

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

March 2016

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Management Committee

President:

Mike McMahon
604-926-1088

Vice President:

Dave Walker
604-922-4047

Secretary:

Ian Burden
778-870-3538

Treasurer:

Gordon Adair
604-230-9122

Past-President:

Barry Heselgrave
604-922-9481

Communications:

Darryl Stodalka
604-925-2570

House:

Grant Gisel
604-988-6730

Membership:

Jack Yasayko
604-926-9087

Speakers:

Michael Coady
604-990-7643

Special Events:

Colin Ritson
604-926-6976

Monthly Meeting at the Capilano Golf and Country Club

420 Southborough Drive, West Vancouver, 604-922-9331

Coffee and Fellowship: 9:00 am, Club Business and Speaker: 9:30 - 11:15 am

Monday, March 14th

with speaker **Dr. Brian Riddell**

President and CEO, Pacific Salmon Foundation

“PSF and the State of BC’s Pacific Salmon: Today and Tomorrow”



Dr. Riddell is an internationally recognized fishery scientist with extensive experience in salmon research, fisheries management, and environmental policy development. Prior to joining the Pacific Salmon Foundation, Dr. Riddell worked for 30 years in scientific research and management positions in Science Branch, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, where he was a contributor to Canada’s Policy for Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon (2005).

Recently, Dr. Riddell served as a member of the Royal Society of Canada’s Expert Panel on Ocean Climate Change and Marine Biodiversity; he is a Canadian Commissioner to the Pacific Salmon Commission, the organization responsible for implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the United States and Canada; and he is a member of the BCSFA’s Science Advisory Panel. And, in February, 2015; he was recognized nationally as one of “50 Notable

Canadians” in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian flag.

Related to today’s talk, since joining the Pacific Salmon Foundation in February 2009, Dr. Riddell has worked to establish the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project and the research network necessary to undertake this international project.

Mark Your Calendars with these Important Dates



Next Meeting at the Chief Joe Mathias Centre, North Vancouver

- Monday, April 11th - Dr. Paul Evans, Professor at UBC, “China”
- Special Events, *see page 2 for more details...*

President's Notes



As a young boy I was fascinated with aircraft and the Spitfire was the epitome of that fascination. And the number of our members who attended Dennis Molnar's presentation on 15 February showed that I was not the only one fascinated by the Spitfire. It was a most enjoyable presentation and Kutty Variath has produced an excellent summary of that presentation in this issue of Shorelines.

PROBUS Canada has designated March as PROBUS month in an effort to raise the profile of PROBUS clubs in Canada. It's a good time to be reminded of the purposes of PROBUS Clubs. In particular, our constitution includes in our purposes the provision of regular meetings for social contacts, presentations on and discussion of topical subjects, arranging visits to places of interest and arranging activities of interest to our members. Your committees do their best to satisfy these purposes.

Our February meeting was held on the third Monday in the month because Family day in B.C. falls on the second Monday. Many of the provinces also have a holiday on the third Monday in February, mainly called Family Day, but Manitoba calls it Louis Riel Day, Prince Edward Island calls it Islander Day, and Nova Scotia, in 2016, calls it Joseph Howe Day. And in the United States the third Monday in February is Presidents' Day. There was a recent news story reporting the Burnaby Board of Trade's desire to have the B.C. Family Day aligned with those held in other provinces. These factors made me wonder why B.C. chose the second Monday in February as it's mid-winter holiday rather than synchronizing its day with the other provinces and the American's Presidents' Day.

In May 2012 the Ministry of Labour conducted an online poll and the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation consulted various business and industry stakeholders, as well as school superintendents, for their views. The results of the poll were that 18,202 who voted preferred the second Monday while 9,436 preferred the third Monday. Many of those who preferred the third Monday felt that this would allow family members in other jurisdictions the opportunity to share a long weekend. Some of those who preferred the second Monday did so on the basis that the resorts in B.C. would be less crowded and the two holidays would allow resorts two long weekends of holidaying guests. So in BC it looks like the business trumped family.

Remember, as noted in Shorelines, our March meeting will be at the Capilano Golf and Country Club and then in April we will switch to the Chief Joe Mathias Centre.

Your Special Events Committee is busily organizing events with a view to implementing our members wishes as

indicated by their responses to our recent survey. Please see the information provided in Shorelines by the Committee's chair Colin Ritson.

And hopefully spring weather will arrive in the very near future.

Mike McMahon

Special Events

Seymour Capilano Filtration Plant Tour

A visit to the modern and very interesting Metro Vancouver Seymour Capilano Filtration Plant located at 4400 Lillooet Road in North Vancouver is scheduled for Tuesday 5th April, 2016 at 10.00 AM. There is no charge for this tour. Members and their guests are welcome.

Transport will be by car pooling and an optional 'no host' lunch at a local restaurant is planned to follow the tour. Arrangements to be included on the tour and / or lunch should be made by contacting Colin Ritson by email at colinritson@shaw.ca or at the Special Events desk at the upcoming monthly PROBUS meeting.

Colin Ritson



Walking Tour of Coal Harbour

This walking tour will be lead by the outstanding tour guide John Atkin on Monday, May 16th from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. Like our previous walking tours with John, we will learn about what is there now and more interesting, what was there in the past. A 'no host' lunch to follow the tour. Circle the date and look for further details in the April Shorelines. Members and their guests are welcome.

John Elliott



March is National PROBUS Month

National PROBUS Month - Why We Should Care

The first PROBUS Club in Canada was formed in March of 1987 in Cambridge, Ontario. A couple of years ago the Directors of PROBUS Canada, including Bill Sexsmith from Vancouver, dedicated March of each year as National PROBUS Month. March was selected to recognize the Cambridge Club and their formation date.

The initial thinking was that National PROBUS Month was a way to celebrate the PROBUS experience and increase the recognition and visibility of PROBUS across Canada. Some clubs have planned special activities in March that range from special meetings to receiving recognition by municipalities within which they operate. Your Management Committee concluded that a special event to celebrate National PROBUS Month was not called for. Our monthly meetings and special events that take place throughout the year provided sufficient recognition of PROBUS on the North Shore.

One of the key drivers behind National PROBUS Month is to ensure ongoing vitality within PROBUS Canada and the Clubs across the country. Our Club has 370 plus Members and every year approximately 10% of our Members do not renew. There are usually health or related issues that cause this “churn”. Yet, every year we have a number of new Members join and have been able to keep our Membership in the 350 to 400 range.

This constant renewal brings in new ideas and new Members to your Management Committee. In essence, we are constantly refreshing ourselves. This renewal is coming largely from within. In other words, almost all of our new Members are as a result of referrals from existing Members.

Why should we care about National PROBUS Month? It affords all of us the opportunity to reflect upon our Club and its endeavours. Is our Club fulfilling its mandate? Are the monthly meetings interesting and informative? Is the fellowship meaningful? Are we renewing and energizing ourselves at the right pace?

I would ask each of you to spend a few moments this March and reflect upon your Club and its activities. Suggestions, if any, should be sent to Mike McMahon, our President. There is easy access to Mike through our web site. You should also think about your non-PROBUS colleagues and who would benefit from the PROBUS experience and who could add value to our Club. Inviting them to a meeting and encouraging them to “sign up” will ensure that our Club remains relevant and of interest to all Members.

Barry Heselgrave

Probus Golf

Golf with your Probus Pals May to September

This year a trip to Courtenay on Vancouver Island is in the planning stage. Subject to response from members it will be a 1 or 2 night trip.



The remainder of the season is in the planning stage and details will be circulated in April. There is no registration fee but \$10 (for prizes) will be collected at most events. Start times for the remaining 4 events are usually early afternoon. Dinner will be optional and at your own expense. Please include your handicap factor when expressing interest. If you are interested in joining us for an informal game of golf respond

to Phil Boase by email at pjboase@telus.net.

Phil Boase

PROBUS Bridge Club News

Special Announcement

Guidelines:

- Play will take place every Monday afternoon (holidays excepted) from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM at the West Vancouver Senior's Centre (no play in July and August);
- There is no requirement for PROBUS members to join the West Vancouver Senior's Centre (\$36.00 annual fee) but it is recommended;
- Members will have an opportunity to play twice a month;

PROBUS members interested in joining the Bridge Club should email Phil Boase at pjboase@telus.net.



Change of April Meeting Location



We will switch our meeting location in April to the Chief Joe Mathias Centre (CJMC). Meetings will continue at this location until November. During the golf season at Capilano Golf and Country Club we will avoid this busy time and the parking issues this causes.

The April 6th management meeting will be our first event this year at the CJMC and the regular PROBUS April 11 meeting will be the second event. If members have questions please contact Grant Gisel by email at grantgisel@shaw.ca or by phone at 604-988-6730.

Grant Gisel

New Members Welcomed and Introduced at February Meeting



Tom Bell



Henry Bow



Mike Dolan



Doug Fromson



Vince McNaught



John Peirson

Tom Bell (*member since February 2016*) was born and educated in the United Kingdom and lived on the North Shore for 47 years. As a Professor of Chemistry, Tom taught at the University of Adelaide, Australia and also at Simon Fraser (1968-98). His interests include bridge and skiing. He is also a Vancouver Tourism volunteer.

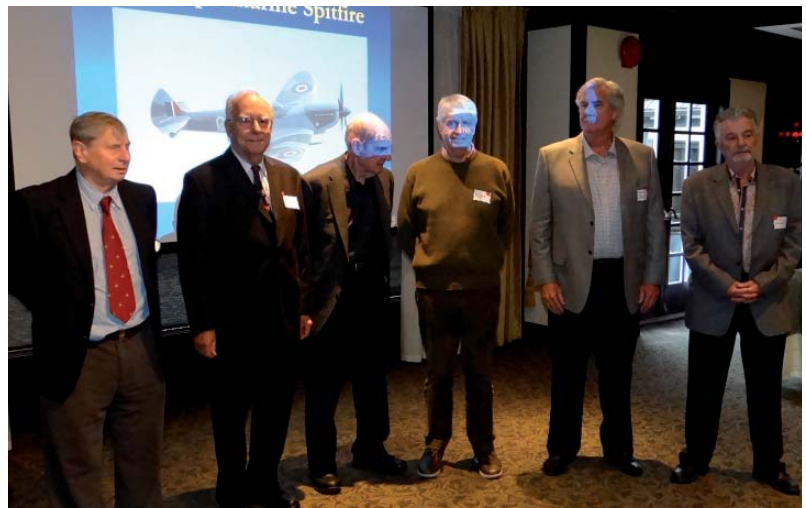
Henry Bow (*member since November 2015*) was born and educated in financial management in Vancouver. He has lived on the North Shore for 43 years. Henry's career was primarily in banking and held various business executive positions including a director with the North Shore Credit Union. His interests include golf, fishing, biking and vice president of the BC winter games.

Mike Dolan (*member since December 2015*) was born in Moncton, New Brunswick. He received an MBA and a BEng degree. Mike's career as a structural engineer had him located in Calgary, Montreal, Seattle and Vancouver. His interests include hiking, skiing, sailing, travel, woodworking, and a community association executive.

Doug Fromson (*member since December 2015*) was born in Nelson, BC and grew up in Trail. He has lived on the North Shore for 49 years. Doug received both a BAsC in Mechanical Engineering and an MBA from UBC. His career as a consultant engineer in the pulp and paper industry and feasibility studies in the energy sector, took him to 20 different countries. His interests include travel, current affairs, and Canadian politics.

Vince McNaught (*member since February 2016*) was born and raised in Climax, Saskatchewan. He received a degree in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan. His career was with hydraulic engineering services and real estate. Vince's interests include golf, cycling, and a recreational pilot.

John Peirson (*member since December 2015*) was born and raised in England. He has lived in the same home in West Vancouver for 43 years. John received an MA from Cambridge and a P. Eng. degree. John worked for 5 years with Ontario Hydro and 23 years with BC Hydro. His interests include volunteer work, antique cars (Rolls Royce), gardening, and travel.



L: Greeters Don Leier and President Mike McMachon **R:** Group photo of new members introduced at meeting

Last Month Speaker - Dennis Molnar

Note: View Speaker presentations, when available, on our website at:
<http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/speakers.htm>



President Mike McMahon thanks speaker Dennis Molnar with a bowl hand crafted by a member.

WWII Supermarine Spitfire Aircraft

Dennis Molnar gave his audience the rare privilege of looking at Spitfire fighter aircraft, which played such an important role in World War II, particularly in the Battle of Britain. The following overview is only a summary of a very detailed presentation.

The plane was developed by Supermarine Aviation Works as a direct descendant of floatplanes designed by Reginald Mitchell, a talented design engineer employed by Supermarine. The floatplanes were designed to participate in the prestigious Schneider Cup. Supermarine planes won the Cup three consecutive times from 1927-1929.

As early as 1930 Air Ministry understood the need to build up their air defense against rising Nazi Germany. Spitfire was made to 1934 Air Ministry specifications. The model that took part in the Battle of Britain had a stressed-skin aluminum structure and a graceful elliptical wing with an efficient Merlin engine of 1030 h.p. This plane was a better performer than its rival Messerschmitt Be109.

While the RAF pilots were happy with the performance of Spitfire, its production was plagued with problems. Supermarine Aviation could not meet the large numbers required. Lord Nuffield, founder of Morris Motors Ltd., offered to produce Spitfires if he was given the finance to buy land and build a factory in Birmingham. Though the factory was built, no Spitfires were produced. Winston Churchill gave the job to his friend Lord Beaverbrook, who took over the factory, stepped on a lot of toes, but got production going at 100 planes a month.

Dennis then spoke of the defense of South East of England and the strategy used by Hugh Dowding, which was

effective but controversial. He used the New Zealander Keith Park to supervise the defense. Between them they decided to use only 16 of the 36 squadrons, leaving 20 squadrons as reserve. This was possible because British pilots did not have to go on patrol – the coastal Radars gave accurate warning of invading German bombers and fighter planes.

He spoke of the remarkable courage and dedication of fighter pilots and gave the example of New Zealand Spitfire pilot Alan Christopher Deere. He was shot down seven times and bailed out three times. It was with pilots like him in mind that Churchill paid tribute to them in his famous speech “Never in the history of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.” Examples of human ingenuity were most interesting to hear. Use of a cordite filled shotgun shell to start aircraft engines without a battery; mixing of aviation fuel with engine oil to keep it from becoming viscous overnight while parked; and the famous Tilly’s orifice to prevent engine stall at zero gravity.

The distinctive shape and sound of Spitfire fighter planes caught the imagination of the British public. They raised 13 million pounds to make these planes. Although Hawker Hurricane fighters, because of their larger number accounted for more air victories in the Battle of Britain, it was the Spitfire that was regarded by the people as saving them from the Germans.

Spitfire was the only fighter aircraft that was in production throughout World War II. After so many years, there are still hobby stores selling model Spitfires and enthusiasts putting the model together. It has now assumed an icon status in people’s mind.

Kutty Variath

PROBUS Travel Insurance

Johnson travel insurance plan is designed to combine all of the travel insurance needs of PROBUS Members in one convenient package, with plan options to suit the coverage you require. Call 604-881-8840 or view the brochure on the home page of our website under the Index. Travel Insurance.

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

linda@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

or by mail to:

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

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