



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 Probud go to www.probus.org

JANUARY 2005

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Secretary

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Speakers

Committee

Fred Cotton

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Membership Committee

John Hoyle

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Visits and

Entertainment

George Adams

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House Committee

Doug Lambert

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Newsletter Editor

Roy Williams

604-926-4727

Membership Services

Ted Daem

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Historian and

Archivist

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Next Meeting: Presidents' Luncheon, Tuesday, January 11, 2004

Time: 10:00am

Location: Point Grey Golf and Country Club

Speaker: Larry Beasley, City Planner

Topic: The Changing Face of Vancouver

Minutes of the December 14th, 2004 meeting

Attendance: 149 including 5 guests

President Thom opened the meeting at 10:04AM with a warm welcome and a Merry Christmas to all. The well wishes were returned from the audience. Guest introductions were then requested, of which there were five.

Nick Thornton asked the new members to come up and introduce themselves. They are;

Peter Kokan, Peter is a Medical Doctor. He was sponsored by **Jim McWilliams** and **Tony Wallinger**, his interests include walking and hiking.

Frank Anfield. Frank's background is in the advertising industry and **Bev**

Machesney as well as **John Hoyle** sponsored him. Travel and west coast First Nations art are two of his interests. **Keith Goddard** is a retired broker. His sponsors were **John Hill** and **Ralph Carder**. Keith enjoys all sports. **Neil**

Smyth spent his working years in the forest products industry. He favours skiing and gardening for relaxation. **Don Farquhar** and **Bill Weatherall** sponsored Neil. **President Gordon** said they should receive their Probud pins shortly. In the meanwhile they are walking around some other locale - John Hoyle's pocket. Seems our pin problems go from one President to the next! Never the less the new members were greeted by warm applause.

Committee Reports were next on the agenda; **Bill Manson's** restricted comments said that our finances are in great shape; and that from our treasurer!

When **Fred Cotton** was asked for an update on future speakers he exercised excellent footwork and Art Jones enlightened us regarding the

speaker for next meeting, being the Presidents' luncheon. **Larry Beasley** has been recognized by the UN as one of the World's best planners. This and twenty-eight years with the Vancouver City Planning Department should be the basis of a worthwhile and enlightening talk. The February speaker is to be retired Provincial Judge, His Honour Wally Craig. He will share with us some of his thoughts on our present judicial system. Don't give up hope; Carol Taylor will be our guest speaker sometime soon!

George Adams talked to us about future visits and entertainment. He said that events should get under way at the Presidents' luncheon at 10:30AM to allow time for coffee. Valentine's brunch, normally held on the 14th, will be advanced to Friday the 11th as Point Grey Golf Club doesn't do lunch on Mondays. George said he is hopeful that the Storyeum visit may happen in March. **Chris Lee** suggested that we red circle April 19th on our calendars because that is the date of his next walking tour. The place is the old Hycroft Manor, the time, from 10AM until 2PM. This action packed event will include lunch and a walk through old Shaughnessy. Chris left us these words of wisdom dealing with the four phases of Santa; first we believe in him, then we don't. Then we are him and finally we look like him. Merry Christmas Chris! George closed by asking for a show of hands to express interest in a possible two-week visit to China probably next May. If there were enough raised hands we will hear more soon.

In **Roy Williams** absence, **Doug Lambert** advised that the cut-off for the next newsletter is December 21st. President Thom then asked **Richard Landahl** to introduce the speaker.

Paul Stinson spoke to the club about biotechnology in British Columbia, the current status and prospects for the future. He began by briefly describing the role of BC Biotech, a private sector industry association which aims to develop and grow the biotech sector in the province. There is a wide diversity of the forty "core biotech" member companies, ranging from a dozen companies with fewer than five employees, to companies like QLT, which has more than 500 employees, following the acquisition of Atrix Laboratories in Colorado.

Paul described the key success factors for a thriving biotech cluster: great science (epitomized by Michael Smith, the noble laureate for Chemistry in 1994); great people with ideas and a pioneering, entrepreneurial flair; availability of financing (both angel investors and venture capitalists) to support new businesses. BC is blessed to have all three, although some people in the community would argue that there is never enough financing available.

Paul described his visit to San Francisco in June to attend Bio 2004, the most important biotech convention on the annual calendar. Premier Campbell led the mission that included Minister John Les and the CEO's of a number of biotech companies and service providers. The visit had been written up in BC Business (October 2004) as an example of an industry association that had worked in concert with its members and governments to leverage the time and energy of the Premier to its advantage. He reported that the media coverage that followed the visit had been a pleasant bonus and commended the Premier on his enthusiasm and efforts on behalf of the biotech sector. BIO 04 put British Columbia on the biotech map in a way which had never been seen before.

In closing, Paul spoke about some of the highlights of the past year. Between September 2003 and September 2004, BC lead Canada by a wide margin in the number of biotech deals that

were financed. In addition, QLT acquired Atrix Labs from Colorado in a billion dollar deal and Angiotech Pharmaceuticals acquired three American companies in the past 18 months. On the other hand, there have been two recent late-stage failures: Inex and Inflazyem, both of which failed in their efforts to secure FDA approval for their drugs. Despite these setbacks, which are common in biotech investing, Paul left the audience with the message that he remains bullish on the biotech sector in British Columbia and encourages everyone (except the feint of heart) to think about acquiring a biotech stock or two!

During the question period we learned that pharmaceuticals have indeed donated their products. The example given was AIDS drugs provided free to needy African countries. In a lighter vein, the increasing value of our dollar will not harm the Biotech industry until it has a product to sell. President Gordon brought the question period to an end at 11:28 and asked Bill Ibbot to thank the speaker.

Bill Weatherall
Secretary



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In Probus we look forward to a new and interesting year for our Club. We will have more excellent speakers, informative historical trips and other events, and the opportunity for continued contact and fellowship with our former

earlier life colleagues and associates. Our Club, of over 300 strong, has come a long way since October 23 1996 when Fred Cotton and 11 others met at the Hollyburn Winter Club and decided to start our Club. Attending that first meeting were:

Fred Cotton	Bill Wallace
Gordon Christopher	Brice McDougall
Bob Weese	Jim McPherson
Bill Manson	Doug Lambert

Dick Matthews
Peter Dunkin

Norm Sawyers
Al Knudsen

We thank those 12 people for their roll in providing us with the opportunity we have for association in Probus today. Their meeting led to the meeting of May 20, 1997 when we received our Charter as a Probus Club. Fred Cotton was installed as our Charter President.

At our Presidents' Luncheon we will recognize Fred and those now Past Presidents who succeeded him as leaders in the Probus Club Vancouver. They are in order of service:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Fred Cotton | 5. Norm Weitzel |
| 2. Pidge McBride | 6. Don Farquhar |
| 3. Roy Williams | 7. Tom McCusker |
| 4. John Hopkins | |

On behalf of all of us I thank these gentlemen for their time and energy spent in the service and development of our Club. Please join me in paying tribute to them at our special Presidents' Luncheon January 11, 2005.

At our January 11th meeting I also look forward to greeting you and to personally extend my wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year. May 2005 be another great year for the Probus Club of Vancouver.

Gordon Thom
President

NOTICES

Member Services

Desk: Ted Daem

Cash Desk: Frank Willis and Michael Ashby

Greeters : Bev Machesney, Ed Legg, David Scott



PRESIDENTS' LUNCH

You are reminded that the Presidents' lunch, at which we recognize and perhaps honour earlier Presidents, will be held following the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, 11th January at the Point Grey Golf and Country Club.

For Probus Club members, the cost of the luncheon will be subsidized at a price of \$20.00 each (the price for non-members will be \$30.00) - this price includes the normal meeting fee. There will be a no-host bar for those wishing to purchase wines and other beverages.

In order to ensure a sufficient supply of seats and food at the Club, it is important to have an accurate count of those attending. If you have not done so already, will you please advise the Probus office (604-261-6818) of your attendance and if you will be bringing a guest. For those who have not yet made your payment, will you please remember to bring your cheque with you to the luncheon.



JANUARY GUEST SPEAKER

Larry Beasley

C.M., B.A., M.A., M.C.I.P.

Larry Beasley is Co-Director of Planning and Director of Current Planning for the City of Vancouver. He is a voting Member of the Development Permit Board and exercises all Charter authorities of the Director of Planning.

Among his recent initiatives are new land use and transportation plans that are dramatically reshaping Vancouver's inner city. Over the past twenty-eight years of civic service, Mr. Beasley has also been the City's senior community planner and he directed the Vancouver Legacies Program in 1986, raising \$3.5 million from the private sector for civic projects.

Mr. Beasley has studied architecture and has degrees in geography and political science (B.A.) and planning (M.A.). He chairs the 'National Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty' of Ottawa's National Capital Commission. He regularly advises other Canadian municipalities as well as cities worldwide, including Auckland (New Zealand), Washington (U.S.), Chicago (U.S.), Xi'an, Tianjin and Shanghai (China). For pleasure, he sits on the Board of the Vancouver International Film Festival.

He is an Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia.

The United Nations honoured Mr. Beasley's work in 1996 as one of the "World's 100 best planning practices" and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada recently conferred on him it's 2003 Medal of Excellence as "Advocate for Architecture."

Mr. Beasley was recently appointed a Member of the Order of Canada, our country's highest honour for lifetime achievement.

VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON



Our 2005 Valentine's Day luncheon will take place on Friday, February 11th, at the Point Grey Golf and Country Club. The

price will be \$33.00 per head (\$66.00 per couple). A no-host bar will be available for those who wish to purchase wines or spirits.

Again, this promises to be a special day. Those wishing to attend with your wife, partner or "just good friend" should complete the enclosed enrollment form and, either hand it in to the Membership Desk at the January meeting, together with your cheque, or mail it to the office as shown on the form.