

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

February 2025

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Management Committee

President:
Rick Ryan

Vice President:
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Secretary:
Alex Campbell

Treasurer:
Gordon Adair

Past President:
Terry McLeod

Communications:
Darryl Stodalka

House:
TBD

Membership:
Ron Ash

Speakers:
Ron Nalewajek

Special Events:
Steve Wilson

Monday, February 10th, 2025 Meeting

West Vancouver Yacht Club, 5854 Marine Drive,
Coffee and Pastries at 8:30, Meeting at 9:30, with guest speaker

Wandi Zhu

“The Renaissance of Traditional Chinese Culture”



Wandi Zhu, a Vancouver native, began learning Classical Chinese dance at the age of 10. She earned a full scholarship to the prestigious Fei Tian Academy of the Arts in New York, where she underwent professional training in Classical Chinese dance. After graduating from Fei Tian Academy, Miss Zhu returned to her hometown to pursue her passion for literature. She earned a BA degree from UBC, majoring in English Literature and minoring in Asian Studies. She has been actively sharing her expertise and love for traditional Chinese culture, delivering numerous presentations on Classical Chinese dance and its rich cultural heritage.

Miss Zhu’s presentation will take our members on an inspiring journey through China’s rich cultural history, its destruction in modern times, and the revival efforts led by Shen Yun Performing Arts.

Highlights of her presentation include:

- Introduction to Chinese Culture: Exploring 5,000 years of history, philosophical foundations (Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism), key dynasties, and world-changing inventions.
- The Destruction of Traditional Culture: Examining the impact of the Cultural Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party on Chinese heritage.
- Reviving Cultural Traditions: Introduction to Shen Yun Performing Arts and Classical Chinese dance, including videos showcasing Shen Yun’s unique artistry.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 10, 2025 - Catherine Tickle, Vancouver Art Gallery

President's Notes



2025 arrived and folks have greeted the New year with a variety of mixed emotions. Perhaps some of us yearn for the past. Others are excited about the present and many want to jump to the future.

Slipping back to the immediate past. Many of you will recall we asked, a couple of months back, for expressions of interest with respect to considering new activities. We also mentioned this pursuit at the monthly general meeting and placed sheets at the WVYC entrance for folks to indicate interests they thought members might want to undertake. The responses were underwhelming. Five members responded. One suggested a book club. Others referred to potential speaker topics and one mentioned a potential special event. That information was passed on to the MC committee. It appears members are satisfied with the range of activities currently in place. However, if the urge to do other things springs forward, please let any of our MC members know your thoughts and we will see if it can be put in place.

Moving from the past to the present. I would be remiss if I did not encourage you to think about current Probus volunteer opportunities. Much work happens behind the scenes to ensure the monthly meeting, the various special events, activities like bridge or golf, take place. This work is guided by your MC committee and a few volunteers. We could use some extra assistance.

The adage “many hands make light work” is true. The opposite is true too. “Few hands make the work harder”. More members volunteering would be appreciated by your committee members.

Our membership chair would welcome 3 or 4 folks to lend assistance. With additional help the various tasks would take minimal time. What is needed? Assistance at the monthly meeting to set up the greeting table and welcome members. Periodically introducing a new member to the club. Placing an order for new badges and pins. Processing an application for membership. With a few more volunteers it would not require much more than an hour or so of your time each month.

House chair is not time consuming, but a couple of volunteers would be helpful. What is involved? Primarily being a liaison with the West Vancouver Yacht Club. The chair sends an email each month to the WVYC confirming the anticipated attendance at our monthly meeting. At the meeting the chair or a committee member lends a hand with coordinating the questions to the speaker. The chair also

attends the monthly MC meeting. We need a chair and also an assistant, to, periodically, fill in for the chair.

Speaker chair attends the monthly MC meeting. The committee also secures speakers. Our current chair has speakers booked for the next few months, but it is helpful to have a couple of volunteers to back the chair up. What is involved? Perhaps in the year ahead it would entail calling a potential speaker to determine their interest in speaking to the members. If confirmation is made it would involve preparing a brief bio for the Shorelines and introducing the speaker at our meeting. Again, this is not time consuming but having a couple of folks who could devote an hour or so each month to this task would be of great assistance.

Scribe is an endearing term we provide to this important volunteer function. Each month there is a summary of the message given to us by the guest speaker placed in Shorelines. We need a couple of people who would take notes at the monthly meeting re: the presentation by the speaker and summarize the presentation in two or three paragraphs for the newsletter.

Special events chair has been working with a very active committee for the past two years. This group has demonstrated, that with a few extra hands, the work is a lot of fun and not too time consuming to coordinate. We have had willing hands for this area of operations and their help has been truly appreciated

Finance chair has been a hard-working committee of one. Gord Adair has been our “go to guy” for a few years and would appreciate having a second person lending hand.

Our membership base has many individuals with tremendous experience as community and business leaders. Your talents are exemplary. By stepping up and providing an hour or so each month you will not only assist those currently volunteering but ensure the club has leadership to guide us as we move forward each year.

When you arrive at the February meeting, please let the volunteers at the desk know you are interested in lending a hand and what volunteer role appeals to you.

On behalf of the MC committee, I thank you in advance for considering our request for assistance.

Rick Ryan, President

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

Special Events

North Shore Rescue Facility Tour “The Embassy”

Join us on our next tour – the North Shore Rescue operation in North Vancouver, on Thursday, February 13th. We will have a short tour followed by a presentation; possibly a demonstration of some of their new rescue technology.

NS Rescue was called out 139 times last year, according to Team Leader Scott Merriman. In total, he estimates the team put in 10,000 hours in response time, training and administration in 2024. Because of their unique skill set (the team includes emergency room surgeons and nurses, firemen, ex police officers and even an avalanche expert, all volunteers) the team was requested to aid other teams around the province 34 times. For more information on NS Rescue, tune in to one of their shows on the Knowledge Network.

DATE – Thursday, February 13th

ADDRESS – 63 Bewick Ave, North Vancouver

COST - \$30 per person

TRANSPORTATION – We have the Seniors Center bus for this tour. Please arrive at the seniors center by 8:30; bus departs at 9 am sharp. Tour at 9:30 am.

THERE IS VERY LIMITED PARKING AT THIS VENUE; THE BUS IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

LUNCH – 11:45, Black Kettle Pub, 700 Copping St Unit 106 North Vancouver (quite close to the venue).

TO REGISTER – Please email Mark Jackson. Please indicate if you will be stay-ing for lunch following the tour.

PAYMENT – To be made by e-transfer to Mark at his email address above (preferred option) or by cheque payable to Probus North Shore Vancouver at the bus or event.

For further information on this tour, please contact Steve Wilson or Pete Stacey.

Steve Wilson, Special Events Chair

House Chair Needed

The House Chair position remains un-filled. For reference, it is an administrative role communicating with WVYC and attending a monthly management meeting held in the Board Room at PARC Westerleigh. Business activity tends to have a social aspect with coffee, pastries, etc. being supplied.

Note -The position does not require involvement with technical setup for speakers. For details, contact Terry McLeod.



Vancouver Library Tour Review

On January 7th we toured the main Vancouver Public Library on Georgia Street. A total of 17 curious Probus souls showed up in front of the library at 11:00 AM for a guided tour. Our guide was knowledgeable and lively so she kept our interest throughout the tour. We examined interesting things on all nine floors.

We were amazed at the diverse activities and things that the library does each day. The library is so much more than just a bunch of books to lend out. Each floor has a special function with books on all conceivable subjects all duly categorized with the Dewey Decimal System which I learned about in grade school. Books are separated by language, categories (engineering, climate, architecture et al) and there is a wide selection of historical books and maps. One of the most unusual offerings is a number of individual sound studios where budding artists can book time to record anything they want all for free. There are lots of quiet rooms to sit and read or work on your computer. During the day the library is open to people who just want to keep warm and there are no questions asked.

Our tour ended at 12:30 at which point we all walked over to the Brown’s Social Club at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre where we had a delicious meal and appropriate beverages. It was a fun outing and we all had a good time.

Alastair Campbell, Special Events Committee

Probus Golf Group

Probus Golf Group Planning Underway - April to September



A new committee has been formed and has met to formulate the season plan. Shortly an email will be sent to all previous and new registered golfers to start the registration process. There is no registration fee but early registration is required to receive

notice for each event. Start times are usually early afternoon. Dinner will be optional and at your own expense.

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

Phil Boase, Probus Golf Group Chair

January New Members Welcomed



Barrie Forbes was born in Minnedosa, Manitoba and has been a resident of the North Shore since 1998.

He has a BSA - plant science major and a Master of Science, and is a professional agrologist. Barrie co-owned Allied Blower and Sheet, a company that designed, manufactured, installed, and repaired industrial dust collection equipment used in industrial facilities like sawmills, grain elevators etc. Barrie has a place on DeCourcy Island, an unserviced Gulf Island where he chops wood, carries water and fixes things. He also enjoys singing in 2 choirs.



Robert Prescott was born in Dublin, Ireland and has resided in West Vancouver for 35 years. He has Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. He is a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers in the U.K. and is recognized as a professional (non practicing) engineer in BC.

Robert's career has mostly been in transportation engineering, both infrastructure and analysis. His most recent employer was N. D. Lea and Associates in Vancouver. He became self employed and started his own business in 1997. Robert has worked in 19 different countries. He still travels, keeps up on current affairs, reading, internet, walking and fighting old age!



Meeting Photos



Above: President Rick Ryan welcomes our two new members

Below: President Rick Ryan thanks the speaker and fellow member, Christopher Hebb.



January Speaker Review



Christopher Hebb spoke about the life and career of Winston Churchill, a British politician and statesman. He talked about the growing relevance of Winston Churchill's leadership in the modern world over time, highlighting Churchill's early years as a journalist and military officer, his shift from the Conservative to the Liberal party, and his role in World War I and II.

He also shared personal anecdotes about his interactions with Churchill and his family and touched on Churchill's relationship with Roosevelt and the importance of their friendship in the war effort, as well as his opposition to Indian independence and his views on Gandhi. Lastly, he discussed the origins of the Royal Air Force and the Royal Canadian Air Force, Churchill's views on the British Empire, and the influence of Lloyd George and Mackenzie King on Churchill's ideas.

Churchill decided to put the UK on the gold standard in 1924, which he later regretted. Churchill's focus was on social programs and the welfare of the people, and he was not a socialist. Although he was initially opposed by the British establishment, he eventually became the leader of the UK during World War II. He has been praised for his leadership and his role in shaping international policy, particularly his famous "Iron Curtain" speech.

Winston Churchill was known for his courage, sincerity, forgiveness, affection, loyalty, and humour. Churchill's leadership and results were influential in so many ways. To recognize this, the first Churchill Society was formed in Edmonton, Alberta in 1964, followed by others in Calgary, Washington DC, and the UK. The International Churchill Society was established in 1968, with societies now present in Canada, the US, the UK, and other countries. Annual conferences are held by the International Churchill Society, including one hosted in 2007 in Canada.

Our speaker expressed his privilege in serving on the International Churchill Society and as president of their society in Canada.

Summary Prepared by Member Darlene Dean

W. Churchill's Paraprosdokians

Winston Churchill loved paraprosdokians, figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
6. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
7. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out, I just wanted pay cheques.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put "DOCTOR."
11. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
12. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street...with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
13. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
14. A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
15. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
16. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
17. There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.
18. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
19. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
20. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
21. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
22. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
23. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
24. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but now it's getting harder and harder for me to find one.