



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

www.probusvancouver.com

April 2010

Next Meeting: April 13th, 2010
Time: 9:30 am
Location: H.R. MacMillan Planetarium and Space Centre, Lower Level
Speaker: Christopher Gaze
Topic: The Bard—a Vancouver Tradition

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 20th— Walking tour of Shaughnessy

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CHRISTOPHER GAZE



Best known as Artistic Director of Vancouver's Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival, Christopher Gaze has performed in England, the USA and across Canada. Born in England, he trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre

School before coming to Canada in 1975 where he spent three seasons at the Shaw Festival. He moved to Vancouver in 1983 and in 1990 founded Bard on the Beach which he has since nurtured to one of the most successful not-for-profit Arts organizations in North America, with 2009 attendance exceeding 91,000. In addition to performing and directing for Bard, Christopher's voice is heard regularly in cartoon series, commercials and on the radio. He also hosts Vancouver Symphony's popular Tea & Trumpets series and their annual Christmas concerts. His many honours include induction into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame, Canada's Meritorious Service Medal (2004), Honorary Doctorates from UBC & SFU, the BC Community Achievement Award (2007), the Gold Medallion from the Children's Theatre Foundation of America

(2007) and a Jessie Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in Equus at The Playhouse. As an Olympic ambassador, Christopher was honoured to run with the Olympic flame for the 2010 Games. A gifted public speaker, Christopher frequently shares his insights on Shakespeare and theatre with students, service organizations and businesses.

PAY PARKING



Arrangements have been made with **Easy-Park** to provide Probus Vancouver members with parking passes. Members attending the March meeting were given passes which they were asked to keep in the glove compartment of their car for future use. Members attending the April meeting who do not have a pass can get one at the parking desk inside the Planetarium.

The parking fee is \$5 for each meeting which drivers are requested to pay at the special parking desk.

Report of the March 9th Meeting

Attendance: 184 Members and Guests

President **Nick Thornton** called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. **Ted Horsey** acted as Secretary.

Chairman **Don Newman** introduced 5 new members (see Welcome New Members inside).

Philip Owen introduced our guest speaker, Rick Antonson, the President and CEO of Tourism Vancouver for approximately 16 years. His curriculum vitae is contained in the March Probus Vancouver Newsletter. Philip's main experience with Mr. Antonson commenced in 1998 when he and others discussed the possibility of Vancouver / Whistler hosting the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. A small committee of about six persons was formed, including Arthur Griffiths, the then-mayor of Whistler Hugh O' Reilly, then-Premier Glen Clarke and others. For the next four years this committee, under Mr. Antonson worked effectively to bring the Olympic Games to Vancouver.

Mr. Antonson said that Vancouver was a different city than it was three weeks earlier before the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. There was a revolution in civic and national pride and spirit. No one person could claim the credit. There are thousands of fingerprints on the work that went into holding the successful Games.

Mr. Antonson said he would describe the tourism industry in Vancouver: (a) how we got to where we are now, (b) where we are now, and (c) where we were going in the future.

Tourism Vancouver is 106 years old, second in age only to Detroit's tourism organization. The world needs great gathering places. The mandate of Tourism Vancouver is to invite the world to come to Vancouver. The organization today is built on the experience of the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games and Expo 86.

Tourism is about to become the world's

largest industry. Tourism Vancouver now has a paid staff of 60, and about 300 volunteers. It has a budget of about \$12 million. It has offices in Washington D.C. and in Chicago. It works with Tourism Whistler, Tourism Canada and Tourism BC. It's a not-for-profit organization. It has 15 board members, all of whom are from the private sector.

Vancouver is known around the world. The tourism centre is the Vancouver Convention Centre. It's about 500,000 square feet, a mid-size convention centre, suitable for conventions of 2,000 to 5,000 delegates. Some convention centres can accommodate 10,000 to 15,000 delegates. Conventions are the anchors of a tourism industry.

Even without the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, 2010 would have been a good tourism year for Vancouver. The year 2011 will be our single busiest year. Convention planning looks ahead 5-7 years, with detailed planning 5 -7 months ahead of the actual convention. We know that 2012 looks good, 2018 will be better, and 2020 is the best year on our horizon.

We are getting good media attention. After the Olympics, the International Press has said things like: "Vancouver you are a beautiful city" and "Vancouver, you are a Manhattan with mountains". Vancouver has a reputation for being a place where problems can be solved within 24 hours. Our public transportation system is efficient. During the Olympics, 1.6 million passenger trips were made. Vancouver has the third largest public transportation system in Canada. It can handle 240,000 passengers a day.

Canada is now an approved destination for residents of China, potentially the largest tourism market in the world. We now can market there, and should be able to double or triple the 80,000 visitors we now get from China each year.

Our cruise industry is diminishing. At one time we had 1,000,000 passengers each year. Now we are getting about 600,000. Seattle is aggressively pursuing the cruise market, but it is now a cruise port

for only about 60,000 to 65,000 passengers per year. The Black Sea and Mediterranean sea cruises are becoming more popular. We are partnering with the Seattle tourism organization to bring in more tourists to this area.

The 2010 Winter Olympic Games were managed by the duet of Jack Poole and John Furlong. The Games gave Vancouver the reputation for being able to solve problems. The patriotic fervor in Canada was greater than most of us have ever seen. Our patriotic colors before had been red, white and blue. This changed to red, white and gold.

There was a problem in the amount of money needed. A new convention centre was needed because the "East Site" as it is now called, was too small. The then responsible provincial minister, Dan Miller was against proceeding with the new convention centre. However local organizations pushed for it. Under the leadership of Vancouver Tourism, people and organizations like Rick Baxter of West Coast Air Lines, B C Pav Corp, the Vancouver Hotel Association, the Vancouver Board of Trade and the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce all pressed the governmental authorities. Finally the Federal Government, the Provincial Government and the City of Vancouver agreed to proceed.

The \$12 million budget of Tourism Vancouver comes partly by a 2% hotel tax. By 2044 the cost of the new Trade and Convention Centre should be paid off. The budgets of the Toronto and Montreal tourist bureau are 2 ½ times the size of the Tourism Vancouver budget. The tourism industry in British Columbia is in good shape, even in these difficult times. It helps considerably with the prosperity of the Province.

Tourism Vancouver is not going to rush into anything. We are now working for and building on the success of the Paralympics. The sledge hockey is sold out. There has been a 2 ½ hour line up for Olympic paraphernalia. It is promoting Vancouver as a good city for accessibility for wheel chair and other handicapped persons.

We are leveraging the entire year into British Columbia's next decade. There is a

conference on air routes coming up, to be attended by those planning where to deploy passenger aircraft. We are promoting Vancouver as the greenest city in the world. We are targeting cultural events which are becoming increasingly more important in the tourist industry. We are targeting other sporting events. There were actually more athletes at the Policemen's and Firemen's Games than there were athletes at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. We have become a world class city, an equal of Paris, Hong Kong and New York. We should promote a cultural Olympiade.

Some people are saying we should partner with Seattle to hold the 2028 Summer Olympics or a Joint 2020 Worlds Fair. We could increase the number of Amtrak trains between Vancouver and Seattle from two to six per day. We could jointly promote the 2018 World Cup of Soccer. More than just events, sport and cultural tourism can lead to world peace. It helps take down barriers, and increases understanding between countries and civilizations. We should celebrate our differences, promote freedom to assemble and free right of entry of passage.

The 2010 Winter Olympics costs may be higher than budgeted for a number of reasons, for example, when the budget was fixed for security the disaster of 9 / 11 had not occurred.

Our member **Michael Lambert**, probably the most experienced hotelier in our Province, thanked Mr. Antonson on our behalf. In complimenting Mr. Antonson, Mr. Lambert said that in his experience Tourism Vancouver was one of the best 2 or 3 tourism organizations in the world.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret we announce the passings of Don "Bud" Milliken on Feb. 26th, Ted Jefferys and Justice Hugh Legg on Feb. 27th. Our condolences to their families. Donations will be made by Probus to: The Parkinson Society of B.C., the Salvation Army, The Franciscan Sisters of Atonement, respectively.



Membership Services Team

Membership Services Desk: Jon Collins

Cash Desk: David Muller, Leo Sauve, John Rae

Greeters: John Pearkes, Bob Pollock

Welcome New Members

Gordon Dungate—CA-Financial and Tax Consultant

Leigh Durland – International Banking

Henry Litherland—Surgeon/Professor

Don Marlatt – BC Public Service

Wilson Parasiuk—Civil Servant/ Board Member

NOTICES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Olympics have come and gone. At time of writing, the Paralympics are in full swing. (If you have never seen a sledge hockey game, you are missing a real treat!). Canada's athletes have made the country proud and Vancouver will benefit enormously from the favorable publicity earned from the international media. The outpouring of enthusiasm by so many Canadians was unexpected and certainly added to the excitement. It was fascinating to listen to Rick Antonson describe not only how these events came about but also what we can expect to see with respect to tourism over the next few years. One outcome of so much interest in BC is that Probus Canada is keen to have their 2011 convention here in Vancouver, with Probus Club of the North Shore being the main organizers. I am sure they will be looking for volunteers from our Club to help out. More to come in future newsletters.

Probus Speakers' Tradition Began with, BRICE MACDOUGALL



Since our first meeting Probus Club Vancouver has had a tradition of attracting an outstanding variety of great speakers that have made every meeting an opportunity

not to miss. Charter Member, Brice Macdougall, the Club's first Speakers' Chair found and invited distinguished speakers to our meetings for our first four years.

He became the first recipient of a Honorary Life Membership in our Club at the President's Luncheon on January 16, 2001. President, John Hopkins, in making the presentation to Brice said, "In recognition of your retirement as Speakers Chair, the Probus Club would like to honour and acknowledge your tireless effort in arranging speakers for every meeting since our founding in 1997." Brice's first and last speaker was David Mitchell who spoke of BC's politics including, in his last address, the weird, wonderful and wacky personalities of our some of our Premiers. Brice resigned the Speakers Chair because of his upcoming commitments as President of the Rotary Club of Vancouver, our sponsoring club. He was succeeded as Speakers Chair by Fred Cotton.

Brice was born in Kerrobert, Sask. and moved to Vancouver with his parents. After graduating from King Edward High School, he obtained a BA in German from UBC in 1950 and began his career in accounting and became a CA in 1955. He started his own practice in North Vancouver in 1956 and later joined with the firm of Jarrett, Goad & Elliott who subsequently merged with Price Waterhouse. Until very recently Brice continued working as a retired partner.

Brice and his wife Miriam have been long term residents of West Vancouver and have resided in their current home for 31 years. They have 4 children and now 9 grandchildren. Brice has maintained an active interest in politics and did run unsuccessfully for mayor of West Vancouver. His continuing association with the Conservative Party began in the Diefenbaker era.

PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER GOT US STARTED

By John Leonard, Director
Probus Centre-Canada Inc.



In February 2003 I was invited to attend your meeting at the Planetarium. I had never been to a Probus meeting and I was surprised at the number who were in attendance.

The guest speaker was Dr. Andre Geroly-matos who gave a wonderful presentation on the history of Islam. Following the meeting I ask him "if we had a club like this on the North Shore would you come and speak to us?"

"I would be happy to do that", he replied. After the meeting, Don Brinton and I went to the Capilano Golf Club and in two hours had over a dozen members interested in the Probus Club of North Shore. We started to put it in place the following week. By our Charter Meeting in September we had over 200 members.

If it hadn't been for your club this would never have happened. Thank you again for what you did for us.

Now, seven years later, we have 383 members and a very successful and enjoyable club. Last month was the seventh year that Dr. Geroly-matos has spoken to us. Every time he packed the house creating a parking problem at Hollyburn Country Club where we met until two years ago. Young lady members arriving with their little toddlers stormed the General Manager's office to complain that there was no place to park. As a result we had to move to Capilano.

Three years ago I succeeded Pidge McBride as National Director for Probus B.C. District No. 2. It has a total of 11 clubs, 4 men's, 3 women's and 4 mixed memberships. The district runs from Greater Vancouver up the Fraser Valley to Chilliwack. I have just been re-elected for a new 3-year term. I was able to thank your President, Nick Thornton, for your Club's support when he came to our March meeting.

Probus is doing well across the country. There are now 204 clubs and 27,936 members from coast-to-coast. A new club is in the early stages of formation in Greater Vancouver. Their Foundation meeting will be held in June, with their Charter meeting in September.

WALKING TOUR OF SHAUGHNESSY TUESDAY, APRIL 20TH

John Aitkin, well known author and tour guide will conduct the tour from **9:30AM to 11:15AM** starting at the intersection of McRae Avenue and The Crescent (just east of Granville and south of 16th Avenue). Street parking is free. The fee for the tour is \$15. A **lunch** (no -host) will follow at **The Ouisi Bistro** (3014 Granville St.).

Shaughnessy was planned and laid out by the CPR in 1907. It features a number of heritage homes designed by prominent architects. John Aitkin will provide insight into the owners and builders of this fascinating area.

This event is limited to 30 Probus Vancouver Members. Complete details are posted on the Club's website at: www.probusvancouver.com (user name: **member** Password: **probus1**).

TO SIGN UP FOR THIS EVENT:

- Phone the Activity Line (604-568-5800) and leave your name, phone, e-mail address (if applicable) and indicate if you will join the group for lunch. Mail a cheque for \$15 payable to **Probus** to: Probus, 1101-2988 Alder St. Vancouver, BC V6H4C3.
- Sign up on the website. There is a box to indicate whether you will join the group for lunch.
- Sign up (with cheque for \$15) at the Member Services Desk at the April 13th meeting.

PROBUS BC CONFERENCE May 18-19, 2010 Parksville, Vancouver Island



The Northwest Bay Probus Club will be hosting this year's annual get together of members of BC Probus Clubs. Complete details including a Registration Form are available on our website: (www.probusvancouver.com). Click on "Probus BC Conference -Parksville" listed under "Most Recently Added Members Information".