

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

March 2018

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, March 12th

with speaker

Jon Lumer

“Electoral Reform”



Jon Lumer is an advocate for the cause of electoral reform in Canada. He believes our democracy will be reinvigorated and enhanced by improvements to our current system. Jon will give a basic introduction to the topic of proportional representation and why it has emerged as an important and perennial issue in Canadian elections at all levels of government. He will ask why so many Canadians feel fundamental change to the electoral system is important to so many in a country whose political system is already the envy of much of the world. He will ask what purposes a democratic system serves in theory and how well our current system does so.

Jon was raised in eastern Canada. He was born in Montreal and earned a degree in Political Science from Concordia University. He has travelled widely in Central America where he grew fascinated with the contrasts between the prevailing political systems and the one he had come to know in Canada.

Jon later pursued anthropology studies and a law degree at Université de Montréal, where he greatly improved his French and his understanding of Québécois culture. He then worked at the law firm of Goldwater Dubé in preparation for bar school. He had the opportunity to work closely with Anne-France Goldwater, one of Quebec’s best-known attorneys and media personalities.

After being sworn in as a member of the Quebec Bar Association, Jon opened a private practice and began accepting mandates in immigration law and criminal defence. He felt very fortunate to be able to observe the inner workings of our justice system from a perspective few are able to enjoy. Jon ran for public office in the Federal election campaign of 2011. He found the experience of participating so directly in our political process to be highly educational. After several years practicing law in Montreal, Jon now works as a Realtor in Vancouver. He is a contributor to the Vancouver Real Estate Podcast.

Mark Your Calendars with the Next Month Meeting

Meeting at Capilano Golf and Country Club

Monday, April 9th

Stan Ridley, *Global Warming and Climate Change*



President's Notes



Walking on the West Vancouver seawall in the glorious sunshine on Sunday afternoon, I reflected on how changeable the weather has been throughout the past few weeks. Two weeks back I played a round of golf on a sunny but chilly day; then we had a surprise of a snow storm on Friday and today as the snow melts I can see my daffodils

starting to show off their yellow flower buds! Many of our members head south in March in an effort to avoid all these varying weather patterns that will probably continue for the next few weeks. I think they make things interesting!

The past few weeks we have been delighted, surprised and perhaps disappointed by our Canadian athletes' results at the Pyeongchang Olympic Winter Games. It was very entertaining television, despite the repetitious commercials. There are always some amazing stories of dedication and perseverance over four years of training and recovery from injuries between Olympics. I am sure that those of you who might have competed at a high level of sports really appreciate what it takes to become an Olympic athlete. I was very pleased to see the overall results and watching the games brought back many happy memories of the 2010 Games here in Vancouver and Whistler. I am quite sure I would not go the games in Beijing, but if Calgary wins the right to host the Games in 2024, attending would definitely be on my "bucket list" again. I missed the 1988 Games opening ceremony as I was stuck behind a snow slide just outside Revelstoke!

There are two membership matters I should mention – speakers and new members. Our Speaker's Chair, Michael Coady, has put together an excellent program of speakers for most of the coming year but we always welcome ideas on topics that might be of general interest to our members. Please send along ideas to Michael whenever you see or hear of an interesting speaker. On membership, a reminder that we are always looking for new members. If you have a friend, neighbour or business associate you would like to refer for membership, please invite them to a regular meeting so they are able to see our format, connect with other members they might know and decide to join our PROBUD Club.

See you at the March meeting.

John Zaplatynsky

Contact - president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Special Events

SHAUGHNESSEY WALKING TOUR

TUESDAY MORNING MAY 8th

10:00 – 12:00 NOON

LED BY OUR OUTSTANDING TOUR GUIDE

JOHN ATKIN

Vancouver's Shaughnessy neighbourhood was planned by the Canadian Pacific Railway to be the city's exclusive residential area, and it's 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 it 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.

- Meet 09:45 at the corner of McRae and The Crescent.
- Parking may be limited - suggest public transit .
- Depart walk starts at 10:00 Sharp!
- Duration will be 2 hours and to be followed by lunch at a pub or restaurant (to be advised).
- 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 9th. After which, if not fully booked, the walk will be open to guests. Partners or guests can be placed on a waiting list.

Payment please by cheque mailed to: PROBUD 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.

Your registration is not confirmed until your payment is received.

John Elliott, 604-649-4888, johns.elliott@telus.net

John Elliott

Start Your Tour!

PROBUS Golf News

Golf With Your PROBUS Pals

April to September

This year another trip to Harrison Hot Springs is in the preliminary planning stage. It will be an overnight trip with golf Monday at Meadowlands and Tuesday at Sandpiper.



The remainder of the season is in the planning stage and details will be circulated in April. There is no registration fee but \$10 (for prizes) will be collected at most events. Start times for the remaining 5 events are usually early afternoon. Dinner will be optional and at your own expense. Please include your

handicap factor when expressing interest.

If you are interested in joining us for an informal game of golf and lots of camaraderie respond to Phil Boase pjboase@telus.net.

Phil Boase

PROBUS Bridge News



The PROBUS Bridge Club will be starting Season 2 of its 15th year in early April. New members are welcome. Play is every Monday afternoon to end of June at the West Vancouver Senior Centre.

For further details contact Phil Boase - pjboase@telus.net

Phil Boase

Greetings from Dan Potts



January 14th, 2016

Dear Members of The PROBUS Club of North Shore Vancouver:

Thanks to all the many Probus members for the wonderful Christmas card that Alex Tunner circulated for signature at the 2018 Christmas Lunch. I estimate there were more than 100 signatures. How wonderful. The card made my day and I am truly grateful to all, to learn that I am not totally forgotten by my good friends in BC.

South Carolina is a wonderful place with warm weather, beautiful beaches, and a low cost of living. The culture is definitely Southern as it is the heart of the bible belt and South Carolina was a strong Trump supporter in the 2016 election.

It would be wonderful to receive a visit from my old friends at our home in Murrells Inlet.

Go Canucks!!

Warm Regards to All,

Dan Potts

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101 Creek Harbor Circle

Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, 29576

Editor's Note:

Dan was an active Probus member, and our Past President #8 in 2010-2011. A Chemical Engineer (U. Washington, MBA Stanford), he hails from South Carolina and was a Pulp & Paper professional and executive. He moved to Kitimat in 1993 to run Eurocan Pulp & Paper, and to West Vancouver in 1997. He returned to South Carolina in late 2016 – he and his wife Diane have family there.

Alex Tunner

**We always welcome
new members!**

**Why not invite a friend,
a neighbour or
business associate to one
of our monthly meetings.**



New Member Introduced and Welcomed at February Meeting



Richard Horsfall (*member since February 2018*) Richard was born in South Africa and received a Bachelor of Commerce degree and an MBA from the University of Cape Town. His interest lay in flying and in that lay his career ending up with captain for Boeing 747s for both South African Airways and latterly, based in Vancouver, Korean Air. He has lived in West Vancouver for the last 18 years. He has been involved with the Vincent de Paul Society and Vancouver Streamkeepers. His interests are fly fishing, travel, kayaking, photography, and he is a novice woodworker.



Greeters Clive Holloway and Perry Maerov



New member Richard Horsfall is welcomed by Vice President Jim Grey

Special thanks to photographer Darryl Stodalka

Parking Regulations In Effect in April



Capilano's busy golf season will be underway for our April meeting 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.

Gary Sutherland



Irish Blessing

**An Irish Blessing –
May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields;
And until we meet again,
May the God who loves us all,
hold you in the palm of His hand.**



Last Month Speaker - Dr. Peter Ross



Speaker Dr. Peter Ross is thanked by Vice President Jim Grey with a bowl hand crafted by a member.

Our February speaker was Dr. Peter Ross, Vice President of Research and Senior Scientist of OceanWise, an affiliate of the Vancouver Aquarium. His subject was *Oceans in Peril: Microplastics and the Destruction of the Ocean*.

The problem is much more pervasive than dealing with the large plastic articles found on our beaches. The presence of plastics in oceans has been growing with the almost universal use of plastics to replace more short lived natural elements. One issue is that one of the most desirable feature of plastics has become its most intractable problem.

Natural products originally used in food wrappers, clothing and containers of various sorts are still made mostly of plant materials. They are largely dissolvable in water and decay rapidly. When they biodegrade they generally become simple elemental products rapidly. Longer lasting items, like wood-based products, break down reasonably soon into organic components.

Plastics generally do not act that way. They tend to break down slowly, and their by-products can have undesirable aspects. Plastic and plastic particles can spread rapidly by wind and water. We are also discovering that can have unusual side effects when, instead of breaking down rapidly like natural products, they can enter the food chain and not be broken down into components first.

Our speaker's principal area of research is what happens when plastics in various forms - raw plastics, recycled and semi-recycled plastics - enter the oceans.

His primary observation is that plastic material has already entered the ocean water ecosystem on a worldwide basis. There are no areas in which plastics have not spread. The resulting danger is not simply from large plastic items. Plastics tend to break down very slowly and there is substantial concern about the manner in which they break down into smaller parts - including microscopic parts - but

are not really dissolving into their elemental components. It turns out that by far the largest number of plastic objects found on beaches are cigarette filters, and they last years before breaking down. The intact cellulose acetate filters are small enough for birds and small crustaceans to eat. Plastic food wrappers and plastic bags, also found in large numbers on beaches, seem to be attractive to turtles. They apparently can resemble plant material but can prove fatal to the creatures that try to ingest them.

One of the new sources of concern comes from individual household treatment of plastics. Research is showing that washing machines can be an insidious source of polluting plastic components. Most people have athletic clothes or fleece sweaters made from recycled plastics. However, when they are washed they shed fibres in the form of filaments and small solids into the wash water. It's currently difficult to filter these components in Municipal water treatment plants, but there is some new work under way. Meanwhile, these particles can make it into the oceans, where they are consumed, first by microscopic creatures and other small creatures that form the first steps in the food chain. As they in turn are eaten, the plastic components concentrate again. Research is showing that salmon are beginning to show increasing concentrations of plastic and the salmon food cycle is proving to be an efficient concentrator.

Dr. Ross did end by saying that there are several steps underway, to deal with plastic problems. These include developing alternative plastics that are easier to recycle, new water treatment facilities, and possibly things like filters for washing machines. His general point was, however, that the plastic problem is more advanced than we may realize and will not be solved without major worldwide coordinated efforts.

Note: Dr. Ross' presentation is available on our website at <http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca> Select the Speakers Tab, and click on the name of Dr. Ross' presentation.

Tom Gunn

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

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or by mail to:

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