

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

October 2018

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Gordon Bird
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Special Events:

Gordon Cook
604-921-7393

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, October 1st

with speaker

Peter Klein, Emmy Award-winning Journalist and Documentary Filmmaker

“Risk to Democracy: When the 4th Estate Comes Under Attack”



Peter W. Klein is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and filmmaker. Since 1999 he has been a producer for the CBS News program 60 Minutes, and he directs and writes documentaries for a host of other broadcasters throughout the English-speaking world. He was the host of the nationally-broadcast Canadian news program The Standard from 2009-2010. He has written for The New York Times, The Christian Science Monitor and numerous magazines, and was a producer at ABC News' Law & Justice Unit, conducting investigations for Nightline, 20/20 and World News Tonight. He is also the creator and executive producer of the

Emmy-nominated History Channel series Beyond Top Secret, which investigated clandestine operations around the world.

Peter currently serves as director of the University of British Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism, where he runs the International Reporting Program. He and his students travel the world and produce documentaries. In 2010 he and his students won the Emmy for Outstanding Investigative Magazine for their Frontline/WORLD documentary "Ghana: Digital Dumping Ground." That report also won the Sigma Chi Delta Award for Best Documentary of 2010. Peter has previously won an Emmy for his 60 Minutes investigation in the former Soviet Union's smallpox weapons program, and he shared an Emmy for the Learning Channel documentary "Killer Virus."

Mark Your Calendars with these Important Dates



Monday, November 5th at the Capilano Golf and Country Club

Speaker - Dr. Cheryl Wellington, Centre for Brain Health, UBC

- **Membership Renewals** - details on page 2 ...
- **Annual Christmas Luncheon** - Monday, December 10th - details soon

President's Notes



This is a new year for the PROBUS Club of the North Shore Vancouver. I am pleased to be your President and look forward to the next twelve months. We have three Management Committee members who have left – Dave Walker, Michael Coady and Darryl Stodalka. We recognized Dave at the last meeting for all the years he has been involved with our leadership but I would also like to thank Michael and Darryl for their tremendous contribution. Michael has done an exceptional job as Speakers Chair finding great speakers on a variety of topics for our meetings. Darryl also worked very hard taking pictures and insuring all our newsletters are well done. At the meeting John Zaplatynsky handed the gavel over to me. He will now be our Past President and will continue with the Management Committee and keep us on the right path.

Our weather certainly has changed and so attending our meetings might just be a little more comfortable than golfing. We will continue the majority of our meetings at Capilano Golf course but will try to arrange a couple more at the North Vancouver School Board office which seemed to work out well for us. We can look forward to another great year of interesting speakers as well as Special Events. Gord Cook and his committee have certainly done an exceptional job lining up great events which often are sold out.

I look forward to working with the Management Committee to make sure we have a successful year.

Jim Grey

Contact: president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca



Special Events

Keep The Date!

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
will be held on
MONDAY DECEMBER 10, 2018 at
TheWest Vancouver Yacht Club



Keep this date open for our annual Christmas Luncheon Same venue and same price (\$50) as last year, with entertainment to-be-announced..

This will be a members only event.

Registration information will be available next month.

Gordon Cook

Final Notice for 2018 - 2019 Membership Renewals

If a member fails to pay the renewal fee of \$80 by **October 15th**, his membership will lapse and his name removed from the mailing list.



Please mail ASAP or bring your payment with your renewal form to the October meeting if you have yet to renew.

September Meeting Greeters



Greeters Brian Hann and Jim Connell

Last Month Speaker - Gerald Baier



Speaker Gerald Baier thanked by President Jim Grey with a bowl hand crafted by a member.

The Pros and Cons of Electoral Reform

Many BC voters and the BC government believe the present First Past The Post (FPTP) voting system does not represent the wishes of many British Columbians. The November referendum is an effort to address this concern. We are all familiar with how the FPTP works, but the three alternatives set out by the NDP government are more complex, requiring some study and thought. Prof. Baier explained the three options but did not give an opinion.

First Past The Post

FPTP has the advantage of familiarity and simplicity, you vote for your candidate who either gets in or doesn't. In BC the disadvantage is that with three or more parties, the vote is fragmented so that the winning party usually has less than 50% of the vote. There can also be a rural-urban split that is not always fairly represented in the vote results. Smaller parties like the Greens, have trouble winning seats proportional to their vote.

The referendum offers three Proportional Representation options.

1. Dual- Member Proportional

Most existing districts pair up, except in some large rural ridings. The voter can select two candidates; the candidate with the most votes wins a seat while the second seat is distributed to make provincial seats proportional.

2. Mixed- Member Proportional

60% of the seats in the Legislature will be single district, as now; 40% will be filled from "Lists" provided by the political parties. Winning candidates from the lists will be allocated to reflect the province wide popular vote. The parties will control the lists which will most likely endorse senior members of the parties and may or may not be selected by an internal party democratic process

3. Rural-Urban Proportional

To address the rural/urban divide this proposal combines two systems. There will be MMP's for the rural areas, and

a Single Transferable Vote (STV) for urban and semi-urban areas. STV means large multi-member districts with a ranked ballot. This allows a voter to allocate their votes, (equal to the number of members to be elected in the riding) to candidates of one or more parties including independents.

In discussing the options, Prof. Baier noted the FPTP while simple, has many drawbacks. As well as governments winning with a minority vote, it has also allowed them to gather a lot of power in the premier's office and the backbenchers are told how to vote on an issue. The "Short Pants" (the young unelected advisors) often have more influence than the backbench members of the governing party. This was true in the Christie Clarke government.

While Proportional Representation may be more representative, it could lead to a very fragmented vote, making it difficult to form a coalition. While there would be a minimum vote necessary to gain a seat in the legislature, single issue parties might gain seats where seats are allocated for a proportion of the province wide vote.

Ken Bryden and Russell Brink

New Member Introduced and Welcomed at September Meeting



Chester Spink (*member since September 2018*) Chester was born in Romford, in Essex just east of London, and spent the early years of his life in the Royal Navy where he specialized in electrical training and instructor training. He came to Canada in 1973.

He has worked in industry and taught at Vancouver Community College and BCIT as well as a spell with CIDA in Pakistan and, for four years, Indonesia. He enjoys travel, bridge and sails out of Eagle Harbour Yacht Club.



President Jim Grey welcomes Chester Spink

Special thanks to photographer Darryl Stodalka