



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

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JUNE 2007

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604-922-1515

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604-739-0714

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 12, 2007

Time: 9:30 AM

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

Speaker: Dr. Brian Day

Topic: The future of Medicare in Canada

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 19 - Sea to Sky Field Trip

Sept. 25 - Holland America Cruise

Dr. BRIAN DAY



Dr. Brian Day was born in Liverpool and obtained medical and post-graduate qualifications in Britain before completing orthopaedic training at UBC. He is a Fellow of the Royal Colleges of

Surgeons of Canada and England and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He holds a M.Sc. degree from UBC and in 1979 received the Canadian Orthopaedic Association's Samson Award, for outstanding orthopaedic research in Canada.

He is a Past President of the Arthroscopy Association of North America, the world's leading academic society in the field of arthroscopy and sports injuries. He is a pioneer in the introduction and teaching of arthroscopic surgical techniques in Canada. He is a former Vice-President of the Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation and

Director of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association. He is past Chair of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada Test Committee in Orthopaedics.

Dr. Day is Associate Professor in orthopaedics at the University of British Columbia. He has been invited as a visiting professor and lecturer at many universities and learned societies around the world and has published over 100 scientific articles and book chapters. In addition to lecturing world wide in his area of specialization, he often speaks on issues of health economics and policy. He is the President and CEO of Cambie Surgeries Corporation, a private company that developed the first private health care facility of its type in Canada. MacLean's Magazine, in an article on 50 Canadians to watch, described him as "an iconoclast, whose time is now". He is President-Elect of the Canadian Medical Association. In August 2007, he will become the first orthopaedic surgeon in the 140 year history of the CMA to assume the role of CMA President.

Minutes of the May 8th Meeting

Attendance: 156 including guests

President Jack Farley opened the meeting with warm greetings for all. Then getting right down to business he expressed our very good fortune to offer an extra event at the Planetarium for members and guests at 10 AM Thursday, May 10th. At that time Professor Ludmilla Selezneva will be the guest speaker during a short visit to Vancouver while en route from a California University lecturing assignment on her way back to Moscow. Jack then mentioned that the walking tour of Downtown Eastside has been fully subscribed and encouraged all those interested in the June 19th Sea to Sky Field Trip to complete the form and either submit it through the Membership Services desk or by mail to the Probus office. **Nick Thornton** was called upon to introduce the new members (see welcome New Members) **Mel Endelman** then introduced this morning's speaker, Mr. Robin Inglis.

Robin's illustrated talk began by way of explaining its title the "Last Coast." Truly, the North West Coast of North America was the last area of planet earth to be charted and placed on the world map.

The "Last Coast" was a very long way from Europe and the prevailing winds and currents meant that sailing up into the northern hemisphere was difficult. So our part of the world remained unknown until the late 18th century. It was either a blank on the globe or filled with speculative passages and islands and non-existing rivers. Jonathan Swift safely placed Gulliver's land of giants north of Spanish California. The Spanish stopped their exploration from the south when they didn't find rich civilizations, and they only became interested again when they heard about the Russian voyage of Vitus Bering in 1741, and about the fur traders who were advancing across the Aleutians onto the continent in the 1750's and 60s. They felt that the Russians could threaten their Central American Empire.

In the 18th century ships and navigation improved and James Cook's voyages to the Pacific

gave the ocean its complete shape for the first time. In 1778 he came looking for the Pacific entrance to what many geographers in Europe were convinced existed...a navigable North West Passage. Interest in the passage combined with concern about the Russian, gave cause to send three Spanish Voyages north in the 1770s. Cook's maps and those of Juan Francisco Bodega y Quadra and the Russians were readily known by 1785, when the first fur traders arrived on the coast. Cook's men traded for furs at Nootka to capitalize on the incredible prices that furs fetched in China. Once British, American and Russian traders were involved, it was inevitable that the nature of the coast would soon be revealed. It was traders who identified the Queen Charlotte Islands, the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the Columbia River.

To protect what they regarded as their sovereignty over the coast, the Spanish established a military base in Nootka Sound. An incident in 1789, when British fur traders were arrested, nearly brought England and Spain to a state of war. This was averted, but it did focus both nations' attention on the coast and the continuing question as to whether there actually was a passage to the Atlantic. Alejandro Malaspina looked for it in Alaska in 1791 but the real focus became the Strait of Juan de Fuca and what is today the coast of northern British Columbia. Spanish explorers like Galiano and the English navigator George Vancouver met off Point Grey in 1792. Vancouver surveyed the entire coast from California to Alaska between 1792 and 1794. When the information from the overland treks of men like Alexander Mackenzie, Lewis and Clark and Simon Fraser, was added to these surveys the coast quickly became well known.

The great interest in this intense period of fur trading and exploration comes from the fact that so many charts and drawings of people and places, documents describing contact with the local natives, artifacts and national history specimens still exist. Robin's large collections of photo images made his talk come alive, and he introduced us to some of the personalities who continue to exist in local place names.

During the question period we learned that:

- The claim that Sir Francis Drake actually visited the northern BC coast and Alaska in the 1579 was probably impractical in the timeline involved and he certainly doubted that Drake would come from the north into the island-stewn waters behind Vancouver Island. He stated that it was unlikely that Drake sailed much farther north than off southern Vancouver Island.
- The First Nations population on the coast when the explorers arrived was small in numbers.
- The Russians had established a settlement at Port Ross, California, between 1812 and 1825. They had brought highly skilled Aleut hunters down coast from the Aleutian Islands to hunt the Sea Lions for the Asian trade. They also founded Sitka, Alaska, where Russian architecture is still prevalent.
- Russia sold Alaska to the States in 1867. At that time they were having problems maintaining their European status and Alaska was quite a distance from her desired area of influence. They did not want to keep Alaska nor did they want to sell to England for obvious reasons. The sale to the USA made good sense as it provided a buffer zone between two world powers.
- There is an ongoing debate whether Captain Vancouver or Galiano was the first to circumnavigate Vancouver Island. In the late 1700's there was a proposed meeting in Nootka Sound where Spain was to relinquish her settlement rights to the Northwest coast. Captain Vancouver, the British representative, en route to the meeting navigated the Strait of Juan De Fuca, ran up the entire east Coast of the Island, then around Cape Scott and down the west coast to Nootka. Earlier, Vancouver had run southward between Nootka and the bottom of the Island, so in effect, had circumnavigated the Island in two stages. Galiano was said to have done it in a single stage, but likely at a later date. Choose your side!
- The US was very active on the west coast through the Boston People's fur trading. This aggressive enterprise existed for 20 to 30 years and only subsided when the Brits started Hudson Bay Company settlements on the coast.

- Greater Vancouver's stature requires that she must have a world-class maritime museum. Of paramount and immediate importance is a meeting of minds between the Vancouver Maritime Museum and those empowered to develop the North Shore site. At this time there is no way that Greater Vancouver can or should support two separate maritime museum locations.

George Adams thanked the speaker.

Bill Weatherall, Secretary

Reflections From The President



The Annual rendezvous of Probuc Clubs of BC was held in Salmon Arm on May 1, 2 and 3. Representing our Club was Ted Daem, Fred Cotton and Pidge McBride. Here is Vice

President Ted's report on the proceedings:

"Probuc Clubs from as far away as Manitoba and Alberta as well as locations in BC (from Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and the Okanagan) met for fellowship and to informally discuss subjects that were of common interest. There were 78 attendees, wives and/or delegates, from 48 locales including the National Board.

The conference started with a well organized reception and conference registration. That evening, we attended a "Meet and Greet" gathering with a delicious and plentiful finger food buffet. Wednesday started with a full breakfast followed by an interesting discussion session and an afternoon where attendees dispersed to their chosen activities. Myself and Fred Cotton joined a very interesting tour of Twin Anchors house boat builders. That evening, Beth Hickerson, National President, honoured our own Pidge McBride for his contribution to the National Board at a Gala Banquet. We said our goodbyes Thursday morning and departed after a great breakfast; all promising to meet again.

Congratulation to John Leonard of the Probuc Club of North Shore Vancouver who was elected to the National Board to succeed Pidge McBride."

Jack

HIGHLIGHTS OF LECTURE GIVEN BY
DR. LUDMILLA SELEZNEVA AT THE SPECIAL
MEETING MAY 10th, 2007



Dr. Ludmilla Selezneva from Moscow University spoke on current Russian events: the fall of the Soviet Union resulting in economic collapse; the raping of Russian assets by high Communist Party officials; the rise of the Mafia and the ascension of Vladimir Putin.

She stated that for seven years following 1991 the economy of Russia totally collapsed. All industry suffered a meltdown, the government had no money and the central control of the economy disappeared resulting in a total shutdown of inefficient factories and their production of flawed products. High Communist officials grabbed assets (owned centrally) for pennies on the dollar creating enormous wealth for the few. Also, the lack of a code of laws allowed criminal elements to rise in an atmosphere of no central control.

Vadimir Putin, Dr. Selezneva stated, stepped into this chaos seven years ago. She went on to address the inaccurate information and rumors that have since surrounded him as follows:

1. KGB Thug: the KGB had been cleaned up many years before Putin assumed clerical duties. There is no evidence to show that he participated in any nefarious activities.
2. Murder of Journalists: these have been attributed to the criminal elements. There is absolutely no evidence to link Putin to these murders.
3. Imperial Ambitions: She predicts that under no circumstances will he try to circumvent the constitution and assume office for a third term.

Finally, at the present time his popularity in Russia is at 79% because of his achievements in controlling crime, inflation and in getting the economy on track.

Prepared by Don Farquhar.

KUDOS TO A DUO!

Our hats off to Don Farquhar and Fred Cotton for arranging to bring Dr. Ludmilla Selezneva to speak to our Club.

NOTICES

Members Services Desk: Tremayne Perry
Cash Desk: Duthie Welsford, Grover Sinclair
Greeters: Jim Helmecken, Rod English, Walter Badun

REMINDER!
SEA TO SKY FIELD TRIP
JUNE 19

Our Sea to Sky field trip will begin at 8:30 AM. We will board the bus at St. David's Church on Taylor Way just north of the Upper Levels Highway, where you can park your car. We will proceed to Britannia Beach over the currently being reconstructed highway. Along the way, we plan to have a representative of Peter Kiewit & Sons, the contractor for the highway work, explain the construction.

At Britannia Beach we will visit the Mining Museum, where we will be given a talk on the history of the mine and a short trip underground, where pieces of mining equipment will be demonstrated. For the underground trip, a light jacket should be taken and "rough" shoes should be worn. The gift shop is available for those interested.

In the afternoon, we will have a guided tour on the West Coast Railway Heritage Park, at Squamish, where a number of historic rail cars have been restored. Those who wish can ride on the miniature railway.

We expect the trip to last about 8 hours and a box lunch will be provided. The cost will be \$50 per person, the bus is limited to 46 passengers and guests are welcome. **Those wishing to come and who have not already signed up, contact the Probus Vancouver office at (604) 261- 6818, or the Membership Services Desk at the June 12th Probus meeting.** (See **registration** form insert)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

John Crosby - Physician/Anaesthetist
John Gemmill - Lawyer
Peter Stafford - Lawyer
Brian Wasson - Forest Industry/ Lawyer

SEA TO SKY FIELD TRIP

Registration Form

If you wish to come on this trip, please complete the form and turn it in to the Member Services Desk at the June meeting along with your cheque (payable to Probus Club Vancouver) for \$50.00 per person. You can also register by calling the Probus Office at 604-261-6818.

MEMBER _____

GUEST _____

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.

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.

