

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

June 2014

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Management Committee

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House:

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Speakers:

Gordon Adair
604-230-9122

Special Events:

Colin Ritson
604-926-6976



Meeting at Capilano Golf and Country Club 420 Southborough Drive, West Vancouver, 604-922-9331

Monday, June 2nd

with speaker

Nicole Garton,

Lawyer and Mediator, Heritage Law

“Protect Yourself - New Wills and Estate Act”

The law with respect to wills and estates significantly changed on March 31, 2014. The new B.C. Wills, Estates and Succession Act (commonly called “WESA”) made substantial changes to the laws of wills and succession in order to modernize the laws. Find out why it’s even more important than ever to have a proper estate plan drafted to ensure your wishes are followed.

Nicole Garton, founder and principal of Heritage Law, is a lawyer and mediator of wills, estates, trusts, adult guardianship and family law matters. Nicole is accredited by the Law Society of BC to act as a Family Law Mediator, Parenting Coordinator and Family Law Arbitrator. Nicole is certified by Family Mediation Canada as a Comprehensive Family Mediator.

In her solicitors practice, Nicole advises on estate planning and administration including the preparation of wills, powers of attorney, representation agreements and inter vivos trusts, and applications for probate. Nicole has a particular interest in blended families and regularly drafts pre and post nuptial agreements as part of a comprehensive estate plan. In her dispute resolution practice, Nicole focuses on the restructuring of families resulting from separation and divorce, wills and estate challenges and elder care and management.

Nicole is on the executive of the Canadian Bar Association Wills and Estates and Elder Law Sections. Nicole is a recipient of the Business in Vancouver Top Forty Under 40 Award.

Parking at Capilano for June Meeting

The golf-cart shuttle service will be provided June 2. Members with “Handicapped” hangers may park on the upper level. The Club and Capilano recognize that for some members drop-off at the Capilano steps is not possible and that parking on the lower level poses difficulty arising from distance, gradient, and the need for some agility to ride the shuttle. As an interim measure less mobile members may also park on the upper level without a “Handicapped” hanger. Please also consider car-sharing with a neighbour.

Our Probus Club’s Yearly Meeting Schedule

Second Monday of each month, except when changed to avoid conflict with special holidays. View our current schedule of meetings at <http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/meetings.htm>

Dress Code: Business Attire. Jeans are **NOT** permitted.

Coffee and fellowship: 8:45 am to 9:30 am, Club business and speaker: 9:30 am to 11:15 am

Members are welcome to bring a guest to a meeting.

President's Notes - Volunteer for a Probus Committee



As we prepare for the 2014/15 Probus year, our Past President, Fraser Grant will be seeking members to serve on our Management Committee (MC) who in turn will seek members to serve on their committees.

The MC has 5 committees that require volunteers – Communications, House, Membership, Speakers and Special Events. These committees cover a wide perspective and therefore require individuals for different aspects of their work. Here is a brief summary of some of their responsibilities.

The Communications Committee works very closely with Linda Metcalfe, (our excellent Administrator, Shorelines Publisher, and Webmaster) and supports her role as editor of Shorelines and keeper of the data base (which also ties in with the responsibilities of the membership committee). Communications is also responsible for taking photos of the speakers, new members and greeters and seeing that speaker and special events write-ups are placed in Shorelines.

The House Committee also has broad responsibilities which include securing the venues for Membership Meetings and MC meetings and ensuring they are appropriately setup, including parking sign placement, audio-visual setup and catering. The House Committee also enlists 'Greeters' for our meetings.

The Membership Committee has responsibility to handle the applications and membership renewals, do the introductions, maintain the badges, see that Linda is updated on membership changes and ensure that the member services desk is manned at every meeting.

The Special Events Committee involves securing interesting places to visit and experience, planning the visits, setting the fees so the event 'breaks even', and doing the follow-up with the event host. There is a communications aspect that requires writing a notice for Shorelines before the event and than a write-up for Shorelines on the event. A table at our meetings also needs to be 'manned' so that members can register and pay their event fees. Special events must also check the mailbox for event registrations and hand the cheques to the treasurer.

The Speakers Committee informs the MC about potential speakers, enlists speakers 2 or 3 months in advance, obtain their resumes for publication in Shorelines, introduces the speakers and ensures a volunteer is present to do a write-up for Shorelines.

As noted, the responsibilities of the Committees are often interrelated with each other, as well as being interrelated with the Treasurer (who keeps us solvent), Secretary (who

maintains our MC minutes), Vice-President, President and Past President. All these activities are coordinated through the Management Committee (MC).

Our club thrives on the strong participation of its members, so if your schedule allows, please give consideration to volunteering your service and talents. Call Fraser Grant or any committee member if you wish to volunteer your services. You will find it fun, educational and a great way to interact with the membership.

Don Leier

Contact - president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Survey Update

Thanks to the 200+ Probus members who participated in our recent on-line survey. The results are being compiled and analysed by your MC and will be presented shortly by separate email.

New Members Welcomed and Introduced at May Meeting



Ian deGroot
Education - Teacher



Norman Thomson
Mechanical Engineer

May Meeting Greeters



Greeters Neil Hummel and Paul Avery

Translink Tour - Photos and Article by Ken Bryden

On April 28, 2014, thirty of us toured TransLink's maintenance and control facilities in Burnaby – the Canada Line is an entirely separate operation and not maintained by TransLink. First we were given a briefing of TransLink's system (it includes Sky Train, buses, and many bridges and roads), and of the new Compass fare card. Fare revenues amount to \$500 million/year – that's only one-third of operating costs.

We were split into two groups to view the large maintenance building, where routine grinding of the wheels of Sky Train cars was in progress. Typically, about one millimetre (or several) is removed, while the wheels remain on the cars.

We then saw the control room, with schematics of the entire system showing all trains in motion, and rows of TV monitors showing every platform and critical station and track locations. Altogether, there are some 3000 CTV monitors. While there, a call came in of a disturbance at one station – a spill of some sort in a car. Immediately the TransLink Police were called, and the nearest monitor was linked to a much larger high resolution screen. The train moved on, and a crew at a subsequent station was alerted to do the clean-up. We could see everything that happened, but fortunately it was not serious. The morning concluded with a delightful lunch at the Riverway Golf Clubhouse.



Last Month Speaker - Dr. André Gerolymatos



Dr. Gerolymatos is thanked by Pres. Don Leier

The Crisis in the Ukraine with Dr. André Gerolymatos

Professor André Gerolymatos, head of Hellenic Studies at SFU, is a perennial favourite of our Probus Club. Today he spoke on the crisis in the Ukraine, primarily from the Russian point of view. This is the side we rarely hear discussed, and is poorly understood in the West.

Throughout history, Russia has suffered many devastating invasions, including the Mongols, Napoleon's army, and the Nazis. Now, being surrounded by NATO member countries, they are resorting to their traditional behavior.

Georgia tried to join the Western Alliance, and paid a high price for it. When the recent Ukrainian revolution started, Russia could see its Crimean bases slipping away, and access to the Black Sea being lost. Peter the Great had fought long and hard to establish a base there, and a Black Sea fleet to oppose the Ottoman Empire (ca.1700). Sevastopol is Russia's only seaport that does not freeze over in the winter. (But what happens if the Dardanelles are blocked?) By the 2010 Kharkiv Pact, Russia leased the naval base at Sevastopol until 2042 in exchange for the Ukraine receiving discounted natural gas. Russia broke the agreement this year.

When Russians look at a map they see the NATO enemy at their gates: Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia to the west; Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey along the south. André said that this expansion of NATO, when the Russian economy collapsed, was a foolish short term move, and has led to their paranoia. Now the Ukraine, its traditional client state, wants a divorce, both military and economic.

As well as strategic issues, there are also very complex ones of both ethnicity and religion. We know that there is a large number of ethnic Russians, or Russian speakers in the eastern and southern provinces whose loyalty is to Russia. There is also a bewildering mixture of Christian churches as well as the Muslim Tatars of Mongol ancestry. 75% of Ukrainians believe in God, and 37% go to church.

The Orthodox Church has at least four subgroups loyal to Moscow, Kiev or elsewhere; the Catholic Church also has four, and then there are Protestants, Jews and Pagans. There is no love lost among any of them, as usual.

Of course, oil and gas are always in the mix. Andre said that Europe gets about 40% of its oil and gas from Russia, routed through the Ukraine, and yet Russia's production is in decline. (Fracking may change this.) Russia also buys oil from Azerbaijan, but it is surrounded by Iran, Armenia, Georgia, Dagestan and a bit north, Chechnya, all foreign or unfriendly territories.

A further annoyance is the "meddling" of the US in Ukrainian politics. The National Endowment for Democracy (<http://www.ned.org/>) poured money in, both for the Orange Revolution and the ousting of Viktor Yanukovich.

The events in the Ukraine are a game changer. Putin will do whatever he can get away with, without a serious confrontation with NATO members, and he has the support of most of the Russian people. This is a matter of national pride and securing borders.

According to André, there are two possible solutions. Either all the players will come to a compromise and war will be avoided; or the Russian separatists will attack the weak Ukrainian Army, and a civil war and a bloodbath will occur. Let us hope not.

Ken Bryden

Monthly Quote

"When you mind your own business, you realize that it probably needs to be dealt with more than anyone else's"
- Daniel Chidiac

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

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

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For Information on Probus Clubs in Canada, visit
Probus Canada: <http://www.probus.org/canada.htm>