



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 Probuss go to www.probus.org

MAY 2007

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604-739-0714

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 8, 2007

Time: 9:30 AM

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

Speaker: Robin Inglis

**Topic: The World's Last Coast: the Exploration of the
Northwest Coast of America at the end of the 18th
Century.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 10 - Extra event - guest
speaker Professor Ludmilla
Selezneva at the Planetarium

May 23 - Walking Tour of
Downtown Eastside & Gastown

June 19 - Sea to Sky Field Trip

Sept. 25 - Holland America Cruise

Robin Inglis



Robin Inglis is a former Director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum, and recently retired as Director of the North Vancouver Museum and Archives.

He is a Fellow of the Canadian Museums Association. After graduating from Cambridge University with a degree in history, he came to Canada in 1965 and taught for a few years before taking a Masters degree in Museum Studies at the University of Toronto.

During a museum career that spanned over 35 years, he has been President of the Ontario Museum Association and Executive Director of the Canadian Museums Association. Since the 1980's he has studied, written and lectured on the early exploration of the Northwest Coast of North

America. While at the Maritime Museum he acted as curator for major bicentennial exhibitions on the voyages of the French explorer La Pérouse and Spanish explorer Alejandro Malaspina, which came to the coast in 1786 and 1791 respectively, following James Cook, but preceding George Vancouver. He edited a collection of essays entitled Spain and The Northwest Coast, and acted as Regional Editor for the Northwest Coast section of the prestigious Hakluyt Society's recent edition of the Malaspina Journal. He has just completed the Historical Dictionary of the Discovery and Exploration of the Northwest Coast of America, a major reference work which will be published later this year. Mr. Inglis has received decorations in recognition of his work as a museum professional and historian from the governments of France, Spain and Canada, most recently being awarded the Queen's Jubilee medal.

Minutes of the April 3th Meeting

Attendance: 170 including guests

President Jack Farley opened the meeting with a welcome to all. He then drew to our attention the Classic Car Museum Tour in two weeks time and the Downtown Eastside Walking Tour which is limited to 32 including spouses. Nick Thornton then introduced our five new members. (See "Welcome New Members" inside).

President Jack then presented his good news/bad news scenario with regard to today's speaker. Unfortunately, the originally slated speaker for today was unable to keep his commitment and the good news is we're getting three in his stead. While introducing the three, Chris Lee said Chuck Davis is an historian and storyteller of great renown and editor of the Greater Vancouver Book. Jim McGraw and Wes Knapp ably assisted him during the presentation.

The talk centred on a 100 year old seven minute long movie, that an American commercial photographer took on May 7th, 1907. He was William Harbeck from Washington State and by way of a business he filmed street scene movies of many North American cities. What is unique about Vancouver's clip was that it disappeared many years ago and was all but forgotten and certainly not sought after. It was found during a movie house basement clean out in Sydney, Australia about 10 years ago but no one was able to identify the subject city, as the buildings appeared unfamiliar. Thinking the architecture had a North American flare, the Aussies eventually forwarded the film to Washington, DC. There, some smart cookie reviewing the film noticed that the streetcars and buggies were depicted driving on the wrong side of the street. Also, he was aware that in 1907 a few Canadian cities still drove the English way. Naturally, the US forwarded the

film on to Ottawa and it eventually ended up in Vancouver. Three years of restoration work was required before it was brought back to adequate condition and could be used on the current project. Unfortunately, a few short sections didn't survive, but on the whole, the effort was successful. Poor William Harbeck, however, didn't fare so well as his last assignment was filming aboard the Titanic!!

Jim then ran the film for us stopping frequently for comments and explanations, so it took somewhat longer than the seven minutes. It was explained that the camera was mounted on the front of a streetcar and shots were taken around the downtown area and the West End. Evidently shoppers, kiddies and others on the streets were encouraged to wave but there was nary an actor to be seen. While ample streetcars and horse and buggies were visible, there was but one car and it was parked on the wrong side of the street.

Currently Chuck, Jim and Wes are working with the Vancouver Historic Society and are not above putting the odd plug in to further their project. They have worked with fund raisers, the Teamster's Union (who volunteered the use of a camera truck) and received help from the CPR, the CBC and BCTV to name a few charitable organizations. There is also a government grant of sixty thousand dollars. The three are scheduled to start their up-to-date film later this week, which will retrace the exact same route of the May 7, 1907 film.

During the question period we learned that:

- The BCE streetcars were electrically driven from the start. This was because of the abundance of electrical generating capacity in the immediate area.

The public was somewhat sceptical because 'til then streetcars elsewhere were safe "hay burners." The BCE ran an ad campaign to assure the public against electrocution possibilities.

- The reason the original film was so steady on the screen was due to the fact that the streetcar moved slowly on well-laid rail tracks. The present-day camera trucks accomplish the same thing, but with the aid of an onboard computer!
- Vancouver switched from the English left hand drive to the current day system in 1922.
- San Francisco made a similar film in 1905 and repeated the process 100 years later releasing the result on a DVD in 2005. They traced the same route through town, as did their 1905 film, thus showing the before and after concept in advance of ours.
- The Dunsmuir tunnel was built in the late nineteen thirties. Until then, trains had to cross at least six downtown streets to and from the CPR rail station on Burrard Inlet and the works yard on False Creek.
- The original 1907 film is kept safe in the Vancouver Archives. All new work is done using DVD copies.
- Anyone wanting the history of the Birks Clock please go to the Vancouver Historical Society Website, www.vancouver-historicalsociety.ca

Vice President Ted Daem thanked the Speaker Group.

Bill Weatherall, Secretary.

Reflections From The President



This month I would like to salute PIDGE MCBRIDE.

Pidge has been a Director of Probus Canada for six years, representing the Probus Clubs in the Greater Vancouver area

and will be retiring from this position in April. He was the second President of Probus Club

Vancouver in 1998 and for the past six years has been on our management Committee.

Pidge was instrumental in establishing the Probus Club on the North Shore in 2003 and today this Club enjoys an active membership of over 250. He was also involved with the formation of the Women's Probus Club of Vancouver as well as the Women's Probus Club of White Rock & South Surrey.

Pidge had a great career with the Woodward's company. In the late 1960's he was manager of the Woodward's supermarket in the Chinook Centre in Calgary. He was the most popular manager in the store's history greeting all the ladies at the front door as they arrived to do their shopping. (Maybe this is why Pidge was so helpful in setting up the two Women's Probus Clubs!!). He retired from Woodward's after heading up the entire food operation from Vancouver.

There are 33 Probus Clubs in British Columbia with over 4,300 members. Our Vancouver Club has a current membership of 339. Probus Canada celebrated it's 20th anniversary in March and it has spread across Canada with 180 Clubs encompassing over 23,000 members.

Congratulations to Pidge who has done a wonderful job in actively supporting the Probus organization.



NOTICES

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Don Andrews. Our condolences to his family. A Donation in his name will be made by Probus Club Vancouver.

Members Services Desk: Tremayne Perry

Cash Desk: Ken Warner, Owen Owens

Greeters: Harry Richards, David Moir, Paul

Moritz

CONGRATULATIONS!



For several years, Chris Lee has been organizing popular walking tours around Greater Vancouver for members of our Club. He has helped find speakers for us and served as a substitute speaker on more than one occasion. Probus Club activities are only one of the

many ways in which Chris serves his community.

Recently, Chris was elected Chairman of the Advisory Board of the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre. He succeeds another Probus member, Bob Clark, who steps down from the position following a most successful term. There are about 4700 members of the Seniors' Centre with a budget close to one and a half million dollars.

Our congratulations to Chris on receiving this prestigious appointment.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Bill DuMoulin - Investment Management

Philip Owen - Former Mayor/Community Service

John Rea - Mechanical Engineer

Bob Solloway - Corporate Lawyer

Ken Stephenson - Civil Engineer

SEA TO SKY FIELD TRIP

JUNE 19

We have Confirmed that our field trip along the Sea to Sky Highway, by bus, to Squamish will take place on June 19. We will start our trip from St. David's United Church on Taylor Way just above the Upper Levels highway (where we can park our cars) at 8:30AM, and proceed to Britannia Beach. Along the way, we plan to have a representative of Peter Kiewit & Sons, the contractor for the current work on the Sea to Sky Highway explain the construction.

At Britannia Beach we will visit the Mining Museum, which includes a talk on the history of Britannia Mines and the water treatment plant, which removes dangerous contaminants from the mine water, followed by a short trip Underground. The Gift Shop is available for those interested.

After our Britannia visit, we will proceed to Squamish and have a guided tour of the West Coast Railway Heritage Park, where historic railway equipment is on display.

We expect the trip to last about 8 hours. A box lunch and coffee will be included. The cost will be \$50 per person and guests are welcome.

A form is enclosed for those who are interested in the trip. For those who completed and sent in the form enclosed in the March or April newsletters, please mail a cheque payable to Probus Club Vancouver to the Probus Office or bring it to the May meeting, indicating that it is for the Sea to Sky Field trip.

A Walking Tour of the Downtown Eastside and Gastown

Wednesday May 23, 2007 10:00am-2:00PM

Many thanks to all of you for your enthusiastic response. The tour is now full with 32 registrants.

We have started a waiting list. Those on the waiting list will be called, otherwise you can assume you have "made the cut".

Wear comfortable walking shoes and arrive in time for registration and orientation at the B.C. Architectural Institute, 400 Cambie Street at 10:00am, Wednesday, May 23rd. See you then.

Chris Lee 604-926-1022

SEA TO SKY FIELD TRIP

Registration Form

If you are interested in this trip, please complete this form and mail it along with a cheque for \$50.00 per person, payable to Probus Club Vancouver to: Probus Club Vancouver, 252-2025 West 42nd Ave., Vancouver V6M 2B5 or turn it in to the Member Services Desk at the May meeting.

MEMBER _____

GUEST _____

INVESTMENT CLUB - FELLOWSHIP WITH A RETURN

The Rotarian's Investment Club which has welcomed Probus Club Vancouver members since its inception

almost a decade ago has recorded another profitable year.

Almost half of the current Investment Club membership has membership in our Probus Club. The Investment Club meets

for dinner at the RVYC on the last Thursday of the month. Investment Club Membership is limited to 33 members.

As a couple of vacancies have opened up, if any Probus Members are interested in good fellowship with a profit, talk to one of our joint members: Gordon Christopher, Fred Cotton, Allen Coombes, Chuck Fortier, Michael Jacobson, Michael Lambert, Richard Landahl, Lindsay Mann, Dick Mathews, Terry Miller, Kurt Rudzewski, Gordon Thom, Jerry Wennes.

Four Day Holland America Cruise September 25th, 2007

The MS Oosterdam will take you to Victoria where you will overnight. The next two days you will be at sea before arriving in San Diego where you can take advantage of one of the tours being offered or just enjoy the city for as long as you wish. Prices (excluding return airfare) range from \$489.31 for an Inside Cabin to \$808.31 for a Verandah Suite. Family and friends are welcome.

More complete information appeared in the February Newsletter. If you are interested you can contact Jude Harms at Lloyds Travel Group (604)872-5464 or go to website www.lloydstravel.com/probus for more information.



**ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN EXTRA
EVENT IN ADDITION TO OUR
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

10:00 am, THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2007 AT THE
PLANETARIUM

PROFESSOR LUDMILLA SELEZNEVA PhD
Russian Historian from Moscow

Dr. Selezneva is a Professor of History and Political Science. Her expertise in Russian History from the ninth to the twentieth century encompasses a broad knowledge of political movements and parties; the role of political figure (for example, Nicholas II, Lenin, Stalin, Kruchshev and Putin); the Russian adaptation of democracy; and particularly Gorbachev's political biography and history of Perestroika. In addition to her current university commitments in Russia, she has participated extensively in international conferences and is a regular guest lecturer in English for Noble Caledonia Ltd. cruises. The professor has authored ten books, and contributed over one hundred articles on various aspects of contemporary Russian history.

Dr. Selezneva has just completed a stint as visiting professor at the California State University, Fresno and is enroute to her home in Moscow. She has generously agreed to speak to PROBUS.

This is an opportunity to hear first hand of the experiences of a Russian academic who grew up through the last 50 years in Moscow. Please save this date to hear an outstanding speaker.