



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

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October 2006

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Jack Farley
604-922-1515

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604-274-0446

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604-926-4727

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Historian and Archivist

Gordon Thom
604-739-0714

Next Meeting: October 10, 2006

Time: 9:30 AM

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

Speaker: Jack Blaney

Topic: Trans-boundary Waters and the
International Joint Commission

IMPORTANT

When you receive your invoice for the Annual Membership Fees, please mail your cheque promptly in the self-addressed envelope.

JOHN (Jack) P. BLANEY



Jack Blaney is a Commissioner with the International Joint Commission, a treaty organization dedicated to resolving trans-boundary water issues between Canada and the United States. Commission

offices are located in Ottawa, Washington, D.C. and Windsor.

Dr. Blaney was appointed Chair of the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform in May 2003 by the B.C. Legislature. The Assembly of 160 randomly selected citizens was a historic initiative in citizen-led public policy development. It's work concluded in December 2004.

Jack Blaney is President Emeritus, Simon Fraser University. In various university capacities, he increased access to undergraduate, graduate, and liberal arts and professional programs for adults. He was instrumental in the creation of Simon Fraser University's downtown campus and the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. The Centre is acclaimed worldwide for its design and support

for dialogue. Previous to his decanal and Vice-President appointments at Simon Fraser University, Dr. Blaney held several positions at the University of British Columbia.

He also served as chair of the Fraser Basin Council, which brings together all levels of government, including First Nations, and the private and civil sectors to resolve sustainability issues in B.C.'s Fraser River Basin.

Jack Blaney is co-creator and a founding director of Action Canada, a unique public-private partnership whose mission is to identify and nurture future leaders of Canada.

Dr. Blaney has served on a variety of community boards, such as the Vancouver Board of Trade, the Vancouver Museum and Planetarium and the Vancouver Police Department.

He has received several national and regional honours, including an honorary doctor of laws from UBC and the Order of British Columbia. Eamed degrees are from The University of British Columbia and UCLA.

Dr. Blaney was born and lives in Vancouver.

Minutes of the September 12th Meeting

Attendance: 128 including guests

Retiring **President Denis** opened the meeting and asked **Past President Gordon** to present "The Nomination Committee Report." This he did forthwith, stating that the slate, not being challenged over the last month, will be the Club's officers for the ensuing year. Gordon then said some kind words about Denis and got more than he bargained for by advising Denis on his next point of business! Anyway, Denis said he loved us all, including Gordon, and then passed the mike over to **Jack Farley**, our brand-new President. Jack brought us up to date on the two upcoming events; the Lions football game and the Thanksgivings weekend Fraser River cruise. He then called upon **Nick Thornton** to introduce our five new members. They are: **Ian Mair**, Marine Industry; **Bryan Atkins**, printing; **Bill Armstrong**, lawyer; **David Ainsworth**, forest industry and **Ted Horsey**, lawyer. President Jack then asked **Norm Weitzel** to introduce our guest speaker, Paul Sullivan.

Paul started by saying his address will be most unusual, as he will be asking the questions and his audience expected to provide the answers! Thereafter we experienced a most interesting and well thought-out battery of questions and answers (albeit with some response prompting). The result of this exercise clearly illustrated that media power, be it newspapers/magazines, radio, television and yes even the internet, has fallen into the hands of a remarkably few, be they individuals or corporations. Some of the key issues of this interplay follow:

- Black Wednesday, August 27th, 1980, was the day the Ottawa Journal and the Winnipeg Tribune closed. Thus began the amalgamation of newspapers across

Canada. It also prompted the Kent Commission on Newspaper competition. Paul related the following statistic's: prior to the Great War there were 138 independent "dailies" in Canada as compared with 18 in 1992; today, there are 102 daily newspapers and according to the Canadian Newspaper Association only four are independently owned; the Canadian daily newspaper circulation is five million and 80% of these issues are by papers controlled by five corporations.

- There are four major players in Canadian TV: CTV owned by Bell Globe Media, Canwest, Chum and CBC. In 1970 there were 63 stations owned by 30 companies, in 2000 there were 100 stations of which the top five players owned 68.
- Of interest and concern, 60% of us receive daily newspapers published by the same company that owns one of the major TV stations.
- In Vancouver, Canwest delivers 70% of all newscasts.
- Bell Globe Media is owned by Bell, the Thompson family and Torstar, who acquired its interest for \$283 million in 2005.
- Canadian media yields good profit margins: radio-23%, conventional TV-18%, newspapers-30%, and magazines-10-20%.
- Besides the obvious bad side of this concentrated media ownership, there are the resultant gains in efficiency through staff reduction. There may be better ways to assure Canadians get accurate, unbiased and balanced news but they mostly involve government controls.

- Twenty percent of Canadians seek the news exclusively from the internet. As you may expect, 76% of these are teens while only 4% over 65.

During the "real" question period, we learned that:

- CBC listeners are getting older, their average age currently being 56 years. Virtually no youth are among the audience. Through the years the CBC's political direction has always tended left, this only being kept somewhat in check by attrition. The "Mother Corporation" refers to the time the CBC was under Ottawa's complete control. Today it's more under regional direction.
- Ethnic newspapers are prolific in Canada and those of us that don't read the language don't get the message. Paul pointed out that by their very nature, ethnic papers stand to fragment the community.
- The PBS TV stations such as Boston, New York, Detroit and Seattle are kept alive by donations from dedicated listeners. Paul is concerned the CBC may also become listener-dependent.

President Jack asked John Hopkins to thank the speaker.

Bill Weatherall, Secretary

Reflections From The President



I'm looking forward to helping carry on the wonderful tradition and fellowship of the Probus Club Vancouver. Fred Cotton and his committee will continue to bring us an array of outstanding

speakers and Don Hudson, with his committee, will provide us with interesting activities.

My mentor, Denis Creighton, is going to be a tough act to follow, what with his unique style of

running meetings, his dry sense of humour and his colourful ranting editorials. Denis managed to survive the year with no worries of being impeached! In all seriousness Denis, you provided good strong leadership.

One important feature that holds our Club together is the monthly Newsletter, and we salute Roy Williams, our Editor-in-chief who, along with Doug Lambert, makes sure it is printed on time and is full of interesting and informative articles. Roy is our official photographer and is also pressed into service from time to time to resurrect minutes of meetings! Barb Kemp is our publisher and looks after the e-mail distribution of the Newsletter. When she is not producing the Probus Newsletter or sending out the Management Committee's Minutes, she is offering advice and writing on food and cooking with "Recipes to the Rescue."

Our thanks to Roy, Doug and Barb for their time and effort.

Jack

NOTICES

Saturday, October 7th 2006

Paddlewheeler Riverboat Cruise up the Fraser River to Enjoy the Cranberry Festival at Historic Fort Langley

Only SIX spaces remain for the cruise to be allocated on a first come first served basis. DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS OCTOBER 3RD. Please contact Jack Farley at 604-922-1515 or by e-mail at jack.farley@shaw.ca

See August newsletter for complete details.



Fellowship and Coffee before September's Annual meeting

Welcome New Members

- Ian Mair – Marine Industry
- Bryan Adams – Printing Industry
- Bill Armstrong – Lawyer
- David Ainsworth – Forestry Industry
- Ted Horsey – Lawyer

Lunch at Chianti's

Why not join the group of fellow members for lunch immediately after the meeting!!

PLACE: Chianti's at 1850 West 4th Ave., (just west of Burrard on the south side)

CUISINE: Italian style featuring pasta dishes, soup and sandwiches etc.

Help Wanted

The Editor of the Newsletter is *still* seeking an assistant to help out, especially when he is out-of-town. Almost everything is done from your home, using a computer for e-mail and a phone to round up copy from contributors to the Newsletter. Familiarity with Microsoft Word would be a plus. If Interested, contact Roy Williams at 604-926-4727 or roytwitch@shaw.ca.

Members Services Desk: Tremayne Perry

Cash Desk: Frank Willis, Michael Ashby

Greeters: Conrad Rademaker, Sid Forstrom, Laurie Maranda



Tom Duncan & Lorne Bohlman collecting the cash



Jack Farley
President



Pidge McBride, Director
Probus Canada



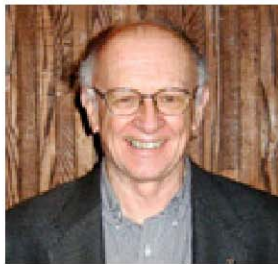
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PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2006-2007