

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

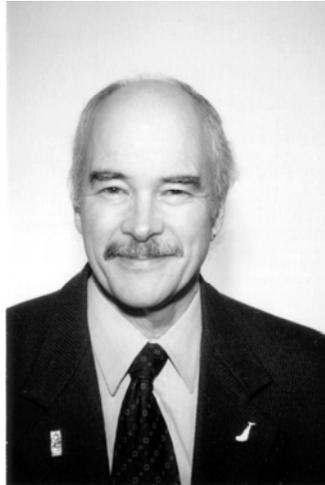
Committee Chairs

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 April 19, 2005
Dr. John Nightingale
President
Vancouver Aquarium**

Dr. Nightingale has a broad professional background in aquatic sciences specialising in their use for public education and conservation. His experience ranges from curating living animal collections to developing strategic and physical plans for both new and existing aquarium institutions. He has managed all aspects of aquarium development and operation.

A professional biologist and bio-engineer, Dr. Nightingale has been responsible for the development and operation of some of the best Aquarium life support and animal care systems in operation. His background and lifelong work in public communication, and both formal and informal public education, make him a leader in the current rapid development of new educational efforts in aquariums, zoos and museums. During his twelve years at the Vancouver Aquarium, he has guided the expansion of the Aquarium's leadership in conservation and research while focusing operations on further developing its financially self-supporting status. Dr. Nightingale has helped lead and manage the development of new institutions such as the Oregon Coast Aquarium, the Maui Ocean Center and Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay, as well as existing ones such as the New York Aquarium and the Seattle Aquarium.

**Upcoming Speaker
Tuesday, May 17th
Gordon Huston
President Vancouver Port Authority**



Our March Speaker

Pat Jacobson, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority was introduced by John Leonard and thanked by President Stu McNeill (pictured).

Ms. Jacobson began by telling us that there is a phrase often heard in central Canada to promote the automobile industry: “buy the cars your neighbors build”. Its detractors counter with, “build the cars we want to buy.” In terms of transportation, it may be appropriate to ask: “why don’t we have a transit system we want to invest in?” A public opinion poll indicated that 69% of GVRD residents support transportation improvements outlined in the Translink plan using the funding sources it outlines.

Currently, about midway in a 10 year plan to invest \$3.9 billion, Translink will look very different in the next five years. There will be two new RAV lines connecting downtown Vancouver with Coquitlam and the Airport; bus service increased by one third; a third Seabus; new ferry service connecting Bowen Island, Ambleside and the Vancouver waterfront; new bridges and an expanded road network including Dollarton Bridge twinning and Main street widening in North Vancouver.

All post-secondary students will use youth transit passes and ridership to SFU and UBC will increase by 40%. Marketing will be more focused and customized to promote businesses and employment along transit lines.

The Transportation Authority, by legislation,

must be fully funded. Transit fares account for 40%, governments provide 40% and 20% comes from property, parking and other taxes. The property and commercial parking taxes are very controversial but, understandable when one considers the increased value an effective transit system brings to a region. There will be a \$50 to \$100 annual increase in property taxes.

In the next 5 years there will be 60,000 more automobiles in the GVRD. Translink ridership has increased to 13%, the highest of any Canadian city. It is expected to continue to increase.

Ms. Jacobson responded to a number of questions. Concerning governance, she said, by legislation the public must be consulted. Seven focus groups have provided input along with 97 meetings held in the affected communities. As a result the plan has been rebalanced. The Translink Board is composed of 12 of the 22 area mayors who serve a one year term. They effectively represent their constituencies.

She was asked if consideration had been given to improving the collecting of fares. She responded that the cost of equipment would exceed \$90 million and the added staff costs make the viability questionable.

Tour of The TRIUMF Science & Technology Centre March 23

Thirty Probus members visited Canada's National Subatomic Research Laboratory at UBC. The tour was conducted by TRIUMF staff Marcello Pavan and Lothor Pavan. Its an amazing place, ask anyone who attended. The Cyclotron is used to study tiny particles by shooting "bullets" at targets made of the substance of interest. By observing the collisions, information is obtained about the properties of the target atoms.





Fraser Grant

Fraser Grant was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1938 and grew up in small towns moving frequently with his banking family. After graduating in 1960 as a member of the first Mechanical Engineering Class of the University of Alberta, he joined the Steel Company of Canada in Hamilton, Ontario where he met his wife Sheilah. They have four children and seven grandchildren spread across the country.

Fraser's interest in corporate finance overshadowed Engineering, so he joined the Federal Business Development Bank in Sudbury, Ontario. From there he joined a new corporate term lending operation, Roynat Ltd. In Winnipeg, becoming the BC Regional Manager in Vancouver in 1967. After a four year stint heading First City Capital in the mid 70's, he returned to Edmonton with the newly formed Canadian Commercial Bank in 1977 as their merchant banker. When the bank blew up in the wake of the National Energy Program, Fraser Returned to Vancouver with Canaccord Capital where he was VP Corporate Finance until his retirement in 2002.

He has traveled extensively throughout the world and stays active with Board involvements in an oil and gas exploration company currently drilling in the North Sea, and a new campground development proposed for Whistler. "I'm a high-handicap golfer but, I enjoy getting out and, I recommend the Probus Bridge Group as a fun group of guys who play a mean hand.

President's Report

Another month end is rapidly approaching and I am pleased to report that our Club is in very good shape. We have an excellent membership, with a small waiting list. As Glen Ferguson stated at the last meeting in his financial report, "Finances are Good."

We are looking forward to an interesting Spring and Summer season. Malcolm Nicholson has arranged two special events: a May 26 tour of the Domaine de Chaberton Estate Winery in Langley and, an August 10 Bard on the Beach - Shakespeare Festival presentation. Be sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

We have enjoyed many interesting speakers with a wide variety of topics for the past 18 months including, finance, international affairs, sports, transportation, fishing and legal matters. So, now it is time for a few lighter topics and perhaps a little culture. We still have a wide variety of topics for the future and Brian Cooper is doing a fine job of finding them.

One of our members enquired about bringing the same guest to more than one meeting. There is nothing in our bylaws that indicates this can't be done as long as the attendance fee is paid at the door. I was very pleased that Art was able to bring back the muffins.

I would like to welcome all of our new members. While we do not take attendance, their absence was noted at the last meeting.

Stu McNeill

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