



**The Women's Probus Club of  
North Shore Vancouver**  
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**June 2026**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 19: No. 9**

**Monday, 15 June, 2026 at 10 am**

**West Vancouver Yacht Club - 5854 Marine Drive, West Vancouver**

**JUNE SPEAKER: Dr. Andrew Trites, Director, Marine Mammal Research Unit, UBC Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries TOPIC "Touched by a Killer Whale"**

A scientist, educator, and commentator, Dr. Trites is a Professor at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the Director of the Marine Mammal Research Unit in the Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries. His research spans the ecology, nutrition, physiology, bioenergetics, behavior and population dynamics of seals, sea lions and whales. He is committed to mitigating conflicts between humans and marine life, and advancing marine mammal conservation. His ability to communicate scientific concepts and findings to broad audiences has also made him a valuable resource for journalists, educators, and policymakers.



Join Dr. Andrew Trites for a behind-the-scenes journey into the lives of British Columbia’s killer whales—one of the ocean’s most iconic, intelligent, and culturally complex species. In this talk, you’ll discover how different killer whale ecotypes live entirely separate cultural lives, how families remain bonded for generations, and why mothers are the anchors of their pods.

Drawing on six years of cutting-edge research that includes drones, underwater biologging cameras (“orca-cams”), and acoustic tracking technologies, this presentation reveals never-before-seen underwater perspectives that are further shaping what is known about orcas. You’ll see how dark, sensory-rich, and touch-dependent their world is—and how much we share with them in the ways we communicate, connect, and care for one another.

You will also learn what new research is uncovering about declining salmon, changing oceans, and the challenges facing our resident killer whales today.

“Touched by a Killer Whale” reveals parallels between whale and human societies, reminding us of the importance of family, culture, and touch.

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**Guests are welcome at our Speaker Events – Guest fee is \$20 per person**

After two meetings, guests are encouraged to become members.

	<b>2026-27 Season of Speakers</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b> , 22 September, 2026 AGM and Speaker Meeting	<b>Wally Oppal</b> , K.C., Lawyer, Senior Counsel, Arbitrator and Mediator	"My Journey from Vancouver Island to Patron of Reform"
Monday, 19 October, 2026	<b>Geoff Croll</b> , President of BC British Pacific Properties Ltd.	British Pacific Properties - Transforming West Vancouver for 94 Years
Monday 16 November, 2026	<b>Daniel Kalla</b> , MD, SPH, Canadian author and physician	The Deepest Fake: Will AI Kill Us or Cure Us?
Monday 14 December 2026	Luncheon and Speaker TBA	
	<b>2027</b>	

Monday 18 January, 2027	<b>Dr. Tamara Shenkier</b> , Breast Oncologist, BC Cancer Agency	Breast Cancer 101
Tuesday 16 February, 2027	TBA	
Monday 15 March, 2027	<b>Nicole Garton</b> , TEP, President and General Counsel, Heritage Trust	What I Wish I Had Known - An Executor's Guide
Monday 19 April, 2027	<b>Dr Julio Montaner</b> , Executive Dir. BC Centre for Excellence for HIV/AIDS	"The Story of HIV/AIDS Past to Present"
Monday 17 May, 2027	Alzheimer's Society of BC and Yukon	An Introduction to Brain Health
Monday 21 June, 2027	TBA	

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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.