



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

PO Box 74539, KITSILANO, Vancouver, BC, V6K 4P4

Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities

www.probusvancouver.com

May, 2016

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 10th at 9:30 am
Location: H.R. MacMillan Planetarium and Space Centre, Lower Level
Speaker: Sharon Janzen:
Nurse, Volunteer - MSF,
Instructor - BCIT & VCC.
Topic: "Life on the Edge - Stories from the Field: Working with Doctors Without Borders"

OUR JUNE SPEAKER

Jun 14: Maria Howard,
CEO of the Alzheimer
Society of B.C.,

*"Understanding and living
with dementia".*

SHARON JANZEN, RN



Sharon Janzen is a Registered Nurse and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner who completed her first medical humanitarian mission with Medecins Sans Frontiers / Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in Somalia. She then returned to the field and spent time in a refugee camp in Darfur, Sudan and helped to establish a sexual violence response program. She was in Sri Lanka after the Tsunami and has worked as a consultant for trauma and urban violence programs in both Liberia and the Delta of Nigeria. Before working with Doctors without Borders she was a part of two surgical missions to Guatemala with a different non-governmental organization (NGO). When Sharon is not on mission with MSF she divides her time between the Clinical Prevention Services of the BC Centre for Disease Control and BC Women's Hospital Sexual Assault team. Sharon also teaches at Vancouver Community College for nursing students completing their global health module, and is a contract teacher for BCIT for the Women's Reproductive Cervical Screening Course.

Rotarians' Investment Club

Last month's meeting was well attended, and two of our newer members (retired doctors) gave a fascinating presentation on Health Care based on "The Five Rules of Successful Stock Investing" chapter which the Club is currently studying. This month the topic will be "Asset Management & Insurance", plus "Energy" if time permits. Since the Club has accepted several new members recently, it is considering that we have almost reached a comfortable capacity to allow meaningful discussion around the table.

Our next meeting is this Thursday April 28th at the RVYC at 6.00 pm with a no-host bar at 5.30 pm. We have an excellent 3 course dinner plus wine, gratuities etc. for \$60.00 if you would like to attend to see if our Club would be of interest to you. Please email/phone Ron Fawcett:

ron.fawcett@gmail.com; 604-862-6080) if you wish to attend by 26th April as we have to give precise numbers to RVYC.

For Club membership details email/phone John Sullivan:

johnwsullivan@shaw.ca; 604-263-4486)

Report of the April 12th Meeting

Attendance: 195 Members and Guests

President Jack Zaleski opened the meeting with a hilarious new twist on Facebook. John Gunn acted as Secretary of the meeting.

Three new members were inducted into Probus (see p3). Norm Leach advised us that VSO Conductor Bramwell Tovey may be able to speak to us in the Autumn. Since he would also play the piano as part of his lecture, we would probably change our venue to the Music Academy, which could also accommodate the large attendance that a show of hands indicated may be expected.

Activities chairman Ian Patterson spoke briefly on upcoming events: Tuesday April 19 will be a visit to the Vancouver Police Museum; Tuesday May 17 will be a tour of Chinatown with John Atkins.

The greeters and cashiers for this meeting were acknowledged.

Our president reminded us that we welcome new members and we should be encouraged to bring them in initially as guests. We currently have 12 people on the waiting list.

John Madden then introduced our guest speaker, Dr. William Unruh, a much decorated physicist from UBC.

Dr Unruh severely challenged the imagination of his audience, and it is probably safe to say that the majority of us, having been taught Newton's Law of Gravity at school, were left trying to reconcile it with the notion of gravitational waves. The talk emphasized: the ingenuity and perfection of mankind's scientific and engineering prowess in the design of the test equipment constructed in Louisiana and Washington to detect gravitational waves; the sheer size and content of our universe as seen in relation to our 'tiny' solar system; the awesome genius of one person - Albert Einstein - in accurately predicting, among other things, gravitational waves.

The exquisite design of the two sites is amazing: two laser beams at right angles propagate over 4km paths and are incident on detectors. A difference in transit times could be attributed to a disturbance of the detectors by gravitational waves. Disturbances of the order of the diameter of an atomic nucleus have to be measured (!!), and done so as to be able to discount any extraneous 'noise' such as seismic disturbances or man-made vibrations. Being mooted is an outer space location, in which case the 4km becomes 1 million km and the sensitivity thereby increases enormously, and there is no seismic noise.

The waves which were detected in recent months were deduced as carrying away some of the energy released

when two black holes, each being roughly 30 times the size of our own sun, coalesced. It has taken the waves several billion years to traverse the distance from out there to Earth! They are so faint after their immense journey that the sensitivity of measurement mentioned earlier is required to detect them.

Einstein brilliantly proposed his General Theory of Relativity around 1915. He did this without benefit of the Hubble Telescope, or modern computers to solve his amazing equations. At that time he predicted that we would find that light beams are bent by gravity, that nothing can exceed the speed of light, that the rate of time changes would change with speed of motion, and that there will be gravitational waves. This final prediction has now been proved - after a delay of 100 years!

Among the other interesting aspects of these measuring experiments was the length to which the scientists went to discount extraneous influences. There was even a sort of "devil's advocate" involved to make sure no misleading results accrued which could have been made by someone pining for glory or recognition. In other words, the results of the experiments are clear, unequivocal and error-free and prove conclusively that gravitational waves exist, as predicted 100 years ago.

Gravitational waves are ripples in space-time, a concept which in itself is the foundation of Einstein's theory.

These waves alter distances without requiring any acceleration - again a concept which challenges our intuitive sense of the world around us. This is a point in the story to explain that you can't see a black hole because light can't escape from it, but you can infer its existence by the effect (bending) it has on visible light from stars in the vicinity. It's interesting here to point out that these gravitational waves reached each of the two detector systems by passing right through the Earth itself from the far side. They were still able to be detected because gravity waves don't interact strongly with matter. Incidentally the waves detected thus far have been from black holes but such waves would also result from two neutron stars coalescing.

Dr. Unruh ably answered many questions, including this one: "This is great for someone's ego. What value is all this to society?" Go to the link below for his answer(s).

*For an unabridged version of the above, which includes questions and answers, please go to our **PROBUS** website at www.probusvancouver.com and click on "Speakers" then on "Dr. William Unruh"*

IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret we announce the passing of 4 of our members. The Probus Club of Vancouver offers our condolences to their families, and has made donations in their memories as indicated:

- Pidge McBride, March 11, 2016 -
St. Paul's Hospital Foundation;*
- David Crowe, March 25, 2016 –
The Lions Gate Hospital Foundation;*
- Neil Desaulniers, April 3, 2016 –
Squash Canada Memorial Fund;*
- Joe Sladen, April 15, 2016 –
Canadian Cancer Society.*

Thanks to our Member Services Team

**Greeters—Patrick Oswald & Elliott Phillips
Cashiers— David Boyd & Colin Connor**

Welcome New Members

**John Neilson - Community Administrator
Don Breen - Construction Contractor
Glen Wilson - Dentist**



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A warm welcome to our newest members, John Neilson, Glen Wilson and Don Breen. You will recognize them with the red sticker on their badges. Please make them feel welcome.

Our speaker on April 12th was Dr. William Unruh, a professor of Physics at UBC. Dr. Unruh gave an enlightening talk on gravitational waves and black holes. Dr. Unruh was an engaging speaker and undoubtedly passionate about his research. While his discoveries may not impact on our day-to-day lives, they do help us understand who we are and perhaps will shape the world in years to come.

I want to extend our thanks to John Gunn who for the past 2 years has volunteered as our monthly "scribe". John has done an outstanding job and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. To John, best of luck in the future. We wish you well.

Spring is well and truly upon us and golf is in the air. In case you missed it, April 9th was Vimy Ridge Day, in Canada, the 25th is St George's Day in Newfoundland and Labrador, and May 23rd is National Patriot's Day in Quebec as well as Victoria Day in other parts of Canada.

Next month we look forward to Sharon Janzen, a Registered Nurse and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, who will speak to us about Doctors Without Borders.

Congratulations—Bill Sexsmith

Bill Sexsmith has been elected as a Director to the Probus Canada Board, representing BC District #2, for a second three-year term starting with the Annual General Meeting in late April, 2016.

WALKING TOUR OF CHINATOWN WITH JOHN ATKIN



“ Explore Vancouver’s Chinatown History and Architecture”



**Meeting point: - The Message Café, 75 East Pender Street
(Opposite the Chinese Cultural Centre/Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden)**

Date: Tuesday, May 17th

John Atkin is a well known and extremely knowledgeable Vancouver historian, researcher and tour guide. Vancouver’s Chinatown district with its rich history and architecture is one of the oldest and most fascinating areas of our city. This is a walking tour not to be missed!

John has given many walking tours for Probus in recent years. His tours are always popular. This tour has been limited to 25 members.

ITINERARY

9:30 AM – ARRIVE FOR COFFEE AT THE MESSAGE CAFÉ, 75 EAST PENDER STREET

10:00 AM – WALKING TOUR STARTS

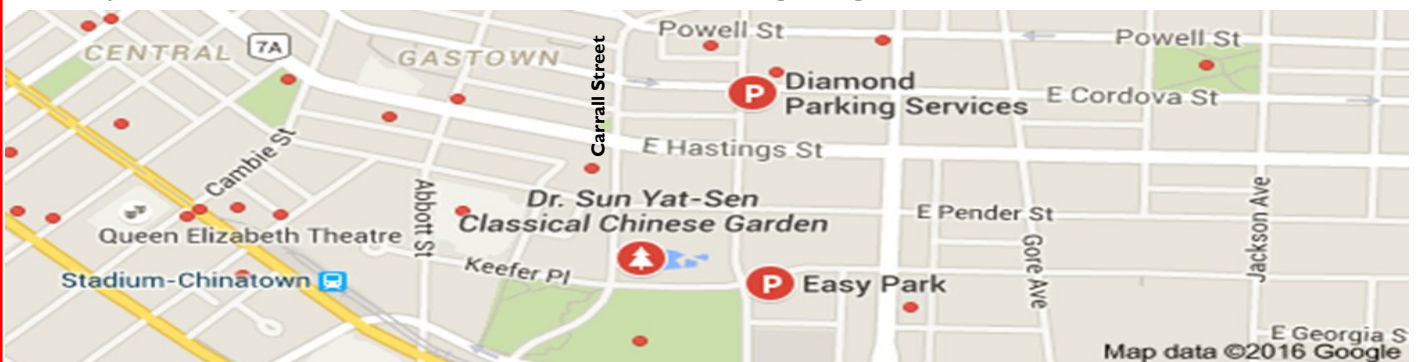
APROX 12:00 NOON - GUIDED TOUR ENDS

12:30 – NO HOST LUNCH – THERE ARE MANY GOOD RESTAURANTS IN CHINATOWN.

Arriving by transit: Sky train or bus to Waterfront Station, then 135 bus (SFU) along West Hastings Street to Carrall Street or #7 or #22 bus to Carrall Street.

Arriving by car: car pool if possible - see map below for parking.

The Easy Park Lot is at 140 Keefer Street. The Diamond Parking Garage is at 102 East Cordova Street.



REGISTRATION FULL!