

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

November 2015

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Monthly Meeting at the 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, November 9th

with speaker

Dr. David Sweet, O.C. DMD, Ph.D., DABFO, FICD, FACD

Director of Students, Professor Dentistry, BOLD Forensic Laboratory

“Behind the Crime Scene Barrier Tape”

Dr. David Sweet O.C. enjoys solving puzzles and he's pretty good at it. So combined with qualifications in dentistry, forensic dentistry, and forensic medicine, Dr. Sweet is in a unique position to help police solve the puzzles that are often present at crime scenes. His laboratory, known as BOLD Forensic Laboratory, has been involved in over 1100 high-profile criminal cases since its inception in 1996. Dr. Sweet has developed new techniques that are now used internationally by forensic investigators. Many of these techniques are applied to unusual exhibits and trace evidence under strange circumstances. Dr. Sweet is a tenured professor at UBC Dentistry and director of the BOLD Forensic Laboratory. In 2008, Dr. Sweet was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for his work as a forensic scientist, researcher, teacher and consultant. He was chief scientist for disaster victim identification at INTERPOL in France from 2005–2011 and forensic advisor to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Switzerland from 2009–2012.

BOLD Lab has been involved in cases of assault, theft, rape, murder, war crimes and espionage since 1996 to aid investigators and the courts in Canada and elsewhere to deal with the prosecution of criminals accused of heinous violence. Importantly, families are assisted to deal with grievous losses. At the root of all these cases are various technologies that are employed to find, recover, and analyze trace evidence. At this presentation, go behind the barrier tape at the crime scene with Dr. David Sweet O.C. to witness and appreciate the role of investigators and scientists in solving crimes using amazing tools. Enjoy insights about crime investigation and analysis shared by one of Canada's leading forensic scientists.

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Monday, December 14th

Registrations and payments accepted by mail

You can also bring your payment of \$55 to the November meeting.

Note: Your Spouse/Partner is welcome to attend as your guest.



President's Notes



From Thanksgiving to Giving Thanks

I hope everyone enjoyed a happy Thanksgiving with family as well as this beautiful Fall weather. And I hope family attended without the necessity of mom and dad employing the “divorce ruse” explained by Ken Bryden at our October meeting.

This religious cum harvest celebration has morphed into a secular celebration of family in our home and without the pressures of Christmas. Interestingly the first Canadian Thanksgiving is sometimes attributed to Martin Frobisher (seeker of the Northwest Passage) who celebrated on Baffin Island for surviving the voyage from England through icebergs to the high Arctic – he and his crew were not celebrating a harvest. The origin of Thanksgiving in Canada is also attributed to the French settlers arriving in Québec in the early 1600's. Whatever the source, it is a happy time in our family.

On 11 November it is fit and proper for us to pause and give thanks to the serving members of our Armed Forces and their predecessors and to remember those who gave their lives in support of the principles that make Canada an enviable place to live. We should also remember Cpl Nathan Cirillo who was murdered on 22 October, 2014, while on duty at the War Memorial, and WO Patrice Vincent who was run down and killed on 20 October.

Our armed forces have a tradition, built over many wars, of outstanding service to our country. This outstanding service was often accomplished with tools not well adapted to their mission. Those of you with an historical bent may remember the fiasco of the Ross rifle supplied to Canadian troops in World War I. It was a fine hunting rifle made in Canada but could not stand up to the rigours of trench warfare. Many frontline troops discarded them in favour of the British Lee-Enfield. Most of us may remember the problems associated with the Sea King helicopter until it was finally replaced. More recent news disclosed that our last operating destroyer, HMCS Athabaskan, doesn't operate very well. It is long past time to retire this 43-year-old vessel. Hopefully its successors will be completed over the next few years. In spite of these obstacles our military have performed at the highest level. Those of us lucky enough to tour HMCS Calgary and talk to her crew saw the dedication and professionalism of these fine young men and women.

And between Thanksgiving and giving thanks we saw the Liberal landslide proving again that governments are not elected – they are defeated. I hope that the new government invests in the military so that the many challenges including those noted above become a thing of the past.

Mike McMahon

Remembering Members Who Passed

Each November our newsletter includes a column to remember our members who passed away this year:

*Sunset and evening star
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea,*

*But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.*

*Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;*

*For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.*

- Lord Alfred Tennyson



New Members Welcomed and Introduced at October Meeting



John D'Auria



Rick Duncan



Oliver Hung



George Reynard



Stan Saibil

John D'Auria (*member since October 2015*) was born and raised in New York City. He obtained a B.S. at Rensselaer Polytech, followed by a Ph.D from Yale. His career dealt with nuclear chemistry and nuclear astrophysics. He was employed at various nuclear labs in the United States, Switzerland, Germany and France, including the Faculty of Chemistry at S.F.U. as professor emeritus and TRIUMF lab. John enjoys walking, travel, SFU retirees association and being on contract producing medical isotopes.

Rick Duncan (*member since October 2015*) was born and raised in Vancouver and North Vancouver. He was self-employed as an importer and manufacturer in sport fishing equipment. Rick is a founding member and continued active member of the North Shore Fish & Game Club. He also enjoys golf, gardening and travel.

Oliver Hung (*member since October 2015*) was born in China and schooled in Hong Kong. He has lived in North Vancouver since 1968. He received a B.A.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Toronto. Oliver was employed as a consulting engineer and principal at Universal Dynamics. In retirement, he enjoys various interests including sailing and philosophy.

George Reynard (*member since October 2015*) George worked and lived in Montreal, Toronto, Sorrel BC, Vancouver and North Vancouver. He obtained a BSc in chemistry and also an MBA. George's career was in the copper mining industry with Highland Valley Copper and Quadra Mining. In his retirement he enjoys curling, model railroading and travel.

Stan Saibil (*member since October 2015*) was born in Montreal. He has also lived in Toronto, Ottawa, Edmonton and Vancouver. He obtained a BA at McGill University. Stan ran and was the founder of a national coin laundry leasing business. His retirement interests include golf, fishing, travel and wine appreciation.



Membership Chair Jack Yasayko at the podium with our new members.

Review and Photos from Sea to Sky Gondola Outing on October 13th

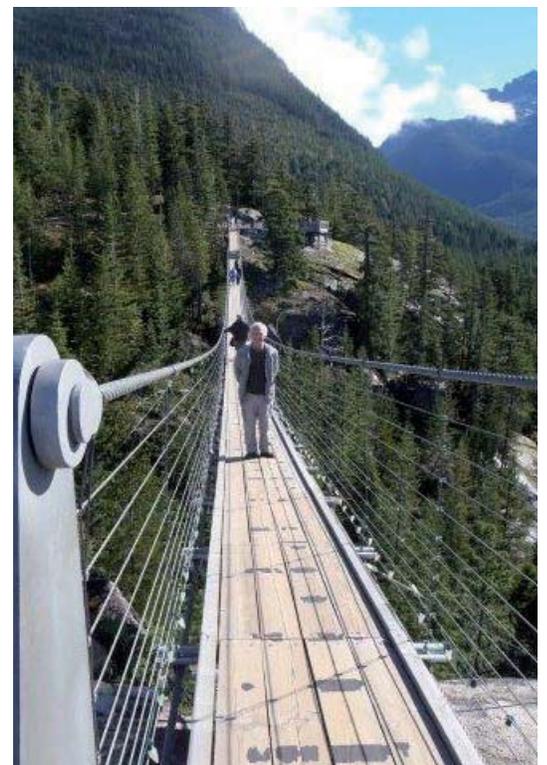
The expedition was a success, due mainly to the near-perfect weather. After some days of rain and low cloud, Tuesday dawned sunny and clear. The group met at Park Royal, organized carpools and drove to the Gondola. In brilliant sunshine, we rode to the upper lodge, the magnificent view of Howe Sound and the surrounding peaks expanding as we rose. At the top we emerged and took in more views as we strolled around the Spirit and Panorama Trails, crossing Sky Pilot suspension bridge and visiting the Chief viewing platform on the way.

As the weather was so perfect, we elected to eat lunch outside on the deck. Sandwiches, green and potato salads were followed by fresh fruit, all in copious quantities.



Replete, we listened to a talk by Chrissy Allen, Director of Sales and Marketing. Those of us who have had experience of construction projects were astonished by the speed and efficiency with which approval had been obtained from four levels of Government and the project completed on time and on budget. We were all delighted to hear that, thus far, the development has succeeded well beyond expectations. Our questions answered, we wound up our visit, rode the Gondola down and made our way homeward.

John Walker



Last Month Speaker - Dr. André Gerolymatos, Chair of Hellenic Studies, SFU

Note: View Speaker presentations, when available, on our website at:
<http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/speakers.htm>



President Mike McMahon thanks our speaker and member Dr. André Gerolymatos.

Conflict in the Middle East

“We have a crisis, and that is ISIS.”

Once again our friend André gave us a fascinating talk trying to explain the conflict in the Middle East and what, if anything, we can do about it. The answer seems to be not much, as it really goes back 700 years to the split between Shiites and Sunnis. Between then and now, many other factors have led to the rise of ISIS and waves of migrations into Europe.

With the minimal Western presence in the area, Russia seeing its long awaited opportunity, is enlarging its naval base and military presence in Syria. Russia's goals will not be the same as ours but may give Russia some international credibility and will deflect attention from the Ukraine.

To quote André, “the leaders of ISIS are very smart and leaders of recent American administrations, particularly George Bush Jr., are very stupid”. ISIS appeals to the religious zealots, the adventurers and the psychopaths. Young men can shoot infidels in the name of Allah, have sex slaves and not have to work the night shift in a 7-11 in Canada. The more enemy they kill, the more young women they can have. It is thought that about 30,000 foreign fighters have joined ISIS. This also means those radicals are not in their native countries causing trouble.

It is hard for Westerners to understand, but for devout Muslims, Islam comes before nationalism, modernism or anything else. It also gives the Sunnis a chance to strike back at the Shiites in both Syria and Iraq. For “marketing purposes”, the US is still the Great Satan. While ISIS followers want to go back to earlier times, they don't mind

using smart phones, the Internet and social media to do it.

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS, has branded ISIS a caliphate. This appeals to many Muslims, particularly the young impressionable ones. Al Baghdadi has declared himself the caliph (pron. ha-lee-fa), a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed. Many Muslims have wanted a caliphate for 150 years.

The West, particularly the US, has made one blunder after another. We attacked Iraq, killed Saddam Hussein, and disbanded his army; we bombed Libya and helped kill Kaddafi. Now both are failed states. The West invaded Afghanistan and installed the corrupt Hamid Karzai (worth about \$50 million*), where the Taliban will likely win the day. The West is not viewed kindly by many Muslims.

Various other Arab states have stayed out of the fight for self-serving reasons. Turkey is staying out because ISIS is killing Kurds; Saudi Arabia is staying out because ISIS is killing Shiites and Jordan is afraid they will be attacked. With America not sending in troops, the Russians are supporting Bashar al-Assad in Syria and could be the dominant foreign power there.

In closing, André left us with a few other thoughts. The first, is that Syria is one place where the Americans could have made a difference; second, “To be born a Kurd, is to be betrayed” and third, he strongly doubts there are any terrorists among the refugees; it simply doesn't make sense or serve their goals. Finally, he cautioned that there are many more crisis incubating in the Arab world. Welcome to the Middle East.

* Wikipedia

Ken Bryden

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