

# Shorelines

## NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

April 2023

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

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**Special Events:**  
Doug Magoon

### Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

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

### Jennifer Abbott, RHIP, CDP

**Owner, Hear at Home Hearing Clinics**

*“Understand Hearing Loss and Hearing Aids”*



Jennifer Abbott brings over 25 years of experience in business. She has worked in multiple industries, including insurance brokerage, aviation, and health. Her career journey enabled her to acquire impeccable skills to help people find solutions in any situation. She has lived and worked in Dubai for the award-winning Emirates Airline. Jennifer has enjoyed working in a multicultural environment. Her offshore work empowered her to learn about cultures from over 100 nationalities.

In 2008, while working as a hearing aid practitioner for a reputable local clinic, she identified a big problem.

She had families visiting me that shared their difficulties in bringing loved ones to appointments due to their mobility or health challenges and how they wished there was a service that could deliver mobile hearing care directly to them.

This made her wonder how a mobile hearing care service could make the life of my existing patients more convenient and give other local families access to advanced hearing care that they may not otherwise receive. She started ‘Hear at Home’ to deliver advanced mobile hearing care across Greater Vancouver.

Since then, Jennifer has had the pleasure of helping thousands of local families access advanced hearing care without taking time away from their work, dealing with the stresses of travel or driving Mom/Dad across town.

This has resulted in great partnerships with many local care facilities, hospitals and doctors – making ‘Hear at Home’ one of the most trusted and award-winning teams of hearing professionals in the Greater Vancouver area.

### Mark Your Calendars with These Important Dates



**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - Holly Calderwood, CPM, CLHMS, Real Estate Professional, “Real Estate Rules“**

**June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - Lynette Dujohn, P. Eng., VP IT and Chief Officer, Vancouver Airport Authority**

## President's Notes



I was a little premature announcing PROBUS Canada's logo change. Initially, we were informed that the survey indicated a majority favoured the new logo and the organization would be adopting it. However, it was later divulged that while a small majority (under 52%) did, in fact, vote in favour of the new

logo, they noted, that the nine pages of comments received from clubs, uncovered much concern and hesitancy about a major change in the logo at this time. As a result, the Board decided to keep the existing logo but make some technical adjustments to it, such as updating the font and adjusting the cogs. The Board will also be providing a Toolkit to help clubs use and apply the logo and slogan "*Get Connected - Stay Connected.*"

New logo or not, we connected with 92 members attending our March meeting in person and 27 joining via Zoom. Our meetings offer more than just an opportunity to hear interesting and knowledgeable speakers - we strive to create a welcoming atmosphere where members can build friendships, engage in uplifting activities, and enjoy each other's company. We believe that fostering social connections is essential to our well-being, as it combats isolation, improves cognitive function, and enhances overall quality of life. Plus, the tranquil setting of WVYC, with its serene ocean views and gently rocking boats, makes for a beautiful backdrop to our gatherings.

Join us in person on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> to socialize with your fellow members, meet, listen, and talk with Jennifer Abbott, "*Understand Hearing Loss and Hearing Aids*"

*Gord Cook, President*

## Special Events

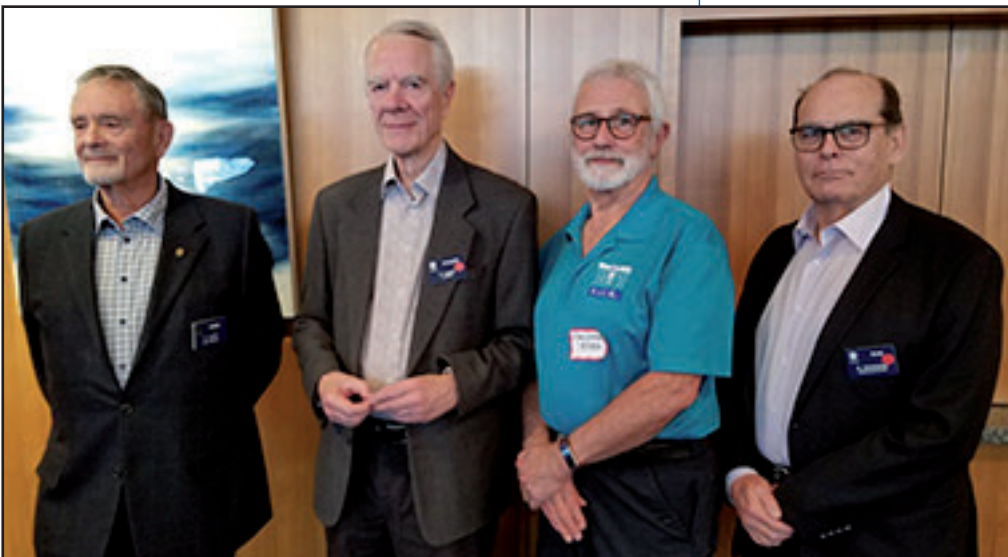
Your Special Events Committee is developing an interesting agenda of events for 2023. Please consider marking you calendars for the following activities.

- H R MacMillan Space Center private visit, to be held on March 31st, is fully subscribed, attracting 40 participants, 24 of whom will enjoy the convenience and fellowship of taking the bus provided by the West Vancouver Seniors Activity Centre. Thank you to Mark Jackson and Terry McLeod for hosting this event.
- North Shore Rescue has invited PROBUS Club members to their base of operations on April 28<sup>th</sup> to get an update on their activities including new technologies they utilize, such as night-vision helicopter technology, in their search and rescue activities.
- John Atkin has agreed to lead a tour of Coal Harbour (last done in 2016) on Monday May 29<sup>th</sup> to review the interesting history of the development of the harbour site and the industrial activities that occurred there in decades past.
- The visit to the Seymour Salmonid Society fish hatchery facility in the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve, planned for November 2022, but cancelled because of inclement weather, is rescheduled for late June.
- Metro Vancouver is happy to provide another Capilano Watershed tour in July or August. This tour was last held by the club in 2018 and found to be most interesting to those who participated at the time.
- September marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the charter of our club. A special 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary recognition event is being planned. Information to follow in due course.
- Our ever-popular Christmas Luncheon will be held at the West Vancouver Yacht Club on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Details to follow in due course.

*Doug Magoon,  
Special Events Chair*

**L-R: President Gord Cook welcomes new members: Stuart Lang, Chris Amer and Rob Dickson**





## New Members Introduced and Welcomed at March Meeting



**Chris Amer** was born in Vancouver and has lived in North Vancouver for the past 8 years after living in South Carolina for 25 years. Chris's educational background is Anthropology and Archaeology and worked as an underwater Archaeologist with Parks Canada and the Univ. South Carolina in various locations in Canada, USA and Mexico. His interests include Nordic skiing, paddle boarding, swimming and jig saw puzzles to name a few. He is active with the West Vancouver Historical Society and the Society for Historical Archaeology.



**Rob Dickson** was born in Winnipeg and has been a resident of the North Shore for 38 years. He was employed as General Manager and Sr. Vice President of Dominion Tanners and President of Van Tan Industries located in Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver and recently as Director of Finance and Property for the Anglican Church Diocese. His interests include cycling, skiing, rowing and walking as well as spending summers in the Kenora Ontario area. Currently, he is a director within the Anglican Church and the 127 Society for housing



**Stuart Lang** was born in Winnipeg and has been a resident of West Vancouver for 52 years. Stuart obtained a law degree from the Univ. of Manitoba in 1967 and in 1973 became a founding partner of Alexander, Holburn, Beaudin and Lang. In 2019 he was recognized as lawyer of the year in Health Care Law. Stuart has served on many boards as well as volunteering in the health care field with the BC Cancer Foundation and Children's Hospital Capital Campaign and various Insurance companies. Upon retirement a scholarship in his honour was established for law students at the UBC law school. His interests are hiking, biking, travel, and family.

## Last Month Speaker - John Foster

John Foster's presentation began with a geography lesson. When you look at a map, the size of Asia is huge, and Europe is just a tip on the Western edge. Russia and China are huge compared to other countries they have always been a major player in the "wars" for resources.

Petroleum has been the focus of his working life. Petroleum today is a dilemma. It's a major source of climate change, is fundamental to the world's economy, and is an enormous source of wealth and power. The power will be emphasized in this talk. Petroleum embraces both natural gas and oil. It is important to the USA, Russia and China for different reasons. The war in Ukraine follows a whole series of Western wars and proxy wars. The wars were about power, including petroleum. Many countries are involved: Iraq and Libya for resources; Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine for pipelines, and Somalia and Yemen for strategic sea routes.

Since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, USA sees China and Russia as adversaries. Now Russia is gaining strength and China is rising fast. Facing a "hostile" West, they have formed a strategic partnership- We are witnessing a clash of the Titans (USA, Russia and China).

In Ukraine, he sees three wars in one. The information war encourages only one way of thinking - groupthink. Then the military war is battles which he won't talk about and the economic war that is sanctions and more. Government and media humanize leaders promoting black and white thinking - one narrative. Actual evidence may point elsewhere. The first casualty in war is truth. Referring to a quote from Winston Churchill he went on to say that media presents conflict and gives a distorted picture, presents what leaders say as truth, and downplays setbacks and news. The media presents geopolitics as a fight between democracy and autocracy, western intentions are good, Russia's invasion of Ukraine is unprovoked, and China is trying to control Taiwan.

The information war is really confusing. The stories about Ukraine are highly emotional and rarely explained. In 2014, violence led to a new government which created a language policy to eliminate Russian speech, and that is when the military war really began. The Ukraine was polarized in Russian areas and the country was marked by protesters and violence. The red area rebelled. The situation spiralled out of control in one city after another. Kiev took a military approach and they claimed independence. USA and Canada provided support with military assistance and weapons. The USA never considered Russia as an ordinary European country, and saw it as a threat to US leadership.

He recommends looking at Brzezinski's (was US national security advisor) book "The Grand Chessboard".

## Last Month Speaker - John Foster

He saw Ukraine as the pivotal country for containing Russia.

In 2019 The Rand Report was published (on internet) which proposed forceful measures to overextend and unbalance Russia. It outlined the measures - deepen economic sanctions on Russia; Stop Nord Stream 2; increase non-Russian LNG to Europe; hinder Russian imports; send lethal arms to Ukraine. They were all implemented.

2014 was also a turning point for the USA as well, with fracking, making the US the world's top oil and gas producer. Europe has been importing Russian gas since the 1970's and oil since the 1960's. Until last year the European Union was importing 40% of its gas from Russia. Europe is the world's second largest market for gas (North America the first). The US wanted to sell to Europe, but their gas was more expensive.

Russia is a petroleum-state. Before the war, Russia was the second largest exporter of oil and gas in the world. Russian gas lines were mostly through Ukraine, and this was now threatened. Since the war, this was threatened. Russia and other companies joined forces to build new pipelines that bypassed Ukraine. Nord Stream 1 was completed in 2011 and is the world's largest sub sea pipeline, and Nord Stream 2 was completed in 2021. Russia also built TurkStream with Turkish cooperation which opened in 2020. Two pipelines side by side. It also connects to neighbouring country pipelines. The Southern Gas Pipeline (a rival) was built in 2021 supported by Belgium and the US. This bypassed Russia. Caspian oil to the Mediterranean also bypassed Russia.

Russia wanted to be treated as every other country and were concerned about export routes and security. Almost 50 years ago the Helsinki Accords were enacted and have been reaffirmed several times. NATO increased their presence in Europe along Russia's borders and Canadian forces went to Latvia. Russia found this provocative and threatening. In 2021 Russia drafted treaties reinforcing guarantee of Indivisible Security. The West refused to accept, and Russia warned of military sanctions.

In February 2022 the war in Ukraine began and the West imposed sanctions on Russian Central Bank; Major Russian banks; SWIFT financial messaging network; and Oligarchs' yachts. Russia entered the Donbass and western investors and businesses (McDonalds) started leaving Russia. Biden and Trudeau called Russia's invasion unprovoked...but was it? Russia retaliated by demanding payment for gas in Rubles from "unfriendly countries". US stated that Putin cannot remain in power; Canada stated make sure Russia fails; France said to bring about the collapse of the Russian economy; and the UK said to hobble the Russian economy.

Our speaker has highlighted these actions to show how sanctions destroy economics.

Nord Stream 1 was blocked by Canada. Nord Stream 2 was plagued by controversy including US sanctions, the Swiss pulling out, Germany and other countries blocking it, etc. Finally massive explosions destroyed 3 out of the 4 pipelines and it was attributed to international sabotage.

The US and Norway replaced the Russian gas and made record profits in doing so. It was difficult replacing Russian oil, and as a result, European gas prices went through the roof. The European Union sanctioned Russian oil, launched massive subsidies, and now faced an energy crisis. Time and investment was needed to adjust to new oil markets.

Russia found new markets for oil. India has become a world refining company and China is Russia's biggest customer. China also receives LNG from Russia via ship. Russia refused to sell to countries enforcing a cap. The Greeks lost out and their tankers were replaced with Russian built tankers.

In the next 2 years, China will overtake US as the largest economy. China is focused on their "Belt and Road Initiative", has invested deeply in pipelines, has created a new gateway for pipelines and trains, and is diversifying import routes.

So...where are we? In an unholy mess - Russia has not collapsed; Western sanctions have backfired badly; and Western leaders don't know what to do. The West has increased war support to Ukraine. The Global South is staying out of this, refusing to sanction Russia.

Power, Politics, Petroleum, Pipelines - that's my story - see my book if you want more information.

### Questions

Q1. I heard that Germany is not actually suffering from this (Gustav Schultz article). It sounded like a rosy picture ... It doesn't sound like it according to you.

A. He runs a coalition in which the Greens are very strong. Different from the BC Greens, the Greens have two influential seats in the cabinet. Both of these people want to see Germany getting off fossil fuels. They were happy that North Stream 2 did not go ahead. The unity of NATO where Germany is the leading country, has been challenged in its attitudes towards Ukraine and Poland. When the price of natural gas went up ten-fold, it was devastating on German industry as well as individuals. They talk about going out of business, closing out and moving to the USA for the incentives under the deficit reduction act. The Schultz article puts the cat among the pigeons. The big question is did he know about the pipeline explosions in advance? Or were they taken for a ride? Stay tuned to



## Last Month Speaker - John Foster

see how this drama works out. They say the explosions were done by the US.

Q2. Since 1970's, oil companies have denied global warming was from oil production. I'm surprised at how many pipelines there are around the world. (From slides)

A. Don't have much to add. Companies are not alike in what they say. They present their best image and employ public relations to help do that. Are the companies presenting themselves badly? And what are governments doing about it. The explosions were damaging to the wild-life in the Baltic Sea.

Q3. The key to your somewhat controversial interpretation of what went on is how you feel about it? Is Russia justified in their thinking or is it just Russian paranoia?

A. I don't like war. The Suez landings of 1956 - I was the only person on board questioning why we were there. There is a question of what Russia did. What did we do? In 2014 there was a change of gov't in Ukraine which was not peaceful- the existing gov't had to flee. The language law is unfortunate - dynamite - it is more than a bi-lingual country. We egged it on. We need tolerance and have everyone working together. We had a lack of tolerance. There was an attempt by Ukraine to suppress what was happening. They took a military approach - there were about 14,000 people killed. If you were running Russia - what would you have done? Would you have stepped in for the Russian speakers? There is more than one negative. How do we get to peace and stop fighting.

Q4. At the current rate of production when do you estimate that Russia will run out of oil?

A. They have huge oil reserves and have the world's largest proven reserves of LNG. They will be the last country to run out, so it will be a long time into the future. Also they have some of the world's cheapest to produce.

*This summary was prepared by member Darlene Dean.*



## A Little Humour to Enjoy



"I admit, I didn't handle that well, but I don't want this to discourage you from being honest with me in the future."



"I'll have to open you up again; that watch has great sentimental value."



"Shorelines" © a monthly publication of  
The Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver  
Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed.