

# UPLANDS PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9 No. 7

September 2010

## MEETINGS

Fourth Wednesday  
of each month,  
10 -11:30 a.m.,  
Royal Victoria  
Yacht Club

## Management Committee

### President

Faith Gildenhuis, 598-5803

### Vice President

Sandy Peel, 658-5171

### Past President

Fred Mallett, 370-7741

### Secretary

Jim Dodgson, 592-0264

### Treasurer

Paul Tuckwell, 655-5222

### Counsel

Peter Maddaugh, 294-5336

## Committee Chairs

### Communications

Diana Black, 595-5646

### House

Peter Gooch, 727-6195

### Membership

Ian & Janice Cowan,  
370-9762

### Speakers

Laura Gage, 472-2838

### Special Events

Maury Van Vliet, 592-3020

### Special Interest Groups

Jinnie Bradshaw, 294-4172

### Auditor

Lee Lindsay, 381-2116

## September 22<sup>nd</sup> Speaker

Dennis Madden

*Founding President, Uplands Probus Club*

## “Cuba: the Good, the Bad, the Horrible. What’s Next?”

Dennis Madden has an extensive knowledge of Cuba, gained through personal interest and professional experience. His presentation will examine both the successes and failures of the Castro regime and what the future portends: its possible future transition to a market economy, a democratic political system and a return to the international trade, finance and development agencies.

## Upcoming events

The Special Events Committee has some treats in store for you right through to the Christmas Party at the Union Club in December. Here is what the line-up looks like:

**September 10-** a fun tour of the **Starling Lane Winery** and historic buildings followed by lunch at **The Fireside Grill, 4509 W. Saanich Road.** *Still room for you wine lovers!*

**Friday, Oct.1** - Tour of the **William Head Penitentiary.** Come and see what it’s like from the INSIDE! Meet **11.45.a.m. at My-Chosen Cafe, 4492 Happy Valley Rd.** Tour follows at 1.30 p.m. Cost: \$10.00 per person. *Lots of room for all who are interested!* **Contact for these two events: Jay Bradshaw** [jwbradshaw@shaw.ca](mailto:jwbradshaw@shaw.ca)

**November 2-** Tour of the **Camosun College Culinary Program** followed by a sumptuous lunch prepared by the students. This will be a delightful culinary experience! *Seating Limited.* Cost: \$20.00 per person. **Contact: Ruth Neroutsos** [prnero@telus.net](mailto:prnero@telus.net)

**Downtown Dinner Group:** Hello fellow diners. If you wish to ADD or DELETE your name from the Downtown Dinner Group, please contact **Lee Lindsay** [leafy@shaw.ca](mailto:leafy@shaw.ca) or **Pam Gooch** [pgooch@shaw.ca](mailto:pgooch@shaw.ca) See you at our next dinner in **October.**

*“They who participate  
get all the fun!”*

*What was said on June 23, 2010:*

## **David Shefsiek, Executive Director of Pacific Opera Victoria**

*Report by Robb Welter*

Richard Wagner visualized Opera as a union of arts, poetry, drama, music, and staging.

Opera took root in Rome in the early part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but quickly spread thru Western Europe, Russia and other countries. At first, great German and Austrian composers like Handel and Mozart wrote operas in Italian because opera was considered an Italian art form. Eventually composers wrote opera in their own languages. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, musical giants like Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner were writing operas of tremendous length with music and stories demanding huge, expensive productions, mature singers with big voices, large choruses, large orchestras and complicated scenery and costumes. Opera was brought to the USA in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries with the Metropolitan Opera House being the most famous. Most of today's popular operas were written in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century by Mozart, Puccini, Verdi and Wagner. These operas represented popular music in their times, thus securing their staying power. Modern composers have written operas in English, but they have proven not to be as popular. Recent new works of note include *Dead Man Walking* (2000) in the US, and *Filumena* (2003) in Canada. To compete in today's multi-media environment artists have to be attractive besides having a voice. Anna Netrebko, Teddy Tahu Rhodes, Jonas Kaufmann, and Elina Saranca live up to this requirement.

The venue of Pacific Opera Victoria is the 1400 seat Royal Theater, a theater with grace and elegance but a rather small orchestra pit and stage. Neither of the latter is a serious impediment as the pit will hold the available musicians and the stage size allows for greater programming creativity by requiring POV to build their own sets. To this extent POV maintains its own scene and costume shop in a 10,000 sq ft facility in downtown Victoria. POV employs no specialists but rather refers to itself as a team of generalists that need to talk to one another. It does not hire understudies. The 2010/2011 season will present four productions that promise to explore romance in all its guises, *Cinderella* (Rossini),

*Rodelinda* (Handel), *La Boheme* (Puccini) and *Vanessa* (Barber). Founded in 1980, POV today enjoys the highest attendance in Canada at 7.33% of the CRD compared to runner-up Vancouver at 2.48%.

David Shefsiek joined VOP as Executive Director in 2007, bringing 20 years of experience as an arts administrator. David held previous positions with Vancouver Opera, Pittsburg Opera and the Big Apple Circus.

## **BOOK CLUB REVIEW**

### **Dreams from My Father**

by Barack Obama

*Reviewed by Anne Wood*

The Uplands Probus Book Group met at the home of **Laura and Tony Gage** to discuss Barack Obama's *Dreams from My Father*. The memoir gives insight into the origins of Obama's "Aloha Spirit", his upbringing in Indonesia and Hawaii, his university education in Los Angeles and New York, and his search for his multi-racial identity, especially in Kenya where he met his father's extended family.

In 1985 Obama moved to Chicago where he worked as a community organizer. He began to realize that change would come about by mobilizing the grass roots and by cultivating leaders who could listen to the stories of disadvantaged people, utilize the values of church people and inspire people in the community to become activists. Together they were able to organize street corner groups, support the formation of parents' groups, improve community housing and establish a skills' training centre. Above all, an *Audacity of Hope* (Obama's subsequent book) was established by which these disadvantaged people could reclaim their memories, re-build their cultural community and believe in the possibility of improving their lives. Obama learned to listen, to mediate

*Continued on page 3*

## Discussion Group wrap-up

Another Discussion Group year has drawn to a close. Topics ranging from Canada's Foreign Aid Programme; the Monarchy in Canada, to Canada's Parole system, made for lively and informative discussions, especially as in several cases we were able to draw on a knowledgeable Probus member as our resource person.

The year ended with a spirited discussion on Arctic Sovereignty, led by **Art Wright** (and who were those people who wanted to "sell the Arctic to ease Canada's cost burden?!!") This was followed by a tasty barbecue, generously hosted as always by **Brian and Judy MacDonald**, this time at their new home. Thanks to Brian, also, for leading the Discussion Group throughout the year.



**Monarchy debate adversaries  
Diana Black and Barry Thomas.**

## La Cucina ends a great season

*Report by John Ronald*

The now traditional season-ending dinner at the Deep Cove Chalet occurred on Wednesday June 16 for La Cucina Peninsula Restaurant group. What a success it was! Pierre and Bev Koffel have a masterly touch in making any meal at the Chalet a great experience. As **Helen Parker** exclaimed "This is truly a magical place."

Twenty-four enthusiastic diners enjoyed the customary champagne start to the evening (though it was a bit cool for consumption in the garden) and then moved into small group tables for the exceptional meal.

We all started with Lovage and Parsley Bouillon (startlingly good) and a delicious Filet of Halibut. Morels en Croute Spring Salad followed. Then we were offered the tantalizing option of five entrees – Filet of Beef, Rack of Lamb, Cheese Soufflé, Filet of Salmon and Breast of Duck. How's that for a difficult choice? The reports on each of them were simply excellent. The noise level within the group rose with each course.

The meal was enlivened with two white wines and one red. The whites were a French Chanson Montagny 1er 2004 and an Australian Watershed Chardonnay 2006. The red was a fine French Chateau Beaumont 2006. And, then, we all revelled in Strawberries & Sabayon, a delightful and delicious conclusion to another memorable Deep Cove Chalet experience.

Throughout the dinner, the service was relaxed and unobtrusive but always attentive – another of the Chalet's great talents.

Several of the wives were seen behind the wheel for the drive home!

## Obama Book Review

*continued from page 2*

between disparate interest groups, to believe in himself, and to choose his life's goals.

We concluded our discussion by acknowledging Obama's wonderful writing style, conveying a sense of candidness and authenticity, but we recognized that the book's world-wide success also rested on his subsequent political nomination as Illinois Democratic Senator in 2004 and as President of the United States in 2009.



**Rick Lee and Ken Perry**

## **Probus Investment Group (PIGS)**

*Wrap-up by Rick Lee*

Our year on the roller-coaster came to an end with our usual luncheon which included spouses of our members. The best team “The Sages,” managed a 7% gain from September 2009 to June 2010 under the leadership of **Ken Perry**. **Dion Gildenhuys’** team gained only 1.2%! The trophy is kept by the winning team for a year.

**Jacqueline Bullis** chose the best stock for the year, up 99%, for which she received the “Flying Pig” award. **Faith Gildenhuys** was our Special Interest Group Coordinator 2010. Scorekeepers were **Don Brown** and **Fraser Lindsay**.

The Group meets every **third Tuesday from September to June at the Uplands Golf Club**, followed by lunch. Thank you to all who participated this year and we welcome new members for the coming year.



**Jacquie & Clay Bullis with Robb Welter**

### **A Probus Summer**

*It appears that our members have had a very busy summer – volunteering, travelling, singing and for several people – house-moving! I could not pass up an opportunity to include this very “moving” story from our President (knowing that many of us will identify with this frustrating tale!) – “Indeed, I am up to my armpits in boxes but nothing much can happen to them. We cannot occupy the master bedroom area because that has backed-up furniture (I share office space with a king-sized bed!) and boxes. The dining room has wardrobe boxes with all our clothes in them. The kitchen is okay and so is the guest bedroom where we are staying. The living room is marginally habitable. I hadn’t realized how far from complete the renovations were. Elevator arrives in Victoria on June 11.” (How’s that for optimism – it didn’t arrive until **very much later!! Ed**)*



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**Summer Photographs...**

- 1. Walking Group**
- 2. Faith, Maury & Sandy**
- 3. The MacDonalds at their new home.**
- 4. Uplands Probus Singers-summer barbecue.**
- 5. Tom Kane - sailor's serenade.**

Thank you to those members who sent in these photographs. Enjoy!

*Please...all of our Special Interest Groups - do send in your photographs, for inclusion in our Newsletter. Now we are on line, quality will be much improved, and it's a great opportunity to share interests with all of our members.*

## **A brief history of William Head - by Tony Sheridan**

For many centuries the area was a fishing camp for the local aboriginal people. Three middens remain. The first Europeans to visit were the Royal Navy in the early 1800s who named the promontory William Head after the famous Arctic explorer Sir William Parry. The mooring rings for their ships can still be seen on the rocks.

In 1854, Robert Weir purchased William Head from the Hudson's Bay Company for \$569.18. By 1862 he farmed 800 sheep, 200 beef cattle and a dairy herd. As Victoria prohibited prize fighting, Vancouver Island's first fight was held on Mr. Weir's farm with contestants and spectators transported to the site by sea.

The Federal Government took over the property in 1871 for a Quarantine Station where ships reported before entering harbour. When a ship arrived with infectious diseases on board the ship was quarantined and the peninsula isolated. During and immediately after WW I, over 80,000 Chinese passed through William Head. On one occasion 3,700 Chinese passengers were quarantined from one ship due to smallpox. In 1919 the population of William Head exceeded 8,000 living in tents. The poor conditions led to a riot and mass escape. While many were recaptured, some managed to hide out in Victoria and became citizens. Those who died while in quarantine are buried in a small cemetery. In 1928-29 a record 1,068 ships were inspected at the Quarantine station. The remains of the wharfs can be seen on the south side of the head.

During WW II, in addition to its quarantine responsibilities, William Head became the training centre for the Fisherman's Reserve, who patrolled the BC coast, and a Searchlight base for the artillery.

At the end of the war, The Queen Elizabeth I, which had been a troop ship during the war, was refitted in Esquimalt. 17,000 pieces of her furniture were de-fumigated at the station.

The Quarantine station was closed in 1959 and William Head became Canada's first open penitentiary. The emphasis was on work and community involvement. Inmates were trained to fight forest fires, worked on tree spacing and built houses on the Beecher Bay Indian Reserve.

1970 saw the first violence at the prison. Inmates who had been drinking illicit brew took a guard hostage. Two staff members were injured and the perpetrators sentenced to additional time.

In 1973 an escapee assaulted a local resident and the community pressed to have the prison closed. A higher fence was built across the peninsula to curb walk-ways and the prison was reclassified to medium security in 1974 with a population increased to 240. The Living Unit program was introduced with an emphasis on education and vocational training. While escapes continued, they were rare. Most escapees were apprehended quickly.

In 1992, townhouse complexes replaced the inmate dormitory to give inmates more responsibility for managing their day to day lives and assist them to prepare for a release.

Due to changing needs, William Head was reclassified to minimum security in 2002 and the population reduced to 120. Correctional programming was modified to focus on relapse prevention, community involvement and preparation for release.

## **Walking tour with Danda Humphreys brings past alive**

**Pioneer Pathways, June 11, 2010**

*Report by Jill Gibson*

Victoria's streets were bustling in celebration of the Canadian Navy's 100 year history when Danda Humphreys led a group of Probus members on a walking tour through the old part of the city, exploring the alleyways and bringing to life the characters who created them and the early settlers who lived there.

Meeting in Bastion Square, site of the old Courthouse and paved over burial ground of those unfortunate wrongdoers who were summarily hanged and buried there, Danda explained that Victoria expanded rapidly after 1872 when the old fort was dismantled. Enterprising business men like Waddington, Yates and Trounce seized the opportunity to buy large sections of land and erect buildings on them to house and cater to the many needs of the 30,000 people who flocked into the town at that time. Waddington Alley with its early sound-baffling wooden paving, extra wide Yates Street with a grog shop at its harbour end, Trounce Alley with its double frontage and thereby more expensive buildings, are all testimony to the enterprising men who have left their names on the old town. Our walk took us through Market Square whose hotels and brothels were largely built of old brick brought out on the early ships as ballast. Next came Fan Tan Alley with its shady history of opium and gambling dens, then the LoJo area with its rooming houses, benevolent society buildings, Chinese school and the only Chinese-named street in Victoria.

Along the way, we saw various reminders of historical importance: the original lamp room of Trial Island lighthouse, now preserved in Bastion Square: the fountain from the early roundabout at Hillside and Government streets: the old Fire Alarm bell in Centennial Square.

Our last stop was at Munro's bookstore, a Bank Building lovingly restored by owner, Jim Munro, before we stopped for lunch at Ric's. As we thanked Danda for an engrossing morning, we also felt grateful to those preservationists past and present who have saved so much of our local history for us to appreciate and think about.

## Special Interest Groups Contacts

**Book:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening each month except July and August; Faith Gildenhuys, 598-5803, [fgilden@shaw.ca](mailto:fgilden@shaw.ca)

**Ladies Afternoon Bridge:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 1 p.m. Sept. - May; Helen Lambert, 370-9689, [hmlambert@shaw.ca](mailto:hmlambert@shaw.ca)

**Bridge Evening:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month; Mary Thomas, 370-0130, [barryandmary@hotmail.com](mailto:barryandmary@hotmail.com)

**Discussion:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday morning each month except July and August; Brian MacDonald, 370-9886, [brian.judy@shaw.ca](mailto:brian.judy@shaw.ca)

**Golf:** every Thursday morning May - October; Tony Sheridan, 477-4808, [stepto@shaw.ca](mailto:stepto@shaw.ca) and Ray Dixon, 592-1609, [wr Dixon@shaw.ca](mailto:wr Dixon@shaw.ca)

**Hiking:** the Friday a.m. following Wednesday Probus Meeting; John and Renate Dorken, 382-4877, [jrdorken@telus.net](mailto:jrdorken@telus.net)

**Investment:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday morning September - May; Rick Lee, 592-2296, [RJLee@islandnet.com](mailto:RJLee@islandnet.com)

**La Cucina Peninsula Restaurant:** as organized; Judy MacDonald, 370-9886, [brian.judy@shaw.ca](mailto:brian.judy@shaw.ca) and Lynda Tuckwell, 655-5222, [tuck-well@shaw.ca](mailto:tuck-well@shaw.ca)

**Restaurant Downtown:** as organized; Leafy and Fraser Lindsay, 250-381-2116, [leafy@shaw.ca](mailto:leafy@shaw.ca) and Pam and Peter Gooch, 250-727-6195, [pgooch@shaw.ca](mailto:pgooch@shaw.ca)

**Singing:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday each month September - June, 1:30pm; Bill Baker, 388-9915, [w.m.baker@shaw.ca](mailto:w.m.baker@shaw.ca)

**Travel:** evenings as organized; Dennis Madden, 595-6843, [h.den@shaw.ca](mailto:h.den@shaw.ca)

**Walking:** Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.; Sandy and Marilyn Peel, 658-5171, [marsanpeel@shaw.ca](mailto:marsanpeel@shaw.ca)

**Wine:** evenings, alternate months - dates to be announced; Fred Mallett, 370-7741, [fred@mallett.ca](mailto:fred@mallett.ca)

## NOTICES

### President's Note

### Management Committee Nominees

The **Nominating Committee** which, according to the Bylaws, comprises the current President and two Past Presidents, is beginning its search for nominees for next year's **Management Committee**. Members are encouraged to propose names for the following positions: **Officers** - President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Counsel. **Chairs of 6 Standing Committees:** Membership, Communications, Speakers, Special Events, House, and Special Interest Groups. The Committee also seeks nominations for Auditor. The Nominating Committee will deliver its report at the Annual General Meeting in January.

**Please forward your nominations to Past President, Fred Mallett.**

### Editor's Note

### Membership and Biographical Directories

Finally, we have our new directories! We plan to distribute these at our Meeting on September 22. If you are unable to attend that meeting, please email me at [mossgiel@shaw.ca](mailto:mossgiel@shaw.ca) so we can arrange for you to obtain them. I will also have a few copies on hand for the next several meetings.

*A gentle reminder:* The information in these directories is confidential and for the benefit of our members only. They may not be used for any other purpose. Please check your own information carefully and let me know of any errors or omissions. I know that you will make sure that your old directories are disposed of very carefully – if possible by shredding and recycling. Thank you.

Please continue to provide those interesting Newsletter items to share with our members.



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