



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

May 2010

Next Meeting: May 11th, 2010
Time: 9:30 am
Location: H.R. MacMillan Planetarium and Space Centre, Lower Level
Speaker: Dr. Max Cynader
Topic: The Aging Brain

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 19th – Fairmont Pacific Rim Hotel Tour
June 30th – Four Club Vancouver Harbour Tour

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DR. MAX CYNADER



Dr. Max Cynader is Director of the Brain Research Centre at Vancouver Coastal Health and The University of British Columbia (UBC), as well as Professor of Ophthalmology. In addition, he

holds the Canada Research Chair in Brain Development at UBC. He is also Fellow of The Canadian Academy for Health Sciences, Fellow of The Royal Society of Canada, Member of the Order of British Columbia (OBC), Member of the Order of Canada (CM), and a Principal Investigator in Canada's Network of Excellence in Stroke.

Dr. Cynader was born in Berlin, Germany in 1947 and obtained his B.Sc. at McGill University in 1967, and his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1972. Following postdoctoral training at the Max Planck Institute, Dr. Cynader held positions at Dalhousie University in Halifax, and in 1979 was awarded the E.W.R. Steacie Fellowship of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council as one

of Canada's outstanding young scientists. He attained the rank of Professor of Psychology in 1981 and Professor of Physiology in 1984, and held the position of Killam Research Professor from 1984 to 1988. On arriving at UBC in 1988, Dr. Cynader headed the Ophthalmology Research Group at UBC until 1998, at which point he was appointed founding Director of the Brain Research Centre.

Dr. Cynader's research has focused on the nature of the processing performed by the cerebral cortex, especially the sensory cortices dealing with vision and audition, and on the neural and molecular mechanisms underlying the development and adaptability of the cortex. He has made important contributions to understanding the mechanisms by which early use or misuse of the brain affects its functioning for the rest of the organism's life. He is the author of over 200 articles published in scientific journals, has presented over 350 papers at national and international scientific meetings, and is the holder of several patents. Dr. Cynader has made important contributions to technology development, and to the commercialization of research

results. He is one of the scientific founders of *NeuroVir*, a Vancouver-based biotechnology company which has developed gene therapy products to treat brain diseases. This company, which grew to over 60 employees, was eventually sold to a German biotechnology company, which has now taken the *NeuroVir* technology into phase II clinical trials. He is also the co-founder of *Wavemakers Research*, a software company which has developed new and proprietary noise reducing technology. *Wavemakers* grew to over 35 employees, and its technology is now in widespread use in over 20% of the world car market.

The honors Dr. Cynander has received are too numerous to mention here. He is on the editorial board of many scientific journals; has received several Excellence in Teaching awards; has appeared on dozens of TV programs and been on numerous radio programs.

Report of the April 13th Meeting

Attendance: 172 Members and Guests

Vice President **Bill Sexsmith** called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. **Ted Horsey** acted as Secretary. Activities Chairman John **Cruickshank** announced that:

- The June activity is a tour of the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel on 19 June 2010, arranged by Michael Lambert.
- A further activity is planned for late June with restaurateur John Bishop arranging a cruise with food preparation and service under his direction.

Membership Chairman **Don Newman** presented five new members (See "Welcome New Members").

The guest speaker, Christopher Gaze, the Artistic Director of Vancouver's Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival, was introduced by **Lindsay Mann**. Mr. Gaze's curriculum vitae is in the April newsletter.

Mr. Gaze said he first came to Vancouver

in 1975. He had previously worked as an actor in Britain, and as a cowboy in Wyoming and Montana. His first job was a waiter in the Black Angus Café. Then he became involved in Vancouver theatre.

He said he is an apostle / disciple of William Shakespeare in founding and his continuing artistic direction of Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival. He gave many examples of the great influence Shakespeare has on clichés and everyday expressions in the English language. For example, "all's well that ends well", "salad days", and "mind's eye".

The Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival was founded 21 years ago. In its first year 6000 people attended, and gross receipts were \$65,000. In the latest year 92,000 people attended, and gross receipts were \$4 million.

Mr. Gaze wants to make the Festival prosperous for many years to come, so they have an educational program for children. They not only bring children to the Festival performances, but also go out into the schools. They have workshops for 300 young people, aged 8 to 18, with two instructors 3 or 4 hours a day. Entrance has to be by lottery, so it is not only for children of the affluent. They have a schools program, with discount prices for daytime performances. In going out into the schools they are supported by foundations, charging \$65 for 80 minutes so they can pay the actors and the suppliers of staging materials. The Festival aims to capture the school children's imagination.

The Festival seating is now filled to 98.2% capacity. Mr. Gaze says that one of the reasons for this is the attractive outdoor setting, saying that Shakespeare originally wrote for outdoor presentations. They are concerned about affordability, and that even with the new HST they hope to have tickets available for \$38. Usually there are four plays each season, each of the highest quality artistic direction. While Shakespeare might not appeal to all people, Mr. Gaze insists on high quality productions, so the audience will never say "it's not very good".

Only rarely does the Festival bring in actors from outside British Columbia.

Mr. Gaze then spoke of the English language as idiosyncratic in its irregular ways. For example, the plural of "goose" is "geese", but the plural of "moose" is not "meese", and there are no "eggs" in "eggplant". The English language has the largest vocabulary of all languages.

In response to questions, Mr. Gaze says that the Festival does not usually go out to other venues, but for example it put on "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Mission Hill Winery in Kelowna. It cost \$400,000 to stage, but they got it all back in paid admissions when 11,000 people came to the production. Generally, however, the Festival prefers to keep its productions in its usual site in Vanier Park, with its dramatic views of the ocean and mountains, which it believes is one of the reasons for its success.

The Festival this summer will include productions of Much Ado About Nothing, Antony and Cleopatra, Henry IV parts 1 and 2, and Henry V. By the Festival's 25th year it hopes to have produced all of Shakespeare's 37 plays.

When asked about productions of Shakespeare plays in modern dress, Mr. Gaze says it is acceptable, as long as it is well done.

When asked how the Festival was able to introduce children to the ancient language used by Shakespeare, he said that young children found the language far less a barrier than older people do. They had a workshop in Delta for Grades 1, 2 and 3 and they lapped it up. The Director of Education found that the children did not resist the language, but that it became a part of their life.

In response to a further question, Mr. Gaze told how he became interested in theatre and acting in

England, and declined to go into the family construction business. He found the acting and theatre business much more to his liking.

In wonderful Shakespearean terms, **Sholto Hebenton** thanked Mr. Gaze for his address to our members.

Welcome New Members

Robert Baird – Surgeon/ Professor

Colin Connor – Real Estate Management

John Cook – Financial Services

Blair Dymond – Computer
Marketing & Commercial Real Estate

Ted Trevor-Smith - Physician - Family
Practice

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 future meetings 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.





NOTICES

FOUR PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER HARBOUR CRUISE

June 30th



We are inviting the members (and partners) of the ***Vancouver Women's Probud Club, The Probud Club of North***

Shore and the Women's Probud Club of North Shore Vancouver to join us on harbour cruise featuring a guide from the Port Authority. This is a unique opportunity to tour the majestic Vancouver Harbour as far as Deep Cove, learn all about its history and the identity of the various landmarks along the way and enjoy the panoramic views of the Vancouver skyline and North Shore.

Cost of the cruise is \$60 per person which includes a hearty buffet luncheon. Beer and wine service will be available at additional cost.

The cruise will depart from the **Pride of Vancouver Charters Marina at the foot of Denman Street** (Boarding at 10:30AM – Departure at 11:00AM - Return at 2:00PM). Convenient parking is available for \$10.00.

To Sign Up For This Event:

- Phone the "Activity Line" (604-568-5800) and leave name (partners name if any), phone, e-mail address(if applicable). Mail a cheque payable to Probud to: 1101-2988 Alder St. Vancouver, BC V6H4C3
- Sign up on the website using PayPal or your Credit Card
- Sign up at the Member Services Desk with cheque at the May 11th meeting.

We need a minimum of 40 persons but can accommodate up to 200 using the appropriate charter ship.

VISIT TO QUEST UNIVERSITY

Pictured below near Shannon Falls are the 18 Club members and 9 wives that journeyed along the spectacular Sea to Sky Highway to visit Quest University in Squamish on March 23rd. Quest is a unique, privately funded institution in its 3rd year of operation and features small (up to 20) seminar classes; taking one course at a time; field studies and internships. The group toured the beautiful campus, spent about 45 minutes in a seminar class and enjoyed a sumptuous lunch with some staff and students.



FAIRMONT PACIFIC HOTEL TOUR—SOLD OUT!

FOR THOSE MEMBERS GOING ON THE FAIRMONT PACIFIC HOTEL TOUR

No arrangement have been made for a group lunch but you are encouraged to join together with others for lunch.

Membership Services Team

**Membership
Services Desk:**
Jon Collins

Cash Desk:
Nick Scharfe
Tom Wallinger
Brian Wasson

Greeters:
Jim McWilliams
Gordon Thom