

Management Committee

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Speakers:

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Special Events:

Doug Magoon
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Contributions welcome.
Visit the website and go to the
Contact Us Tab.

2020 Virtual Christmas

Monday, December 14th

9:30 a.m.

A Special Video Reprise of
Holiday Presentations by
Pandora's Vox Entertainment Ensemble



Mark Your Calendars to Attend Our Next Zoom Meeting

Monday, January 11th, 2021



King Wan, *Ship Building in the Lower Mainland During WWII*

February 8th - Jody Wilson-Raybould, *more information page 2*

President's Message, Committee Support *page 2 & 3 ...*

President's Notes



With the approaching Christmas season, we are all acutely aware that 2020 has been a challenging year for society world-wide and that this year's celebrations are going to be strangely different with family and social gatherings being very restricted.

However, we are most fortunate that the always popular PROBUS Christmas luncheon will be replaced by a Zoom presentation

highlighting excerpts from previous Christmas programs performed by Pandora's Vox. Led by Gillian Hunt, a West Vancouver resident, Pandora's Vox was founded in 1989 and has been applauded as one of Canada's most unique and entertaining women's vocal ensembles and twice has been a National finalist in the CBC choral competition.

We are indebted to MC members Darryl Stodalka, John Elliott and Doug Magoon for arranging and "stick handling" the technology involved in this presentation.

Looking ahead in eager anticipation of the delivery of a successful vaccine and a return to in-person PROBUS meetings, I encourage your continued participation in our Zoom meetings.

I am pleased to advise that a number of outstanding speakers have been confirmed for the upcoming meetings who will address a wide range of relevant national issues.

On behalf of the MC, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ron Wood

Contact: president@prob-us-northshorevancouver.ca

Join Us Virtually!



Special Events - Virtual Christmas

Mark your calendar - December 14 at 9:30 am - a special Zoom Christmas Event for our members! As previously reported, our popular Christmas Luncheon cannot be held this year because of Covid-19 issues. Our plans are progressing to provide a Christmas Season entertainment event for our members, in the comfort of your homes via Zoom, featuring the locally popular Pandora's Vox Entertainment Ensemble. Gillian Hunt, Artistic Director of Pandora's Vox is overseeing the production of a 30-minute video reprise of some of Pandora's holiday presentations for your viewing pleasure. Gillian will introduce us to the Pandora's Vox Entertainment Ensemble organization and to their video offering. Our club will be joined for the Zoom session by members of a Women's PROBUS club here on the North Shore.



We are very pleased to have the opportunity, during the holiday season, to showcase highly regarded local talent. We hope that you will all join us for this festive event. Stay tuned for additional information about this December 14th presentation.

Doug Magoon
Special Events Chair

February Speaker Special Note

My predecessor Gordon Bird has been working for some time on securing Jody Wilson-Raybould as a speaker. We have been holding a space open for her and I have just received confirmation that she will be available as our February Speaker.

She has expressed that she would rather have more of a discussion and less of a formal speech. As such she is asking if we can provide her with topics or a general idea of what our group is interested in discussing, perhaps even questions that we already have in mind.



This gives us an unique opportunity to make this a most interesting session. I will be following this up in early January with a more formal

invitation for members to submit questions and topics of discussion to me.

John Elliott
Speakers Chair

2020 - 21 Committee Support Group

We are delighted to recognize our members who have provided valued support and share in the workload of the Chairs of our Committees. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact the appropriate Chairperson.

Communications, Chaired by Tom Gunn

- * Darryl Stodalka, Zoom Technology
- * Linda Metcalfe, Shorelines Publisher & Editor, Website

House, Chaired by Terry McLeod

- * Brian Hann

Membership, Chaired by Jeremy Marr

- * Pete Stacey

Speakers, Chaired by John Elliott

- * Scribes: Darlene Dean, Tom Gunn

Special Events, Chaired by Doug Magoon

- * Nigel Clarke, Gordon Cook, Pete Stacey, Jon Strom, John Walker

Golf, Chaired by Roman Cehelnycky

Bridge, Chaired by Phil Boase

- * Fraser Grant, Barry Heselgrave



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Remembering John Leonard



It was brought to our attention that John Leonard, the founding President of our Club in 2003, passed in July of this year. John was also elected to the PROBUS National Board in 2007.

To quote John's message on our website "In February of 2003, Don Brinton and I decided it was time for a PROBUS club on the North Shore. We approached the Vancouver PROBUS Club and they agreed to sponsor our application and steered us through the proper channels so that we could get started and hold our charter meeting in September. We didn't know how many members we would have to start...30, 50 or maybe 60...so we were amazed when we had over 150 members signed up by that charter meeting."

Christmas 2020

*It's true that this year
Has had sadness a plenty,
We'll never forget
This year 2020.*

*And just 'round the corner -
This holiday season,
But why be merry?
Is there even one reason?*

*To decorate the house
And put up the tree,
When no one will see it,
No-one but me.*

*But outside my window
The snow gently falls,
And I think to myself,
Let's deck the halls!*

*So, I gather the ribbon,
The garland and bows,
As I play the old carols,
My happiness grows.*

*Christmas isn't cancelled
And neither is hope.
If we lean on each other,
I know we can cope.*

- Shawna Hickling, Calgary, AB



Last Month Speaker - Tom Van Walleghem

The topic of Tom Van Walleghem's presentation was "Contribution of the Canadian First Nations during World War I, 1914 to 1918". The actual recording of Tom's talk, including screen shots of his salient points and pictures, was made available by an email link sent to all members shortly after his talk. It is an interesting historical window into Canada's past and our relationships.

The start of the presentation was about pre-WWI to set the context, starting in 1814, as the history is important to know regarding this time period – pre, during and after the war. The British felt that the Aboriginal Soldiers had proven superior skills flowing from their lifestyle and their proven contributions in several early conflicts including the Seven Years War, the American Revolution and others. In fact, 96 General Service Medals were awarded to Canadian Aboriginal soldiers during that time.

The period of 1814 – 1924 was important as this was the period of Colonialism where European countries were expanding their empires. In 1800 the Pan American countries occupied 35% of the globe, and in 1914 occupation had grown to 84%. Indigenous peoples were considered a burden and the Indian Reserves Act was established to focus on assimilation and the elimination of individual Native cultures in Canada. They were expected to conform to the white man's way of living. Among the government programs was the establishment of the residential school system wherein the children were forcibly removed from their families and sent to missions and schools to instill a European education and to eradicate the Native cultures they were raised with.

Minority groups including the aboriginal people were barred from entering the military, and the perception was that they would not make good soldiers, and that they might prove to be dangerous to the security of Canada. Notwithstanding, some of them managed to find their way in, and as the war went on there was a shortage of manpower in the existing ranks, and pressure from Britain to bring them in. In December 1915, the rules were changed, and 1 in 3 aboriginal males enlisted. By this time they were known by senior military officials for their fighting skills, and highly respected and admired for their military prowess. As such, many were used as Scouts and Snipers, both very important roles.

In 1917, there was a shortage of soldiers which prompted Conscription for Canada where all males ages 20 – 40 were required to enlist, and this included Aboriginals, Blacks, Asians and any other minority. However, the treaties signed with the Aboriginals excluded them from conscription and they couldn't be forced. Many did continue to voluntarily enlist. By the conclusion of the war, at least 50 medals of honour/ bravery were presented to Canada's

Aboriginal soldiers.

Of Canada's 103,774 Aboriginals, about 4,000 served during WWI and about 300 died overseas.

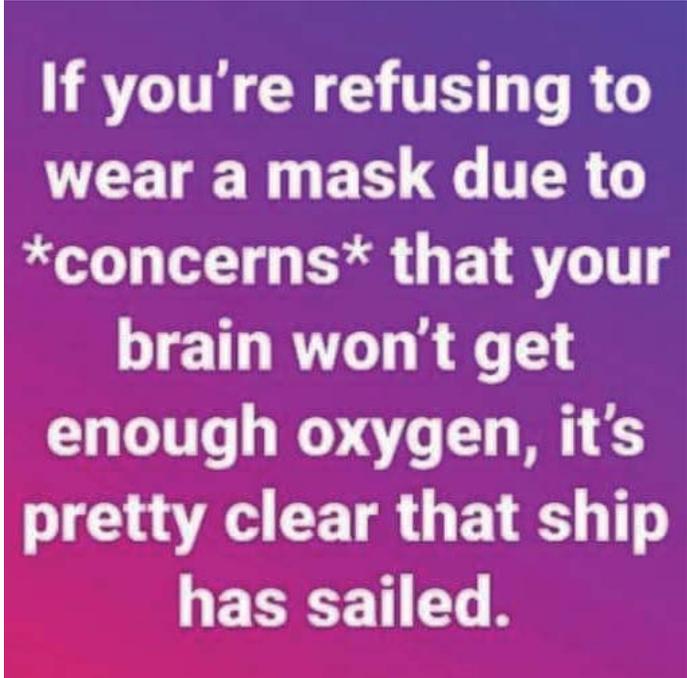
Post war, repatriated soldiers could get farmland at little or no cost from the Canadian government. Aboriginals requesting the land benefit would have to give up their Indian status. The Government didn't count on how much land they would have to give, and resorted to expropriating reserve lands. 86,000 acres of reserve land was confiscated and given to white veterans.

Mention was also made of the few women aboriginal volunteers that enlisted, and also of the Squamish nation and their contribution.

In thanking Tom for his presentation, Terry McLeod (of PROBUS) also provided some interesting comments on the topic.

Darlene Dean

A little humour in these trying times...



If you're refusing to wear a mask due to *concerns* that your brain won't get enough oxygen, it's pretty clear that ship has sailed.

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