



# 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*

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**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday April 23, 2002**

**TIME: 9:30 AM**

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

**SPEAKER: Earl G. Drake**

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**Minutes of March 19, 2002 meeting**

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**Attendance: 112 attended with 4 guests**

Meeting started at 10 A.M. with President welcoming members to "the last winter meeting of Probus" 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 Probus 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. Probus 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



**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

ported from London and San

nd parkade is structurally in  
d.  
ink twice before

emotional issue. Not a

y bad in earthquake. Base of  
going downhill with no  
only investment in social

604-948-9908

**Secretary:**  
Denis Creighton  
604-922-6469

**Treasurer:**  
Bill Wallace  
604-947-0340

**Speakers Committee:**

**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 bulwark in downtown changes after the Great Fire, the brick initially being imported from San Francisco.

2. Woodward's building (floorplate is enormous: bad shape) is pivotal to the area, although all plans stall.

3. Waste is largest in demolition of buildings. "T demolishing".

4. Downtown Eastside not a logical issue. It is a balanced or healthy neighbourhood.

5. Gastown area not good in earthquake. Mason understructure of North side of Water Street is weak. Are money into building preservation?

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 bright young people leaving 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*

**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

**1964-68**

*Ottawa*

**1962-64**

*Kuala Lumpur*

**1959-62**

*Ottawa*

**1956-58**

*Karachi*

**1952-55**

*Saskatoon &*

*Regina*

**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)