

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

March 2019

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Jim Grey
604-926-9248

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604-980-7922

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604-926-9368

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Gordon Bird
604-988-8280

Special Events:

Gordon Cook
604-921-7393

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 11th

with speaker

Ashlie Corcoran, Artistic Director, Arts Club Theatre Company

“The Arts Club - A New Era”



Originally from White Rock, British Columbia, Ashlie is a theatre and opera director who works across Canada and internationally, at such companies as the Canadian Opera Company (*The Magic Flute*), the Shaw Festival (*Me & My Girl*), Opera Philadelphia (*The Magic Flute*), the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music (*Don Giovanni*), Soundstreams Canada (*Electric Messiah*), Canadian Stage (*Kiss, Das Ding [The Thing]*), Centaur Theatre (*Bed & Breakfast*), Tarragon Theatre (*The Ugly One, Mustard*), the Gateway Theatre (*Don't Dress For Dinner*), as well as many productions at Western Canada Theatre.

Ashlie began her training at Queen's University, Kingston, ON, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree in Drama. She received a Masters Degree in Directing, awarded with distinction, from Goldsmiths College at the University of London. These studies were funded through a British Foreign & Commonwealth Office Chevening Scholarship.

Ashlie is currently the Artistic Director of the Arts Club Theatre Company in Vancouver. She is the co-founder and Artistic Producer of Theatre Smash, for which she has directed seven productions, including the critically acclaimed *The Ugly One*, which received a Dora Award for Outstanding Production and a nomination for Outstanding Direction. From 2012-2017, Ashlie was the Artistic Director of the Thousand Islands Playhouse, where she directed sixteen productions.

Ashlie's theatrical interests are broad – from staging large-scale opera and music theatre, to seeking out contemporary post-dramatic international theatre never before seen in Canada, to developing of new works with writers and creators.

Mark Your Calendars to Attend Our Next Meeting



Monday, April 8th at the Capilano Golf and Country Club

Speaker - Fellow Member Roddy MacKenzie, WWII Bomber Command

- **Special Events** - May 14 Walk and June 12 Tour of LGH, details on page 2 ...

President's Notes



March is PROBUS MONTH. PROBUS is involved solely with the basic principle of fellowship and learning and remaining connected to the world through speakers and programs. The first PROBUS club was formed in England in 1965 and was established in Canada in 1987. As of January 2019, there are 37,000 members in 250 clubs across Canada. There have been seven new clubs since May 2018. The average club across Canada has approximately 140 members and our club has about 370 members. There are also two ladies' clubs on the North Shore and they are close to our size.

We have had some great speakers this past year and last month's speaker was very informative about how our public school system is evolving. Unfortunately, our attendance was impacted by the weather. It's also great to see how many questions we get from our members and how informative the answers are. And of course this is the season for some interesting weather from nice sunny days to days of snow and wind. I am sure many of our members will try to escape south over the next month or two. We continue to have some great speakers planned on a variety of topics. Also, we have a number of special events planned and we will update you at our March meeting.

Jim Grey

Contact: president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

PROBUS Bridge News



The PROBUS Bridge Club will be starting Season 2 of its 16th year in early April. New members are welcome. Play is every Monday afternoon to end of June at the West Vancouver Senior Centre. Contact Phil Boase by e-mail at pjboase@telus.net

Phil Boase

Special Events

BEACONSFIELD HEIGHTS WALK

**With our favourite guide and
Vancouver Historian JOHN ATKIN
Tuesday May 14 at 10:00 am**

Beaconsfield Heights in East Vancouver was once a station on the BCER's interurban line to New Westminster. It is an eclectic neighbourhood with a street grid of odd angles and intersections determined by the alignment of Kingsway, rail lines and the terrain. There are quirky houses and Vancouver's only open ravine and creek which make Beaconsfield Heights a fascinating area to explore.

- We will meet at the 29th Avenue Skytrain Station at 9:45am and the walk will start at 10:00am.
- A restaurant will be selected nearby for us to get together for lunch.
- The cost will be \$15 and will go rain or shine.

To register please send a cheque for \$15.00 to: Probud Club of North Shore Vancouver, P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 4X4, (Indicate "Walk" on the envelope).

John Elliott

PROBUS Golf News



Golf With Your PROBUS Pals April to September

This year a trip to Osoyoos in June is in the preliminary planning stage for a two night trip.

The remainder of the season is in the planning stage and details will be circulated in early April. There is no registration fee but \$10 (for prizes) will be collected at most events. Start times for the remaining 5 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 and lots of camaraderie respond to Phil Boase by e-mail at pjboase@telus.net.

Phil Boase

New Members Introduced and Welcomed at February Meeting



Alan Kemp-Gee (*member since February 2019*) Alan was born in Tunbridge Wells. He became a CA and a CPA.

He worked in Toronto for Peat Marwick and moved to Vancouver at about the same time as it became KPMG. He became a partner and stayed with them until he retired to set up his own financial consulting operation. Current interests include bridge and tennis.



John Linford (*member since February 2019*) John was born in Doncaster, England but moved to Canada and North Vancouver at the age of 10. He went to Delbrook High and then on to study electronics at BCIT.

He worked for various companies gaining experience in audio visual field distribution before setting out on his own in the early eighties, establishing his own company, Pro-Linear Electronics, in 1985. He travelled extensively across Canada distributing product until he sold the business to retire a couple of years ago.

He now has time to enjoy bike riding, skiing, golf and bridge.



George Nightingale (*member since January 2019*) George was born in Winnipeg but received his B.A.Sc. at UBC and promptly moved to Ontario.

As a Professional Engineer he worked for numerous engineering companies in Ontario and Quebec before moving out to Vancouver 40 years ago working for BC Hydro. He did a lot of field helicopter work and claims to have seen every corner of BC. Now retired, he has an interest in sailing.



Ron Stein (*member since January 2019*) Ron was born in Melville, Saskatchewan, received a degree in Pharmacy at UBC.

He worked his way in the profession becoming regional manager for property development for Boots Drug Stores until it was sold. Then he set up his own retail pharmacy consulting company. He has been very active from the beginning of the BC Pharmacy Association - on the board, President and then an honorary life member.



President Jim Grey welcomes new members



Greeters Dave MacLachlan and Arnold Dey



Special thanks to photographer Darryl Stodalka

Last Month Speaker - Mark Pearmain



Speaker Mark Pearmain is thanked by President Jim Grey with a bowl hand crafted by a member.

Mark Pearmain gave a very enthusiastic talk about the North Vancouver School system, and the major changes coming to education in BC. North Vancouver has a total school population of about 16,000 students, 2,500 teaching and support staff, and a budget of \$190 million. 82% of the budget goes to salaries. International students contribute \$14,000 each.

The BC mandate for education is intellectual, social, and career development. These must be met. BC is considered to have one of the best school systems in the world.

He said that most of us would not recognize the progressive schools of today. Students at the higher levels have much more choice in courses, and how they learn. And, as before, there are mini-schools for those students who cannot fit in to the regular classroom. It is even possible, in some cases, for students to do all their work at home and come to school only to write the exams. In the North Vancouver system there will be a significant component of First Nations history and culture. This flexibility will result in fewer dropouts

Coming changes are going to be even greater, and this is being fueled by the laptop, smart phone and the Internet. Technology and the younger generation have moved on; schools must too. Both business and society have the expectation that the education system will train students for the future, not the past. Schools are moving away from the "egg carton" designs for classrooms into ones with greater student mobility and configurations. Argyle is being rebuilt with these concepts in mind.

This is what the new curriculum looks like: "big ideas, curricular competency learning standards, and content learning standards" - to think, to learn, to apply. These goals haven't changed but the approach has. It is more about concepts, analysis, finding the information and applying it to solve a problem than to memorizing and regurgitating facts. All curricular changes are based on a foundation of literacy and numeracy.

In high schools today, when students are given research projects, they will look for information on Google, YouTube and even ask the question on Twitter. He may also go to the library, but it will play a less dominant role. In some schools, the younger students may not be given letter grades but oral assessments which involve the teacher and parents. Older students will still have exams and letter grades. It is expected that this new approach to education will take place over a number of years, and will be fine-tuned.

Ken Bryden

A Few Irish Jokes ...

Walking into the bar, Shamus said to O'Heir the bartender, "Pour me a stiff one - just had another fight with the little woman."

"O, bejabbers," said O'Heir, "And how did this one end?"

'Hah, when it was over,' Shamus replied, 'she came to me on her hands and knees.'

"Really?" cried O'Heir, "now that's a switch! What did she say?"

She said, "Come out from under the bed, Shamus, you little chicken." 

Kearney and his wife, a middle-aged couple, went for a stroll in Phoenix Park, Dublin, last week.

They sat down on a bench to rest. It was then they overheard voices coming from a secluded spot. Immediately Mrs Kearney realised that a young man was about to propose to his beloved.

Not wishing to eavesdrop at such an intimate moment, she nudged her husband and whispered, "Whistle and let that young couple know that someone can hear them."

Kearney replied, "Whistle? Why should I whistle? Nobody whistled to warn me." 

Two Irishmen, Pat and Murphy, saw sign saying "Tree fellers" wanted.

Murphy said to Pat, said, "If only Seamus had been with us we'd have got that job."

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

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