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Esio Marzotto
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Stu McNeill
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John Leonard
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Next Meeting
Tuesday August 15, 2006

PAM RYAN
Director of Planning and Community
Relations
Gateway Project
Ministry of Transportation

Pam Ryan is the Director of Planning and Community Relations for the Ministry of Transportation's Gateway Program. She is responsible for strategic planning, as well as overseeing the communications and consultation program with local and regional governments, First Nations, and the public for this major regional infrastructure project.

Over the past 15 years, Pam has contributed to some of the most significant transportation projects in British Columbia in a strategic planning and communications capacity, including communications manager for the Lions Gate Bridge Rehabilitation Project, as well as other projects for the Ministry of Transportation, BC Transportation Financing Authority, TransLink and BC Ferries.

Upcoming Speaker
Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mark Ferguson
Senior Engineer
North Shore GVRD Water Filtration Project



Brent Brown introduced Dr. John Maynard

Our guest speaker, Dr. John Maynard addressed some key issues facing health care today in British Columbia. He also described his impressions of the emerging family medicine “crisis”. We can only touch on a few key points he delivered.

He outlined two realities that impact the approach and results of Vancouver Coastal Health.

- We enjoy better health than at any time in human history,
- BUT there is Distress for the public in questions of access for providers in the ability to cope with demand.

Today, life expectancy at birth for the total population in B.C. is over 80 years, and the demand for medical services continues to increase dramatically. The fundamental issue now is the imbalance between the demand for services and the capacity to deliver. The situation today of demand being out of balance with supply results in:

- Patient dissatisfaction
- Poorer health outcomes
- Staff/system resources being ineffectively utilized

One reason cited for the imbalance is rising surgical demand.

Compared to 1990/91 an 80 year old British Columbian today is:

- Twice as likely to have a knee replacement
- Twice as likely to have cataract surgery
- Twice as likely to have a coronary bypass
- EIGHT times more likely to have an angioplasty
- Way more likely to ski, hike, run or bike.

An ideal scenario would see demand and supply in balance with:

- Patients satisfied
- Clinical outcomes optimal
- Staff/system resources maximized.

There are no simple answers as to how we reach that ideal scenario, but VCH is now creating efficiencies towards this end through outsourcing of non-medical activities, sustainable program/process improvements, consolidation of services, and benchmarking of workforce staffing levels and mix.

Dr. Maynard expressed his ongoing frustration with those who say any change to our basic universal health system will result in a “U.S.” style health care system. He strongly believes that is not the case and pointed out there are many different models of effective health care delivery elsewhere. In other countries a number of alternative approaches have been incorporated to improve effectiveness both on the demand and capacity sides. He said he hoped that politicians and others who have investigated systems elsewhere will push for effective improvements here so that the ideal balance may yet be reached.

During his presentation, Dr. Maynard provided us with far more detailed information on these and other issues, as well as a thought provoking discussion on the state of family medicine in urban B.C. Perhaps some of his other presentation content may appear in a future Health and Lifestyles column.

AC



L-R front row: John Leonard, Don Brinton, John Linthwaite, Malcolm Nicholson, Glenn Ferguson, Art Eberwein, Esio Marzotto, Ron Lively; L-R back row: Fraser Grant, Brian Cooper, Stu McNeil

The success of our Probus Club is due to the solid efforts of our Management Committee, so I'd like to use this space this month to re-introduce them to you and to thank them, on your behalf, for all they do. Alphabetically, a thumb-nail sketch on each:

Brian Cooper: Speaker's Committee Chair, was born in Vancouver (St. Paul's); career in marketing and sales in oil, plastics and forestry and latterly, as VP Fletcher Challenge; wife Fay, 2 children and 4 grandchildren; main hobby, golf with highpoint in life thus far, family and friends.

Art Eberwein: House Committee Chair, was born in Montreal, mid-management career with Imperial Oil Ltd. Married to Ann with 2 children and 6 grand children; hobbies: woodworking and fishing and has too many high points in life to enumerate.

Glenn Ferguson: Vice-President, was born in Vancouver General; career in finance latterly as CFO McMillan-Bloedel; wife Sharon, 3 children, 2 grand children; hobbies: mainly reading, boating and golf, with family the highpoint in his life.

John Linthwaite: Treasurer, was born in Derby, England; career in chartered accountancy; Wife

Judy, 3 children, 7 grand children; best hobby: hiking; highpoint in life, the start-up of Canada's first Ethical Family of Mutual Funds.

Ron Lively: Membership Chair, was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. Career in property and casual insurance, latterly as CEO of Elite Insurance of Vancouver; wife Nancy, 4 children, 10 grand children; hobbies: golf and handyman; highlights so far: family and volunteering for Young Life of Canada.

John Leonard: Charter President, currently Archivist and Liaison with Probus National, was born in Sydney, Australia, career in advertising; spouse Shirley, 4 children, 4 grand children; best hobbies: writing and fishing; worst: golf. Highpoint in life: owning Walker-Leonard Advertising in 1976.

Esio Marzotto: Communications Committee Chair, was born in Windsor Ont. career: broadcasting and education, latterly as Professor of Communications Studies at the University of Windsor; partner Margaret with 2 children and 4 grand children; hobbies: skiing, golf, wine-making, computers; highpoint: retiring to North Vancouver from Ontario.

Stu McNeil: Past-President, was born in Rainy River Ont. (Lake of the Woods country). Career after pro-hockey, entered the practice of medicine in Orthopaedic Surgery; Wife Marilyn with 4 children, 12 grand children; hobbies: enjoyed many years of skiing and sailing, currently mainly golf and books; wife and family high point in life.

Malcolm Nicholson: Secretary and Special Events Chair, was born in the south of England; career in national travel, latterly as partner in P. Lawson Travel; wife: Denise with 3 children and 4 grand children; hobbies: painting and the arts in general, golf; highpoint: moving to Canada.

Don Brinton: President, was born in Vegreville, Alberta; career in broadcasting, latterly President of Can West Broadcasting Ltd.; wife Lois with 3 children and 5 grand children; hobbies: golf and cottaging; highpoint: helping takeover of two TV networks for Can West Global in Australia and New Zealand.

There are also a number of assistants who are indispensable “aides” to the Committee Chairs:

Bob O’Brien: House Committee member, coordinator of those great guys who rotate as our Greeters; was born in Saint John New Brunswick; career in Electrical Engineering; widower; hobbies: tennis, skiing, fishing and golf; highpoint so far: getting out of bed this morning.

Al Cummings: Communications Committee member, researches writes our Health and Lifestyle column, was born in Vancouver and enjoyed a banking and business career spanning 35 years, latterly as owner of Cummings Communication and Marketing Ltd. Al is married to Beth.

Lawrence (Lal) Fox: Speaker’s Committee member, was born in County Durham, England; career: latterly EVP Finance, First City Financial; wife Kathy with 3 daughters and 7 grand children and one great grand child; best hobby tennis and highpoint, being in Vancouver surrounded by family.

Fraser Grant: Speaker’s Committee member, was born in Saskatoon; career in finance/banking latterly as VP Corporate Finance, Cannacord Capital; wife Shelah: 4 children, 7 grand children swimming and golf; highpoint: marrying Shelah, his bride of 44 years.

Ron Penhall: Communications Committee Member, manages the production and distribution of Shorelines, was born in Moose Jaw Sask., career in printing culminating in ownership of R.D. Penhall Specialty Printing Ltd.; wife Lorna with 3 children and 3 grand children; hobby: travel and study of Lawrence of Arabia and his Friends; highpoint: marrying Lorna 53 years ago.

Darryl Stodalka: Communications Committee Member, manages the website and membership database, was born in Calgary; career in software development; wife Darlene with 2 children; hobbies: loves sailing and scuba diving; highpoint: 4 week Ecotour of Antarctica with father in Feb. 2000.

It has been my pleasure working with this team of fine gentleman and encourage members to volunteer to assist with committee work when requested. The rewards are plentiful, new friends, and working on interesting projects to name a couple.

Don Brinton

MEETINGS

Third Tuesday of each month 9:30 – 11:30 AM
Hollyburn Country Club
West Vancouver

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