



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

www.probus.org

OCTOBER 2009

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Next Meeting: October 13th, 2009

Time: 9:30 am

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

Speaker: Chris Rudge

Topic: The Road to 2010...How did Canadian Olympians get into the position to believe they could be number one in the world in total medal count?

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Activities Committee is working on organizing a 2nd tour of the Olympic Village and a City Bus Tour

CHRIS RUDGE



Chris H. Rudge was named Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) on January 10, 2003.

He is also currently an Adjunct Professor at the

University of British Columbia's School of Human Kinetics.

Rudge is a former senior executive and member of the Office of the CEO of Quebecor World Inc., which was at the time of his retirement in January 2002, the world's largest commercial printer, employing 43,000 people at 160 plants in 16 countries in North America, Europe, Latin America and Asia. Over his 12 years with Quebecor World Inc., Rudge held several executive positions including: Executive Vice President, Marketing, Communications and International Development; and Chairman, CEO and President, Que-Net Media.

Prior to joining Quebecor World Inc. in 1991, Rudge was President and Part Owner of Pickering, Ontario-based Web Offset Publications. He has also been General Manager, Sales & Marketing at Maclean Hunter Printing and has held various senior advertising sales positions at The Financial Post.

Rudge began his professional career as a Physical Education Teacher with the Toronto Board of Education, teaching both junior and senior high school students.

His sport background includes competing as a player with the Syracuse Stingers of the National Lacrosse League (NLL), holding the position of Directeur du Personnel with the NLL's Les Caribou de Quebec and coaching the Canadian National Field Lacrosse Team in 1976.

Rudge is and has been active on a number of boards, including The Paxen Group Inc. (Melbourne, Florida), Merrill Lynch Canada, the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the National Ballet of Canada, the White Ribbon Campaign, the School of Graphic Communications Management at Ryerson University where he co-chaired the New Building Campaign, the University of Toronto Department of Athletics Restricted Funds Committee and the Country Day School (Vice Chairman). He was a Member of the Province of Ontario's Olympic Trust and Waterfront Development Board and Chairman of the Town of Vaughan's Recreation and Sports Advisory Committee and has been an active member of the Canadian Printing Industry Association.

Rudge holds a teaching certificate from Queen's University and a Bachelor of Physical Education and Health from the University of Toronto. He lives in Toronto, Ontario with his wife Janet Nutter, a medallist at the 1978 Commonwealth Games and the 1975 and 1979 Pan American Games, and a 1980 Olympian in diving. They have two children, Ryan and Diane.

Report of the September 8th Meeting

Attendance: 155 Members and Guests

Ted Daem, Past President called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. He welcomed the newly appointed President, **Nick Thornton** and turned over the conduct of the meeting to him. Nick Thornton thanked the membership for their support in a tough campaign to lead Probus in its 14th year.

On request, the outgoing Treasurer, **Bill Manson** provided an unusually "amplified" financial report. Income totaled—\$26,461.92 while Expenses were \$26,302.03. giving us a net gain of \$159.89.

The Membership Chairman, **Don Newman**, introduced five new members(See Welcome New Members).

The Activities Chairman, **John Cruikshank**, proposed a sign-up for a second tour of the Olympic Village. He cannot as yet provide a date. He then polled the meeting for interest in a Red Bus tour of the City and declared that there was sufficient interest to fill a bus.

The Chairman of Membership Services, **Jon Collins** described progress in the design of the proposed Probus website scheduled to be available in October, which will archive the newsletters, provide a short history of Probus, feature activities and provide for signup on line. Hopefully a demonstration will be available for the October meeting.

Gordon Thom canvassed for bridge players to join the group, playing the first and third Wednesdays of each month starting on September 23, 2009 at Point Grey Golf Club and moving to hosting two tables in homes with a season wrap up at Point Grey. Interested members can contact Gordon at his number on the Probus masthead.

The speaker, Dr. Andre Gerolymatos, Director of the Research Institute on South-eastern Europe at Simon Fraser University was introduced by **Merv Hansen** to speak on Islam, its Religion and Politics.

Dr. Gerolymatos started with the proposition that out of one billion adherents to the Moslem religion there is an aggressive strain of fanaticism that is relatively small in size but growing steadily in influence. In Islam there is considerable discontent and confusion of what Islam should be. It is a culture which is tied to the past rather than the present. History in the Western world is conceived as being linear. For Islam, the time of the Crusades is concurrent with the present leading to an underlying grudge against Christianity.

Islam held the Holy Land against the Crusaders. Arab peoples see a direct parallel to the invasion of Iraq and the military possession of Afghanistan and the continued existence of Israel, all are threats to Islam.

Traditionally, the function of the caliphs, the religious descendants of Mohammed was to keep Islam united against other religions. Under the Turks the caliph and the sultan representing religious and temporal power were joined in one person. After World War I, the Western powers dismantled the Turkish Empire with the anticipated loss of unity for the Moslem world. Into this political void stepped the culture of the Saudi Arabs whose religion is based on 13th Century Wahhabi teachings of purity and fanaticism. Wahhabiism, financed by oil revenues has become the most influential element of Islam in Africa, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The notions of al Qaeda are embraced by the uninformed and uneducated masses of these countries who have become indoctrinated about Western atrocities without exposure to Western values. Pakistan which started off as a secular state has progressively come under the influence of religious fanaticism, financed not only by Wahhabiism, but by India and the US. The result is that the Taliban now control Pakistan and large parts of Afghanistan, chiefly by fear. Elsewhere, there is a danger to the West from the continuing rivalry between India and Pakistan which is fuelled by such events

as the Mumbai hotel bombings in November, 2008. Both countries are capable of initiating a nuclear attack.

Looking beyond the obvious, Dr. Gerolymatos considers Egypt to be the time bomb in Islam. Extremists are poised to take control of the country.

He considers it to be a simplistic error to treat Iran as part of the Arab Muslim world. The country has a different culture and a different religion. It would be smart for the Western World to consider some divide and conquer tactics in the Middle East.

In answer to questions from the floor, Dr. Gerolymatos observed: There is little chance of a change in policy towards Islam in the United States as the White House is influenced by a battery of experts whose only purpose is to preserve the status quo.

Russia gave Afghanistan a Western-oriented secular government and the US couldn't stand having a Russian presence in this part of Central Asia and moved to neutralize it.

The peaceful conclusion of the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis will do nothing to change the rate of growth of fanatic Islam.

Dr Gerolymatos has a blog in the Vancouver Sun for those who would like to read his views on his areas of expertise and interest.

The overriding barrier to the introduction of Western concepts to Islam is the lack of education and the lack of means of communication: no newspapers, no radio, no television.

If fanatic Islam gains a foothold in Canada it will be the result of a flawed immigration process.

The final question was when would the book be available. Dr. Gerolymatos said "Drawing in the Sand" will be available this time next year.

Mr Grover Sinclair expressed the enthusiastic thanks of the meeting for the speaker's presentation.

It is with regret we announce the passing of David Stowe on September 7th, 2009. Our condolences to his family. A donation will be made in his name by Probus to the Royal B.C. Museum

MEET YOUR PRESIDENT AND NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nick Thornton, President

Born and raised in Montreal, Nick graduated in Chemical Engineering from McGill. After several years in the chemical industry, he was transferred to Vancouver in 1972 and spent the remainder of his working years in the plastics packaging business. Active in retirement, he is a Past President and Honorary Governor of the Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation, and is currently associated with the BC Schizophrenia Society as a Director of the Mind Foundation. He asks that any member interested in that field of mental illness to please contact him. Nick has been a member of Probus since 1999.



Wayne Audette, Treasurer

Wayne Audette held senior financial positions at St. Paul's Hospital and the Workers' Compensation Board of BC. He was a Director, and past President, of the Vancouver Chapter of Financial Executives International. Wayne attended Loyola and McGill in Montreal, leading to a Chartered Accountant designation in 1966. He served on a number of committees of the Institute of CAs of BC, and taught at BCIT. Born in Vancouver, he's an active golf member at Shaughnessy serving two years on its Finance Committee. He is a past Director of the Rotary Club of North Vancouver and has been a member of Probus since 2003.



Jon Collins, Chairman Membership Services

Jon grew up in the Alcan town of Arvida, Quebec. After studying Economic Geology at McGill (BSc) and Queen's (MSc,Phd), he joined the Mining Explorations Group of Cominco where he spent a 40 year career looking for mines around the world. After literally living all across Canada along with some stints in Belgium and England, he along with his wife and twin sons finally made it to Vancouver, Cominco's (now Teck Resources) head office in 1981. Not wanting anything to do with the nomadic life of a geologist, the boys escaped into the Medical Profession and currently practice in Vancouver. Retirement sees Jon golfing, curling, skiing, cycling and following the markets.





NOTICES

Welcome New Members

John Christie
Actuary/Pension Plans

Walter Coplick
Engineer

Feliz Durity
Neurosurgeon/UBC
Professor

Zig Hathorn
Physical Chemist

Gerry O'connor
Physician/Anaesthesia

Membership Services Team

**Membership
Services Desk:** Jon
Collins

Cash Desk: Tim Gibbs &
Ted Fitz-Clarke

Greeters: Howie Eckman
& Hugh Hamilton

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We have just finished another excellent year at Probus. Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, we have maintained our tradition of finding thought provoking speakers, of having interesting special excursions, and of having active participation in our book and bridge Clubs. Under the leadership of David Scott and his Speakers Committee, and John Cruickshank finding more adventures for us, we can look forward to more of the same over the next twelve months. I

encourage the forty six new Members that have been introduced over the year to become involved. It's fun, it's stimulating, and the fellowship is rewarding. After all, it must be for something that our Club is known as the best value in town!

Past President George Adams deserves a special thanks on behalf of all of us for a job done with commitment and good humour, as does long time past Treasurer Bill Manson who developed a tradition of brevity in his reports that was an inspiration to us all. Welcome also to Wayne Audette, our new Treasurer, and Jon Collins, Membership Services. They too deserve our full support.

TEN YEARS AGO

We have just had another annual meeting and elected a new executive to lead our Probus Club. Congratulations to Nick Thornton who we expect will, with his executive, carry on our tradition of strong leadership. Ten years ago we saw Roy Williams replace Pidge McBride, our second President who had served his term after being Charter Vice President under our first President Fred Cotton. John Hopkins became the new Vice President, with Don Farquhar as Secretary and Bill Wallace as Treasurer. Pidge went on to play a national role with Probus Canada and Roy, as you know, continues to play a very active role most notably as editor of our Newsletter.

Roy received further honours when he was inducted into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame recognizing his school and senior basketball playing years including representing our country on the Canadian Olympic Basketball team at the Olympic Games in 1952 which were held Helsinki.

Gordon Thom
Historian and Archivist

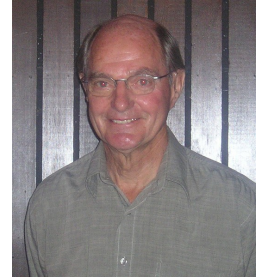
**PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 2009-2010**



**NICK THORNTON
PRESIDENT**



**GEORGE ADAMS
PAST PRESIDENT**



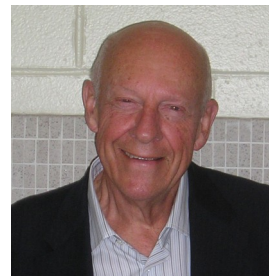
**BILL SEXSMITH
VICE-PRESIDENT**



**TED HORSEY
SECRETARY**



**WAYNE AUDETTE
TREASURER**



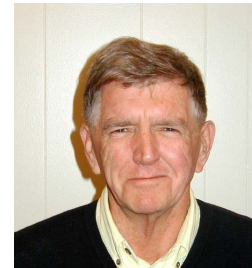
**DAVID SCOTT
CHAIRMAN
SPEAKERS COMMITTEE**



**DON NEWMAN
CHAIRMAN
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**



**JOHN CRUICKSHANK
CHAIRMAN
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**



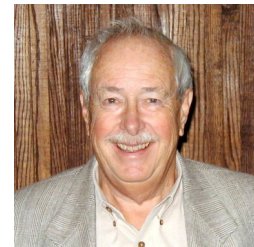
**DOUG LAMBERT
CHAIRMAN
HOUSE COMMITTEE**



**ROY WILLIAMS
NEWSLETTER EDITOR**



**JON COLLINS
CHAIRMAN
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES**



**GORDON THOM
HISTORIAN &
ARCHIVIST**