



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

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

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May, 2014

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Next Meeting: May 13th, 2014

Time: 9:30 am

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

Speaker: Dr. Max Cynader

**Topic: Maximizing the Brain's
Potential**

Future Speakers

**June 10th: Jake Kerr & Jeff
Mooney**

Topic: Vancouver Canadians

July 8th: Martin Collacott

**Topic: Passports of
Convenience**

DR. MAX CYNADER, CM, OBC, PhD, FRSC, FCAHS



Dr. Max Cynader is Director of the Brain Research Centre and the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health at Vancouver Coastal Health and the University of British Columbia. He holds the

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

Dr. Cynader was born in Berlin, Germany and obtained his BSc at McGill University in 1967, and his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1972. Following postdoctoral training, Dr. Cynader held positions at Dalhousie University in Halifax, and in 1979 he 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, when 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 author of over 200 articles published in scientific journals, presenter of over 350 papers at national and international scientific meetings, and 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 founders of *NeuroVir*, a Vancouver-based biotechnology company which has developed gene therapy products to treat brain diseases. This company was eventually sold to a German biotechnology company. He is the co-founder of *Wavemakers Research*, a software company which developed new and proprietary noise reducing technology now in widespread use in over 20% of the world car market.

Dr. Cynader was a semi-finalist in the Canadian Astronaut Program and has served as President of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience. He currently co-chairs the Proof of Principal Committee of the CIHR, and has served on advisory/review panels for CIHR, the United States Air Force, the International Human Frontiers of Science Program, the National Institutes of Health (U.S.A.), and is on the editorial board of many scientific journals including *Brain Research*, *Developmental Brain Research*, *Clinical Vision Sciences*, *Neural Networks*, and *Visual Neuroscience*.

A gifted communicator and recipient of Excellence in Teaching awards, Dr. Cynader has tried to communicate the importance of brain research to the lay public through over a dozen television programs, numerous radio appearances and presentations to many lay groups.

Report of the April 8th Meeting
Attendance: 188 Members and Guests

President Jon Collins declared the meeting open at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all members and guests present. Mark Cullen introduced three new members; Raymond Greenwood, Bruce Ledingham and Dave Ross. Mark White, President of the recently formed Probus West Club, spoke about the first mixed-gender club in Vancouver. Mr. White stressed the shortage of male members at Probus West. He reminded members that if their spouses have joined, they are automatically entitled to membership at Probus West and that they can be members of more than one club.

Doug Jones reviewed upcoming events, the Emily Carr University tour on Granville Island with lunch to follow at the Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts on May 7 and the Cirque du Soleil performance on June 24th. 80 seats are allocated at the special rate so there is lots of room remaining. To date, members are limited to one guest. After next week, members will be able to invite more than one guest. Future events include a Vancouver Canadians baseball game on August 22nd.

Jon then introduced former Vancouver mayor, Phillip Owen to introduce the guest speaker. Mr. Owen discussed his concerns about transportation and traffic issues before turning the meeting over to Peter Armstrong, the President of the civic Non-Partisan Association (NPA). Mr. Armstrong noted that he has been a passionate resident of the city since 1964. His PowerPoint presentation covered the historical background of the NPA and its important contributions to civic politics over the years. He expressed confidence that it is on the way back, thanks to a dynamic board and a talented professional staff. The NPA constitution is based on 14 principles developed in 1937. The party's platform for the upcoming election this Fall will be based on those principles. Most importantly, the NPA wants to foster a competent, non-politicized staff at City Hall. He discussed the balance of power on council, noting that 8 votes are required to carry any motion. He also noted how historically low voter turn out in Vancouver hurts the city. The NPA would not focus on "deflections" such as Kinder Morgan, which he regards as a non-civic issue, but rather on the big topics that are important to

the residents of the city, such as:

- the economy and jobs;
- transportation;
- affordable housing (an issue larger than the downtown eastside);
- transparent processes and a council that listens.

Mr. Armstrong emphasized the importance to the city of resource-based head offices. The mining sector in particular, provides jobs and educational opportunities that we need to recognize and support and cannot afford to lose. The NPA wants to ensure that all modes of transportation are considered and supported. He noted the impact of impost fees (Community Amenity Fees in the millions of dollars) on the affordability of housing.

The NPA wants to listen and will be arranging lunches and get-togethers to foster community input. The party is in the course of recruiting a slate of thoughtful and independent-minded candidates. Mr. Armstrong then introduced the other members of his team present (Elizabeth Ball; two term Councilor and Caucus Chair. Melissa de Genova; one term Parks Board Commissioner and Ken Denike a long time School Board Trustee) and then took a number of questions from the floor, which follow this report and which can also be viewed, with the responses, on the Probus website.

Mr. Armstrong closed the session by noting recent surprise electoral results provincially in B.C. and Quebec. Mark Cullen thanked the speakers and Mr. Armstrong, particularly for the considerable time, effort and money he has personally committed to reviving the NPA.

Mr. Armstrong requested that his Probus speaker's honorarium be contributed to the Vancouver Heritage Foundation.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Question: "Have you considered the issue of partial abstention where voters only vote for 20 rather than 27 candidates?"

Response: Mr. Armstrong replied that the party has looked at short-slating to focus the vote and this will be considered further as candidates are selected and the platform developed.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS (continued from page 2)

Question: A member noted that VISION accepts contributions from U.S.-based foundations. "What is the NPA's position on this?"

Response: Mr. Armstrong; "The NPA does not accept such contributions".

Question: "Any thought of revisiting a ward system for Vancouver?"

Response: Mr. Armstrong: "A ward system was defeated in 2006/7 and the NPA has no intention of bringing the issue back to voters. He prefers that every councilor be answerable to all residents.

Question: "Please comment on the influence of developers at city hall?"

Some projects seem to go ahead despite objections." Response: Mr. Armstrong; "Developers have a role to play."

Ms. de Genova; "Vision does seem to have its favorites. She noted the significant build-up of Community Amenity Contributions (CAC) - \$268 million accumulated and not used to enhance green space or build amenities."

Question: A member noted the difficulty in determining the true fiscal position of the City.

Response: Mr. Armstrong agreed that the statements are opaque and that it is impossible to drill down on line items.

Questions: "What is the NPA's position on international students - French Immersion?"

Response: Ken Denike; "International students enhance the cultural dynamic at our schools. We attract top-notch candidates and they provide significant financial contributions to the system - twice the cost of service." He also noted the significant problem associated with students not attending schools in their areas. Approximately 1/3rd of kids are looking for French Immersion spaces and 20% of them come from immigrant families.

Question: "Parks Board - Why?"

Response: Ms. de Genova: "The Board came into being as a condition of Lord Stanley's Trust and the gift of Stanley Park to the City." She commented that she believes that the Board's independence has been compromised by block voting of its VISION members.

Question: "Vanishing Vancouver?"

Response: Mr. Armstrong expressed concern about the destruction of architectural diversity and the impact on neighborhood character. Ms. de Genova noted that the Parks Board has a heritage committee and she undertook to make a note of the issue for future consults.

Question: "What about a resurgent TEAM? Isn't there a risk of vote-split?"

Response: Mr. Armstrong said that no single party can defeat VISION and he does not know what the differences are between the NPA and TEAM platforms and recognizes this as a significant concern."

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thanks go to the 175 members who recently completed the "Satisfaction Survey" administered by Membership Committee Chairman Norm Leach. Now in the hands of David Scott, Chairman of the Strategic Plan Review Committee, the results will be analyzed for ways we can improve your Probus experience. Responses were generally quite favourable but there were some areas identified where we should try to raise the bar. Immediate Past President Wayne Audette, who this year, chairs our Nominating Committee, informs me that he has a number of recommendations for presentation at the next Management Committee Meeting. If you have not yet been approached but would like to know more about the many opportunities to serve our Club, please contact Wayne, Vice President David Scott or me. Committee duties are not onerous, so please consider joining the team.

Dr. Max Cynader will tell us about "the brain" at the May meeting and Jake Kerr along with Jeff Mooney will pitch us on the Vancouver Canadian Baseball Team come June.

Don't forget May 7th when we tour the Emily Carr University of Art and Design on Granville Island prior to lunching at the nearby Pacific Institute for Culinary Arts. Before tickets run out you might also consider signing up for our Cirque de Soleil night scheduled for June 24th.

Finally, I'll wind up this message with an apology for having to eat and run after the last meeting when we had such a good turnout for lunch at the "Local Public Eatery". Fortunately that was the last curling game of the season, so I'll be able to linger longer on May 13th when I hope you'll be able to join us

Upcoming Events (see page 4 for details)
May 7th—Guided Tour of Emily Carr University
June 24th—Cirque du Soleil's Totem

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES TEAM
Greeters—Philip Harrison and Bill Lang
Cashiers—Donald Risk and Andrew Hames
Member Services Desk—Tony Weall

Welcome New Members
Raymond Greenwood—Postage Equipment
Bruce Ledingham—Construction/Development
David Ross—Corporate Banking

UPCOMING EVENTS



DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR
TOUR OF THE

FOL-
LUNCH
INSTI-

THE EMILY CARR EVENT IS SOLD OUT

A GUIDED
EMILY
CARR UNI-
VERSITY
ON GRAN-
VILLE IS-
LAND

LOWED BY

AT THE AWARD WINNING PACIFIC
TUTE FOR CULINARY ARTS

Cirque du Soleil, Concord Pacific Place

June 24, 2014 – 8 pm



Probus has seats available for members and their guests in 4 price ranges at discounted prices. We have now sold 75 seats and have approximately 25 left.

TOTEM traces the fascinating journey of the human species from its original amphibian state to its ultimate desire to fly. The characters evolve on a stage evoking a giant turtle, the symbol of origin for many ancient civilizations.

Inspired by many founding myths, TOTEM illustrates, through a visual and acrobatic language, the evolutionary progress of species.

Somewhere between science and legend TOTEM explores the ties that bind Man to other species, his dreams and his infinite potential.

What the media say about the show: “Spectacular, artful. Breathtaking and deliciously ironic.”
The Toronto Star; “TOTEM is visually ravishing” – The Boston Globe

If you wish to purchase tickets, please send Doug Jones a cheque, made out to
PROBUS VANCOUVER,

with a note telling him your email address, and how many tickets in each category (adult, child, senior or student) you wish to purchase, and at which price level.

Adult: \$85, \$65, \$50 or \$35. Child: \$75, \$55, \$40 or \$25. Senior/student: \$80, \$60, \$45 or \$30.

Please mail your cheque to Doug Jones, 17-5760 Hampton Place, Vancouver, V6T 2G1.

VANCOUVER CANADIANS BASEBALL GAME



A good deal of interest was shown by members to attend a Vancouver Canadians Baseball game as a group. The cost for a 1 pm daytime game would be \$37 per adult and \$25 for kids. This includes a Barbecue along the right field sideline as well as seats in the bleachers.



Unfortunately, we were unable to arrange an appropriate date for this 2014 season.

However, we would like to try to arrange an outing to a game in the 2015 season.

In order to get a head start for next year, would those members who are interested, please email Doug Jones at jonzee88@hotmail.com indicating how many tickets you might like.