

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

November, 2006

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Next Meeting
Tuesday November 21, 2006

Peter Speer
Director and Chair
Nature Trust of B C

Join us for an informative full colour presentation capturing the beauty of BC and learn why habitat conservation is a gift forever. "Among the parks and conservancies of BC, Nature Trust acquisitions shine like diamonds, and like diamonds they are forever." Dr. Bert Brink, Director Emeritus, The Nature Trust of BC.

At the heart of British Columbia is nature. We all enjoy the beauty of this special place: the beaches, forests, rivers, and mountains. Working to conserve BC's natural beauty is The Nature Trust of BC. Celebrating 35 years, The Nature Trust is a leading non-profit land conservation organization. Through acquiring and managing ecologically significant land such as riparian property in the Gravel Reach area of the Fraser River, antelope-brush in the South Okanagan and hoodoos in the East Kootenay, The Nature Trust is ensuring our children continue to enjoy this amazing province of BC.

Peter Speer has been a Director of The Nature Trust of British Columbia since 2001 and the Chair since April 2005. He is a former partner at the accounting and financial services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. He currently works under contract with PWC as well as consulting to other clients. He is a trustee and chair of the Finance and Audit committee of the Vancouver Art Gallery. In the past, he has sat on other community boards, including the Vancouver Symphony Society and Family Services of Greater Vancouver.

Next Month

Christmas Lunch at Capilano Golf & Country Club, Tuesday 19, December 2006. For reservations complete the request form included with this newsletter. Prompt application is recommended as attendance is limited.

FEATURED SPEAKER



Fraser Grant introduced Guest Speaker
Dr. David Bond

From his many years of experience in Canadian government service, Dr. David Bond gave us a humorous insight into the backstage problems of governing a country. He compared it to a large corporation having to replace its top-level management team with one hired from across the country with no or little experience in the company's business. MPs sitting in opposition also have little knowledge of the intricacies of running the government.

The Art of Governing 101 begins with "you learn to do it in the 1st 6 months." He compared it to learning to ride a bicycle, you fall often and scrape your knees and elbows, but you keep getting on the bike until you learn to do it. Unlike the US President who picks his cabinet from people outside the elected Congress, the PM is bound to find his team among elected members without knowing much about their abilities and their agreement with him as to the main objectives and priorities. Dr. Bond described the challenges to new Ministers as:

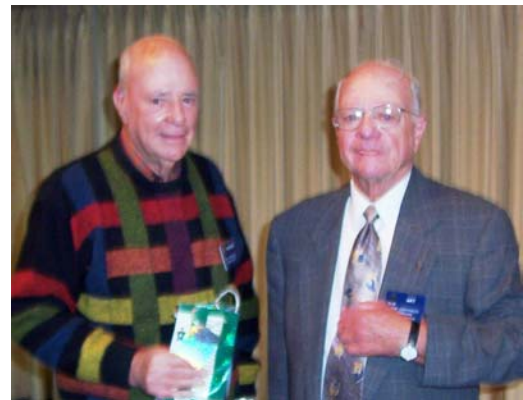
- The world outside Ottawa is not always willing to cooperate, particularly Premiers;
- Events will transpire abroad that require careful thought and the PM will be expected to show leadership;
- The press feels cut-off having lost its former contacts;
- The faithful of the party are waiting to be rewarded with patronage appointments;
- Literally a ton of paper arrives daily and you barely have time to read it all.

At the Ministerial level, both the Minister and the political staff will learn quickly that the civil service is there to serve them and has a strong interest in making sure the government does its job well. The politicians set the policy and the agenda but it is the civil service that must deliver the programs.

It takes time to learn to ride the bicycle of governance. The gifted leaders do it quickly and effectively and, the indecisive, the insensitive and, those with an arrogant staff, unwilling to believe that anyone other than themselves have a corner on wisdom, will find out the hard way on the night of the next election.

Vice-President Art Eberwein thanked Dr. Bond for the enlightening presentation.

EM



Today's Winner

Blackie Robinson was the 1st name drawn at random for the bottle of fine wine, presented here by VP Art Eberwein standing in for President Brian Cooper.

Previous issues of "Shorelines" will
be found on the Club website:

<http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/>

Special Event Report

PROBUS GOES TO SEA ON THE HMCS VANCOUVER

On Friday, September 22nd, 20 members of our club were guests of the Royal Canadian Navy, when we boarded the frigate HMCS Vancouver in North Vancouver and set out for a full day out on the “briney”. We were among a large group of guests that day and the navy treated us royally.

We sailed at about 9:30 a.m. and followed the sister ship HMCS Winnipeg out under the Lion’s Gate bridge, past Point Grey, and out into the Gulf. Commander Mike Knippel is the Commanding Officer of HMCS Vancouver. He assumed command of the ship in March of this year.

The “Vancouver” is a “Patrol” frigate. She is 441 feet in length with a beam of 54 feet. Her top speed is 31 knots, which she can reach in 37 seconds from a standing start. More impressive is that she can come to a full stop from full speed in 3 boat lengths. They demonstrated this to us and you have to hold on tight when they do it. Another “hold-on-tight” manoeuvre is when the skipper orders a **30-degree** turn to port or starboard when you are moving at full speed. The ship literally keels over to a very steep angle and turns very sharply. This capability is vital to the safety of the ship in case of a torpedo attack. The two gas-turbine main engines are essentially the

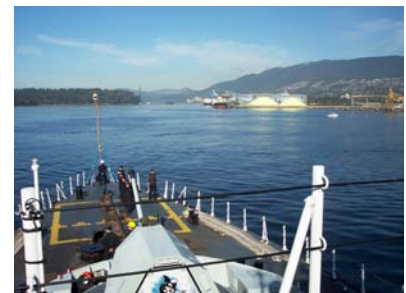
same as those used on Boeing 747 jumbo jets, each producing 25,000 horsepower at full throttle.

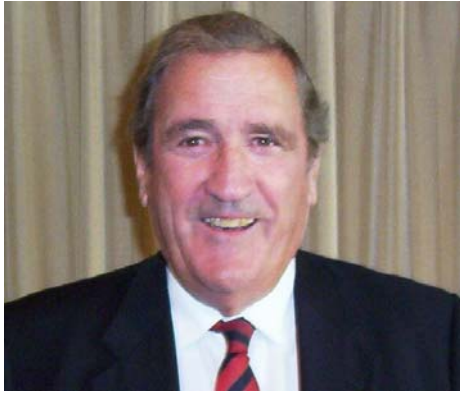
Built in Halifax the ship was commissioned into the Canadian navy in Vancouver in 1993 and is now based in at the naval base in Esquimalt, near Victoria. She has a crew of 225. The ship has a considerable array of weaponry starting with 8 Harpoon Cruise missiles, 16 Sea Sparrow missiles and 24 torpedoes . Normally the ship carries a “Sea King” helicopter, but, on this day the ‘copter was not aboard. That was fortunate as the ‘copter’s hangar provided an excellent area for the crew to lay out a superb luncheon buffet for all of the 200 guests. This was on top of the big array of coffee and doughnuts served as we boarded the ship.

With the “Winnipeg” alongside us at first, both ships showed off their capabilities. Then, as the other ship headed to New Westminster, we headed back into the harbour and tied up around 3p.m. Without a cloud in the sky, the beautiful fall day made it a perfect setting for a most enjoyable time.

Special thanks go to Probus member Lloyd Williams (Lt. Cdr. RCNVR ret) for his assistance in organizing the event. I think we all came away with the feeling that our navy is in very good hands.

JL





President's
Report

Coming Up in 2007

January 16 – Dr. Edward Fidler, Retirement
February 20 – Dr. Andre Gerolymatos Middle East
March 20 – David Baines, Sun Columnist



We have launched our fourth year with a number of activities to cultivate camaraderie and maintain interest in our Club. In addition to the slate of interesting and entertaining speakers at our monthly meetings, members have enjoyed a day cruise on HMCS Vancouver, toured the expanding Vancouver Aquarium and attended a dinner/theatre evening at the Deep Cove Stage.

With my new responsibilities I have been trying to gauge how we are perceived by our members, and what I am hearing is that we must keep the speaker's program stimulating and varied and the pre-meeting social interaction should remain relaxed and informal. It is also clear that our monthly newsletter is effectively keeping members informed about what is going on.

I now want to ensure that we stay up to date and meaningful in fulfilling our mandate to provide a forum for fellowship and intellectual stimulation, and we will therefore again be conducting a membership survey.

A questionnaire form will be sent to you shortly, and we encourage you to let us have your ideas for more activities, speaker and special events, and your general comments on how we are doing.

Replies to our past surveys have been of great assistance to your Management Committee in recruiting volunteers and acting on a number of excellent suggestions, and your prompt response to the questionnaire will be much appreciated.

Thank-you for your support,

Brian Cooper

NOTE: The Management Committee has waved the \$5.00 fee for guests attending Club meetings, effective immediately and until further notice.

MEETINGS

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

MEETING ACCESS

Members having difficulty with the stairs may be dropped off or park with card displayed in the upper level handicapped lot and enter the Hollyburn Country Club at the handicapped door. Normally locked, a greeter will be at the door from 9:15 to 9:45 AM to allow entry.

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