

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

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Monday, January 13th, 2025 Meeting

West Vancouver Yacht Club, 5854 Marine Dr., Coffee/Buns 8:30, Meeting 9:30

with guest speaker

Christopher Hebb
“Winston Churchill”



Sir Winston Churchill, born November 30, 1874, experienced an extremely exciting life full of accomplishments before being appointed prime minister in 1940. Fellow member, Christopher Hebb will talk of Churchill's life, accomplishments and viewpoints beyond the scope of the usual events associated with Sir Winston Churchill.

Mr. Hebb has resided in West Vancouver for 42 years. He received a BA.. History from the U of A, a LL.B from the U of T and was a former member of the law societies of Alberta and BC. He was the past president of the Sir

Winston Churchill Society of BC, having served 22 year. Also, he was a director and Treasurer of the International Churchill Society based in Washington, D.C. (2003-2008). For six years he was the former director and member of the Executive Committee of the World Affairs Council of the Desert based in Rancho Mirage, California.

Christopher's international experience consists of extensive international transactions in the United States, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, the U.K., and Mexico. He was Executive Vice President of Kaiser Resources Ltd., Canada, Senior Vice President of Kaiser Steel Corporation in Oakland, California and Executive Vice President of Shato Holdings Ltd., Vancouver, Alberta and British Columbia. He currently gives lectures to senior homes on Sir Winston Churchill,



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 10, 2025 - Wandi Zhu - Classical Chinese Dance
March 10, 2025 - Catherine Tickle, Vancouver Art Gallery

President's Notes



Celebrating New Year's

Do you have a tradition that you follow every year on December 31st?

Or perhaps you do celebrate the new year but not always in the same way.

Certainly, the way I brought in New Year's back in my twenties, or even in my sixties, is not the same today. Celebrations in my twenties are mostly forgotten. They were, even when I was in the middle of celebrating them. I attribute my reduced hearing loss to my neighbours (and me) because of the banging of pots and pans on New Year's Eve in my sixties. Some time after the age of 65 my New Year's celebration altered. I became very comfortable enjoying the departure of the old year and arrival of the new year on December 31st, by drinking a cup of hot chocolate and reading a book.

This year my dear wife asked if I was going to continue my hot chocolate and book tradition or would I become more invigorated. I think she was attempting to measure the current capacity of the youthful side of my brain. (She was not seeking too much change of thought but hoping I could demonstrate a higher degree of excitement for the New Year.)

I immediately rose to her challenge. To demonstrate my youthfulness, I went to that new piece of equipment called a computer and contacted Google. I searched for New Year traditions around the globe and within seconds a whole new world opened. I decided I would take one of the traditions and demonstrate to dear heart that you can teach an old dog new tricks.

My eye went to a Latin American tradition. Folks who celebrate in that part of the world take an empty suitcase and run around the block when the clock strikes midnight. Apparently, it is good luck and represents travel in the year ahead. Fortunately, there was time to get in a few practices before the night of celebrations. I picked the ideal suitcase, put on running shoes and proceeded to take my first trial run. It was not long before I realized neighbours seeing a man running around the block with a suitcase clutched to his chest is not a normal community activity. Explaining to those wonderful men and women in blue with flashing lights on their vehicle that this activity is a Latin New Year' tradition raised more questions. With a slow walk home, I decided another tradition might be more appropriate.

Scotland celebrates Hogmanay on December 31st. Although this word is a mouthful when explaining what one

is celebrating there is no questioning the degree of excitement associated with swinging balls of fire to bring in the new year. It is surprising how quickly the West Van fire department responds to a person juggling burning fire balls in front of their home. Not to mention a return visit from those men and women in blue. This option of celebration also called for a reassessment.

Denmark has a safer form of celebrating. The Danes jump off chairs at the stroke of midnight. Don't ask me why. Dear heart is a retired nurse and was more than able to apply tape to my sprained ankle while mumbling something that sounded like the word idiot. Clearly jumping off a chair did not seem worth repeating.

Not to be discouraged I felt the Spanish tradition of eating twelve grapes before the chime reaches 12 was a neat way to bring in the new year. I found Fresh Street market had an excellent selection of large red grapes and could not wait to try this tradition out. Once again dear heart proved that nursing training and how to apply the Heimlich maneuver is most helpful when one has too many grapes in their mouth.

I realized that I could substitute a glass of red wine for grapes. Low and behold I discovered this to be a terrific way to introduce a new tradition into our household. With success at hand, I decided I might as well perfect the wine approach with a few practices. After a few glasses of wine it was not long before I was inspired to blend this new tradition with a local one. I decided I should join the Polar Bear folks for the annual January 1st swim. Naturally a bit of cold-water practice was called for. Ambleside beach was beckoning.

As I headed for the door, I learned from Dear heart that there is a difference between a loving hug and restraint.

After a family intervention I understood the message.

All those days leading up to December 31st with various practices to see what new tradition would work convinced dear heart what I should do. The best approach, according to dear heart, was for me to settle back, read a book and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate.

However, and wherever, you celebrate the coming of the new year, I and other MC members extend all the best to you and yours for 2025.

Rick Ryan, President

Contact: president@probud-northshorevancouver.ca



December New Members Welcomed



Membership Chair, Ron Ash (Left) welcomes Ernie Pennink (Centre) and Buff Squire (Right)

Ernie Pennink was born in Jakarta Indonesia. He earned a professional engineering degree in mechanical engineering from the Netherlands. He worked for HA Simons Consulting Engineers as a project manager. Ernie enjoys reading about adventure travels, engineering and sailing as well as house maintenance projects.

Gordon Squire has resided in West Vancouver for 31 years. He is a retired Professional Forester. He has attended UBC, Yale business administration and forest products research and completed officer training naval reserve at UBC. He has taught at BCIT and Vancouver Island University. He has worked in the USA for MacMillan Bloedel and Crown Zellerbach, Harmac in Nanaimo, a Washington State Research lab and Malaysia. During all this he managed to build 3 houses. Leisure activities include kayaking and nature as well as the Vancouver and Festival Choir at Capilano university. He is active in Highlands United Church sponsoring refugees and volunteering in their flea market..



Special Events



Vancouver Library Tour on January 7th

The Special Events Committee is pleased to announce our next tour on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 of the Vancouver Central Library.

Address: 350 West Georgia, Street, Vancouver, BC

Cost: Free

Agenda:

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM – Guided tour of the Vancouver Central Library. Meet the guide outside the main entrance to the library at 11:00 AM.

12:45 PM – 2:00 PM – Lunch at Browns Social House restaurant.

Transportation: We do not have a bus reserved for this tour. Participants will need to find their own transportation to and from the tour. However, we encourage participants to car share. Or to take public transit, the Blue Bus from West Vancouver #250 on Marine Drive stops very close to the Vancouver Central Library.

Lunch: A no host lunch will be at 12:45 PM at the Browns Social House restaurant at 675 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC (at Queen Elizabeth Theatre).

To Register: Please register by phone with **Mark Jackson** if you plan to attend the tour. Also please indicate if you plan to attend the lunch following the tour.

SAVE THE DATE!

Tour of North Shore Rescue on February 13th

More information will be provided closer to the date.

Steve Wilson, Special Events Chair

Christmas Luncheon Review and Photos

The luncheon was held on December 9th at the West Vancouver Yacht Club. A total of 99 members, spouses and guests joined us for this festive occasion. Following a short business meeting, a delicious lunch was provided by the club. The buffet included an assortment of salads, potatoes, veggies and most importantly of all, the traditional turkey. The food was very tasty and there were ample quantities for seconds.

Following the meal, we were enthralled with several readings from Christopher Gaze of Bard on the Beach. His distinctive voice and sharp wit made for a memorable performance. He always rises to the occasion, and he did so once again.

When he finished Rachel Buttress, a soprano with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, sang several beautiful Christmas songs for us. She has a lovely voice, and her singing and piano performance filled us all with trepidation over the next part of the afternoon. We were given song sheets and we all enjoyed participating singing several familiar songs. She was gracious in that she said we sounded good which was kind as most of us do not sing very often.

The whole event was well received by our Probus club, and we can now look forward to another Christmas performance in a year's time. Below are a few photos from the luncheon.

Alastair Campbell, Special Events Committee



Above members and guests enjoying the Christmas fare and fellowship.

Next Page Top: Soprano Rachel Buttress and Christopher Gaze entertain the guests.

Next Page Bottom: Head table relaxing with guests and Elf Steve Wilson

Christmas Photos



Christmas Luncheon Photos



Above: Another photo of members enjoying socializing with other members and their guests.



Next Page Top: Members lining up to select their choice from the festive fare at the buffet.



Next Page Bottom: Guests Rachel Buttress and Christopher Gaze

Christmas Luncheon Photos

