

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

April 2017

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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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, April 10th

with speaker

Dr. Marco Marra, OBC, PhD, FRS(C), FCAHS,

UBC Canada Research Chair in Genome Science

“The BC Cancer Agency Personalized OncoGenomics (POG) Project”



Dr. Marra is the UBC Canada Research Chair in Genome Science, and a member of the Order of British Columbia. He is also Director & Distinguished Scientist of the Genome Sciences Centre, at the BC Cancer Agency and Head and Professor, Department of Medical Genetics, University of British Columbia. He is the recipient of the 2015 Dr. Chew Wei Memorial Prize in Cancer Research, a 2013 UBC Killam Research Prize, a 2012 UBC Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award, and the Medal of Merit Award from the International Association of Lions Clubs. He was elected to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2009; received the Frontiers in Research Award from the BC Innovation Council in 2008; and was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2007. He was a recipient of a Genome BC Award for Scientific Excellence, a MSFHR Career Investigator Senior Scholar Award, and Simon Fraser University President's 40th Anniversary Award. In 2004, he received a Terry Fox Young Investigator Award and BC Biotech's Innovation and Achievement Award (together with the entire GSC staff) for sequencing the SARS coronavirus genome.

Dr. Marra's contributions to genome science led to an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Simon Fraser University in 2004, and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Calgary in 2005.

Dr. Marra will discuss the use of whole genome analysis to inform treatment planning for cancer. The Personalized OncoGenomics (POG) pilot project initiated in 2012 aims to assess the general feasibility of whole genome analysis in the context of a cancer centre like the BC Cancer Agency, including examining the uptake of whole genome technology by medical professionals. Dr. Marra will discuss the POG and its development in relation to an expanding segment of the cancer population in BC.

Mark Your Calendars with these Important Dates...



Next Meeting at the Capilano Golf and Country Club

- **Monday, May 8th** - UBC Professor Brett Finlay
- **Special Events** - see page 2 for more details ...

President's Notes



Congratulations to all who made it through the winter.

Looking back - March was a great month - Spring arrived, St. Patrick's Day Ides of March and a great discussion on the middle east. Our March meeting had the highest attendance of the year. It was in response to the quality of our speaker as well another sign of Spring - the

slow return of our snowbird members - see more getting back each day.

Looking forward - April sees a Seaspan tour, another great speaker and Easter. Phil and his team get the next bridge season off to a start on April 3rd and Phil is in the final stage of planning the golf season to run from May to September.

Should be a great season for both groups and I encourage anyone with interest in participating to please see Phil Boase, Barry Heselgrave or Fraser Grant for bridge and Phil for golf.

You may have noticed a new name on the left hand side of page one. The Management Committee is pleased to welcome Gary Sutherland as the Chair of the House Committee and want to take this opportunity to introduce him to the members. Gary approached me after last meeting and volunteered to take on the role. Great to have him on the team.

Our special events and speakers committees have set up great programs for the balance of the year. For those not able to attend our March meeting, it was announced that after a review of other available venues on the North Shore, the MC confirmed we will be hosting all our meetings at the Capilano Golf and Country Club (with exception of our June meeting which will be held at the West Vancouver Yacht Club).

Happy Easter - trust you will celebrate in your chosen way with your family, loved ones and friends.

Dave Walker

Contact - president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca



Special Events

WALKING TOUR STRATHCONA TUESDAY MAY 16TH 9:30 – 11:30AM NO-HOST LUNCH TO FOLLOW THE TOUR LED BY OUR OUTSTANDING TOUR GUIDE JOHN ATKIN

The walk will be an exploration of the history and architecture of this fascinating part of Vancouver, including a visit to a brew pub for lunch.

Strathcona is one of the city's oldest neighbourhoods, and yet one of its newest. Innovative zoning encourages heritage retention and new infill construction which has made this once neglected area one of the city's most popular. We'll explore the history and architecture of this fascinating part of Vancouver. And afterwards we'll aim for the Strathcona Beer Co. on Hastings and Campbell.

- Meet 9:15AM at the Strathcona Community Centre at Princess and Keefer.
- Parking very limited suggest public transit from Park Royal.
- Depart on tour at 9:30 Sharp!
- Duration 2 hours and end at Strathcona Beer Co. on Hastings at Campbell.
- Cost \$15.00 (tour only) and go rain or shine.
- With a limit of 30 walkers the walk will be for members only until May 9th. After which, if not fully booked, the walk will be open to guests. Partners or guests can be placed on a waiting list.
- Lunch (no host) at Strathcona Beer Co. on Hastings and Campbell.
- Register and pay at the next (April 10th) meeting.

After the meeting, register with John Elliott by phone at 604-925-3535 or e-mail johns.elliott@telus.net or Gord Cook, 604-921-7393, e-mail gord.cook@telus.net

Payment must then be by cheque mailed to: PROBUS Club of North Shore Vancouver, P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 4X4.

The tour will be limited to 30 walkers and your registration is not confirmed until your payment is received.

John Elliott



New Members Welcomed and Introduced at March Meeting



Graham Crockart (*member since November 2016*) Graham was born in Kirriemuir, which is in Angus, close to Dundee in Scotland, and received a degree in Architecture at the University of Dundee. He practiced a little bit in the UK before moving to Toronto and then to Vancouver in 1972 where he started his own practice. He has won a variety of awards from the Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC – many of which are related to North Vancouver. He is a past Chair of the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and past Chair of the Board of Governors of Capilano College (as it was then). His interests are travel, golf, history, literature and architecture.



Don McPherson (*member since March 2017*) Don was born in Timaru – which is 200 km from Christchurch on the South Island of New Zealand. He received a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Otago and then became a CPA. That all led to a career in finance and consulting with a variety of companies initially in Auckland, New Zealand before moving to Vancouver in 1969. His interests include golf, skiing, biking, bridge and travel. He is also a volunteer with Tourism Vancouver.



Eric Rutledge (*member since March 2017*) Eric was born in Nanaimo, BC and attended the University of British Columbia where he received a Bachelor of Commerce degree and a Law degree. He practiced law for ten years in Prince George and then moved to West Vancouver where he has resided for 40 years. He enjoys the outdoors and travel, and is interested in politics, economics and history.



Larry Zurowski (*member since March 2017*) Larry was born in Southey, Saskatchewan and received a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. He spent his career in Toronto. He worked with Union Carbide and Johnston Equipment until 30 years ago when he bought a high end audio equipment company – Magnum Dynalab. He sold his company just a couple of years ago, and moved to North Vancouver. Having been a member of PROBUS in Mississauga, he has not wasted much time in joining our club. He keeps himself busy playing golf, fishing, curling, enjoying music and working on house renovations.



Greeters Neil Creighton and Bill Mitchell



President Dave Walker welcomes our new members.

Special thanks to photographer Darryl Stodalka

Last Month Speaker - Dr. André Gerolymatos

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



President Dave Walker thanks speaker André Gerolymatos

The speaker at our March meeting was Dr. Andre Gerolymatos, Chair of Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. This was his 11th address to Probus, and I am sure he will be returning again. Dr. Gerolymatos is an entertaining speaker, and he has a practiced way of speaking that makes his message clear and easy to follow. No doubt well developed for the university lecture hall environment, it was an excellent style for communicating with our members. He also wore some of the more colourful shoes and socks we have seen on our speakers.

His official subject was “The Middle East and the Trump Factor”. It really was a presentation about how the western powers have continually had it wrong. The subtitle was “100 years of errors.”

In his opinion the current problems date back to the collapse of the Ottoman Empire following the First World War. The Middle East was occupied by Britain and France, but in short, the area did not take well to western ideas of local democracy, colonial government and nationalism. In fact, although our speaker did not say so, this area has resisted foreign influence from the time of the Egyptian and Babylonian empires. The Ottoman Empire had been tolerated, as it was a unitary state, and the people were united by Islamic culture. It was tolerant of other religions and the various ethnic groups that made up the population, and it had not been a Turkish nationalist state. The British and French Empires were not seen as an improvement.

Oil had a large and growing role in the complex relationships. Control of the Middle East by European nations was a source of international power, particularly for Britain. With the collapse of British and French rule following the Second World War another power vacuum resulted, this time filled by the Russians, followed very soon afterward by the Americans, looking primarily to block the advance

of Communism.

This gives us today’s complex environment. The local forces of nationalism and tribalism compete with the complexities of Islam. Imported cultures, including both Communism and western democracy exist only weakly, while what should be a unifying and peaceful Islamic culture is overcome by sectarian issues and violence that is as much tribal based as religious based.

One of the errors in western thinking, pointed out by our speaker, is that our conception of the various terrorist groups is wrong. In his opinion it is just as wrong to think that terrorist behaviour is integral to Islam as it would have been to consider the IRA as integral to Roman Catholicism.

This brings us to today’s environment. The cultural, religious and political differences of all the parties come together in ever-changing combinations. Nothing seems to work, and of greater importance, what can a new President do that actually would work?

Our speaker’s answer is the new President can’t do much. This is in part because the wrong questions are being asked, and the answers given relate to a fundamental misunderstanding of the real situation. Typically, Western governments have made bad strategic recommendations based on these misunderstandings.

Both the Russian and Americans have experienced serious setbacks in the area: the Americans in Iraq and the Russians in Afghanistan. As a side effect, each has managed to strengthen the local forces of local nationalism and violence.

It really seems that when someone intervenes the problem simply gets worse. Our speaker’s opinion is that perhaps the real answer lies in not intervening. Let the local forces work to resolve local issues that are the real fundamental basis of the century long problem. Perhaps Trump’s inclination to be an isolationist may actually be the right answer, and he may become effective in spite of himself.

Tom Gunn

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and may be sent by e-mail to :

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