



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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Clubs for retired and semi-retired professional and business persons, former executives and others

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday May 21, 2002

TIME: 9:30 AM

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

**SPEAKER: Jack Poole, Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer**

Minutes of April 23, 2002

Attendance: 136 with 4 guests

President opened the meeting just before 10 A.M. advising of the illness of **Peter McCabe**, the Club's Historian and Archivist, but that he could have visitors at St. Paul's Hospital. President of Probus Canada **Reg Whynott** unable to join us today but would be here for the May meeting. **Pidge McBride** would be attending Probus Canada AGM and our President and Vice-President would be attending BC Probus Clubs' AGM in Duncan. Our Vice-President recently attended Tsawwassen Probus Club meeting and advised it was looking for members. Our treasurer responded "no" and "nothing" to the usual questions concerning the Club's finances. May's speaker will be Jack Poole CEO of Vancouver's 2010 Olympic Winter Games Committee. **Dick Mathews** reminded members that the wait list was being reviewed on a 1/4 basis. **Tom McCusker** advised that second Architectural tour Saturday, May 11 was sold out and that speaker for July would be a representative from Bard On The Beach Shakespeare Festival (a number of members indicated interest in attending a performance).

Chris Lee reminded members of Architectural tour on Saturday May 11th at 10 A.M. starting at 440 Cambie Street. Golf Tournament's draw on April 29 was available at Member Services desk. **George Adams** mentioned that response had been heavy for Harbour Tour.

Roy Williams asked that all contributors to the Newsletter file their copy as soon as possible because meeting was a week later than usual.

Guest speaker, **Earl G. Drake** (former Canadian Ambassador to China, 1987-1990 et al) was introduced by **John Rawsthorne**.

For the next 90 minutes the Club members were privileged to have a fascinating past, present and future review, view and preview of China (1945-2020) under the title "China's Growing Power - Good News or Bad?" with the overriding QUESTION:- what should we make of China?

Part of the confusion over China stems from its erratic record since WWII. For its first 30 years China was a destabilizing force in other Asian countries, supported revolutionary terrorist movements, fought against UN Forces in Korea, invaded Tibet. It was an isolated and economically depressed regime at home. (Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution).

Change began in 1978 with Deng Xiaoping replacing Mao. First visit by Drake was "just after" Deng came to power and he was struck by "grimness of everyday life with drab and dismal clothes, houses, markets and smashed University classrooms". Soon after economy and people's standard of living began a rapid rise. In 1986 when Drake accompanied Mulroney to China they met a "lively and confident Deng". Deng's role model was South Korea and he stated that China would catch up to Korean average person incomes by 2050. In 1987 Drake was Ambassador to China. In May/June 1989 Tiananmen Square Tragedy and Drake, his wife and colleagues "huddled alone in that alien, frightened city."

China today is vastly different - Canada/China trade 16.6 B. China moving toward hybrid market system (join WTO). Beijing and east coast bustling. China's GNP 7% this year. World's 4th largest economy (larger than Russia, India and Indonesia combined).

Seven main problems. Politically, economic and social issues can be debated but

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China autocratic state where no political dissent tolerated and no independent judicial system exists. Most Chinese not very interested in western democracy. Growing unemployment (for decade, ahead, China needs to create 100 -200 million new jobs and absorb 80 M new entrants to labor force). State Sector reform (huge, inefficient SOEs - Crown Corporations). Large problem with state owned banks threatened by bad debts and under-capitalization. Fiscal reform (needs fundamental restructuring of the improper and inefficient ways in which all levels of government extract money from public. Fiscally weak - lack of transparency and accountability creates potential for corruption and conflict of interest). Corruption (prevalent in all levels of government, army, police and state enterprises). U.S. 14.2 B were diverted, misappropriated, squandered or simply pocketed, during the first half of 1999! Uneven distribution of wealth (per capita income in Shanghai and other coastal regions is 10 times that of poorest provinces in interior - serious city/country prosperity divide). Increasing air and water pollution (9 of the world's 10 most polluted cities are in China - respiratory illnesses related to pollution are now leading cause of death. China has less than 7% of world's arable land and 22% of its population).

If China continues economic reforms World Bank sees 6.5% average GDP growth for at least next 20 years. Propelled by high savings. By 2010 more than 500 M middle class consumers in China - world's largest. By 2020 incomes could be \$10,000 per capita (achieve Deng's target of matching S. Korea 30 years ahead of schedule!) Similar to what happened to U.S. economy in 19th century and Japan in 20th century.

However to achieve all of the foregoing, China needs to contain unemployment, deal with rural/urban shift of labor and social unrest, develop institutional infrastructure to manage profound change - rule of law, independent courts, freedom of information, commercial banks, central bank, transparent budget and tax system and regulatory agencies - leadership to give political will to complete transition to full market economy.

Over next 20 years has potential to become world's number 2 trading economy and a major military and political power. Largely depends on China maintaining internal social stability and on other countries making some effort to understand and cooperate with China rather than trying to confront and isolate it.

China will not dominate the world. Too many problems at home to permit such ambitions - China has never aspired to conquer the world. Wants to have it's most harmonious civilization.

In response to questions Mr. Drake said:

- a) he doesn't understand why China continues to spend a great deal of money in Tibet in an attempt to dominate it.
- b) in next 20 years China will muddle through to some form of democracy but not ours.
- c) recent Canadian and American political appointments to diplomatic service are shameful and mean that career diplomats must be appointed to the No. 2 position to actually run Embassy.
- d) China huge market for lumber but lumber still not used that much in construction but use is growing.
- e) China has concentrated on grain too much and is slowly moving toward mixed lands. It does trust Canada re: our wheat.
- f) China tough place to do business. Can't rely on rules but must get right local partner. World Trade Organization will help to impose some rules.
- f) China's birth control works in urban areas because can be controlled but not in country.
- h) Hong Kong has worked better than was thought. Recession due more to S.E. Asia recession than anything China did.

Bob Dyer thanked our speaker. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Denis Creighton, Secretary

May Greeters:	May Cash Desk:	Member Services:
John Beveridge	Jack Croll	Don Farquhar
Lorne Bohlman	George Adams	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We are well into the second half of our club year and shortly your nominating committee will be formed to begin the process of recommending the slate for next year.

This is an excellent time to plan for your involvement in Probus. The rewards are high and the time commitment is low. Simply let any member of the executive or a committee chairman know of your interest, or the names of other members who may wish to be involved. We'd love to hear from you. All the names and phone numbers are listed in the newsletter.



Norm Weitzel
President

NOTICES:

VANCOUVER HARBOUR BOAT TOUR

We are seeking at least another 32 persons to join our exciting Tour on June 4th. The comfortable Carousel II will leave from the foot of Denman Street promptly at 9:00 AM and return at noon with boarding starting at 8:30 AM. The cost of the tour is \$42.00 per person. Tea, coffee and pastries will be served on board. **REGISTER SOON** to avoid disappointment by sending the Registration Form and Cheque to the Probus Office or by handing them in to the Member Services Desk at the May meeting.



ANNUAL PROBUS GOLF TOURNAMENT

On April 29th, thirty-two Probus Club members enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day at the U.B.C. Golf Course. After 18 holes of superb golf equaled only on the PGA Tour, participants were served a scrumptious dinner of barbecued steak and salmon plus all the trimmings. Plan now to attend next year! Here are the prize winners:

Low Net & Gross (80) ... Duncan Graham	Closest to pin on #16 ...Cliff Wyatt
Second Low Gross (81) ... Roy Williams	Hidden hole-low score ...Dick Matthews
Closest to pin on #3 ... Dave Campbell	Hidden total score ... Jim Mcpherson
Closest to pin on #7 ...Pete Wilson	

*Our special thanks to **Bill Kennedy** for organizing this fine event.*

Probus Night with Henry V

at the

Bard on the Beach

July 16, 7:00 for 8 pm



We can enjoy a Probus theatre evening with spouses and see **Henry V** by acting quickly to reserve tickets. At our last meeting numerous members expressed interest in attending **Bard on the Beach**. Tickets do sell out most evenings. Tuesdays are **chatterbox Tuesdays** with a pre-play talk beginning at about 7:25. There also will be an opportunity to ask the cast questions after the play. There are no reserved seats. The venue opens at 7:00 and you can select your seats after 7:20.

We have obtained a special group rate of \$23.50 per person. To obtain tickets please complete the enclosed order form and enclose a cheque for \$23.50 times the number of tickets required.

Artistic Director, Christopher Gaze will be our speaker at our regular meeting at 9:30 am July 16 so this should make a delightfully enjoyable day and evening.

Bard on the Beach is a professional summer Shakespeare Festival in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Located near the beach on beautiful English Bay. Plays are presented in a 520 seat main performance tent from June to September and in the Douglas Campbell Studio Stage tent in July and August. The irresistible magic of the city, sea and mountains provides the magnificent backdrop to the productions. Last year's audience of 65,000 meant that many evenings were sold-out, please order your tickets early.

The Origins of Probus

Retirement can come too early for many people who want, and are able, to remain active. Probus Clubs are organizations for men and women who have retired from their profession or business and want to maintain a social network with others who have similar interests. Each Probus Club is sponsored by a Rotary Club and meets at least once a month for fellowship and to hear guest speakers. Today, there are over 300,000 members in approximately 4,000 Probus Clubs worldwide.

The involvement of a Rotary sponsoring club with a Probus Club varies. Rotary Clubs typically approach retired or semi-retired candidates in their community and organize the formation of a club. Once established, the Club becomes an autonomous organization and its members take over leadership. Potential Probus members are not required to be past members of Rotary. Fewer than 10% of Probus members are former Rotarians.

Since 1985, the Rotary International Board has encouraged Rotary Clubs to initiate projects that address the needs of a growing senior (over age 60) population. At its March, 1994 meeting, the Board reaffirmed its commitment by urging Rotarians to organize and support Probus Clubs as a commendable community service activity.

JACK POOLE

Jack was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. He is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan (B. Sc. Civil Engineering). His business experience included being the Chair of Concert Properties, co-founder of Daon Development Corporation and a director of several companies and organizations. Jack is the Founding/Chair of the Molson Vancouver Indy. He has played two Olympic Winter Sports. A potential hockey career was short-circuited by injury. He skipped a rink from the Hollyburn Curling Club into the Southern BC curling finals. Jack is an avid golfer.