

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

May 2017

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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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, May 8th

with speaker

Dr. B. Brett Finlay,

Dept. of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Immunology, UBC

"Humans and the Microbiome"



Dr. B. Brett Finlay is a Professor in the Michael Smith Laboratories, and the Departments of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Microbiology and Immunology at the University of British Columbia. He obtained a B.Sc. (Honors) in Biochemistry at the University of Alberta, where he also did his Ph.D. (1986) in Biochemistry. His post-doctoral studies were performed with Dr. Stanley Falkow at the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology at Stanford University School of Medicine, where he studied Salmonella invasion into host cells.

In 1989, he joined UBC as an Assistant Professor in the Biotechnology Laboratory. Dr. Finlay's research interests are focussed on host-microbe interactions, at the molecular level. By combining cell biology with microbiology, he has been at the forefront of the field called Cellular Microbiology, making several fundamental discoveries in this area, and publishing over 460 papers. His laboratory studies several pathogenic bacteria, including Salmonella and pathogenic E. coli, and more recently microbiota. He is well recognized internationally for his work, and has won several prestigious awards.

Dr. Finlay is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, is a Member of the German National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Microbiology, Chair d'État, Collège de France and is the UBC Peter Wall Distinguished Professor. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada and Order of British Columbia. He is a cofounder of Inimex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Microbiome Insights, scientific cofounder of Vedanta Pharmaceuticals and CommenSe, Director of the SARS Accelerated Vaccine Initiative, and Founding Director and Senior Fellow of CIFAR's Microbes and Humans. He is also the co-author of the book *Let Them Eat Dirt*.

Mark Your Calendars with these Important Dates...



Next Meeting at the West Vancouver Yacht Club

- **Monday, June 12th** - Callum Thomson, Arctic Archeology
- **Special Events** - see page 2 for more details ...

President's Notes



May Day, May Day, May Day - It has several meanings - the international boating distress call, the celebration of spring, the coming of summer, the celebration of workers, the celebration of Brad May scoring a goal for the Buffalo Sabres and even a pagan religious festival. Many countries have May 1st as a national holiday.

We cannot afford another statutory holiday. One click on the internet uncovers May Day is shared with Mother Goose Day, Save the Rhino Day and Loyalty Day. Although I am a boater and have once had to use the distress call (and in thanks I continue to provide a lunch every August to the Sea Island Coast Guard crew), I prefer to mark May Day as the celebration of spring.

The month of May also brings Mother's Day and Queen Victoria's birthday and this year, our next Provincial election day. It also brings the start to Phil's golf season - a great 2 day excursion planned for May 29th and 30th.

What a great topic and speaker last month - two things I took home - spelling and drivers. For those not able to attend and hear first-hand how the use of genome analysis is helping inform treatment planning for cancer, please check out the presentation on our web site.

This month's speaker will continue with the research theme. Bugs 'R Us will discuss how living too clean is actually unhealthy. I may have to miss my morning shower and shave that day.

Reminder #1- May is the start of a busier golf season at Capilano and we need to use the lower parking lot. A shuttle will be available to provide transportation.

Reminder #2 - Our June meeting will be at the West Vancouver Yacht Club as Capilano is not available

Reminder #3 - Mother's Day is one of the most, if not the most, important day we recognize. Although most of us are unable to call our mother, remember to do something special for a mother

Reminder #4 - Vote! Last month we had the anniversary of Vimy Ridge. Our ancestors fought and many died and many more were injured to protect our right to vote. Do not let their sacrifice be in vain - they would not care who you vote for - just vote!

Happy May Day and welcome to spring 2017.

Dave Walker

Contact - president@probud-northshorevancouver.ca



Special Events

WALKING TOUR STRATHCONA TUESDAY MAY 16TH 9:30 – 11:30AM NO-HOST LUNCH TO FOLLOW THE TOUR

The walk will be an exploration of the history and architecture of this fascinating part of Vancouver including a visit to a brew pub for lunch.

Strathcona is one of the city's oldest neighbourhoods, and yet one of its newest. Innovative zoning encourages heritage retention and new infill construction which has made this once neglected area one of the city's most popular. We'll explore the history and architecture of this fascinating part of Vancouver. And afterwards we'll aim for the Strathcona Beer Co. on Hastings and Campbell.

- Meet 0915 at the Strathcona Community Centre at Princess and Keefer.
- Parking very limited suggest public transit from Park Royal
- Depart on tour at 0930 Sharp!
- Duration 2 hours and end at Strathcona Beer Co. on Hastings at Campbell.
- Cost \$15.00 (tour only) and go rain or shine.
- Lunch (no host) at Strathcona Beer Co. on Hastings and Campbell

With a limit of 30 walkers the walk will be for members only until May 9th. After which, if not fully booked, the walk will be open to guests. Partners or guests can be placed on a waiting list. There are presently 25 members signed up with 2 guests on the waiting list.

Register with John Elliott by phone at 604-925-3535 or e-mail johns.elliott@telus.net.

Payment must be by cheque mailed to: PROBUS Club of North Shore Vancouver, P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 4X4. (Indicate Strathcona Walk on envelope). Payment, at the latest, must be at the next (May 8th) meeting.

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

John Elliott

ADVANCE NOTICE

BOOK THE DATE- AUGUST 9th

**“Celebrate Canada’s 150 anniversary by
Cruising the remarkable Fraser River
on a historic Paddlewheel Boat
Details to follow in June Shorelines.”**

New Members Welcomed and Introduced at April Meeting



Grant Hughes (*member since April 2017*) Grant was born in Powell River, BC but grew up in Victoria and went to university at UBC where he received his degree in Law. He practiced law for nineteen years in Prince George and then moved to West Vancouver and became a partner with McQuarrie Hunter. He was a Rotarian for many years including a one year term as President and was a Board Member of the Continuing Legal Education Society. He enjoys golf, travel, reading and current affairs when his grandchildren will let him.



Rob Pellatt (*member since April 2017*) Rob is Vancouver born, bred, educated and employed. He received a degree in Commerce at UBC and went into the Accounting profession. He ended up as Secretary of the BC Utilities Commission and became both an FCPA and an FCMA. He is a Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Vancouver, and Past Chair and Member of the West Vancouver Parks and Environment Committee. He enjoys gardening, curling and travelling. He carried the Olympic Torch both in 1988 (Calgary Olympics) and in 2010 (Vancouver Olympics).

Special thanks to photographer Darryl Stodalka



Greeters Bob Witzel and Mike Englebert



President Dave Welcomes New Members

Photos from Seaspan Shipyard Tour



Above Left: Tour Guides. Above Right: Special Events Chair Gordon Cook and Tour Guide. More photos...

Photos and Summary of the Seaspan Shipyard Tour



Above: Members at the Security line-up.

On 01 April 2017, 92 members of Probus North Shore participated in a special tour of Seaspan's Shipyard on the industrial waterfront of North Vancouver.

Once through security and inside the fence it became apparent just how huge Seaspan's North Van Shipyard is -- 40 acres containing six enormous buildings for assembly line shipbuilding. Giant ultra-powerful cranes that are clearly visible for miles in every direction and a highly trained, committed workforce of 3,000 employees in British Columbia, 1,200 of whom work at its North Vancouver Shipyard.

Following the process of manufacturing a ship is an overwhelming experience. The scale of Seaspan's assembly lines in its six massive buildings is breath-taking. Massive is the word that applies to so much at this ship building process.

At stage one in the first building we saw enormous sheets of steel, waiting to go through the first of several stages before being finally formed into one of many components that go into forming a ship. The various components are then, at various stages of the construction process, incorporated into what slowly emerges as a vessel. Finally, at the last stage, a fully constructed vessel emerges ready for launch.

Seaspan was recently awarded contracts to construct seventeen ships in this shipyard for the Canadian Coast Guard and the Royal Canadian Navy. The first of those ships, the Canadian Coast Guard Ocean Research Ship, the SIR JOHN FRANKLIN is almost completed. It is expected to be in the water by September. The FRANKLIN will have a ship's company of 39 crew and scientific experts.

Following the construction of Coast Guard Ocean Research vessels the shipyard will begin constructing two enormous Royal Canadian Navy supply ships to enable our RCN warships to remain at sea for prolonged periods. These are "Berlin Class" German designed ships the plans for which are now being modified for uniquely Canadian purposes. The cost of modifying these plans alone will cost \$250 million and take two years. Once completed ship building will commence.

The general feedback from those who attended was extremely positive. Your special events committee is currently in discussions with Seaspan for a second tour for those who were unable to attend the first.

Photos from the tour follow on pages 5 and 6.

Gord Cook / Roddy MacKenzie

Special thanks to photographers Michael McMahon and Gord Cook

Photos from Seaspan Shipyard Tour



Above: Massive Assembly of CCGOR Vessel #2 Below: Members waiting for their Tour Guide.

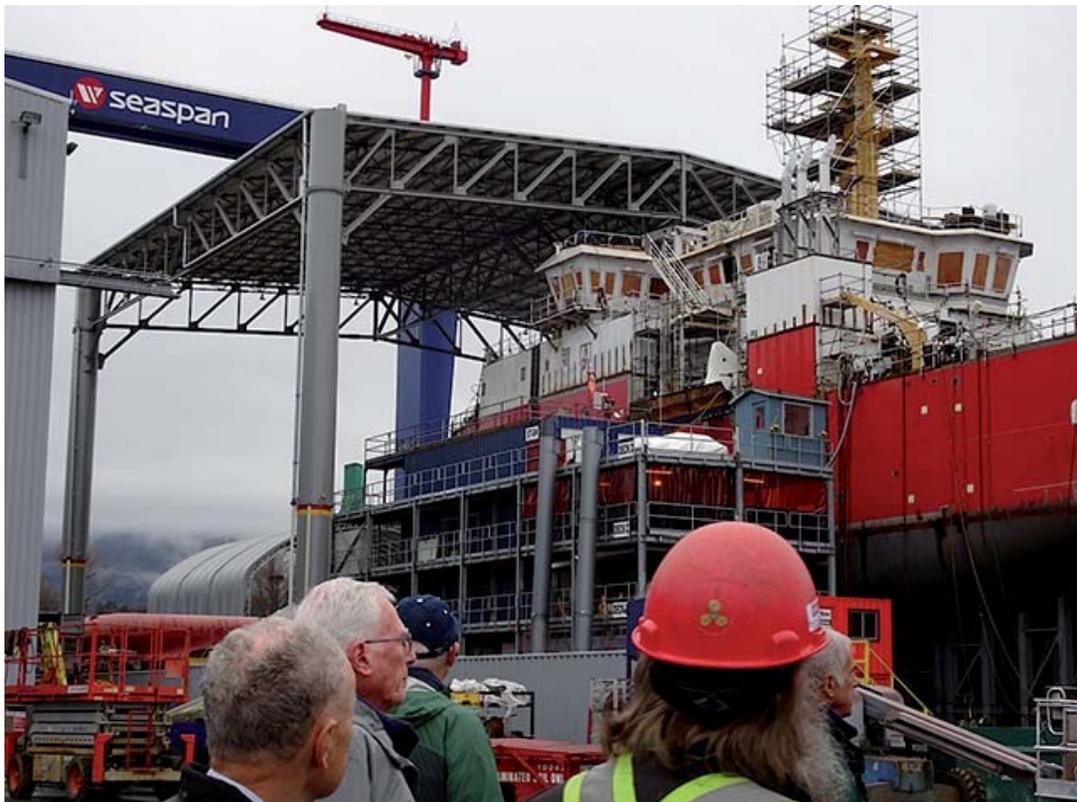


Special thanks to photographer Michael McMahon and Gord Cook

Photos from Seaspan Shipyard Tour



Above: The Sir John Franklin soon to be launched. Below: Members enjoying the tour.



Last Month Speaker - Dr. Marco Maara

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



President Dave Walker thanks speaker Dr. Marco Maara with a bowl hand crafted by a member.

Our Speaker at the April meeting was Dr. Marco Marra, an award winning research scientist from the BC Cancer Institute. He addressed us on the nature of his advanced research into developing treatment and cures for cancer. His specialty is genomics, the study of genes and how they function in DNA molecules. The program goes by the name POG, which stands for Personalized OncoGenomics Program. The studies here in BC are among the most advanced in North America, and would not be possible without the interaction of advanced microbiotics, pharmacology, advanced communications and computer technology, all driven by deep scientific interest. Their work is highly advanced, and reminds me of the remark once made to the effect that to a casual observer sufficiently advanced science is indistinguishable from magic or science fiction.

There are many aspects of the work of the institute that seems like science fiction. The research team's approach is to develop individual cures for individual patients. At the current time the patients in their study suffer from Stage 4 cancers. This is generally recognized as a stage when the cancers are virtually incurable. This program is succeeding in developing cures. Dr. Marra is quick to point out that "cure" means cancers go into remission and do not reoccur for 5 years. Cancers can reappear, and the probability increases with time. The underlying premise of their work is that cancers develop when a gene or group of genes malfunction at the cellular level. The opportunity for such a malfunction can come from many causes, but one that affects us all is aging. The importance of this research becomes self-evident if we consider how the BC population is aging, and ultimately the probability of us contracting cancer could become greater than the probability of cardiac disease. The actual research that leads to potential treatment comes from a detailed review of all

the medications that can affect various cells, not just from examining chemotherapy drugs. One of their treatments involved using a diabetes drug to treat a cancer, and another used a blood pressure pill.

As astounding and promising as his research sounds, especially to anyone who has lived with cancer or faced the heartbreak of a loved one suffering and dying, it is not magic, at least not yet. It takes several months to study cellular material from cancer tumours to determine the problem at the molecular level. By that time, a cancer could have developed into the final and fatal stage. The cancers can also continue to mutate. The genes may continue to malfunction and produce further cancers, this time resistant to the first set of medications used. From this standpoint, it appears that when cancers are said to reappear, it is a different form of cancer - a mutation that is resistant to the initial medication. The universal cure is not here yet.

If you would like to find out more about the nature of this cancer research, the CBC produced a program for the Nature of Things, entitled Cracking Cancer. It's easy to find on the CBC website and it is a worthwhile and informative show. Dr. Marra's presentation is now on our website at <http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/speakers.htm>

Tom Gunn

Parking Regulations In Effect



Capilano's busy golf season is now underway and they are asking "*all guests*" to comply with their parking regulations.

A shuttle service is available from the lowest "*Visitor Parking*" area to the Clubhouse. Those displaying a valid physical handicap tag in their windshield may continue to park in the designated stalls provided across from the main Clubhouse entrance.

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

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

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