



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

PLEASE NOTE:

SEPTEMBER 2004

REVISED MEETING DATE:
Wednesday, 15th September, 2004

Next Meeting: Annual

Time: 9:30am

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

Speaker: TOM LOCKE, Managing Partner of Hub Consulting Services

Topic: BC Film Industry - Timing and Technology

Minutes of Tuesday August 10, 2004

Attendance: 105 with 5 guests (One of whom was September's speaker on films/filming in B.C. with a September 28th visit to a "studio")

McCusker started early (9:57 am), announced this was his last meeting (but, promised to return - sometime), made a plea for members to phone, write, fax or e-mail on the size of the Club i.e. how large do you want Club to be???? then stumbled by asking who had the details of the August 27th Lions/Argos box, dinner, game program and who was going to introduce the guest speaker with **Jack Farley**, standing at the lectern waiting to do both i.e. give and introduce. Before this "NO YARDS" penalty, **Cotton** said, "I've said enough" **Adams** said, "It went well" (Bard/dinner/fireworks), **Manson** said, he'd "mail it in" i.e. financial statement and **Chris Lee** talked about Strathcona on Thursday, October 21st (limit 35 people - more walkies). "P.S." talked about a Chinatown tour on September 15 and Storyeum in October.

As previously stated **Farley**

introduced **Bob Ackles** of the B.C. Lions who was it's first water boy. Before that he lived on a "farm" 27 miles from Toronto (1/4 of an acre near Markham) and then in Stanley Park (father had announced "they" (the family) were leaving the farm for Vancouver where he (Bob) had a large "backyard". Anyway, one day in '53, Bob was playing touch football in Heather Park and decided to go down to 411 West Hastings Street and apply for a job as water boy of this unnamed football club. Time passed and then one day Bobby read in the *News Herald* that this football team was going to practice in Heather Park so he went around and said to **Tiger Kozak**, "Hi, I'm Bobby Ackles and I applied for a job as water boy," and **Tiger** said, "sure kid I remember you - here's a bucket." The rest, as they say, is history.

Bob talked about how he set goals

President:

Tom McCusker

604-261-4763

Director,

Probus 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

Treasurer:

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:

or McCabe

604-224-4870

e.g. run with the bulls in Spain and how this goal morphed into take picture of people running with the bulls in Spain (OK, so I can't spell the name of the town in Spain!).

Ackles has 52 years in the business, the CFL, the NFL, the XFL ("more fun in 1 year than I had in") and along the way has had to deal with 22 head coaches! Ackles clearly prefers the Canadian game "better game, more fun and not as time consuming."

Although careful in the name game, Bob called Willie Fleming one of the best athletes of all time and was influenced by Tex Schram and Jimmy Jones - to say nothing of those Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders!!

Hard to tell about coaches. Bob mentioned Tom Landry, Wayne Robinson, Jackie Parker, Vic Rapp, Don Mathews, Jimmy Johnson and Wally (first name) as all being leaders. Luck (as in winning season) plays large part.

Apart from the player and coaches it was obvious that Ackles took great pride in pointing out the Lions "claw back" in recent years (30,000 season tickets in 1986 - on his return this had fallen to 6,000 season tickets and is now back to 12,000). He would like to see a 35,000 seat outdoor stadium in Vancouver with capacity to add but says nothing will happen till after 2010. He also likes the B.C. highschool Canadian Football stats - some 62 schools now play Canadian football as opposed to some 26 in '86. Win on the field, entertain. The Lions are "turning it around" and are "heading in the right direction."

We have the strongest ownership in the CFL in some years Ackles feels but the best sport page in N.A. is in the *Dallas Morning News* (you heard it here first!). The Draft could be a separate talk but the members got a bit of a peek into this "art form" e.g. 1,600 free agents turned up at a Dallas Cowboys "tryout," test, test, test, interviews, backgrounds (college etc.) and, in the end, gut

reaction ("heart") as to who will make it. Trade down and, when all else fails, trade your guy who didn't pan out for the other team's guy - next year.

By the way, current Lions quarterback came via a tip from Dallas Morning News and grass is still the best playing surface.

Ted Daem thanked our speaker.

As these are my last minutes, I would like to end with two Thank yous" - one Big thank you to Barb Kemp who really puts the Newsletter out each month and had to put up with my handwritten minutes (yes, I'm computer illiterate) and thanks to all of you who said you enjoyed reading them. Finally, good luck to my successor, Bill Weatherall, the next Secretary.

Denis W.H. Creighton, Vice President

NOTICES

Member Services Desk: Bill Weatherall

Cash Desk: Bob Swannell, Lorne Bohlman

Greeters - Stan Clarke, John Hoyle, Mike Alexander

STRATHCONA WALKING TOUR, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2004

A warm invitation is extended to Vancouver Probus members and partners to join us for another neighbourhood walking tour, Thursday, October 21st 10:00AM - 1:30PM. We will meet in the Activity Room at the Strathcona Community Centre, 601 Keefer Street, a facility shared with the Strathcona Public School and Library.



Parking can be a problem. Car pooling is suggested. There is no on-site parking and street parking is in short supply. A limited number of complimentary passes to park on Keefer Street will be made available to us at the Community Centre office on the day of our event. Please inquire upon arrival.

There is also frequent bus service along Hastings Street to Hastings and Princess Street. Walk south two blocks to the Community Centre. For further information re: bus service from your home area contact Translink at 604-953-3333 or www.translink.bc.ca

The Schedule is as follows:

10:00 - assemble for registration and orientation with our tour guide, John Atkin, author and historian - for further information about John see, www.Johnatkin.com

10:30 - the walking tour of Strathcona, an area of considerable charm. Vancouver's first neighbourhood has served over the years as a gateway for many ethnic groups and has had considerable influence on major planning issues.

12:30 - return to the Community Centre for lunch, catered by Kelly Saunders, cuisine by design.

1:00 - end of tour debriefing and discussion

1:30 - adjournment

Cost of the tour will be \$25.00 each including tour costs and lunch. The tour will be limited to 35 participants. If you wish to register please complete the attached form and return with your cheque by mail to the Probus Club Vancouver office. These tours fill up quickly. Register early to ensure space. please contact Chris Lee 604-926-1022 for further information.

BRIDGE NOTICE

If you would like to get together with Probus and Rotary Club members to play bridge every second week, please contact Gordon Thom at 604-739-0714

CHINATOWN TOUR AND LUNCHEON

Wednesday, September 15th, 2004

Noon - 400 - 180 Keefer Street

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 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.



TOUR OF LIONS' GATE FILE STUDIOS

Through the offices of Tom Locke, the speaker at our September meeting, a tour of the Lions' Gate movie studios has been arranged. The tour, which will be conducted by Mr. Peter Leitch, the General Manager, will be from 10:00 to Noon on September 28th and will be restricted to a maximum 40 persons. The studios are located at 555 Brooksbank Avenue in North Vancouver where parking is either severely limited or totally unavailable. Therefore, in order to minimize the number of vehicles, those members fortunate to win a place on the tour, are encouraged to share a ride.

There will be no charge for this tour however, it is open to Probus members only (sorry, no spouses on this occasion). Please return the enclosed form by mail to the Probus office as soon as possible. Please mark your envelope "Lions Gate."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This year has passed quickly. I have enjoyed being the President of the Vancouver Probus Club.

It has given me the opportunity to meet so many members and renew acquaintances with old friends.

The Club had a very successful year due mainly to the efforts of all the members of the Management Committee, especially Doug Lambert for keeping the office in excellent order, Fred Cotton for acquiring such excellent speakers for our meetings and George Adams and Chris Lee for arranging the outstanding special events.

I feel that the only problem facing the Club is the number of applications we receive for membership. At the moment we have over 300 members and a long waiting list. In my opinion the Club is large enough. Any larger and it will become too difficult to manage.

If you have views on this situation, please notify the Management Committee in writing.

Tom McCusker
President

September Guest Speaker

TOM LOCKE

Tom Locke is the Managing Partner of Hub Consulting Services: a company focused on business development, strategic planning and management design within the sports, entertainment and communication industries. Recent clients include Command **Post & Transfer Corporation** (entertainment). **MidNet Inc.** (technology) and British Columbia's Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission (ITAC).

An MBA graduate of York University in Toronto, Tom has over 20 years experience in the entertainment industry, the majority at the corporate level. Over the past seven years he has studied and consulted on the impact of new technologies in business (e.g. the Internet).

Tom played an integral role in the founding of Rainmaker Digital Pictures Corporation ("Rainmaker") in 1995. Prior to this he was President and Chief Executive Officer of **Gastown Post & Transfer**, Western Canada's largest independent post production facility. Gastown, which evolved into Rainmaker, provides a complete range of digital post production services for national and international film, television and video producers.

An active booster of international trade, Tom annually chaired film missions for U.S. producers interested in shooting feature films and episodic television in British Columbia. This activity, which generated over \$250 million in production for the province from 1989 to 1994, is recognized as one of the key undertakings that has led to B.C.'s billion dollar film industry of today.

In addition to speaking at various functions and conferences, Tom sits on a number of provincial, national and International boards covering a wide range of interests. Throughout his career he has supported the concept of community investment and has given much of his time in charitable and not-for-profit endeavors. A firm believer in the role sport plays in the developing of values and leadership, Tom has been quite active over the last ten years in the position of the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame & Museum in the quest of "honouring the past...inspiring the future".



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee comprised of Tom McCusker, Gordon Thom, Fred Cotton, Doug Lambert and Pidge McBride submitted the following slate of nominees for the 2004-2005 year:

President: Gordon Thom

Past President: Tom McCusker

Vice-President: Denis Creighton

Secretary - Bill Weatherall

Treasurer - Bill Manson

The following have agreed to serve as Committee Chairmen and Assistants:

Speaker's Committee - Fred Cotton

Membership Committee - John Hoyle assisted by Nick Thornton

Visit & Entertainment - George Adams assisted by Chris Lee

House Committee - Doug Lambert assisted by Bill Kennedy

Newsletter Editor - Roy Williams

Member Services - Ted ~~Dane~~ Daem

Historian & Archivist - Peter McCabe

National Director - Pidge McBride

Any additional nominations (with prior agreement to stand) must be conveyed to the Nominating Committee at least 24 hours in advance of the Annual Meeting.