

# Shorelines

## NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

September 2018

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, September 10th**

*with speaker*

**Gerald Baier, Associate Professor of Political Science, UBC**

*“The Pros and Cons of Electoral Reform”*



Gerald Baier is an Associate Professor of Political Science at UBC and the Academic Director of the Institute for Future Legislators in the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs. He teaches and studies in the field of Canadian politics and Canadian political institutions. He is coauthor of *The Canadian Regime* (4th ed) and *Contested Federalism*. He is currently writing on the Supreme Court of Canada and the effect of partisanship on aspiring politicians. He is a regular commentator on local and national media.

Gerald Baier’s topic will focus on “*The Pros and Cons of Electoral Reform*”. Voters in British Columbia will have their third chance to alter the province’s electoral system this Fall. The ballot will ask people to choose between the status quo (the so-called First Past the Post system) and a trio of proposed systems that would make the electoral process more proportional to the popular vote. There are advantages and disadvantages to all electoral systems. The present system has its faults and strengths, proposed systems have their faults and strengths. Voter choice should be much more about the values they would like to see in their electoral system rather than a presumption that one system will be able to cure all the ills of any particular democratic state. The present BC process, by not engaging in an exploration of values and how they relate to our political institutions may ultimately fail to effect the kind of change that voters want.

### Mark Your Calendars with the Next Monthly Meeting

**Monday, October 1st at the Capilano Golf and Country Club**

**Speaker - Peter Klein, Journalist, Writer and Documentary Filmmaker**



- **Special Events** - details on page 2 ...
- **Annual General Meeting Materials** - details page 4
- **Watershed Tour Report** - details on page 4

## President's Notes



This is my last message for our monthly newsletter and I am amazed how quickly twelve months has flown past. As I have said in the annual report, this has been another successful year for our PROBUS Club, with a solid base of membership, an excellent series of speaker presentations and very enjoyable special events. Your committee chairs have done an excellent job in all these aspects of club activities. The Committee Chairs who will continue in their positions and the new committee chairs I know will carry on this high standard.

Over the past year I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to hear our speakers and then discuss their information and points of view. Each time I see another member socially over the following month we always seem to share our opinions on the topic that was presented or the speakers point of view. This type of discussion is the one of the reasons for being PROBUS members - to be informed, engaged and active members of our North Shore community. Each of us are fortunate to be retired or at least not engaged in day to day work and we should use the opportunity to give back to our friends, neighbours, and our community. My thanks go out to all our members who make these contributions.

Thank you to all those members who took time to make positive comments on last months meeting at the North Vancouver School District offices. The incoming Management Committee will consider this encouraging response when looking at alternate meeting venues.

All the best to everyone.

*John Zaplatynsky*

Contact: [president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca](mailto:president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca)

*Thank  
You*

## Special Events

### VANCOUVER POLICE MUSEUM VISIT AND SINS OF THE CITY WALKING TOUR

**When** - Thursday September 20th from 0900 To Noon.

**Where** - Museum at 240 East Cordova Street

**Cost** - \$20 per person

The Museum Visit will be guided and last about 45 minutes. It will feature such items as "The True Crime Exhibit", Real people, real evidence, and the real story behind Vancouver's most notorious crimes.

On the 90 minute guided walking tour we will learn about Vancouver's legendary history of drugs, scandal, sex, prohibition, and discrimination by stepping through the narrow alleys of Chinatown and into the derelict dens of the Downtown Eastside.

The event will start with the Museum Visit at 0930 and end about Noon in Gastown at the completion of the Sins of The City Walking Tour near a Pub where we will gather for lunch.

Attendance will be limited to a maximum of 20 members so advance sign up is recommended by sending a cheque for \$20.00 to: Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver, P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 4X4.

Please include a note with your name, phone number and email and mark "WALK" on the envelope and advise John Elliott by email.

Your registration is not confirmed until your payment is received.

If any spaces are still available, they will be announced at the meeting.

*John Elliott*

[johns.elliott@telus.net](mailto:johns.elliott@telus.net)



## New Members Introduced and Welcomed at August Meeting



**Hassan Azim** (*member since May 2018*) Hassan was born in Cairo, Egypt. He received a BA from the American University in Cairo and then went on to get his MD after which he immigrated to Canada as a psychiatrist. He worked at McGill University for 15 years primarily in Community

Psychiatry. He was recruited by the University of Alberta where he created and served as a Director of the Psychiatry Department's External Services, as well as being a Clinical Professor in Psychiatry and Family Medicine. In 1994, he moved to BC, and as well as developing his West Vancouver practice, he teaches and is an honorary professor in Psychotherapy in the UBC Department of Psychiatry.



**Doug Forst** (*member since June 2018*) Doug was born in Vancouver, moved to North Vancouver 13 years ago and has always lived in the Vancouver area. He also has always been in the Electronics business. He started with his own company installing PA systems before joining

Western Scale where, for a number of years, he headed up the electronic division and became a partner. Then 20 years ago, he founded CMC Industrial Electronics which became a multinational company manufacturing Hazard monitoring systems for the grain industry. His current interests are fitness, bowling and dancing.



**John Robertson** (*member since July 2018*) John was born in Vancouver and has been living in West Vancouver for 17 years. His career has been spent with BC Hydro working throughout BC and ended managing a team of Engineers providing Asset Management to 300 High Voltage

Substations. He loves to sail and has been on winning crews racing from Victoria to Maui and from Los Angeles to Honolulu. He was Commodore of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club in 2016. Other interests are bridge, occasional golf and travelling.

*Special thanks to photographer Darryl Stodalka*



**Greeters Richard Horsfall and Leo Dear.**  
Richard Syrnyk was also a greeter.



**President John Zaplatynsky welcome new members.**

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER



**If you have not already done so, please mail your cheque, along with a copy of your renewal email previously sent to you on August 6th or bring both along to the September meeting.**



## Report on Capilano Watershed Tour

At 9:00 AM, Thursday August 23rd, 22 North Shore PROBUS members were guided through the Capilano Water Reservoir system. Our guide Luke met us at the Capilano Dam Parking lot and showed us the Capilano Reservoir which is at 65% capacity at this late stage of the summer months. He assured us that there are 3 alpine lakes at about 100 % capacity to draw on while we wait for October rains to resupply the Vancouver Metro District water supply. Although last winter had heavy snowfalls the larger part of Spring runoff must be released because the capacity of both the Capilano and Seymour systems would be overwhelmed. Thus the 60,000,000 litres of Capilano Lake, which is run through tunnels to the Seymour Filtration Plant, is depleted rapidly in the dry summer months.

Our Guide impressed us with the fact that our watershed systems in B.C. are three of only six in North America that are closed to recreational activity, hence the water received by Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam systems are as pristine as Nature can provide. We then walked over to the Cleveland Dam which was built in the early 1950's and the Dyke and Dam Systems. The security of the whole Capilano Drainage System and the maintenance of the considerable valley of the Capilano River was discussed with the fact that there is a 900 year lease in place. There was a lot of forethought at a time when the Greater Vancouver area had a much smaller population than the 2 1/2 million of today and is about to increase by 1 1/2 million in the future.

We then entered the secured area of the reservoir system by bus and proceeded to some historic remains of the early dams and settling ponds that were established around the turn of the century. There were hotels, sawmills and logging operations in the Capilano River valley in those days. We then drove 22 kilometres to an alpine lake and were entertained by a demonstration of how the reservoir water is brought to a safe level by use of filtration, ultraviolet light and a relatively small amount of chlorination. The system of alpine lakes was also described. It is unique in that when needed, the water is drawn down completely by gravitation as the alpine altitude allows this.

Luke then made a plea for the necessity of water conservation because global warming and population growth is putting increasing stress on our sources of the most pristine water in the world. Thus ended the tour and we returned to the parking lot and repaired to the Capilano Heights Chinese Restaurant for lunch. These tours are complimentary but registration is required. Call to register your tour, 604-432-6430. Also visit the website for more information at

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/events/Pages/default.aspx>

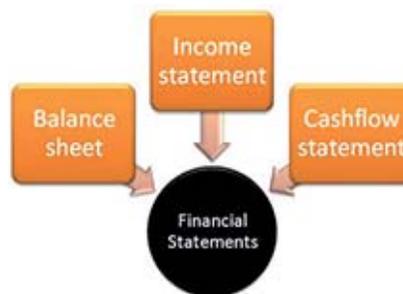
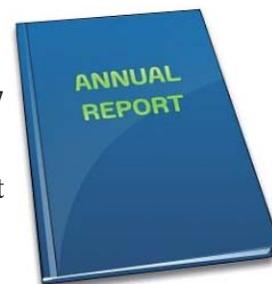
*Jon Strom*

## 2018 AGM Materials

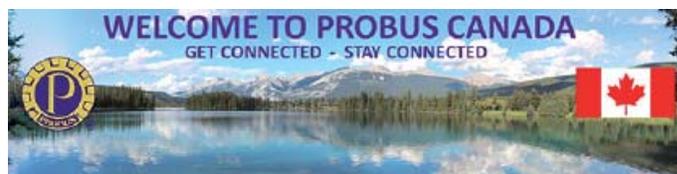
**All materials for the AGM on September 10th are being sent to members prior to the AGM. Please review these items listed below as copies will not be provided at the meeting.**

The 2018/2019 Management Committee proposed slate, to be elected, was included in the August Shorelines. The AGM materials include:

- an Agenda,
- Annual Report,
- Minutes from the 2017 AGM, and
- Financial Statements as at August 31, 2018



## PROBUS Canada New Website



### PROBUS Canada Launches New Website

To learn more about

- PROBUS clubs in Canada,
- International Clubs
- PROBUS Canada executive and directors,
- Club directories
- PROBUS origins and missions
- Member insurance coverage information
- and much more,

then you should visit the new PROBUS Canada website at <https://www.probus.org/>

## Last Month Speaker - Kevin Desmond, Translink



**President John Zaplatynsky thanks speaker Kevin Desmond with a bowl hand crafted by a member.**

“There is no silver bullet”.

This was the brief, pithy remark that ended this month’s presentation by Kevin Desmond, CEO of TransLink. It was an ideal summary of his remarks.

Mr. Desmond has an extensive background in public transportation. He came to Vancouver from Seattle, having previously worked in a number of large cities.

His discussion of the North Shore transportation issues was part of his presentation on the overall plan for TransLink and his approach to public transportation. One fundamental advantage TransLink enjoys over many other agencies in other cities is its willingness to engage in public-private partnerships. It turns out that there are a number of groups who have an interest in particular parts on the TransLink system, and are willing to support development. This way, TransLink does not have to wait for exclusive approval from three levels of government before proceeding on new projects. For example, UBC is willing to consider funding the section of the new Broadway Skytrain line to take it the full distance to the University campus. Developers in Surrey have an interest in funding part of the new line to Surrey as they can then integrate the line with their development plans.

By contrast, Toronto has waited years for approval for one new crosstown line that depends exclusively on government funding. The Toronto Airport train link to downtown, which depended on building a very short link to existing rail lines, was a political football for decades.

What works best in Mr. Desmond’s mind, is the art of the possible. It is better to have workable solutions that work for today, rather than wait many years for grand solutions.

This is his approach to the North Shore issues. Perhaps one day there will be a new bridge, or a tunnel like the one proposed almost a century ago, and maybe these facilities could have dedicated bus lanes, or Skytrain lines. But we

need a solution that is effective for today.

The core issue driving traffic growth on the North Shore in his mind is closely linked to the housing issue. There is more traffic because people who work on the North Shore have to commute longer and longer distances. Burnaby and Maple Ridge have long been bedroom communities for us, but now the area has expanded north to include Squamish. This drives traffic in both directions on the upper level highway in both the morning and evening. Commuting also affects bus service. We are all aware that it is reasonably easy to take a morning bus to downtown Vancouver, as teachers, restaurant workers and day care staff are coming in from the south and east. Trying to take an evening bus when everyone is now heading across the bridge is becoming very unpleasant.

Part of the TransLink solution isn’t to put a Skytrain link to Horseshoe Bay, as it would only partially help solve the commuter traffic, and at very high cost. Better bus service in the Marine Drive – Main St. corridor can provide better access to the Seabus and commuter access to the current Skytrain lines from there. This is the role of the new 99 Express busses coming very soon. Ride sharing, and Uber can have significant roles. It could be possible to take public transport across the bridges and a Skytrain most of the remaining way to a destination, followed by an Uber for the last part of a journey. Better service means this could encourage people to leave cars at home, thus speeding the rest of the traffic.

The secret to good public transportation policy in his mind is not to try for a great overriding visionary plan of integrated transport. The great plans, while laudable as vision statements, tend to fail in meeting immediate community needs. In his mind there are no silver bullets, but perhaps there are plenty of bronze ones.

Mr. Desmond’s presentation is now on the website at <http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/speakers.htm>

*Tom Gunn*

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**The PROBUS Club of North Shore Vancouver**



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Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed  
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