

# Shorelines

## NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

March 2024

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

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### Management Committee

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**Speakers:**  
Gordi Moore

**Special Events:**  
Steve Wilson

### Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Hybrid Meeting

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

*with guest speaker*

**Jeanette Ageson, Tyee News Publisher**



Jeanette Ageson is publisher of The Tyee. She joined the publication in 2014 to grow the Tyee Builders membership program and became publisher in 2018. She is responsible for all revenue and operations activities at the organization. In the past ten years, revenue from The Tyee's membership program has grown tenfold, and the organization has more than doubled its staff and publishing output.

Ageson is regularly called on to consult with other media organizations on how to grow their reader revenue programs. She is an alumni of the Online News Association's Women's Leadership Accelerator and she hold a degree in Communications from Simon Fraser University. She also regularly provides lectures at SFU's masters in publishing program.

**.NOTE: This meeting will be both in-person and by Zoom for members unable to attend.**



### Irish Blessing

*May your troubles be less and  
your blessings be more  
And nothing but happiness  
come through your door.*



### Mark Your Calendars with These Important Dates



**April 8<sup>th</sup>** - Conner Da Silva, Community and Education Program Coordinator, Port of Vancouver

**May 13<sup>th</sup>** - Karen Tyrell, Dementia Consultant

**June 10<sup>th</sup>** - Michael Geller, Principal, The Geller Group

## President's Notes



In preparation for our AI (Artificial Intelligence) speaker this summer, I thought it fitting to investigate some initial use as my message. In conjunction with Microsoft Word and CoPilot, their AI search program, I simply entered 'March'. The Immediate response followed:

March, the third month of the year, holds deep spiritual significance that is rooted in both history and astrology. This month is a time of transition, marking the end of winter and the beginning of spring. As nature awakens from its slumber, so too does the human spirit, seeking renewal and growth. (Me: I hope you feel the same).

### Named After the Roman God of War:

- The name "March" is derived from the Roman god of war, Mars.
- Historically, this was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter.

### Important Dates in March:

- March 8: International Women's Day, celebrating women's achievements and advocating for equality worldwide.
- March 10: Daylight Saving Time begins (spring forward one hour).
- March 10: Start of Ramadan, observed in Islam as a month of fasting.
- March 15: The Ides of March, a day surrounded by legend and superstition.
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day, where folks wear shamrocks to honor the saint who explained the Trinity using its three leaves.
- March 19: March equinox, marking the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

### Astronomy:

- March's full Moon is called the Worm Moon, reaching peak illumination on the morning of Monday, March 25, 2024. (Me: ... and it's getting brighter now, coincidentally welcoming the landing of the US private space craft, ODY).

In summary, March symbolizes awakening, transformation, the promise of new beginnings. As we bid farewell to winter, let us embrace the energy of this transitional month and welcome the blossoming of spring!

(Me: How's that for a close!)

Although AI processes have been about our lives for some time, it's never had the opportunity to be ever-present in our lives. Changes are happening now through electronic/media means. We should be aware of the positive and negative aspects of its use; hence our coming speaker presentation (July) is timely.

With the mention of speakers, our past speaker, Mayor Mark Sager, drawing a remarkable over 100 members plus Zoom participants, provided an engaging presentation. I compliment Gordi Moore's reaching out once again for an excellent individual and topic. Other members of the management team are also preparing for and supporting successful programs for the future.

Management-wise, two positions on this team, Secretary and Speaker Chair, need to be filled for the coming Probus year. I welcome members who desire to discuss or take part in these roles. Simply call me anytime (604-926-0239).

*Terry McLeod, President*



## Special Events

### TRIUMF Tour - Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Currently there are 30 people confirmed for the Triumph tour scheduled on March 6, 2024. Sorry that we could not accommodate all 38 people who had signed up as the maximum limit by Triumph is 30.

- **Time of the tour:** 10 am-11:30 am
- **No host Lunch:** 12:00 pm at Browns Kraft House, 6111 University Blvd, Unit 101, Vancouver. Tel 604-259-6885, Mike
- **Transportation:** By bus from west van senior centre at 8:30 am. Cost \$20/person for 20 people.
- **Car:** The rest 10 will be carpooling.
- **Return:** 3:00 By Bus after lunch

Those coming on bus and have not registered yet please phone SAC at 604-925-7270 to register yourself and also give your car licence number so that you can get a pass to park at SAC. The activity code to register is 163804.

Thanks to those who have already paid the fee of \$20. For those who have not paid, fee payment can be made by e-transfer to [arvindnthakore@gmail.com](mailto:arvindnthakore@gmail.com) or by cheque mailed to Arvind Thakore, 2620 Chelsea Court, West Vancouver, BC, V7S 3E9

*Arvind Thakore, Special Events Committee*

## New Members Introduced and Welcomed at February Meeting



**Richard Fisher** was born in Bradford, UK. He has resided in West Vancouver for 14 years. He received a BA in French & Spanish and a MA in Liberal studies at SFU. His career was focused in public relations, advertising, marketing, and communications. He was employed as VP at Griffin Bacal Advertising (London, New York), Managing Partner at Ogilvy & Mather Advertising (TO), Client Service Director (U of T), and Chief Communications Officer (UBC). His interests include travel, study (continuing education) and the local community. He has volunteered with Enhance West Van, West Van Memorial Library, North Shore Meals on Wheels, and is currently on the West Van District Community grants committee and board member on West Van Positive Voices.



**Ross Parker** was born in Toronto, ON. He has resided in West Vancouver for 5 years. He received a P.Eng from the University of Waterloo and a Business diploma from the University of Western Ontario. Ross was employed in Operations and Maintenance for Union Gas in SW Ontario for 25 years, then joined Trans Canada Pipelines, where he led the operations and maintenance teams in Canada and the USA. His interests include golf, sailing, volunteering, and RV travel. He currently volunteers at the West Vancouver United Church, Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Unit #1 in Horseshoe Bay.



## PROBUS Golf and Bridge Groups



The **Probus Golf Club** has been an active part of the Club since 2009. Golf events are held on the 3rd Monday of the months of April through September and at a variety of courses throughout the Lower

Mainland. The events start around 1:00 PM and most players stay at the course for a libation and something to eat. Prizes for the competition winners are distributed at that time.

There is no requirement to register for all events, only those that fit your schedule. If you are interested in more information, please contact **Phil Boase** by phone.

*Submitted by Phil Boase*

The **Probus Bridge Club** has been operating for 21



years and ever since the formation of our Club on the North Shore. As noted in earlier updates to members, the Bridge Club caters to both those who wish to play

face to face and those who enjoy playing on line. We presently have five tables, two of which are face to face (who invented this expression!!!) at the Senior's Activity Centre in West Vancouver and three tables playing on line where players see each other through the Zoom technology.

We play three seasons a year and are well underway in season 1 for 2024. The next season begins in April for those who are not presently playing and may be interested. We have some new players who had either never played or played many years ago. They have upgraded their skills through course work or informal play with existing Probus bridge players. This transitional support has been sufficient to see the new players join the group comfortably.

If you have any interest in playing, even though you may not have played for some time, please contact Barry Heselgrave by phone. He will be able to assist you in your deliberations as to whether you wish to join our group and enjoy the Probus camaraderie on Monday afternoons.

*Submitted by Barry Heselgrave*

## Terry Thanks Mayor Sager



**Above:**  
President Terry  
thanks our speaker  
Mayor Mark Sager.

**Right:**  
Members enjoying  
lunch at the Flying  
Beaver at the Fraser  
river floatplane term-  
inal.



## Tour of Richmond Oval

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 19 members toured the Richmond Oval, including the Olympic Experience display, with numerous Olympic memorabilia, interactive sporting displays and experiences as well as gold, silver and bronze medals (sadly not real). The Oval is now a huge recreation facility with two hockey rinks, 4 basketball courts, approximately 12 table tennis tables, a climbing wall and much more.

Following the tour, the group had lunch at the famous Flying Beaver at the Fraser river floatplane terminal. See the photo below.

View all photos from the event posted on our website.

*Steve Wilson, Chair, Special Events*



## Last Month Speaker - Mayor Mark Sager, District of West Vancouver

Mayor Sager's topic was to highlight his first year of Council including accomplishments as well as what was ahead. This is his second time being Mayor. His first time was 30 years ago. He gave kudos to Ron and Joanne Wood, and others, who were instrumental in contributing to current thinking and actions. You can read the 2024-2025 Strategic Plan on the District of West Vancouver website with details of the Council's Strategic goals and objectives for the year.

A lot has changed in 30 years, but especially communications. Letters and written correspondence were once the way citizens and the District communicated. Now everything is instant – emails and texting - due to technology.

The first project referred to was the track at West Vancouver Secondary School. The track was in poor shape. In November 2023, \$8 million was approved for improvement of the track and facility. A special effort is underway to recognize a man who had run for Council and was a friend of the Mayor – Keen Lau – who was drowned last year attempting to rescue a dog. A Go Fund Me page has been set up to raise money for an outdoor fitness center in his honour.

The District recently purchased Jimmy Pattison's house on the waterfront, the second to last one remaining of the 1976 Waterfront Acquisition Plan. This plan has always been very controversial. In the beginning it cost \$350,000 to purchase a property which seemed outrageous at the time. In this case 2 lots on Roseberry were traded for the house. A company has been hired to repurpose the wood instead of sending it to a landfill.

Another project is the restoration of Navy Jack House. This has ties to Squamish First nations and was an original waterfront home. It will be open to the public as a meeting place for coffee etc. when it is completed.

A hard look will be taken of commercial enterprises in Ambleside. Currently there are many non-retail businesses such as money exchanges and nail salons.

Last year, in Dunderave, outdoor patios were approved and built for the enjoyment of citizens. A new tennis facility was built. For obtaining building permits, the time it takes has decreased from 4 months to 4 weeks. In Horseshoe Bay the new park was completed, and it is a gem. Trolls was purchased by local residents, and it will continue to be a vital part of the community going forward. You may have noticed rock scaling happening on the roads which has been undertaken to increase safety.

Scott, a new municipal manager, has recently been hired. He was born and raised in West Vancouver. He joined the police department and worked for them for 30 years before joining us. He is very focused – everyone who works for

him gets responses and there is no more running around.

West Vancouver is a challenging community to finance. We have aging infrastructure that we are maintaining and preserving for future generations. A finance committee has been created to look at ways to increase revenues. One thing we are doing (people might not like it) is implementing pay for parking in our parks and recreation areas. West Vancouver residents will be able to buy a pass for \$20 per year to park. We have noticed that Ambleside beach and park are always very busy and most of the visitors are non-WV residents.

The water treatment plant remains a big project to be resolved. A Spanish company was hired to do the plant design and build. They built it for Spain – not for our environment – and the company walked off the job. A solution is needed.

Water will be an issue this year. We currently have only 28% of our historical snowpack and this may lead to rationing.

Transportation continues to be an issue. We own the service, but it is part of TransLink. We currently have a \$600 million deficit with TransLink. The Federal Government must come to the table with funding to improve this.

The wealth tax is implemented this year. It is not school tax. Homes over \$3 Million will pay extra tax. People complain that the assessments aren't accurate and are often inflated. Some properties have enormous unfair taxes. An example is a property on Bellevue which has a tax bill of \$100,000 per year. The homeowner is hoping to leave the property to family. The taxes can be deferred which may add up a huge debt over time.

The Strategic Plan was circulated to members at the meeting. It is also online. Council's objectives for the coming year include Cypress Village. British Pacific Properties own all of the land above the highway. Deer Ridge Development was awarded to the municipality and the park and pop-up restaurant were developed. All the land above BPP land is to be designated as parkland in perpetuity and there will be no development. A density transfer will be done creating the largest park ever.

A number of questions and answers followed.

*Note: The Zoom recording is available on request.*

*Summary Prepared by Member Darlene Dean*





**New seatbelt design:  
45% less car accidents!!**



**In every relationship there is one person who stacks the dishwasher like a Scandinavian architect, and one who stacks it like a racoon on crystal meth.**

**You know me,  
if ever I win the lottery,  
no one around me  
will be poor.  
I'll just move to a  
better neighbourhood.**



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Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed