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Next Meeting
Tuesday September 18, 2007

MAURICE McELREA
President
Union Gospel Mission

As an Irish immigrant, Maurice McElrea landed in Alberta and shortly after, arrived in Vancouver via a freight train. Hungry, cold and with very little pocket change, Maurice ended up in a soup line at Union Gospel Mission. Following 18 years in the lumber and paper industry, Maurice took over leadership from the same leader who served him the hearty bowl of soup so many years before in the same Mission that helped him in his hour of need.

Today the Mission has eleven facilities providing a continuum of care and services – a warm, nutritious meal, safe and secure bed in an overnight shelter; participation in a successful Alcohol & Drug Recovery Program; enrolment in Grade Twelve Equivalency Diploma (GED) or Computer Skills education programs; Job Readiness & Employment Skills Programs; Children's Programs, or permanent housing in UGM's abstinence-based Housing Project.

While actively involved in the community that is close to his heart, Maurice continues to contribute in his local church; is a former board member of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions; a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow; a Member of the Advisory Board for BC Christian Newspaper; Past Board President of Downtown Eastside Economic Development Society; former executive member of Vancouver Urban Core Workers Association; and served on the Board of Surrey Opportunities Services and Coquitlam Job Centre.

Next Month – Tuesday October 16

STEVE DAVIS

Independent Power Producers

LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER



Bob Stewart introduced Paul Gravett

Mr. Paul Gravett was introduced by member Bob Stewart, Past President, Board of Directors of the Kay Meek Centre Trust.

Mr. Gravett gave us a very complete and concise background history and the first year of operation under his direction of the West Vancouver Kay Meek Centre. Some of the following is from the Centre's website, <http://www.kaymeekcentre.com>.

In 1998, a trust was established, funded by Kay Meek, with an initial donation of \$1 million to search for a possible location. Things began to move ahead in 2000 when the West Vancouver School District proposed that the new arts centre be built beside West Vancouver Secondary School. In 2002, a Joint Use Agreement was signed between the West Vancouver School District and the West Vancouver Arts Centre Trust, which oversees the Centre's operations. In May 2005, Kay Meek Centre held its official grand opening. Highlighted by two sold-out evening performances, the grand opening inaugurated the stage at a community celebration with performances by local and international artists.

The facility houses two state-of-the-art theatres, which feature substantial staging and loading areas, lobby spaces as well as their own dedicated dressing rooms so both theatre can be used simultaneously. The 500-seat Main Stage theatre features a spacious seating plan, superb acoustics, and advanced multi-media capabilities that enable it to function as a movie theatre or a recording/broadcast studio as well as its main function as a performing arts stage and presentation space.

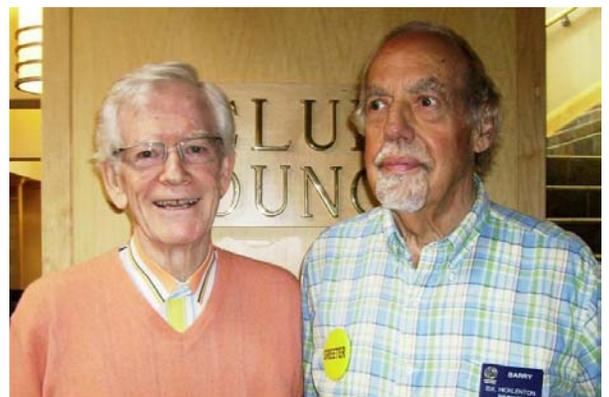
The smaller, more intimate Studio theatre holds up to 200 people in a variety of flexible seating and stage configurations perfect for community groups, recitals and small dance ensembles.

Paul began his tenure at the Centre with the development of a vision and goals. Research was undertaken to develop an external profile with a view to providing a community cultural service at competitive rates. He learned that the community is composed of primarily retired high income people and few homes with children. He discovered that WV residents wanted more options that stimulate and cultivate broad community interests.

These interests include: music, drama and films (Canadian documentaries and non-commercial films). To meet these objectives partnerships have been formed with the Arts Club, Early Music Vancouver, Ballet BC, Vancouver International Film Festival, Capilano College and the Children's Festival to name a few.

The Trust is a not for profit society and funding is a continuing challenge. Sponsors, subscriptions and rentals are the mainstay. Support by individuals is a continuing need. The Centre is operating at 80% capacity and, clearly is meeting the cultural needs of the community.

EM



Harold Waddell and Barry Hicklenson were the August Greeters

MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES



Rod Coote



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday September 18, 2007

Election of Officers
Committee Reports
Financial Statement

Special Events

Gala Christmas Lunch Dec. 18

Mark your Calendar
Details and application to follow shortly.

Vienna Boys Choir

Tuesday 26 February 2008 – 8.00 pm
Kay Meek Centre

Only a Few Seats Left

For more than five centuries the sensational Vienna Boys Choir has enchanted millions with their charm and exceptionally beautiful singing.

Today they carry on the rich traditions of Vienna's musical life as a living heritage that traces its roots to such figures as Mozart, Haydn and Schubert. Their skill, talent and overwhelming artistry are legendary and not to be missed.

We have been fortunate to secure a block of seats for this exciting performance and if you would like to be part of musical history you should request reservations without delay by e-mail to: probusevents@shaw.ca"

Rod grew up in West Vancouver and, after graduating from West Van High, attended UBC and receiving an Electrical Engineering degree in 1966. His first job was with Ontario Hydro, based in Toronto. One early project he was assigned to was the development of software for maintaining the complex wiring lists for the Pickering nuclear power station.

In 1972 Rod moved to Vancouver and began working for BC Hydro. One of his major projects was to develop simulation software to maximize power transfers between B.C. and the United States. In 2003 he joined BCTC, when it was formed from the transmission branch of BC Hydro. His responsibility was to manage IT projects until retiring from BCTC in July 2006.

While in Toronto, Rod joined a ski club, aptly named the Voyagers, as we travelled by bus to the major ski areas in Ontario, Quebec, and New England on winter weekends. I became a member of the executive and also taught skiing in the club.

Rod is a life master in the American Contract Bridge League and plays competitive bridge at local clubs and tournaments. Recently he has taken up mountain biking and enjoys the local trails on the North Shore. Other interests include astronomy, genealogy, ballroom dancing, and travelling.

Rod and his wife, Mary, live in North Vancouver. They have one daughter who will be entering second year engineering at UBC in the fall.



President's Report

Gentlemen:

And another year slips by. How quickly time passes.

This has been the fourth year of the Probud Club of the North Shore Vancouver and we are now at a membership of 305, one of the largest Probud Clubs in Canada.

I am sure that much of this growth is due to the good reports our members convey to our community but at the same time I know, you know, that a successful Club like ours just does not happen. Since our beginning four years ago, we have had an outstanding group on our Management Committees and last year was no exception. Over the past 12 months there were 10 of us and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and personally thank them for their considerable contributions and the time they gave to keep our Club running smoothly. (I won't list them all here but rest assured they were all equally important to the continuing success of your Club. They are identified in our Shorelines publication. I'm sure they would appreciate your personal thanks.)

There were also the "Greeters" who added some sunshine to our "3rd Tues. meetings and made the "walking up of all the stairs" -- worth it all!!

I would also like to thank the Hollyburn Country Club for the use of their facilities and for the support of their very accommodating staff.

In the end, however, it is you our members who keep this Club vital and your attendance at our monthly meetings is key to the continuing success of the Club. I would urge you to continue keeping your Management Committee advised of what your priorities are and what you want or would like to get from this Club. I am sure they will respond.

A final comment: It seems to me that one of the important characteristics of our Club is its comfortable, friendly, and relatively unstructured style. I don't think we want to lose that attribute.

My best wishes to the incoming Management Committee!

Brian Cooper

MEETINGS

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

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