



## 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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[www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com)

October 2011

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday October 11th, 2011

**Time:** 9:30 am

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

**Speaker:** Captain Stephen Brown

**Topic:** Tanker Traffic on the West Coast

### CAPTAIN STEPHEN BROWN President, Chamber of Shipping of BC



Stephen spent 21 years at sea where he served as Master for the last 5 years, latterly with Gearbulk Shipping.

Since coming ashore, Stephen has worked in various levels of operational management for Gearbulk in South Africa, Indonesia, China, UK and Vancouver.

In China, Stephen was stationed in the Port of Tianjin (Xingang) where he attended the construction, and subsequently managed for three years, a joint venture break bulk terminal. Stephen was recorded as the first foreigner to be given permission to work full time in a major Chinese port.

On leaving Gearbulk in 2007, Stephen joined Tidal Transport & Trading Ltd. as General Manager for Canada and President of Tidal USA.

Prior to accepting the appointment of COS President in September 2008, Stephen chaired various Chamber Committees, served on the COS Board for eight years and was Chairman of the Board from February 2007 to July 2008.

### Report of the September 13th Meeting

*Attendance: 149 Members and Guests*

President **Bill Sexsmith** convened the first Annual General Meeting of the Club under new articles of incorporation. Lindsay Mann acted as Secretary for the meeting. The President confirmed that a quorum was present.

As outgoing President, Bill reported for the Management Committee that all the Club objectives had been met. The Club had obtained an outstanding list of speakers. Its activities had been well organized, diversified, and attended. With its first multi-year plan in effect, the Club had capped membership

at 400 to maintain the current character of fellowship and to continue meeting in its current venue. With \$11,600 in current assets, the club was solvent. The Probus-Canada Rendezvous National Convention, running from September 13 to 16, was sold out, with our participation goal met. The Club objectives of fellowship, participation, and personal development had been met. Your Directors have worked diligently on your behalf and are happy to report that we have experienced a very successful year.

President Bill Sexsmith as his last official act declared the first Annual General Meeting concluded and turned the Chair over to the newly elected President, **Don Newman**, who thanked the members for their expression of trust, thanked outgoing President Bill for his inspired leadership and presented him with his Past President's pin.

Next, **Conrad Rademaker**, Chairman of the Membership Committee introduced three new members (see "Welcome New Members" section).

**Jack Zaleski** and **Gordon Thom** presented trophies to the winning teams for the Rotary Probus Bridge Club Championship for the past year. First place went to the partners Conrad Rademaker and Lindsay Mann for the second consecutive year, and first place for most slams went as usual to the partners Jack Zaleski and **Brian Mamchur**.

**Jack Farley** then introduced speaker, Dennis Skulsky, President and CEO of the BC Lions.

Mr. Skulsky began with an inspiring video on the BC Lions, "The Pride of all BC." His presentation developed the theme of success through the establishing of a strong base of support by fans and community leaders and the outstanding performance of the athletes. Sports as entertainment draw people together and have the potential to foster community spirit as well as to encourage young people to develop athletic skills.

As the history of the BC Lions shows, professional sports make a financial and a constructive community contribution.

Mr. Skulsky illustrated how success builds on success. He has stepped into a tradition of strong leadership, beginning with a strong base of support from fans. On average a CFL game is watched on television by 860,000 spectators. The Grey Cup is watched by five million. In November 2011 the Lions will again host the Grey Cup Festival in Vancouver.

The current BC Lions team is right for its new venue, BC Place. After a slow start the team has won four of its last five games and is looking for its next win against Calgary. Winning attracts financial support which can in turn draw more talented players, which leads to even greater success.

The Canadian Football League is planning for next year's 100th anniversary celebrations including a special Grey Cup train across the country promoting the event.

The team has benefited from a long line of committed supporters and leaders, both community and business. Foremost today is the philanthropist David Braley, owner of the team since 1997, contributing both financially and through his passion for sport. Mr. Braley brought in Mr. Skulsky two years ago, to follow Bobby Ackles. Wally Buono was also recruited for the team as head coach and manager. With such leadership the team has won five championships—with the sixth to come in November!

The leadership has fostered a special spirit in the team. Talent is not enough; fitting, model character is also required, whether on or off the field. Young players are mentored, and thanks to people like Wally the team has developed the spirit of a family.

The latest big development is the move out of the primitive facilities of Empire Field to the new Stadium on Friday Septem-

ber 30<sup>th</sup>. Not only have the roof and seating been replaced, but this stadium is a most technologically advanced facility, with, for example, 1,140 video screens, rather than only 260 in 2009.

Finally, hosting the Grey Cup again at the end of November will engage twenty five core organizing members. There will be a one-week festival, including the Vanier Cup, the Canadian University Championship game. Economic benefits are obvious. Early selling out of tickets shows the strong support of fans.

It is the pride and community spirit engendered by the sport that matters. "BC Lions are our team." In contrast to some sports, this one brings people together in harmony. November will bring not a brawl but "a love in."

After discussing a number of further details and taking a number of questions, Mr. Skulsky was thanked by **Norm Weitzel** for his presentation.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



The September Annual General Meeting highlighted the work of the Management Committee under the energetic and sage counsel of Bill Sexmith. Bill has also been a leader insuring Probus Canada Rendezvous 2011 held September 13-15, was a sold out success. Last year to eliminate individual member liability our Club was incorporated under the Society Act of BC. A Strategic Planning Review of the Club resulted in incorporating the monthly meeting fee into the Annual Dues in line with other lower

mainland Probus Clubs. Other recommendations from the Review, including centralizing our Club administration, will be considered this year.

David Scott and the Speakers Committee presented a balanced, well received program and Bill Robertson and his energetic Activities Committee provided an interesting mix of medical, engineering and education institution visits.

Thanks to Nick Thornton for his sound advice and guidance during his five years on the Management Committee. After two busy years as our Treasurer, I heartily welcome Wayne Audette as Vice President and the very capable Rich Carson as treasurer. David Scott has very kindly agreed to continue as the Acting Chairman of the Speakers Committee during the convalescence of incoming Speakers Chairman Brian Maunder. The remainder of our very capable Management Committee is unchanged.

The strength of Probus Club of Vancouver is the broad variety of backgrounds, business and professional skills and enthusiasm of our members. For the coming year I have two requests: first, invite your young retired or semi retired business and professional friends to join our Club and second, volunteer your talents and skills to a committee of your choice to strengthen our Club Management.

### **MEMBERSHIP SERVICES TEAM**

Greeters - Sam Gibson, Alan Leard

Cashiers: Peter Martin, Gordon Park

Member Services Desk - Jon Collins

### **Welcome New Members**

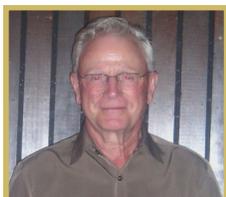
Martin Christy – Pilot (RAF and Private)

Norm Olsen – Electrical Engineer

Peter White – Engineer/Pilot



## Meet New President Don Newman



At our recent annual meeting Don Newman became the 15<sup>th</sup> President of our Club since it received its charter in May of 1997. Don joined Probud in 2000. Prior to becoming President he served a term as Vice President after being chair of the Membership Committee.

Before his career retirement Don was Director of Radiology at the British Columbia Children's Hospital (BCCH) a member of the Department of Radiology at the University of British Columbia (UBC), attaining the rank of Professor in 1983. Don designed and oversaw the construction of the Radiology Department in the Acute Care Hospital UBC and the BCCH.

Don was born in Kenora Ont. He earned his BA and MD at Queens University. Following a residency in Paediatrics at the Winnipeg Children's Hospital, two years as a Medical Research Council of Canada Fellow in Pulmonary Physiology at the University of Manitoba and residencies in General and Paediatric Radiology at the University of Michigan, he became a Fellow in Diagnostic Radiology of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Don succeeds Bill Sexsmith who now joins a group of still active and involved Past Presidents with the exception of our First President in 1997, the late Fred Cotton. Don is married to Mary and they have 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren. Don enjoys golf, skiing, travelling, reading and bridge.

## Rich Carson, Treasurer



Rich was born and raised in Toronto and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1961. He joined Price Waterhouse in 1964 and became a CA in 1967 and an FCA in 1981. His career was spent in Toronto, Montreal and, after 1992, in Vancouver, dealing primarily with income tax issues for large corporations.

Rich was actively involved in educating tax specialists at university and through the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. He also sat on various professional tax committees.

He retired in 2000 and, after winding down his career over the next few years, is now able to spend much of his time playing golf at Shaughnessy and travelling. Rich is married to Allison and together they have 5 children and 6 grandchildren.

## Probud Rotary Bridge 2011-2012

The Probud Rotary Bridge Season for the coming year begins October 12 at the Point Grey Golf and Country Club. Except for the first and last evenings, members play with two tables at member's homes on the first and third Wednesdays each month.

If you are interested please contact Jack Zaleski 604 328-4288, [jack.zaleski@gmail.com](mailto:jack.zaleski@gmail.com) or Gordon Thom 604 739 0714, [thomga@telus.net](mailto:thomga@telus.net)