

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

May 2019

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Vol.17 No.5

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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, May 6th

with speaker

John Weston

“How Would You Lead in the 21st Century?”



John Weston is widely regarded as a leader in advising on cases that involve a combination of Law, Government Relations and Indigenous Affairs, areas in which he has excelled for over 35 years.

His national achievements include serving as a Member of Parliament for two terms, stoutly advocating for the people he represented, at home and abroad. He is a lawyer with credentials in three jurisdictions - British Columbia, New York, and the Law Society of England & Wales. He has both national and international experience with Canadian and global law firms, supporting individuals, non-profit organizations, communities and corporations.

In his 35-year professional career, Mr. Weston has mastered the art of negotiating, communicating and building relationships within the context of managing and resolving complex problems. While his legal background is diversified, his passion has always been a highly honed focus on advancing issues of fairness and human rights and helping others in difficult situations. In his two terms as a Member of Parliament with numerous roles and responsibilities, he gleaned exceptional insight into the working of the Canadian Government, its systems, processes, agencies, and most importantly, its people and leaders.

John's academic background includes studies at Harvard and Osgoode Hall Law School, in government, international relations, law, and languages. He is fluent in English, Mandarin, and French, and has capacity in other languages. His experience includes representing clients in cross-border conflict resolution and business negotiation, high-profile constitutional and Indigenous law matters, founding the Canadian Constitution Foundation, and advocating for families with a loved one incarcerated in another country, in Asia, Latin America, the Mideast, and Africa.

Mark Your Calendars to Attend Our Next Meeting

Monday, June 10th at the North Vancouver School District Board Office



Speaker - Dennis Molnar, Historian, “Ten WW2 Stories, Including the Spy Who Inspired James Bond”

Special Events - May 14 Walking Tour, June 12 LGH Tour - details pg. 2 & 3...

President's Notes



May Day, May Day, May Day – it has several meanings but if you follow any of our professional sports teams in Vancouver – hockey, soccer or football – you know that 2018/2019 has not been a high point for any of the teams. Hopefully we will turn the corner and have a top ranked team although the Canucks did not have to worry about the playoffs, the Whitecaps are not off to a great start and so we will have to bet on the Lions. We can also look forward to some interesting times politically. We have just finished the provincial election in Alberta which was quite a challenging event and could lead to some interesting times. Our Premier in Ontario is a Canadian version of Donald Trump. Brexit continues on with no clear resolution in sight. And of course, we will have our own federal election in the Fall which could also prove to be an interesting one as well. May will also bring Mother's Day and although most of our mothers are no longer with us, we can celebrate wives and daughters. May should also bring some consistently warm and hopefully dry weather for those of us who golf. Our Special Events team has also got a great walk for us planned at Beaconsfield Heights.

Our speaker in April...Roddy McKenzie...was excellent and very knowledgeable and committed to the importance of our Canadian Bomber Command in the Second World War. I keep thinking that I am quite knowledgeable about the great wars, but we have had a couple of speakers this year that make me realize that there are lots of facts and information that I was just not aware of. Certainly I now appreciate just how important Bomber Command was to our victory in the war and how important Canada's involvement was.

Our May meeting will be at Capilano but please remember that meetings in June, July and August will be at the North Vancouver School District Board office on Lonsdale.

Jim Grey

Contact: president@probuss-northshorevancouver.ca

Special Events

BEACONSFIELD HEIGHTS WALK with JOHN ATKIN

**Explore Vancouver's History and Architecture
with our Favourite Guide and
Vancouver Historian
Tuesday May 14 at 10:00 am**

We will meet at the 29th Ave. Sky Train Station at 9:45am and the walk will start at 10:00am.

The walk will finish at noon at the Sky Train Station and a restaurant nearby is being researched for lunch.

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.

The Beaconsfield Heights area was heavily promoted from 1909 until WW1 when the economy slowed. The area took its name from the school and the "heights" was a nod to the CPR's newly announced Shaughnessy Heights subdivision. This is a walking tour not to be missed!

John has given many walking tours for PROBUS in recent years. His tours are always popular. This tour will be limited to 25 participants (members plus one guest per member). We suggest you sign up as soon as possible.

To register please send a cheque for \$15.00 per person to: PROBUS Club of North Shore, PO Box 92042, West Vancouver, BC V7V 4X4 (mark WALK on THE envelope).

Also include a note with your cheque advising:

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

Cheque enclosed for \$ _____

Registration also before, after or at May 6th PROBUS meeting (unless sold out).

Your registration is not confirmed until payment is made.

Also, just a heads up that we are working on a tour of the **Vancouver Harbour Air Control Tower**. As this is a small facility with only room for a limited number at a time, we are looking at combining it with a visit to the **Vancouver Port Control Centre** that is located nearby. The tentative date for these two visits is for late September - early October.

John Elliott

Last Month Speaker - Roddy MacKenzie



President Jim Grey thanks Speaker Roddy MacKenzie with a bowl hand crafted by a member.

The Relationship of Canada with Bomber Command in World War II

The March presentation by PROBUS Club member Roddy Mackenzie demonstrated his knowledge, love and passion for a significant but underappreciated role Canadians played in ending the battle against Nazi Germany in the closing years of World War II. The inspiration for Roddy to research and develop our presentation and others he has done came from his father, Roland W. Mackenzie, who served in Bomber Command, the leadership of Sir Winston Churchill, and his friendship with the late Brooke Campbell.

The presentation included four key submissions – the vital role the Bomber Command played in the victory; the failure of Canada to remember the Bomber Command; the incorrect view of their leader Sir Arthur Harris; and the lack of understanding of the post traumatic stress the members of Bomber Command suffered as a result of the cost and experiences of their service.

Bomber Command included the four Commonwealth air forces – Australia, Britain, Canada, and New Zealand – joined by the US Army 8th Air Force in the late stages of the war. Of the Commonwealth countries, only Canada had its own Group within Bomber Command, based in Yorkshire. Early on, Churchill recognized the importance of air power, saying “the Navy can lose us the war but only the Air Force can win it....the fighters are our salvation ...but the bombers alone provide the means for victory”. Canadian Prime Minister, WL MacKenzie King, knew a powerful Air Force required an enormous number of highly trained air crew and signed an agreement with the other Commonwealth countries that led to the training of 137,000 aircrew in Canada.

Despite the contribution to the war effort, the Bomber Command is not honoured by Canadians. Many older Canadians are misinformed of its role and younger Canadians know nothing. Much of this relates to the con-

troversy of the bombing of Dresden in the late stages of the war. A CBC documentary, in Roddy’s view, presented an incomplete picture of the intention and results of that bombing. German propaganda after bombing inflated the number deaths during the bombing while current German leader, Angela Merkel, has revealed a much lower number.

Another controversy relates to the role of Sir Arthur Harris, who was the Commander in Chief of Bomber Command from February 1942 until the end of the war. He was a highly regarded leader by many other military leaders and inspired his air crew in spite of heavy casualties. The men who served in Bomber Command faced some of the most difficult odds of anyone fighting the war. The regular duration for a tour of duty was 30 combat sorties. During the bombing raids the losses were horrific – over 80,000 casualties, with 55,573 killed – 20 % were Canadians. The raids reduced Allied casualties through the destruction of railways, bridges, fuel and communications centres. The bombing also forced the German Army and Luftwaffe into defensive positions instead of attacking Allied forces, as well as playing a vital role during the D Day invasion and the Battle of the Bulge near the end of the war. Following the war many German military leaders confirmed how effective the bombing was in ending the war.

Roddy’s fourth and final point was the tragedy that the trauma experienced by the air crews was not recognized and understood at that time. What we now know as post-traumatic stress disorder was labelled “Lack of Moral Fibre” or cowardice. Young, inexperienced pilots were required to return to duty even after very traumatic experiences with terrible consequences. After the war returning aircrew carried deep PTSD and emotional scars that were passed on to offspring or caused anger and emotional issues within families. Their sons never really understood what their fathers went through or how it impacted them in later years. Roddy has made it a mission to create a greater recognition of these issues and find ways to achieve better appreciation by Canadians of the role played by Bomber Command.

John Zaplatynsky

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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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