

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

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Monday, November 8th Zoom Meeting - 9:30AM

**Maureen McGrath, Host of the Sunday Night Health Show
and Author of *Sex and Health***

“Maintaining Overall and Sexual Health as We Age”



Maureen McGrath is a Registered Nurse, Nurse Continence Advisor (NCA) and Sexual Health Educator. She hosts the Sunday Night Health Show, a National radio program on the Global Network that educates listeners about sexual health and overall health as we age. It airs live every Sunday Night on 980 AM. She sees patients at her clinical practice in Vancouver and now virtually. Her website is <https://maureenmcgrath.com/>

Maureen was awarded grant funding in 2009 to establish four Bladder Care Clinics across the province of British Columbia. She received the Vancouver Coastal Health Award for Nursing Excellence in 2008. She has been affiliated with Vancouver Coastal Health in variety of positions, including Head Nurse for Perinatal and Paediatric Services and Research Manager for the International Collaboration for Repair Discovery.

Maureen is the Chair of the BC Chapter of the Canadian Nurse Continence Advisor Association. She is a Member of the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health. She has developed on-line resources for Catheter Care as well as Provincial Guidelines for Bladder Care. Maureen has served on the board of the North Shore Health Care Awards for Outstanding Achievement from 2007-2010.

Mark Your Calendars with These Important Dates



Monday, December 13th

Christmas Luncheon, West Vancouver Yacht Club, details pg 3
November 8^h Pre-Meeting Coffee Session - details page 2

President's Notes



Welcome fellow PROBUS Members. This is my preferred medium to provide updates on progress of our club rather than during the general meetings. We try to keep the business aspect of our general meetings as brief as possible so as to focus on the speaker.

We are nearing the end of our membership renewal period. Dale Douglas reports that we have 242 renewals and 6 new members to welcome. He and Linda Metcalfe (our Uber administrator) recently called 30 members to ask about their intentions to renew their membership. It is likely to have at least 11 of these people renew. That would bring us up to 265 members going into our 2021-2022 year. That is not far off of last year's position. I encourage you to tell your friends about our Probus club and invite them to attend a meeting as a guest to see what we are about. Please remember that we are a combined club meaning that men and women are welcomed.

We have learned that quite a number of members prefer the in-person meetings where we can mingle and see our friends. We on the management committee share that sentiment and are working to make this happen. However, our next meeting on November 8th will be by Zoom again. With protocols changing weekly, we hope that we can have in person meetings in the New Year. To that end, the communications team is testing out equipment that will be needed to run hybrid meetings. We recognize that some members may be hesitant at first to attend meetings in person, so we intend to stream the meetings using Zoom at the same time. *That is a hybrid meeting.*

John Elliott and his team have a great line up of speakers well into 2022 so there is promise of another exiting year for our members.

Darryl Stodalka

Contact: president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca



November 8th Coffee Session



The November 8th Zoom coffee session will take place 8:35 - 9:10am on ZOOM prior to our monthly meeting. Three (3) rooms will appear once logged-in. One can move to different rooms to meet others and add to conversations. Your topics will be 'ad-lib' just as they were for in-person coffee gatherings.

Members will be sent log-in instructions for the Coffee Room and the regular Meeting Webinar -- end one and into the latter. Remember, your virtual presence will add to the enjoyment for each other.

Good progress is being made on securing our in-person meeting location. It will be formally reviewed at the next MC meeting and hopefully announced starting in the New Year.

Terry McLeod, Acting House Chair

New Members Introduced and Welcomed at October Meeting



John Ashurst, originally from England, has lived in West Vancouver for over 25 years. His field of work is IT management. He holds a B.Sc in Mathematics and has worked for British Aircraft and BC Hydro in various management positions. John's interests are golf and bridge.

Douglas Bruce, originally from Ottawa, has lived in BC for over 35 years. He is a Professional Engineer by trade and has held positions with Sandwell, Hydro Quebec, and H A Simons in various countries including France, USA and South America, specializing in energy systems and air emission control. Doug's interests include fitness, world news and events, travel and skiing.



Special Events



Christmas Luncheon Update

Come celebrate with us at the West Vancouver Yacht Club on December 13th! COVID regulations now permit us to hold an in-person Christmas Luncheon with a guest speaker this year. The facilities have been booked, the menu has been set and work progresses on arrangements being made for entertainment after lunch. Additional details to follow. If you wish to attend and haven't already signed up, let me know at magoon@telus.net.

Doug Magoon, Special Events Chair

Indian Arm Cruise and Wigwam Inn Tour

Alex Wood, member of our PROBUS Club and of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, volunteered to take a group of up to 15 club members on his 44-foot boat for a cruise up Indian Arm and visit to the historic Wigwam Inn. The cruise was originally planned for Wednesday, September 22nd but on Saturday, September 18th, Alex and I decided to change the date to Friday, September 24th because the Wednesday, September 22 weather was looking pretty ugly for such an outing. We only lost two participants because of the date change so 14 of us, including Alex, enjoyed a beautiful cruise in perfect weather on Friday.

Alex was a very gracious host. There were no operational restaurant facilities at Wigwam Inn so John Walker, Special Events Committee member, did an excellent job of sourcing and delivering to the group a menu of salads and sandwiches from which participants pre-selected and were awaiting them on-board Alex's boat. Everyone seemed to enjoy their bag lunches.

Doug Magoon, Special Events Chair



A Special Zoom Presentation

The Sunshine Women's PROBUS Club of Waterloo had some special speakers in their September club ZOOM meeting and are permitting Canadian PROBUS clubs to view the meeting recording. Their guest speakers were **Dr David and Mrs Sharon Johnston**.

Dr and Mrs Johnston had many interesting experiences in Rideau Hall when Dr David Johnston was Canada's Governor General. These very busy people have written books and received honorary degrees for their continuing service to Canadians. Click this link to view the meeting. <https://youtu.be/IVHUUuWBp0>



Also the New Market PROBUS Club has videos posted of their meetings on their website. Check the list here. <https://www.mensprobusclubofnewmarket.ca/videos.html>

In Memoriam

In remembrance of members who passed this year:

Art Eberwein
Wayne King
Don Leier
Robert Paterson
Gary Sutherland
Wayne Williams



*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 Tennison*

Five Amazing People Stories from WWII

Most of these stories are not widely known.

1. Our first story is how the smallest handwriting in the world was used in WWII for messages carried by pigeons. Messenger Pigeons were used very widely during WWII by both sides. British Secret Service had a division called MI14D that was focused on German intelligence and had something called SPS – Special Pigeon Service. In April 1941 the British dropped pigeons on Continental Europe. Why? This was an easy way to communicate with the resistance. The dropped pigeons came with a toolkit including food and instructions on feeding the pigeons, a message kit with tubes to attach to the legs, and a list of questions that the British wanted answers to. They started on April 1st, and 10 days later the first pigeon returned.

I'll talk about message #37 which came back from Belgium in July and there were 3 parties involved in the message – The Debaille Family, Fr. Joseph Raskin, and Hector Joisaise. The family documented their steps in receiving the pigeon in photos, which were shown during the presentation. Having pictures was a huge risk, as they would be executed if the Germans saw the photos. They answered the questions and attached them to the pigeon and launched it. A picture of the paper was shown and it was rice paper that was only 8cm by 9cm in size, only a little bigger than a credit card. The letters in the cursive writing of the message were so tiny - .0007 inches - you could fit 12 standard size sheets of paper with information on it, an incredible feat using 1 bird.

The messages were acted on by the British, including the request for more pigeons as they had lots to tell. The Germans knew that pigeons were being dropped on the Continent and they had hunters searching for and shooting them, as well as using falcons to kill the pigeons. This group became part of the Belgian Resistance. Unfortunately the Germans found the family and they were executed in August 1943. It took a long time to identify who did this minute handwriting. I saw that the father was holding the pen that was used to write these letters and amazingly the script was half the width of a human hair. No one really knows how he did it.

There were other ways of communicating with the Resistance. You could carry it on your person but the Germans searched thoroughly and if caught with a message, you would be executed. You could use a wireless set, but had to get your hands on one, and there weren't enough. You also had to maintain the set as they were unreliable and spare parts were hard to get. This was also risky as the Germans had trucks that could locate where the transmissions were coming from.

2. The Dickin Medal of WWII is for Gallantry and is not well known. The medal was awarded twice. One was awarded on D-Day. Troops had landed on the beaches and they were to go behind enemy lines. The British ships were supposed to shell a gun battery, after which the troops were to take the beach. But the troops arrived early and a message needed to get to the British to tell them not to shell the gun battery. A spy called the “Duke of Normandy” managed to get the message to the Beaches and the gun battery was not shelled and remained in British hands. This spy got awarded Dickin Medal 45, of a total of 75 medals awarded during WWII.

The second one is code name “Mary” who did five trips from France to Britain carrying messages from the Underground of the French Resistance. She was wounded on two trips, once in the arm and once in the neck. This is incredible bravery – what profession did she have in Civilian life? Mary was a messenger pigeon, wounded in a wing and then in the throat!

3. Coca-Cola in WWII. The President of Coke decided that every soldier, no matter where they are in the world, should be able to buy a Coke for 5 cents. They had 64 bottling plants all around the world. The US military deemed it to be an essential morale building product, so all the troops had access to it. In 1943 Eisenhower personally ordered 3 million bottles and 2 refills, but sugar was in short supply and it was rationed. There was a sugar rationing board to deal with this. Coke had a representative on this board, and so Coke got all the sugar they wanted – Pepsi did not. How many bottles were sold to WWII troops? 16 billion! The biggest decision to make for D-Day was whether to land the Coke with the first wave of troops or the second. They decided to split the deliveries. Because of WWII Coke created a successful global brand.

When WWII broke out, Coke did not give Germany the formula so they invented their own soft drink - Fanta. It is a formula very unlike Coke. In naming it, employees were told to “fantasize” and that's how the name came about.

4. The “Uncatchable Double Agent of WWII”. Pigeons again. British pigeons went to work for the Germans. Germans released two pigeons from a weather ship in the North Sea and the British caught them. The head of the British Secret Pigeon Service had the idea to copy the German identification rings and message tubes on their pigeons, attach them to weak pigeons and release them over East Germany. The Germans would then use the weak pigeons that would fly a limited distance they would land still in Germany, and then become double agents. The receiving Germans would include their messages to Germany and release them to return, but they returned to British pigeon lofts from where they originated.

Last Month Speaker - Dennis Molnar

Pigeon facts - every British bomber that went to Germany took two pigeons so if the bomber went down the pigeons would be released with location information. There were 7,000 pigeon lofts in Britain. During WWII the British dropped 16,000 pigeons onto the Continent and the total number used was about 200,000. A pigeon named Royal Blue that returned from a bomber crash enabled the pilot and crew to be rescued and was awarded Dickon Medal #60. It was owned by King George 6th which made the Medal a coveted item for others to be in the same league.

5. The final story is of the woman who sank five German U-Boats in one day. In Liverpool, they coordinated all the sea traffic between North America and Britain. A woman (WREN – Women’s Royal Naval Service) plotted all the ships on a huge map. The tactical unit was headed by Captain Roberts and his objective was to reduce the loss of ships and U-Boats and he used war games to teach strategies to others. They had ten minutes to determine their moves and then instructed the WRENS to do the moves on the map. One man was called the U-Boat killer from WWI who knew how they operated and their tactics, but Capt Roberts wasn’t convinced on the tactic. During discussions they had a breakthrough, and ignored the prior tactic for the U-Boats and they created new tactics. The Admiral came to play the game and his boat was sunk. Very upset, he asked to see who sunk his boat. It was a WREN – a woman and not a commissioned officer – unbelievable! Until then he had had little respect for women, and called them all WREN. So they played again and she sunk his boat five times. He promoted her to become a military analyst and said that the WRENS should manage the game. Over 5,000 Officers were trained by this tactical unit, included King George the 6th, and Prince Phillip.

Questions

Q1 Is today’s technology a factor in doing your research?

A Yes. Google is amazing. You hear about something and want to know more so you start to search. One item leads to another and you eventually find the story. I’m working on Part 4 of this series and I heard about a man on BBC Witness history. A fluent German speaker that put together propaganda for the German stations. 99% of the information was true, but the rest was not – he made up stories about the Nazis. He was brilliant but many were upset by what he did. Churchill wanted to fire him three times.

Q2 How many “German spies” ie pigeons operating in Northern UK were caught by the diverted pigeons released in Eastern Germany before returning to the London area?

A I have to give you conflicting information. My previous information said that Britain rounded up almost all of them and that there were virtually none operating. Yet, the information I got when looking into the pigeon situation was that part of MI14 did this plan and were successful at getting German spies in the UK to use British pigeons and get a hold of their messages. About German spies operating in England, when they were captured, they were given the choice of quiet trial and execution or come work for Britain, and most of them did go work for Britain.

Q3 Are you familiar with the goings-on in a village in the Netherlands in 1945?

A No.

This summary was prepared by member Darlene Dean

PROBUS Global

Now that travel restrictions are being lifted and many of our members may resume travelling to international destinations, you may wish to join PROBUS Global at <https://probusglobal.org/>



It’s free to join, and you have access much information and benefits from this online PROBUS organization such as:

- Finding and learning about PROBUS clubs all over the world, reading their newsletters, attending their membership meetings by Zoom, connecting with their members.
- Have an instant PROBUS connection in many countries when you travel and also have the opportunity to learn about the worldwide travels of other PROBUS members.
- Becoming an email or chat pal with PROBUS members worldwide or joining chatrooms with other such PROBUS members.
- Access the PROBUS Global newsletter.
- Join a PROBUS Global interest group and many other benefits.



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