



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

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November 2004

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 9th 2004

Time: 9:30am

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

Speaker: David Phillips, Senior Climatologist, Environment Canada

Topic: What's this about global warming?

Minutes of Wednesday October 13, 2004

Attendance: 107 including 1 guests

Vice President **Denis Creighton** started the meeting promptly at 10 A.M. Five new members were asked to come forward and introduce themselves. Past President **Tom McCusker**, while being presented a Probus pin for his exemplary leadership, quipped that all five are Presidential material because of their lengthy introductions!

Reference was made to **Bill Manson's** Probus Annual Income and Expense Report (paper with figures on it, I believe it was called). Denis said any members with questions should talk to Bill in the lobby after the meeting, always providing they could catch him!

On a more serious note, the Chair extended apologies for the date changes of the last two meetings. These changes caused confusion to many members and resulted in many

telephone calls. Denis said the entire executive is on-side to assure, to the best of their ability, all future meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month.

George Adams said, as he is blessed with a strong committee, he can be absent (enjoying the California sun) and the performances of the Visits and Entertainment Committee would carry on! To that end he commended **Mel Endelman** for a very successful Chinatown visit on September 15. He also acknowledged **Chris Lee** and **Jack Farley** for being instrumental in a very enjoyable outing to the Lions Gate Film Studios on September 28th. Honours were also extended to Tom Locke (Last month's speaker) and to Peter Leach, the Studio's President, for their efforts in making this a very pleasant occasion.

Future visits include next Thursday's Strathcona Walking Tour already laid on and the much-rumoured visit to Storyeum. George said he and **Art Jones** would discuss this next week. Expect to hear more at the next meeting.

The business of the day completed with the advice that this month's newsletter cut-off is October 21st. Denis then asked **George Baldwin** to introduce our guest speaker, Dr. Michael Stevenson, President and Vice Chancellor of Simon Fraser University.

After the University's well-publicized rocky start, SFU's Administration settled into hard work, which eventually resulted in marked improvement. So much so that it was recently acknowledged as one of the best comprehensive Universities in Canada. Excellence in teaching and research particularly in the Social Sciences has resulted in SFU regularly topping the poles. An example of this was a recent over-all Canadian research competition where three of a total of seven grants were awarded to SFU professors. Friendly rivalry between UBC and SFU arose through a recent UBC personnel search wherein a team of two were selected. Both had PhD degrees from SFU.

Dr. Stevenson depicts SFU, as an innovative institution very sensitive to the community's needs. The University took a pioneering role by introducing private/ public partnerships within the education field. This came about through the recognition that market forces were pursuing efficient programs at reasonable costs.

The earliest example of this innovative action was the downtown campus. Some fifteen years ago the University redeveloped

the old Sears Department store, located at the Harbour Centre. Today between 60 to 70 thousand students register annually for studies ranging from one-day seminars to full semesters.

The current private/public partnership development, whereby the old Bank of Montreal Vancouver Head Office building becomes the Segal Graduate School of Business, is another big step ahead for SFU. When construction is completed next year, SFU will be the first Canadian University to offer an Executive MBA program. And this in a downtown location.

Yet another model of university partnerships with the community is the new Centre for Dialogue. Here 20 million dollars from private sources will redevelop the old Vancouver head office of the Toronto Dominion Bank. It is expected that University Staff and leaders throughout Canada will meet to discuss matters of major importance.

The future development of the old Woodward's site involves SFU in quite a different manner. Developers, when compiling proposals for refurbishing this old building, requested the University's input. These requests deal with programs for culture studies in art, film, and dance.

Another prominent expansion is the Surrey Campus. In 2005 the campus will relocate to new facilities in Surrey Central City. Central City is situated adjacent to the Sky Train Station. This overall Complex was recently named the world's best business centre. The final completion is scheduled in 2009.

In 1963 Arthur Erickson's original design for the Burnaby mountain campus included housing facilities was completed. However, it was not until 1996 that the University and Burnaby signed the official plan.

Now construction of phase one of UniverCity is well underway. As the name implies, it locates next to the campus and is a self sustaining town site, including a wide mix of residential style dwellings, stores, offices, elementary schools and ample community amenities.

During the question period we learned of the Administration's dedication to maintaining architectural cohesion for expansion of the original campus. The downtown bank building renovations will retain the charm of the original structures. We also learned that many young families choose to live close to a campus to enhance the likelihood of their children attending university.

At a little after 11 A.M. Vice-President Denis called on **Lionel Funt** to thank the speaker. Thereafter the meeting adjourned.

Bill Weatherall

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My thanks to Denis Creighton, our able Vice President, who chaired the October meeting. While I was away enjoying the spectacular fall colours of Eastern Canada, I understand I missed another excellent speaker, Dr. Michael Stevenson, President and Vice Chancellor of Simon Fraser University. From all reports I regret not hearing his presentation.

I would like to welcome the new members who were introduced by Denis at the October meeting. We invite you to explore and enjoy all that Probus has to offer. I look forward to meeting each of you at future meetings.

An enlarged group of Probus and Rotarian members commenced a new season of social bridge on Wednesday evening, October 20th at Point Grey Golf and Country Club. Thanks to Jack Zaleski for his work in arranging bridge again this year. Now if my partner Fred Cotton and I could only get some cards!

Today, October 21, my wife and I, along with other members and spouses spent a wonderful morning exploring the charming and historical Strathcona community within the East side of our city. Once again this delightful walking tour was conducted by John Atkin, author and historian, who has taken us on other excursions into what for most of us is our unknown Vancouver heritage. Our thanks to Chris Lee for organizing this walking tour and lunch. I encourage those of you who have not experienced these tours to sign up next time that Chris, who has more exciting ideas suggests another tour.

I look forward to being back to enjoy some fellowship at our November meeting when Fred Cotton and his Speakers Committee will have another very interesting program for us. This time the subject is climatology. Rain or shine I look forward to seeing you at the November meeting

Gordon Thom

NOTICES

Membership dues: For all those who have not submitted their questionnaire and membership dues, please return them to the offices as soon as possible. Thanks.

MEMBER'S BRIDGE CLUB

The first bridge night took place at The Point Grey Golf & Country Club on October 20th. Future meetings of the Bridge Club will be held every second week until mid-December with members hosting two tables on a rotation basis. Bridge will resume again in January and continue until April 2005. The hosts are requested to provide dessert and coffee.

NEW MEMBERS ARE STILL WELCOME! If you are interested in playing fellowship bridge, please contact Jack Zaleski at 604-328-4288.



Member Services Desk: Ted Daem

Cash Desk: Frank Willis and Michael Ashby

Greeters - Ray Casson, Jack Merchant, Colin Dobell

NOVEMBER GUEST SPEAKER

David Phillips Senior Climatologist Environment Canada

THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA

How many mosquitoes can you kill in 5 minutes? The most mosquitoes killed in five minutes are 21, by Henri Pellonpaa at the 1995 World Mosquito Killing Championship, in Pelkosenniemi, Finland. The Mosquito Killing Championship began in 1993 and was founded by local businessman kai Kullervo Salmijarvi. The event takes place on a compsite in the tiny village of Pelkosenniemi. Each competitor is given five minutes to kill as many mosquitoes as possible within an area of 100-300 sq. m. (1,076-3,229 sq. ft.). The championship rules stipulate that killing can take place only by hand, and that no machinery or chemical weapons are permitted. During the 1995 two-day competition, a total of 370 mosquitoes were killed.

What is altitude 8848?

Mount Everest the world's highest peak is 8848 meters high (approximately 29000 feet). Here is a list of 14 peaks that are over 8,000 meters:

Mount Everest - 8848m.	K2 - 8611m.
Lhotse - 8516m.	Dhaulagin - 8167m.
Annapurna 1 - 8091m.	Makalu - 8463m.
Gasherbaum2 - 8035m.	Manaslu - 8163m.
Shisha Pangma - 8027m.	Cho Oyu - 8201m.
Kangchenlunga - 8586m.	Broad Peak - 8047m.
Nanga Parbat - 8126m.	Gasherbaum1 - 8068m.



David has been employed with Environment Canada's weather service for 37 years. His work activities relate to the study of the climate of Canada and to promote awareness and understanding of weather and climate in Canada. He has published several books, papers and reports on the climate of Canada, including several essays in The Canadian Encyclopedia, a book on The Climates of Canada, and two best sellers: The Day Niagara Falls Ran Dry and Blame it On the Weather. He is the originator and author of the Canadian Weather Trivia Calendar, the most popular calendar sold in Canada, and now in its 17th year. For nearly ten years he wrote the Weather-wise column in the Canadian Geographic magazine. David frequently appears on national radio and television as a commentator on weather and climate matters. He is well-known as the expert on the Weather Network. David is a fellow of both the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society. He has been awarded the Patterson Medal for Distinguished Service to Meteorology in Canada, and has twice received the Public Service Merit Award. In June 2004 he received an honorary Doctor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo. In 2001, David was named to the order of Canada.