

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

May 2016

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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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, May 9th

with speaker

Capt. Bill Noon

“Finding Erebus, The 2014 Search For The Franklin Expedition”



Captain William (Bill) Noon is master of the Canadian Coast Guard Ship (CCGS) the icebreaker Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He joined the Canadian Coast Guard in 1981, and has served as Navigation Officer on numerous ships in British Columbian coastal waters and in the Canadian Arctic. Captain Noon has also commanded research ships undertaking offshore oceanographic and search and rescue missions.

In September 2014, as Captain of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier, he played a key role in the discovery of HMS Erebus. Erebus was one of two ships from Sir John Franklin’s ill-fated quest to find the Northwest Passage that began in 1845 and ended when his vessels became stuck in ice. Captain Noon’s on-scene account covers an overview of the recent modern searches the technologies used, the assistance of the Inuit influence and the drama of the discovery.

Captain Noon has a keen interest in maritime heritage and has been a trustee for the Maritime Museum of British Columbia. He is also on the board of the Victoria Classic Boat Festival, and is a member of the Thermopylae Club of Victoria, which aims to protect and preserve the nautical history of Canada’s west coast. His remaining time is spent restoring and cruising aboard his 67 year old wooden boat, Messenger III, a former coastal mission boat.



Mark Your Calendars with these Important Dates



Next Meeting at the Chief Joe Mathias Centre, North Vancouver

- Monday, June 13th - Max Cynader, *“How to Keep Your Brain Healthy as You Age”*
- Special Events, *see page 2 for more details...*

President's Notes



I was unable to attend either our last meeting or the tour of the Seymour Capilano Filtration Plant. I have received very favourable comments concerning our April speaker, Dr Paul Evans and his presentation on China and its maritime disputes with its neighbours. As well, I am told that the tour of the Plant and lunch at Hollyburn Country Club was very well received. Thanks should go out to our Speakers Chair Michael Coady and Chair Colin Ritson and John Penefather of the Special Events Committee.

I scanned the results of the participants in the Vancouver Sun Run and was impressed by the number of participants over the age of 65, including two participants in the 90 to 94 age group. This reminded me of the "21 Rules for a Good Old Age" sent to me by an old friend. I first thought it was cheeky of him since I do not consider myself old but, on reflection, reality set in. While one of the rules extolled the virtue of exercise, the rule that caught my attention is that which advises oldsters to stay current with what is happening in the world and with old friends. PROBUS is a great way to do that. Our speakers are stimulating and almost always trigger insightful questions by our members. As well, our monthly meetings are a great time to meet old friends and socialize.

Continuing to find the high caliber of speakers is a difficult task. Michael Coady, in his first year as Speakers Committee Chair and his committee, preceded by Gordon Adair, Ernie Maguire and their predecessors, have done an excellent job maintaining the high level of monthly speakers. If you have personal knowledge of speakers that you feel would be of interest to our members and have contacts with them which would assist our approach, I ask that you provide that information to Michael Coady. Finding good speakers is the toughest and most important job. Michael Coady and his committee have worked long and hard to maintain that excellence and ensure that each speaker's audio/visual and venue requirements can be met.

In 2014, it was determined to arrange some of our monthly meetings at the Chief Joe Matthias Center, (CJMC). At that time your management committee determined to canvass our members concerning venues after we had completed a year of monthly meetings divided between CJMC and Capilano Golf and Country Club. We have completed that year. Past President Barry Heselgrave has prepared a brief venue survey and you will be asked shortly, via email, to complete that survey. We hope that you will all respond promptly with your wishes concerning venue so your management committee can plan our future meetings.

Mike McMahon

Contact - president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Special Events

Walking Tour Coal Harbour
Monday, May 16th, 9:30 - 11:30 AM
No-Host Lunch to Follow the Tour

Led by our outstanding Tour Guide John Atkin

Coal Harour has played a large role in the history of Vancouver. The walking tour will review this history as well as the planning, zoning and architecture of the series of waterfront neighborhoods within the Coal Harbor area.

The tour will begin at 09:30 at the Cauldron (Olympic Torch) on Jack Poole Plaza. It will take approximately 2 hours and end at this same site. It will cost \$15.00 and go rain or shine. It will be limited to 30 walkers including members and their partners or guests. Lunch will be at the Lions Pub at 888 Cordova Street and is not included in the \$15.00 cost.

Register and pay at the next (May 9th) meeting. After the meeting, register with John Elliott 604-925-3535 (johns.elliott@telus.net) but payment must be by cheque mailed to: Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver, P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 4X4.

The tour will be limited to 30 walkers and your registration is not confirmed until your payment is received.

John Elliott



Canada 150

1867 - 2017

Planning for our club's Canada 150 celebrations is progressing, although at a slower pace than the first announcement / call for help in last fall's Shorelines. As announced at our April meeting, we are still looking for ideas as to what members may want as an event as well as volunteers to sit on the committee. Please contact your Vice President, **Dave Walker** by phone at 604-922-4047 or by email at davidnwalker24@gmail.com or President Mike with any ideas you may have and / or wish to help out in any way. You can have a great idea and not wish to volunteer, or you may just wish to volunteer. - either way, we would love to hear from you.

David Walker

New Members Welcomed and Introduced at April Meeting



Mike Engelbert (*member since April 2016*) Mike was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota and has been a resident of West Vancouver for 20 years. Mike received a BA and a DDS from the University of Minnesota. His dental career had him located in Minnesota, Fort Knox Kentucky, and West Vancouver. His interests include Habitat for Humanity, where he has been involved in building in Hungary, Portugal, New Zealand and Vietnam. He also enjoys travel and golf.



John Gibbon (*member since April 2016*) John was born in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. John received his education from Rhodes Island University. His career as a chartered accountant and as a Partner with Price Waterhouse had him located primarily in South Africa. His interests include travel, cycling and fly fishing.



Stephen Hume (*member since April 2016*) Stephen was born in Duncan, BC and has been a resident of West Vancouver since 1985. Roger received a B.Comm. from UBC. His career as a chartered accountant and as a Partner with Deloitte & Touche had him located in Ontario, Beijing and Vancouver. His interests include fishing, boating and travel. He is also involved in the directorship of the Vancouver aquarium and with the West Vancouver library.



Bob Witzel (*member since April 2016*) Bob was born in Grimsby, ON and has been a resident of West Vancouver for 20 years. Bob received a degree in Electrical Engineering from Queens University and a Chartered Accountant degree in BC. His career in both engineering and finance had him employed at the Vancouver Stock Exchange and with Sandwell Engineering. He worked in Canada and Korea. His interests include travel, cars, assistance dogs, and water activities.



L: Greeters Gerhard Helm and David Gray



R: Newest members receive their PROBUS pins

Last Month Speaker - Dr. Paul Evans

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



Vice President Dave Walker thanks speaker Dr. Paul Evans with a bowl hand crafted by a member.

Troubled Waters: China and Maritime Disputes in the South China Sea

Dr. Paul Evans, Professor, Institute of Asian Research and Liu Institute for Global Issues, The University of British Columbia

Professor Evans has written extensively on this subject and is an adviser to the Canadian and other governments. He has been consulted for the Canadian Defense Policy review that is taking place now, including discussions with the Hon. Harjit Sajjan.

The question is being asked in Ottawa if Canada should be involved militarily with America and Japan in the containment of Chinese military influence. He says no, that we should act as a broker between the two sides. The Chinese see us as friends over many years from when we supported their entry to the UN, and in negotiations for the WTO. China wants their position to be understood, and wants us to explain American thinking to them. Dr Evans thinks that would be much more useful.

Today's talk was really about the complex problems related to the South China Sea where China has eight sea borders. There are many overlapping territorial claims, including fisheries, hydrocarbon reserves, and shipping routes. About 50% of global shipping passes through the South China Sea. This includes container ships, oil tankers, naval ships from nearby countries, and the American Seventh Fleet. No regional player has clean hands in this, but China has the muscle. Over fishing is reaching a crisis point, and if coordinated action isn't taken soon, there will be a massive fishery collapse. The South China Sea provides food for about 1.25 billion people. Dr. Evans said that this is a major preoccupation with his Asian UBC stu-

dents who care more about fish than warships.

There are three questions concerning us: what is at stake here, what are China's intentions, and how will this affect Canada? Any conflict will affect bilateral trade with Canada. What political role will we play, how will a fisheries collapse affect demands on our fisheries, and what international laws will be followed? China does not want a conflict, but will push the limits. Can Canada be a mediator in this? And finally, will the decisions made in this area affect our Arctic sovereignty which America has challenged? China is a party to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, but the US is not.

In response to questions, Dr. Evans made these points. The issue is even larger than the South China Sea itself. It is about China challenging America's naval dominance in the area, which it has had since the end of World War II. Chinese agents in Canada are active in tracking nationals who have taken large amounts of money out of China. The Chinese are involved in both industrial and political espionage, including hacking into critical websites. There are over 100,000 Chinese students in Canada and while some may become involved in espionage, on the whole, Dr. Evans spoke very highly of them. Most students think it is too early to take democracy to China.

Dr. Evans has promised to come back and talk some more about China.

Ken Bryden

PROBUS Travel Insurance

Johnson travel insurance plan is designed to combine all of the travel insurance needs of PROBUS Members in one convenient package, with plan options to suit the coverage you require. Call 604-881-8840 or view the brochure on the home page of our website under the Index, Travel Insurance.

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

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PROBUS Canada: <http://www.probus.org/canada.htm>