



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

February 2009

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

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Next Meeting: February 10th 2009

Time: 9:30 AM

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

Speaker: Alexander Moens

Topic : Obama and Canada

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 13th – Valentine's Luncheon Royal

Vancouver Yacht Club

March 5th – Vancouver Olympic Centre

Tour of Facility plus World Junior Curling
Championship Opening Ceremonies And First Draw

ALEXANDER MOENS



Alexander Moens received his Ph.D in International Politics from the University of British Columbia in 1988. He is a

professor of Political Science at Simon Fraser University. He published his first book on Jimmy Carter's foreign policy in 1990 (Foreign Policy Under Carter, Boulder: Westview Press).

In 1992, he served in the Policy Planning Staff of Canada's Foreign Affairs Department and in the Spring of 1999 he was a visiting fellow at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He is also a researcher with the Council For Canadian Security in the 21st Century, and a Senior Fellow at the Fraser Institute.

He has published in a variety of journals in Europe and North America on security, diplomacy, and foreign policy in American and European foreign affairs. His latest co-edited books are NATO and European Security (Westport,

Connecticut: Praeger, 2003), and Foreign Policy Realignment in the Age of Terror (Toronto: Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies, 2003). He is currently working on a book for Ashgate Publishers, entitled "The Foreign Policy of George W. Bush."

Presidents' Luncheon - January 13/09

Pictured below are the 11 Past Presidents



Front Row: Roy Williams, Pidge McBride, Ted Daem
Back Row: Jack Farley, John Hopkins, Tom McCusker, Denis Creighton, Gordon Thom, Norm Weitzel, Fred Cotton, Don Farquhar

Report of the January 13 Meeting

Attendance: 136 members and guests

President George Adams called the meeting to order at 10:30AM . He then introduced several members of the Management Committee.

Next, the Chairman introduced John Cruickshank, the Activities Committee Chairman, who reminded members of the following events:

- Valentine Lunch on lucky Friday the 13th day of February 2009 at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, 3811 Point Grey Road, Vancouver.
- Visit to the Vancouver Olympic Centre Curling Venue in Queen Elizabeth Park area on March 5th, 2009.
- Visit to the new Vancouver Convention Centre in April.

At the request of the President, Duthie Welsford introduced our guest speaker, Jake Kerr, the principal owner and majority general partner of the Vancouver Canadians Baseball Team.

Three years ago, Jake who enjoyed baseball as a boy in Vancouver, heard that the Vancouver Canadians were for sale. He entered into difficult negotiations with the then owner "Fred" who had in an unusual manner managed the team. It was and is a farm team for the American League's Oakland Athletics. The investment was not a business investment, but was an "investment with a heart". His co-owner, Jeff Mooney, in addition to helping run the Vancouver Canadians is Executive Chairman and controlling shareholder of A & W Food Service of Canada Inc. and a Board Executive with VANOC.

The Vancouver Canadians are the only minor league (affiliated with a Major League Team) Single A professional baseball team in Canada. In 2000, "Fred" had moved the team from Oregon to Vancouver. Other teams in the Northwest League are from Boise, Spokane,

Tri-Cities Washington, Yakima, Eugene, Everett, Salem-Keizer . They play 76 games beginning in June and ending in September, with 38 home games. The Oakland Athletic decides which players are to play for the Vancouver Canadians.

The games are played in Nat Bailey Stadium, a 58 year-old venue, at 4601 Ontario Street near Little Mountain with seating for 5100. "Fred" had no lease for the Stadium, but there is now a 25 year lease from the Vancouver Parks Board. Improvements costing \$5,000,000 were planned, of which \$3,000,000 has been spent. There are clean washrooms and plenty of parking. Fencing has been changed to provide better home run excitement. Seating has been changed and a barbeque area has been enhanced to make the food experience more enjoyable. One of the main attractions of the games is the food, mostly good quality hamburgers, hot dogs and beer and lately sushi.

The average attendance at games is growing. In 2007 it was 2900 (up 30%), and in 2008 it was 3250 (up 8%). The Vancouver Canadians were named the Fastest Rising Sports Franchise in Vancouver. Sponsorship programs are in place, and all billboard space has been contracted. Management is conscious of pricing. They provide entertainment for a family of four for \$50. Season tickets start at \$8.81 per ticket.

For the 2009 season, Managements goals are to provide the premier summer family entertainment experience in Vancouver:

- More exciting fan experience without raising ticket price
- Better food and drink options without losing the ball park essence
- Ensure the ball park is all about family

fun

- Give back to the community and make a difference

Jake introduced one of his co-owners and Team President Andy Dunn. He joined the Vancouver Canadians front office staff in 2007. He has had lots of experience with the Florida Marlins, Montreal Expos and Washington Capitals organizations. He is an experienced baseball marketer, bringing in innovations for the Vancouver fans, including: numbered seating, the Club Mascot "Bob Brown Bear", hula night, prom night, fireworks presentations, barbeque picnic in the park (all you can eat and your reserved seat for \$34 per person) and "dancing sushi". He follows the baseball maxim "an empty seat never bought a coke and a hot dog".

Andy Dunn wants the Vancouver Canadians to be a part of the community. They provided 500 meals for the homeless on Thanksgiving. They have started an organization for young players called "Vancouver Canadians Rookie Team".

Andy then introduced Terry McKaig, the head of the baseball program at UBC, who explained the program, now in its 12th year. It permits young baseball players to get baseball training and still go to university in Canada. He described UBC's new state-of-the-art baseball facility. He thanked Jake Kerr for being a lead donor for these facilities.

After questions, Norm Weitzel thanked the speakers.

The meeting then terminated and lunch followed.



Ted Horsey, Secretary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The January meeting was another great success and thanks are due yet again to Fred Cotton and his Committee for arranging the speakers and, with the help of the ubiquitous Doug Lambert, for the excellent arrangements at Point Grey.

Any concerns I had about filling the time available until the allotted time for luncheon were quickly dispelled - as it transpired, the Q & A portion of the Vancouver Canadian's presentation could have been extended without difficulty. The presentation was followed by an excellent luncheon where the Probus objective of fellowship was exercised to its fullest. It was a delight to welcome every one of our past Presidents.

I have to share with you a matter of on-going concern to the Management Committee, namely the ever increasing average age of our membership. This concern has prevailed since the Club began. As of the time of writing we have 359 active members whose ages range from 59.86 to 92.26 years, the average member being 77.20 years of age. Of course the membership is aging at a rate which is constant (but which, from my perspective, seems to be accelerating).

Even your President has not yet discovered a method of stalling the advance of time and so it is fitting, on the 250th anniversary of his birth, to recall Robert Burns who said in his Tam O'Shanter "Nae man can tether time nor tide".

In and of itself our aging membership is not an issue; our concerns arise for future succession to management positions, for the

active committee work essential for the Club's success and for the considerable amount of volunteer activity involved. Our Club relies on voluntary assistance from members, many of whom give generously of their time but, generally speaking and with exceptions, the willingness to volunteer does appear to decline in direct proportion to increasing age. Also, we are at the upper limit of member numbers - the principal limitation being the capacity of our meeting venue.

We have an extensive waiting list for membership in the Club which will be handled in turn. Following that we will appreciate your efforts towards attracting the soon-to-be and the recently retired. Also, we welcome any suggestions to resolve the dilemma which is facing many organizations and which is so important in maintaining Vancouver Probus as the vibrant and attractive organization we know.

NOTICES

ANNUAL VALENTINES DAY LUNCHEON

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13TH,
2009



Royal Vancouver Yacht Club

3811 Point Grey Golf Road, Vancouver

You can still sign up for the Valentine's Luncheon but time is running out! Complete details regarding this popular event appeared in the January Newsletter. If you are interested, complete the enclosed Registration Form today!

The price is \$45.00 per person. Arrival time is 11:30AM for lunch at Noon.

Remember to pick up a parking pass at the front desk for the Club's outdoor parking area.

VANCOUVER OLYMPIC CENTRE

A Free Visit To The Venue For The 2010 Curling Events, Thursday March 5th

This is a "partners event," as participant numbers are not restricted.

- 8am A tour of the facility conducted by Neil Houston, VANOC Sport and Venue Planning Manager
- 9am The colourful opening ceremonies of the World Men's & Women's Junior Curling Championships followed by the first draw of the Junior Curling Championships (four simultaneous games).

CONFIRMATION OF THE NUMBER WISHING TO ATTEND IS REQUIRED, SO PLEASE REGISTER BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- 1. Phone 778-330-7617 and leave a message**
 - Mention the Probus March event
 - Provide your name, phone number and mailing address
 - Name of guest, if any
 - Further event details will be sent by mail
- 2. Email: johncruickshank@shaw.ca**
 - Put "Probus March event" in the subject line
 - Name of guest, if any
 - Further event details will be sent by Email
- 3. Sign up at Members Services Desk at February's meeting**

Member Services Desk: Bill Sexsmith

Cash Desk: Jim McWilliams, Dick Beck

Greeters: Bud Boyer, Carl Brandes

BADGES

Any member who does not have a Probus Badge, for whatever reason, please contact the office so it can be replaced.

PROBUS AND SPEAKERS

The first Speaker's Chairman, Brice Macdougall, established a high standard for the Probud Club Vancouver by providing a diverse cross section of outstanding business, political, cultural and health authorities to address our Club on a monthly basis. John Hopkins, President in 2000 acknowledged Brice "for his devoted and tireless efforts in arranging speakers since the Club's inception". Brice resigned this position Dec, 2000 and was succeeded by Fred Cotton, the Club's first President, who continues, monthly, to present us with leaders, visionaries, authors and practitioners from a broad spectrum of our society. Both men have been recognized by the Club for their leadership with Honouary Life Memberships.

Attendance at Probud is not required but members do not miss meetings in large part because no one wants to miss a speaker. Thanks to these two members speakers have been outstanding since day one of the Club and are a main reason for our popularity.

Gordon Thom
Historian and Archivist

VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 2009
ROYAL VANCOUVER YACHT CLUB

REGISTRATION FORM

I PLAN TO ATTEND:

NAME:.....

PARTNER:.....

PRICE: \$45.00 per person

Confirm your attendance by mailing form and cheque to PROBUS OFFICE at 252 - 2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5,

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