

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

September 2026

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Monday, September 14th, 2026 Meeting

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, followed by guest speaker
Ralph Sultan
"Sparks to Speeches"



Ralph Sultan, at the ripe age of 93, has written a biography titled "Sparks to Speeches" being published by University of Toronto Press later this year.

Ralph will give us anecdotes from his career as a lineman on the Kemano project (the "sparks"); to selling compressed gas (excellent training for politics); climbing the ranks at the Harvard Business School from incoming student to Associate Professor in 10 years; his career at The Royal Bank of Canada, where he was Chief Economist and later Sr VP of their Global Energy and Minerals Group; his disastrous career as EVP of Anglo-American; his partnering with a UBC classmate to reopen a large lead-zinc mine in the Yukon; his magnificent flop in the mutual fund industry; and finally, his adventures for almost 20 years as an elected member of the British Columbia Legislature (the "speeches"). Lots of stories here but Ralph — recognizing that Probus consists of many individuals with more distinguished careers — will try to amuse rather than amaze.



**IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED
YOUR 2026-2027 MEMBERSHIP,
PLEASE DO SO NOW!**

View Interact e-transfer instructions on page 2



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 5 - Paul Evans, *Canada and China in the Era of Trump 2.0*
November 9 - Russel Brown, *"Legal Landscape in Canada from a Supreme Court Perspective."*

President's Notes



Since most club business will be covered in the president's annual report to membership, I want to use my last message to summarize what 40 of us learned from WVFD about wild fires on 22 July. This will not be a complete description of the presentation but the issues that I took note of and what I've done to mitigate the

risks at my residence. Key points were:

During wildfires, 90% of fires to structures are caused by flying embers; the wind can carry embers for kilometres (for example, from West Kelowna across Okanagan Lake to East Kelowna).

Fire breaks on ground are useful but no defense from flying embers. Homeowners can reduce ignition risk from embers by:

- Clearing gutters, roofs, decks and balconies of combustible materials
- Keeping grass and weeds under 10 cm. (Personal note: Given the water restrictions in West Vancouver, my "lawn" is a flat golden brown).
- Store wood and propane tanks 10-30 m away from structures and 10m away from combustible vegetation. (Personal note: To comply with these guidelines, my propane tank would have to be in the middle of the street in front of my house).
- Trim tree branches to achieve a 2 metre clearance from the ground
- Sign up for a free Firesmart home assessment by your local fire department

It was comforting to know that WVFD has two trailers loaded with sprinkler systems and hoses to be dispatched in event an area needs protection from flying embers. These units can navigate the rough fire access roads in the forests north of the developed areas of the District.

WVFD can cover several structural fires at the same time but does not have resources to cover entire neighbourhoods. For example, the 2003 fire in Kelowna destroyed 240 homes. Cedar hedges are very popular in West Vancouver and are a unique risk. They are green on outside few inches but bone dry inside.

One of the products on display at the presentation was a wild-fire home protection kit called a WASP. Each package had two sprinklers that attached to the house eavestroughs and 50 feet of flat hose. I bought a kit and after installation, in 10 minutes I can have sprinklers sending a 10 m radius spray on both the north and south sides of my roof and into the cedar hedges on the property lines. I know the probability of a wildfire reaching my neighborhood is very low but as were seeing almost every night on the news, the consequences of such fires are devastating. It was a small investment that could save hundreds of thousands in fire damage. I hope I never have to use it!

Bryan McConachy, President

Special Events

The Wednesday, September 16th special events tour for Probus members will visit historic Steveston exploring its rich past of shipbuilding, fishing, and the contributions of the Japanese community in the area followed by a lunch at the Catch Kitchen and Bar. The tour will visit the Britannia Shipyards, Historic Boardwalk, Steveston Tram, and finishing at the Steveston Museum. The bus will leave the Senior's Activity Centre at 8:45 am and return at 2:30 pm.

Registration can be made by contacting Mark Jackson. The cost of the tour is \$50 which can be sent to Alastair Campbell.

Mark Jackson and Alastair Campbell, Special Events Committee

**The Following AGM Materials
will be sent to all club members
prior to the AGM:**

- **Agenda**
- **Minutes of 2025 AGM**
- **President's Report**
- **Projected 2026 Year End-Financials**
- **2026 Nominating Committee Report**

Membership Renewals



While members have been sending their renewal fee payments by Interact e-transfer or cheque, there are still many who have yet to do so.

For those who were planning to e-transfer the \$130 renewal fee using Interact through your bank account online, please follow these steps:

- Enter the amount (\$130.00) and Click on "Submit"
- Enter Name – "Probus 2026-2027 fees"
- Enter Email Address – as previously provided
- Leave mobile number blank.
- NOTE: Leave security question and answer blank.
- In the Message box, enter your name and any changes you need to make (address / phone number, etc.)

Alternately you can mail your \$130 cheque payable to: "Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver" to: Membership Chair, Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver, P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 4X4. You can also bring your cheque to the September 14, 2026 meeting. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Membership



Lionel Colman was born in Sussex England and has resided in Nassau, Bahamas, Toronto, Montreal and Boston and arrived in Vancouver July 5th of this year. He has a BA, Psychology major from the University of Toronto, CPA from Waterloo University and CFP from the financial planning standards council.

Lionel held several official and managerial positions in the financial world and was an owner and manager of Assante Wealth Management in Toronto from 1990 to 2023.

Lionel enjoys swimming, travelling, bridge and socializing. He previously played soccer, rugby, tennis, squash, spearfishing and sailing. He is involved with his condominium association, the Whiff of Grape, North York, CPC Association and the Sigma Chi fraternity.



Michael Okun born in Vancouver and has resided in North Vancouver for 33 years. He received a B.A.Sc. and an M.A.Sc. from UBC. He became a professional civil engineer in both Alberta and BC in water resources. His vocation can be best described as a hydro- technical engineer.

He has worked with BC Hydro, and for 52 years at Northwest Hydraulic Consultants as a river engineer, project manager, principal and director of international operations. He was a board member/secretary for 17 years and involved with corporate and business development. Also, a former board member of both the BC and Canadian Association of Consulting Engineers as well as Vice Chair International ACEC.

His interests include volunteering, photography, hiking/walking, Pilates, travel, music and cooking. Michael volunteers for Northshore Neighbourhood House, Loutet farm & market, food bank & neighbourhood small grants committee.

Opposite column:

Left - Member Humphry Barnikel shares a joke with the audience.

Right - Jennifer Dibnahfrom, took a moment to speak about retirement living at Amica in West Vancouver.

Speaker Brent Gilchrist Review



The August meeting featured a presentation by Brent Gilchrist, a former NHL player who transitioned to business, discussing the parallels between success in hockey and business. Brent shared his 15-year NHL career, including winning the Stanley Cup with the Detroit Red Wings in 1998, and his subsequent career in investment management as CEO of Dean's Knight, a Vancouver-based investment firm. He explained how hockey principles like teamwork, preparation, leadership, and dealing with resistance apply to business success, particularly in the resource sector. Brent also discussed his passion for Canadian resource investments, arguing that Canada has the world's best oil and gas producers and significant mining capabilities, while expressing concerns about government policies that make energy more expensive through excessive regulation and energy transition efforts. The presentation concluded with a discussion of energy physics and the challenges of replacing fossil fuels, followed by a Q&A session where Brent addressed questions about mining approvals in British Columbia, nuclear energy potential, and market valuations.

Pierre Lebel, Chair, Speakers Committee



Photos from August Meeting

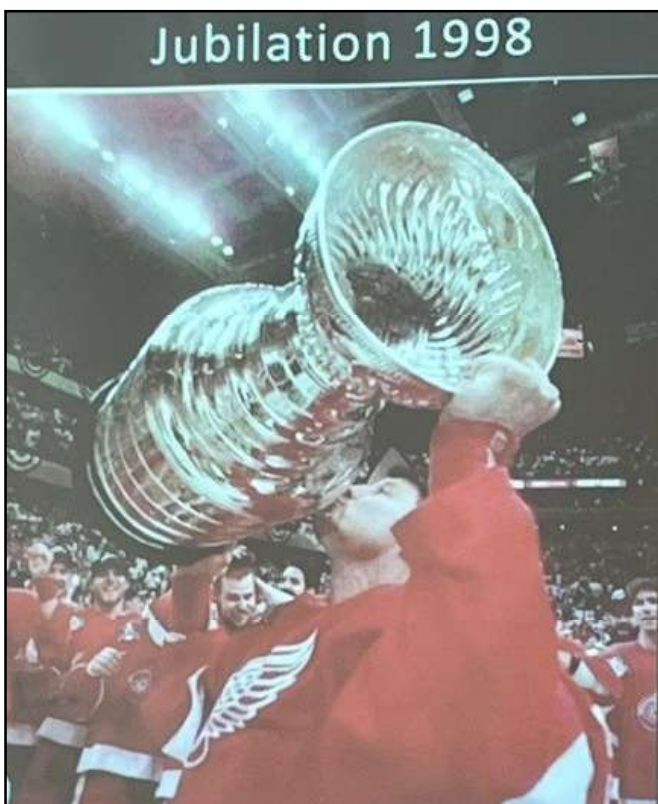
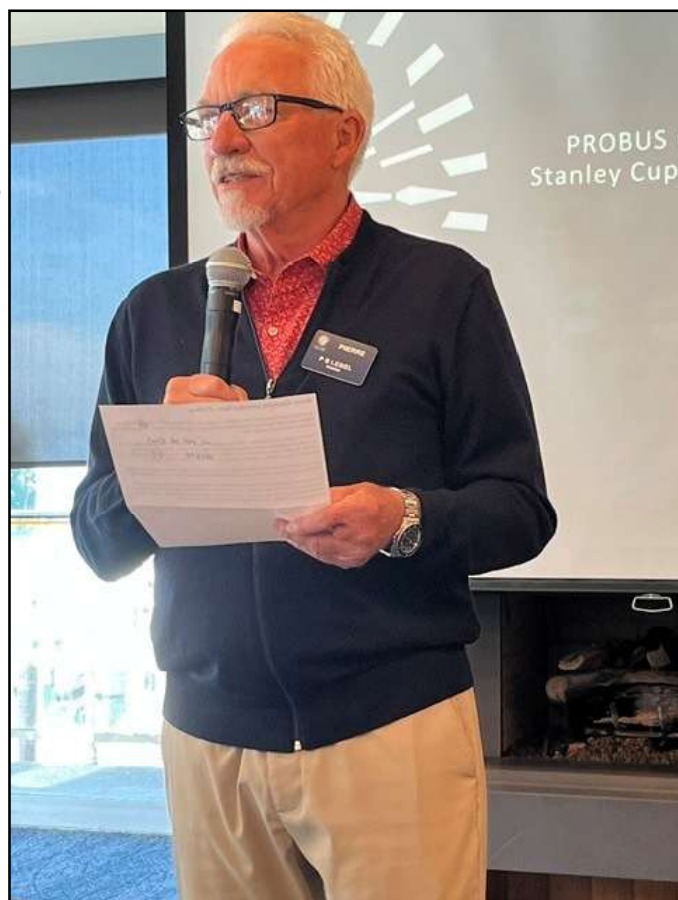


Left - Bryan McConachy thanks speaker.

Right - Pierre Lebel welcomes the speaker.

Below Right - Bryan McConachy welcomes our new members.

Below Left - 1998 Stanley Cup win.



Jubilation 1998



Cycling Without Age

Probus member, Ian Rose-Innes, took the opportunity at our meeting to give members a short introduction to Cycling Without Age:

Cycling Without Age was started in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2012 by Ole Kassow. Volunteers give mobility-challenged people FREE rides on a trishaw, like those pictured below, giving them the “*Right to Wind in Their Hair*”. The organization has spread to 52 countries with more than 3700 chapters. Ian started the North Shore Chapter of Cycling Without Age in 2019, inspired by a good friend Mike, who lost mobility. Wanting the Chapter to be sustainable he canvassed every not-for profit organization he could find on the North Shore. All said, “what a wonderful program, but won’t someone else own it”. Eventually he met Annwen Loverin, the Executive Director of Silver Harbour Seniors Activity Centre, who persuaded her board to take on CWA and the North Shore Chapter is now one of the 75 programs operated by Silver Harbour.

CWA North Shore operates from four bases at Park Royal, Mahon Park, Lynn Valley and Phibbs Exchange, using four 2-seater and two wheelchair-carrying trishaws, serving 20 care organizations. Our 40 volunteer Pilots provide weekly rides for residents along urban and forest trails and on quiet streets. In 2024 we provided rides for 628 people and increased this to 1071 in 2025. This year in addition to providing rides at the door of care residences we have borrowed a bus, courtesy of the West Vancouver Seniors’ Activity Centre, and have arranged rides in the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve on 6 days in July and August as well as bi-weekly rides at Bridgman Park and Ambleside Park for mobility-challenged people living in their own homes.

Our committee of dedicated individuals make very significant efforts coordinating rides, maintaining equipment, raising funds, and organizing volunteers. We have now grown to the point where we need to employ a manager to reduce the load on our committee and are seeking long term funding to render our service sustainable. Please contact Ian if you are interested in supporting this worthy cause. Below is a photo of Ian on the left and taking seniors for a bicycle ride much to their delight.

You can find more information on our website <https://cyclingwithoutage.ca/northshore/>

Ian Rose-Innes, Probus Member

