

# Shorelines

## NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

November 2016

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

Vol. 14, No. 11

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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 14<sup>th</sup>**

*with speaker*

**Dr. Trevor Heaver**, Professor Emeritus,  
Sauder School of Business, UBC

*“Ships at Your Door: They Bring Trade and More”*

Dr. Trevor Heaver is Professor Emeritus of the Sauder School of Business at UBC where he also served as Director of the Centre for Transportation Studies.

His teaching and research career was in transport economics and logistics, with special interests in rail and shipping in Canada and internationally. One result was serving on various advisory committees for government and industry.

He is a founding member and a Past-President of the International Association of Maritime Economists, and a Past-Chairman of the World Conference on Transport Research. In 2015, Dr. Heaver received the Onassis Prize for Shipping in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the study of shipping.

Dr. Heaver remains active in research here at home and internationally. To keep on the move, he still plays soccer and cricket.

His topic will be “Ships at your door: They bring trade and more.”

He hopes our members will like to see the ships in Vancouver but we might not know as much about them and their business as we would like. He is happy to share his knowledge on that.

The ships contribute lots of things to Vancouver and Canada, overwhelmingly good, but some bad. He will review and be pleased to discuss them – as best he can!.



### Annual Christmas Luncheon

**Monday, December 12th**

**West Vancouver Yacht Club**

**Registrations and payments accepted by mail**

**You can also bring your payment of \$45 to the November meeting.**

**Note: This luncheon is for MEMBERS ONLY.**



## President's Notes



I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. I previously stated that Thanksgiving is one of my favorite times of the year. A time for giving thanks for our blessings and for our family, friends and fellowship.

Thanksgiving is too quickly followed by one of my most soul searching times of the year—Remembrance Day.

All of us have some connection to our armed services and their dedication to service both past and present. All of us have either served or have family or friends who have served or are serving. Personally, I have not directly served however many in my family have--my 94-year-old father is a vet of WW2 – he tried to enlist underage as he wanted to join his brothers in Europe and was rejected until he was of age. He served in Europe and finished the war in Holland. He still volunteers at the local war museum and talks to children about the war and why he was there. He explains the hardships not only our forces endured but also the local war torn residents. Many parents have come up to him after and thanked him for explaining to the younger generation (some 3 times removed) the hardships our forces suffered, their sacrifice and how we must continue to Remember! He and his brothers made it home and took advantage of the vet programs available at the time and he is still involved with the Legion. He is a proud vet and the VA continues to support him and others with many of their benefit programs.

My older sister had three girls - each married service men. One a US Marine Ranger, one a Canadian Navy officer and the other a Canadian airforce CF 18 fighter pilot. All have seen several direct combat missions and our family Christmas dinners and other gatherings have lots of interesting stories.

It is of particular interest to hear many post service stories. Although we, as a society, support the forces while in the service we seem to forget the impact on the family and friends during this period and life post service. Personally I am frustrated by the recent lack of coordination between DND and the VA in benefits to our recent vets. It seems to be a systemic issue and seems endlessly complicated. These men and women put their lives on the line in service to our country and need our respect and support

I encourage each of you to attend a ceremony this year - there are many on the north shore. Take your children and your grand-children and your great grand-children.

We had another great speaker turn out at our October meeting and heard a fascinating presentation on Seaspan. I for one did not realize the size of the organization and the

economic impact they not only have on the north shore but on the province and the country. Our special events tour of their facility next year should of great interest and I am sure will be well attended.

Keeping with the nautical theme, I am looking forward to our November speaker Dr. Trevor Heaver discussing- "Ships at your door: They bring trade and more".

Halloween has come and gone. Lots of ghosts and goblins at our door, however, we had way too much candy left over and it is going straight to my waist line. Next year we will be handing out vegetable sticks. Another event quickly follows this year and most believe it to be even scarier! By the time of our next meeting the US Election will be over except for the crying. Whatever the outcome, it will be an interesting next 4 years.

On a happier closing note, I am looking forward to our Christmas lunch. If you haven't sent in your registration / reservation please do so quickly. We have a great menu, have a couple of surprises in mind and are anticipating a large turn-out. Book early!

### **CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER** **(as in Order of Canada)**

Don Brinton was our club's third President (2005/2006) and was active in the early formative years of our club. If not for Don and John Leonard we would not be here. Don was recently awarded the Order of Canada and we want to acknowledge this prestigious award and on behalf of all our members congratulate Don on his achievements. It was in February of 2003, that Don Brinton and John Leonard decided it was time for a PROBUS club on the North Shore. They approached the Vancouver Probus Club and they agreed to sponsor our application. Our charter meeting was in September and thanks to Don and John's leadership we had over 150 members signed up by that charter meeting. (Check out the name tags at our next meeting and you will see many charter members attending.) Congratulations to Don!

*Dave Walker*

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



**Don Brinton**  
**(2015 photo)**

## PROBUS Canada BC Update

Bill Sexsmith represents BC District #2 on the Board of PROBUS Canada. Bill is a member of both the Vancouver and the North Shore clubs and is in his second (and last) 3 year term as Director.

BC District #2 has 13 clubs and close to 3000 members. Bill is also the Chair of the National recruiting / marketing committee and coordinated a meeting in late September where representatives of the District clubs gathered together as a group for the first time.

Although the focus of the meeting was on marketing and the retention of existing and recruiting of new members we did manage to share and discuss many themes amongst the clubs including operations, format of meetings, financial matters and so on. All clubs agreed that the quality of speakers is one of the foundations of their clubs. We are fortunate to have an excellent committee of John Low, Ken Bryden, Bev Machesney and Kutty Variath chaired by Michael Coady and thank them for their hard work in this area. The clubs agreed we will share our speakers list (either post them in advance on our web site or share verbally) once they have been confirmed or have presented with the goal of helping out other clubs in attracting interesting presenters. This sharing of information is more applicable for the “larger” clubs as we have heard many speakers prefer a larger audience and the smaller clubs are having a challenge in this area.

I also heard some interesting facts that I either did not know (or forgot) including:

- PROBUS Canada established its first clubs in 1987 (Cambridge and White Rock). Probus Canada will have our 30th anniversary next year as Canada celebrates its 150th. Clubs in our District range in size from 50 to approximately 375.
- 60% of members in our District are women.
- Average club size worldwide is 100 and Canada and District is 140.
- The North Shore has 2 women’s clubs (approx. 700) and our club (375) and make up just over a third of the District’s membership.

Back to the main purpose of the meeting—“marketing”. Probus Canada is seeing member growth decrease from highs of some 20% in 2003 to just 1% in 2014 and wants help in increasing members across Canada. As such they are looking at developing new clubs as well as recruiting in existing clubs. Earlier surveys and discussions have noted that most clubs are content with the status quo, the smaller clubs like to stay small to maximize the social aspect, existing clubs in metro areas feel that a new club would compete for new members. With that said Probus Canada believes the declining rates of membership growth requires attention.

As such, Bill is the Chair helping prepare a National Marketing Plan, as well as a District Marketing Plan and is asking individual clubs to prepare a club specific marketing plan

Stay tuned--more to come!

Dave Walker

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

## 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



**Neil Creighton** (*member since June 2016*) Neil was born in London, Ontario and has been a resident of the North Shore for 38 years. He received his Mechanical Engineering Degree from UBC. Neil's career as a Manufacturing Engineering and Product Development was with various companies including Ford Motor Co. and Ballard Batteries. His interests include family, travel, and spectator sports. He is a Rotarian and acted as President in 2007-2008.



**Bill Mitchell** (*member since September 2016*) Bill was born in Ulbster, Wick, Scotland and has been a long time resident of West Vancouver. He received a BSc Hon Geology degree from the University of Aberdeen and a MSc Geology from UBC. Bill's career in mineral exploration and mine remediation had him based in Vancouver, Halifax, Toronto, Denver, and Yellowknife. His interests include his grandchildren, gardening, and travel.



**L: Greeters Vince McNaught and Leigh Farrell**



**President Dave Walker welcomes our new members Bill Mitchell and Neil Creighton**

## PROBUS Travel Insurance

It is that time of year again when members are thinking about travelling to warmer climates, going on a cruise or just discovering an exotic location they wished to visit. PROBUS Members can take advantage of the MEDOC travel insurance plan which 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 1-866-60M-edoc or visit on line at:

<https://www.johnson.ca/probus/en/on>



## Last Month's Speaker - Jonathan Whitworth, Seaspan

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



**President Dave Walker thanks speaker Jonathan Whitworth with a bowl hand crafted by a member.**

### **The Resurrection of Shipbuilding in BC Jonathan Whitworth, CEO, Seaspan ULC**

Jonathan Whitworth gave an enthusiastic and fascinating talk on shipbuilding in BC. His love of the industry and of Seaspan is evident. He started his maritime career as a cabin boy at age 11, and has never left it.

Jonathan talked about the early days of shipbuilding here, highlighting two ships. The first was the ferry St George, built in 1904, which carried 112 million passengers over forty years. The second was the 2300 T wooden freighter War Sumas, built in 1915. After a fire in False Creek burned down many of the facilities, Vancouver Shipyards moved to North Vancouver.

Seaspan is an amalgamation of earlier tow boat companies on the coast. It is a full service marine provider with thirty-eight tugs, 120 barges, seven ferries, and five terminals, many servicing the forest industry. It also owns Marine Petrobulk which refuels ships that come into the harbour. Their tow boats assist in about 4200 ship dockings and undockings a year, in Vancouver harbour and Roberts Bank. According to Whitworth, since 1970, 20,000 ships have been escorted under the Lionsgate Bridge without incident, and tankers have sailed into English Bay since 1940. In 1979 a Japanese log career bumped into the rail bridge in heavy fog.

Seaspan has recently purchased four new advanced design tow boats, "of outstanding quality," from a ship-

yard in Turkey. They have ordered up to four very modern roll on roll off ferries for trailers and rail cars. These ferries will be mostly powered by LNG, resulting in a huge reduction in emissions. Seaspan has three shipyards, two in Vancouver and one in Esquimalt. Here they build ships and do repair, overhaul, maintenance and refits. A refit on a cruise ship can pump \$15 million into the economy. This year they completed refits on five navy frigates for the West Coast, on time and under budget. They are also refitting our three infamous submarines. Jonathan is frustrated that none of these good news stories is covered by the media.

Business is booming. In 2009 Seaspan had fifty-two tradesmen, and now there are from 600 to 800 working there, depending on the projects. It was a momentous day in 2011 when they won the \$8 billion contract for the new government non-combat ships. This contract includes: three offshore fisheries research vessels, one offshore oceanographic vessel, two joint support ships (174m), one polar class icebreaker, up to ten offshore patrol vessels, and medium endurance multi-task vessels. Seaspan hopes this will expand to many more contracts in the future. To this end, Seaspan is subsidizing the education of the many trades people needed, including the training of First Nations young people. It is an exciting time in the shipbuilding industry, and it appears that Jonathan Whitworth might be the most excited of all. See these websites for background information: <http://www.seaspan.com/> and "the Washington companies".

*Ken Bryden*



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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>**