

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

June 2026

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Vol. 24 No.6

Board of Directors

President:
Bryan McConachy

Vice President:
Steve Wilson

Secretary:
Alex Campbell

Treasurer:
Gordon Adair

Past President:
Rick Ryan

Communications:
Darryl Stodalka
Terry McLeod

House:
Humphry Barnikel
Membership

Ron Ash Speakers:
Pierre Lebel

Special Events:
Alastair Campbell

Historical Liaison
David Walker 604-

Administrator
Linda Metcalfe

Monday, June 8th, 2026 Meeting

West Vancouver Yacht Club, 5854 Marine Drive,
Coffee at 8:30, Meeting at 9:30, with guest speaker

Dr. John Steen
"Critical Minerals"



Dr. John Steen is the Director of the Bradshaw Research Institute for Minerals and Mining (BRIMM) at UBC. He has lived in Vancouver since 2019 and is proudly a Canadian citizen. Before joining UBC, he was at the University of Queensland in Australia from 2003. During this time, he taught and conducted research on innovation and technology management in the global resources sector. In his 30-year academic career, he has worked with a variety of companies, including Teck, BHP, Rio Tinto, Glencore, EY, and numerous technology and consulting firms. In British Columbia, he has advised the provincial government on mining industry policy. His research covers several fields, including innovation, productivity economics, business strategy, and project management, and he has PhDs from The University of Tasmania and the University of Queensland.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



June 17 - Mission Abbey and Stave Lake Powerhouse Tour

July 13 - Michelle Kunimoto, Exoplanets

August 10 - TBA

President's Notes



When you read the side panel on page one of this issue of Shorelines, you should have noticed a significant change – my name and phone number only appear once. The name under Speakers is now Pierre Lebel who I'm pleased to announce has accepted that role. Pierre is prominent in this

issue as he not only introduced our May speaker, Tom Isaac, he recruited him. Other members of your speakers committee are Art Winkler, Mike Burns, Peter Bradshaw, Don McPherson and Derwyn Lea who have all been active in "finding and minding" our speakers. Suggestions for future speakers from all members are welcome. Although we are always looking for suggestions for speakers, our long list of potential speakers currently has almost 50 entries. Selecting the "hot" topics is not that challenging but finding highly-rated speakers who can accommodate our fixed meeting dates definitely is.

Our June and July speakers are listed elsewhere in this issue. Our June speaker has a tough act to follow but after a brief recent meeting, I think he will do well. If you had asked me a couple of years back what I considered to be critical minerals, I might have said iron, copper and cement - the ones I dealt with for the construction of industrial plants. Now that term refers to a bunch of rare minerals that were not (to my now fuzzy recollection) in the periodic table used in my high school chemistry class. I'd heard that these minerals are now essential to many high-tech industries, but it wasn't until China got the U.S. to back off some tariffs by reducing their mineral exports that the term "critical" sunk in. Our June speaker will give us some history and potential futures on this critical topic.

Just as important are the members of our Special Events team led by Alistair Campbell. Other members are Mark Jackson, Matt Blackwood, Arvind Thakore and Julia Neale. Their future events include these committed ones - Slave Lake Power and Mission Abbey, Squamish geology and Bard on the Beach - and potential tours of Neptune Terminals, TRIUMF, Alliance Grain Terminal and Coquitlam Watershed. Alistair welcomes suggestions for other tours.

It is the mission of the members of both committees to rate the potential events with respect to the current interests of the members.

Bryan McConachy, President



Special Events

Mission Abbey and Slave Lake Powerhouse Tour

The Probus tour to the Mission Abbey and Stave Lake Powerhouse will take place on Wednesday, June 17th leaving the West Van Seniors Centre at 9:00 am and returning by 5:00 pm. It will involve a scenic drive along the Fraser River to Mission arriving at the Abbey around 10:30 am allowing for a tour of the gardens and spectacular view of Fraser River towards Chilliwack and Matsqui Prairie including Mount Baker. The Abbey tour will be guided by one of the monks featuring the innovative design and stained glass windows towering above the sanctuary followed by chanting before noon by a number of the Brothers resonating in the large acoustic shell of the Abbey.

Lunch will be at the Mission Station Grill and on the way home the adventure will continue at the Stave Lake Dam Powerhouse with a guided tour into the depths of the dam viewing the massive turbines followed by visiting the electrical museum. The cost of the tour is \$50 per person.

Note: The tour is fully subscribed as members signed up at the May Probus meeting but we do not have a Waiting List. Judging from past experience, there will be a few cancellations and we want to fill these spots with members who would like to attend. Please contact Alastair should you wish to be on the Waiting List.

Alastair Campbell, Chair, Special Events Committee

Gastown Tour Review

On Wednesday May 13th members had a tour of Gastown with our guide John Atkin. John is a civic historian, author and heritage consultant who conducts tours all around Vancouver. He pointed out offbeat insights on the architecture, history and Gastown fables. We looked at buildings with a deep appreciation of what was once there and how it has evolved. We all agreed that when one goes through Gastown on your own, you really do not grasp what was there and how and why it has evolved in the way it has. The two hour walk was enjoyed by all 19 of us.

At Noon we went to the Steamworks Gastown Pub for a delicious lunch in the basement amongst humongous wood beams and vertical boards for flooring. The food was excellent and we all enjoyed our Gastown experience. John is a wonderful guide and we will contact him again next year to explain features on another part of Vancouver. As an aside, John conducts tours for groups so if you can get 10 - 20 people together, you can organize your own tour with him and the cost is \$15.00 per person. This is highly recommended.

View a few photos on page 3 from this event.

Alastair Campbell, Chair, Special Events Committee

Photos from Gastown Tour



Membership



Laura Renés was born Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She has resided in North Vancouver since 2021 and previously from 1989 to 2013. She has a BA in English and German and an MA in Germanic Languages and Literature both from U. of T. She has worked as an Instructor of Academic Literature as a second language and a coordinator

of administrative duties, program and curriculum development, convening conferences and workshop presentations. Her present interests and activities are languages, painting, music, travel; animal advocacy, libertarianism, dancing and fitness.



Paul McFadyen was born in Vancouver and has resided in North Vancouver for 26 years. He has received a BA from UBC. His career path has been in sales, marketing and finance. He spent 10 years as a partner in men's and ladies retail with Margetson Lee, 15 years in senior management as director of sales & marketing at Johnson

and Johnson medical products, and 25 years as a self-employed broker coordinating financing for healthcare professionals setting up and expanding their practices and arranging renovation financing for strata and condominium corporations. Paul enjoys golf, boating, travel, and maintaining a cabin at Point Roberts. He has volunteered at United Way, as a board member BC chapter of the Canadian Condominium Institute and presently serving on his community strata council.



Rick McGregor was born in Niagara-on-the-lake. He has resided in North Vancouver 5 years. Rick has degrees in military history, certified management accounting & fraud investigation. He worked in law enforcement for 30 years with the Ontario police as a detective - senior constable and Toronto police as a 11-division senior

constable. He also worked for CRA in the underground economy unit, law, accounting & North Vancouver School Board as a guidance counsellor. He was also an officer in the military reserves in Ontario. Rick is now retired, however, and keeps very busy with several endeavours including current and political events, military history, law and order and pickleball.

Speaker Tom Isaac Review

A rowd of 115 members turned out at the meeting of the Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver on May 11th to hear Tom Isaac, a nationally recognized authority on Aboriginal Law, speak on the governance crisis facing British Columbia where every one of its laws must now be consistent with every one of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples "UNDRIP".

While UNDRIP is a non binding universal declaration of principles that was aimed at countries with poor aboriginal records, it now has the force of law in British Columbia through legislative incorporation. In Mr. Isaac's view, the zealous advancement of these principles was ill-suited to a country that has the best record of aboriginal governance and forbearance of any of the 88 countries that have UN acknowledged aboriginal populations.

Mr. Isaac considered at length the question of how a government can govern in the face of competing demands of over 200 aboriginal groups claiming sovereignty over the entirety land base. His conclusion was that British Columbia is effectively ungovernable. Said Mr. Isaac: "There is no hand on the rudder because there is no rudder, and that is not good for anyone".

Mr. Isaac also touched on the Cowichan decision which he described as a mess that will take years to work through the appellate courts and "cannot be upheld if we want to have an economy in this Country".

Mr. Isaac concluded his talk by discussing a path forward that will require a refocus on the public interest, the disentanglement of UNDRIP from provincial laws and a costed, rational approach to treaty settlement, divorced from election cycle pronouncements. This he said will be extremely difficult to follow and will require fortitude in the face of strong opposition.

Reaction to Mr. Isaac's address was a mix of alarm and dismay. One member stating "I could never have imagined something like this happening".

Pierre Lebel,,Chair, Speakers Committee



Photos from May Meeting



Top Left - Pierre Lebel introduces speaker Tom Isaac (Right).



President Bryan McConachy welcomes new members Rick McGregor, Laura Renés and Paul McFadyen.

Photos from May Meeting



Audience of 115 enjoying Tom Isaac's presentation.

