



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

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

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John Hoyle
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Peter McCabe
604-224-4870

Next Meeting: June 10, 2003

JUNE 2003

Time: 9:30am

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

Speaker: David Halliday, Vice President/Director Special
Projects, Weld Procedure Certifier

Minutes of May 13, 2003 - Attendance: 139 and 7 guests

The Don announced the start of the meeting by stating it was 10:01 A.M. ("late," said he). Hopkins (this is my last Convention report), John said - "very successful," "we're in the black"(take that Wallace), "special efforts by all," "104 persons Thursday night," "ten (10) couples as hosts from Probus Vancouver," Vancouver Island there (Managing Director and President of Probus Canada both from mid V.I. (East coast - Qualicum Beach and Parksville), Charter of Vancouver Women's Club of Probus, Womens' Club of Probus Vancouver, Vancouver Probus Club of Women, (get correct name from John Hopkins) also presented, in addition, representative from North Shore Probus (forming) and Kelowna Mixed (gender). Probus also in attendance, 2004 Convention in Comox, with some 27 Probud Clubs in B.C., this means that John Hopkins can cease to carry his clubs for awhile but THANK YOU JOHN HOPKINS (elsewhere is this Newsletter you'll find the names of some other very good folk who

helped John a WHOLE LOT!).

President Don then gave Convention John the Probud smashed (just kidding) glasses - further round of applause.

McCusker said Hopkins "covered his report (McCusker's)" - this is a first!

Cotton mumbled about the next speaker who was dynamic and from outer space, David Halliday.

Matthews suggested because of wait list (still over 20 and some over a year) that they might want to look at "other Clubs".

Thom talked about the 7 Seas Mariner, security, I.D. on June 24, The Bard (off water, on the Beach) July 22 (Bev Machesney looking after).

Chris Lee lamented our inability to find our way on, off and, at which station, of Skytrain, let alone the main street of New West BUT we get to try it again May 27 - yes, too late by the time you read this!

Lambert said everything was fine and John Tennant, a solicitor, made quite a good effort at explaining how Pat Jacobsen (female) of Translink, (the announced speaker in the Newsletter) morphed into Robert Boyd, (male) President and C.E.O. of Ashton Mining as our speaker (really!). Boyd is both a geologist and a gemologist and Ashton is diamonds - that's DIAMONDS or, "the what's up doc" of mining - you know, carrots - carats - oh, forget it! Ashton is listed on the T.S.E. but the Rio Tinto Group owns 62.4% of Ashton.

Using overhead projections, Boyd very quickly sketched by word, graph, photo, overlay etc. the history of diamonds in the universe, the world and Canada - diamonds have their origin in very old dirt buried very deep. Diamonds are found in carrot shaped pipes (which are scattered about by De Beers gnomes - Just kidding, again) but you should know that Canada will move ahead of South Africa in \$ volume of diamond production by 2006 (in 1990, "the pariah of the industry - now the belle of the ball" - Boyd's words, not mine) with Canada. (Quebec, Nuavut and N.W.T. being "hotspots"). Southern Africa and Australia the major areas of exploration. Diamonds are a "marketing issue" (8-15 year time line on production from discovery but fast pay back). Market now is demand driven (8 billion dollars world annual consumption). De Beers were the influence on the market which they created and still control some 60% of distribution. While about 60% of diamonds mined are non DeBeers. All of this is for the gem - not industrial diamonds which are now synthetic. The separation of the diamonds from the tonnes and tonnes of material is done by a non chemical process and there are very few big diamonds.

Our speaker was thanked by **George Adams**.

Denis W.H. Creighton, Secretary.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our club is very popular to the point of overcrowding and the waiting list has become a problem. We now have over twenty people waiting to join. Some of these individuals have been on the list for more than a year, and at our age a year is a long time.

An important aspect of PROBUS is fellowship. One of the attractions of the club for me has been to provide a venue to resume friendships with those whose careers and family responsibilities have produced a hiatus in our relationship. However, it is distracting to meet with too many of these individuals at one time during the short coffee break at our meetings. I hope that a smaller membership may remedy this situation.

After years of postponing the capping of our membership because prospective members had no alternatives, we now have a solution with the formation of three new clubs in the lower mainland. It is to be hoped that these new clubs may take pressure off our waiting list.

Our new club is ladies only and is based at the Point Grey Golf Club. The second is men only and will be on the North Shore. The final club is a ladies club, also based in the North Shore. Probus Vancouver has assisted the formation of these clubs by providing a loan to cover the startup expenses.

We wish them every success.

Donald Farquhar

Some friends are so satisfactory.

You may not agree with them in everything, but it does not matter. You like each other just the way you are.

It is the contact and rubbing up against other ideas that is stimulating and rewarding.

M. Wylie Blanchet

in the Curve of Time

NOTICES

MEMBERS SERVICES DESK: Tom McCusker

CASH DESK: Bob Weese, Hank Ballou **GREETERS:** Geoff Walsh, Charlie Sale

GOLF TOURNAMENT REPORT

The 7th Annual Probus Club Golf Tournament held on Monday, April 28th at the University Golf Club proved to be a huge success. 32 members teed it up on a beautiful, warm, sunny day. A delicious barbequed steak and salmon dinner was served following the golf. Here are the "Gifted" golfers who received prizes:

Bill Manson, John Hopkins, Peter Ketchen, Bill Kershaw, Bill Kennedy, Duncan Graham, Tom McCusker and Jim McPerson.

We salute Bill Kennedy for organizing another great tournament.

He has already booked Monday, April 26th, 2004 for our 8th Annual Tournament.

B.C. PROBUS CONVENTION

I wish to sincerely thank and recognize the following five (5) groups of people, who made substantial contributions to the success of the recent convention, held in Tsawwassen.

1. **Convention Committee:** Fred Cotton, Don Farquhar, Alasdair Gordon, Doug Lambert, Chris Lee, Leo Sauve, Bob Swannell, Geoff Walsh and Norm Weitzel.
2. **Banquet Table Chocolates:** Charles Flavelle
3. **Door Prize Gifts:** Alan Baker, Howie Eckman, Art Jeffery, John Hill, Glen Miller, Mac Norris, Pacific Coast Credit Union, T.D. Canada Trust, Roy Williams
4. **Registration Desk & Table Host:** George Plant
5. **Banquet Table Hosts & Partners:** Ernie Bianco, Ted Daem, Mel Dennis, Gordon Jinks, George Plant, Bob Pollock, Barry Sleigh

John Hopkins, Convention Chair

BARD ON THE BEACH

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

To go or not to go, that is the question...

Date: ~~Tuesday July 22nd~~ THURSDAY JULY 24th

Time: 8:00 pm

Performance: The Merchant of Venice

Ticket Price: \$24.50 after discount

In order to ensure ticket availability we need your commitment no later than Friday, June 13th. Please complete the enclosed order form and send it to the Probus office along with your cheque for \$24.50 x tickets you are ordering



David Halliday

Vice President/Director Special Projects,
Weld Procedure Certifier



1995- present: AMEC Limited Vice President, Director of Special Projects

1994-1999: Design, manufacture and erection of Gemini-Hawaii & Gemini-Chile telescope enclosures

1980-1988 - Designed, fabricated and erected three dome enclosures for the British Northern Hemisphere observatories in the Canary Islands. These successful contracts brought considerable work to Canada and especially to BC. Project Manager and Engineer for all work contracted to Britain Steel.

1982-1987 - Assigned to the W.M. Keck 10-Meter Telescope Enclosure Project: The success of Keck I resulted in ADSL(formerly Coast Steel) negotiating two further projects, the Keck II enclosure and the Keck II telescope.

1976-1988 - Involvement in design, manufacture and erection of the Canada France Hawaii Telescope. The Dome Enclosure received a "Canadian Award for Business Excellence." Responsible for total project relating to the successful and under-budget move of the C-F-H telescope from France to Mauna kea, Hawaii

David Halliday has been involved with the Astronomical Community for over 23 years and has been responsible for the design, manufacture and construction of some of the the world's largest telescopes and enclosure structures.

Over the past decade, increasing demand for bigger and more powerful telescopes has put considerable strain on engineers and scientists as they search for new solutions to technical problems.

It is the role of the engineer to understand the needs of the scientific community and to convert these needs into practical design solutions.

This talk will touch on astronomy and the explosion of information that creates a demand for larger telescopes.

It will also address the challenges that have to be faced constructing complex structures on remote sites.

It will look at the past, present and future as the community considers the next generation of large telescopes for astronomy.

The close links Mr. Halliday has established with personnel within the academic community including the California Institute Of Technology, University of Texas, University of Arizona, Penn State, University of Berkeley, Lockheed Space and Missile Company, Rockwell, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA, N.R.C., U.S. Air Force and the University of British Columbia have allowed him to leverage sound theoretical design and visionary concept development with proven manufacturing capabilities existing in-house at AMEC Limited.