



**The Women's Probus Club of
North Shore Vancouver**

Stay Connected



www.wprobusnvan.com password WP2324 – NOTE – New Password

October 2023

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17: No. 2

**Meeting at Kay Meek Arts Centre
Monday 16th October, 2023 at 10:00 with refreshments at 9:15 am
Speaker: Mr. Michael Geller, Architect and Developer**

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SPEAKER: Mr. Michael Geller

Presentation title: Seniors' Housing: So Where Are We Going To Live Next?

Michael Geller is a Vancouver-based retired architect, planner, real estate consultant and property developer with years of experience in the public, private and institutional sectors. He is a regular contributor to the Vancouver Sun and Courier and frequent commentator on urban issues across Canada.



“The talk will examine various alternative housing options available on the North Shore for those who may be ready to downsize, but not downgrade. I will not be there to sell anything. I no longer have anything to sell. But I will offer advice on whether to buy or rent, and if buying, what to look out for, especially if considering a condominium. I will also explore other housing choices including assisted living and care.”

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## **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Dear Probus Ladies,



What a great turnout for our September Speaker event at Kay Meek, 157 members and guests turned out to hear Paul Ferguson give a great presentation on the Role of the Criminal Defence Lawyer in the complex legal and constitutional issues regarding criminal law process. While we never hope to be in need of a Defence lawyer, they are critical advocates if needed. Thanks to Gail Youldon for bringing in Paul on short notice due to a cancellation. 153 is a record attendance for our meetings at Kay Meek Arts Centre.

We have 25 new members joining us this year and warmly welcome them to participate in our events. We continue to encourage members to bring guests to our Speaker Events as a way to introduce them to our Club as possible new members. The Club is now at just over 200 members and is celebrating its 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. There are a number of founding members still with the Club.

Our Special Event Tour of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Science Enterprise Centre in West Vancouver on September 25<sup>th</sup> had a large turn-out for the tour with the lunch moved to The Red

Lion in Dundarave to accommodate more attendees. Big thanks to Inga Harding on our Special Events Committee for organizing this. It is rewarding to see so many members participate at events that our Management Committee members work hard to organize.

This year, for the first time, the Club is holding a Special Event Christmas Luncheon on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the West Vancouver Yacht Club. Along with a delicious Christmas Buffet, we will have a comedic guest speaker on the Therapeutic Power of Laughter. The event will be a social and fun way to lead us into the holidays. **There is a maximum of 120 at table settings, so DO NOT DELAY, BOOK YOUR SEATS EARLY, deadline is November 24<sup>th</sup>.** Booking can only be made with payment in advance and details are in this newsletter. As seating is limited, this event is for MEMBERS ONLY. If the event does not sell out to members by early November, seats will be opened for guests.

Our October Speaker is Mr. Michael Geller, an expert on housing will speak on Seniors' Housing: Where are we going to live next? A topical issue in today's rising housing costs.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Carolyn Armstrong, President

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### Probus Ladies Buddy Tables



Looking to connect with other members? Don't want to sit by yourself? We are making it easy! We are setting up Buddy Tables in the Kay Meek lobby for new members and existing members to connect during refreshment time. New members will be wearing a **yellow** dot on their name tags so they can be welcomed by other members.

As one of our key club functions is to connect members, the Buddy Tables help make these happen. We encourage long-time members to reach out to welcome new members.

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### Volunteer positions

- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Membership
- House

The duties of the positions on our website [www.wprobusnsvan.com](http://www.wprobusnsvan.com)

**WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER**  
**Special Event Christmas Luncheon**



**Club Members are invited to attend our Special Event Christmas Luncheon to be held on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the West Vancouver Yacht Club**

We have scheduled some light-hearted entertainment for this year's event. **Janice Bannister will be our guest speaker.** Janice has a background in psychiatric nursing and believes in the therapeutic power of laughter as a way for people to connect in an upbeat manner and just plain have fun. Janice is the owner of Laughter Zone 101, a comedy and storytelling school in New Westminster and teaches Stand-up comedy and Arts for Brain Fitness for the Simon Fraser 55+ Continuing Studies program. It should be a fun session to lead us into Christmas.



**A Christmas Buffet luncheon** will be served prior to our Guest Speaker with **Salad Bar** – Caesar Salad, Mixed Green Salad; **Carving Station** – Roast Turkey & Stuffing; **Entrée** – Salmon Filet with Cranberry Orange Glaze, Mushroom Ravioli, Roasted Squash, Seasonal Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes and Rice Pilaf, Fresh Breads, Condiments and Sauces; **Dessert Table** – Fresh Fruit, Cheese Selection, Plum Pudding, Shortbread and Mince Meat tarts; **Coffee/Tea**      **Cash Bar available for wine**

**How to Reserve your seat at the Luncheon Event**

**TICKET PRICE is \$56.25** (inclusive of taxes and tip) payable by the following three methods:

1. Preferred method by **e-transfer payment** to [womensprobusnorthshore@gmail.com](mailto:womensprobusnorthshore@gmail.com)
2. **Or Cheque mailed** to Women's Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver, PO Box 91624, West Vancouver, BC V7V 3P3
3. **Or In-person** with preferred cheque or cash, at the Christmas event table in the Kay Meek Lobby Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and Nov 20<sup>th</sup> (based on availability)
4. **BOOK EARLY** – Maximum number of attendees 120 seated in tables of 8,
5. **Due to limited seating bookings are restricted to MEMBERS ONLY (no guests)**
6. **Deadline for booking with payment November 24<sup>th</sup>**

7. Cancellations: Refunds will be provided only up to November 24<sup>th</sup>
8. Email announcement will be sent to all members at such time as the event is sold out

Doors open at 11:00 am for socializing prior to buffet lunch that will begin at 12:00 noon followed with the Guest Speaker at 1:00 pm.

Place cards will be provided at the registration of the event to reserve your table seat while social mingling.

**LOCATION:** West Vancouver Yacht Club, 5854 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, BC



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### **Guests are welcome at our Speaker Events!**

The Management Committee has relaxed the rules about bringing guests. There is no longer a limit to the number of guests, but each guest needs to check in at the Membership table and pay the \$10 fee. Bringing a guest is an excellent way of introducing potential new members to our Probus group.

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### **Kay Meek Arts Centre Protocols for our meetings**

When attending PROBUS Club in-person meetings at Kay Meek Arts Centre, Members and Guests are asked to comply with the following protocols for the safety of all members and Kay Meek staff.

- Masks are no longer required in indoor settings but encouraged in spaces where physical distancing is difficult to maintain. Kay Meek Arts Centre encourages you to continue to wear your mask when attending an event in its venue.
- Refreshments are not permitted in the Kay Meek theatre, except water bottles.
- If you are not feeling well or have any COVID symptoms, we ask for the safety of other members you do not attend.

There are no reserved seats at Kay Meek and all the seats will be available.

## **A Very Warm Welcome to our latest new members**

Brenda Bevis  
Carol Zurowski  
Donna Becker  
Cheryl Mitchell  
Eleanor Panio

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### **Summary of Paul Ferguson Talk – Criminal Defence Lawyer – 18 September, 2023**

Paul Ferguson has been practicing criminal defence law as well as civil and administrative law in BC for 18 years. He was called to the bar in 2005 and opened his own practice upon graduation. In 2006 he joined Johnson Doricic Doyle and then was made a partner at Johnson Doyle Sugarman & Ferguson in 2015 and is now a founding member and partner at Ferguson Allingham in Vancouver.

Paul's interest in criminal defence law came from his argumentative nature as a child according to his mother. His love for it grew as he studied different types of law at university, and he then settled on criminal as it presented an array of intricacies which he enjoyed learning about despite the challenges and stresses of this legal discipline.

Paul spoke about the need for defence law as it makes us vigilant about how we analyze and test authority and challenge the legal democratic process where lawyers on behalf of their clients are ultimately seeking a system of checks and balances within our Canadian constitution. Criminal defence law, according to Ferguson, primarily deals with defending marginalized people especially in Vancouver where many convicted men and women are coming from difficult, challenged homes with little or no education. Many people are living with addictions and other mental health issues.

The role of the defence lawyer he feels is to help these marginalized people navigate the complex legal system and come up with an effective plan for dealing with their charges. He stated that the "punishment must fit the crime" and the criminal defence lawyer is there on behalf of their client to ensure that due process of law is followed.

Ferguson discussed the key roles of the criminal defence lawyer:

- 1) To shepherd, assist and counsel the first-time criminal through a court appearance if there is a charge and rationally ascertain within the context of the law if it can be dropped.
- 2) To assist if the person is charged with an offence and is in jail through a bail hearing process making him/her aware of the laws related to the crime(s) at hand.

- 3) To assist and counsel their clients in negotiated resolutions within the court system providing them with strategic instructions to aid them with their defence.

Ferguson emphasized that most clients do not want to defer to authority and will therefore want to negotiate a resolution with the crown counsel. According to recent statistics, 70% of criminals were charged and found guilty of crimes but 30% of those charges were dropped. Ferguson pointed out that the experienced opinion of the defence lawyer needs to be a primary focus to help the charged person properly navigate their options: either Pleading guilty or not guilty, or going to trial to take the stand to be cross-examined (risky).

The other important role that Ferguson believes is the traditional role of the defence lawyer is to “Police the Police” in terms of how they deal with Charter litigation. In his area of practice, there is less Charter litigation since the decriminalization of marijuana and drinking and driving laws now being under provincial authority.

Ferguson summarized that the bail system is dysfunctional and needs to be reviewed as it is a “catch and release” or “revolving door” system whereby there are too many people getting released without conditions and not having their mental health concerns properly looked after by our social support systems. The bail system needs to be looked at federally and BC Premier David Eby has been assertively lobbying to amend it.

Ferguson made the point that there is disparity between the public perception of a criminal sentencing and its actual accuracy due to how the media reports and often misrepresents the actual findings of a case.

Lisa Hunter

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## **Upcoming Club Speaker Events**

- |                  |                                                                                                                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20 November 2023 | Anna Slivinski, RD<br>Home and Community Care - VCH<br>Clinical Instructor- UBC - Dietetics Program                           |
| 4 December 2023  | Seasonal Lunch – West Vancouver Yacht Club<br>Speaker: Janice Bannister, Owner, Laughter Zone 101<br><i>Laughter Wellness</i> |

## Website

Members Information section is password protected for current members only – the **NEW** password is **WP2324** Check regularly for updated information:

- Most recent Newsletter – you will always have access to your newsletter as well as past copies
- Updated Speaker Schedules
- Photo Gallery
- Special Events and Outings

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## Management Committee and their contact information

President – Carolyn Armstrong – [presidentwprobusnsvan@gmail.com](mailto:presidentwprobusnsvan@gmail.com)

Vice-President – vacant

Secretary – Heather Miller – [infowprobusnsvan@gmail.com](mailto:infowprobusnsvan@gmail.com)

Programs – Gail Youldon, Vi Roden and Judith Berg

Membership – Diana Sonderhoff – [membershipwprobusnsvan@gmail.com](mailto:membershipwprobusnsvan@gmail.com)

Newsletter mailings/website – Marie Harlow – [northshoreprobus@gmail.com](mailto:northshoreprobus@gmail.com)

Events – Sheila Drummond and Susan Hayto – [eventswprobusnsvan@gmail.com](mailto:eventswprobusnsvan@gmail.com)

Special Events – Barbara Budzynski and Inga Harding - [Info@barbarab.ca](mailto:Info@barbarab.ca)

Newsletter Editors – Alison Watt and Lisa Hunter – [communicationswprobusnsvan@gmail.com](mailto:communicationswprobusnsvan@gmail.com)

If you have any feedback or suggestions about the speaker sessions or events, or please contact the appropriate Management Committee Member.



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We acknowledge the opportunity to live, work, play, and learn on the traditional territory of the Squamish (s̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh), Tsleil-Waututh (selílwitulh), and Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) peoples.