



## 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

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

April 2009

### President

George Adams

604-926-0906

[george\\_adams@telus.net](mailto:george_adams@telus.net)

### Past President

Ted Daem

604-732-7758

[allanbrock@shaw.ca](mailto:allanbrock@shaw.ca)

### Vice President

Nick Thomton

604-263-2418

[nicktis@shaw.ca](mailto:nicktis@shaw.ca)

### Secretary

Ted Horsey

604-731-6213

[efhorsey@telus.net](mailto:efhorsey@telus.net)

### Treasurer

Bill Manson

604-988-2365

[mansbill@telus.net](mailto:mansbill@telus.net)

### Speakers Committee

### Membership Committee

Don Newman

604-263-5740

[The\\_newmans@telus.net](mailto:The_newmans@telus.net)

### Activities Committee

John Cruickshank

778-330-7617

[johncruickshank@shaw.ca](mailto:johncruickshank@shaw.ca)

### House Committee

Doug Lambert

604-266-2422

### Newsletter Editor

Roy Williams

604-926-4727

[roytwitch@shaw.ca](mailto:roytwitch@shaw.ca)

### Membership Services

Bill Sexsmith

604-261-8293

[bpsexsmith@shaw.ca](mailto:bpsexsmith@shaw.ca)

### Historian and Archivist

Gordon Thom

604-739-0714

[thomga@telus.net](mailto:thomga@telus.net)

**Next Meeting:** April 14th, 2009

**Time:** 9:30 AM

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

**Speaker:** Colin Hansen

**Topic:** Moving BC into the Next Decade

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 8th – Vancouver Convention Centre  
Tour**

**May 19th - Greenheart Canopy Walk at  
UBC**

**June 16th – Peak to Peak Gondola Trip**

## COLIN HANSEN



Colin Hansen was appointed Minister of Finance on June 23, 2008. He previously served as Minister of Economic Development

(June 16, 2005 to June 23, 2008), Minister of Health Services (June 5, 2001 to December 14, 2004) and a previous appointment as Minister of Finance (December 15, 2004 to June 15, 2005).

He was first elected in 1996 to represent the electoral district of Vancouver-Quilchena and was re-elected in 2001 and 2005. He is currently seeking re-election.

Colin served as health critic for the Official Opposition, as well as the critic for Employment and Investment, and for Labour. He sat on the Select

Standing Committees on Crown Corporations and on Economic Development, Science, Labour, Training and Technology.

He also sat on the Official Opposition Caucus Committees on Health and Economy.

Colin received his bachelor of arts in political science from the University of Victoria in 1975. Before his election to the Legislative Assembly, he and his wife Laura owned and operated a small business they established in 1988. Prior to that, he was vice-president of finance and administration for the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.

Colin served as a director of the Vancouver-Yokohama Sister City Society and chair of the Vancouver Museum board of trustees. Colin and Laura Hansen have two children and live in the Dunbar area of Vancouver-Quilchena.

## Report of the March 10th Meeting

Attendance: 150 members and guests

**President George Adams** opened the meeting at 10:00AM and called for a report from the Activities Committee Chairman. **John Cruickshank** said:

- 40 people attended the tour of the Vancouver Olympic / Paralympic Centre, and watched some of the World Junior Curling Championships.

- The tour of the new Vancouver Convention Centre on Wednesday 8 April 2009 is completely sold out. He is maintaining a waiting list, and asked any confirmed registrants who could not attend to advise him, so persons on the waiting list could attend.

- A tour of the UBC Botanic Garden is scheduled for Tuesday May 19th during the rhododendron season.

Reporting for the Speakers Committee, **George Adams** stated that Colin Hansen was confirmed for the April meeting, and that **Jerry Wennes** and **George Taylor** were hoping to arrange a program involving the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra for the May meeting. Next, six new members were introduced by Membership Committee Chairman, **Don Newman**. (See "Welcome New Members" inside).

**Lloyd Doidge** introduced the guest speaker, Michael Byers and his son and helper Cameron. The topic was about Arctic Sovereignty. Dr. Byers said that Canada extends as far from north to south as it does east to west. From Alert, the northernmost point of Ellesmere Island south to Point Pelee in Lake Erie is about 3500 miles, almost the same as the distance from St. John's west to Tofino. This inhospitable Arctic area (which comprises about 40% of Canada) is changing because of climate change. The average annual temperature now is 5°C higher than it was 42 years ago, so the straits of the Northwest

Passage are becoming less clogged with ice, and are now, or soon will be, ice-free in the summer. There are 19,000 islands, two of which, Baffin Island and Victoria Island, are larger than the United Kingdom.

Five countries border the Arctic Ocean: Canada, Norway, Denmark (Greenland), Russia, United States. The Northwest Passage through the archipelago of Canadian islands is the shortest route (by three or four days steaming time) between Asia and the east coast of America; the shortest passage from Asia to Northwest Europe is through the part of the Arctic Ocean bordering Russia and Norway. The mainland and the islands in the Canadian archipelago and within the 200 nautical miles offshore are Canadian territory. There is no international dispute about this.

The principle disputes are whether the Northwest Passage is an international waterway with free right of passage, such as the Strait of Malacca, or whether it is an inland waterway, such as Lake Okanagan, so Canada can properly control or prevent passage, and whether Canadian territory extends on the continental shelf beyond the 200 nautical mile limit, hence to that extent for a further maximum 150 nautical miles, is part of Canadian territory.

There are now three ways to pass through the Northwest Passage: First, be patient and wait for gaps in the ice (like Amundsen, who spent 2 years waiting in 1906). Transit time is lessening as the ice coverage lessens with global warming. Last year there were 12 transits with ice-strengthened ships; Second, use powerful icebreakers, of which Russia and the U.S. have some, but Canada has none; and, finally, use nuclear submarines, which can go under the ice.

The U.S. stated policy is that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway

with right of free passage. There are recent press statements that the United States proposes to send two submarines through the passage. It is unknown publicly whether the United States has asked permission, or whether Canada has granted such permission. If the United States sends these vessels through without asking for permission, or without receiving permission from Canada, it could set a precedent in international law that it is an international waterway.

Mr. Byers stated that the sensible position for the United States is to agree that the Northwest Passage is not an international waterway, and to receive permission, by treaty, for U.S. ships to pass through. This would permit Canada to maintain control, and prevent undesirables (such as potential polluters or terrorists) from passing through.

There are vast natural resources in the area. In Canadian territory and within 200 nautical miles off shore these resources are Canadian. The question is whether Canadian jurisdiction extends for a further maximum 150 nautical miles of a continental shelf. He said that to prove that the territorial rights of Canada are so extended, it is necessary to file evidence under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), consisting mainly of a proper map of the floor of the sea showing any such the extension. Canada acceded to UNCLOS in 2003. Under UNCLOS, Canada must file evidence by 2013. In cooperation with the United States and Denmark Canada is now mapping certain parts of the Arctic seabed, so it can file proof of the extension of its territorial jurisdiction to the maximum of 350 nautical miles, as permitted by UNCLOS. The United States has not yet acceded to the Convention, so has no rights or obligations under it. There are minor territorial disputes between Canada and the United States, and between

Canada and Denmark as to the boundaries of the jurisdictions of each, but are so minor that they should be easily settled if practical problems arise. There is no territorial dispute with Russia. Recently the Russians exhibited their profound Arctic technical expertise in planting a Russian flag under the North Pole. This feat has little practical importance, as the area has three months of total darkness and is well beyond the 350 nautical mile extent of territorial control, even if the continental shelf from Russia did extend that far.

The main problems with Arctic sovereignty will arise as a result of climate change permitting easy navigation through the Northwest Passage, and the probable / possible extension of Canadian territory on a continental shelf in an area between 200 and 350 nautical miles from Canadian shores.

Mr. John Cruickshank thanked the speaker.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote in "Christabel":  
*The night is chill, the cloud  
is gray:  
'Tis a month before the  
month of May,*

*And the Spring comes slowly up this way.*

It comes up slowly here too. In spite of the fact the sun has now passed the Tropic of Capricorn on its northward journey and the calendar tells us Spring is here, the weather man remains oblivious.



We are privileged to have one of the Province's senior Cabinet Ministers to address our April meeting. By that time the writ will have been dropped and the campaign to elect BC's ..... government will be in full swing.

Probus Vancouver has been most fortunate in the calibre and quality of speakers we have enjoyed – in this we have been well served. I am hoping shortly to announce a new Chairman of the Speakers' committee to carry on the fine work done since the formation of our Club, firstly by Brice MacDougall and subsequently by Fred Cotton until his sudden and untimely demise.

During the hiatus period we have been fortunate having members fill the breach in suggesting, contacting and arranging speakers and with your assistance we have in place at least the skeleton of our forward programme. Thank you all.

## NOTICES

**Member Services Desk:** Bill Sexsmith

**Cash Desk:** Jim Carter, Richard Carson

**Greeters:** John Banfield, Hank Levett

### Welcome New Members

Henning Brasso – Automobile Dealer

Denys Ford - Rheumatologist

Andrew Pike – Anglican Minister

Dick Primeau - Optometry

Colin Pryce – Chartered Accountant

Graeme Smith – Manufacturing-Plastics, and  
Heavy Trucks and Trailer Components

It is with regret we announce the passing of Nick Metal on February 5, 2009. Our condolences to his family. A donation will be made in his name by Probus to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

## PEAK TO PEAK TRIP

***Tuesday, June 16th***



We are arranging a trip to the recently constructed "Peak to Peak" gondola at Whistler.

We will leave St. Davids Church at the corner of the Upper Levels

Highway and Taylor Way in West Vancouver at 9:00AM by bus to Whistler. We will take the gondola to the Roundhouse at the top of Whistler and then the Peak to Peak gondola to Blackcomb Mountain, a distance of 4.4 km. This is considered to be one of the great scenic trips in BC.

We will have lunch at one of the mountaintop restaurants. Also, we are arranging a talk outlining the construction of the new gondola which opened in December, 2008.

We will retrace our steps to Whistler and return by bus to West Vancouver, where we expect to arrive about 4:30PM. Along the way, we can view the reconstructed "Sea to Sky" highway.

The cost of the bus, gondola tickets and lunch is \$100.00 per person. Wives and partners will be welcome. ***As this trip involves commitments from the Club, it will be necessary to pre-pay. No refunds after June 9th.*** Please complete the enclosed **Registration Form** and turn it in to the Members Services Desk along with your cheque or mail it to the office. You can also register by phoning the office at (604)261-6818 or by advising Don Codville at (604)929-3650.

### **REMINDER FOR THOSE MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THE TOUR OF THE NEW CONVENTION CENTRE**

- Coffee service will be provided from 9:15AM to 10:00AM
- The presentation by the speaker, Warren Buckley will last 30 minutes
- The Tour will be conducted in groups of 15 persons

# UBC BOTANICAL GARDEN & GREENHEART CANOPY WALK

Tuesday, May 19th, 10 a.m.

A partner event!

A self-paced walk through the UBC

Botanical Garden and a naturalist-led Greenheart Canopy Walk



Spring is the optimal time to visit UBC Botanical Garden with its spectacular rhododendrons, magnolias, spring blossoms and exotic plants. The Botanical Garden is located on the western extreme of UBC (6804 SW Marine Drive), with free parking in the adjacent parking lot.

The Greenheart Canopy Walk is in the southern portion of the Botanical Garden, a leisurely walk from the garden entrance where our group will meet. The Canopy Walk is the only one of its kind in Canada, a 308-metre walkway through the treetops of the rainforest that allows unprecedented, exhilarating views of the

forest canopy.

The Greenheart Canopy Walk, lasting just under an hour and conducted by a naturalist, allows one to appreciate the biodiversity of the rainforest (native fir, hemlock and cedar) high in the treetops and view the grounds below from a unique perspective. Participants walk single-file on aluminum trackways suspended within the trees that reach heights of 17.5 meters. While age is no barrier on the canopy walk (people as old as 92 have done it), proper footwear is required (no high heels, open-toe shoes, sandals or flip flops). The canopy walk is not suitable for those who fear heights or have dizziness/ balance problems.

The Garden makes for a great visit all by itself. You can tour it instead of taking the canopy walk if you wish, and you can tour it either before or after the canopy walk or even later in the day. UBC Botanical Garden has washroom facilities, a Garden Café for snacks and a Shop.

- To reserve your place(s), write a cheque to PROBUS Club Vancouver (\$16 per person): Submit your cheque to the Member Services Desk at the next PROBUS meeting, April 14th.
- OR
- By May 5th, mail a cheque to the business office, Probus Club Vancouver, 252 – 2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6M 2B5.

For further information, see [www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org) or contact Bill Robertson, 604-269-0745. Signed-up participants will receive confirmation details about one week before the event.

---

## PEAK TO PEAK TRIP, TUESDAY JUNE 16H REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Partner \_\_\_\_\_

**PRICE: \$100.00 PER PERSON (Pre-Payment Required)**

**Confirm your attendance by turning in the form and cheque to Member Services Desk or by mailing the form and cheque to the Probus Club Vancouver at #252 - 2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5**