



# 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**

**February 2006**

...to find more about Probud go to [www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)

### **President**

Denis Creighton  
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### **Director**

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### **Past President**

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### **Vice President**

Jack Farley  
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Bill Weatherall  
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### **Treasurer**

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### **Speakers Committee**

Fred Cotton  
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### **Membership**

### **Committee**

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### **Visits and**

### **Entertainment**

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### **House committee**

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### **Newsletter Editor**

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### **Membership Services**

Ted Daem  
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### **Historian and Archivist**

Tom McCusker  
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**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 14

**Time:** 9:30 AM

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

**Speaker:** Dr. Stefan Ganzle

**Topic:** The Economic Union Today  
and Tomorrow

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**February 7th - An evening with**  
**Christopher Gaze**

**April 5-7\* - Tour and lunch, Domaine**  
**De Chaberton Winery in**  
**Langley (Date to be finalized)**

**April 24th - Golf Tournament**

**May 17 - Tour of UBC**

**(details will follow on the April**  
**and May events)**

## ***Dr. Stefan Ganzle***

Our speaker, a German citizen, was born in 1970. He is married with one child. His interests include: alpine climbing/hiking, European soccer and running. He is fluent in German, English, and French, and very good in Russian.

Dr. Ganzle is Assistant Professor, Institute of European Studies at UBC. In 2003, he obtained his PhD. in Political Science at the University of Jena in Germany. Prior to that he attended the University of Freiberg where he studied Romance Literature and Linguistics, Political Science and History. At the University of Bonn he Mastered in European Studies.

His many professional experiences include an internship at the Directorate on Studies and Public

Affairs for the Committee of the Regions in Brussels (1997); a traineeship at the Task Force for the Accession Negotiations (Poland) for the European Commission in Brussels (1999).

**Research Interests:**

*Comparative Politics:* European Integration, Political Systems of EU Member States, Political Parties. Also, *International Relations:* EU Foreign Policy, EU Enlargement and Foreign Policy Analysis.

He has made presentations on "Germany's Foreign and Security Policy," a roundtable discussion on "What Germany's New Government means for Europe and Canada: Economic and political implications."

## Minutes of the January 10th Meeting

Attendance: 150 including 1 guest

**President Denis** called the meeting to order and requested guest introductions. Then, because of technical difficulties with equipment required for the speaker's presentation, he switched on his "delay tactics," to give the technician a chance to make adjustments. To this end President Denis talked of many things. He talked of the Valentine's event saying tickets are limited to 100, available on a first come/first serve basis. He said the January Newsletter copy cut-off date was January 25th. He explained our annual luncheon is in honour of our Past Presidents', only one of which was unable to attend. Why, he even welcomed a late arrival for arriving late! Yet in spite of our President's valiant attempts, time ran out, the equipment was still inoperable and the speaker kindly offered to start, correctly confident his aids would be up and running soon! Our grateful President then asked **Bob Dyer** to introduce speaker, Russell Anthony.

Russell started by explaining that the Vancouver Convention Centre expansion (VCC) is the City's current significant construction project. He stressed that the VCC is far more than a convention centre as it offers facilities for all Vancouverites. Posing the question "Why expand?" Russell led us through the following. The current centre opened in 1987 and was operating at full capacity by 1997. Statically, each convention delegate represents an additional \$1,000 to our economy. By 2004 Vancouver's convention space shortfall was costing \$100 million per year. To sum up, expansion was necessary to realize business potential.

The expansion creates 6,700 construction jobs and when complete, 7,500 operating jobs. It covers four city blocks, half on land and half on

water. To make it a "Community people place," it will connect downtown to the waterfront. There will be a three-acre plaza, expected to become the city's main square; a waterfront walkway connecting to the existing seawall; 442 car parking spaces; a new hotel and the floatplane terminal. The expansion and plaza cover 4.25 hectares. The building is 44 metres (11 stories) high, it will have 1.1 million square feet of floor space, trebling the present capacity. The 6-acre living roof will be a special "green feature." Irrigated by rainwater, it will display more than 700,000 BC plants and grasses. There will be a glassed-in connector between the new and original structures. Included are 83,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space and a large truck loading dock.

The annual convention event capacity increases from 35 to 67 and the average attendance from 2,500 to 5,000 delegates. The project's 12-acre waterside will be used for marinas, the floatplane terminal, temporary moorage and even a landing stage for the small false creek type ferries and charter boats.

The City's development approval was slow, but positive results such as more public amenities and community space were realized. The extensive glass and internal wood finish depict BC's prominent features. Windows overlooking the harbour and the North Shore Mountains suggest the city's natural beauty, while the extensive wood finish touts our main natural resource. The building is ecologically sustainable: it currently has "green" certification; the marine habitat and shoreline will be restored; there is on-site water management, including seawater use for cooling purposes. It will be energy efficient, utilizing natural light and natural ventilation.

This high tech plant will adapt to future integrated building systems.

Currently, work is in the pile driving stage, as sections complete the concrete cap pour (a 1.1 million square foot block) follows. The project is considered "difficult" especially at this stage where there are still underground unknowns. It is faced with rising costs and difficulties locating construction equipment and hiring skilled labour. There are budgeted contingencies and Russell feels costs are under control. Once the pile driving completes (scheduled in May) a much closer financial review will be possible.

The very basic schedule follows:

2006 - Construction of building (above ground) begins

2007 - Floatplane terminal relocates

2008 - Expansion completes

2009 - Upgrades to the original Centre completes.

For further information visit [www.vccep.bc.ca](http://www.vccep.bc.ca)

During the question period we learned that:

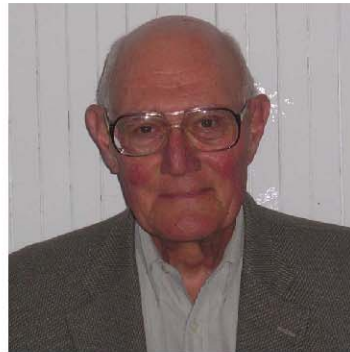
- The project has leading edge technology on greening and special application of wooden trusses.
- The walkway will have a bike lane.
- The centre will do it's own policing; this to better assure the intended use is maintained and safety and comfort for all is provided.
- Adequate public transportation will be linked to the centre
- The Whitecap Stadium approval is expected by 2008 and will coordinate with the VCC.
- Sun glare will be addressed with window coatings and shades. Heat and noise aspects are also being addressed.

President Denis asked **Don Farquhar** to thank the speaker.

During the luncheon, Denis introduced our Past Presidents with the exception of John Hopkins who was unable to attend.

Bill Weatherall, Secretary

## From The Futurist



**NOT** -- would I be President of this outfit if I could foretell the future? **Jack Farley**, please note. It's a hook - to get your attention.

The difficulties in doing a column for the Newsletter (apart from

the Editor et al - ("and others") - notice how much Latin was used in the Debates?)

And speaking of the election, by the time you read this you will have voted (you did remember didn't you?) and maybe seen **Christopher Gaze**.

At our next meeting all of the above will be old news i.e. I'll never catch up. Back to the future!

The Presidents' lunch was a great success as a number of you said to me at the lunch and a 149 or 150 of you (depending which cash box was used) turned out. Now, if we could just get all these hi-tech people to have the machines operational -- which reminds me, why pile drive? Get a brace and bit from Canadian Tire and DRILL the holes!

See some of you on the 7th and the rest of you on the 14th.

Denis

## NOTICES

**Member Services Desk:** Ted Daem

**Cash Desk:** George Plant and Bob Barnbrook

**Greeters:** Bud Boyer, George Blacklock, Mason Ramsay



## VISITS AND ENTERTAINMENT

### **PROBUS GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Mark your calendar for the 10th Annual Probus Golf Tournament to be held on Monday, April 24th, 2006. This is an event you will not want to miss regardless of your handicap! The day includes golf, wonderful fellowship and a superb dinner at the University Golf Club. You can sign up at the Member Services Desk at the next Club meeting. Contact Don Newman at 604-263-5740 or Bill Kennedy at 604-731-4244 for additional information.



### **Pictured below are the current Club President and the Eight Past Presidents**



Back Row: Fred Cotton, Tom McCusker, Denis Creighton,  
Gordon Thom, Norm Weitzel, Roy Williams  
Front Row: Don Farquhar and Pidge McBride  
Insert: John Hopkins

## PROBUS ACTIVITIES

Except for the Probus service clubs mainly in Connecticut, U.S.A., Probus clubs worldwide are not service organizations and are non-sectarian and non-political, although members are largely active volunteers in many community organizations. Clubs are formed to provide social events and schedule speakers to keep members up to date with community issues and happenings. Many members have formed smaller interest groups for hobbies such as sports, entertainment, bridge playing, fishing, travel computers etc.



While numerous individual members regularly offer assistance with area community service projects, (if one should check the individual service activities of members in any given club, the average member would probably carry out far more volunteer service than those in most service clubs)... Probus clubs pride themselves on their independence and freedom from the responsibilities of a service club. The structure of the clubs is simple, and members are not required to attend a minimum number of meetings.

Probus clubs have no central governing body but Probus Centers have been established internationally by country to disseminate information and assist clubs. Offices are staffed largely by volunteers and operating costs are met by member contributions.

A worldwide web page ([www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)), containing essential information on Probus, includes worldwide chat groups, a new bed and breakfast program for travel, and information about forming a Probus Club