



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 March 19, 2002
TIME: 9:30 AM
LOCATION: H.R. MacMillan Planetarium
and Space Centre - Lower Level
SPEAKER: Donald Luxton

Minutes of February 26, 2002

Attendance: 151 with 7 guests

President **Norm Weitzel** opened the meeting at 9:57 A.M. with remarks on the performance of the Canadian women's and mens hockey teams at the Olympics. Treasurer **Bill Wallace** advised that he had "nothing to report" but that the Club had "adequate funds". The March speaker will be Donald Luxton, co-author of the book *Lions Gate*. In the absence of visits and entertainment chair, **Tom McCusker**, **Bill Kennedy** advised that the Golf Tournament will be Monday, April 29th at the University Golf Club for the cost of \$125 (includes golf, lunch and dinner). **Chris Lee** thanked Messrs. **Hopkins** and **McBride** for arranging the Valentine Lunch and advised that the April 10 architectural walking tour had a wait list of 28 but that it was hoped that an additional "walk" would be added (more info later). **Chris** also mentioned that he had had a tour of the Beatty Street Armoury by **Bill Lane**. Newsletter editor, **Roy Williams** pointed out that the February meeting was a week late so that he would require material for the Newsletter to be submitted by the end of this week and the Historian and Archivist, **Peter McCabe**, advised that "everything he did these days was history".

After **George Baldwin** introduced Dr. Martha C. Piper, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of British Columbia (UBC), speaking on the "Empire of the Future", she gave the Club a rousing three part address ending with a reference to the line in Winston Churchill's speech to the graduating students of Harvard University in 1943, "The empires of the future are the empires of the mind" and adding "we are already in that future, a

future designed by the microchip, illuminated by the Internet and underscored by the mystery of the gene; a future full of promise and opportunity. Help us make it a UBC future and we will produce a parade of emperors the likes of which the world has never known and every British Columbian, every Canadian and the entire world will reap the rewards," culminating in a standing ovation and sustained applause from the members.

In the first part (what UBC is, physically and financially) Dr. Piper pointed out that UBC was the largest employer in the Lower Mainland with more than 600,000 square metres of developed space, injecting almost \$900,000,000 into the economy every year with some \$450,000,000 directly in salaries to more than 3,000 full and part time faculty and to 6,000 other members of staff and having 37,000 students. In the second part (the UBC vision "UBC aspires to be Canada's best University by providing our students with an outstanding and distinctive education, and by conducting leading research to serve the people of British Columbia, Canada and the world"). Dr. Piper said that there were five areas that were essential to the success of UBC - People, Learning, Research, Community and Internationalization.

People are UBC students (largest 1st year class in history this year with 5,161) and faculty (massive recruitment with 40% or 900 of faculty retiring in next 8 years).

Learning - not teaching - "to nurture in them (students) the skills they will need to continue learning, throughout their ever-changing lives". Overhauling curricula, implementing problem-based learning - refitting of physical Plant e.g. upgrading annually 10% of UBC classrooms and labs.

Research (UBC ranks in the top three Universities in the country). Three weeks ago Federal Government announced for second year in a row, UBC was number one in winning Canada Foundation for Innovation grants \$76 Million

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Peter McCabe
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worth. As a result of research, UBC has created over 100 spin-off companies that have attracted \$1.5 B in private investment and employ over 2,500 people.

University Research in an array of fields and disciplines drives innovation e.g. the Internet, laser technology, fuel-cell technology. Improvement is needed (Canada ranks 5th in OECD countries R & D and BC's R & D is less than 1% of its GDP - less than Washington States' 4% and Ontario's 2% and "UBC, the largest research institution in the Province, has a role to play in driving the innovation agenda."

Community (UBC Learning Exchange in Downtown East Side - 90 students volunteering in 13 different non-profit organizations). Robson Square campus opened November 2001. "Robson Square will be an Urban Portal, a downtown gateway and, as such, it will facilitate the interaction and integration that a great university must have with its Community"

Internationalization. Completing UBC Korea House (annually bring 100 students from Korea University to live on campus with 100 UBC students - modeled on an existing exchange program with Kyoto's Ritsumeikan University (Japan) and will be replicated next year with Mexico's TEC de Monterrey University), establishing Liu Centre for the study of Global Issues (Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, Director).

"Our competitive advantage depends, not on the breadth of our trees or the depths of our rivers, but rather on our ability to develop that most precious of resources - the human mind." "UBC must serve our community by educating citizens who understand their responsibilities and their place in the world." We must produce innovators, who create opportunities for themselves and for others, as well as scientists and researchers who continue to raise the standard of living here and around the globe. We must create philosophers and diplomats, lawyers and negotiators, analysts and artists".

Dr. Piper closed with two challenges. The First was to ... "use us". UBC, SFU, UVic, UNBC - these are not ivory towers operating at a distance from society. These are your universities". The second was to ... "help, help us" - with money ... far be it from me to discourage such a wonderful instinct"... but there is more you can do than write a cheque. You can carry the banner. You can talk about the importance of advanced education and you can spread the word about the resources that distinguish UBC."

A short question period followed with questions on % of out of province undergraduates (UBC does not have % goal but would like to have more) tuition costs (UBC moving towards national average UBC 1st year \$2,100 (national average \$3,000) and recognition of other universities (93 others in world where credits interchangeable)

Dr. Piper was thanked by Bill Ibbott. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.
Denis Creighton, Secretary

MARCH GREETERS:

Bob Barnbrook
Cliff Wyatt

FEBRUARY CASH DESK:

George Plant
Jack Croll

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We were saddened to lose our friend and member John Taylor who spoke to us on the topic of hockey, a subject he knew well. On his Probus Questionnaire under interests John listed "hockey". I do hope he saw some of our gold medal games before he left us. It would have given him great pleasure.

Our February meeting set a new high as Dr. Piper received a standing ovation. Fred's committee has arranged for flowers to accompany a "Thank you" note to her.

Our next speaker, Donald Luxton should be of interest to anyone who loves our city and its heritage buildings. By coincidence I discovered a copy of his book "Lions Gate" at a local book store following our last meeting. I recommend it highly. Our Architectural walking tour follows his address (April 10). The first tour sold out quickly. Chris Lee, always a step ahead, has begun to work on a second tour. There is now room for spouses, so let Chris know if you want to participate.

A sure sign of spring is news of our upcoming annual golf tournament on April 29th. Bill Kennedy welcomes all golfers including duffers. For non-golfers I recommend the dinner only package. The company is great, the steaks delicious and as Bill says "You don't need to tell lies over predinner drinks!"

I Look forward to seeing you at these events.

Norm Weitzel
President



Notices:

Golf Tournament - April 29th - University Golf Club

Cost \$125.00 which includes Luncheon sandwich, drink and super dinner.

Please complete the registration form enclosed in the Newsletter and bring it along with your cheque to the March meeting. We need to know the number participating, since we have to confirm with the club and make a large deposit!

Walking Tour - Gastown/Downtown Eastside Wednesday April 10, 2002, 10.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M. GUIDED TOUR AND LUNCH

We will meet at the Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC), 100 - 440 Cambie Street, opposite Victory Square, at 10 A.M. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes!

The response to our first walking tour has been overwhelming. Those of you on the waiting list have been advised and will be offered space on a second tour of the same route planned for mid May. You may invite your wife to join us at the same rate of \$16.00 per person. Details will follow in our April Newsletter. Call Chris Lee at 604-926-1022 for further information.

DONALD LUXTON

Education

- 1983 - Bachelor of Architecture - University of British Columbia
1976 - Bachelor of Arts-Fine Arts Major - University of British Columbia

Professional Experience

1996 - 2001 - **Principal**

Donald Luxton & Associates and the Arlington Planning & Architecture Group Inc. - The Company provides a broad range of heritage and design related services, specializing in municipal heritage programs. Particular expertise is provided in:

- * Building Assessments, Feasibility Studies and Restoration
- * Heritage Management Plans
- * Heritage Inventories, Research and Assessment
- * Downtown Revitalization Programs
- * Facade, Signage and Design Guidelines

1996-2001 **Guest Instructor ISDN 1211 Courses**

Kwantlen University College

1992-1995 **Instructor, Heritage Conservation Courses**

Simon Fraser University

1990-1993 **Coordinator - Heritage Area Revitalization Programs**

- * Columbia Street HARP, for the City of New Westminster
- * Mount Pleasant HARP, for the City of Vancouver

1989-1991 **Instructor, Heritage Conservation Courses**

Vancouver City College

1983-1996 **Partner**

F.G. Architectural & Planning Consultants

Responsible for numerous heritage-related planning projects, and building feasibility studies and restorations. The company specialized in:

- * Municipal Heritage Inventories
- * Building Assessments and Feasibility Studies
- * Heritage Building Restoration

Mr. Luxton's past projects include numerous municipal planning projects, heritage inventories and evaluations, and the restoration of residential, commercial, and institutional buildings. He has been active in the field of public education through the teaching of heritage conservation courses, for both general interest and university credit. His interest in the preservation of architecture has led to his involvement with a number of heritage societies, including his role as a Director of Heritage Vancouver, as founding and current President of the Canadian Art Deco Society and as a Director of the Vancouver Heritage Conservation Foundation. He is the co-author of *Lions Gate*, a book on the Lions Gate Bridge. Publication is pending, Fall 2002 on his next publication, *Building the West: The Early Architects of British Columbia*.