

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

April 2018

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Vol. 16 No.4

Management Committee

President:

John Zaplatynsky
604-925-1548

Vice President:

Jim Grey
604-926-9248

Secretary:

Norm Alban
604-926-2343

Treasurer:

Gordon Adair
604-230-9122

Past-President:

Dave Walker
604-922-4047

Communications:

Darryl Stodalka
604-925-2570

House:

Gary Sutherland
604-926-2807

Membership:

Jeremy Marr
604-926-9368

Speakers:

Michael Coady
604-990-7643

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, April 9th

with speaker

Stan Ridley

President, West 2012 Energy Management Inc.,

“Global Warming and Climate Change - The Children’s Future is in Our Hands”



Stan is a well qualified broadly based power and energy executive with 40 years of hands-on experience working with the private sector, governments and NGOs on projects on five continents.

Over his long career in the power and energy business, Stan has held a number of senior executive positions including President of B.C. Hydro International, Senior Vice President (power) for SNC-Lavalin and President of West Energy Management (his own power and energy Consulting company).

In addition to his hands-on experience on fossil fueled projects, large and small hydroelectric projects, and renewable wind and biomass projects, Stan has had considerable experience with environmental impact and socio-economic assessments and reports.

Stan will review our Power and Energy use history through the ages, from the long Muscle Power Age into the Fossil Fuel Age and on to our present Global Warming & Climate Change (GW&CC) impasse. He will briefly review the present alternatives and possible approaches to finding “breakthrough” solutions and explore the technical, engineering, financial, commercial, social and political restraints to moving forward efficiently and effectively to find the desperately needed solutions before the Planet reaches the GW&CC “tipping point”.



Parking Regulations In Now in Effect

Capilano Golf and Country Club is asking “all guests” to comply with their parking regulations. A shuttle service is available from the lowest “Visitor Parking” area to the Clubhouse.

Mark Your Calendars with the Next Monthly Meeting



Monday, May 14th, at Capilano Golf and Country Club

Dr. Brian Day, Private Medical Clinic,

Current Legal Battles over Private Health Care in BC

President's Notes



Happy Easter to all our members and your families! I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful family time together, even if the grandchildren have worn you out over Spring school break.

It was very nice to see such a good turnout at our March meeting at a time when so many members are away enjoying sunnier weather at some southern resort. The topic of proportional representation is very much in the news at this time and we were interested in learning more about the subject. I heard from many members that our speaker did a good job in pointing out the flaws in our current "first past the post" system, but they were expecting more in terms of understanding the alternatives. I have raised the issue with Mike Coady, our Speakers Committee Chair, and asked that he look into another speaker who could explore the alternatives more fully. This topic will be with us over the next year as the government investigates the options, so it would be great to be better informed. If you have suggestions on speakers for this topic, please speak with Mike or myself.

In late April, Vice-President Jim Grey and I will be attending a PROBUS Regional Conference including all the clubs in Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. The topics include sharing "best practices" of operation of our clubs, membership recruitment, management committee succession and other aspects of club activities. Our national Chair, Bill Sexsmith, will be chairing the meeting and he is very keen on exploring how to develop more social activities for our PROBUS clubs. This is in addition to our special event tours. We currently have bridge and golf groups that are very active. If there are other activities you think we should explore, please let me know and I will raise them at this meeting and with your Management Committee.

I look forward to seeing you in April where we have a highly-regarded speaker on another topic of current interest. Take care until then!

John Zaplatynsky

Contact - president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca



Special Events

SHAUGHNESSY WALKING TOUR TUESDAY MORNING MAY 8th 10:00 – 12:00 NOON



Led by John Atkin - Civic Historian, Author and Tour Guide

This is one of John's many popular guided walking tours. John has explored Vancouver

like few others and offers an interesting and entertaining insight into the city's history and architecture. This will be our fifth walk led by John.

Vancouver's Shaughnessy neighbourhood was planned by the Canadian Pacific Railway to be the city's most exclusive residential area and was the first suburb laid out on garden city principals. Here, unlike the rest of the city, the streets follow the contours of the land and the landscape, both public and private is as important as the architecture.

Today, Shaughnessy is still a much sought-after neighbourhood and on this walk we'll explore the neighbourhood and look at how it has developed over time.

The walk will start at 10:00 Sharp near the intersection of Granville and 16th.

- Meet at 09:45 at the corner of McRae and The Crescent
- Parking may be limited - suggest public transit. No 10 bus runs from downtown south on Granville
- Duration will be 2 hours and to be followed by a no host lunch at Ouisi Bistro, 3014 Granville, 604 -732-7550.
- Cost \$15.00 (tour only) and will go rain or shine.

With a limit of 30 walkers, the walk will be for members only until April 8th. After which, if not fully booked, the walk will be open to guests. Partners or guests can be placed on the waiting list.

Payment please by cheque mailed to: PROBUS Club of North Shore Vancouver, P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 4X4.

Please include a note with your name, phone number and email and mark "WALK" on the envelope.

If space is available, registration and payment can be made before or after the meeting on April 9th.

Your registration is not confirmed until your payment is received

John Elliott Johns.elliott@telus.net 604-649-4888

John Elliott

New Members Introduced and Welcomed at March Meeting



Glenn Ferguson (*member since December 2017*) Glenn was born in Vancouver and received a Bachelor of Commerce degree at UBC. After graduating, he became a Chartered Accountant, working his way to the position of VP with a Trust Company. He then joined McMillan Bloedel, where he was a Senior Vice President and CFO. His interests are gardening, bridge, and woodworking at the WV Senior's Centre (where he is on the Board) . He is also a past President of Capilano Golf Club. To many of you, Glenn is no stranger for he was a member of the first and founding Management Committee of this Probus North Shore Club back in 2003 and was its first Treasurer.



Jim Graham (*member since March 2018*) Jim was born in New Westminster and has lived in West Vancouver for the last 38 years. He has been Vice Commodore of the Vancouver Rowing Club, a regional committee member of the Terry Fox Foundation and a member of Rotary International and the Vancouver Executive Club. He describes himself as an International entrepreneur. He has worked in the United States, Hong Kong, Singapore, Toronto and Vancouver often with companies that he founded or co-founded in a variety of industries. He enjoys sailing, cycling, hiking and travel.



Richard Syrnyk (*member since December 2017*) Richard was born in Toronto and now lives in North Vancouver. He has spent most of his career in the construction industry and for the past 10 years as a consultant to civil engineering contractors and government, both provincial and municipal. Some of the major local projects with which he has been involved include the Port Mann bridge and the Sea to Sky highway. His current interests are live theatre, trout fishing, hiking and duplicate bridge.



Greeters Ted Rule and Claus Wiig



Peter Stacey (L) and President John Zaplatynsky(R) welcome our newest members.

Special thanks to photographer Darryl Stodalka



Last Month Speaker - Jon Lumer



President John Zaplatynsky thanks speaker Jon Lumer with a bowl hand crafted by a member.

Our March speaker Jon Lumer has kindly provided a summary of his talk on Electoral Reform, as well as a copy of his presentation slides now posted on our website at <http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/speakers.htm>.

I would to thank the members for inviting me to speak. It was my great pleasure to address the group and engage in some stimulating back and forth during questions.

Those who attended will likely recall that little focus was placed on different versions of Proportional Representation (PR). In fact, my contention is that an intro to PR must always begin with an analysis of our current system's flaws. These flaws are so many and so manifest when one begins to prod a little, that the particularities of just which system of PR will replace it seem relatively trifling.

I began by asking what we valued about our democratic system. We are rightly proud to live in a democracy after all, and the expansion of democracy internationally has been one of the major contributors to the current unprecedented era of prosperity and global stability.

It seems to me we should ask of our democratic system that (1) it respect the principle of majority rule, that (2) it make us all equal in the ballot box, and that (3) it provide us with actual choice when we cast our vote.

By exploring the results of the last federal election in some detail, we were able to see that in Canada, candidates are very often elected with mere pluralities of the vote, meaning they are not required to obtain a majority. When these returns are aggregated across the country to determine who will form government, we find that the result is often a government holding unchecked power despite having garnered less than 40% of the popular vote. This is not a system that respects the principle of majority rule.

We examined the evolution of the franchise in Canada, how it expanded slowly over more than a century to become as inclusive as it is today. Ironically, the system itself makes a mockery of these improvements, by ensuring most of our votes have absolutely no impact in determin-

ing who will represent us in parliament. The impact of our votes depends entirely on whether we vote for one of the two most competitive candidates in our riding, and just how close that race is. Even voting for a winning candidate may be pointless if they are guaranteed to win by a landslide every time, as we often see with "safe ridings." Every vote cannot be said to be equal in a meaningful sense in Canada. Surprisingly few votes elect anyone to parliament. This is a serious design flaw in our system.

Due to the aforementioned, a number of strategies have evolved for individual voters to work around the system and allow their votes to have some sort of impact. One of these is known as strategic voting. Instead of voting for the candidate, message, and platform you like, you vote for the candidate most likely to defeat the one you find most objectionable. Another strategy is vote trading. This technique involves making a pledge to vote for the preferred candidate of another person living outside your riding, if in return they consent to vote for your preferred candidate in their riding.

Individuals and organizations that practice and promote these methods have rightly identified one of the problems with our system: you are not really free to vote for your preferred candidate because the system works against choice. Yet use of these techniques constitutes an obvious perversion of democracy. On those rare occasions when the citizens are asked to provide their input about who should lead the country, those who understand the system itself know that simply "voting for your preferred candidate" is often pointless.

These problems have been recognized in Canada for nearly a century (since the time we stopped being a two-party system) and are all addressed by the different forms of PR. Under PR, you get government endorsed by majorities of voters, every vote counts, and you are much freer to vote for your preferred candidate or party. These are the reasons that this issue will not go away. If I am not able to convince an audience that these problems absolutely demand that some form of PR be introduced, then there is no purpose whatsoever in discussing the many varieties of PR available to us.

"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