

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 August 16, 2005
Dr. Les Vertesi
Associate Director of Health Research
Fraser Health Authority

Dr. Vertesi is a career emergency physician with over 30 years experience in major trauma referral hospitals, and with a proven track record for leadership and innovation.

Perhaps best known for founding the Advanced Life Support paramedic ambulance program of the BC Ambulance service (1975 to 1985) he was also the founding chairman of the Canadian Medical Association's accreditation committee that set national standards for ambulance training in Canada. In 1978 he published the first Canadian research article proving that paramedic skills really saves lives. He became the first recipient of the Justice Institute of BC's Joseph Cohen Award for Outstanding Contributions to Public Safety (1999) for this work.

His interest in international economic models expanded during the years 1985 to 2000, with a series of studies undertaken through the Danish International Studies (DIS) Institute in Copenhagen, which included visits and interviews in many of the major Eastern European capitals during the final years of the Soviet era and then the years of recovery that followed. It was the relevance of these economic models to Canadian health care that became a haunting thought and eventually led to his book in 2003 - *Broken Promises: Why Canadian Medicare is in Trouble and what can be done to save it.*

Upcoming Speaker
Tuesday, September 20th, 2005
John Boone
Apiarist



**Our July Speaker
Christopher Gaze**

**Was Introduced by Special Events Chair
Malcolm Nicholson**

True to his profession, Christopher Gaze's presentation was superb! He was informative, humorous, dramatic and highly entertaining.

Christopher began by telling us, "if you think Shakespeare doesn't have much to do with your lives, you're mistaken." He then invited us to participate in his presentation by responding to a signal (raising his right arm) with "THEN YOU KNOW SHAKESPEARE". He followed this with a number of statements along the lines of: "If you have seen better days" (response); "If you have been challenged by uncertainty" (response); "If you have enjoyed the companionship of good friends" (response), and continued with 6 or 8 more phrases.

400 years after Shakespeare, his printed works are second only to the bible in worldwide distribution. As a young actor Christopher was advised by Douglas Campbell to leave England and come to Canada in 1975 where he performed for several years in a number of Shakespearian Festivals from coast to coast. In 1953 the Stratford Festival began in a modest tent and has grown to be a 52 million dollar annual event. In 1980 Edmonton began a Festival in an open ended tent but closed in its second year. In 1984 a Festival was organized in a tent in Vanier Park and it too ended in failure in its second year. It was 1989 when Christopher and a number of actors were relaxing over drinks in a North Van pub following a performance at Presentation House that the idea for "Bard On The Beach" surfaced. In 1990 with a Canada Exploration grant of \$15,000 plus \$3,500 from sponsors the first play was produced. 6,000 people came that summer.

The next year, 11,000 came to see 2 plays and, in the third year, 22,000 attended.

In those early days, the actors did everything including picking up rubbish and sweeping the floor after each performance. They were paid each evening by dividing the ticket revenue among them. He told us the story of the first night of the fireworks when thousands of people appeared causing a serious disturbance to the performance. There were 4 porta-poties available to the theatre audience and suddenly, hundreds in need of their use. A deal was struck that required a purchase at the theatre concession in order to use a toilet. It was a very profitable evening for the theatre in spite of the continual door slamming throughout the performance.

In 1999 a second venue, the Studio Theatre, opened and 45,000 people attended. The performances have been 81% paid since. A remarkable feat for a seasonal theatre. Christopher attributes the success to a beautiful setting, an affordable, accessible and high quality professional Shakespearian Theatre in Vancouver," an awesome place in summer." Last year ticket sales exceeded 80,000 raising the theatre to a 2.6 million dollar enterprise, the largest in Western Canada.

The vision for the future of the not for profit enterprise is to manage growth in Vancouver and to begin an educational program for BC schools.

Christopher concluded with a stirring presentation from Henry V, Act III, where the young King finds his army out numbered by the French 5 to 1 and gives a rousing speech to his officers on the eve of the battle.

He was thanked by President Stu.



John Billham

John's parents travelled half way around the world in the 1920's to meet in Montreal. Both of English parents, his father's family were colonists in British Guiana and his mother was born in Hong Kong.

John was born in Montreal and, on graduating from McGill University with a Degree in Chemical Engineering in 1960, was recruited by the Dow Chemical Company for a position with a plant in Sarnia, Ontario. His career with the chemical company would span 35 years. In 1961, he was a member of an engineering team assigned to develop a new chemical processing plant. John was posted to Ladner BC to the start-up of the new phenol plant. He returned to Sarnia on completion of the Ladner project in 1963 and continued with the company rising to a major operation manager until 1995 when he decided to apply for early retirement.

He had hoped one day to return to the Vancouver area and by great good fortune, about two months before he was scheduled to retire, was recruited by the Canadian Oxidational Chemical Company (today NEXEN) as a consultant to resolve a number of problems being experienced at a plant in North Vancouver. His 3 year contract as Plant Manager of the Chloralkali Plant near the 2nd narrows bridge on the North Shore became 6 and he retired in 2002.

John and Mary have 2 daughters. John has 2 sons by a previous marriage. They have 6 grandchildren.. They have lived in West Vancouver since 1995 and look forward to annual trips east to visit the sons, and 5 grandchildren. Both daughters and a granddaughter live in Vancouver. John is active in the community and a Past President of the Rotary Club of Lions Gate. His interests include travel, hiking, gardening, and chasing his granddaughter.



Ron Defieux

Ron was born in Vancouver 1932. Following graduation from West Vancouver High School he joined the Union Insurance Society of Canton as an office boy (a term not used today). After many years of training in all fields of insurance, in 1969 he and two partners formed their own Insurance Agency. Expansion followed including a Real Estate company. In 1977 he formed a new company specializing in yacht and commercial insurance. With partner Donna Saxelby it became one of the largest Marine Insurance Brokers in Canada with full in-house policy issuing and a 24 hour claims service. The company was sold to TOS Insurance Group in 2004 and Ron retired.

Ron's professional associations include being a Chartered Insurance Professional, past President of the B.C. General Accident Insurance Council Advisory Board, lecturer and advisor to the Insurance Brokers Association of B.C. on Marine Insurance and, member of the Marine Arbitration Association.

In 2001 he was chosen Insurance Person of the Year. He was Trustee of the Maritime Museum, a member of the Marine Debris Collection Board, and Secretary of the Council of Yachts. For the past 20 years he sailed and raced his 33 ft. sloop "Spartan" out of Eagle Harbour Yacht Club and served as Commodore in 1984.

Ron and his wife Lynne continue to sail in their new 35 ft. "Jeanneau". Ron is a casual golfer at Seymour Golf Club and, he and Lynne have a passion for biking. They have two sons and one granddaughter.



President's Report

Future Programs

- Sept. 20 ----- John Boone, Apiarist
- Oct. 18 ----- Martin Crilly B.C. Ferries
- Nov. 15 ----- Jonathon Manthorpe, Journalist
- Dec. 20 ----- Christmas Lunch Meeting
- Jan. 17 ----- James Delgado, Maritime Museum
- Feb. 21 ----- Andre Gerolymatos

Our guest speaker for the July meeting was Christopher Gaze, the Founder and Artistic Director of Bard on the Beach. Mr. Gaze gave a truly outstanding presentation covering a wide range of topics relating to the theatre. He was most entertaining when he recited the King's speech from the Shakespeare play, Henry V, Act III, in which the King inspires his officers to battle against the French army. Many of those in attendance thought that Mr. Gaze was one of the best speakers to date and remained to chat with him after the meeting.

A Golf Story

It was a sunny morning, a little after 8:00 am, on the first hole of a busy course and I was beginning my pre-shot routine, visualizing my upcoming shot when a piercing voice came over the club house loud speaker: "Would the gentleman on the woman's tee back up to the men's tee please!!"

I could feel every eye on the course looking at me. I was still deep in my routine, seemingly impervious to the interruption. Again the announcement, "Would the MAN on the WOMAN'S tee kindly back up to the men's tee."

I simply ignored the guy and kept concentrating, when once more, the man yelled: "WOULD THE MAN ON THE WOMAN'S TEE BACK UP TO THE MEN'S TEE, PLEASE!!!"

I finally stopped, turned, cupped my hands and shouted back...

"WOULD THE AS---OLE WITH THE MICROPHONE KINDLY KEEP QUIET AND LET ME PLAY MY SECOND SHOT!!!"

SPECIAL AUGUST MEETING NOTICE

At the July meeting, a Notice of Motion to Amend the Club Bylaws was presented. It states that, "Gender references in the Club Constitution be changed to gender neutral".

Members will act on the Motion at the August meeting. A quorum of 25% of the members is required to amend the bylaws. Should a quorum not be present, it will be necessary to delay the action to a future date.

Because it is a month when many members are away, your Management Committee encourages you to make every effort to attend the August meeting to assist with this business item.

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