

# Shorelines

## NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

October 2020

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Vol.18 No.10

### Management Committee

**President:**

Ron Wood  
604-922-7646

**Vice President:**

Darryl Stodalka  
604-925-2570

**Secretary:**

Keith Fenton  
604-926-7586

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604-230-9122

**Past President:**

Herb Grubel  
604-980-7922

**Communications:**

Tom Gunn  
604-921-7298

**House:**

Terry McLeod  
604-926-0239

**Membership:**

Jeremy Marr  
604-926-9368

**Speakers:**

John Elliott  
604-925-3535

**Special Events:**

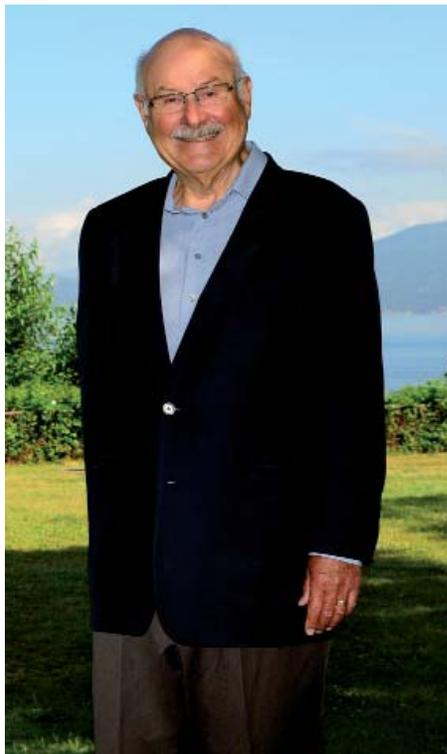
Doug Magoon  
604-616-6761

## Monday, October 5th Zoom Meeting

*with guest speaker*

### Mike Harcourt, Former Premier of British Columbia

*“Reflections On Several Civic and Provincial Issues”*



Mike Harcourt served as Premier of British Columbia 1991-96 and City Councillor 1972-1980, prior to that mayor of Vancouver, 1981-86. Mr. Harcourt helped the province earn its reputation as one of the most liveable places in the world. After stepping down from politics, he was appointed by the Prime Minister to serve as a member of the National Round Table on the Environment and Economy, 1996-2004. There, Mr. Harcourt served on the Executive Committee and Chaired the Urban Sustainability Program. He was also a federally appointed BC Treaty Commissioner 2003 - 2007 and was appointed Chair of the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee for Cities and Communities mandated to examine the future of Canada's cities and communities 2003.

Mr. Harcourt is the lead faculty of United Way's Public Policy Institute, 2009 – present. and on the Advisory Board of Canada's ECOFISCAL Commission. As well, he Chaired Age-Well to improve the quality of life for aging Canadians. He now Chairs the Advisory Board of the STAR Research

Institute, Science and technology for Aging Seniors at Simon Fraser University.

With his many years of experience, he is a sought-after speaker, and consultant, particularly on how to create sustainable cities and communities with smart energy plans.

Mike currently dedicates his time to numerous initiatives such as sustainability education, Aboriginal economic development, and promoting healthy living. *Continued on Page 2 ...*

## Mark Your Calendars to Attend Our Next Zoom Meeting

**Monday, November 9th**



**Tom Van Wallegem, *Aboriginal Canadians and their Contribution to WWI***

**President's Message, Special Events - page 2 ...**

## President's Notes



Welcome to the 2020/2021 PROBUS Club year and thank you for renewing your memberships!

As we are all living different lives during this unprecedented time of COVID-19 and Zoom technology, your new Management Committee is committed to continue to build the eighteen year legacy of our Club with a slate of outstanding speakers already confirmed for this year.

On your behalf, I wish to take this opportunity to thank Past President, Herbert Grubel, and the retiring members of the Management Committee for their leadership and commitment to the successful growth of the Club.

Now, while we all wish at some date in the future returning to the fellowship, good humour, excellent speakers and enjoyment of conventional meetings, may I encourage you to forward your ideas/suggestions as to the future speakers/events and Club activities to a member of the Management Committee.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as President. I look forward to seeing you on October 5th when we are hosting Michael Harcourt, Past Premier of British Columbia. It promises to be a most interesting meeting at this very challenging time in the history of the province.

*Ron Wood*

Contact: [president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca](mailto:president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca)

## Special Events

As reported by John Elliott at our September 14th AGM and Membership meeting, our annual Christmas Luncheon cannot be held because of the risk to members and Covid-19 assembly size guidelines. The Special Events Committee is working to develop a "virtual" Christmas Event on December 14th utilizing the talents of a local theater, choir or opera group in a webinar broadcast to members to

celebrate the season. We will update our progress on this project in upcoming Shorelines Bulletins.

*Doug Magoon,  
Chairperson.*

*Special Events Committee*



## Mike Harcourt, continued

He co-chairs Dogwood 25, a collaborative which supports the academic success of Aboriginal students.

His decades of leadership have earned Mike numerous accolades including the Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service, the Order of Canada, The Canadian Urban Institute's Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award and the Freedom of the City and multiple honorary degrees.

### Consulting Experience:

- Appointed Federal Commissioner on the B.C. Treaty Commission
- Director, YVR Airport Authority
- Director, Nisga'a Lisims Government
- Director, Musqueam Capital Corporate Development
- Appointment by Prime Minister, to serve on the National Round Table on the Environment and Economy; 8 years on the Executive Committee and Chaired the Urban Sustainability Program for Cities and Communities
- Appointed by the P.M. to Chair the External Advisory Committee for Cities and Communities
- Chair, International Centre for Sustainable Cities, Co-Chair of the International Panel of Advisors; Cities Plus Project
- United Way, Public Policy Institute appointment to Lead Faculty
- UBC CIP – Capital Improvement Projects Advisory Committee

*Gordon Bird*

## Membership Renewals Final Notice

### 2020-2021 Year

If a member fails to pay the renewal fee of \$60 by **October 15th** his membership will lapse and his name will be removed from the mailing list.



**Please mail your payment ASAP with your renewal form if you have yet to renew or you can pay by Interac.**

Contact [linda@probus-northshorevancouver.ca](mailto:linda@probus-northshorevancouver.ca)

## Last Month Speaker - Dennis Molnar



Our speaker at the first meeting of our new year was Dennis Molnar. He is a specialist in the history of the Second World War, and this was his fourth presentation to our group. Dennis is a fascinating speaker, and his presentation this time was on little known heroes. He discussed three distinct stories and the middle had enormous significance today. It was a tale of how the British used deliberate disinformation to spread dissatisfaction in Germany and create False News in a manner remarkably close to what is happening today in the United States.

It was essentially the story of one man who headed an initiative to create artificial radio stations in Germany to spread information that was largely gleaned from German sources but given a subtle twist. At that time radio was the equivalent of the various social networks and was the internet of its time. One of the projects was to broadcast English lessons for the potential German invaders.

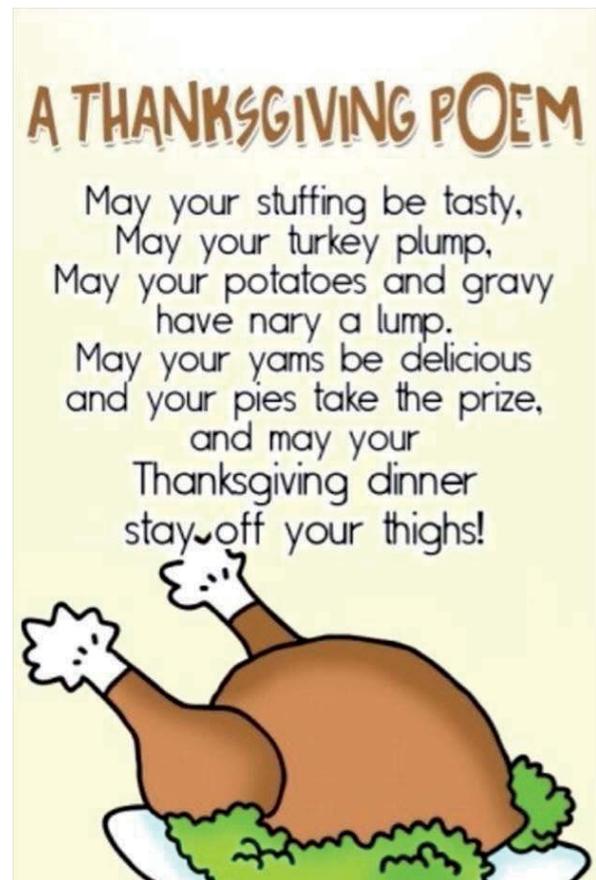
The originator was an Englishman who had been raised and had worked in Germany and was very much aware of the concerns of the population. He broadcast stories that reinforced the view that the Nazi party had more than its share of corrupt members, and that the Gestapo was stealing from troops. A typical operation involved writing a letter apparently from a soldier stating he was going to send some valuable souvenirs home via the Gestapo. Of course, they never arrived, and the family was upset. Another was to broadcast English lessons to the German troops who were training for an invasion of Britain. The lessons included such as “The water is cold” and “why are there no life jackets?” His group also recruited anti-Nazi sailors and airmen to give them insight into morale and concerns of the air force and navy, particularly the submarine service.

One of their other sources of information came from the prisoner of war camps. There were special camps for General Officers which were designed to be very comfortable and to loosen tongues. These camps were heavily wired to catch the unguarded conversations of the officers, especially the ones in the “bars”, specially provided to encourage unguarded talk. On one hand this can sound like a set schoolboy pranks, but it was a programme of subtle deceptions. Your recorder is particularly reminded of the current issues in the United States about how to deal with Covid.

One of his other stories was about a Polish patriot who managed to penetrate a concentration camp to gain intelligence on what was happening in the camps. The question was whether they were labour prison camps, like the Germans had announced, or whether they were extermination camps. He managed to send intelligence from the camps back to the Polish Government in exile. He escaped from the camp but managed to subsequently be arrested and executed.

Dennis’s presentation was an exercise in reminding us how subtle propaganda can be and how easily it is to believe. It turns out that some of the issues that plague us today, like misleading robot telephone calls trying to get private information and misleading political ads, had their origins in our grandparent’s time.

*Tom Gunn*



“Shorelines” © A monthly publication of  
**The PROBUS Club of North Shore Vancouver**



<http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/>

Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed  
and may be sent by e-mail to :

[linda@probus-northshorevancouver.ca](mailto:linda@probus-northshorevancouver.ca)

or by mail to:

PROBUS Club North Shore - Communications Chair  
P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 4X4