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Speaker - Monday, April 6, 2009

[Note: Meeting is on "first Monday" due to the Easter holiday conflicting on April 13.]

Bob Boase, United Nations International
Development Programs Consultant

"Afghanistan: Deep Past and Dark Future"

Bob is winding down from his career in international development having had assignments in thirty-five countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania and the Caribbean.

During 2005/06 he served in Afghanistan with the United Nations Development Programme where he assisted with formulation and implementation of the governance assistance programme to the Government of Afghanistan.

He has also been involved in the evaluation of the U. N. Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund operating in more than 100 countries with over 500 individual projects for UNDP, including country missions to Bhutan, Philippines, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, and Bolivia.

He also served as resident advisor on a major capacity building project working to instil a sense of nationhood, good governance and leadership into the top 500 civil servants of the government of Afghanistan.

Bob is a member of the Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver.

Next Month Speaker Monday - May 11

Peter Leitch,

President, North Shore Studios and Mammoth Studios, and Chair of the
Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC.

*"The past 20 years of the film industry in British Columbia and the future
of the industry here, including the challenges and opportunities"*

Last Month Speaker



Esio Marzotto with Dr. Jaymie Matthews

Dr. Matthews entertained us with a wonderful balance of science and humour perfectly designed to capture our attention. We learned that Galileo was an optical lens manufacturer and, although not the inventor of the telescope, he was the first to point it towards the stars 400 years ago leading to 2009 becoming the International Year of Astronomy.

Dr. Matthews took us on a trip among the stars in the MOST entertaining way. In 2003, the Canadian MOST (Micro-variability and Oscillations of STars) micro-satellite was launched into orbit 820 kilometers above earth, and is expected to send back data for another two to three years.

There was a warm feeling of Canadian pride in the room when our speaker told us that he nicknamed MOST “the HUMBLE”, to reflect its improved efficiency compared with the much heavier, much more costly HUBBLE USA satellite. US space researchers have been granted up to two months of time on MOST between Feb. 2009 and Jan. 2010.

Dr. Matthews explained to us that the stars that we see shine and twinkle because of nuclear reactions within them and that the oscillations are being measured. He demonstrated these sounds for us from the actual feedback that MOST receives and by creating similar sounds from the energy created when setting up vibrations in a wine glass or metal bowl.

We learned a great deal about the universe and its history as described by scientists from Galileo to Einstein to Dr. Matthews himself including a list of some new terms including: dark matter, dark energy, normal matter, exoplanets, and the cosmological constant, the meanings of which we now have some appreciation.

It was interesting to hear the recorded sounds received from the planets. As Dr. Matthews explained, “there is much more to the universe than we used to think”. It was also good to hear of Canada’s leading role in the development of telescopes and the scientific support provided by Canadian researchers.

The new NASA “Kepler” satellite was launched early in March and is dedicated to searching for earth-like planets orbiting around other stars.

We were invited to “VISIT TO SPACE” at the H. R. MacMillan Space Centre. News on current developments in this science can be obtained by logging onto Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

Ernie Maguire

March Greeter



Alex Tunner



On March 4, forty of our Club members were given a tour of the new Vancouver Convention Centre. The tour was lead by the Project Manager, David Walker.

Built over land and water on some 1,000 piles, the expansion will be completed in Spring 2009. In 2010, the VCEC will be home to the 2010 Olympic Games media and broadcast centres. In order to ensure that the expansion and the existing convention center facility are fully integrated, a glass-walled connector walkway will link the facilities, providing delegates with exceptional harbour views as well as a seamless transition. Featuring floor-to-ceiling glass throughout the expansion, the project will also include a six-acre living roof, one of the largest of its kind in the world. This unique ecosystem is one of many environmental innovations included in the expansion.

The 335,000 square feet of new convention facility space will be added to the existing 133,000 square feet, for a combined total of 468,000 square feet of meeting, exhibition, ballroom and plenary theatre space. The overall facility will have a gross area of 1.1 million square feet, including meeting space, support space, parking, and areas for retail activity and loading.

For photos of the Centre, see our website 'photogallery': <http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/>

For more information, see the project website: <http://www.vccep.bc.ca/theproject/overview.html>





President's Report

Esio Marzotto

The March meeting was another extremely interesting and enjoyable presentation by a passionate professor and scientist. Clearly, Dr. Jaymie Matthews loves his work and he was most generous in sharing it with our very appreciative audience.

New member, Linda Metcalfe, was introduced and presented with her Probosc pin during the March meeting. Linda is now an official support member of the Special Events Committee. For several months she has been actively engaged in managing the Club membership database, e-mail distribution of Shorelines, and management and hosting of our Club website. The Management Committee was unanimous in the decision to extend an invitation to Linda to become a member.

Next month, our speaker will be Bob Boase. He will have an interesting story to tell about Afghanistan from the perspective of his experience working, as they say, on the ground, with the local government.

A reminder that the April meeting will be the 1st Monday, April 6, due to the Easter weekend conflict with our usual 2nd Monday.

Esio Marzotto

Planning for Special Events –

With the Conference Centre tour behind us, we are looking at a number of options moving forward.

Two tours in the planning stage and promising to be of great interest are:

1. The GVRD watershed on the North Shore, and
2. The new BCIT School of Aviation at YVR.

For the summer, we are looking to another successful Bard on the Beach event.

We will send a notice out shortly to determine the level of interest for this year.

Malcolm Metcalfe



MEETINGS

Second Monday of each month, except when changed to avoid conflict with Special Holidays falling on that day; in addition, our Christmas Luncheon replaces the December meeting.

Coffee and fellowship: 9:00 am to 9:45 am
Club business and speaker: 9:45 am to 11:30 am

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

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