

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

April 2026

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Vol. 24 No.4

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Monday, April 13th, 2026 Meeting

West Vancouver Yacht Club, 5854 Marine Drive,
Coffee and Pastries at 8:30, Meeting at 9:30, with guest speaker
Herbert Grubal, Professor of Economics (Emeritus), SFU
Senior Fellow, The Fraser Institute, Canada



Our April speaker will be one of our distinguished past presidents. Herbert Grubel will tell stories from his recently published autobiography "*MAVERICK ECONOMIST AND POLITICIAN.*"

He will describe his life and career from growing up in war-time Germany to attending leading American universities as a student and member of the economics faculties at Rutgers, Yale, Stanford, Chicago and Wharton.

After 1972, he taught at SFU with time spent at universities around the world and four years as an elected MP in Ottawa. According to one reviewer, Herb tells many funny and engaging anecdotes about what happened behind the scenes in universities, government departments, and the House of Commons. The anecdotes keep the story of his life entertaining for all.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



May 11 - Tom Isaac, Chair of Cassels Aboriginal Law Group,
"UNDRIP and DRIPA"

April 15 - Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) Tour

President's Notes



The club is doing well. We have some interesting special events coming up (details in this edition) and our speakers' committee has now recruited interesting speakers for the next several months. Our house and communications functions keep our meetings running smoothly. However, we have not yet reached our target

membership, which will reduce our revenue. Tell your friends and neighbours what a great program we have and invite them to our next meeting as your guest.

Being prepared is not just the motto for boy scouts, it applied to all of my working career and recently to my Probus responsibilities. The planned speaker for our March meeting was Caroline Elliott on First Nations and Private Property. Unfortunately, she had to cancel on the day before our meeting. Probus member Chris Hebb had been our March speaker, but he agreed to move his presentation to April so we could hear about recent developments in First Nations and Private Property. Chris agreed to be our backup speaker for March - just in case. He was advised Sunday evening that he would be speaking the next morning, and he did a great job.

I occasionally get asked how I went from a new Probus member in 2024 to vice president in 2025 and now president. When I was invited to join the management committee, I took some time to consider the offer. A long walk on the seawall brought back memories of a similar situation decades ago. I had just joined the local chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI) and I had just started my consulting business. I attended the international PMI conference with three of the local chapter vice presidents. One asked if I would be interested in joining the chapter board of directors. I knew this role would require a lot of my scarce time but there was significant business development potential, so I took the role. The clients that I developed during my two terms as president supported my business for the next 15 years and my service with the International organization led to my being recognized as a Fellow of PMI. How does that relate to Probus? In the 40 years that I had my business, the majority of my life was in downtown Vancouver - my office was there, my gym was there and my clients' offices were there. My family home was in West Vancouver, but I didn't spend much time there as I was often away during the week. The four kids grew up and moved out, my wife died in 2017 and when Covid closed all the downtown facilities, I was now by myself in a community that I hardly knew and only a few knew me. The offer from Probus not only was a way to put my management background to good use but also provided the opportunity for a larger community to get to know me. Yes, my Probus duties have taken a lot of time, but I've met many new people and gone to many new places. I'm glad I accepted the offer.

Bryan McConachy, President

Special Events

Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) Tour – Wednesday, April 15, 2026

PLEASE NOTE: THE TOUR IS NOW FULL WITH A WAIT LIST.

The next Probus Tour event will be a tour of the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation facilities at their Vancouver Harbour base of operations.

WCMRC is Canada's first marine spill response organization, established in 1976. They are the only Transport Canada-certified marine response organization on Canada's West Coast. On average, they respond to approximately 20 marine spills per year.

WCMRC's mandate is to ensure there is a state of preparedness in place when a marine spill occurs and to mitigate the impacts on B.C.'s coast. This includes the protection of wildlife, economic and environmental sensitivities, and the safety of both responders and the public. Their geographic area of response covers all 27,000 km of Western Canada's coastline, extending to the 200 nautical mile limit. Their response area also includes all inland navigable waters in coastal B.C. They have bases, personnel and equipment caches stationed at strategic locations up and down the coast.

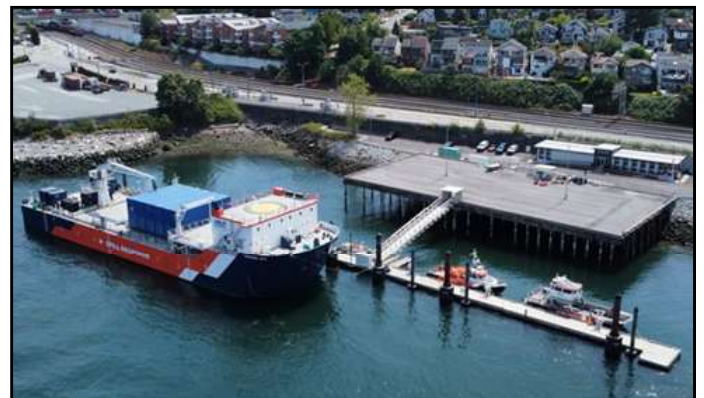
There is a maximum of 20 members for this tour, so register early. The tour is not suitable for those with mobility challenges.

Arrive at the West Vancouver Seniors Activity Centre before 9:00 AM. The bus will leave from the Seniors Activity Centre at 9:15 AM. The 90-minute tour begins at 10:00 AM at the WCMRC harbour facilities in Vancouver. Following the tour, the no host lunch will be at Medley's Italian & Grill restaurant (Holiday Inn Hotel, North Vancouver) at 12:00 PM. The bus will return to the Seniors Activity Centre at approximately 1:45 PM.

To register for the tour please email Mark Jackson.

The cost for the tour is \$35.00/per person payable in advance by e-transfer to Alastair Campbell.

*Mark Jackson and Alastair Campbell
Special Events Committee*



BC Sports Hall of Fame Tour Review

On March 25, Probus members visited the BC Sports Hall of Fame with our special guests Louise and Barry Soper. The Sopers pioneered figure-skating dance pairs in Canada in the 1970's placing first in Canada for 4 consecutive years and ninth in the Worlds for 3 years which became an Olympic event in 1976. Since retiring they have been coaches, mentors and advocates for the sport of figure-skating which they highlighted during the visit sharing their dedication and experiences with us.

The remaining half of the tour took us past the Wall of Fame which was a walk down memory lane for many of us before reaching the displays for the Olympics, Percy Williams, Terry Fox, Rick Hansen, Greg Moore and his Indy vehicle, and the Indigenous accomplishments in BC Sports.

The interactive area would make a tour great fun for grandchildren. The morning passed by very quickly with lots of memories and chatter followed by a delightful lunch with the Sopers at Browns Social House.

Matt Blackwood



**Do you recognize this hockey player?
It is none other than Alastair Campbell,
Special Events Chair.**

View more photos from the tour on page 4

March Speaker Review

Christopher Hebb laid out in his presentation the many challenges facing the free world in deterring the undersea sabotage currently being perpetuated by Russia and China.

He gave examples of the many recent instances of the cutting of data cables which currently carry 95% of the world's computer data.

He also discussed how thousands of shadow fleet vessels carry their illegal oil cargo to China from Russia, Iran and Venezuela.

Member attendance at the March meeting was 95.

Don McPherson, Speakers Committee

Membership



Fellow Members

**Please ask a friend, neighbour, and/or
a likeable relative to come as a guest
to one of our meetings.**

**New membership is essential for a
healthy club. Thank you!**

Ron Ash, Membership Chair



BC Sports Hall of Fame Tour Photos



Louise and Barry Soper with their medals.