

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

April 2020

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Monthly Meeting Location To Be Determined

Coffee and Fellowship: 9:00 am, Club Business and Speaker: 9:30 - 11:15 am

Monday, April 6th Meeting

CANCELLED

Will Advise Members When We
Can Safely Resume Our
Monthly Meetings



I am sorry to inform you that the April meeting of our club has fallen victim to the COVID-19 virus. The planned meeting with Mike Harcourt scheduled for April 13th has been cancelled.

This decision was forced on us by the fact that The Capilano Gulf and Country Club, our scheduled meeting place, has closed its doors to all operations for at least 30 days.

We all know that this closure and those of many other clubs and organizations in British Columbia and Canada have taken place upon the recommendation of the governments' health officials as part of a plan to prevent the spread of the virus.

We should therefore be glad that these closures have taken place, even as the risk of infection for each of us is very small.

Let us hope that our personal and government responses to the epidemic will be successful in containing the spread, medical cost and fatalities.

The management committee and I wish you all a safe journey through this troublesome period. We will let you know when we can safely hold the next meeting.

Herb Grubel

Contact: president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Mark Your Calendars to Attend Our Next Meeting



YET TO BE DETERMINED

Members Will Be Advised When Meetings Are To Be Resumed

- Special Events - Genome Research Centre Tour Postponed, *page 2...*

Special Events

Pacific Sciences Enterprise Centre. This Tour was held on March 5th as scheduled. Thirty members gathered at the Centre on Marine Drive in West Vancouver and were given a very informative tour by Claire O'Brien, the Education and Outreach Liaison Director of the facility. A photo of the group and a full Report on the facility is included in this newsletter. It is interesting reading for many of us who have driven by this facility over the years and wondered what went on behind the fence.

BC Cancer Agency's Genome Research Centre. This tour scheduled for Thursday April 23rd. is presently full and has also been postponed. The facility is very keen to have us visit and once the situation permits it will be rescheduled.

Vancouver Viaducts walking Tour This tour is scheduled, for May 21 and a full notice is included below. However, as the need for "Social Distancing" becomes more important particularly for our cohort it may also have to be postponed. Notify John Walker by email if you would like to attend but hold off on any payments at this time.

Contact John Elliott at johns.elliott@telus.net if you have any questions about any of our events.

John Elliott

Vancouver Viaduct Walking Tour Thursday Morning May 21 With our favourite Guide John Atkin

The Roads to Nowhere: The Georgia Viaducts. The only visible reminder of the grander city-wide freeway plan of the 1950s, will soon be a memory with their impending demolition. On this walk we'll explore their history and development, the freeway fight and explore a few of the lingering scars still evident on the local landscape.

Meet at the north east corner of Union Street and Gore Avenue at 9:45 am.

This walk will go as long as John Atkin is able, and we are free to move about and congregate outside. It also goes rain or shine. The usual lunch after the walk may not be held.

To sign up contact **John Walker** at hiljon@telus.net.

The cost is \$15 each, payable by Interact e-Transfer to probus.events@telus.net. Please hold off any payments until the event is finally confirmed. More detailed instructions on paying will also be issued at that time.

John Walker

The PSED Tour Report

The Pacific Science Enterprise Centre Tour Report



A government aquatic sciences laboratory supporting freshwater and marine research. The Pacific Science Enterprise Centre (PSEC) is located on the ancestral lands of The Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam First Nations. Our site is located right on the waterfront in West Vancouver near the outflow of Cypress Creek. For thousands of years the location was home to a seasonal First Nations village site. It has been described as a good place to fish for Rockfish.

In the 1890s a cannery was opened on the site, it was one of the first major industries to develop on the North Shore. The cannery was home to its employees, who were a mix of Japanese, First Nations, and Caucasian.

In the 1960s the Government bought the land from the Millerd family, the final owners of the cannery. From then on it has been a research laboratory. Nearly closing down on more than one occasion, the site has had as few as two employees keeping it running. The Science Enterprise Centre initiative began in 2017, with the aim of using government science for outreach, and increasing the breadth and scope of our site's research through collaborative science. Now, with both government employees and non-government partners at the site, there are about 50 staff at the lab during the week.

Current Science from the Tour

Microplastics Research: The plastics lab is a project by our partners at the research branch of the Vancouver Aquarium, known as the Coastal Ocean Research Institute (CORI). The plastics lab examines microplastics in urban wastewater, arctic food webs, and other environments. Microplastics are tiny, often microscopic pieces of plastic which are less than 3 mm in diameter. Their widespread presence in the ocean is a cause for concern. They have found that 90% of the microplastic pollution in Burrard Inlet is microfibers. The lab analyzes the weathering of synthetic fabrics and microfibres in laundry, and is working

The PSED Tour Report Cont'd

with major clothing companies to develop fabrics which do not shed their fibers when washed.

Pollution Tracking: Another Project by CORI, the pollution tracking team use filter-feeding species like mussels to measure the level of marine contaminants at locations throughout coastal BC.

Environmental Watch: Our environmental watch team studies the health of salmon as they return to freshwater to spawn as well as environmental factors within streams. Environmental watch biologists are currently studying the effects of the Big Bar landslide on salmon returning to the Fraser River.

Marine Mammal Research: Both DFO and CORI have teams dedicated to marine mammal research, most notably to support our endangered population of Southern Resident Killer Whales. Resident Killer Whales live in tightly-knit pods, and occupy a certain territory. They are highly intelligent and social animals, who communicate using an array of clicks and whistles. Each pod has slight variations in their sound combinations, similar to the way human languages have dialects. Orcas live in matriarchal groups, the leader of each pod is generally the oldest female. Male and sometimes female offspring stay with their mother for their entire lives, passing down their language and hunting knowledge to the next generations.

Southern Resident Orcas are impacted by shipping noise, pollutants, and reduced availability of their prey – chinook salmon.

CORI and DFO researchers are studying these impacts and providing evidence-based advice to industry and government on how to best help our local orcas.

Oceanographic Effects of Aquaculture: Our oceanography team studies the impact of shellfish and finfish aquaculture on the surrounding ocean environment. Using data from the field and controlled lab experiments, models are made to predict how runoff and waste from aquaculture will move through inlets.

Nutrition Laboratory/ Sustainable Aquaculture: Our Nutrition team works with industry partners to improve the sustainability of fish farms. They have achieved this through developing feeds made from sustainable ingredients and which will be eaten and digested by fish at an increased rate – preventing excess nutrients from entering the environment. The nutrition lab was also involved in a study on raising cleaner fish. Pile perch, a local species, will pick sea lice off infected salmon to eat. The lab studied ways to raise these fish for industry, as a sustainable alternative to pest control on fish farms.

*Claire O'Brien, Education & Outreach Liaison
Pacific Science Enterprise Centre*

New Members Introduced and Welcomed at March Meeting



Mauk Breukels (*member since March 2020*) Mark was born in the Netherlands and came to Canada to attend UBC and get a Bachelor of Commerce degree. After a few years teaching real estate finance at UBC, he opted to go to Western

and get an MBA. That led to a career with Finning International. He worked in branch sales, branch management, and health and safety before relocating to Chile as Director of Inventory and Logistics for South America. Then back to Canada and ending his career as Vice President, Investor Relations and Corporate Affairs.

Now he spends his time road cycling, cross country skiing, golf, travel and reading.



Tom Mason (*member since March 2020*) Tom was born in Peterborough, Ontario but moved to BC where he studied Civil and Structural Engineering at BCIT. He started work with Jim Patterson's Modular Division before branching out on his own with Site Buildings Limited, a modular building and trailer rental company. He sold out about five years ago.

For many years, he has had his own airplane and will happily regale you with stories about flying Bill Vander Zalm around BC during election time.



President Herb Grubel welcomes new members

Last Month Speaker - Christopher Gaze



Speakers Chair Gordon Bird thanks Christopher Gaze with a bowl hand crafted by a member.

Christopher Gaze entertained us with some brilliantly delivered excerpts from Shakespeare's plays but spent most of the time telling us about his interesting career as an actor and entrepreneur in the theater business.

In 1990 he was instrumental in starting from scratch the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival in Vancouver. In the early years, actors, stagehands and managers were paid depending on the number of tickets sold. Christopher recalled earning \$250 for his first season's work.

However, unlike most theatre festivals, this one has become a roaring success. Its annual budget is now around \$10 million, making it the largest Shakespeare festival in North America and the third-largest theater company in Canada (behind the Stratford Arts Festival and The Vancouver Arts Club).

It has recently begun to cooperate with the Arts Club Theatre, saving costs and jointly running the new Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre. The Bank of Montreal deserved special mentioning as a supporter of the Festival from the very beginning.

The Festival organization trains young people in acting and the theatre arts. Some later choose careers in the theatre, but their lasting appreciation of the arts is what Christopher is most happy about. The company works with hundreds of volunteers, who contribute much to the welcoming atmosphere at the festival and the bottom line of the company.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Shakespeare Festival company is that its growth was achieved with virtually no government subsidies. Instead, it is flourishing on income coming from ticket sales and private donations.

Asked about the secret of the extra-ordinary success of the company, Christopher mentioned the slow but steady

growth that avoided the boom-and-bust experience of many new starts. He gave the usual credit to his colleagues, which surely is deserved. However, he much downplayed the role he played in this success as the artistic director and manager. He did not have to. His entire presentation was evidence of his overwhelming influence.

Herbert Grubel



March Greeters Dan London and Richard Youldon

*Spring is Here!
Enjoy The Flowers and
Warmer Weather*



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

Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed
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