

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

NOVEMBER 2009

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Next Meeting

Monday, November 9th, 2009

with speaker

Dennis Molnar, Historian

"The Falklands War"



Which missile system was a failure?



The lethal Exocet missile in action

Dennis Molnar is an historian extraordinaire! He previously presented to our Probus Club *The Dambusters, D-Day and the Enigma Machine*.

Argentina invaded the Islands in April 1982 but were ousted by the British within two months.

Join us and find out: What were the causes of the War? Which aircraft and weapons systems were ineffective? Why the British sank the "General Belgrano" when it was outside the Total Exclusion Zone and headed for Argentina? Why the initial British Naval strategy to control the Seas and Air before the Land Invasion failed?

Also included are many photos - similar to the above - for your viewing pleasure!

Upcoming Special Event

Monday, December 14th - Annual Christmas Luncheon

Register Now to Avoid Disappointment!



January Meeting

**Monday, January 11th - John McDonald,
Chairman and CEO, Day4 Energy - "Worldwide Energy"**

Last Month Speaker



Elspeth Bradbury with Gordon Adair

We were treated this past month to a very special history of our North Shore by Elspeth Bradbury, landscape architect and author of *West Vancouver: A View Through The Trees*. History books usually deal with a history of the people but Elspeth presented a history of the land itself through her words and wonderful pictures, giving new meaning to our streets, parks and waterfront.

15,000 years ago these lands were covered by more than a kilometre of ice, across Vancouver Island into the Pacific. After the melting there was no vegetation, only rock. Our first trees established themselves along the shoreline in the sparse soil. 8,000 to 10,000 years ago there were frequent fires but the Douglas Fir survived due to their thick bark.

6000 years ago the climate became more temperate and our rainforests became established and many creeks ran frequently. A forest is a community of animals, trees, plants, fungi, micro-organisms and water. The creeks allowed the salmon to swim into the forests, become food for the bears and eagles and in turn provided the nitrogen to encourage further plant growth — the sea and the land interacting.

The Western Red Cedar dominates in the wet soils and was particularly useful to the first nations people who had migrated down the coast for use in building their shelters, canoes and even parts of their clothing. By the time the Europeans arrived the native peoples had established a balance between themselves and the forest.

Elspeth described in detail the logging of the area with great pictures of the loggers, their equipment and their means of getting these huge trees cut, moved down the slopes to the shoreline and floated to the sawmills in North Vancouver.

At that time the forests were considered “an impediment to settling and development”. By 1913 Ambleside was

cleared but as a result was too hot, so trees were re-planted for shade and beauty with exotic, meaning not native, trees such as chestnut and cherry imported by the settlers as reminders of their former homelands.

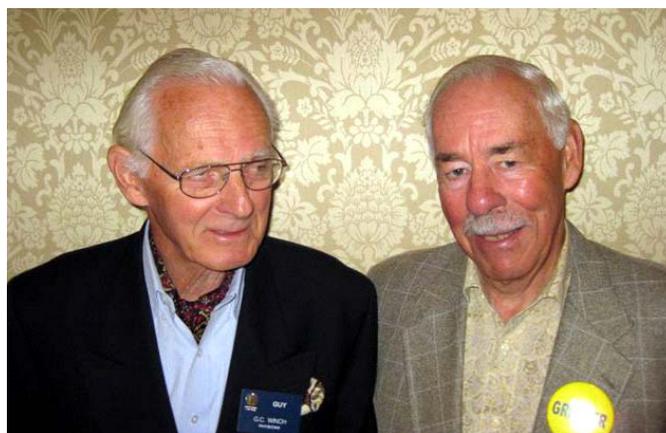
With the building of the Lions Gate bridge and the establishment of British Properties, West Vancouver became a very desirable, expensive neighbourhood, attracting many homeowners, and today West Vancouver continues to grow into its upper lands.

In April, 2009, the Municipality of West Vancouver held a Strategic Planning Session to help envision what it will look like in 25 years. At this forum Edward O. Wilson, a socio-biologist from Harvard, stated that “each community has three forms of wealth — material, biological and cultural” with biological wealth given highest honours. Their conclusion was “the natural environment is integral to the story of West Vancouver - the natural environment formed the original community and should remain its defining feature”.

Elspeth can be reached at lighthouseparkps@gmail.com.

Ernie Maguire

October Greeters



Guy Winch and Barrie Gillmore

**Reminder to sign up for our
Christmas Social!
Contact Malcolm Metcalfe
Email: metcalfe@metcalfe.org
Phone: 604-926-2001**



New Members Welcomed and Introduced at October Meeting



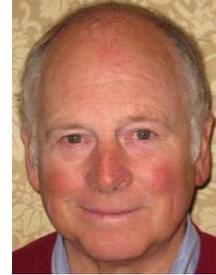
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Lach Morrison
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Management



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Accountant



Darrel Smith
Aviation

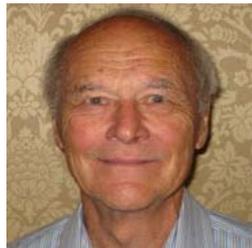


Ian Thompson
Insurance



Lee Wilks
Production
Management

Brief Backgrounds of a Few of Our Recent New Members



Bill Coulter (*member since June 2009*) was born in Windsor, Ontario and has lived in West Vancouver for more than 30 years. Bill is a graduate of University of Toronto in Business and Engineering related to mineral and oil and gas exploration and production. He has worked all over Canada and the USA and in Latin America and continues to be involved in a number of mineral exploration companies.

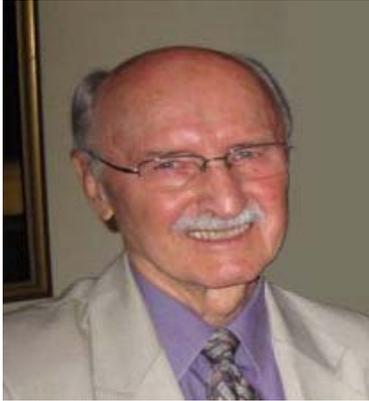


Stan Samain (*member since January 2009*) was born in London, England and currently resides in Port Moody. He graduated from City of London College and afterwards attended officer training school earning an RAF Regiment Commission. Following military service Stan pursued a career as an Oil Company Supply and Trading executive with Shell International, BP, PetroCanada and other companies.



Jon Strom (*member since May 2009*) was born in Prince George and has lived and worked in West Vancouver for the much of the past 40 years. He graduated in dentistry from the University of Alberta in 1964 and is a Fellow of the Alberta College of Dentistry. While studying dentistry and for some years afterwards, Jon served in the Royal Canadian Dental Corps (1961 – 1969) and with the United Nations peace mission in Cyprus (1967).

President's Report



President David Osoba

How many Probus Clubs are there in the world and what is the total membership? The answers are at the bottom of these notes, but before you take a peek down there, take a guess. Are there 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 4,000 or 5,000 Clubs in the world? Is the total membership 100,000, 200,000, 300,000 or 400,000?

Probus grew out of an idea by a group of retired Rotarians in the UK and the first Clubs were formed in 1965/66. The motivation was to help overcome loneliness.

In Canada, the first Club was started in Cambridge, Ontario, in 1987 and there are now over 200 Probus Clubs with more than 27,000 members in our country. While most Clubs vary from 50 -100 members, our North Shore Vancouver Club is one of the largest with over 320 members.

Probus Clubs also exist in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and many other countries. It's perhaps surprising that in the United Kingdom there are more Probus members than there are Rotarians! Or, perhaps, it's not so surprising. People are living longer and during retirement they have more time to participate in a Club.

I would encourage everyone to come to our meetings. The fellowship and goodwill exude from everyone and they can be felt flowing about the room. And that's what Probus is about.

Correct answers to the above questions:

There are over 5,000 Probus Clubs in the world with over 400,000 members.

David Osoba



*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.....*

*And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark....*

Remembering our members who passed away this year:

Neill Carnsew
Godfrey Chowne
Don Reid
Ian Steele

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.

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

Capilano Golf and Country Club

420 Southborough Drive
West Vancouver, BC V7S 1M2
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<http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/>

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