

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

February 2019

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, February 11th

with speaker

Mark Pearmain, Superintendent of Schools, NV School District

“Changes in BC Public Education”



As Superintendent of Schools for the North Vancouver School District, Mark oversees 34 schools, including the North Vancouver Distributed Learning School and the North Vancouver Outdoor School at Cheakamus Centre. Over 18,000 students and staff comprise this diverse and highly successful school district focused on innovative teaching and learning. Mark has a strong focus on creating a positive organizational culture and climate whereby students and educators can attain their full potential. His core values of respect, integrity, collaboration and communication exemplify a transparent leadership style that empowers others to lead and innovate. Mark has gained valuable experience in a variety of roles over his 22-year career in public education, serving in the North Vancouver School District as Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent, and the Vancouver

School Board as a classroom teacher, secondary school Principal and Director of Instruction.

Mark's topic will focus on the Changes in BC Public Education. We are in a time of rapid change in terms of curriculum, school design, on-line course offerings, academy programming and Indigenizing the curriculum to name but a few. With change comes opportunity. How we approach this change will greatly impact student learning. Mark will describe some of the exciting changes/opportunities that are currently taking place across the Province and illustrate how the North Vancouver School District is ensuring we are preparing our students for the future.

Mark was born and raised on the North Shore and currently resides in the Lynn Valley area with his wife and two children, both who attend schools in the NVSD.

Mark Your Calendars to Attend Our Next Meeting



Monday, March 11th at the Capilano Golf and Country Club

Speaker - Ashley Corcoran, Artistic Director, Arts Club Theatre Co.

- **Special Events** - details on *page 2* ...

President's Notes



Well – the good news as I write this is that we have no snow where we live on the North Shore and the even better news is that we seem to have a good amount in the mountains for those of us who are skiers. We have of course had lots of rain but when you look at other parts of Canada, we still are the best place to be in the winter. I am sure that many PROBUS members are planning a journey south to get a break in the weather and maybe even a tan. Many of us have also made New Year's resolutions and hopefully are sticking with them. I gave up all alcohol for the month of January...both wine and my rum and coke. This way I can really look forward to February 1.

It is also an interesting time to look at world politics. In Canada 2019 will be a federal election year and it's hard to predict the outcome. In BC of course, we have an NDP/Green government which has lasted longer than many people thought and it's hard to say what the future will bring. In Britain they are struggling with Brexit and it certainly is not clear how that will unfold. In France they have the yellow vests who are creating havoc for their government. And of course, south of the border we have a President who is certainly one of a kind and between the wall in the south, the tariffs, the ongoing Mueller investigation and high staff turnover it's hard to say what will happen in 2019. Isn't democracy great!

We will have an excellent speaker for February who will talk about the many changes that are happening in public education. We seem to be in a time when our education system is undergoing a lot of changes and may see a lot of challenges. Between vaping, which seems to be popular with young kids, just as smoking was popular for our generation, drinking and marijuana there will be lots of challenges for children and parents and our schools as well.

This may be a great time to be part of the older generation. Just make sure you stay active with PROBUS and other community activities.

Jim Grey

Contact: president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Special Events

The Special Events Committee are busy planning a variety of events for 2019 with confirmed dates yet to be set. A few of the events being organized are:

- a city walk in May in Beaconsfield Heights with tour guide John Atkin
- a tour of TRIUMF
- a tour of the internal workings of Lions Gate Hospital
- a tour of Vancouver Seaplane Control Tower

Members will be informed just as soon as the events are finalized. The committee always welcomes any suggestions of events that members would enjoy.

Gordon Cook

**We always welcome
new members!
Why not invite a friend,
a neighbour
or business associate
to one of our monthly meetings.**



New Members Introduced and Welcomed at January Meeting



Nigel Clarke (*member since January 2019*) Nigel was born in Tonbridge in Kent and was educated in the UK before going into the hospitality business. There he worked in hotels and cruise ships before starting to specialize in wines

working with wine import companies before becoming President of Noble Wines and Spirits and acting as a wine consultant.

Presently he is actively involved with the West Vancouver Seniors Centre. His interests are travel, photography, and admits to having a fetish for knives.



Leo Sauve (*member since January 2019*) Leo was born in Forsters Falls in Ontario and got his accounting degree in Toronto. He articleed and worked for Trust companies in Ontario before joining Canada Trust. They moved him to Vancouver

in 1984 and when he retired a few years ago, he was Senior VP for BC.

In the past he has been very involved, including President or Chairman with a variety of organizations including the United Way, a Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Vancouver Opera, Vancouver Aquarium and the Woodward's Foundation.

His current activities are reading, opera, and his strata council, and he says that, having played golf badly for 20 years, he has finally stopped trying.

Special thanks to photographer Ken Bryden



Greeters John Collings and Simon Russell



President Jim Grey welcomes new members

PROBUS Travel Insurance

This article serves to remind members, as well as inform members who recently joined our Club, of the travel insurance available for PROBUS members. If you are making plans to travel to a much warmer climate, go on a cruise or discover an exotic location you wish to visit, as a PROBUS Member you can take advantage of the MEDOC travel insurance plan. This plan 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 Speaker - Tom Van Walleghem



Speaker Tom Van Walleghem thanked by President Jim Grey with a bowl hand crafted by a member.

Our January meeting speaker was Tom Van Walleghem, and his topic was *Canada's Role in the Last 100 Days*. His current profession - which grew from his hobby - is the study of WWI and WWII.

All the veterans have gone and their detailed history of the WWI has faded from living memory. While the stories of the battle of Vimy Ridge are still with us, most of the developments in the last year of the war, and particularly the history of what is known as the 100 Days, is not well known any more. His presentation was a reminder of the brutal battles that brought the war to a close.

It's important to understand what had happened by the beginning of 1918. Russia had surrendered, and the Germans were now free to move some 60 divisions from the eastern front to France. The Americans had entered the war and were in the process of mobilizing an 80 Division Army.

But the German forces were facing critical issues. Russia had been defeated, but their own allies were faltering. The Ottoman forces were ready to surrender, and Austria needed support. Germany itself was facing a crisis as the number of casualties was exceeding the number of recruits.

The British and French Armies were also tiring and the high level of casualties were causing political issues. However, the Canadian forces were at full strength, and the Americans were arriving.

The German Army made one major push in the West. It was a high-risk strategy and they hoped to achieve a knockout blow that would force an end to the war in the West. They advanced to new territory, but they did not achieve the necessary knockout blow against the British and French forces. While victorious on the surface, the German army was now vulnerable. and the German forces were now vulnerable.

The Canadian forces were in reserve at Vimy as the Germans attacked other areas.

The Battles of The 100 Days began with the Canadian forces moving south from Vimy and to attack the Germans at Amiens. They scored a major victory, and they recovered more than was expected. The British and French were now encouraged thinking the Canadian strategy that involved mobility and the use of air power was a viable winning strategy.

The Canadian forces returned north and began their march to Germany. The ensuing battles at the Canal du Nord, Cambrai, Valenciennes and Mons, were bloody, devastating encounters. Almost one quarter of all Canadian casualties happened in the 100 Days. The Canadian Divisions were approximately 18,000 strong, and the casualties at the Canal du Nord alone were roughly 13,000. The local towns were virtually annihilated, food and water were scarce and the Spanish Flu had appeared. In final stage the Germans were retreating so quickly that the Canadians periodically lost touch with them. On November 9th the Corps advanced to Mons. There the final battle took place. When November 11th came, many units were reluctant to lay down their arms.

The last 100 Days were a precursor of the second world war, with infantry using Canadian designed personnel carriers, tanks accompanying infantry, and integrated air support. The victory came at a very high price. Men were anxious to return home, and the majority had been injured in some way. The Canadian army was disbanded quickly and soon reached pre-war status. But society had been permanently damaged, and the memories of suffering lasted throughout the interwar period. We can see the impact today when we visit Ottawa. When you enter the Senate Chamber the war still lives in the paintings on the walls.

Tom Gunn

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

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