

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

June 2016

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Vol. 14, No. 6

Management Committee

President:

Mike McMahon
604-926-1088

Vice President:

Dave Walker
604-922-4047

Secretary:

Ian Burden
778-870-3538

Treasurer:

Gordon Adair
604-230-9122

Past-President:

Barry Heselgrave
604-922-9481

Communications:

Darryl Stodalka
604-925-2570

House:

Grant Gisel
604-988-6730

Membership:

Jack Yasayko
604-926-9087

Speakers:

Michael Coady
604-990-7643

Special Events:

Colin Ritson
604-926-6976

Monthly Meeting at the Chief Joe Mathias Centre

100 Capilano Road, North Vancouver, 604-980-6338

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

Monday, June 13th

with speaker

Dr. Max S. Cynader, C.M. O.B.C. Ph.D. F.R.S.C.

"How to Keep Your Brain Healthy as You Age"



Dr. Max Cynader is the Founding Director of the Brain Research Centre, and the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health at Vancouver Coastal Health and The University of British Columbia (UBC). He currently holds the Canada Research Chair in Brain Development at UBC and is Professor of Ophthalmology. He is also a Member of the Order of Canada, Member of the Order of British Columbia, Fellow of The Royal Society of Canada, Fellow of The Canadian Academy for Health Sciences, and a Principal Investigator in Canada's Network of Excellence in Stroke.

Dr. Cynader's research has focused on the nature of the processing performed by the cerebral cortex, especially the sensory cortices dealing with vision and audition, and on the neural and molecular mechanisms underlying the development and adaptability of the cortex. He has worked to understand the mechanisms by which early use or misuse of the brain affects its functioning for the rest of the organism's life. He is the author of over 200 articles published in scientific journals, has presented over 350 papers at national and international scientific meetings, and is the holder of several patents. Dr. Cynader has contributed to technology development, and to the commercialization of research results. He is one of the scientific founders of NeuroVir, a Vancouver-based biotechnology company which has developed gene therapy products to treat brain diseases.

Dr. Cynader has received many honors during his career. In addition to his appointments as a member of the Order of Canada and the Order of British Columbia. Dr. Cynader was inducted in 2014 into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame, was awarded the Researcher of the Year award from Life Sciences BC in 2007, and is the recipient of numerous other awards for excellence in scientific research and innovation.

Happy Father's Day

Mark Your Calendars with these Important Dates



Next Meeting at the Chief Joe Mathias Centre, North Vancouver

- Monday, July 11th - Jason Beck, Curator and Facility Director, BC Sports Hall of Fame
- Special Events, *see page 2 for more details...*

President's Notes



I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation by Captain Bill Noon on the Franklin expedition and the finding of Erebus. I hope you did too. The importance of the Arctic to Canada's future and Canadian efforts to protect its various legal claims is currently a significant issue. I have travelled through the Yukon, Northwest and, in 2015, Nunavut Territories. My interest in and appreciation of the Arctic after spending a few weeks in the High Arctic last year is keener than ever. For those of you who missed our May meeting, we hope that Captain Noon's presentation will be available to post on our website. It will be well worth viewing. I suggest you read Ken Bryden's excellent summary of Captain Noon's presentation in this issue of Shorelines.

John Elliott of the Special Events Committee again did a great job organizing a walking tour with John Atkin. The tour of Coal Harbour was well received by those attending as was lunch at the Lion's Pub. John Elliott's description of the tour is included in this issue.

Our Past President Barry Heselgrave advises that to date 196 members have responded to the survey concerning our meeting venues. This represents more than one-half of our members and is a very satisfactory response. The Management Committee will review the results of the survey and we expect to be reporting on the results and our recommendation in June.

Meanwhile in Fort McMurray residents are starting to return after the devastating fire which caused a considerable amount of damage to the town and sadly two young people were killed in an accident as they travelled south from Fort McMurray. It appears that fire season is here with a vengeance. Mayor Melissa Blake's message about rebuilding the town is - "It's your home. It's just not the home you know. But you're going to have to work to recreate what you hope it will be." With that attitude I believe the people of Fort McMurray will rebuild as the oil sands operations continue. For example, Suncor expects to resume operations by 4 June.

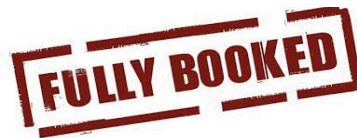
There are a number of people I want to thank who contribute their skills on the management committee and who are not usually recognized publicly. These include Gordon Adair, our Treasurer, who keeps our spending under control; Ian Burden, our Secretary, who keeps us on track; and Darryl Stodalka, our Communications Chair, who together with the very capable Linda Metcalfe ensure the timely preparation of Shorelines. They do a great job of keeping our club running well.

Mike McMahon

Contact - president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Special Events

Nav Canada Vancouver Area Control Centre Tour



When you next fly and you had participated in this tour, you will really know who tells your pilot where to go!

An opportunity has opened for a visit to Nav Canada's Vancouver Area Control Centre on Tuesday morning, 7th June 2016. All spots are filled by member replies to the email notice sent on Saturday. There is also a waiting list.

NAV CANADA is the country's private sector civil air navigation services provider. With operations from coast to coast, NAV CANADA provides air traffic control, flight information, weather briefings, aeronautical information services, airport advisory services and electronic aids to navigation. Vancouver Area Control Centre manages all air traffic in BC and offshore for 125 Km.

Our group is limited to 25 and again goes on a 'first come, first served' basis. There is no charge for this event. Transport will be by car-pooling from Park Royal North at 9:00 AM, for a tour start at 10:30 AM at the Nav Canada facility at 7421 -135th Street, Surrey. Depending on interest, a group 'no host' lunch will be arranged in the area.

Contact Colin Ritson at colinritson@shaw.ca or phone 604.926.6976 should you have any questions. Details of final arrangements have been emailed to members who are included on the tour. Members who were too late with their request have been waitlisted. We will attempt to repeat this tour.

Colin Ritson

Below is a photo from the Coal Harbour Walking Tour. More photos are on page 3, as well as a write-up of the tour. This photo shows their tour guide John Atkin pointing out an interesting building feature.



May 16th Coal Harbour Walking Tour

Twenty two walkers assembled at the Olympic Caldron in Jack Poole Plaza on a cool and dreary morning. Our tour guide, John Atkin, began with a brief history of the area from the time of the first Europeans. The rain held off and the cool weather was ideal for the walk.

Three early settlers were lured to the area by coal and clay found by the natives. The coal seam was very small and not worth pursuing however the name stuck. The value of the natural harbour was obvious and eventually the CP rail line came through and connected with steam ships plying the Pacific and on to Asia. The route from Britain through Vancouver to the South Pacific and the Orient was significantly shorter and quicker than through the Suez. Vancouver grew and prospered as a major stopping off point.

A bit of interesting history we learned was that the present fields at Brockton Point were all created by logging to feed a proposed sawmill on the point. It was soon realized that with the strong tidal currents, ships would not be able to tie up there, so the sawmill was relocated to an area just east of what is now Gastown. The open playing fields have remained. The three early settlers who had been lured by the coal and clay were able to purchase the entire west end for a few hundred dollars but never were able to really capitalize on it.

The area also developed into a shipping hub for ocean and rail freight towards the end of the twentieth century. However, with the growth of containerization, the size of the area was deemed unsuitable for this mode of shipping. Containers and bulk shipping moved away leaving what was to become a choice residential area.

The CP rail tunnel from False Creek was twinned vertically and now connects the sky train via downtown underground stations to the sea bus terminal and Pier C (now the cruise ship terminal). Piers A and B have long since gone and have been replaced by the convention centre, marinas, and the sea plane terminal.

Vancouver has done a complete job of planning for this transformation. Green areas such as Harbour Green Park were established. New York rules are 30 feet between large buildings. Chicago's are 50 feet. Vancouver chose 80 feet. Also, an early Vancouver City Council had wisely passed a by-law that no buildings could obstruct the view at the end of any street. This rule applies to all of Vancouver and when coupled with the 80 foot separation, has led to excellent views being available from many vantage points. There is a very open feeling at the water front, especially where two streets intersect and end there.

John took us through these areas pointing out the varied original art work that must be included with each development. He also explained the complex rules and guidelines that have led to many affordable dwellings being possible among the million dollar plus high rise condos. This more vibrant mixture was evidenced by the young mothers with strollers we had to make room for during our many information stops along the way. We walked on the roof of one of the city's largest community centres that for all intents is invisible.

One noteworthy little enclosure houses two large firefighting water cannons. They have an independent power source in the case of a serious emergency such as a big earthquake and resulting fire. Most of the buildings in downtown Vancouver can be reached with a fire dampening spray drawn from the harbour. If you notice any blue coloured fire hydrants around Vancouver, they are also tied into this emergency water source. Hopefully it will never be needed.

After two plus very interesting hours we ended up near Cordova and Burrard and most of us made our way to the Lions Pub for a good "pub food" lunch.

John Elliott



Our guide with the rapt attention of our group.



Our guide with three happy PROBUS walkers.

New Members Welcomed and Introduced at June Meeting



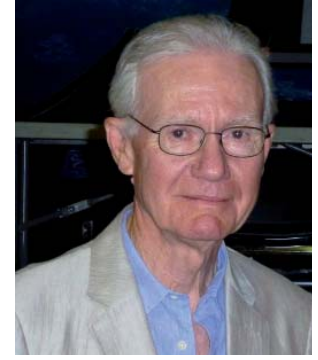
Norm Alban



Dave Davey



Brian Hunt



Carlo Rista

Norm Alban (*member since April 2016*) Norm was born in Toronto, ON and has been a resident of West Vancouver for 48 years. Norm received both a B. Commerce degree and a C.A. His career was primarily as a Management Consultant at Price Waterhouse and widespread volunteer projects world-wide. He worked in Canada and Korea. His interests include cycle touring, West Vancouver school trustee and West Vancouver United Church.

Dave Davey (*member since March 2016*) Dave was born in Essex, England and has been a resident of North Vancouver for 36 years. He was schooled in Rhodesia, Capetown and London. He received a degree in structural engineering from UBC. His career as a Principal with Davey Engineering had him located in Zambia, U.K., Ontario and BC. His interests include Lawn Bowling (president NV Club) and Curling (president Norwesters Curling Club).

Brian Hunt (*member since March 2016*) Brian was born in Vancouver and has been a resident of North Vancouver for over 40 years. He received his MD in a Medical Specialty at UBC. He practiced neurosurgery at Lion's Gate Hospital for over 40 years. His interests include boating, skiing, family, Gulf Island property, and with a special interest in sport concussion.

Carlo Rista (*member since May 2016*) Carlo was born in Biella, Italy and has been a resident of West Vancouver for 30 years. Carlo's education dealt primarily in textiles. His career in the manufacturing industry had him located in Italy, South Africa and Canada. His interests include golf and music (piano).



Members enjoying the presentation by Capt. Bill Noon at the May 9th meeting.

Last Month Speaker - Capt. Bill Noon

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



President Mike McMahon thanks speaker Capt. Bill Noon with a bowl hand crafted by a member.

Finding Erebus: The 2014 Search for the Franklin Expedition

In 1845, when Sir John Franklin and his men on the *Erebus* and *Terror* disappeared into the vastness of the Canadian Arctic, they set off a search that didn't end until 2014. We were very fortunate to have Capt. Bill Noon, master of the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker Sir Wilfred Laurier, recount the discovery of the *Erebus*. Franklin's ship was new and well equipped with sails, a steam engine, propeller, central heating and many other nautical advances. Unfortunately, less can be said for Franklin who was the wrong man for the job and chose the wrong year. Both ships were locked in the ice in Victoria Strait and eventually sank. The *Terror* has not been found.

In 2009 the Canadian government became financially involved in what is now called the Victoria Strait Expedition. Since then, the Inuit Heritage Trust, University of Victoria, Parks Canada, British Foreign Office, W Garfield Weston Foundation and others joined the project.

Capt. Noon gave a fascinating description of their time in Victoria Strait. He said despite what the media tells us, "there is still a lot of ice up there." The weather was good with very calm seas, and the scenery was spectacular with colours he hadn't seen elsewhere. The water was crystal clear and in fact, when they came upon the *Erebus*, they could see her easily in thirty feet of water. She was covered in seaweed. Prior to the discovery, the archaeologist had found tent circles and many ship's items on the beaches, usually marked with the British Admiralty's broad arrowhead, including, nails, musket balls etc. More than, 10,000 artifacts have been collected. Underwater, it is an archaeologist's dream. Because the clear water is so cold, there are no wood worms. The site hadn't been scavenged

by anyone else. Even the drawers in Franklin's cabin still contain documents and other items from when it sank.

The *Erebus* might have been discovered earlier. In the past, there had been reports from the Inuit of a ship in the ice with smoke coming from it, and footprints on the beaches. The recent searches were "based on some Inuit testimony" yet in the past, they were never believed. The charts they drew "were remarkably accurate and systematic." The search wasn't originally planned for that area, but sea ice forced the Laurier south. Modern technology was also a help. They used satellite imagery, and a Bluefin-12 AUV- an autonomous underwater vehicle. In Gjoa Haven, after the discovery, some Inuit were asked whether the expedition had found the *Erebus* or the *Terror*? One said, "The *Erebus* of course. Aren't you guys ever going to listen to us?"

Finally, two highly recommended books are *Unraveling the Franklin Expedition*, by David Whitman, and *Fatal Passage* by Ken McCoogan, about the amazing explorer John Rae and his discovery of wreckage from Franklin's ships. There are also many good websites.

Ken Bryden

May Meeting Greeters



Greeters Stan Saibil and Bill Caulfield

"Shorelines" © A monthly publication of
The PROBUS Club of North Shore Vancouver



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

Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed
and may be sent by e-mail to :

linda@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

or by mail to:

PROBUS Club North Shore - Communications Chair
P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 4X4

For Information on PROBUS Clubs in Canada, visit
PROBUS Canada: <http://www.probus.org/canada.htm>