



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

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

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AUGUST 2004

Next Meeting: Tuesday August 10, 2004

Time: 9:30am

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

Speaker: Bob Ackles, President & CEO, BC Lions, Alternate Governor, CFL

Minutes of Tuesday July 13, 2004

Attendance: 139 with 8 guests

Six new members (Messrs. Goehring, Pederson, Withers, Tornroos, Pollack and Johnstone) were introduced by **John Hoyle** and promised by **McCusker** that **Doug Lambert** would give them (Rick, Bob, Ken, Lloyd, Earl and Pat) their identities, some day.

Roy Williams talked about deadline. **Bev Machesney** talked about oversubscriptions to the Bard (if you haven't received your tickets by the time you read this, revisit plan B). **Manson** said nothing (he wasn't there) and **Fred Cotton** talked about Friday August 27th, a suite, \$50 per head, 70 people, a chalk talk, the B.C. Lions (and, presumably another team) and a football game.

Bob Dyer introduced our speaker, Vancouver Sun Columnist, Jonathan Manthorpe, who talked about "Taiwan - Chinese Province or Nation State" and, within minutes, our old friends Quemy and Matsu (so mention of our other old friend, John Foster Dulles).

By use of maps, Manthorpe showed us that Taiwan (officially Republic of China, formerly Formosa) was closer to the Philippines and Japan than it was to China.

Some 23 million live on the island which is approximately 300 miles long and 120 miles wide (I don't do metric). The "mainlander" population (the descendants of the Nationalist Chinese who came with Chiang Kai-Shek in 1949) are estimated to be 3.5 million to 4 million.

Because of the critical, strategic position in the far east it is of major interest to the U.S. and Japan. Taiwan has just had it's 3rd free and fair election since the lifting of martial law in the late 1980's. Our speaker stressed that, in his opinion, the Taiwanese people "had earned the right to decide their future" - this in the face of the posturing on both sides (China slated to have war "games" at the end of this month involving a simulated attack on "the island"

and Taiwan stating that it intended to rewrite it's Constitution - still based on Nationalist China and what Chiang Kai-Shek brought to this "transit land") and the overhanging fiction of one country - two systems (Canada has a commercial bureau in Taipei which looks and acts like an Embassy but we have no Ambassador - our Embassy and Ambassador being in Beijing, China. Pressure by - U.S. to "go slow" in Taiwan's Constitutional revision.

Taiwan has followed very closely the return of Hong Kong in 1997 and the subsequent "reneging" by China of aspects of Hong Kong's independence. It is now felt that some 80% of Taiwanese want nothing to do with the mainland. U.S. has a law, Taiwan Affairs Act, that calls for U.S. "assistance" if, as and when Taiwan is attacked. When President Carter "acknowledged" i.e. recognized China's claim to Taiwan this was translated by the Chinese as "accepting" China's claim (in 1978 Carter/ U.S. ended diplomatic relations with Taiwan after Nixon went to China in 1972). Our speaker felt that the aspirations of the Taiwanese people cannot now be stopped and that China is in a box because it has left itself only a military option towards Taiwan but it is difficult to see change because of the current ideological struggle between the "old" and "new" China leaders going on in Beijing.

Manthorpe ended his talk by rapidly sketching the history of the island - China, Taiwan and Japan were once one land mass. Trade (then and now) was the driving force - the Portuguese were first, followed by the Dutch and the English (Formosa" means beautiful island in Portuguese). Piracy played a large part in the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1887 Taiwan became a province of China with defeat of China in 1895 Japan took control of Taiwan and held it until 1945, when China again took over and "looted it." In 1947 (February 28th revolution/blood bath when Taiwanese tried to assent their independence. Chiang arrived in 1949

but by the 70's real reform had begun.

In the question and answer period we learned that the so called Chinese "market" was largely a myth, i.e no legal system for certainty of contracts, massive infrastructure problems (e.g. electrical brownouts in factories and cities) but still no question that China was the 2nd largest economy in world and will be the next superpower. China's claims to Taiwan and Tibet roughly equal in weakness. Taiwan even has it's "outsourcing" problem - the 400,000 to 500,000 Taiwanese living on the Mainland who are managing corporations etc. employing "cheap" Chinese Labor.

Fred Cotton thanked our speaker.

Denis W.H. Creighton, Secretary

NOTICES

It is with regret we announce the passing of Bob Weese on June 25th. Our condolences to his family. A donation will be made in his name by Probus to Burnaby Hospital.

Member Services Desk: Bill Weatherall
Cash Desk: Bob Swannell, Lorne Bohlman
Greeters: Sandy Pinkerton, Kilgour Shives, Wayne Audette

FUTURE EVENTS

Chris Lee is finalizing arrangements for a **WALKING TOUR** of the **STRATHCONA** area on **Thursday, October 21st.** Look for details in the September Newsletter.



AUGUST IS FOOTBALL MONTH FOR PROBUS

1. August 10th Bob Ackles, President and CEO of the BC Lions Football Club is our guest speaker.



2. August 27th is Friday Night Football under the Dome.

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Damon Allen returns to Vancouver with the

Toronto Argonauts to play the BC Lions on August 27th.

Probus has reserved the President's Suite at BC Place Stadium for this game for fellowship and football enjoyment.

6:00pm to 7:00pm socializing and a chalk talk by Al Wilson, former CFL Allstar and Schenley Award winner of the BC Lions.

7:00pm dinner and 7:40 kick off.

All for the price of \$50.00 per person (cash bar).

Phone Doug Lambert for tickets 604-261-6818. There are only 70 tickets available and over 40 were taken at the last meeting.

President Tom McCusker who has been a Lions season ticket holder since 1954 was the first to sign up.

Phone Doug today to avoid disappointment.

CHINATOWN TOUR AND LUNCHEON

Wednesday, September 15th, 2004

Enjoy a delightful luncheon at the Floata Seafood Restaurant followed by a Chinatown Tour including a visit to Sun Yat-sen Classical Chinese Garden. The approximate cost will be \$35.00 per person. You can register for this event by completing the enclosed form or by phoning the Probus Office at 604-261-6818.

BARD ON THE BEACH



This evening has been over subscribed by Probus Members.

Regrettably no more tickets are available as the performance has been sold out.

Those of you who were fast

enough to secure tickets will shortly receive them in the mail. Those who did not make the cut will have their cheques returned.

A REMINDER: seating is festival/rush style and it's therefore recommended that you arrive at least 30 minutes before the performance, which starts at 6:00PM, to secure seats.

Top Ten silliest cruise ship question

10. Do I put my luggage out before or after I go to bed?
9. Where is the bus for the walking tour?
8. Is that island surrounded by water?
7. What is our current elevation?
6. What time is the midnight buffet?
5. What do you do with the ice carvings after they melt?
4. Is the TV satellite or cable?
3. Do these stairs go up or down?
2. Do the crew sleep onboard?
1. How do I know which photos are mine?



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this is my last meeting as President of Vancouver Probus. I would like to say how

much I have enjoyed the year. It has been a great experience and a great deal of enjoyment to have met so many new people and to renew old acquaintances.

You know as one grows older you tend to forget a few things so if I miss your names please put it down to old age.

We had tremendous speakers this past year due to the work of Fred Cotton. It has been a pleasure for me to have met the various speakers. Doug Lambert has run the office so efficiently so all our trips etc. have come off very smoothly.

The management committee members have been very helpful in keeping the club functioning without a hitch.

Perhaps I have made some mistakes in formally presenting the badges and pins to some of the new members. Gordon Thom will be our new President and I am sure that he will not make the same mistakes.

The membership of the Club is now over 300, making us one, if not the largest club in Canada.

At the August meeting I will be announcing the election results for the members of the incoming management committees.

Again, thank you for allowing me to be your President.

Tom McCusker

BOB ACKLES

Bob Ackles has been an instrumental member of the BC Lions for over 50 years. Despite his humble beginnings within the organization, Bob's star rose quickly, and by 1966 he was director of Football Development of the Lions. Bob was promoted again

and named Assistant General manager in 1971. Four years later he was promoted to GM and held that office until 1986. Under Bob's guidance, the Lions captured the 1985 Grey Cup-their first CFL title in 21 seasons. However, to the dismay of many, Bob ended his 34 year tenure with BC and accepted an offer to join the Dallas Cowboys of the NFL. Bob, a Schenley Award of Excellence winner, went on to spend six seasons in Dallas, three as Vice President of Pro Personnel and three as Vice President of Player Personnel. He also played a key role in helping the Cowboys back into the playoffs in 1991. Bob left Dallas that off-season, but the team that he helped assemble went on to win Super Bowls in 1993, 1994, and 1996.

After Dallas, Bob moved on to the Phoenix Cardinals, taking the position of Director of College Scouting before a promotion to Assistant GM in 1994. Bob then went to Philadelphia, where he became the Eagles' Director of Football Administration for the 1995 season. Bob's last NFL job was in Miami, reuniting him with Jimmy Johnson to become Director of Football Operations, a position he held for five years.

In 2000, Bob was named the Vice President and General Manager of the Las Vegas Outlaws. This move put Bob in the history books as the only man to hold executive positions in the CFL, NFL and XFL. However, the XFL failed after one tumultuous season. Bob then took time off football and enrolled at the UNLV entering the Fine Arts Program.

In 2002 Bob was voted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in the Builder category. He solidified his commitment to the Lions in December 2003 when he signed a 3-year contract extension. He also brought in the CFL's second most winning coach of all time. Wally Buono as Head Coach and General Manager. Bob was recently voted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame as well.

Bob and his wife, Kay, live in Vancouver and have two sons. Steve and wife Sherri have three children, Robert, Ashley and Kyle. Scott and wife Theresa have two children, Kasey and Robyn.