



NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

July 2026

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Monday, July 13th, 2026 Meeting

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

Michelle Kunimoto

"Exoplanets"



Michelle Kunimoto is an assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at UBC, where she also obtained her PhD. She was previously a postdoctoral fellow at MIT where she worked on NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission. Dr. Kunimoto is an expert on discovering and characterizing strange new worlds outside of the Solar System, known as exoplanets.

She aims to understand the demographics and diversity of exoplanets, especially those that are potentially habitable and Earth-like. Across all of her planet-hunting endeavours, Dr. Kunimoto has found almost 4000 planets and planet candidates.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

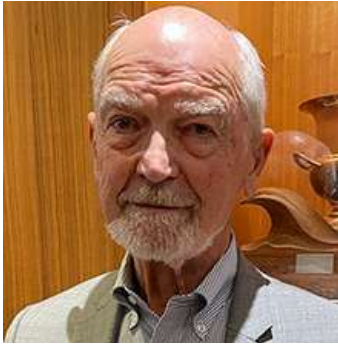


August 10 - Brent Gilchrist, CEO Deans Knight Independent Investment,
"What it takes to win a Stanley Cup and how that translates to business."

September 14 - Ralph Sultan, TBA

October 5 - Paul Evans, *Canada and China in the Era of Trump 2.0*

President's Notes



The deadline for this newsletter is a couple of days after I return from a two-week trip to the Canadian Arctic, so I am writing in advance of the trip.

I'm going to tour Yellowknife, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk before going to Ivvavik National Park which is at the northern tip of the Yukon. Many of my

acquaintances are heading for Europe this summer and ask me why the Arctic? It's cold there. That's true but it occurred to me that Canadians often describe the expanse of our country as from ocean to ocean to ocean - the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Arctic. My question is how many Canadians have seen our third ocean. My guess is not many. I think I should be one of them.

The impact of climate change is more pronounced in the Arctic than any other place in Canada. It is warming up twice as fast as the global average. I want to see these impacts firsthand. The geopolitics of the Arctic have become an issue. When will the sea ice shrink to point that large ships can traverse the Arctic from Asia to Europe? Will our government establish sovereignty here or allow other nations to set up military bases and develop resources? If you are interested in these issues, read "Arctic Passages".

Bryan McConachy, President



Why We Celebrate British Columbia Day

The first Monday of August is celebrated as British Columbia Day (BC Day). It was officially established in 1974 by Premier Dave Barrett's NDP government. Before this, British Columbia was uniquely one of the only Canadian provinces without a summer civic holiday. The holiday serves two main historical purposes:

Provincial Heritage: It honors the unique culture, pioneering spirit, and diverse history of British Columbia.

Colonial Founding: It commemorates the Westminster Parliament's official declaration of British Columbia as a Crown Colony on August 2, 1858. This declaration was a direct response to the Fraser Canyon Gold Rush, which brought thousands of miners to the region.

The Barrett government created the statutory holiday primarily to give hard-working families a much-needed mid-summer long weekend to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

Special Events

Geology Tour, Wednesday, July 15th

Our next tour is a geology adventure focussed on the North Shore from Eagle Ridge to Squamish. The tour is on Wednesday July 15th and the bus will leave the Seniors Activity Centre at 9:00 AM. Our tour will be led by Lindsay Bottomer who is a Probus member. He is a retired geologist with a wide knowledge of the rock formations in this part of the world. Lindsay has led other geology tours for us and they are always interesting.

Note: Those with mobility issues would find this tour difficult.

- The first stop will be in Eagle Ridge.
- Stop 2 will be in Porteau Cove.
- The last stop will be at Brandywine Falls followed by
- Lunch at Howe Sound Inn & Brewing in Squamish
- Return to SAC by 2:30 PM.

The cost of the tour is \$50.00 per person. To register please contact **Arvind Thakore** to get on the list.

Then, to confirm your reservation, send a \$50.00 etransfer.

Urban Wildfire Risk Prevention Special Presentation Wednesday, July 22, 2026



North Shore Probus Club will welcome Jeremy Calder, FireSmart Coordinator and Assistant Chief, Fire Prevention, with West Vancouver Fire Rescue, for an informative presentation on wildfire risk and community resilience.

Jeremy will discuss West Vancouver's wildfire risk, how wildfires affect homes and neighbourhoods, and the practical steps residents can take to reduce risk. The presentation will introduce key FireSmart principles and explain how they can be applied to improve the wildfire resilience of individual properties and the broader community.

Place: West Vancouver Senior Activity Centre, Audio Visual Room

Time: 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Cost: Attendance to this presentation is FREE OF CHARGE

Other: Spouses and Friends are welcome

To register: Please email Arvind Thakore to get on the list.

Remember there is **No Charge** for this presentation.

Alastair Campbell, Special Events Chair

Special Events



Bard on the Beach Three Club Event August 30th Sunday Matinee

The three Probus clubs are once again joining together to enjoy a performance at Bard on the Beach. This year the play is "**The Merry Wives of**

Windsor" with introduction by Christopher Gaze.

Cost of \$125 includes :

- Ticket to performance
- On-site reception with cash bar
- Lunch catered by Lazy Gourmet
- Bus transportation to and from the event

Spouses, partners and guests are welcome to this event this year. Registration in person at the July 13th general meeting or by email to **Arvind Thakore**.

Registration confirmed by e-transfer to **Steve Wilson** or check payable to North Shore Probus at the July meeting.

Parking and pick-up at Collingwood School, 2605 Wentworth Avenue, West Vancouver at 10:45 am.

Questions to Arvind or Steve.

Westminster Abbey in Mission Tour Review

The Probus tour to the Westminster Abbey in Mission was on June 17th and 22 of us attended. After a 1 1/2 hour bus ride along the Fraser River we arrived at the Abbey at 10:30 and we did a little walk about on the 200 acre grounds to a spectacular lookout of the Fraser River towards Chilliwack and Matsqui Prairie. At 11:00 we were met by an engaging head monk who guided us around the property all the while giving us the history of their Order. We then went into the breath-taking cathedral featuring an innovative design and stained glass windows towering above the sanctuary. This was all the more impressive when we learned that the monks built the cathedral and surrounding buildings themselves. Just before noon some soft bells rang out and monks appeared from back rooms and we were treated to chanting before their lunch. Then we went back on the bus to the Mission Station Grill for our lunch.

Once lunch was finished we got back on the bus and headed to the Stave Lake Dam Powerhouse for a guided tour. It first started generating electricity in 1911 and the five generators were in use until 1995. For many of those years this powerhouse was the largest hydroelectric power source in BC. Our enthusiastic guide gave us all the stats and where each of the major components came from. The tour ended with a walk through of an electrical museum which was fascinating as we could relate to the old electrical appliances and devices. We all had a wonderful time. It was a day well spent.

Alastair Campbell, Special Events Chair

**Photo inside
Westminster
Abbey,**
*courtesy of
member
Christopher Hebb*



Membership



John Bean was born and raised in North Vancouver and has been a West Vancouver resident since 1992. He received a B.Com. at UBC as well as a CPA, CA degrees. His vocation was that of a corporate director on 8 corporate boards (mining, clean energy technology, medical marijuana, and software technology), 2 private boards (professional services) and 3 not-for-profit boards and CFO of 5 companies (hardware technology, cloud computing, energy, cannabis, and real estate & construction);

He continues to work part-time with CFO services to select companies needing financial management expertise, who are unable to pay for a full-time CFO. He is a former Accenture partner; and has worked in Japan, Korea, Australia, USA and Canada. ; He enjoys golf, downhill skiing and bridge.



James Harris was born in Calgary and has resided in Coal Harbour, Vancouver for the last 14 years. His education includes a BA, LLB, and diplomas in Business Studies (LSE) .

James's vocation was that of a lawyer working primarily with junior mining companies listed on the stock exchange. He was largely self-employed. He has worked in

Calgary, London, England and Vancouver.

James enjoys bridge, hiking travel and is an active member of Fit Fellas. He is a director of the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association which helps run VanDusen Gardens and the Bloedel Conservatory. .



Speaker Dr. John Steen Review

At our the June 8th meeting, Dr. John Steen, Director of the Bradshaw Research Initiative in Minerals and Mining, addressed the current state and future of mining and minerals, explaining how three key factors have transformed mining from a declining industry to a critical global sector. Miners he said "have become rock stars".

Dr. Steen outlined how climate change energy transition, geopolitical tensions, and artificial intelligence have created unprecedented demand for metals and minerals, with China strategically controlling much of the processing and supply chains.

Dr. Steen highlighted Vancouver's position as a global mining capital and centre of mining excellence and innovation citing transformative Canadian technologies like IDEON that use muon detection for ore body identification.

He said the best prospects for supplying critical minerals at the scale that will be needed will come from a collaborative approach to mine development that connects industry, government, higher education / research, and First Nations.

Pierre Lebel, Chair, Speakers Committee



Top Right -
President Bryan McConachy thanks speaker Dr. John Steen.

Below Left:
President Bryan McConachy welcomes new members John Bean (L) and James Harris.