



# V — RING 92 — VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

the Charles Howard Ring

April 2014

[www.ibmring92.com](http://www.ibmring92.com)

THE MAGICAL MINUTES NEWSLETTER

Since 1942

April is...

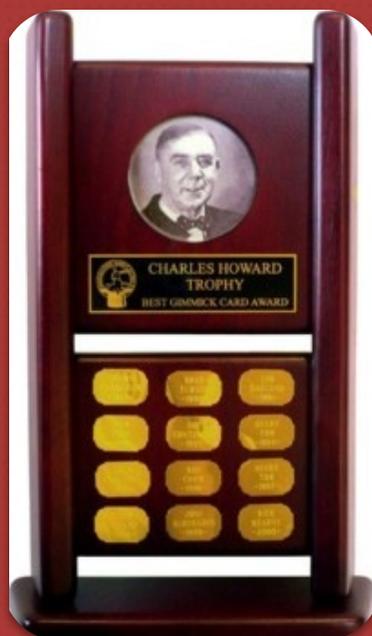
## Gimmicked Card Magic Month!

...did you know that?

Join us for our April meeting on Thursday, April 24th. Doors open at 6:30 PM for a sensational Jam Session, followed by refreshments, the 2014 competition for the Charles Howard Trophy (namesake of our club...I might add), and a super short yet still pretty mind-numbing business meeting!  
Don't miss out on all the fun!



All events take place at our super-secret location...check the website for details.



## The Charles Howard Trophy

This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in magic using gimmicks in a card effect or routine. During the course of the routine or effect, a gimmick must be used (i.e. gimmicked card, gimmicked wallet, gimmicked device, etc.). The spirit of this competition is to encourage growth in the use of gimmicks to enhance magic.

Please contact Henry Tom at [henrytom@shaw.ca](mailto:henrytom@shaw.ca) or Competition Chair Stephen Braybrooke at [secretary@ibmring92.com](mailto:secretary@ibmring92.com), if you would like to compete.  
Registrations must be received 24 hours prior to the competition.

THE VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

PRESENTS

# Chris Randall

LECTURE



Starring: Chris Randall

DOUGLAS COLLEGE

FOR TICKETS  
[www.IBMRING92.COM](http://www.IBMRING92.COM)  
OR CALL 604.464.5323

DOORS OPEN - 6:30P.M.

Friday, May, 9 th.



PayPal

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Vancouver Magic Circle,

I am very honoured to be elected as your President for the 2014 term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members and executive of the Vancouver Magic Circle for electing me to this prestigious position. I have been a proud member of this circle for over 20 years. I am happy to work with your newly elected officers and my new board of directors. I am confident we will serve you well over the next year.

Our roster books and membership cards have arrived! If you have not received them, please see me at our next meeting. Also I have received the lecture notes from Michael Dardant. If you attended the lecture and paid for his notes, please pick them up from me.

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 24th and is "Gimmick Card Night" for the Charles Howard Trophy. The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

6:30 PM	Doors open
7:00 PM	Jam session
8:00 PM	Refreshments - looked after by Dennis Bauyon.
8:30 PM	Gimmick card competition and following that, a brief business meeting.

Anyone wishing to compete, please e-mail Henry Tom at [henrytom@shaw.ca](mailto:henrytom@shaw.ca). Anyone wishing to add anything as new business, please send me an email at [grahamthemagicguy@gmail.com](mailto:grahamthemagicguy@gmail.com).

Steve Brooks, of the Magic Cafe, just lectured here and what a great lecture it was! He told stories about his many exploits with many of the great minds of magic. He showed us some eye-popping tricks. He sold his 10 DVD Magic Bakery Deluxe Set (worth \$350) for only \$100 (along with the many other but great deals). Most importantly, Steve shared a bit of himself with us and showed us a firsthand example of what a commitment to magic means.

Looking forward, we have lots of magic coming at you. The Chris Randall lecture is May 9th. I met Chris when he was here performing in Murray Sawchuck's magic show. I have several of his DVD's (Live At The Castle, Sugar High, Magic At The Bar, Heavens Aces, and The Inception) and this is a lecture you will NOT want to miss!

The reason I joined the executive board of this circle is because I care about it. I care about your interests and your voice. Please feel free to contact me any time and share any suggestions or concerns you may have. If history is any indication, I have proven my ability to achieve results and not just make empty promises. I want to make our own meetings a fun, enjoyable, and of course magical event. I look forward to working together to make this an even stronger and more prestigious Vancouver Magic Circle.

See you all April 24th!

*Graham*

Graham Kita,  
President-Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring #92



# Pics from our March

meeting.



THANK YOU TO JOHN SMITHMAN, OFFICIAL VMC PHOTOGRAPHER, AS WELL AS THE MANY 'FACEBOOK PHOTOGRAPHERS' FOR POSTING YOUR PICS ON THE VMC PAGE!

# “How I Got Started in Magic”

## Meet Tony Chris



**RABBI DON:** How did you first become interested in magic?

**TONY:** When I was a young boy in grade school, actually it was grade one if I remember correctly, our elementary school had an assembly with a magician. I remember that was the very first time I had ever seen a magic show. I grew up in a very small Alberta, prairie town with less than 4000 people so needless to say, we didn't get a lot of cultural offerings in the form of live theatre, music concerts and magic shows.

I was completely spellbound as I didn't even know what a magician or magic for that matter was! My eyes were wide open and I never took them off the magician. He was to me, the most fascinating spectacle I had ever seen. I still remember exactly what he looked like with his 1970's blond hair that was parted down the middle and feathered back. He was the coolest guy I had ever seen and he was quite young. He must have been in his early 20's. I remember almost all his tricks but the two that stuck out the most and I remember quite vividly were his dove act and the vanishing milk pitcher. To this day, I still do milk pitcher routine in all of my kids shows.

It was that day that I knew I wanted to be a part of this magical world. It left me with such an everlasting childhood memory. A few years later, I was thrilled to learn that my new uncle was also a part time professional magician and he would also be a huge part of my pursuit of magical happiness.

**RABBI DON:** How old were you?

**TONY:** I would have been about 6 years old at the time when the magician came to my school and performed his show. That was the spark that lit the fire that became my obsession.

**RABBI DON:** When / how did you decide that 'magic was for you'?

**TONY:** I dabbled with magic very early on but had no books or videos at the time I was growing up until around grade three when I discovered a magic book in our town library. I can't remember the title as it eludes me at the moment but I checked it out continually every two weeks for about 6 months. I didn't want to return it because I was afraid I would never see it again. I learned some easy to do and very cool tricks from it. When I became serious about magic was actually around junior high school. I acquired some more books and my uncle taught me some cool magic tricks too so I was ready for my first real audiences around age eleven or twelve. Had lots of fun at school talent shows with magic! But when I made the actual decision to pursue magic full time was around the age of 26. I remember quitting my day job in corporate world when I worked for a business centre as I knew I had to take the chance at that moment. I am so glad I did.



Continued on page 7...



# WASHERS, WASHERS, EVERYWHERE

THIS TRICK REQUIRES A QUICK TRIP TO THE HARDWARE STORE, BECAUSE YOU'LL NEED EIGHT METAL WASHERS, A FOOT OF STRING AND A HANKY.



TIE ONE WASHER TO THE MIDDLE OF THE STRING, THEN THREAD BOTH ENDS OF THE STRING THROUGH THE REST OF THE WASHERS SO IT LOOKS LIKE THIS.

ASK A FRIEND TO HOLD THE STRING AT BOTH ENDS AND TAKE OUT YOUR HANKY.



DRAPE THE HANKY OVER THE STRING AND WASHERS SO THEY ARE COMPLETELY COVERED.



WAVE ONE HAND OVER THE HANKY, REACH UNDERNEATH IT WITH YOUR OTHER HAND AND SAY THE MAGIC WORDS:

EENY, MEENY, MINY, MOE. METAL WASHERS, YOU'RE FREE TO GO!



INSTANTLY, THE WASHERS, FREED FROM THEIR BONDS, RAIN DOWN FROM UNDER THE HANKY.



4/6

YOUR FRIEND WILL THINK YOU CUT THE STRING, BUT WHEN YOU LIFT THE HANKY, HE'LL SEE THAT IT REMAINS INTACT!

GASP!

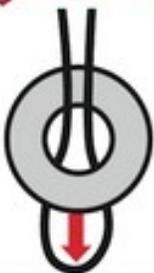


## HOWDYDOIT?

THE SECRET TO THIS TRICK IS IN THE WAY THE FIRST WASHER IS TIED TO THE STRING.

1

BEND THE STRING IN HALF TO FORM A LOOP AND INSERT THE LOOP THROUGH THE WASHER.



2

BRING THE LOOP BACK UP AND AROUND THE WASHER.



3

PULL THE LOOSE ENDS OF THE STRING TO TIGHTEN THE LOOP.



WITH THE WASHER ATTACHED TO THE STRING THIS WAY, IT WILL APPEAR TO YOUR FRIEND THAT IT'S TIED ON WITH A KNOT. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS REVERSE THE PROCESS AND ALL THE WASHERS WILL FALL FREE.

**RABBI DON: What is your favorite type of audience and why?**

**TONY:** *I love performing for all different audiences both adults and families but I would have to say that if I had to pick one, it would be at children's festivals and music festivals. I have played a ton of them over 20 years but there is nothing better than a midsummer's sunny day, performing on center stage with a sea of parents and their kids watching my antics. I generally will always perform as Zany Zack the magician and musician.*

*I usually perform my magic show and later on in the day will perform my music set of original songs from my children's music cd's that I have released in the last 10 years. There is nothing better than to put smiles and laughter on the face of kids with my magic and then get them boogying around and dancing as I sing and play my tunes for all to enjoy. Those are my favorite memories in the 20 plus years I have been doing entertainment. Thinking about those times as I have traveled all over Canada doing these festivals, fairs, exhibitions etc, are some of my happiest memories. I also love to drive across Canada and that has been part of my fondness of these types of audiences and shows.*

**RABBI DON: What do you love / appreciate most about having Magic in your life?**

**TONY:** *That's a fantastic question. I am not sure I really ever thought about it. Now that I have actually pondered it after taking a 5 minute break to try and answer this question, I can honestly say that there are three things I appreciate most.*

*1. Magic has given me a life that is truly wonderful and I cherish that I am lucky enough to do it full time for two decades. There are many people in this world that I am sure are very unhappy with their jobs and careers. I used to be one of them many years ago. We have birth and death. The in-between is the filler called life. I learned a long time ago, that filler can be filled with unhappiness, misery and stress every day because of our working environment. Everyone can change their unhappiness in work but only if they are not afraid to take a chance and not worry about failing. That is how I looked at it and am so happy that I left that comfort zone called my day job that was making me feel miserable and found my true calling.*

*2. Magic has allowed me to understand myself and other people. I could write a book on this one but I will*

*sum it up by saying that I truly like to meet people, entertain them and hopefully leave them with magical memory that will last forever after.*

*3. Performing magic full time has allowed me to raise my kids. When we had our daughter 15 years ago, I knew that I didn't want to miss any part of the miracle of watching my children grow. I raised both my daughter and my son for the first ten years of their lives. My wife kept her day job and so I was magic dad! Now that my wife has been home for the last 6 years, we have been able to be a huge part of both our children's early years. That is so important to us because both our children were born with autism. Earning a decent living at magic, has allowed my wife and I to focus together on our kids as they really need the two of us these days.*

...concludes on page 9



# March Report

By: Dennis Chan

The March meeting started off with a jam session. There were two competitions this month: the Cecil Ackery trophy for excellence in comedy performed by an adult member and the Rick Honey trophy which is awarded for excellence in comedy performed by a junior member. Awards/appreciation chairman Henry Tom read the rules. The competitors for the Cecil Ackery trophy were Jessica Chan, Adrien Pierard, Kelvin Ng. Billy Hsueh, Phil Razon and Joji Yamashita. The winner was Kelvin Ng. Second place was Billy Hsueh and third place was Jessica Chan. Congratulations to everyone who took part in the competition. There were no competitors for the Rick Honey trophy. Henry told jokes in between the acts to keep the competition flowing. Stephen Braybrooke tallied up the scores from the five judges. Cameron Minty, the clubs' newest junior member performed a card trick. The business part of the meeting was chaired by our new President, Graham Kita. He announced the new board of directors. They are Dennis Bauyon, Steve Dickson, Dennis Hewson, Tony Kazoleas, Gord McIntosh and Chris Yuill. He talked about the Steve Brooks lecture which will take place on Thursday, April 17. He also talked about the Magic Festival which will take place from the 20th of June through to the 27th in Port Coquitlam and the Children's Magician of the Year competition which will also take place during the festival. Gord Boyes from the Fraser Valley Magic Circle talked about the 2014 PCAM convention which takes place in Coquitlam from July 31 through to August 3.

Many thanks to John Smithman, our new roster book producer who took on the arduous of putting together the roster book for 2014. He spent countless hours on his computer and on the phone talking to members and past members to get their correct information. Also assisting

John were  
Shawn  
Farquhar and  
Dennis Chan.

An added  
feature in  
this years'  
roster is the

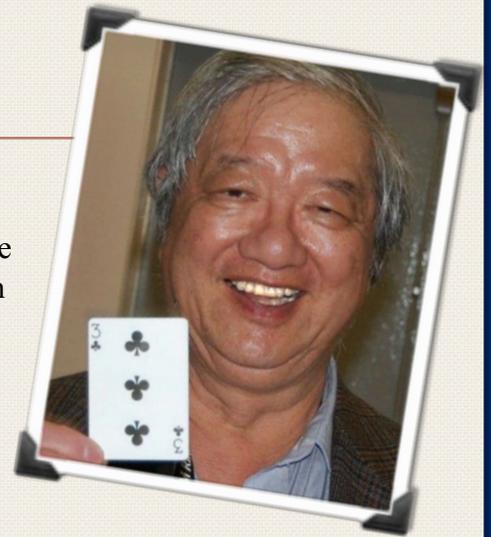
expiration year which is placed  
after the members' name. This acts as a  
reminder to the members that their membership  
is up for renewal the following year. Shawn  
Farquhar put together the membership cards  
which also has the expiry year. Both books and  
cards were handed out at the meeting. Thanks  
John and Shawn. Joji Yamashita donated a  
VHS tape and a DVD to the clubs' library. The  
VMC Board approved a budget to buy a  
P.A.system for the Club in a motion last Fall,  
and assigned responsibility to Steve Dickson.  
Steve delivered our new system under budget.  
Thanks Steve!

Many thanks to David Wilson for bringing  
some books for the club's library which were  
donated to the club by various magicians  
through David.

Refreshments were provided by Phil Razon.  
Thanks Phil! Billy Bales Hsueh sold raffle  
tickets, John Smithman, the club's official  
photographer took photos of the evening's  
events. And congratulations to our secretary,  
Stephen Braybrooke who recently became a  
proud grandfather to a beautiful baby girl!!  
Mazal Tov Stephen!

There were 25 members and 2 guests in  
attendance.

-I am Dennis Chan



**RABBI DON: What is your most memorable MAGIC experience?**

**TONY:** *Wow, that's a question that I could write a few books on, but won't of course. There are so many as it has been over twenty years and 5000 shows later so there are a number of stories. Meeting so many wonderful people, making such amazing friends here in town and across the world are high up there. But if I had to narrow it down to one of the most memorable experiences was the first time my dad saw me perform magic as an adult.*

*You see, my family all live in Alberta and I left my hometown for grand adventures when I was 20 years old. I am 45 now. I packed up everything I owned and tossed it into my Camaro and drove west to the land of Vancouver. That became my new home. My mom and dad owned a restaurant in that little prairie town for over 40 years. It*

*was a landmark, everybody knew it and my parents made a very good living with that little old diner. However, my dad was a workaholic. He worked 7 days a week for 40 years. Only a few family visits to Greece over a couple of summers and a small handful of weekends, literally only about a half dozen in all the years I remember growing up were his days off. He had never seen me perform my magic as a performing magician.*

*Well that all changed when I booked a show in the summer of 2012 in my hometown of Drayton Valley, Alberta. It was Canada Day and I performed my magic show and my kids music show that afternoon in the park. My family all drove a couple of hours from Edmonton where they live now to see me perform. My dad sat in the front row and I remember feeling so happy to see him there. Like a little kid having his parents watch him ride his bike for the first time without training wheels. I was all smiles.*

*He was smiling the whole time too and I saw his eyes tear up as I could tell how proud he was. Hard for me to get through that one when I saw it. It was the only time I ever saw him cry. That was true magic for me. He only stayed long enough to see my shows and told me he was a little tired and needed to go home after that. He was 84 years old after all. That was the first time he had been away from his house in Edmonton for that long so I knew it was extra special for him to be there. He told me how proud he was of me and said he wished he hadn't waited for over twenty years to see me perform. He gave me a big hug and that was special too because he never really hugged anyone. He was old school from the old country. Wasn't a hugger but still a great dad!*

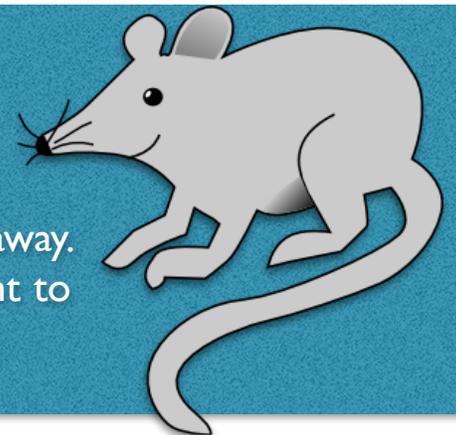
*That was the most memorable magic moment for me. My dad passed away 5 weeks later. It was the first and only time he saw me perform magic. It was to this day my most cherished magical moment and it will last me for the rest of my days.*



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

The Mouse family was making their way across the kitchen floor when the family cat rushed toward them.

Daddy Mouse yelled, "BOW-WOW!" And the cat ran away. "That," said Daddy Mouse to his kids, "is why it's important to learn a second language."



# PCAM 2014 CONVENTION

Thursday July 31st— Sunday Aug 3rd, 2014  
Vancouver BC

“The Year of the Workshop”

These are just some of the acts booked, more to be announced



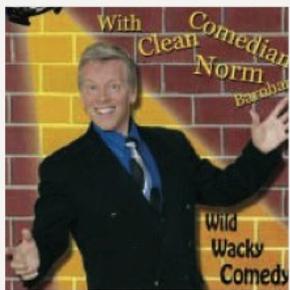
**POP HAYDN**



**CHEF ANTON**



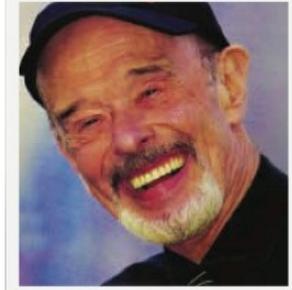
**BOB SHEETS**



**NORM BARNHART**



**GREGORY WILSON**



**BOB FITCH**

The PCAM (Pacific Coast Association of Magicians) 2014 convention will be held in Vancouver (British Columbia, Canada) and will continue with the tradition of being the biggest and best annual convention on the West Coast. As usual, the convention will run on the August long weekend, beginning the afternoon/evening of Thursday July 31st and wrapping up the evening of Sunday August 3rd.

Hosted by Mike Norden and Gord Boyes (Norden & Gordon Productions) who are working hard to make this one of the best conventions you've attended.

Register early so you don't miss out ... [www.pcam2014.com](http://www.pcam2014.com)

## Inside the Briefcase

### Your Magical Minutes link to the monthly Business Meeting

A warm greeting to our Ring 92 Membership. As the new Secretary, I am overwhelmed with pride for the honour of serving on your Executive. I want to share my impressions of our club's leadership. Each Board member (both Executive and Director) brings extraordinary skills that will stun and amaze everyone this year! In addition to the special gifts they possess, their talents and dedication to the Circle helps us all.

Your Board has met on two occasions since the installation banquet and the amount of work and progress made could not have been without their talents and experience. President Graham chose his Directors well and has gathered the wisdom of over 100 years of combined experience. One thing that we all know is that if we want to be successful, looking to those that have the experience to guide and lead is an important ingredient to the recipe for success. Listening to those that have gone before us is what helps us gain wisdom and momentum.

Last month's meeting is a good witness to the tremendous progress that is being made with access to the wisdom of past president Alex Seaman and President Graham Kita, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Phil Razon, Sgt.-at-Arms (Bull Dog) Dennis Chan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Billy Hsueh who made my transition to the role of Secretary a gift instead of a hardship, Director Dennis Bauyon, known for many things, in particular his passion towards Magic, Director Steve Dickson, the ever entertaining, extremely talented, and very wise VMC FaceBook moderator. Leaders with their previous experience and talent are what make organizations successful. They deserve a huge thank you for the countless volunteer hours they pour into our Magic Ring 92. Our Ring would not be as successful without their dedication.

Other dedicated members of our team contribute significantly to our success: Directors Henry Tom, Dennis Hewson, Gord McIntosh, Tony Kazoleas and Chris Yuill also contribute year after year.

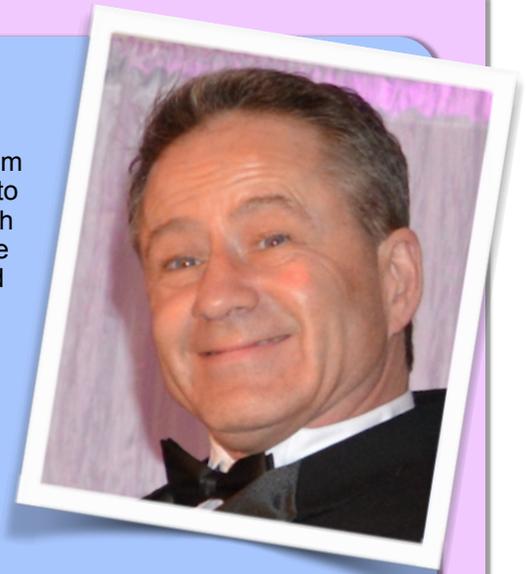
I encourage you to seek out these worthy, dedicated, committed volunteers of our Executive and Board of Directors at the monthly membership meetings and take a moment to express your gratitude for the hard work and copious hours they contribute to our success as a club.

There are other dedicated club members who contribute to the success of our club without currently serving on the Board. Our mentor, Worldwide flag carrier and 'soul' of the circle Mr. Shawn Farquhar and previous executive members like Mr. Clinton W Gray, our current webmaster, and others who continue to contribute to our success are sincerely appreciated.

I also want to draw your attention to two ex-officio leaders and mentors especially for their unselfish, but welcomed support. Although not on our Board, both men support each of us and each of you in countless ways. They often go unnoticed and unappreciated.

The first is Mr. John Smithman. Many of you know him as our circle photographer, always bringing with him that comforting smile, that results in all of us feeling warm and safe, not to mention recognized and welcomed. However, what many of you may not know is that he is a consummate PROFESSIONAL. Mr. John Smithman started his career as a pilot in the Canadian Armed Forces where he rose to the rank of major. In the 70's he built a regional airline in Ontario. John has owned manufacturing, service and retail companies. In the 80's and early 90's he directed a major university service department of over 100 employees. After 17 years at The University of British Columbia where he developed and practiced Progressive Applied Learning™ techniques, John founded Champions in the Workplace Training & Development Inc. to bring these benefits to others. He has served on planning committees with local and national organizations. John is regularly called on to give presentations on professional development. During his career, he acted as mentor, advisor, teacher, counsellor, and helper to some of Canada's finest leaders. He is a published author, entrepreneur, and trusted advisor. This is yet one more extraordinary talent and wisdom we have had supporting us from behind the scenes. He is and has always been there for all of us in so many ways it's hard to express what he means to us. For those that have yet to take the time to get to know him I strongly recommend you do so. You will be forever changed, in the most positive ways. Further, if you would like to get to know even more about this amazing and truly great man (and extremely humble...I am going to be in so much trouble for going on and on about him) loving, tender, gentle and wise, be sure to check out his web site or order his latest book at the

[Workplace Champion website.](#)



## Inside the Briefcase...continued

The second individual is Rabbi Don Pacht, aside from being a Rabbi and our Editor... well...as he will now

tell me there is not enough room left in this month's edition to allow me to share all the gifts he brings to our team and to our circle. I guess that just means I will utilize next month's space to tell you about another extraordinary man. As secretary I shall be interviewing him for the space he has been providing to others entitled "How I Got Started in Magic" I can't wait to share about our talented, giving, considerate, thoughtful, passionate, and patient Rabbi Don Pacht. I will begin where I left off describing Mr. Smithman...HUMBLE...both these men are extremely humble and go about their work walking in humility. I suspect it's this quality of character that contributes a great deal to the success they both enjoy.

Lastly, allow me to say a thank you to all of you that came forward to share and present to me their fresh,

exciting and very enthusiastic ideas. Whilst we are not always able to implement all of those ideas they are still extremely valuable to us. And for those that we are able to implement our circle is that much richer and better as a result of your contributions. We are a family and all of you are important to the success of this family. You all play a role, and you are all valuable to us. I welcome ANY thoughts, suggestions, ideas or feelings to be sent to my personal email [braybrooke.steve@gmail.com](mailto:braybrooke.steve@gmail.com).

Warmest regards,

*Stephen*

YOUR Executive Secretary  
Stephen Braybrooke



" Good taste is better than bad taste, but bad taste is better than no taste. "  
— Arnold Bennett

### Angels Events



Clowns & Magic Acts  
Bouncy Castles  
Mini Golf  
Carnival Games  
Dunk Tanks  
Popcorn  
Candy Floss

**604-542-6435**

[www.angelsevents.ca](http://www.angelsevents.ca)

## "How I Got Started in Magic"

*New to the Magical Minutes Newsletter!*

Do you have a great story about how you first got started in magic? Is it funny...heart-warming...boring, but still interesting to you and your family (although, I suspect your family is past it-at this point they are just humouring you).

Well...you are invited to share it with the Vancouver Magic Circle.

Please email the Editor at [newsletter@ibmring92.com](mailto:newsletter@ibmring92.com).

Check out the feature on page 5!

