

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

October 2022

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Management Committee

President:
Gord Cook

Vice President:
Terry McLeod

Secretary:
David Walker

Treasurer:
Gordon Adair

Past President:
Darryl Stodalka

Communications:
Steve Wilson

House:
Rick Ryan

Membership:
Dale Douglas

Speakers:
Gordi Moore

Special Events:
Doug Magoon

Monday, October 3rd In-Person Meeting

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

with guest speaker

**Captain Gordon Houston, President and CEO
of Vancouver Port Authority, President and
CEO of Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (Retired),
“The Amalgamation of the Three Lower Mainland Ports”**



Born and raised on the Island of Bute on the West Coast of Scotland, Gordon served in the British Merchant Navy for 24 years, the last 11 in command of vessels up to 85,000 tonnes. In 1988 he retired from traveling the world and was appointed as Harbour Master for the Port of Prince Rupert.

In 1991 he was offered the position of Harbour Master for the Port of Vancouver and was promoted to Vice President of Operations in 1996 and was appointed President & CEO for the Vancouver Port Authority in 2001. Instrumental in the amalgamation of the 3 ports in the Lower Mainland, he was appointed as President of the newly formed Port Metro Vancouver in December 2007 and retired in March 2009.

Opened a Marine Consultancy firm from 2009-2017 advising on Cargoes, Terminal placement, design and construction, mainly in China but also in USA and South America.

Served as Vice-Chair of the Global Transportation Hub Authority in Regina, as a member of the Board of the National Maritime Centre of the Pacific and Yukon, and a member of the Advisory Council for “Seeing is Believing” an organization specializing in Youth at Risk.

Gordon is married to his wife Kathleen of 50 years and together have done several walks around 180-200 km. Gordon is an amateur musician, and plays several instruments.

Several of his past affiliations include: Chair Association of Canadian Port Authorities, Chair Greater Vancouver Gateway Council, Chair WESTAC Executive Committee, Chair Missions to Seafarers, a Charitable Organisation, and Chair National Marine and Industry Council. and Chair-Conference Board of Canada Transportation Council.

Mark Your Calendars with These Important Dates



November 14th - Dennis Molnar, Historian, “*Making the World a Smaller Place: The Kiel and North Sea Canals.*”

December 12th - Annual Christmas Luncheon - *more details to follow*

President's Notes



As I start my first message as your new president, two thoughts come to mind.

The first is what an outstanding job our past two presidents, Ron Wood and Darryl Stodalka have done in keeping the club alive and functioning during COVID. It is only through theirs' and their various committees' hard work that our club was kept alive and functioning. During that period, we continued to have regular meetings with very interesting speakers, albeit via Zoom, and had what special events we could under those very difficult circumstances. Without everyone's hard and creative work that would not have been possible. Now, as it appears that the worst of the pandemic may be behind us, this brings me to my second thought. That is at looking forward to the upcoming PROBUS year.

During the pandemic our membership dropped only slightly, but now that we are back to in-person monthly meetings, attendance has dropped significantly. Where we could have expected over 100 in-person attendees pre-COVID, we are now experiencing less than half of that. We are not unique in that situation. Most of the clubs across Canada are experiencing the same. So, I ask myself why, and what can we do to reverse that trend.

Part of that trend may have been that, as long as we had hybrid meetings, in-person and via Zoom, it was often easier just to stay home and watch. However, by doing that we were missing out on two of the key purposes of PROBUS.

1. Our goal is to provide Fellowship, Friendship and Fun for men and women in their retirement and semi-retirement years.
2. To provide regular gatherings to those who, in retirement, appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and of a similar level of interest.

Therefore, this is what your new Management Committee will be focusing on in the upcoming year. To provide "opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and of a similar level of interest", by providing opportunities for "Fellowship, Friendship and Fun".

I believe we have the team to do it. This year's Management Committee is a strong mix of old and new members.

Returning in the following positions are Vice-President Terry McLeod, Past President Darryl Stodalka, Treasurer Gordon Adair, Membership Chair Dale Douglas, and Special Events Chair Doug Magoon. Doug's committee is already hard at work planning next year's special events and this year's Christmas Luncheon.

President's Notes cont'd

New members include Secretary David Walker, Communications Chair Steve Wilson, House Chair Rick Ryan, and Speakers Chair Gordi Moore. Like Doug, Gordi and his committee are well on the way sourcing new and interesting speakers for next year.

I'd like to end with a special thanks to John Elliott our past Speakers Chair who, prior to stepping down, had lined up speakers well into the new year positioning Gordi to be able to focus on the longer range.

Gord Cook, President

Special Events

The Special Events Committee is working on two projects. The first is a Fall event that should be fairly weather resistant - a private visit to the Seymour Salmon Society salmon hatchery high up the Seymour River. Stay tuned for further information.

The second activity is planning for our annual Christmas Luncheon to be held on December 12th. Be certain to add that date to your calendar. Details will follow when it is time to call for member sign-up.

Doug Magoon, Special Events Chair

New Communications Chair

As previously mentioned in the President's message, your Management Committee is pleased to welcome Steve Wilson as Communications Chair.

Steve has been a member of our PROBUS club since June 2018. He was born in Toronto and has lived in West Vancouver for about 30 years. He received a BAsC in Engineering from the University of Toronto and an MBA from UBC. He also went to the Harvard Kennedy School.

His career has been in Finance starting with the TD Bank where he became President of the Venture Capital Group. He moved on to become President of HSBC Mutual Funds, then Executive Director of the BC Securities Commission before getting into consulting contract work.

He is heavily involved in volunteer work particularly Junior Achievement of BC and a variety of other organizations such that he was Queens Jubilee Award winner for volunteer activities. He enjoys fishing and bridge.



Last Month Speaker - Hugh Kelsey

September's speaker: Hugh Kelsey of The Royal Canadian Marine Safety and Rescue addressed the topic "Unit One, It's People and Mission". He works out of the RCM-SAR station in Horseshoe Bay, West Vancouver and grew up here.

To give us an idea of the size of the operation, he provided some statistics for 2021: 30 Stations; 827 Volunteer crew members; 57,000 Volunteer hours; 418 SAR taskings; 371 People saved or assisted; \$8.6 Million property value. RCM-SAR responded to 1/4 to 1/3 of marine emergencies on the west coast. \$1.3M is provided by Federal funding to cover the situations, but they need much more money to successfully operate and they also rely on charitable funds from various organizations, including BC Gaming: Partial funding on a year-by-year basis for equipment and operating costs, with added funding provided in 2020 due to COVID-19 and loss of fundraising income; Donations from their not-for-profit society (WMRS) from local individuals and businesses and community foundations and groups. Volunteer marine search and rescue has been a fixture on the BC west coast for over 100 years.

Prior to the formal creation of the Canadian Coast Guard in 1962, Canadian Marine Rescue Association (CMRA) volunteers provided marine search and rescue or SAR. In 1978 CMRA joined the Canadian Coast Guard as the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary - Pacific, and standardized training, exchange of expertise, and insurance. In 2012 they rebranded to Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue or RCM-SAR. There are two rescue vehicles of note with Type 2 Rescue vessels providing a stable platform for helicopter interaction. He provided a picture that shows an exercise in Burrard inlet, a member of 442 Squadron being lowered to the deck of SAR 1. Hugh joined this group 30 years ago at which time there were no dedicated boats and owner operators were relied upon. They have come a long way! Although busy all year long, they scale up in the summer when there are many private boaters out and about.

They have a Central Training Center for the region operated out of Horseshoe Bay. It takes one year to train a new recruit. They are part of the Marine Search and Rescue system in Canada and tasked by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre and Emergency Management BC. They work closely with all the other agencies active in their area, including: Coastguard; Ambulance service; DND; and Vancouver Police and West Vancouver Police. They are on call 24/7 year round.

Search and Rescue is their #1 time commitment. Their activities include Search and Rescue for boaters in need of assistance and hail Coast Guard VHF channel 16; Land SAR, Police, Fire; Pleasure craft courtesy checks; check-

ing vessels for water safety e.g. at WVYC; Patrol on water events; Fireworks; the WVYC Southern Straits regatta and Pumpkin Bowl race weekends. They regularly mark dead-heads that are a hazard to navigation. They take part in Community Events and have a "third" boat named Bobbie that is a big hit with the kids. Since 2003, RCMSAR has promoted "Kids Don't Float", providing free loaner PFD's for children. These are installed at many marinas around BC.

Maintenance is their #2 time commitment and includes annual haul out on both vessels - a mandatory activity for the stations volunteers. Everything is checked from bow to stern. They maintain a rigorous maintenance schedule using commercial services when required, mainly for the engines. Station 1 - West Vancouver - operates two vessels - a Type 2 - RCMSAR1 Jet boat with twin Volvo diesel engines 860 HP and top speed of 38 knots. Its replacement cost is \$1 million; and a Type 1 - RCMSAR18 with shock mitigation with a Yamaha 250HP engine with a top speed of 40 knots and a replacement cost of \$450,000. The operating costs are about \$130 per hour. These vessels are appropriate for all weather and sea conditions. They are well equipped to deal with medical emergencies, searching for persons in the water, and assisting vessels in distress. In recruiting new members, they emphasize culture and character over skills, and believe that competent people can easily be trained for SAR.

Administration and fundraising is their #3 time commitment. It is important that they are a group that wants to spend time together. They receive about 40% of their funding from BC Gaming Community Gaming grants, about 30% from the Federal Government for training and tasking and the balance from local supporters such as the West Vancouver Community Foundation, District of West Vancouver, and West Vancouver Yacht Club.

Of special note is recognition of their former member Scotty Grubb. Scotty was originally scheduled for this presentation but died suddenly of a Ruptured Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm [RAAA]. Scotty was passionate about volunteering in his West Vancouver community. People turned to Scotty to help out and he led numerous successful fundraising campaigns that benefited many in his community and beyond. His greatest pleasure, other than his family, was his 15 years of volunteer service for the Royal Canadian Marine Search & Rescue Station 1. Along with his team members, Scotty participated in countless training exercises, rescue missions, and community events. He went on to serve as President of the West Vancouver Marine Rescue Society.

A Memorial Fund in his name has been established with West Vancouver Foundation. Income from this Fund will

Last Month Speaker - Hugh Kelsey

be used to support the activities and programs of the West Vancouver Marine Rescue Society. You can also make a donation on our website <http://www.rcmsar01.ca/>

Questions

Q1. How do you determine the on-scene weather when you are in the boat?

A. You have to go out on deck and get it in your face. The boats are super comfortable as the crew enclosure is mounted on shocks (like motor bikes have)

Q2. Communications - how does this work?

A. We use VHF radios. 30 years ago we had pagers and you would get a mayday or PanPan only. Now we receive a 4 digit code - all crew are contacted and get into a conference call. The Coxswain gets information and passes it to the conference call and somebody is assigned to handle communications with the shore.

Q3. What are some of the things that people do on the water that they shouldn't?

A. The most common contributing factor is lack of attention. Early in the boating season, often the first time out, there are break downs. We don't usually tow unless the vessel is in a traffic lane, or dangerously close to shore. In the summer where captains were not paying attention, they struck rocks and other vessels.

Q4. Have you attended to any big problems?

A. We experienced our longest call recently in Howe Sound. A dentist had a habit of stopping the boat to go for a swim. It seems that the boat drifted away. It was 3 days of continuous searching for the family and it was not a good outcome. Another time was where a boat named "Sunboy" was going to the fireworks. The vessel went between a tug and the boat the tug was towing. The vessel rolled 4/5 times under the tow line. There was a massive effort from us, the Coast Guard and other stations in responding to this.

Q5. Where do you do your training on the Sunshine Coast?

A. Over in Langdale to the right a kilometre up the beach is a YMCA camp that sleeps 300. There are new/nice accommodations for 150 that have been added. It is an excellent facility and we immerse volunteers in 2 days of training.

Q6. At 30 knots, what happens when you hit something?

A. Nothing. We have aluminum hulls with rubber tubes on jets so nothing actually hits anything. Our boats can be beached. At Kits beach we drove 30 knots onto the beach to take a man to an ambulance.

Q7. Are you involved in the spill response with WITMARC that does the oil spill clean up and down the coast.

A. This is a new thing for us. They have mapped out thousands of sensitive areas calculating how much boom,

anchor(s) and chain is needed to contain a spill in the area. We will be trained to lay out gear in the event of a spill to protect an area, and they will clean up the spill.

Q8. On average, are people getting better on the water?

A. I think so. The number of incidents on the coast has decreased significantly in the last 5 years.

Q9. Re the earlier question, how did you get the boat back in the water?

A. Waited for the tide to come up.

Summary prepared by member Darlene Dean



Membership Renewals Final Notice

2022-2023 Year Membership

If a member fails to pay the renewal fee of \$70 by **October 15th** their membership will lapse and their name will be removed from the mailing list.

Please mail your payment ASAP with your renewal form if you have yet to renew or you can pay by Interac.



HOW TO COOK A TURKEY

- Step 1. Buy a turkey
- Step 2. Have a glass of wine
- Step 3. Stuff turkey
- Step 4. Have a glass of wine
- Step 5. Put turkey in oven
- Step 6. Relax and have a glass of wine
- Step 7. Turk the bastey
- Step 8. Wine of glass another get
- Step 9. Hunt for meat thermometer
- Step 10. Glass yourself another pour of wine
- Step 11. Bake the wine for 4 hours
- Step 12. Take the oven out of the turkey
- Step 13. Tet the sable
- Step 14. Grab another wottle of bine
- Step 15. Turk the carvey!

**Everything that
can be counted
does not
necessarily count,
and
Everything that
counts cannot
necessarily be
counted**
Albert Einstein

**SOMETIMES I FORGET
HOW TO SPELL A WORD,
SO I CHANGE
THE WHOLE SENTENCE
TO AVOID USING IT.**



**Don't
forget to
set your
scales
back ten
pounds
this week**

**If you want more out of life
Be THANKFUL
for what you have.**



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Editorial contributions and comments are
welcomed and may be sent by e-mail to the
administroator.