



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 April 23, 2002

TIME: 9:30 AM

**LOCATION: H.R. MacMillan Planetarium
and Space Centre - Lower Level**

SPEAKER: Earl G. Drake

Minutes of March 19, 2002 meeting

Attendance: 112 attended with 4 guests

Meeting started at 10 A.M. with President welcoming members to "the last winter meeting of Probud" and advising of the death of John Taylor. In his memory the club will make a donation to the Hockey Benefit Association of B.C.

The President of Probud Canada is expected to be at the April meeting when the speaker will be Earl Drake, former Canadian Ambassador to China.

Approximately 7 are on Club membership wait list. **Chris Lee** advised 1st Architectural walking tour to be Wednesday April 10 at 10 A.M. commencing at Victory Square with 41 "walkers" and 2nd to be Saturday May 11, same time and place with 26 "walkers". Still space on 2nd walk and ample parking in immediate area. **George Adams** announced the Harbour Tour would be Tuesday, June 4 at 9 A.M. from just west of the Bayshore Hotel, returning at noonish. Limit is 75 and a Port Authority rep would be commentating during tour.

Members were reminded that **next meeting would be Tuesday April 23 not the regular third Tuesday.**

Roy Williams, said next newsletter would have insert giving time and place of meetings of other B.C. Probud Clubs.

Leo Sauve advised that the greeters were "on duty" and doing a "fantastic job".

Our Speaker, Donald Luxton was introduced by **Chris Lee**. Mr Luxton gave members an overview (with the assistance of an

overhead projector) of the architectural history of Vancouver, "the Liverpool of the Pacific", noting there were over 200 buildings listed on the City's Heritage Registry and that the words "port" and "railway" each played a large part in the "character" of Vancouver's history.

Gastown became Granville in 1870 (Earl of Granville, the then British Colonial Secretary). B.C. joined Confederation on July 20, 1871. Vancouver was "invented" in 1884 when the CPR agreed to have its terminus there (it is reported that Cornelius Van Horne, G.M. and later President of the CPR when he visited Granville was so enthralled with the hamlet's potential that he decided it needed a grander name and said "I name thee Vancouver"). The first transcontinental passenger train arrived at 12:45 P.M. on May 23, 1887.

The buildings of the Gastown/Granville era were large warehouses and urban with a number being built over water. Hotel Europe was built on triangular site on edge of grid of Gastown. Boom and bust marked the early years of Vancouver. Important to remember to look up and down i.e. at the detail of the buildings. Third crossing debate of 70's sparked heritage interest and resulted in Gastown/Chinatown designated heritage areas in '71. Strathcona a residential heritage area of City.

CPR had free reign on Granville Street. Grand hotel built at high point of city (Granville and Georgia - present Vancouver Hotel is third one). Earliest street car system in North America went up Granville to Colonial Hotel (now Yale Hotel). In 1898 second train station was finished but it was demolished within 15 years! In the 1950's Granville Street became dining, entertainment centre e.g. theatres, Purdy's et al. In 1912 Birk's building built and 1919 saw construction of Union Bank on site of Bank of Montreal's old main branch.

Due to the 1885 CPR survey (Vancouver streets aligned differently from original Granville townsite) Hastings Street runs Northward at

April 2002

President:
Norm Weitzel
604-925-3574

Director,
Probus Canada
Pidge McBride
604-274-0446

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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

Cambie Street. Vancouver's original domed Courthouse was built at this corner and it was the City's Public Square for some years after the Great Fire (June, 1886). Klondike gold rush added to development of Hastings and Cambie e.g. Flack Block and other buildings started in 1898-99.

Spencer's Department store (now SFU Downtown) and Woodward's west on Hastings Street together with lower end of Granville Street replaced Cordova Street, after WWI as the city's major shopping area.

Construction of the Cenotaph 1924 resulted in the old Public/Courthouse Square at Hastings and Cambie being renamed Victory Square and the reading of the Riot Act by Mayor McGeer at the Square in 1935 combined with the construction of a new City Hall at 12th and Cambie ended it's historical link to the "centre" of the city.

B.C. Electric's Head Office and interurban depot was at the corner of Hastings and Carrall Streets.

Meanwhile, further east the Pantages Theatre which later became a burlesque theatre (The State) and still later a legit theatre (The Avon) was built in 1906 at 142 East Hastings. Some honourable members may remember the State with its g-strings and pasties and the Avon with a production of Erskine Caldwell's "Tobacco Road" found by a Police Magistrate to be an "indecent, immoral and obscene performance." The good old days!

Finally, at the corner of Main and Hastings is the Carnegie Library Building built in 1902 with a bequest from philanthropist and steel tycoon Andrew Carnegie (on its 100th birthday, the "centre" of the Downtown Eastside drug trade).

The question period resulted in the members learning the following:

1. Reason so many brick buildings in downtown eastside due to by-law changes after the Great Fire, the brick initially being imported from London and San Francisco.
2. Woodward's building (floorplate is enormous and parkade is structurally in bad shape) is pivotal to the area, although all plans stalled.
3. Waste is largest in demolition of buildings. "Think twice before demolishing".
4. Downtown Eastside not a logical issue. It is an emotional issue. Not a balanced or healthy neighbourhood.
5. Gastown area not good in earthquake. Masonry bad in earthquake. Base of understructure of North side of Water Street is weak. Area going downhill with no money into building preservation. Dumping ground for people. Investment in social (human) required but despite problems Don Luxton felt Gastown was going to be the place for a start, soon.

(With some additional material from "Vancouver the Way it Was" by Michael Kluckner and the Secretary's Memory (limited)).

Jim Helmcken thanked our speaker. Meeting adjourned at 11 A.M.

Denis Creighton, Secretary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Our Editor said "keep it short this time" and I am pleased to do so as it means there is a lot of activity to report this month which is as it should be.

We have invited Reg Whynott, President and Managing Director of Probus Canada, to join us at our April meeting and address us briefly. The growth of Probus is an amazing story and there is no one better able to tell us about it than Reg. See you in April.

Norm Weitzel
President



Notices:

It is with regret we announce the passing of Paddy Topliss on March 20, 2002. Our condolences to the family. A donation will be made by Probus to the B.C. Heart Foundation in his name.

REMINDER - GOLF TOURNAMENT - APRIL 29TH - UNIVERSITY GOLF CLUB

\$125.00 covers golf, sandwich and drink at 9th hole and steak dinner! To register contact Member Services Desk at April meeting or phone Bill Kennedy at (604) 731-4244.

MEMBER SERVICES DESK



At each Probus Club meeting in the future, we will have a Member Services Desk. It will be located in proximity to the Cash Desk. This will be the desk where you can pick up and turn in membership applications, turn in Registration Forms and cheques for Club events, report address or telephone changes, resolve name tag problems etc. Also, the person in charge will be prepared to give or obtain answers to any questions you may have about the club.

VANCOUVER HARBOUR BOAT TOUR

An informational tour of Vancouver Harbour has been arranged for Probus Club members and their partners on board the 84 ft. Carousel II, which will leave from the foot of Denman Street in Vancouver at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 4th and return at noon. Parking is available. Captain Andrea Heba, the Assistant Harbour Master of the Port of Vancouver will accompany us to explain the port from commercial, environmental and operational perspectives. Sustenance in the form of coffee, tea and pastries will be served on board. The cost of the tour is \$42.00 per head. Numbers are limited. To avoid disappointment please complete the enclosed Registration Form and either hand it in together with your cheque to the Member Services Desk at the April meeting or mail it to the Probus Club Office at the address shown on the face on this newsletter.



PROBUS VANCOUVER WALKING TOURS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 AND SATURDAY, MAY 11/02

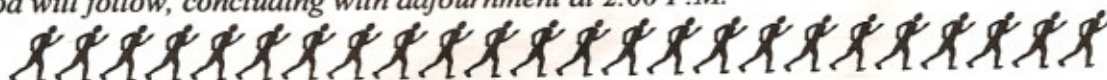
The April 10 tour is filled but there are three spaces available for the May 11 tour. Call Chris Lee at 604-926-1022 if you would like to join the May 11 group. Cost is \$16.00 each.

The itinerary is the same for both days:

10.00 A.M. - assemble in the main floor meeting room, Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC), 400 Cambie Street, across from Victory Square.

*Parking is available at **EASY PARK**, a nearby parking garage at the corner of West Pender and Cambie Streets (\$5.00 for the day).*

Wear comfortable walking shoes. Lunch will be served on our return to the AIBC, a discussion period will follow, concluding with adjournment at 2.00 P.M.



**MEMBER SERVICES:**

Don Farquhar

CASH DESK:Jack Croll
George Adams**GREETERS:**Gord Hogarth
Charles Flavelle**Earl G. Drake****1990 to date**
*Vancouver***Adjunct Professor, Simon Fraser University**
at David Lam Centre for International Communication
Project Director, China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development
Executive Vice-President, Canada China Business Council
Author, *A Stubble Jumper in Striped Pants: Memoirs of a Prairie Diplomat* (University of Toronto Press, 1999)
Ambassador of Canada to People's Republic of China**1987-90**
*Beijing***1984-87**
*Ottawa***1982-83**
*Jakarta***1975-82**
*Washington***1972-75**
*Ottawa***1968-72**
*Paris***1964-68**
*Ottawa***1962-64**
*Kuala Lumpur***1959-62**
*Ottawa***1956-58**
*Karachi***1952-55**
*Saskatoon &
Regina***Assistant Deputy Minister for Asia-Pacific,**
at Department of External Affairs and International Trade
Ambassador of Canada to Indonesia**Executive Director, The World Bank Group**
Represented Canada, Ireland, Jamaica, and other Caribbean nations
Vice-president for Multilateral Programmes;
at Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)**Director, Caribbean Development Bank**
Deputy Permanent Representative to Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD)
Representative to Development Assistance Committee**Director, External Aid Office**
Director of Planning for predecessor agency to CIDA**First Secretary, Canadian Embassy, Malaysia, Burma and Thailand,** Resident in Malaysia & co-accredited to others**Desk Officer, Department of External Affairs**
Responsible for relations with India and Pakistan**Second Secretary, Canadian High Commission, Pakistan****Archivist and Author**
Assistant Provincial Archivist & author of civic history,
Regina; The Queen City (McClelland & Stewart, 1955)