

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: July 20, 1999

TIME: 9:30AM

LOCATION: Stanley Park Pavilion

SPEAKER: Professor Allen Sens

TOPIC: Bosnia, Kosovo, and the 'new' NATO.

Professor Sens will discuss various explanations for the causes of violent ethnic conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and then address the transformation of NATO from a collective defense to a cooperative security organization.

Minutes from June 15, 1999

ATTENDANCE: 77

CALL TO ORDER: Pidge McBride opened the meeting at 9:59AM precisely. No committee reports - everything is going well. The President hopes to have by-laws and rosters available in the next month or two. Roy Williams and the President met with members of other Probust clubs in Saanich last month. Probust has grown rapidly. There are now 96 clubs and over 10,000 members in Canada.

SPEAKERS: Brice Macdougall has program well in hand.

INTRODUCTION: John Catchpole introduced the guest speaker John Reynolds. He was born in Toronto in 1942, moved to Quebec at age 5 and lived there until 1958.

Mr. Reynolds career includes substantial experience in venture capital development, consumer products, marketing, resource sector, development and elected office in both federal and provincial governments. He served federally with the Progressive Conservative party and then provincially with the Social Credit party. He is now in the federal parliament with the Reform party.

Excerpts from speech:

- The politics in Canada - it is a very exciting time with many changes.
- The United Alternative is a great debate, Reform debates and not from the top down.
- Ottawa - things have not changed in 25 years. It is still controlled by Ontario and Quebec. The rest of Canada does not exist.
- United Alternative, if approved, will not be the name, maybe RPC. The main contenders for leadership are:
 1. Preston Manning (John's choice)
 2. Stockwell Day
 3. Tony Clements
 4. Mike Harris
 5. Others
- In the next few years B.C. will have more seats than Quebec. The power base will shift.
- United Alternative is the same as the Liberal party under Gordon Campbell. John will vote for Gordon Campbell.
- Ontario support for Reform/ United Alternative is in the same areas as that for the PC's.

Doug McGinnis

AN ELEMENT OF PROBUS TRIVIA

(Researched by William Spits.)

By pure coincidence it was recently discovered that in Cornwall, England, there is a small town called "Probus" (located on the A390 highway, half way between Truro and St. Austel). Further 'probing' bared two rather interesting facts:

1. The church in Probus is named for Saint Probus. Research tells us that this Probus lived in the days of the Roman persecution of Christians. When thrown to the lions, like Daniel, the beasts shunned him and left him unharmed. For punishment the Emperor subsequently ordered him tortured and murdered. As a martyr to his faith he was later raised to Sainthood.

JULY 1999

President:
Pidge McBride
274-0446

Past President:
Fred Cotton
266-7060

Vice-president:
Roy E. Williams
926-4727

Secretary:
Don Farquhar
948-9908

Treasurer:
Bill Wallace
222-2365

**Speakers
Committee:**
Brice Macdougall
922-5321

**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

2. At about the same time there was a Marcus Aurelius Probus; a brilliant Roman militarist was raised to the rank of Tribune and in the year 276 AD, at the age of 44, was proclaimed Emperor of Rome. Like several of his predecessors he too was assassinated six years later.

Source: New Teachers and Pupils Cyclopedia. Volume 5.
All-round Education. Published 1915.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As we come close to the end of the present Probus year, the present executive will be putting together our new executive and committee chairs. I do hope that if you are asked by any committee chair to serve on his committee, that you will give it serious consideration.

All members will be receiving a copy of our Probus constitutions and by-laws, these should be available to be picked up at our August meeting. Please read them and make yourself more aware of what our club stands for.

Our by-laws state that meeting attendance is not compulsory and unfortunately, from time to time, we take advantage of this clause. Remember we want to see you at all meetings possible.

Having said that, unfortunately, I will be unavailable for the July 20 meeting as Joan and I will be on a nostalgic few days to celebrate our "50" - I'm sure you all will enjoy Roy Williams who will be in the chair.

Have a great summer (when it comes weather wise) and I will look forward to our August meeting.

Pidge McBride



PROFESSOR ALLEN SENS

Allen Sens is a Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of British Columbia, and a research fellow at the Institute for International Relations. He received his Ph.D. from Queen's University in 1993. Professor Sens specializes in International Security, with a research focus on European Security and Peacekeeping. He has worked as a consultant to the Department of National Defense and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. His recent publications include A Mandate Too Far: The Changing Nature Of Peacekeeping and the Limits of Force - the Implications for Canada, a research report for the Commission of Inquiry into the Deployment of Canadian Forces to Somalia, and Global Politics: Trends, Currents, Directions, a co-authored international relations textbook. He is the author of numerous articles on Canadian defense policy.

REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE PROBUS CLUBS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Hosted By The Pobus Club of Saanich, B.C. May 1999

FELLOW MEMBERS OF PROBUS:

I thank you for the opportunity to be with you today to bring you "Greetings" for the Officers and Directors of Probus Centre-Canada and to bring you a brief update on activities at Probus Canada.

As you are probably all aware, John Morris has voluntarily stepped down for the Office of President of our national organization after ten years of dedicated effort on behalf of Probus, and after having made a very major contribution to the growth and development for Probus across Canada. As a tribute to his efforts, the Board of Probus Centre-Canada bestowed the title of ' **PRESIDENT EMERITUS**' on John at the 10th Anniversary celebrations of his home Club in Alliston on Tuesday, April 13, 1999.

I am pleased to advise that as of this date we now have **96 Accredited Probus Clubs in Canada** and by the time I return to my office I fully expect at least two more applications to be in hand and I have every confidence that we will pass the 100 club mark by the end of May (We should also exceed 10,000 members)

Our **Insurance Review Committee** have completed their first task and have provided recommendations to the Board and we are now about to seek input from major brokers on a quotation with the changes included. Changes recommended included.....reduction or removal of deductibles in a number of areas; a clarification of how the coverage is applied to ensure that Members participating in activities arranged by the Club or carrying out duties on behalf of the Club are protected; changes to the exclusions under Personal Injury Liability/Medical Expenses; and some changes in amounts under Tenants Liability. Until these changes have been discussed with the appropriate persons I am unable to give you final details but they will all come to you in writing, when the renewals are prepared.

There have been a number of suggested changes in the Constitution and By-laws of Probus Centre-Canada Inc. brought forward by the **Legislation Committee** and they will be circulated to the Probus Clubs across Canada before the year end. I am unable to give you the details at this time, but let me assure you that each Probus Club in Canada will have an opportunity for input before the final decisions are made.

As you will also know by now, we are attempting to respond to the suggestions regarding a printed newsletter, in addition to the web-site, and it is our intention to have some form of printed information out to the clubs at least quarterly.

There are some irons in the fire these days such as discount privileges for Probus Members from some national firms.... a printed **Membership Directory** (which will need almost constant updating).... we are in the process of seeking quotations on Probus Club banners for use at meetings (podium type) and also Probus Club plaques for use in lobbies of meetings locations. We will continue a strong effort to ensure that we have the correct balance in our structuring of the National Board to ensure proper representation across the country. At the present time B.C. has three seats on the Board and there are no indications that this will be lessened.

I thank you again for the invitation to be with you today and I assure you that we at Probus Canada will continue in our efforts to expand Probus across this country of ours, and to provide as much service to the existing clubs as our limited resources will permit.

Respectfully submitted,

R.J. (Reg) Whynott , President and Executive Director, Probus Centre-Canada, Inc.

JULY 1999

THE SURVIVORS

When you next look around the audience at a show, remember that those of us born before 1940, the ones that the younger generation are writing off as 'Old Fogies', are actually survivors.

We were born before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, polyurethane, contact lenses, videos, photocopiers, Frisbees and the pill. We were alive before the atom was split, radar, credit cards, lasers and ball point pens. Before dishwashers, tumble dryers, drip-dry clothes, fabric conditioners, electric blankets, and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first, and then lived together (how quaint!). We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, a Big Mac was an outsize raincoat, and crumpet was something we had for tea. We existed before house-husbands, computer dating and dual careers, when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting on with cousins and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were born before day-care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We can remember the introduction of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and earrings for men!

For us, time-sharing meant togetherness, a chop was a piece of wood or fried potato, hardware meant nuts and bolts, and software wasn't even a word. Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to exam results, a 'stud' was a collar fastening to a shirt, and 'going all the way' meant staying on the bus to the terminal, Pizzas, MacDonalds and instant coffee was unheard of.

In our day smoking cigarettes was fashionable, grass was mown, coke was kept in the coalhouse, a joint was a piece of meat for the weekend and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a grandmother's lullaby, Eldorado was an ice-cream, a gay person was the life and soul of a party and aids just meant beauty treatment or help for a friend.

When you think about it, we who were born before 1940 must be a pretty hardy bunch. When you think of the way the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make, no wonder we can be confused and there is a generation gap, but by the grace of God, we have survived and just possibly we may have something that will benefit the younger generation, if we could work together.

Anonymous

