

NEWSLETTER



PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

#252-2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver B.C. V6M 2B5 (604) 261-6818

*Clubs for retired and semi-retired professional and
business persons, former executives and others*

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 19, 1999

TIME: 9:30AM

LOCATION: Stanley Park Pavilion

SPEAKER: L. C. Hemsall

TOPIC: THE BURMA WAR - AN UNTOLD
STORY

Minutes from September 21, 1999

Attendance: 91

CALL TO ORDER: Roy Williams acting for Pidge McBride opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Four guests were introduced. Roy Williams read the report from the nomination committee recommending the following for the upcoming year:

Vice President - John Hopkins

Treasurer - Bill Wallace

Secretary - Don Farquhar

Further nominations were encouraged prior to the Annual Meeting on October 19th. Members were asked to pick up their rosters and those of friends to save mail cost. Members were encouraged to complete their memo on activities to bring in or mail. Roy Williams announced that as the December meeting was so close to Christmas it had been decided to have a "millennium luncheon" in conjunction with the January meeting, likely at a different venue, possibly on the North Shore.

Jim McPherson gave a brief visit/entertainment report mentioning further tours including harbor control facilities, earthquake water control and Minter Gardens.

Newt Hopkins reported that the bridge group now had 10 members and called for more.

Speakers Chairman Brice Macdougall reported that scheduled speaker Philip Eidsvik had not appeared although he confirmed the previous week.

Next month's speaker is Vancouver author Les Hemsall who will speak on his war remembrances. November's speaker will focus on the immersibles industry in B.C.

In the absence of the scheduled speaker Roy Williams introduced Probus member Leo Sauve who would tell us about his recent trip to Russia.

Leo gave a colorful and informative report on his Volga River cruise between and including tours of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The cities were found to be clean and safe and populated by well dressed Russians with no street people to be found.

Red Square was well worth the visit and highlighted by beautiful St. Basils Cathedral. Lenin's tomb was not on their tour and not recommended. Gum Department store now high end retailer catering to the Russian Elite, including the Russian Mafia. The Kremlin is the original center of Moscow and contains 5 well maintained cathedrals.

The river tour to St. Petersburg through the plains took 8 days. Tour passed the "Golden Ring" surrounding Moscow and several collectives, some prosperous in appearance, others not.

St. Petersburg is a beautiful city with countless canals, often referred to as the Venice of the north. It was established in 1703 to give Russia access to the water (Baltic Sea). The hermitage owns 3 million pieces of art with 10% on display to 20,000 visitors daily. As an example they had an entire room full of Rembrants.

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The summer palace built by Catherine The Great is magnificent with its gold domes. It takes one hour to walk it's perimeter and is currently being restored. It charges \$5.00 for cameras and \$15.00 for Cam Recorders which helps to pay for the restoration.

Peter The Great's summer home on the river boasts hundreds of fountains and the gardens are more beautiful than Versailles.

While there are signs of hardship and failing infrastructure, these Russian cities contain many beautiful sights. Perhaps their future can best be forecast by the views of two young guides: one saw no hope for the future adding that Russians always suffered hardship; another guide stated that Russia just needed time remembering that it was recently a super power.

Questions: Food was excellent, as they dined aboard Swiss ship, food in markets looked plentiful. Possible shortages in more rural areas. Caviar is expensive, vodka is cheap (50 cents a bottle in street.) Vodka tasting, using shot glass is done with food at hand. Little evidence of military. Hotels very luxurious and expensive. New Russians (new wealthy class) are resented. Cities very safe, no problem taking subway at midnight.

The speaker was thanked by Roy Williams who pointed out that Leo Sauve's presentation was an excellent example of the talent within our Probus Group

Norm Weitzel

THE BURMA WAR - AN UNTOLD STORY

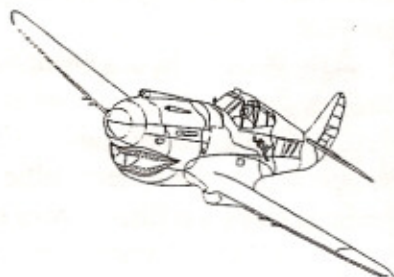
LESLIE C. HEMPSALL

BORN: Vancouver British Columbia in 1921

EDUCATION: John Oliver High School 1934 - 1938; UBC 1946-1950, graduated with BSc in Civil Engineering

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Middle management positions in the pulp and paper industry at Port Mellon, Prince George. Vice-president of Eurocan Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd., at Kitimat B.C., Deputy Minister of Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce under Premier W.A.C. Bennett and later Premier D. Barrett. President of own consulting company primarily in management of major construction projects in Canada and Iran, where he was advisor to the President of an Iranian Pulp and Paper Co.

Leslie Hemsall enlisted as an Air crew navigator in the Royal Canadian Air Force in August 1941. He trained at various RCAF stations in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba graduating in September 1942 with the rank of Pilot officer. He then served



at Sea Island and Tofino before taking further training in England and India followed by service in Burma. He was honorably discharged in November, 1945 with the rank of flight Lieutenant and was awarded the distinguished flying cross.

George will be horrified.

was on 17

President:
Pidge McBride
274-0446

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

in our membership, we now stand at 207 members. There were some interesting activities as well which served to get the members closer. We plan several more this next year.

I would be remiss in not thanking Doug Lambert - he has done an outstanding job this past year - correlating this bulletin - organizing the meeting room with the Pavilion staff - also he looks after the office etc.



It is hard to believe another Probus year has passed. It has gone by quickly and I believe very successful. I want to thank each and every member for their support and help this past year - it was greatly appreciated. Tell you it made my job as President much easier. More about this at the next meeting.

Also I want to express my thanks to this executive for their help and support. I could not have done the job without their help.

There was some very positive progress made this past year - especially in our membership.

Past President:
Fred Cotton
266-7060

Vice-president:
Roy E. Williams
926-4727

Secretary:
Don Farquhar
918 0008

Membership Committee:
John Hopkins
985-8422

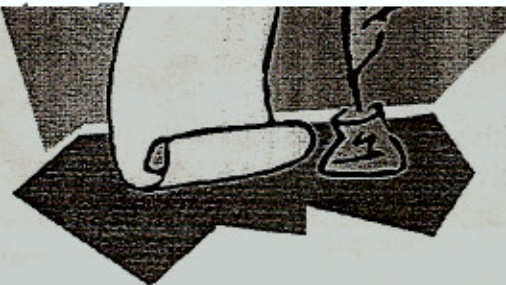
Visits and Entertainment:
Jim McPherson
922-2742

Bill Manson
988-2365

House Committee:
Doug Lambert
266-2422

Greeters Committee:
Norm Weitzel
925-3574

Rotary Liaison:
John Hoyle
926-2667



past year. We look forward to the coming year and I hope we can generate more involvement of our members. We need your enthusiasm and involvement - Please help.

Thanks so much Doug,
More will be said at our October meeting.
It has been an honor and privilege to have served as your President for the past year - I know you will support incoming President Roy Williams as you have me this

Thanks one and all,
Sincerely,
Pidge McBride

PROBUS TIDBIT'S

WE WELCOME AS NEW MEMBERS:

Mr. B.O. Machesney - "BEV"

Mr. W. Nicholson - "BILL"

Dr. R. Barnbrock - "BOB"

**IT IS WITH REGRET WE ANNOUNCE THE PASSING OF PAUL HIGGINS ON JULY 27.
OUR CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY. A DONATION HAS BEEN MADE IN HIS NAME
BY PROBUS TO THE CANCER SOCIETY.**



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