



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: Tuesday December 18, 2001
TIME: 9:15 AM
LOCATION: H.R. MacMillan
Planetarium and Space Centre - lower level
SPEAKER: Bramwell Tovey

Minutes from November 20, 2001

Attendance: 156 and 12 guests

President **Norm Weitzel** opened the meeting at 9:55 A.M., advising of the death of **Peter Shuley** and that the Club's condolences would be sent to his family.

He mentioned that tickets for the Night in Vienna concert on December 28 had been sent with the Newsletter and that in **Roy Williams'** absence in Florida, **Allan Baker** would be acting editor till the end of the year.

As the house lights dimmed, the skirl of bagpipes could be heard in the distance, and, shortly, our former Lieutenant-Governor, The Honourable Garde Basil Gardom, preceded by a piper and followed by his long time aide and former Deputy Attorney General, Dick Vogel, was before us.

After an introduction by Art Jeffrey the former Lieutenant-Governor talked about his life, his offices and his thoughts in such a warm, personal, humorous and thoughtful manner, albeit quickly, that a resume is the only way to try and capture the flavour of his remarks.

He spoke of his early days as a lawyer in the old Magistrates' Court in Vancouver, of elections in the old two seat riding of Vancouver Point Grey, of his days as an M.L.A. and Cabinet Minister, of his days as Agent General for British Columbia and of his days as Lieutenant-Governor. The gusto and humour with which he recalled incidents and events in these lives was delightful to all of us. Time and again he would refer to the

sharing of these with his wife, Helen and, in addition, he gave us, through anecdotes, glimpses of some of the many people he met in those lives.

Interlaced in the foregoing were his comments and views on the previous century, free trade, education, major religions, taxation, GST, The Charter and driving habits. We were exhorted to learn and profit from the past (but not be shackled by the past), to have an explosion of will (as in where there's a will there's a way) and that we all should be more politically involved - before an election - before the fact. Extremists do the damage while the 70% of us in the middle hope for the best.

We had a short course on his last office. In the early days the Lieutenant-Governor was an agent of the Federal Government but now the Lieutenant-Governor is the CEO of the Province, despite the ambiguous title +i.e. not 2 IC, reigns but does not govern, power of reservation and disallowance, ensuring there is a government, and therefore, potentially the largest fire extinguisher in the Province.

A Knowledge Network video on the history of Government House was shown and Garde (by this time he was "Garde" to all of us) closed by returning to the theme of his opening remarks - namely, how much fun he and Helen had had and how lucky he'd been in all his "lives".

Garde was thanked by **Bill Lane**.

A brief business session followed the speaker's departure in which **Bill Wallace** advised the club was "still solvent" and **Dick Mathews** advised he'd started another wait list and reminded the meeting that a number of members had not paid their annual membership fee.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Denis Creighton
Secretary

President:
Norm Weitzel
604-925-3574

**Director,
Probus Canada**
Pidge McBride
604-274-0446

Past President:
John Hopkins
604-985-8422

Vice-president:
Don Farquhar
604-948-9908

Secretary:
Denis Creighton
604-922-6469

Treasurer:
Bill Wallace
604-947-0340

Speakers Committee:
Fred Cotton
604-266-7060

**Membership
Committee:**
Dick Matthews
604-922-0358

**Visits and
Entertainment:**
Tom McCusker
604-261-4763

House Committee:
Doug Lambert
604-266-2422

Newsletter Editor:
Roy Williams
604-926-4727

Greeters Committee:
Leo Sauve
604-925-2702

Rotary Liaison:
John Hoyle
604-926-2667

**Historian and
Archivist**
Peter McCabe
604-224-4870

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We are pleased with member response of the questionnaire which accompanied this years membership renewal form.

Many of you expressed an interest in becoming more involved in your club activities. Each committee chairman will review the forms and will no doubt be contacting those who indicated a willingness to participate.

There were many excellent comments and suggestions offered and all will be noted by your executive and committee chairmen.

Each and every suggestion will receive our full attention.

Thank you all for your input see you in December.

Norm Weitzel
President



NOTICES:

- It is with regret that we announce the passing of Peter Shuley on November 14th and George Cumming on November 21. Our condolences to their families. Donations have been made in their names to the Heart and Stroke Foundation and to the Canadian Cancer Society.

December Greeters:



John Beverage
Jack Merchant

ENTERTAINMENT:

A Vision of Vancouver; Past, Present and Future

Our Visits and Entertainment Committee is planning an Architectural Walking tour of Gastown, Downtown Eastside, Strathcona and the nearby east end of False Creek on Wednesday, April 10, 2002, hosted by the Architectural Institute of British Columbia, 440 Cambie Street. Tentative plans are to meet at the Institute at 10:30 a.m. for an orientation session followed by the walking tour and a catered lunch at the Institute. The tour will be limited to 40 members. Final details will follow in the new year.

To prepare us more fully for the tour we have arranged through Fred Cotton to have architectural historian Donald Luxton speak to us at our March meeting.

We look forward to your support and interest.

Chris Lee, 604-926-1022/mclee@istar.ca
Visits and Entertainment Committee

HERE ARE A FEW AMUSING CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:



- "The rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.
- "A bean supper will be held Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow."
- "Potluck supper at 5:00PM. Prayer and medication to follow."
- "The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing slogan last Sunday: 'I upped my pledge....up yours!'"
- "On Sunday Miss Charlene Mason sang: 'I will not pass this way again' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation."

BRAMWELL TOVEY

British born Bramwell Tovey joined the VSO as Music Director in the fall of 2000. From 1989 to 2001 he was Artistic Director of the Winnipeg Symphony where he created the acclaimed du Maurier New Music Festival in 1992. In 1999 Maestro Tovey was awarded the Jean Chalmers National Prize "for outstanding artistic direction of a major Canadian arts organization."

Bramwell Tovey first came to international attention in 1986 when on 36 hours notice he led the London Symphony Orchestra in the opening night of LSO's Leonard Bernstein Festival at the Barbican Centre in London. Bernstein himself was in the audience and the Financial Times described it as "...the kind of opportunity young conductors dream about. He seized it with distinction." Since then Maestro Tovey has appeared with all the leading British orchestras, including the Philharmonia, The Royal Philharmonic, and the city of Birmingham Symphony, with every major Canadian orchestra, including the Montreal and Toronto Symphonies and with orchestras in Australia, the United States, and throughout Europe.

In October 2000 Bramwell Tovey conducted the New York Philharmonic for the first time and was immediately reinvited to make his subscription debut at Avery Fischer Hall in March 2002. Other guest appearances this year include the London Philharmonic, the Toronto Symphony, the National Arts Centre and the Royal Scottish National Orchestras.

Maestro Tovey's operatic debut was in 1983 conducting the legendary Leonie Rysanek in Puccini's *Tosca*, in Cape Town, South Africa. He first conducted the Canadian Opera Company in 1994 and will conduct the world premiere of John Estacio's new opera for the Banff Centre and Calgary Opera in 2002. In 2003/04 he makes his US opera debut conducting Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* for Arizona Opera. In 1999 he appeared at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago in concert with Bryn Terfel.

As a composer Bramwell Tovey's recent works include concertos for viola and cello (both broadcast on CBC radio) and *for a Fistful of Guilders* recently performed by the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus and the Toronto Symphony at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto. He is currently working on a violin concerto and a new orchestral work. His *Requiem - for a charred skull*, inspired by a tragedy in the Kosovan War was premiered at Toronto's Massey Hall in 1999 and will be recorded this November by the Amadeus Choir, the Elmer Iseler Singers and the Hannaford Band for Opening day Records.