

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

June, 2005 VOL. 3 NO. 6

MEETINGS

Third Tuesday
of each month
9:30-11:30 a.m.
(year round)

Hollyburn
Country Club
West Vancouver

Management Committee

President
Stu McNeill
604-926-7204

Vice President
Don Brinton
604-922-9192

Past President
John Leonard
604-924-9286

Secretary/Archivist
Ron Lively
604-924-1641

Treasurer
Glenn Ferguson
604-921-1232

Committee Chairs

Membership
Don Smith
604-926-8286

Programs
Brian Cooper
604-985-0067

House
Art Eberwein
604-926-6081

Communications
John Leonard
604-924-9286



**Next Meeting
Tuesday June 21, 2005**

**Mr. Bob Ackles
President BC Lions
Governor CFL**

Bob Ackles has been an instrumental member of the BC Lions for over 50 years. Despite his humble beginnings within the organization, Bob's star rose quickly and, by 1966, he was Director of Football Development for the Lions. Bob was promoted again and named Assistant General Manager in 1971. Four years later he was promoted to GM and held that office until 1986.

Under Bob's guidance, the Lions captured the Grey Cup – their first CFL title in 21 seasons. However, Bob ended his 34 year tenure with BC and accepted an offer to join the Dallas Cowboys of the NFL. Bob, a Schenley Award of Excellence winner, went on to spend six seasons in Dallas, three as Vice President of Pro Personnel, and three as Vice President of Player Personnel. After Dallas, Bob moved on to the Phoenix Cardinals, taking the position of Director of College Scouting before a promotion to Assistant General Manager in 1994. Bob then went to Philadelphia, where he became the Eagle's Director of Football Administration for the 1995 season. Bob's last job was in Miami, reuniting him with Jimmy Johnson to become Director of Football Operations, a position he held for five years.

In 2002, Bob was named VP and GM of the Las Vegas Outlaws. This move put Bob in the history books as the only man to hold executive positions in the CFL, NFL, and XFL. In 2002, Bob was voted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in the Builder Category. He solidified his commitment to the Lions in Dec. 2003 when he signed a 3 year contract extension. In 2004, Ackles was inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame.

Upcoming Speaker Tues. July 19th

**Christopher Gaze
Artistic Director & Founder
Bard on the Beach**

**Free Tickets to the 2005 Grey Cup
Game, see page 4 for details**

Our May Speaker

Gordon Houston with President Stu McNeil

Gordon began by telling us that the Port of Vancouver is Canada's largest port. Studies tell us that container traffic on the west coast of North America is expected to triple in the next 20 years. The P of V has the opportunity to capture nearly 5 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) by 2020. In order to meet future demands, the VPA has looked at options to increase the port's container terminal capacity. In August 2002, the VPA announced the beginning of the process. The VPA is looking at a three step approach to increasing container capacity at the P of V: efficiencies at existing terminals, expansion at existing terminals, and building new facilities.

He went on to indicate that the Port of Vancouver means jobs as it is a successful, competitive, world-class port with modern facilities and a skilled, productive labour force. The operation of the P of V involves many different enterprises: cargo terminals, cruise terminals, industries requiring tidewater access, shipyards, tugboats, railways, trucks, shipping agents, freight forwarders, suppliers, builders, and administrative agencies.

Across Canada, Port activities generate 30,100 direct jobs, 21,200 indirect jobs and a further 17,900 induced jobs. In total, the P of V is responsible for 69,200 jobs and \$1.5 billion in direct wages. In terms of the economy, port activities generate \$4 billion in total GDP and \$8.9 billion in total economic output. The value of the cargo moving through the Port totals \$43 billion.

In 2004, economic activity at the Port generated more than \$763 million in tax contributions to all levels of government.



Of this, \$740 million was paid by employers and employees through income taxes, fuel taxes and social insurance contributions. The VPA and its P of V tenants paid \$155 million in property taxes to municipal and provincial governments. Cruise ship passengers generated almost \$15 million, mostly in hotel taxes and GST.

The federal government received \$411 million, 54% of total tax contributions; the provincial government \$263 million, 35% of total and, municipal government \$89 million, 12%.

The VPA is a good corporate citizen working with municipalities to limit truck and train traffic and reduce vehicular emissions. It works also to limit emission from ships by reducing time in port.

He closed with a comment on the quality of the water in the port: "if you fall into the Hong Kong harbour, you are poisoned immediately; in ports in Europe you may survive if you quickly get emergency attention at a hospital; if you fall into the Burrard Inlet the most serious problem you will have is you will get wet."





Bill Markham

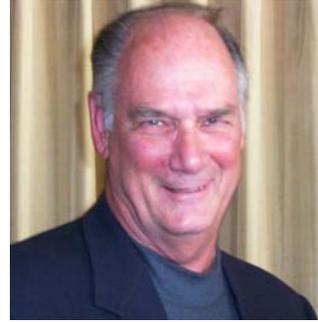
Bill was born and raised in Regina, then went to Saskatoon for an engineering degree. While at university he met his Esther and they were married in 1942. Eventually they had two boys and a girl who are now scattered across Canada and the USA. There are five grandchildren.

Upon graduation, he was employed by the Federal Meteorological Service and was assigned to duties at Western Air Command. After the war was transferred to Edmonton where a continuing interest in Arctic conditions developed.

In 1955 he took a commission in the ice breaker HMCS Labrador and spent four years on board. When the Government decided that a Sea Ice Service was needed, he was released to head the project. This represented a change from forecasting weather to reporting and forecasting ice in northern and Maritime waters. The service grew, two long range aircraft were chartered, the office was moved to Ottawa and Bill eventually became Director of Sea Ice Services for Canada.

During the sixties and seventies he developed close co-ordination with other ice-interest nations and devised improved charting methods. As chairman of the World Meteorological Working Group on Sea Ice, regular trips to Geneva were scheduled. He held this position until he retired in 1982.

After a few years of consulting work he moved to West Vancouver to enjoy his hobbies of golf and bridge on a year round basis. One memento he enjoys is a certificate presented by a Coast Guard icebreaker Captain certifying that he had crossed the Arctic Circle. It was closer to the eleventh time than the first time.



Al Cummings

Al, born in Vancouver, moved to Calgary at age 16. The following year, he met a lovely girl named Beth on a blind date. The date obviously worked out, as Al and Beth are celebrating their 44th anniversary this month. They have four grown sons, all living in the Lower Mainland. They have also been blessed with four grandsons and a granddaughter.

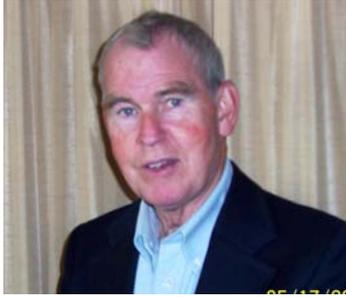
Al is in the process of “semi” retiring from Cummings Communication and Marketing Ltd., a corporate video production business he has owned and operated for the past eleven years. Prior to starting his present business, he enjoyed a banking and business career spanning over thirty-five years.

Al spent a number of years as a branch banker in Alberta and B.C., then moved on to specialize in marketing and communications. He was Vice President Marketing for Hong Kong Bank of Canada (now HSBC Bank Canada) when he took early retirement in 1994 to start his own business.

The Bank has continued to be one of his valued clients to this day. Throughout his careers, Al was fortunate to have exciting projects that took him all over Canada, the U.S., Britain and South East Asia.

Al has been very involved, as a volunteer, in a number of non profit organizations. He was presented with the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of his volunteer contributions, particularly those that benefit senior citizens and children with disabilities in B.C.

Al is an avid fisherman and part time golfer. He and Beth are now looking forward to spending more time at their lakeside retreat in B.C., at their favourite spot on Maui, and in exploring some new horizons.



President's Report

On Thursday, May 26, eighteen members of Probud enjoyed an excursion to the Domaine de Chamberton winery in Langley. The day was fine and clean, the wine tour informative, the wine tasting delightful and the lunch excellent. Hopefully, we will see more of our members enjoying these outings in the future. Photos are posted on the website.

As you are aware, our next outing is a Bard on the Beach evening with dinner and theatre, so sign up early.

We continue to enjoy outstanding speakers. Gordon Houston gave an excellent presentation on the Port of Vancouver. In our meeting in June, Mr. Bob Ackles will give us his insights into the world of sports and, one of our members will leave the meeting with two tickets to the 2005 Grey Cup.

On May 31st, three members of the Management Committee ventured out to Chilliwack for a meeting with all of the representatives of the lower mainland Probud Clubs. A wide range of topics was covered. However, what is very clear is that the majority of Clubs are mainly "Social Clubs" with emphasis on various activities: bridge, discussion and book groups and the like. Our Club remains more of a "Speakers Club" with the emphasis on intellectual stimulation and information.

The Management Committee continues to search for members to help out with the various Committees. If you have expertise or interest please come forward or call.

Stu McNeill

Chef's Corner

Green Bean Casserole

2 pkgs. Frozen green beans or 2 cans
1 can mushroom soup
½ lb. fresh mushrooms
1 small onion (chopped)
1/8 cup of flour
2 – 4 tbsp. Cheese Whiz (I use 4 tbsps)
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
salt and pepper
1 can sliced water chestnuts
slivered almonds

Cook beans, sauté mushrooms in butter, add onion and sauté. Stir in flour until smooth then add Cheese Whiz, Worcestershire sauce, sliced water chestnuts, salt and pepper.

Combine these ingredients plus mushroom soup in a greased casserole. Sprinkle with slivered almonds and bake at 375F for 30 minutes uncovered.

This is good made ahead of time and reheated. More Worcestershire sauce may be added if desired.

Members attending the June meeting will participate in a draw for a pair of tickets to the 2005 Grey Cup game.
Don't miss it!

"Shorelines" © A monthly publication of
The Probud Club of North Shore Vancouver



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