



**Newsletter # 186**

**January 2010**

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Meetings are held at the Bayside Inn and normally on the third Monday of the Month at 9:00 am.  
This month's meeting will be held on *January 18th*.

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**Speaker's Corner**

***"Canada and the Winter Olympics, Eh? A Question With Many Answers."***  
*Dr. Gerry Redmond*

*As the Olympics are now just a few weeks away, at our first meeting of the New Year on January 18, we will welcome Dr. Gerry Redmond who will provide us with a historical perspective of the Olympics. It is hardly surprising, for a country whose climate has been described as "ten months of Winter and two months of hard sledding", that Canada has participated enthusiastically in every Winter Olympic Games since their inception in 1924. As a second-time host in 2010, the preparations surrounding Vancouver have followed a predictable path, reflecting both the advantages and disadvantages, and the optimism and pessimism, of hosting this international multi-sport festival in our financially fragile and politically uncertain world. A sports fan, historian, author of a History of the Winter Olympic Games ... and a B.C. taxpayer ... Dr. Redmond shares his mixed feelings on what might be termed a mixed blessing for all of us. Dr. Redmond is the author of several books on the Olympics and is an internationally renowned expert on sport. Gerry has prepared a short Probud Fun Quiz and at the end of his talk he will designate "table teams": so be sure to sit with those who excel at trivia and perhaps being a retired jock wouldn't hurt your chances of winning "a medal"!!*

*At the February 15th meeting we will have a talk from a Para-Olympic athlete, Tony Theriault and then of course Judy Woods is organizing a club visit to Greece in the late Spring. Enjoy our Olympic theme!*

*Don't forget if you have an idea for a particular topic or a speaker in the New Year, please contact me.*

*John Gunton*

## Presidents Message

**Happy New Year** to all Parksville PROBUS Club members and your families! Our first monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, and I hope you will be able to come out and bring a friend! As you will recall from your business or professional days, you had to take an active role and participate if your team were to be successful. So it is in PROBUS. The nebulous “they” won’t be doing all the organizing, bringing new members, or presenting exciting opportunities for outings without your participation. If everyone takes on at least one activity – bringing new members / helping run an event like the barbecue / filling in when someone is unable to carry out a role – we’ll have a great club with lots of good times and friends.

Three pieces of mail came to our PO box recently. The first is an early notice of the PROBUS Clubs of B.C. Conference which is scheduled for May 18th and 19th right here in Parksville. The Northwest Bay PROBUS Club is hosting this two-day conference. More information is promised in the coming month, so stay tuned!

Secondly, for anyone who might have wondered about the ‘greater structure’ of PROBUS clubs in Canada – our overseeing body is PROBUS Centre-Canada, Inc., which is composed of 12 directors from regions across Canada. Directors must be Past Presidents of a local PROBUS Club, currently a member of a local PROBUS club, and nominated by a local Club. Directors serve for a 3-year term, and may stand for a second 3-year term. If more than one individual is nominated for a vacancy in a region, all the Clubs in that region may vote for the director of their choice. Keith Train of Lantzville, B.C., appears to be the Director for our area, and he has two years left in his term. So if you have aspirations of becoming a Director of PROBUS Canada, volunteer to be Vice-President of our club this coming fall, then serve as President the following year, and after that – run for Regional Director when a vacancy arises!

The third item was a brief letter accompanying 5 copies of the Centennial of Flight edition of Canada’s Air Force – a fine looking magazine which commemorates 100 years of powered flight in Canada and describes the history of Canada’s military aviation. I’m open to suggestions on how we should distribute these five high quality magazines – general door prizes at monthly meetings, or do we have some Canadian Air Force veterans in the club? If there are more than five, we would have to hold a draw? Please give me your suggestions. And speaking of a draw, we had planned to hold a draw at the Christmas luncheon for the book “Voices from the Sound” donated by Margaret Horsfield, but the draw was deferred to a monthly meeting, with the entire paid-up membership eligible! (Was that a subtle hint to those who have not paid their 2010 dues to pay up?!)

Again, best wishes for 2010!

*Andy Pickard*

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### 2010 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	- Andy Pickard	752-3364	Historian	- Nita Looijen	248-8614
Vice President	- John Gunton	468-1553	Sunshine	- Alice Westaway	752-3701
Past President	- Hugh Carter	752-4664	Secretary	- Jean Cotter	752-9519
Comm/Publicity	- Bob Urquhart	468-7861			
Treasurer	- Russ Morison	248-3074	Newsletter	- Mike Bluett	951-0618
Speakers	- John Gunton	468-1553	Singles Club	- Jim Thompson	752-8462
Membership	- David Sheppard	752-3625	Greeters	- Peter Redford & Alice Westaway	
Activities	- Judy Wood (752-6809),	Brenda Moore,	Jim Thompson		
Members at Large	- Brenda Moore (752-5931),	Jim Thompson			

## **MESSAGE FROM YOUR PAST PRESIDENT**

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served as President for the past year, and I would like to thank all members of the Management Committee and many others for help, comments and advice. For 2010 the new leadership of Andy Pickard, John Gunton and the members of the Management Committee augurs well for the continuing success of our Club.

All members will heave a sigh of relief to escape from my monthly limericks. However, Oscar Wilde said "I can resist everything but temptation." Me, too, so I'm yielding to temptation to broadcast one last limerick:

**The limerick is furtive and mean  
You must keep her in close quarantine,  
Or she skips to the slums  
And quickly becomes  
Disorderly, drunk, and obscene.**

A bountiful and Happy New Year to all !

*Hugh Carter*

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## **MEMBERSHIP – 2010**

There are 13 still unpaid for 2010. Please pay by next meeting or mail to me at 1215 Midiron Close, Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1C6.

Happy New Year !!!

*Barry McGill*

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## **CURRENT EVENTS**

### **ROCKING HORSE PUB - Wednesday, January 13 , 12 noon**

Deadline January 11 noon - please e-mail Judy ([judy.wood@shaw.ca](mailto:judy.wood@shaw.ca)) by then if you intend to come. No pre-payment required.

### **BAILEY'S STUDIO - Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2pm \$15**

The Nanaimo Theatre Group are presenting the musical GODSPELL. "This joyous and uplifting musical presents a whimsical view of the gospel story of Jesus. Jesus greets the people of the city who join with Him to re-enact His parables and teachings in memorable song and dance."

The theatre is located at 2373 Rosstown Road (off Bowen Rd). Turn North onto Whitney Road, right onto Rosstown Road.

LUNCH - We will be having lunch at 11:45am at the Black Bear Pub, (468-1735), 6201 Doumont Road. Left on Aulds Road, right on Metral Drive, left to stay on Metral, right at Doumont (It overlooks Brannen Lake).

DEADLINE - The January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. However if you would like to drop off your cheque prior please do so (I have received some). It is payable to the Parksville Probus Club. I live at 1091 Eaglecrest Drive

(mail slot beside the front door), phone 752-6809 Since there are only two matinee performances there is a possibility Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> may sell out. If you cannot meet that deadline you can call the theatre directly at 758-7224 after that to see if tickets remain.

I will assume that if you pay for the theatre you are coming to lunch also.

## **TRIP to GREECE** - April

Several people have indicated an interest in this trip but were awaiting details (which are now available) prior to committing. Alice Westaway and I are planning to do this trip (regardless of numbers) and would welcome anyone else who wishes to join us. There is no minimum number. Space on the tour and cruise ship will dwindle with time.

This trip will start in Athens April 21<sup>st</sup> and includes the following:



- 3 nights in Athens (arrival, departure & transition night).
- one Athens city tour.
- a 4 day - Classical Tour - this tour will take you to many of the important archaeological sites of ancient Greece - ancient Corinth, Mycenae, Epidauros, Olympia, Delphi, Meteora and Thermopylae. Included is all sightseeing, entrance fees, transportation, accommodation in 4 star hotels, breakfast and dinner.
- a 5 day cruise - to Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete and Santorini. Outside cabin with porthole (other possibilities available but some sold out).

For those interested in this package I can e-mail a more detailed itinerary.

I am hoping to have a stay on Crete and/or Rhodes at the end of the above package. Please inquire if you are also interested.

PRICE - \$2035 CAD each (based on two people sharing). Single supplement pricing available on request. Several of the people who have expressed an interest are "singles" so it may be possible to pair you up with someone to avoid the single supplement.

DEPOSIT - \$250 - due 2 days after booking. Final payment is due 45 days prior to departure.

DEADLINE - January 19<sup>th</sup> (for Probus members exclusively). After this date the trip will be open to others but Probus members can still book if space remains.

AIRFARE - from Vancouver to Athens is estimated to be about \$1390 (Since airfares change continuously it is impossible to get a firm price until a person is ready to book). An en-route stopover can be arranged if desired, or a person can use their own points.

INSURANCE - cancellation insurance should be considered with deposit. Rates available with birth date.

I will be in California January 27-Feb 6 but will be accessing e-mail there.

*Judy Wood*