



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