



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 January 15, 2002
TIME: 9:30 AM
LOCATION: Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
3811 Pt. Grey Road
SPEAKER: Art Jones

Minutes of December 18, 2001 meeting

Attendance: 121 paid members (130 actual count!) and 10 guests.

President **Norm Weitzel** opened the meeting at 9:58 A.M. with Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah wishes. He noted that both the Lions Gate Bridge and the famous West Vancouver Floral Clock had both survived the severe winds of a few days ago! He shared with us a letter of thanks from our last speaker, former Lt. Gov., the Honourable **Garde Gardom**, who appreciated the special arrangements made by the Club for his visit. He enjoyed every minute of the event - and so did we! **President Norm** announced that a Management Committee meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 8th at a time and place to be announced.

Doug Lambert was thanked for arranging the larger area for refreshments and socializing - a very important part of our Probud fellowship. Please note the attendance figures above. **Doug** reminded us to make a right turn to the cash desk first, before hanging up our coats and beginning to socialize. We have to watch the cash flow and appreciate your co-operation. Most committees are working so well they had nothing to report with some important exceptions! Membership Chairman **Dick Matthews** announced that we have a small turnover of members at present (a good sign of our loyalty and/or good health!) As a result we still have a short waiting list of prospective members - Visits and Entertainment

Chairman **Tom McCusker** reminded us of the following.

1. The President's New Year meeting and luncheon, Tuesday January 15th starting with a regular meeting at 9:30 A.M., Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, 3811 Point Grey Rd., Vancouver. Cost per Probud member will be \$10.00; visitors, \$32.00. Please pay upon arrival for the event but RSVP by phoning the Probud office at 604-261-6818, speak to **Doug Lambert** or leave a message.
2. A Valentine Luncheon is planned for members and significant others (wife/partner et al) at noon on Thursday, February 14th at the Point Grey Golf and Country Club, 3350 S.W. Marine Dr., Vancouver. Please complete the enclosed registration form, enclose a cheque made out to the **Probud Club Vancouver** at \$32.00 per person and mail to the Club Office at 252-2025 West 42nd Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5. Please plan to come to this special fellowship event for Probud members and our ladies.
3. Final details of our Architectural Walking Tour on Wednesday, April 10th will be included in the February Newsletter. The total cost for lunch, gratuity and an honorarium for our guide/host will be \$20.00 each payable to the **Probud Club Vancouver**. Completed registration form and payment will be collected at the February 19 and March 19 meeting. To reserve space call Chris Lee at 604-926-1022. Space is limited to 40 members - ladies will be placed on a wait list and happily included if space is available after March 19.

Doug Lambert was thanked for the provision of our new coat racks and hangers. Appreciation was extended to **Allan Baker**, for watching over the Newsletter production in the absence of **Roy Williams**. Rotary Liaison Member **John Hoyle** mentioned something about the absence of golf information in the Newsletter

JANUARY 2002

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

which completely flew over the head of your scribe - sorry **John!** In the meantime **Chris Lee** was gratefully acknowledged by **Chairman Norm** for taking over the temporary roll of secretary in the absence of **Denis Creighton** - big shoes to fill!

Business behind us we moved into the main event with Maestro Bramwell Tovey, ably introduced in a comical mode by Don Farquhar with references to page turners, podium style, acceptable behaviours, placement of orchestra members, who does what and guest soloists. For the real background of our esteemed guest speaker check the last Newsletter!

Being so beautifully set up by the introduction the Music Director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra did not disappoint any of us but launched into an improbable tale of a viola player in a three wheel car passed by fire trucks, police cars and ambulances on his way home to find his errant wife in the arms of the maestro and his house on Fire! A fable of hidden meaning no doubt!

But what does a maestro do in the real world of the VSO? Even though he has his back to the audience he has his face to the orchestra and the buck stops with him. He organizes and arranges the musical programs and brings them to fruition - he is completely responsible for programming. He must know and expect top quality. Our Maestro himself has a remarkable musical background. He learned to play brass instruments with the Salvation Army, is an accomplished pianist as well as playing violin and double bass. We only wish we had been able to provide him with a piano to complement his splendid presentation!

He went on to explain that until ten years ago all music was written by hand - now music can be computer generated but hand writing is still the best way. Symphony orchestras vary in size. The Toronto and Montreal symphonies have some 100 members each, while the VSO has 72 members. Balancing the books is a continuing challenge for all Canadian Symphony orchestras in our tax climate. Government support has declined in recent years. In the past government grants provided some 60% of the budget. This is now down to 30%. Another 30 % comes from ticket sales and the balance of 40% must be raised through fund raising campaigns, corporate and foundation contributions. Support of the European, Quebec and American tax models is simply not there but hope for change springs eternal. In the meantime a base salary for a musician locally remains at \$38,000 per year compared to \$75,000 in Montreal for the same work covering the same 42 week time period.

Enough of this! We moved into a philosophical mode with a look at our post September 11 world and the place of music as the finest expression of the human condition, an expression of our noblest ideals. Music articulates emotion and takes over where words cease. It has great and wondrous healing qualities.

Thinking of the future the orchestra sponsors an imaginative school program for grades 4 to 7 which speaks to them where they are. While J.K. Rowlings and Harry Potter speak to children through the wonderful world of literature the symphony enters their world through the wonders of all sorts of music and is creating a market for the future. Competition for audiences is keen and marketing, development, publicity and effective press relations are paramount in preparing for the future. It is a changed world, i.e. \$350 million of arts support has been lost from the tobacco industry - a new reality with new challenges.

The Maestro then responded to an array of questions from serious to amusing summarized as follows:

- the conductor always shakes hands with the concert master (leading musician) at the start of the concert and with others at the end
- 32 bars is the equivalent of 12 lines of a sonnet
- you can watch your music and the conductor at the same time
- he and Clyde Mitchell have a good relationship
- most major orchestras in the USA have large endowments

- unlike our probus club there are many women in the VSO! Gender has nothing to do with membership - talent does
- right wing ideals in Vienna - no women in the orchestra with the exception of harpist
- Asians very talented musically but few in the orchestra due to low compensation
- young people are open minded - open to new sounds and expression.

The speaker was eloquently thanked by **John Catchpole**. We now know a little more about what goes on behind the scenes and will have a new appreciation of the organization when we next attend a concert. Bramwell Tovey has indeed bestowed a great honour on our Probus Club by his fine presentation today. Thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 11.15 A.M.

Christopher L. Lee
Secretary pro tem

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The first year of the new century has been an active one for our club. We have enjoyed an entertaining and informative variety of speakers due to the effort of Fred Cotton and his committee.

We have participated in an equally varied number of trips and events. Looking back they included, a Valentine luncheon, LaConner tour, golf tournament, Indian Arm cruise, Syncrude trip, Lillooet train tour, and a festive evening at the VSO.

When you total them up you realize how much work Tom McCusker and his committee have done. We thank them all.

Hopefully we all met new friends and renewed former acquaintances at Probus in 2001. Now we look forward to more of the same in the coming year.

On behalf of your executive and committee chairman I wish you a happy and healthy 2002, and take time for the "little things" in the coming year.

Norm Weitzel
President



Entertainment:

Presidents Lunch to be held following January meeting on January 15th, 2002 at Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, 3811 Pt. Grey Road

Time: Meeting - 9:30 A.M.

Luncheon - 12 noon (approx.)

Price: \$10.00 for members

\$32.00 for guests and those on wait list

Please advise if attending (604) 261-6818

January Greeters:

Newt Hopkins and Gord Youngson

Arthur F. (Art) Jones

A native Vancouverite and 1946 Science graduate of the University of British Columbia, Art Jones' community background spans over 55 years of media, marketing, advertising, broadcasting, public relations and management experience in Canada and abroad. He began his 'media career' as a performer in the late 30's on such pioneer stations as CBR, CKMO and CJOR.

A leading photo-journalist and with the Vancouver Sun newspaper and other international publications in the 1940's, a film and television producer in the 50's, Jones became the first successful "Second station" TV license applicant following his appearance before what was then the Board of Broadcast Governors, precursor of the CRTC. As a result, in 1960 he became the founding President, Chairman and Managing Director of Vancouver's CHAN-TV better known today as BCTV. During that period, he was Vice-president of the original "Theatre Under The Stars" in Stanley Park. Later, during the 60's he produced and directed films and TV Motion pictures in BC and many world wide locations.

Still involved today in broadcasting, he has for many years produced and hosted a weekly TV series "Art Jones & Company", formerly on the Rogers Television Network and now SHAW TV on which he "chats" with business, entertainment, community and political leaders. He also sits as a member of SHAW'S Community Advisory Board.

During his over 35 years of active involvement in B.C.'s Tourism and Hospitality industries, Art Jones developed and executed many national and international marketing programs for both the City and Province. He served for over 20 years as a director and officer of the Greater Vancouver Convention and Visitors Bureau - *Tourist Vancouver* - and was elected its President in 1983. Shortly thereafter he became the bureau's first full-time President and CEO a position he held through the city's fabulous EXPO 86. He chaired Tourism Task Forces for several Municipal Economic Development Committees to formulate their marketing plans and strategies. In 1996 *Tourism Vancouver* bestowed upon him its prestigious *Lifetime Achievement Award*. Today he maintains an active interest and participates in the visitor and hospitality industry as a member of *The Council of Tourism Vancouver*. He is a life member of the Vancouver Club.

Still active in civic and community affairs, in 1998 Art Jones was appointed by Vancouver City Council as Commissioner of the *Vancouver Civic Theatre*, overseeing operation of the Queen Elizabeth and Orpheum theatres and the Vancouver Playhouse. He was re-appointed for a third two year term in 2001 and was elected as that Board's Vice Chair. He served three terms as President of the *Variety Club of British Columbia*, which organization has raised in excess of \$70 million to assist B.C.'s children with special needs. During this tenure as President, he also acted as the group's full time Executive Director on a volunteer basis. He recently retired as Chairman of Variety's Board of Governors but continues as a life member of its Board of Directors. In 1994 he was honoured with the Club's highest accolade, the "Heart Award", for his dedication and service to BC's special children. He received further recognition as recipient of a *Presidential Citation* from the worldwide *Variety Clubs International* organization during their 1994 convention in Israel and in 2001 has had the Club's "Pioneer Award" bestowed upon him. He is currently Chairman of St. Vincent's Hospital Foundation, which organization provides funding for the hospital's five sites in Greater Vancouver.

Pioneer West Vancouver residents, Jones and his wife Mary celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary in 2001. They have three children.