



# 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

May 2009

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

**Next Meeting:** May 12th, 2009

**Time:** 9:30 AM

**Location:** **Vancouver Academy of Music across from  
the H.R. MacMillan Planetarium and Space Centre**

**Speaker:** Dal Richards

**Topic:** Reminiscing - My Musical Life Especially in the  
Thirties, Forties and Fifties

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 19th - Greenheart Canopy Walk  
and Botanical Garden at UBC**

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

**July 12th - Bard on the Beach**

**August 18th - Baseball Game and  
Barbeque**

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## DAL

## RICHARDS

Dal Richards, CM, OBC is a legendary Canadian big band leader who is also known as the King of Swing. He is a famous Vancouverite, a recipient of the Order of Canada and a living legend of the Big Band Era.

According to the Greater Vancouver Book, an urban encyclopedia (Editor in Chief: Chuck Davis), Dal Richards led his band for many years in a weekly CBC Radio show broadcast nationally from the Panorama Roof Ballroom of the Hotel Vancouver.

His saxophone and clarinet were first heard in the Sandy DeSantis and Stan Paton bands. On May 1, 1940, young Dal Richards, his 11-piece band and a then-unknown 13-year-old Juliette were booked to replace Mart Kenney and His Western Gentlemen, Canada's leading dance band at the time. No-one could guess that Dal's initial six-week contract would stretch into 25 years of regular

performances and broadcasts at "The Roof". When the music tastes changed in the mid-1960s and work dried up, Richards made a dramatic change in his career by taking training and going into hotel management. Still, he continued to perform regularly. Gradually, the interest in swing and big band started picking up again. In 1982-1983 Dal and his band recorded a pair of well-received revival albums. In 1984, the then mayor of Vancouver Mike Harcourt declared February 3 Dal Richards' Day in the city.

These days Dal Richards and his band perform all around the Lower Mainland from the PNE band stand to the annual New Year celebration at the Bayshore Hotel. Dal hosts a weekly one-hour show on Cisl, a local radio station.

After the death of his wife, he remarried and currently lives in a downtown penthouse loft.

Richards composed "Roar You Lions Roar", the fight song of the BC Lions football club.

## Report of the April 14th Meeting

Attendance: 196 members and guests

President George Adams called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. He welcomed back Vice-President Nick Thornton who is no longer *hors de combat* from his operation. Next, he advised that Treasurer Bill Manson was in Hawaii but our treasure is still in Vancouver. President George then said a pair of glasses found in the coffee room and a fawn coat left at the March meeting could be claimed from Bill Sexsmith at the Member Services Desk.

Don Newman introduced six new members. See "Welcome New Members". George then introduced our guest speaker, Colin Hansen, Minister of Finance.

Early in his presentation, Mr. Hansen said that on September 12, 2008 when he was about to deliver his first quarter report, things looked good. It appeared there would be an additional \$1 billion of surplus. Three days later Lehman Brothers collapsed followed by other financial crises in the US, Europe and Asia. He saw the projected Provincial revenues erode by \$6.6 billion. Prior to that the worst year was 1989 when \$100 million disappeared in one week. In 2009 he experienced a loss of \$300 million *in one day!* However, he believes that BC is probably better positioned than most other Canadian provinces to weather the economic downturn. He pointed out that the last downturn was in the 1990's under the NDP: when there were six consecutive downgrades of British Columbia's credit rating; and BC had the lowest growth rate and the highest marginal tax rate of any province. There was a net exodus of 50,000 persons.

Mr. Hansen said that when the Liberals came to power in 2001 they committed to turn the economy around in three years. British Columbia

went from the highest marginal tax rate in Canada to the lowest. Only Alberta has a higher surplus. He said that in the last decade British Columbia had four credit rating upgrades, and that our credit rating is now as high as it could go, (AAA), matching that of Alberta.

Mr. Hansen said that it is a goal of the Liberal Government to eliminate governmental red tape. He said that 33% of regulatory requirements have been eliminated. Ministries may not bring in new regulatory requirements unless an equal number are eliminated.

Health care was much improved. Mr. Hansen stated and BC was #1 in Canada for new hip and knee replacements and had the largest wait-list reduction of any Province of Canada.

Mr. Hansen said people were saying that there is no problem with the Liberals being re-elected, but that there is no room for complacency. For example he said that in the last election ***a change of only 5000 votes from Liberal to NDP in seven ridings would have led to an NDP government.*** He said that Liberal supporters will have to work hard and take the time to vote.

He stated that the economic outlook for BC is solid. Although these are tough times, the government is optimistic. A panel of twelve economists predicts that British Columbia will lead Canada in growth in 2010 due to its solid base. He said that BC has been quick off the mark to take advantage of the \$14 billion stimulus being offered by the Federal Government, accelerating the projected increase of 88,000 jobs over the next three years.

Mr. Hansen says the Olympic games will be a great stimulus for BC with an influx of a projected 250,000 visitors, 8000 athletes and 12,000 media personnel.

## NOTICES

The average convention goer spends \$250 per day which means the stimulus to the BC economy will be substantial (about \$1.2 billion). He pointed out that the Olympics will:

- Put BC in the spotlight with an estimated three billion TV viewers.
- Allow BC to tell its story to the world in pre-prepared DVD clips made available to the media.
- Allow BC to show it is open for business and a good place to invest.

### Questions to Mr. Hansen:

- What is the current status of St. Paul's Hospital? Answer: He said no decision has been made with respect to changing St. Paul's Hospital venue.
- Do the Liberals plan on countering negative advertising? Answer: Liberals do not have sufficient funds to counter the negative advertising.
- What is the position of the Liberal government on the single transferable vote? Answer: Mr. Hansen said that the Liberals were leaving it to the voters to decide whether they wanted to change to a single transferable voting system.
- What is the position of the government with respect to harmonized sales tax? Answer: Mr. Hansen said that the government was considering harmonizing sales tax with the GST which probably makes sense, but the government wants to see what happens in Ontario

In closing, Mr. Hansen said that the major issue in the election is the economy, followed by homelessness and crime.

**Jack Farley** thanked Mr. Hansen on behalf of the Vancouver Probus Club.

*Note: The preceding was prepared from Secretary Ted Horsey's minutes of the meeting.*

It is with regret we announce the passing of Mel Dennis on March 24, 2009. Our condolences to his family. A donation will be made in his name by Probus to Knox United Church

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## **BARD ON THE BEACH EVENING**

**Sunday, July 12th, 7:00 p.m. curtain**

**"THE COMEDY OF ERRORS"**

### **A partner event**

PROBUS has reserved a group of tickets for members and partners to attend Bard on the Beach's presentation of Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors on Sunday evening, July 12th, in the mainstage tent in the magnificent setting of Vanier Park.

The play is a comedy or farce based on two sets of twins, one the sons of a master and the other the sons of his servant. Shortly after their birth, a shipwreck separates them, with each of the servant's sons serving one of the master's sons. The action of the play takes place when, as young adults, the two pairs arrive independently in the same city. Sustained misidentification causes continuous chaos and provides an entertaining evening. See [www.bardonthebeach.org](http://www.bardonthebeach.org) for a full plot summary.

To reserve your place, write a cheque to PROBUS Club Vancouver (\$31 per person) and submit it to the Member Services Desk at the next PROBUS meeting, May 12th, or mail it to the business office, Probus Club Vancouver, 252-2025 West 42nd Ave., Vancouver, BC V6M 2B5. Please mark "Bard on the Beach" on the envelope.

For further information, contact Ken Yule, 604-266-4563.

## Welcome New Members

Jack Grant – Lawyer

Frank Harley – Education

Braden Jolly – Investment Industry

Arnold Nunn – Investment Industry

Dominique Prinnet – Bush Pilot/Airline Executive

Anthony Smith - Barrister

## Membership Services Team

Member Services Desk: Bill Sexsmith

Cash Desk: Bill McIntosh Richard Carson

Greeters: Ralph Carder, John Montgomery

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## VANCOUVER CANADIANS BASEBALL GAME

### and Barbecue Picnic in the Park at Nat Bailey Stadium

Tuesday, August 18th, Matinee Game  
at 1 p.m.

*This is a partner event, and grandkids  
are welcome, too*



Enjoy a barbecue picnic along the first-base line at Nat Bailey Stadium before the game and watch the Canadians play from reserved grandstand seating at 1 p.m. This all-you-can-eat barbecue picnic is a popular

summertime tradition for Canadians fans, and it ***sells out quickly***. Available from noon on, the ***barbecue includes all the usual fare plus assorted desserts and a walk-up service bar***. ***Parking adjacent to the ballpark is available for \$5.00***. For further details visit [www.canadiansbaseball.com](http://www.canadiansbaseball.com).

If you wish, you can watch the entire game from the picnic area. We will have our own section

there with tables, chairs and umbrellas, as well as group-reserved seating in the grandstand. We have reserved 55 places at present but will attempt to expand the number if the demand is greater.

**PRICE:\$34 per adult, \$22 for children 4-12 (free for children under 3).**

Please reserve your place(s) immediately by mailing payment to the PROBUS Club Vancouver business office, 252 – 2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6M 2B5. ***Please mark envelope “Baseball Game”.***

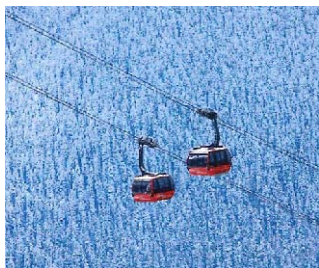
## Probus Club Vancouver

### 12th Anniversary of the Charter Meeting

On at 11:45 May 20th 1997 at a special meeting, chaired by Fred Cotton, our Charter President, Probus Club Vancouver officially commenced as a Probus Club when it received its Charter from Mel Endelman, President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Vancouver, our sponsoring club. Rotary District Governor David Kerr attended as a special guest as did representatives of the Langley and Victoria Probus Clubs. Roy Williams, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers. Bill Ibbott then introduced Chuck Davis, Vancouver writer and broadcaster who spoke and entertained the charter members with “Dates with Destiny” from his then soon to be published book on Vancouver history. He was thanked by Sandy Pinkerton. The minutes were recorded by Al Knudsen, Secretary who noted in the minutes the new address for our Club which was as it is today. For this we all can add with much thanks to Doug Lambert who continues to let us use his office.

Gordon Thom, Historian & Archivist





## **PEAK TO PEAK TRIP**

**Tuesday, June 16th**

**REGISTRATION FOR THIS EVENT IS ENCOURAGING WITH  
36 SIGNED UP TO DATE!**

The bus leaves St. Davids Church at the corner of the Upper Levels Highway and Taylor Way in West Vancouver at 9:00AM. You 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.

Lunch will be at one of the mountaintop restaurants. Also, a talk is being arranged to outline the construction of the new gondola which only opened in December, 2008.

The return trip is expected to arrive in West Vancouver at 4:30PM and will allow you to 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.***

You can register at the Member Services Desk at the May 12th Meeting (bring cheque) or by phoning the office at (604)261-6818 or by advising Don Codville at (604)929-3650.

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## **MAY 5TH IS LAST DATE TO REGISTER FOR THE BC BOTANICAL GARDEN & GREENHEART CANOPY WALK**

**Date: Tuesday, May 19th 10 AM - A partner event!**



This is *both* a self-guided tour of the UBC Botanical Garden *and* a separate guided tour of the Greenheart Canopy Walkway – "a walk in the trees" – the only one of its kind in Canada.

You'll have unlimited time in the Botanical Garden and just under one hour on the Canopy Walk tour in the sky. 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 UBC Botanical Garden makes for a great visit all by itself. UBC Botanical Garden has washroom facilities, a Garden Café for snacks and a Shop in the Garden.

To guarantee a place in this event, please contact the business office of Probus Club Vancouver (252-2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C, V6M 2B5) or Bill Robertson (604-269-0745) **by May 5th. The \$16 fee covers both the Botanical Garden and the Canopy Walkway.**

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## **HUMONGOUS! ...STUPENDOUS! ...GRANDIOSE!...SPECTACULAR!**

These are just a few of the words that the members of our Club used to describe their experience during a tour of the new Convention Centre. Our thanks to Jack Farley and John Cruickshank for arranging the tour and to Warren Buckley, President and CEO of the BC Pavilion Company whose opening remarks were so informative.

Mr. Buckley stated that Vancouver can now handle conventions of any size. The average size from US is 1800 to 2500 delegates. One has already been booked for 2011 which will bring 25,000 delegates to our city. Each delegate spends \$500 to \$650 per day. 57 conventions have been secured that could not have been accommodated without the new facilities. It is estimated that economic spending from non-resident delegates will generate in excess of the cost of the new convention centre in 9 years!

The building features an impressive display of hemlock wood wall panels, wood ceiling beams, "living" roofs, bee hives for pollination of plants and is encased in floor to ceiling glass affording marvelous views of the harbour and north shore. Both the huge ballroom with 70 foot ceilings and the 225,000 square foot exhibition hall take your breath away.

Words are really inadequate to describe this great new addition to Vancouver's tourist facilities. You *must* visit it to appreciate its beauty and immensity! You can arrange a tour by going to the Information Desk just inside the Burrard Street entrance

