



The Women's Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver

Stay Connected



www.wprobusnsvan.com password WP2324

March 2024

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17: No. 6

Meeting at West Vancouver Yacht Club

Monday, 18th March, 2024, at 10:00 with refreshments at 9:15 am

Max Wyman and Ken McQueen in conversation:

“Can Art Build us a Better World?”

As we mentioned in earlier newsletter, due to major construction underway at the West Vancouver High School for the new track and field facilities until the winter of 2025, the parking lots are now closed during the daytime for the foreseeable future. The Spring speakers sessions of our Probus Club have therefore been relocated to the West Vancouver Yacht Club.

The monthly meeting dates will remain the same except for the May meeting which will be held on Tuesday 21st May. The meeting costs including room rental and refreshments are similar to those at Kay Meek, so there should be no change to our budgets. We will continue meetings at WVYC through to June and reconsider venue options going into next year, and with the potential of returning to Kay Meek when parking is available again.

Parking is available at the WVYC. There is parking in front of the club house and just to the west of the sailing school smaller building. There is also lots of parking at Thunderbird Marina, east of the Yacht club, but it is a bit of a walk along Marine Drive and no sidewalk. There is also a smaller parking lot at the marina just west of the yacht club, shorter walk along Marine Drive, again no sidewalks. We encourage members to carpool. Another alternative is the West Vancouver Blue 250 bus which stops right outside the WVYC. Travelling by car on the Upper Levels Highway, take Exit 2, Eagleridge Drive down to Marine Drive, turn left on Marine Drive to the Yacht Club.



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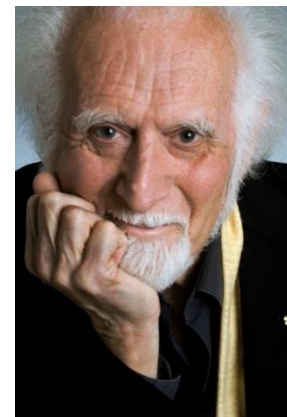
**As there is a fair amount of COVID, influenza and RSV around at the moment,
please consider wearing a mask at the Speaker Events.**

Monday March 18th Speakers

Max Wyman and Ken MacQueen in conversation

MAX WYMAN is a Vancouver writer and cultural commentator. Born and educated in England, he spent several years as a journalist in London before emigrating to Canada in 1967. He was dance, music and drama critic for *The Vancouver Sun* and CBC Radio for over 30 years.

He was for six years a member of the board of the Canada Council for the Arts, he served as Mayor of the Village of Lions Bay from 2005 to 2008, and was founding chair of the Metro Vancouver Regional Cultural Committee.



Max has consulted on arts policy for the federal government and the governments of Alberta and British Columbia, and has lectured on arts policy across North America.



KEN MACQUEEN, as an Ottawa-based journalist, covered elections, leaderships, scandals and the 1995 Quebec referendum. After his move to Vancouver, he worked first with the Vancouver Sun/Southam News, and later as Vancouver Bureau Chief for Maclean's, indulging his wildly unfocused range of interests.

With the fun, and funds, draining out of journalism, Ken left Maclean's after 15 years and turned to writing fiction. He has two unpublished Canadian-based thrillers ripening on his hard drive. *Hero Haters*, his debut thriller based in the U.S. Pacific Northwest, was published in October 2022.

As Max so eloquently argued in a recent essay: "it's hard to show the value of art and culture on a cost-benefit graph." MacQueen's personal graph certainly shows he writes for love, not for money.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Probus Ladies,

We had another great turnout of 95 members for our February meeting at West Vancouver Yacht Club to hear Dr. Hilary Letwin speak on Cornelia Oberlander, Landscape Architect. Our Probus Club's success in bringing you great monthly speakers and keeping you connected with our newsletters and website, are thanks to our many volunteer members on the Management Committee. I am now back in West Vancouver after 4 months as a snowbird in the desert, and I thank all Management Committee members for continuing to run the Club in my absence.

We have now held three meetings at the West Vancouver Yacht Club, our Christmas Luncheon and the January and February speaker meetings. Members attending these events have gotten a sense for the venue and how it meets our Club's needs, both for the speaker presentations and socializing. Later this month you will be sent a Probus Club Survey Monkey questionnaire asking for your feedback on which venue, Kay Meek Arts Centre or the West Vancouver Yacht Club, you feel best fits our Club's activities. Each venue has its own unique attributes which suit our Club meetings. Your feedback is important to our Management Committee as we prepare plans for the 2024-2025 year and membership renewals coming out in May. The venue, location, parking access, socializing space and speaker presentations for our Club meetings are all important to member turnout and enjoyment of our events. Each venue comes in around the same cost for the space rental and refreshments.

The Survey will also ask you to rank a range of speaker topics of interest to you, providing valuable feedback to our Programs Committee as they plan speakers for the 2024-2025 year. We try to provide a varied range of topics throughout the year that are of interest to our members. When you receive the Survey, please take a few minutes to fill it out and return, as your input is important.

Our Women's Probus Club is one of 245 Probus clubs across Canada with 33, 673 members. Each club provides activities that are suited to their members and all are run by volunteers. Connecting with others in a social and stimulating environment is what Probus Clubs aspire to for their members.

I look forward to seeing you in person at the March 18th meeting with guest speaker Max Wyman speaking on the subject: Can Art Can Build a Better World?

Carolyn Armstrong
President, Women's Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver

Probus Ladies Buddy Tables will be available at the West Vancouver Yacht Club



Looking to connect with other members? Don't want to sit by yourself? We are making it easy! We are setting up Buddy Tables at WVYC 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.

Volunteer positions

- Vice-President
- Treasurer

The duties of the positions on our website www.wprobusnsvan.com

Stay Tuned for Upcoming Events

The Probus Events group is planning a visit to the Vancouver Aquarium for April 2024
More details to come soon.

Guests are welcome at our Speaker Events!

Guests can join us at our meetings for a fee of \$10; check in at the front desk to register and get a name tag. Bringing guests is an excellent way of introducing potential new members to Probus group.

**Membership fee for the balance of the program year to June 2024
for new members is \$50 + \$15 for the name badge.**

A Very Warm Welcome to our latest new members

Michelle Hui and Candy Prescott

Summary of Hilary Letwin's talk on Tuesday 20th February, 2024

Dr. Hilary Letwin, Administrator/Curator, West Vancouver Art Museum

Genius Loci: An Introduction to the Landscape Architecture of Cornelia Hahn Oberlander.

It was a pleasure to have Dr. Hilary Letwin as a speaker for our Probus Club again. Her presentation about the life and work of Cornelia Hahn Oberlander was a full introduction to the work of this amazing Canadian landscape architect, and a glimpse at the elements of her background and life which had such a profound impact on her work and view of the world.

Born in Germany before the start of the Second World War, Cornelia's widowed mother, Beate Hahn, fled the country of her birth with her daughters to England and then to the US where Cornelia took her undergraduate work at Smith College. Peter Oberlander, also Jewish and also born in Germany, moved with his family to England just before the war, but Peter at age 18, was caught up in the wartime distrust of foreigners (principally Germans), and was interned as a possible enemy alien, and imprisoned as a prisoner of war, first in the UK and later in Canada. Following the end of the war, Cornelia and Peter met at Harvard where they were both graduate students.

Hilary's presentation featured the main foci in Cornelia's work: designing landscapes in conjunction with architects, and using innovative planting and environmentally appropriate plant selection processes in playgrounds and social housing projects, private gardens, and landscaping for public institutions. Cornelia was possibly influenced by her mother's background as a botanist and advocate for kindergartens (children's gardens), and she enhanced on these theories by developing wild play areas that included elements of risk and discovery for children.

Among Cornelia's most impressive works are the landscaping surrounding the Law Courts in Robson Square, Vancouver, the Children's Centre at the Canadian Pavilion at Expo 67, the roof garden at the Vancouver Public Library, the Canadian Chancery in Washington, DC and the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife. Probus members who would like more information about Cornelia can consult Susan Herrington's excellent book: *Cornelia Hahn Oberlander: Making the Modern Landscape* 2014. Cornelia Hahn Oberlander died in Vancouver in 2021 at the age of 99.

In 2021, the Art Gallery of Alberta and the West Vancouver Art Museum co-presented the exhibition entitled *Genius Loci: An introduction to the Landscape Architecture of Cornelia Hahn Oberlander*. The Exhibition was mounted in Alberta, North Vancouver and several other cities. A link to the essence of the exhibition can be found at <https://corneliaoberlander.youraga.ca/>

Upcoming Club Speaker Events

	Speaker	Topic
April 15, 2024	Carolyn Canfield	The Mysteries of Music and Emotion
Tuesday May 21, 2024 <i>New date</i>	Leslie Howard, author	Turning Fact into Fiction: Using True Stories and Events
June 17, 2024 - AGM	Dr. Paul Evans	

Website

Members Information section is password protected for current members only – the 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
- **NEW Probus Group Discount Home Insurance Policy**

Probus Canada has arranged with Belair Direct a Probus Member Group Discount on Home Insurance. To get more information or a quote from Belair Direct you can find their link on our website www.wprobusnsvan.com under Members Information - Probus Home Insurance, or go to the Belair Direct link

https://www.belairdirect.com/en/savings.html?organization_source=targetmarketwfrp1006

Management Committee and their contact information

President – Carolyn Armstrong – presidentwprobusnsvan@gmail.com

Vice-President – vacant

Secretary – Heather Miller – infowprobusnsvan@gmail.com

Treasurer - Joanne Thorpe - womensprobusnorthshore@gmail.com

Programs – Gail Youldon, Vi Roden and Judith Berg

Membership – Diana Sonderhoff and Wendy Trousdell – membershipwprobusnsvan@gmail.com

House: Sheila Drummond, Susan Hayton, Johanna Harrison, Terre Swan

Newsletter mailings/website – Marie Harlow – northshoreprobus@gmail.com

Special Events – Barbara Budzynski and Inga Harding

Newsletter Editors – Alison Watt and Lisa Hunter – communicationswprobusnsvan@gmail.com

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

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We acknowledge the opportunity to live, work, play, and learn on the traditional territory of the Squamish (skw̓xwú7mesh), Tsleil-Waututh (selílwitlh), and Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) peoples.