



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

#252-2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5 Phone and Fax (604)261-6818

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

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FEBRUARY 2008

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Next Meeting: Tuesday February 12, 2008

Time: 9:30 AM

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

Speaker: Zack Spencer

Topic: The Auto Industry today and tomorrow

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 14th - Valentine's Day
Luncheon

MARCH 31st - George C. Reifel Migratory
Bird Sancturay

ZACK SPENCER



As co-host of Driving Television, Zack Spencer is one of the most respected Automotive Journalists in Canada. Entertaining, informative, and popular, Zack's reviews are carefully thought out. When he rates a

car for driving and value for money, viewers know that Zack's opinion has been well researched and is reliable.

In 1992 Zack started his first auto review on a magazine show on Z95.3 FM called Streetbeat. While at Z95.3FM he moved his car reviews to television at DCTV with a show called Street Test. The show ran for 8 years receiving numerous cable awards including the national Galaxy award for best on-air performance.

In addition to Driving Television,

Zack reviews cars for Global BC with a companion piece in the Province newspaper, plus provides his Driving Tips throughout the year on Global BC.

Born in Toronto, Zack started school in Scotland but returned to Canada to finish. He attended Fanshaw College in London, Ontario for radio broadcasting which landed him a job as an announcer and the assistant music director at the #1 Top 40 radio station CKSL.

Zack's career led him to Vancouver when he was chosen out of hundreds of applicants to help launch Z95.3 FM. His recognized talent led him to one of the most interesting times in his career as BCTV's entertainment reporter for Eye on the Street for seven years. Zack interviewed some of the biggest names in the music business including Sarah McLachlan, Aerosmith, Bon Jovi, John Mayer, Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, Five for Fighting and Michael

Buble.

Since 1997 British Columbians have come to rely on Zack daily as the weather anchor on the Morning News and Noon News on Global Television.

Zack has continued to be an on-air personality on Clear FM, Rock 101, CKNW, Jack FM in Vancouver and BK Radio in the Kootenays. He also does commercial voice overs for clients including Future Shop, Terminal City, Japanese TV-NHK, London Place Eye Centre and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

When not at one of his many jobs Zack enjoys time traveling with his wife and two children and walking his dog (even if it is raining)!

Minutes of the January 8th Meeting

Attendance: 148 including guests

President **Ted Daem** opened the meeting for the President's Luncheon at 10:35 am and greeted members with exceptional good cheer.

He introduced three special guests, the Olympic mascot dolls Sumi, Miga, and Quatchi. He called upon and acknowledged the indispensable contributions of the management team, including

Treasurer **Bill Manson**, who had nothing to report; **Nick Thornton**, Membership, who announced twenty two wait listed prospective members; **Dave Campbell** representing the Speaker's Committee; **Doug Lambert** of the House Committee; and **Roy Williams** for the Newsletter. Forthcoming activities mentioned were Brunch with the VSO on January 27 organized by **Dean Winram**, the Valentine's Day Lunch on February 14th, and a tour of the Reifel Bird Sanctuary organized by **John Rathbourn**. Also thanked were **Tremayne Perry** for Membership Services and all the Greeters.

President **Ted** then noted the massive

development for Vancouver resulting from the preparations for the Olympics and turned to the topic of the featured speaker, "**Vanoc Update**".

Chris Lee introduced the speaker, **Ron Holton**, Vice President, Risk Management & Assurance Services, for VANOC, the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Mr. Holton provided a comprehensive overview of the status, progress, and financial statistics of VANOC's preparations for the Winter Olympics.

The games will involve eighty countries and a TV audience estimated at 3.5 billion. A challenging project first envisaged in the early 1960's has taken fifty years of dreaming and planning to culminate now in these winter games. The project has been animated by one vision: to provide benefits and a legacy to the community both locally and broadly through extensive cooperation and participation. This preparation led to Vancouver's narrow 2003 win in Prague over Calgary and cities in three other countries to host the 2010 games. The technical quality, vision, and broad cooperation shown by Vancouver's bid were praised. John Furlong is CEO. The objective of the games will be to touch the soul of nations, to promote a passion for sport, culture, and sustainability. The Committee works with the IOC, municipalities, governments, aboriginals, and local groups. Funding has been obtained both from governments and private sources.

VANOC has obtained the participation of the governments of Canada, British Columbia, Vancouver and Whistler, as well as of Richmond, Squamish, and North Vancouver—a key to its success. Activities it undertakes

include ticketing, start-ups, building and marketing. VANOC will have a paid workforce of 1,400. The IOC required a government guarantee of costs which was fully assumed by the BC government. Months after the games VANOC will dissolve after processing information and settling accounts. Any surplus will be given to support sports for juniors and any deficit will be settled by the government. Construction costs are covered by both the federal and BC governments, and operating costs by BC alone. The project is on track for needing no more government funding. Good governance has also got business support. Venue construction and athletes villages are all on time and under budget, despite high costs and labour shortages. A special trust fund for these venues has been established and grown from \$50 million to \$150 million.

The following venues have been undertaken: (1) Cypress, site for free style snow boarding and skiing has been completed. (2) GM Place is ready. (3) UBC Winter Sports arena for ice skating competition has a \$34 million budget. (4) Pacific Coliseum at Hasting's Park, site for speed skating, has been refurbishing for years and has been completed at a cost of \$23 million. (5) Richmond Speed Skating Oval has been allocated \$63 million. Whistler sites include Creekside for all downhill; Olympic Park, officially opened last month; a sliding center on Blackcomb Mountain—all at a cost of \$105 million. Opening and closing ceremonies will take place at BC Place and Whistler Celebration Plaza. Two athletes' villages: False Creek in Vancouver (\$32 million) and Whistler (\$37 million) are scheduled for Fall 2009 completion.

The budget for games operation is \$1.6 billion. Almost all of the money is private. The budgets are approved by the governments and the IOC. They cover all the costs of ceremonies, staging, and staffing. Funds are raised by licensing, sponsorships, donations and the disposal of

assets. Broadcasting rights will provide one third of revenue—CTV for Canada, NBC for the USA. 2010 sponsorship programs, both worldwide and domestic, encompass three tiers: Tier I "Partners" (above \$50 million—averaging \$85 million); Tier II "Supporters" (\$15 million to \$49.9 million), Tier III "Official Suppliers" (\$2 million to \$14.9 million). A third source of funds will be ticket sales and a fourth, product sales, such as mascot dolls Sumi, Miga, and Quatchi.

There will be seventeen days of events in February for the Olympic Winter Games and ten days in March for the Paralympics. Although the winter games are only half the size of the summer games, 5500 athletes from eighty countries are expected for the games, 1350 athletes from forty countries for the Paralympics. More information and opportunities for twenty-five thousand volunteers are available on the VANOC website; online applications will be available on February 12.

In response to questions Mr. Holton addressed the matter of ice rink size (no international sized rinks will be available); the distribution of any surplus funds (20% to IOC, the rest to support local sports, and his personal role in risk management. He covers all insurance needs, currency hedges, reputational risk: what could go wrong; the development of contingency plans; facing such risks as terrorism, earthquake, pandemics. Primary security is a matter of a separate police agency, involving the RCMP and local police.

President **Ten Daem** noted the legacy benefits of infrastructure this remarkable event will bring to us. **Brice Macdougall**, founding honorary Probus member, thanked the speaker.

Lindsay Mann, Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL FORUM



President Ted Daem is on vacation and reports as follows: "Hawaii calls from the ballroom of the Ilikai Hotel in Honolulu. Wish you were here (maybe some of you are like Dave Campbell who is on the 19th floor).



There was loads of good fellowship and fun for the packed house at the Presidents' luncheon which went off so smoothly, thanks to the efforts of Pidge McBride. I thought the roast beef and Yorkshire pudding

was particularly good. As usual, our speaker was articulate and knowledgeable. A great start to the New Year!

In my absence, the February Meeting will be in the very capable and professional hands of Vice-President, George Adams."

Ted Daem

FIELD TRIP TO GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

Plans are in process for a field trip to the George C. Reifel Bird Sanctuary on Monday, March 31st, 2008.



The Sanctuary is the winter home of the Lesser Snow Geese and one of Canada's top bird watching sites in the heart of the Fraser River Sanctuary. It is one hour's drive from the City of Vancouver.

Details will be provided at the February Probus Meeting and in the March Newsletter. Why not mark your calendar today and plan to join a group for this exciting trip

VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14TH, 2008

You can still sign up for this special function. The Royal Vancouver Yacht Club is well known for its outstanding buffets and for the beautiful views.

At the present time we have 60 (members and wives) attending the Valentine's Luncheon. We have room for more people. If you would like to attend then please phone the office by February 7th at 604-261-6818 and send your cheque (\$45.00 per person) to Probus Club Vancouver #252 - 2025 West 42nd Ave., Vancouver B.C. V6M 2B5 or hand in your cheque to the Members Services Desk at the February meeting.



NOTICES

It is with regret we announce the passing of Bill Sauder on December 19th, 2008. Our condolences to his family. A donation will be made in his name by Probus to St. Mary's Kerrisdale.

Member Services Desk: Tremayne Perry

Cash Desk: Jim McWilliams, Hank Levelt

Greeters: Hugh Legg, Howie Eckman and Don Newman