



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

...to find more about Probud go to www.probus.org

President:

Tom McCusker

604-261-4763

Director,

Probud Canada:

Pidge McBride

604-274-0446

Past President:

Don Farquhar

604-948-9908

Vice-President:

Gordon Thom

604-739-0714

Secretary:

Denis Creighton

604-922-6469

reasurer:

Bill Manson

604-988-2365

Speakers Committee:

Fred Cotton

604-266-7060

Membership

Committee:

John Hoyle

604-926-2667

Visits & Entertainment

George Adams

604-926-0906

House Committee:

Doug Lambert

604-266-2422

Newsletter Editor:

Roy Williams

604-926-4727

Membership Services:

Bill Weatherall

604-263-3069

Historian and Archivist:

ster McCabe

604-224-4870

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 9th, 2004

MARCH 2004

Time: 9:30am

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

Speaker: Dr. James A. Boutilier "Problems and Prospects in the Asia Pacific Region"

Minutes of Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Attendance: 131 members and 4 guests

Pidge McBride (Director, Probud Canada) chaired the meeting.

Mary Watson, District Governor of Rotary in this area was introduced.

George Adams talked about dates: March 22 (Orpheum Tour), April 7 (TRIUMF laboratory at UBC), April 21 ("Walkies" - Concord Pacific, Roundhouse - includes lunch), April 26 (golf tournament), July 13/14 (trip to diamond mine in N.W.T. - approx.

\$1400), May 31st (Harrison, The Fraser River, bus, New Westminster Abbey, lunch at Harrison Hot Springs Hotel).

March speaker is a special advisor to Department of National Defense for Asia/Pacific area. Apart from running the meeting, Pidge, also advised of the possible addition of two new Probud Clubs - Whiterock (women) and Richmond (men).

Michael Jacobson introduced

the guest speaker, Dr. Karin Qayumi, UBC Medical Faculty speaking on a Health Care System for rural Afghanistan. Dr. Qayumi sketched his background - born in Afghanistan in 1950, finished schooling in 1968, to Russia (Kiev) where he attended medical school finishing in '76, back to Afghanistan to find Russia invading his country in 1980 and he leaving Kabul (on short notice), living with the village people of the mountains ("people of great integrity"), eventually getting out through Pakistan and then to Portugal where Canada was the first country to respond to his enquiries. To Vancouver (with no English but worked his way through books on English in the old Robson library) and found his way to UBC, now a full professor.

For most of this journey a wife and son were with him to help and contribute. Now Chairman and CEO of Partnership Afghanistan (non-profit). In our speaker's view, healthcare is non-political and so he wanted to focus his efforts from Canada on his country's health - one of the worst in the world with infant mortality, malaria, TB rates extremely high. As our speaker pointed out for some 26 years plus war, civil strife has been his country's main "industry." One of the results of this is that Afghanistan's infrastructure is simply not capable of dealing with the health problems.

So far aid, money etc. has gone to the cities but our speaker's plan - rural healthcare system for Afghanistan - is directed at the villages, the country. He envisages regional hospitals with multipurpose health centres (clinics) clustered around the "hub" hospitals. Dr. Qaysumi sees the clinics as self-sufficient within three to five years. He and his volunteers are building prototypes as we write in spite of, Afghanistan's unstable political climate - particularly beyond Kabul - and its vast number of land mines. Our speaker has no money and looks to private donors and major granting foundations for funds. Our speaker speaks proudly and with much affection of his trip to Afghanistan in May/June 2003 (extensive destruction in Kabul, medical school, lab destroyed, lack of water etc. BUT the education system being rebuilt, girls in school, men and women together in public, library restocked by Winnipeg-led group) contrast - huge contrast. There are "good" warlords who

bring order to their area. The NGO's (non government organizations) are making a difference. History (traditions) determining factor ("who is your father?").

Dr. Qayumi is an optimist - of the classic mould and somehow you get the feeling that he is going to give it his best shot and he just might make it!

Glen Miller thanked our speaker.

Denis Creighton, Secretary

NOTICES

MARCH GREETERS: Bob Barnbrook, Gordon Youngson

CASH DESK: George Plant, John Macgowan

MEMBER SERVICES DESK: Bill Weatherall

HARRISON HOT SPRINGS BOAT/COACH TOUR

Following the enthusiastic interest expressed at our February meeting, we have made arrangements through Starline Tours for a boat trip starting at New Westminster Quay at 7:00am on Monday, May 31 and proceeding up the Fraser River and into Harrison Lake. We will have lunch on board, disembark to the Harrison Hot Springs Hotel at 02:00pm and then return by bus stopping at Westminster Abbey, Mission before returning to New Westminster at 05:30pm.

The price for this trip will be about \$115.00 per person, \$230.00 per couple. Space is limited to 40 persons so early registration is important for you not to miss this great experience. Please complete the enclosed registration form and return it to Probus office. You should not include payment at this time.

BRIDGE

Members get together every second week to play bridge. A fourth hand is still required to make up one group - if you or your partner would be interested please contact Gordon Thom or leave a message at the Probus Office - 604-261-6818.

TOUR OF ORPHEUM

For those who missed the previous opportunity, Art Jones has organized another visit to this fascinating place - the scene of a significant piece of Vancouver's history. The date is **March 22** starting at 10:00am.

Whilst the tour is free of charge, there is a donation box placed by the cloakroom at the end of the tour. Retired performers who have contributed to our enjoyment at this theatre benefit from the donations and so, those who enjoy the tour are encouraged to express their appreciation by making an appropriate contribution.

TRIUMF/CYCLOTRON FACILITY

We have arranged a visit to this important facility on April 7. The visit will last about one and a half hours, starting at 10:00am and will be limited to 45 persons. It is expected that demand for this visit will far exceed supply and so participation will be restricted to Probus members only - no guests.

Included with this Newsletter is an application form which should be completed and returned to Probus office as soon as possible. Participation will be allocated in order of receipt of this form.

ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR

Chris Lee has organized another of his fascinating walking tours. This time the target for the invasion by Probus folk will be False Creek area, the Concorde Pacific site, Yaletown and the Roundhouse Community Centre, the date is April 21 commencing from the Roundhouse at 10:00 am and returning to the Roundhouse for lunch.

There will be a charge of \$26.00 per person which includes lunch, the tour guide, taxes and

gratuity.

The tour is planned to conclude at 1:30pm.

Public parking is available under the Roundhouse at a cost of \$1.00 per hour. This can be accessed from Pacific Boulevard or Drake Street.

Those wishing to participate should complete and return the enclosed application form, together with their cheque to the Probus office.

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The date for this year's tournament, which will be followed by dinner is April 26th, the venue, once again, is the University Golf Club. Please mark your diary.

VANCOUVER OPERA

An opportunity has arisen for members of Vancouver Probus Club to purchase tickets to LA TRAVIATA at reduced prices. The Opera will be performed at the Queen Elizabeth theatre on May 1, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12th, however, seat selection for some performances are already restricted and the best selections are available now for 10th and 12th. We have secured reduction in excess of 20% for all seats as follows:

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PROBUS PRICE</u>	<u>USUAL PRICE</u>
A	\$89.25	\$115 + surcharge
B	81.25	105 + surcharge
C	73.25	95 + surcharge
D	61.25	80 + surcharge
E	33.25	45 + surcharge
F	17.25	25 + surcharge

These special prices include GST - there are no extras. Members wishing to take advantage of this offer are encouraged to book soon, whilst a larger seat selection is available. Bookings can be made by telephone directly to Sara Getz at Vancouver Opera - 604-331-4825. When making your booking, please state that you are a member of Probus and refer to the ticket price arrangement between Sara and George Adams.

TRIP TO DIAMOND MINE IN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

We have tentatively arranged a trip to the Diavik Diamond Mine Inc. - one of the two diamond mines operating in the N.W.T., some 300 km northeast of Yellowknife.

Leaving Vancouver by scheduled airline early on Tuesday, July 13, we would arrive Yellowknife about noon and view one or two of the diamond cutting facilities in Yellowknife where we will spend the night.

On the morning of July 14 we travel to the mine site by charter and there view the pit operation and the process plant (unfortunately, the recovery area is off limits) before flying back to Yellowknife

and catching our flight back to Vancouver, via Edmonton, arriving during the evening of July 14.

Depending on the number of people taking the trip, it may be possible to charter a flight for the entire journey. The mine can handle a maximum of 25 people. The cost of this trip will depend on the number of participants but is expected to be in the order of \$1,300 per head, including an allowance for accommodation costs in Yellowknife.

If you are interested in making this trip, please return the enclosed form to the office (no payment is necessary at this time) or, if you require more information please contact Don Codville (604-929-3650) or Doug Lambert at the office (604-261-6818).

Dr. James A. Boutilier

Since 1996 Dr. James Boutilier has been the Special Advisor (Policy) at Canada's Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters in Esquimalt, B.C.. His field of expertise is Asia-Pacific defense and security and he has written extensively on maritime and security concerns. His particular area of responsibility relates to naval initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Boutilier was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and attended Dalhousie University (BA History: 1960), McMaster University (MA History: 1962), and the University of London (PhD History: 1969). He served in the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve from 1956 to 1964 as a navigating officer and in the same capacity in the Royal Navy Reserve from 1964 to 1969.

After teaching for two years at the University in Suva, Fiji, in 1971 he took up an appointment at Royal Roads Military College in Victoria, B.C. He spent 24 years on staff there,

serving as department head and Dean of Arts. He was instrumental in establishing the military and strategic studies program at the college and taught courses on naval history, contemporary Asia, the history of the Pacific, and strategic issues.

He lectures nationally on political and security developments in the Asia-Pacific region at the University of Victoria, the Canadian Forces College, Toronto and to numerous other organizations. He also lectures internationally to the NATO Defense College in Rome, the Australian Defense College in Canberra, and similar organizations in Singapore and Honolulu.

Dr. Boutilier also participates in numerous conferences on defense and security around the Asia-Pacific region including, in 2003, the Asia-Pacific Defense Ministers meeting in Singapore and the High Seas Conference in Cairns, Australia. He is a member of the Canadian Consortium of Asia-Pacific Security and serves on the Canadian board of the Council on Security Cooperation in Asia Pacific.