

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

November 2017

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Monthly Meeting at the West Vancouver Yacht Club

5854 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, 604-921-7575

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

Monday, November 6th

with speaker

**Dennis Molnar,
Historian**

“Living Behind the Berlin Wall: Life for Families in Cold War East Germany ”



What was it like for Mothers, Children and Fathers to live behind the Wall? Why did men and women become informants and spy on their spouses, children and friends? What was it like to be in the Secret Police Jail? To find out, we will visit a Lady who lived behind the Wall, a Man jailed by the Secret Police and, visit his jail. Come see rare video of the Wall being built, photos of its top secret obstacles and learn the real reason people escaped. (This is the first of two lectures to PROBUS. The second will be presented in January 2018 titled “Behind the Berlin Wall: Escapes, Resisting the State and Poster Propaganda in Cold War East Germany”)

Dennis Molnar was schooled in Britain and Canada and went on to receive University Engineering and Business Degrees. He was the Managing Director of a High Technology company, has served on various Advisory Boards and has been a Director of a Listed Company. He is a past Director of the BC Winston Churchill Society and for over 20 years has presented Cold War and World War II history widely to Businesses, Professional Groups, Museums and Societies. He and his wife have two daughters and live in Vancouver.

A few of his other lectures include: The Two Best Allied Spies of WW II; Mistakes, Luck, and Disobeying Hitler: The Deciding Factors in the Chase and Sinking of the Bismarck in World War II; The Spitfire Fighter of World War II and Puzzles and Enigmas: The Cat and Mouse Codebreaking Game of World War II.



Annual Christmas Luncheon

Monday, December 11th

West Vancouver Yacht Club

With Special Guest - Jackson Davies

Registrations and payments accepted by mail

You can also bring your payment of \$50 to the November meeting.

Note: This luncheon is for MEMBERS ONLY.



President's Notes



I think we all agree that the speakers program is the highlight of our Probus experience. Our speakers offer us a broader view of local, national and world affairs - from the environment, geopolitical tensions, history and local affairs. The perspective they bring to our meetings is much broader and in-depth compared to what we see and hear in the media. For example, our recent speaker, Professor Paul Evans, gave us insights into some of the history of North Korea and the aftermath of the Korean War that shed light on why we are where we are today.

Similarly, I just returned from a wonderful cruise and cycling trip to the Greek Islands where we had a wonderful guide on board and on bike. One rarely finds a Turkish-Kurd guide who has a Master's degree in religious studies. He gave us remarkable insights into the history of Middle East religious conflicts that provided a much better understanding on today's situation. Likewise, our Greek guide in Athens gave us a passionate explanation of how going back to the First World War debts to Britain, the military dictatorship, to the IMF and the World Bank, the Greek economy has ended up in the precarious situation today. It makes me realize we need to be open-minded and challenge what we hear and see in our comfortable Canadian surroundings. I believe our speakers help us do this. Thanks to Mike Coady and his Committee for all their hard work in this regard.

Remembrance Day is just ahead. Each year on this day we attend ceremonies to honour and remember those who served and sacrificed to make our world a better place. We should remember and appreciate their service, not just on this day, but as often as we are able through the year. Our world is a better place and we lead safer lives because of what those men and women achieved.

Our best wishes go to Norm Alban, long time member of our Probus Management Committee, for a speedy and complete recovery. We hope to see you back soon!

Best wishes to all.

John Zaplatynsky

Contact - president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca



Parking at CCGC

As the golf season is ending on October 20th, the upper parking lot at Capilano Golf and Country Club will be available for those attending PROBUS meetings. This facility will be available for PROBUS members until the spring opening of the golf season. For those of you who



struggle with the entrance steps, there is an elevator available with access by the pathway immediately to the right (west) of the entrance stairs.

Gary Sutherland

Remembering Members Who Passed

Each November our newsletter includes a column to remember our members who passed away this year:

*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,*

*But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.*

*Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;*

*For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.*

- Lord Alfred Tennyson



New Members Introduced and Welcomed at October Meeting



Jeremy Haile (*member since October 2017*) Jeremy was born in England but moved at a young age to Northern Rhodesia – which soon became Zambia. He went to school in Zimbabwe (which had been Southern Rhodesia) before gaining entry to Oxford. There he received a degree in Engineering Science and Economics before going on to Imperial College in London to do an M.Sc in Soil Mechanics. He started work in London with a consulting engineering group, Knight Piesold, He then moved to Vancouver and went on to become President of Knight Piesold Canada for 22 years. He specialized in mine mailings dams and run-of-river hydro projects worldwide. His interests include hiking, golf, travel, theatre, pilates and bridge.



Mark Jackson (*member since October 2017*) Mark was born in Vancouver. He received a BA in Psychology and an M.A in Counselling Psychology at UBC and a Doctor of Education in Counselling Psychology in Toronto. He practiced as an Industrial Psychologist in Toronto before coming back to Vancouver where he became Managing Director, Western Canada for the Hay Group until he retired. He has been involved with the Society of Industrial Psychology, the Institute of Corporate Directors and was a director for ten years of Vancouver Adaptive Snow Sports – snow sports for the disabled in our local mountains. He is interested in skiing, golf, swimming and hiking.

Special thanks to photographer Darryl Stodalka

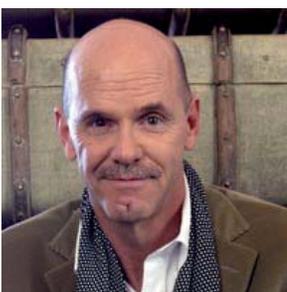


Greeters John Barker and Don McPherson



President John Zaplatynsky welcomes new members

Special Guest at 2017 Christmas Luncheon



Although Jackson has appeared in well over 350 TV shows and films, he is probably best known locally for the 16 years he starred as Constable John Constable in the **CBC's THE BEACHCOMBERS**. He is also an award winning film writer and producer. He still plays right wing for the Vancouver Canucks Alumni Hockey Team.

Come prepared for mouth-watering food, drink, comradery, fellowship, good cheer and have a hilariously good time finding out how Jackson got the part of an RCMP officer on

The Beachcombers, died on social media and how Google body shamed him.

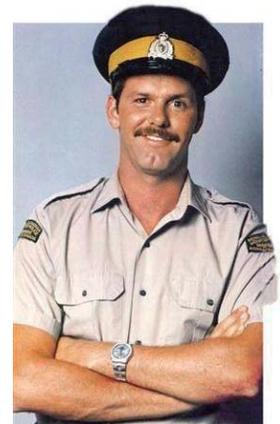
This will be a **MEMBERS ONLY** event. **Dress code: Jacket and tie.**

To register send your **\$50.00** cheque along with your name and phone number to;

**The PROBUS Club of North Shore Vancouver,
P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver BC, V7V 4X4**

(Please mark "Christmas Lunch" on the envelope for easy sorting)

Questions: Contact Gordon Cook by email at gord.cook@telus.net or phone at 604-921-7393.



Last Month Speaker - Dr. Paul Evans



President John Zaplatynsky thanks guest speaker Dr. Paul Evans with a bowl hand crafted by a member.

Our October speaker was Dr. Paul Evans, Professor at UBC, and his topic was “*Avoiding a Second Korean War*”. There was very high attendance for this session. Professor Evans has an extensive background in Korean matters, and has advised the Federal Government on various issues regarding both North and South Korea.

“Start Worrying. Details to Follow” he said, a Jewish saying that fits the current situation very well. On the surface, it seems there is no solution, let alone an easy one when the leaders on each side claim the other is crazy, and try to out-insult each other.

When the focus has been emotional rather than rational, it is hard to see a solution that is not completely devastating to one party or the other. Yet, as Professor Evans remarked, “there is a road that can lead to a long-term reduction in tensions”.

The United States rarely thinks about its true long-term interests, and at the same time it ignores the viewpoints of other countries. The current government is somewhat notorious in this regard and the situation is not helped by the under-mining of the State Department. Between the end of the Second World War and the Vietnam War a debate took place as to whether the United States long term fundamental interest extended to the continent of Asia, or was primarily with the islands in the Pacific. Every time the United States has been involved with continental issues in Asia the outcome has been less than optimal.

From the North Korean standpoint, the presence of the United States has been a long-term threat. When it invaded the South in the 1950’s its objective was to occupy the area before the United States could react. We tend to forget that there is simply an armistice in Korea, and in the North the war is seen as unfinished business. The North believes the United States has continuously threatened it for the past 60 years, and the country uses this belief to justify the nature of its rule. When tensions between east and west lessened in the 1980’s there was an opportunity

to make progress towards a long-term solution, but fear of the United States was rekindled when President Bush denounced Korea as part of the “Axis of Evil”. Korea remains suspicious of the United States over its continual threats to abandon treaties, and apparently does wonder if the US would actually honour a treaty with it.

Professor Evan’s view is that despite the rhetoric, the North Koreans are somewhat realistic. They know they cannot win a war with the US, but they know they can inflict significant damage. There is a saying that you can stomp a scorpion to death but you will be stung while trying. There is an avenue for rational for minds to explore that can reduce tensions, but both sides need to back away from their extreme positions as a beginning.

Hard as it is, given six decades of history, the US needs to consider that it needs to live with North Korea without doing things North Korea sees as fundamental threats to its existence. Similarly, North Korea needs to give up its plans to “liberate” the South, and let history take its natural course. This would be a good beginning, and the outcome could be better than many think. The United States should not forget that Vietnam, some 40 years after the war, is now part of the global world and a relatively peaceful power. .

Tom Gunn

PROBUS Travel Insurance

It is that time of year again when members are thinking about travelling to warmer climates, going on a cruise or just discovering an exotic location they wished to visit. PROBUS Members can take advantage of the MEDOC travel insurance plan which 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 1-866-60M-edoc or visit on line at:

<https://www.johnson.ca/probus/en/on>

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

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or by mail to:

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