

# Shorelines

## NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

July 2022

[www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca](http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca)

Vol.20 No.07

### Management Committee

**President:**  
Darryl Stodalka

**Vice President:**  
Gord Cook

**Secretary:**  
Vacant

**Treasurer:**  
Gordon Adair

**Past President:**  
Ron Wood

**Communications:**  
Terry McLeod

**House:**  
Terry McLeod\*

**Membership:**  
Dale Douglas

**Speakers:**  
John Elliott

**Special Events:**  
Doug Magoon

\*Interim

### Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> Hybrid Meeting

West Vancouver Yacht Club, 5854 Marine Dr., Coffee/Buns 8:30, Meeting 9:30

*with speaker*

**Kevin Obermeyer,**

**Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Pilotage Authority,**

*“Navigational Safety on the West Coast of Canada.”*



Kevin Obermeyer is a Master Mariner who hails from South Africa and has been intimately associated with the sea since early childhood.

He served in the South African Navy and Merchant Navy and has held positions in various ports including Prince Rupert and Nanaimo, British Columbia. Capt. Obermeyer joined the Pacific Pilotage Authority in 1999 as Director of Marine Operations and was appointed Chief Executive Officer in 2006. His many years of deep sea shipping experience and marine management have given him a vast amount of practical experience in the marine and administrative fields, especially where vessel safety and operations are concerned.

*Happy  
Canada Day  
July 1st*



### Mark Your Calendars with These Important Dates



**August 8th** - Dr. John J Clague, Professor and Shrum Chair in Science at Simon Fraser University, *“Earthquake and Tsunami Risk in Coastal BC.”*

**September 12th** - Hugh Kelsey, The Royal Canadian Marine Safety and Rescue, Unit One, *Its People and Mission”*

## President's Notes



Fellow PROBUS members, welcome to summer. Now the days get shorter for another 5+ months, hard to imagine. It is good to get a few days of heat to give us faith in the seasons.

We are fast approaching our AGM on September 12, 2022. We the members of your management team are working to ensure that we have a full slate of people to fill all the vacant positions for the coming new fiscal year. We still need help. I have often told prospective members what an easy club this is to belong to. It seems like many of our members have taken this notion too seriously. If you have had the joy of membership for a few years with no responsibility, then I ask you to consider putting your name forward to help out in the management of our fine club.

We have yet to identify a speaker chair, treasurer, communications chair and alternate scribe. The concept of divide and conquer aptly applies to our management team. The structure that we have ensures that anyone of the team is not heavily loaded with tasks. We meet once a month by Zoom for about 1.5 hours to review club issues and make decisions. Individual tasks may involve a few hours additional each month. We make new friends and have the satisfaction of seeing our club thrive.

These roles have been described more fully in the May issue of Shorelines. I am happy to chat with any member who might like to learn more about any of these opportunities.

We will continue to present our meetings in person at the West Vancouver Yacht Club and we will stream the meetings live using Zoom as well. We look forward to seeing all of you soon.

*Darryl Stodalka, President,*



## Special Events



The Special Events Committee is working on two events opportunities for the coming months. We are investigating potential dates in late July or early August for a three-hour paddle boat luncheon cruise for members and spouses in the Fraser River between New Westminster and Fort Langley. It will be an opportunity for a relaxing and informative cruise on a historic section of the Fraser River. We will be releasing information to members via direct email as soon as the date is finalized.

The committee is also finalizing details of a September visit to Squamish to visit Carbon Engineering, a carbon dioxide sequestration technology development site, when their post-covid visitor policy is implemented, or alternately, to the West Coast Railway Heritage Park where the history of BC Electric, BC Rail and their historical collection of railway equipment can be viewed.

The Squamish excursion, for which transportation utilizing West Vancouver Seniors Centre buses may be offered, will include a ride up the Squamish Gondola and a mountain-top lunch.

Details will be circulated via direct email to members when the tour is ready to launch.

*Doug Magoon, Special Events Chair*

## Pacific Sciences Enterprise Centre Tour Report

The events committee led by Doug Magoon managed to "Hockey stick its way to a successful tour of the Pacific Sciences Enterprise Center on Thursday June 23rd. The second event this year had to be postponed in mid May due to a serious weather Event forecast. The participants were given a raincheck and persevered and some 20 of us attended on a brilliant sunny June afternoon.

Amy Elvidge is the education outreach liaison for the facility which incorporates a lot of school student programs as well as those for industry. She welcomed us, provided us with masks and divided us into two groups. One group was led on a tour and the other was treated to a lecture by a researcher Kyle Wellbrand. We switched places later.

Amy briefed the Tour group on the history of the facility

## Pacific Sciences Enterprise Centre Tour Report Cont'd

before leading us through the impressive Federal building. Its origins were as a fish packing plant in West Vancouver's early years. Then the Federal Fisheries bought the property and used it as a Federal Fisheries research center. Now it has evolved into a centre for studies of the ocean and freshwater investigations for environmental knowledge that will aid the public and industry to better use this resource in the future. It is unique in all of Canada because it has three sources of natural water supply at one site. This is wonderful because they can control the quality for research purposes. They can choose between the Ocean water, Cypress Creek and ground water from a well.

After an extensive review of multiple laboratories and a quick précis of their research activity, we were thoroughly impressed with the scope of operations. Many scientists and researchers were involved with studies of different salmon species. Studies of micro plastics and their dispersal through the various ecosystems, both oceanic and inland salmon species, are a special concern and differentiating farmed and wild varieties is most important as they both have such an economic impact in our province. When we had exhausted the labyrinth of various labs we returned to the meeting room and exchanged places with the other group.

We were introduced to Kyle Wellbrand, a youngish researcher who has been doing deep research on the Atlantic salmon raised in Canada's oldest fish hatchery located on the Miramichiee river in New Brunswick. He is interested in solving a disquieting puzzle. Why are hatchery raised wild salmon smolts less efficient than wild smolts who run free to their ocean environment at returning to their spawning grounds after some years and do not produce enough offspring to sustain their populations? The answer to this question is important as our salmon populations in Canada are declining rapidly. There is a suspicion that placing wild smolts in a hatchery setting may be detrimental to their development. Kyle is suspicious that there is an epigenetic factor disrupting their DNA. This may be due to the methylation disruption of the hatchery fish DNA. Very interesting research that shows how much more we need to know about our oceans and rivers if we want sustainable fisheries and why we are lucky to have such a facility in West Vancouver.

We then rejoined the other group to visit the fish tanks outdoors and saw many of the fish being subjected to various studies. For a country bounded by three oceans and the most fresh water in the world, what a facility to have in our community

*Jon Strom, Events Committee*

## New Members Introduced and Welcomed at June Meeting



Greg Howard is originally from Vancouver and has lived on the North Shore for over 30 years and attended BCIT and UBC. His career background is in the production of custom injection moldings with Columbia Plastics where he became majority owner.

He spent several years as Chairman of the Board at the Harvest Project and Chair of the Canadian Manufactures Association. Greg's interests include boating, Cabin ownership, and spending time with family.



Hugh Millar hails from Scotland and has resided here for 22 years. Hugh has a BA in History and Political Science from UBC and a Master of Social Work from the University of Windsor Ontario. His career has been devoted to social work with many charitable organizations as well family and children services in Toronto, Windsor, and Kamloops.

His interests include bridge, travel and hiking and serving in various roles with Elder College, North Shore Emergency, and other community organizations.



Paul Taylor was born in London England and has lived on the North Shore for 48 years. Paul received his medical degree in England and obtained residency at St. Pauls Hospital and UBC. Furthermore, he completed a Fellowship to Duke University and has worked as a Kidney

Specialist at St.Pauls, Lions Gate, St Joseph and various locations throughout BC and the Yukon. Paul's interests include travel, reading and gardening

*Dale Douglas, Membership Chair*

## Last Month Speaker - Mark Milke

Mark Milke, PhD, Author, and Columnist on “The Victim Cult”

This presentation started with a story about a 3-year-old girl (Lydia) in Ukraine in 1914. He described her home as simple and basic with handmade furniture and she was one of 15 children - 8 boys and 7 girls. This family wanted to move to Canada, and they received some money from a relative in Edmonton to help them. War broke out in 1915 and they were on the move travelling thousands of miles ending up in Siberia in 1917 on a Mennonite farm. In 1920 the farm was invaded, the horses, food and owner were taken never to be seen again. In early 1927 the family finally made it to Canada. Lydia was Mark’s grandmother.

Before moving on, a short history of victimization and tragedy in our world is provided. Throughout history, civilizations have been treated badly. Jews in Spain in 1491 were cast across the Mediterranean the next year. In Africa people were taken as slaves; women in China were subjected to foot-binding; other civilizations expected women to throw themselves on the funeral pyre of their husband; from 1850-1950 those of Asian descent were treated badly; Japanese were put in internment camps. Men were at the top of the privilege scale. During WWII there were huge casualties of men killed or injured. How does one measure the suffering?

The world has prospered in the last 70-80 years, but still there are people oppressed such as the genocide in Rwanda which resulted in a million people being killed.

Victim cults are people who are always looking for someone to blame for actual or perceived wrongs. There are problems with this - identifying the wrong cause and effect links and flight from responsibility (even terrorists see themselves as victims). “Someone else is always to blame”. Victim cults become existential threats to other civilizations.

In the early 1800’s the Germans saw themselves as victims. If only they could be “pure” like before...this thinking causing a dislike of any foreign influence, racial and/or cultural purity different from theirs and considering these to be contaminants. He added that cultural sharing is actually a good thing citing the example that Europeans dumped the Roman Numeral System for the Numerical System they adopted from India. In the late 1800’s Germany was invaded by France and abused - how could this happen to a great country? What did they do to be invaded?

Another example is St. Paul’s Cathedral which, after 1400 years, was bombed. This represented an attack on English civilization.

A different example was made of Cane and Abel. In the

story, Cane sacrifices vegetables, and Abel sacrifices meat to God, who accepted Abel’s gift only, leaving Cane to have a seed of doubt, and feel like a victim.

How do you escape Victim Cults? Chinese and Japanese people are now at the “top of the heap”. In the 1940’s and 1950’s they came to California during the gold rush. They triumphed over prejudice through relentless push-back against discrimination. They refused to be victims. With an integrationist aim, they focused on entrepreneurship and education. In 1910 the education for children of Asian and Japanese was about the same. By 1920/30 these children attended high school and were graduating in far greater numbers than Americans.

Even in the Gulag, people had choices. Grandma Lydia had a 13-year journey. In Edmonton she met her husband and they married in 1933. They wanted others in their family to move to Edmonton, but they didn’t come. In 1939 Germany invaded Poland. 3 brothers died, and in 1942 Great Grandfather died on the farm. Grandfather said if only the brothers had listened and moved to Canada, they would be alive. The Grandparents never complained but made the best of things. They were real victims of others but never thought of themselves as victims and were grateful for their new life. If they looked back at all, they would bring the best forward, like roses, fruit and vegetables which were their best memories of life on the farm.

### Questions

Q1. Reflecting on this syndrome, there are those that want to champion the “victim” group.

A. I wrote a chapter on this. Entire civilizations have collapsed based on this. For example: Indigenous Canadians didn’t have a vote; Jews couldn’t get into university. People use this to explain results in the present.

Most of the world has been tribal and had collectives. Slavery affected all civilizations, the African enslaved Europeans. For all this, there is no cause-and-effect link. The further in the past the event occurred, the weaker the link is to today. Western academics make the wrong cause and effect links. Bill Clinton blames 911 on the Crusades which is a stretch.

For more information contact [Victimcult.com](http://Victimcult.com).

*This summary was prepared by member Darlene Dean*

## A Little Humour and a Quote



"ALL RIGHT, EDNA, WHERE ARE MY GOLF CLUBS ?"

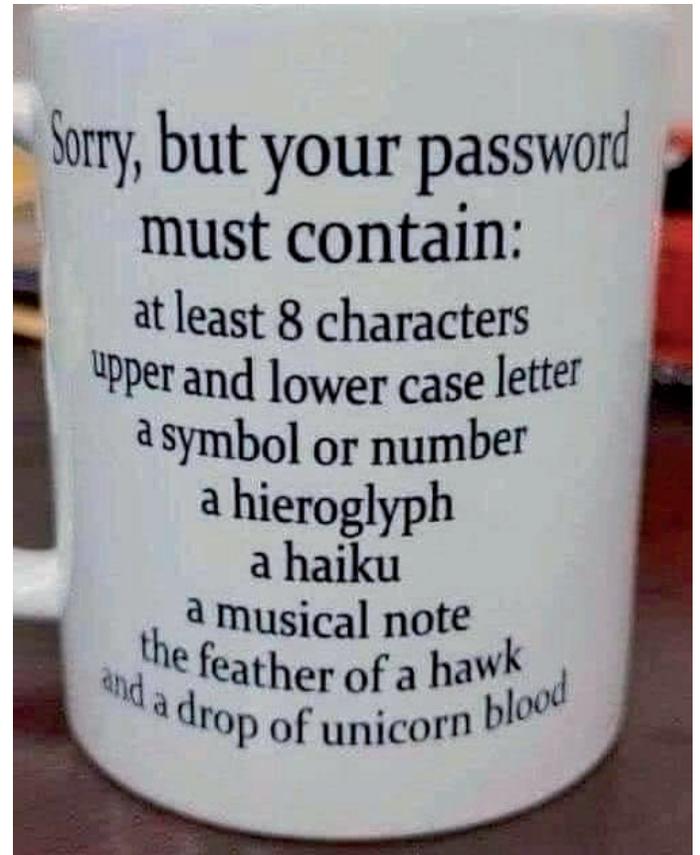
**“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.” -**

*Winston Churchill*

**Boss: Do you believe in life after death?**

**Employee: Certainly not! There's no proof of it.**

**Boss: Well, there is now. After you left early yesterday to go to your uncle's funeral, he came here looking for you.**



When people get mad and speed past you and y'all end up at the same red light together



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**The Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver**

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

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