NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

OCTOBER 2011 VOL. 9, NO. 10

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Next Meeting

Monday, October 3rd, 2011

with speaker

Dr. André Gerolymatos,

Chair of Hellenic Studies at SFU

"The Arab Winter: Transformation of the Middle East"

Dr. André Gerolymatos is one of the most dynamic and interesting speakers we have had address our Club. We are delighted to welcome him back for an unprecedented eighth time. As such, and as an Honorary Member of our Club, he hardly needs any introduction.

Prior to joining Simon Fraser University, Dr. Gerolymatos was Director of the Hellenic Studies Centre at Dawson College in Montreal. In addition to numerous books and articles, he has written extensively on conflicts in the Mediterranean and Middle East, and he has lectured on those subjects at Harvard and Stanford Universities.

He is an internationally recognized authority on Middle East affairs, specializing in military and diplomatic history and has published articles and books on these subjects. The great value in his presentations is his ability to provide clear and concise analyses of the current problems in the "hot spots" of the region and its constantly changing dynamics.

The past year has been a particularly eventful one with revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt, civil war in Libya and uprisings in Syria, Yemen and Bahrain – in all cases, against long-standing dictatorships all formerly enjoying some measures of western support. And currently the contentious issue of Palestinian statehood is being debated at the United Nations.

Dr. Gerolymatos will bring us up-to-date on these events and on the long-term prospects for the development of democratic forms of government in the region. He will highlight specific requirements for progress and possible ways of dealing with obstacles.

November Meeting

Monday, November 14th, 2011

Speaker TBA

Last Month Speaker

Speaker Ian Jarvis, Gordon Adair, Pamela Goldsmith-Jones (Mayor, West Vancouver) and Richard Walton (Mayor, District of North Vancouver)

Following last month's Annual General Meeting, the new year for Probus North Shore began with a stimulating presentation by TransLink CEO Ian Jarvis entitled *"Moving Forward – Improving Metro Vancouver's Transportation Network"*.

TransLink is Metro Vancouver's regional transportation authority, providing services from Pemberton to Hope. It is responsible for public transit, and shares responsibility for major roads and bridges within Metro Vancouver's municipalities.

Supporting Ian Jarvis' presentation were the Chair and Vice Chair of TransLink's Mayors' Council: Richard Walton (Mayor, District of North Vancouver) and Pamela Goldsmith-Jones (Mayor, District of West Vancouver). The Mayors' Council appoints TransLink's Board of Directors, and approves its transportation and funding plans.

In his presentation, Ian Jarvis gave a broad overview of TransLink, highlighting that:

- TransLink delivers its services through subsidiaries, particularly Coast Mountain Bus Company (92% of buses and the SeaBus ferry), BC Rapid Transit Co. (Sky Train), West Coast Express Ltd. and private contractors.
- Commute times in the Region have not been increasing and the important indicator of "vehicle kilometres per capita" has dropped by 2000 km/year.
- Most growth in the Metro region is south of the Fraser, and in the Northeast (Evergreen Line).
- For West Vancouver and most municipalities, more than 50% of commuters travel outside their municipalities.
- An important objective is to reduce single-occupancy trips to below 50%.
- The movement of goods is critical to the economy, and thus to everyone.
- The Province controls the levers and municipalities must maintain good working relations there.
- TransLink's funding is stable and it must continue to invest in new infrastructure and renewal of aging facilities. For example, the Expo Line is 25 years old, the capacity of some stations must be increased, and Lonsdale Quay needs upgrading.
- TransLink's "Investment Package" is funded 50% by senior government, 21% by fuel taxes, 16% by fares, and 13% by new revenue sources.
- Fares cover 52% of transit operating costs, which is good in North America.

Mayor Richard Walton stated that:

- TransLink is very successful recording a 7% increase over peak Olympic ridership.
- TransLink studies and, if possible, emulates best practices in world transportation systems.
- While West Vancouver and Vancouver residents pay a disproportionate share of costs due to their high property values, Surrey residents pay more in fuel taxes due to greater trip distances.
- Finding better ways to fund TransLink is a continuing challenge, consuming considerable effort.

Mayor Goldsmith-Jones commented that:

- Property taxes are not related to transportation needs and, furthermore, taxing assets is regressive.
- It's preferably to rely on fair, progressive taxes.

Alex Tunner

September Greeters

Ted Rule and Ralph Carder

New Members Welcomed and Introduced at September Meeting

Peter Dunkin
Engineering

Elmer Grenke
Real Estate

Peter Hall
Business Owner

Tony Horvath
Business Owner

Don Kayne
Transportation

Doug Larson
Grain Industry

Allan Newbury
Financial Planning

Ron Oats
Auto Industry

Art Tinker
Mgment Consultant

Probus Rendezvous 2011 - A Great Success

Thanks to our Club's leadership, Probus Rendezvous 2011 was a great success. Probus members from across Canada have been sending messages of congratulations. The speakers were all very warmly received and people lined up to speak with them following their presentations. It was gratifying to see all of the sessions filled to capacity. We had expected that many visitors to Vancouver would absent the sessions to visit the city attractions, but instead it was necessary to bring more chairs into the meeting rooms to accommodate the overflow. The workshop discussion groups extended into the corridors.

Probus Centre-Canada President, Keith Trail, was lavish in his praise of the Organizing Committee presenting each of it's members with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Esio Marzotto,
Chair, Rendezvous 2011

Each member of the Rendezvous Committee is presentned with a certificate of appreciation from Probus Centre-Canada.

President Alex Tunner's Notes

Perspectives

As our Club begins its ninth year, it's worth noting that we are one of Canada's strongest and most active Probus clubs. Our monthly meetings feature first rate speakers, we offer special events in most months and we have active Bridge and Golf groups. We have a growing membership of over 360 and a waiting list. Our annual operating budget is $20,000 (double that if we include Special Events and the Christmas Lunch, which are budgeted to break even) and we have cash reserves of $20,000.

At this time, it's appropriate to acknowledge the work of past Management Committees and the leadership of their Presidents in building our Club. Their names are listed on our website under the tab"About Us".

Their achievements are evident, for example, in our Club having been the moving force behind the hugely successful Rendezvous 2011(Probus Canada's 3rd National Reunion, held Sep.13 to 15 at the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel in Vancouver). A total of some 200 individuals attended all or part of the Rendezvous – over 120 were registered for the full program, and 180 attended the Banquet.

Esio Marzotto, Rendezvous Chair, has commented on the previous page and, for some additional flavour, here is what Dan Potts, Secretary, wrote:

"Just got home, took off my shoes, poured myself a Scotch, and am sitting at my computer contemplating the amazing conference I just experienced. It was one of the best conferences I have ever attended. As my wife Dian said, it was informative, entertaining, enjoyable, inspiring and a culinary delight. Great work and much appreciation for the contributions of each of the R-2011 Committee members. Together we have accomplished something very worthwhile."

Looking Ahead

The aim of Probus clubs is to promote fellowship among members. In line with this objective, the Management Committee will consider further enhancements of our current program. More on this later, following consultation with members.

In view of our growing membership and waiting list in recent years, the Management Committee will, in consultation with members, explore larger alternatives to our current excellent venue, and also the possibility of forming a second men-only club on the North Shore. *Alex Tunner*

Special Event - TRIUMF Tour

TRIUMF Tour and Lunch at University Golf Club
Now fully subscribed
with a wait list being compiled

Date: Wednesday, October 19th
Time: Tour 10 a.m.; Lunch Noon
Price: $35

Canada's National Laboratory for Particle and Nuclear Physics was founded in 1968 by UBC, UVic, and Simon Fraser universities. Now operated by a consortium of Canadian universities, this world class facility has received over $1 billion in federal government funding.

The tour will take about 1 1/2 hours and can accommodate those with pace makers or defibrillators. We will lunch at the University Golf Course in a designated room.

There is ample pay parking at the TRIUMF site and a list of attendees will be circulated for car pooling purposes.

This is proving to be a very popular outing so if you have not yet confirmed, let me know ASAP by email at **fsgrant@shaw.ca** or by phone at 604 921-6660.

Fraser Grant

Meetings

Second Monday of each month, except when changed to avoid conflict with special holidays on that day; in addition, our Christmas Luncheon replaces the December meeting.
Dress Code: Business Attire. Jeans are **NOT** permitted.

Coffee and fellowship: 9:00 am to 9:45 am
Club business and speaker: 9:45 am to 11:30 am

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Phone: (604) 922-9331

Visit: http://www.capilanogolf.com/public/club/index.aspx

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