

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

November 2020

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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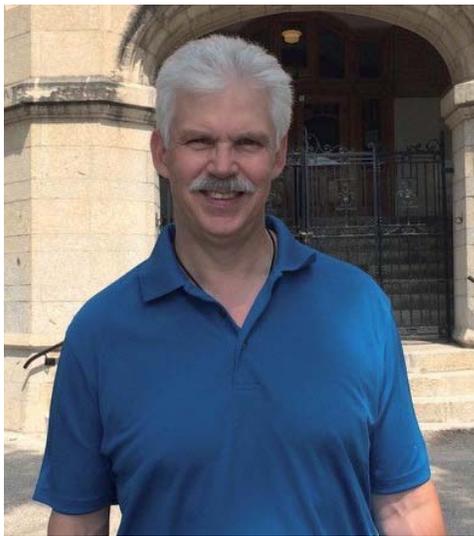
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Monday, November 9th Zoom Meeting

with guest speaker

Tom Van Wallegem

“Aboriginal Canadians and their Contribution to WW1”



In 1914, at the outbreak of World War One, many of Canada's First Nations men came forward to fight for their country, but were not warmly welcomed at enlistment depots or on the front lines. This presentation highlights the more than 4,000 status Indians who served in World War One, bringing their unique skills and bravery to the battlefield, and their treatment upon returning back to Canada.

Tom Van Wallegem is a military historian and author living in North Vancouver. He does community presentations for all ages on a variety of topics related to military history. In addition to his presentations, Tom has written magazine articles and a children's book, and has interviewed over 50 veterans and their families to capture their stories

in writing. Tom is passionate about helping people understand the sacrifices and choices made by previous generations which affect our world today.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Lest We Forget

Mark Your Calendars to Attend Our Next Zoom Meeting

Monday, December 14th

Virtual Christmas Event, Details Page 2



President's Message, Remembering Members Who Passed, page 2 & 3 ...

President's Notes



As we are preoccupied with election results and coping with the many challenges presented by Covid-19, it is most encouraging to report that 75% of our members have renewed their memberships this year. The momentum of the North Shore Club, quality of speakers as well as scheduled events have all contributed to the Club's sustainability while our meetings in the near future are likely to continue to be on Zoom.

It is a personal pleasure to advise that, although the Management Committee is also restricted to Zoom meetings, it has been working very effectively due to the commitment of all the members.

Looking ahead to the next few months, an uplifting "virtual" Christmas program and an interesting range of prominent speakers are confirmed.

With professionals world-wide dedicated to developing an effective vaccine it is reassuring that better days with some semblance of normality is ahead! In the meantime, be positive and keep well!

Ron Wood

Contact: president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

New Member Introduced and Welcomed at September Meeting



Darlene Dean was born and bred in Vancouver getting her Bachelor of Commerce degree at UBC, and followed it up later with an MBA. Her career with her MBA has been in Human Resources. First with Work-Safe BC as Director HR and

then four years with Canadian Airlines, and Air Canada after the takeover, responsible for HR Policy. She then moved to Westminster Savings Credit Union in a new role as Vice President, People Services.

She has volunteered with the Neighbourhood Houses of BC for 25 years and is a Past President of the Board of Directors.

Her other activities and interests are gardening, sailing, golf, skiing, travel and her grandchildren.

Jeremy Marr

Special Events - Virtual Christmas

The Christmas Season is traditionally a special time for fellowship in our club. Unfortunately, Covid-19 is preventing us from holding our popular Christmas Luncheon event this year on December 14th. However, through the efforts of John Elliott and our president, Ron Wood, we will have an opportunity to enjoy, in the comfort of our homes via Zoom, some delightful entertainment offered by 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 by members of the two ladies PROBUS clubs here on the North Shore for the Zoom presentation. We are very pleased to have the opportunity, during the

holiday season, to showcase highly regarded local talent to the three PROBUS Clubs on the North Shore. We hope that you will all join us for this festive event. Stay tuned for additional information about this December 14th event.

Doug Magoon

PROBUS GLOBAL

I expect you are aware of the PROBUS Canada website at <https://www.probus.org/>. It provides useful information for members such as a directory of clubs across Canada, newsletters, directors, PROBUS origins, etc.

Did you know there is also an international website for PROBUS members? You can visit the PROBUS Global site at <https://probusglobal.org/>. This website offers a wide range of information as well as opportunities for PROBUS members to connect and contact with members worldwide. Here are a few of the categories:

Blogs, Global Club Newsletters

Chat Groups:

- Video Chat, Member Chatroom
- Meet and Greet (email pen pals)
- Groups Email and Peerboard Discussions

Interest Groups:

- Club Meetings and Presentations
- Travel, Photography
- Funny Pages, Poetry and Verse

I encourage you to take a moment to visit this website – you may find something of interest.

Linda Metcalfe

Remembering Members Who Passed

Each November our newsletter includes a column to remember our members who passed this year:

*Sunset and evening star
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.
- Lord Alfred Tennyson*



Norm Alban
Tom Braidwood
Don Buckland
John Collings
Grant Gisel
Hugh Hamilton
Ian Lawson
David Liddell
Ernest Maguire
John Norman
Edward Strong



Georgia Viaducts Review

John Atkins took us out once again to give us an informative overview of another historic Vancouver structure about to disappear from the Vancouver skyline. On a cool cloudy September day, threatened by rain, six of us met at Union and Gore street to take a tour and discover the precincts adjacent to the Georgia Viaducts. Once again, we would be regaled about the history of the ever-changing scene that is Vancouver. We walked through the southern section of Chinatown and remembered what an interesting aspect of Vancouver's nightlife existed there through the 1900s and is now a bit faded. The rich Asian culture that provided a cuisine and flavour for Vancouver's citizens, even though a large part of its residents were denied citizenship until 1947. Once we crossed Main Street we overlooked the green space and the Georgia Viaducts and tried to imagine what it was like in the 1950's when it was a mix of industry and restaurants, theatres, nightclubs and bordellos. Where the streets on weekends were crowded with tourists, loggers, Indigenous residents, and locals coming down on streetcars to indulge at Oriental eateries. Alongside were the extension of False Creek with its fishboats, garbage scows, gasworks, power station, sawmills, woodpiles, coal storage and the like all intermingled with boarding houses, theaters, bus stations and rail lines.

Where the dream of a citywide freeway system was dreamed into being but ended up dissipating into Political oblivion until the only remnant is the Georgia Viaducts. (the Highway to Nowhere). Built in 1972, they are now about to be deconstructed as they are no longer viable. Disintegrating and on very unstable subsoil they will be replaced by parks and new housing and commercial buildings. Hydro substations and the civic departments to be replaced or upgraded. Probably the area will become more like the area around Granville Island. Hopefully better amenities and housing for the Eastside. The walk finished back up Prior Street where the murals reviving

memories of the Entertainment District held memories of Vi's Steakhouse and the many nightclubs and dancehalls with the famous entertainers that ended many of their North American tours in Vancouver. Some stayed on to enrich the cultural life of Vancouver. Although the weather and Co-vid diminished our numbers, we once again were rewarded with a very enriching look at another Vancouver neighbourhood. Hopefully, we will do this again in the coming year.

Jon Strom

**Members enjoying the viaducts walk
lead by John Atkins**

Last Month Speaker - Mike Harcourt

Former Premier Mike Harcourt was scheduled to speak to us in the spring, Covid-19 intervened. What he terms “Urban Tsunami” was the topic, which is his label for what our world is facing, namely the global issue of how many people live in cities. Most of the world population growth has been in urban areas, resulting in huge social implications. Global population is now roughly 8 billion. Cities have experienced huge growth in population. The world had 6 Billion people in 2000 and now has 8 Billion, with a projected growth to 9 – 10 Billion people over the next 30 years. But, because of the changing circumstances occasioned by Covid-19 and the fact that there are so many fascinating, horrifying, unpredictable events that we are currently experiencing, his presentation focused on local issues in the Greater Vancouver Area.

Firstly, the Downtown East Side. Currently he is a member of a group working on issues in the Downtown East Side and environs, involving the homeless, mental illness, the opioid crisis and addiction problems. The group is called the Building Communities Society, and they are launching in October 2020, some solutions to provide supportive housing for 300 of the most vulnerable, seriously ill and addicted people, of the approximately 2,500 mentally ill and addicted. An additional issue is that many of the citizens of the lower East Side have suffered brain damage. There are solutions that can be applied fairly quickly.

Secondly, affordable housing and childcare, transportation and mobility – challenges we have on the North Shore.

Thirdly, the skill sets that we are going to need over the next 10 - 20 years, and the mixing and matching of the post-secondary institutions, servicing the growth areas in our economy, particularly in high tech and construction.

He commented that the situation on the Lower East Side is going from bad to worse, not just Hastings St., and Strathcona Park. In addition, it is spreading to other downtown areas including Yale Town, the West End and other parts of the city. He can't remember it ever being as bad as it is now. Homeless, mentally ill, seriously addicted people are creating a great deal of distress for our citizens. The problem is, we created this problem quite a while ago from bad policy decisions. One was the de-institutionalizing and closing down of Riverview in the 1980's and 90's with the idea that people would go into community care, but neither Vancouver nor the Province built the facilities needed.

The second and probably the dumbest decision to Premier Harcourt in the last 50 years, was the elimination of the non-profit housing program in 1994. The elimination was for a good financial cause (to fight the deficit), but the result of that one decision is that Vancouver lost 25,000

non-profit co-op housing units a year. In Vancouver alone, we had one of the most aggressive programs in the country, building 1000 – 2000 units a year and we built 20,000 non-profit co-op housing units to go along with the public housing being built. Nothing has been done since 1994, until just recently where there is a trickle coming back. That means 600,000 units of housing that we should have had but don't and a million and a half Canadians do not have a decent place to live. When politicians and public servants, not thinking about the unintentional consequences of these decisions mentioned above, it is no wonder why we now have a housing crisis and homeless people without the services to deal with these very real issues. Working together with another group, called “Street to Home”, qualified representatives from the city, province, coastal health and others, are going to prioritize the 300 most vulnerable, most disruptive people in and around the DTES - and ensure they have continuous care and are not just dropped off at the emergency ward, and sent back out on their own. The group includes very skilled people, a psychiatrist, and others with experience and skills in this area, and are applying the Four Pillars approach of former Mayor Phillip Owen (Enforcement, Prevention, Treatment, and Treating Addiction). This project will be launching publicly in a number of ways - on CBC with Bill McEwan Currents, other media outlets, appearing before council, handouts to all the candidates for the Provincial election. The hope is to start having an impact within 3-6 months and over the next 3 years starting to do the right thing for these people.

He was surprised that the Premier called an election and thinks this is a very important provincial election. He suggested the government would like feedback on what issues should be addressed, including larger issues around forestry and relations with First Nations. “Bringing hope beyond hope” to the natural resource based communities should be a major policy, as about 140 communities in BC still depend heavily on the forest products industry.

He concluded with remarks on what he called the astonishing situation in the USA where President Trump has been almost criminally negligent in his misdescribing mishandling of the Covid-19 crisis and the USA is now suffering the consequences. He finds it very disheartening that over 200,000 people have died, and many others will suffer lifelong on-going lung damage and other side effects from contracting the virus. He hopes Joe Biden wins a huge majority, stating that Joe is not an ideal candidate but a decent smart human being that can provide stability and solutions to bring Covid 19 under control and contain it, and then get onto the economic recovery from the damage that has occurred, particularly in the tourism and hospitality area.

Entire review by Darlene Dean on our website, Speakers, Oct. 5