



# V — RING 92 — VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

February 2016

the Charles Howard Ring

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2016 EXECUTIVE OF THE VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE!



Kelvin Ng  
1st Vice President



Billy Hsueh  
President



Bryn Williams  
2nd Vice President



Wiley Allen  
Treasurer



Karen Eskilson  
Secretary



Dennis Chan  
Sergeant at Arms

INSTALLATION BANQUET ~ THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

# OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello fellow members. Wow – I can't believe how fast time flies. My two years as serving as your President is coming to a close. First and foremost I would like to personally thank all of you for your support. I am particularly proud of the work and efforts of my Executive and Board Members during my time. We have tried to make the meetings more exciting and enjoyable for members. The addition of the Teach-A-Trick sessions during the start of the meeting has been very successful. Condensing and moving the business part of the meeting to the end of the night has also been very effective. The creation of a Membership Steering Committee (thanks to John Smithman) has been put in place so that we can grow as a club. Your Treasurer, Wiley Allen, has gone beyond the call of duty to create budgets and accounting procedures to allow for better financial forecasting and projections.

The highlight of my presidency was the VMC being awarded the "status" of an "International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM)" Honor Ring. The award was presented by the IBM President, fellow VMC member, and friend, Shawn Farquhar, at the IBM Convention in Florida. Along with the award, the IBM has given the VMC a \$1300 grant. In my application for this award (which is printed in the May 2015 VMC Newsletter) I wrote "Ring 92 has a rich and colorful history. If you go to Wikipedia and look at the timeline of the history of Vancouver, listed as a milestone event in 1942 is the formation of the VMC" (74 years ago!). Next year will be our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The membership should be proud of the accomplishments of the VMC, both past and present. Please show your support and pride by stepping up and helping the new executive make the club stronger and better.

Our next event is the Installation Banquet and Show on February 25, 2016 at The Richmond Country Meadows (8482 No. 6 Road, Richmond). Doors open at 6:00 PM. The club photo will be taken at 6:30 PM sharp. This year we are bringing in Chris Randall from Las Vegas. He has won many awards and is the current IBM Stage Champion. He has appeared on the Masters of Illusions TV show, at the Magic Castle, and on stages all over the world. It is truly a must see act. On February 26, 2016, he is giving a lecture at our usual lecture hall at Douglas College. He will be teaching "The Inception" (which in itself is worth the lecture price), along with much more. Please see the website for prices. If you are planning to attend and have not yet purchased tickets, please let me know by either calling me at 604-880-2685 or emailing me at [president@IBMring92.com](mailto:president@IBMring92.com) as we need to confirm the numbers of people for the caterers. Come join us for an evening of spectacular magic and fun.

Lastly, again, I would like to thank all of my executive, directors, and appointed chairs for all of their hard work over the past two years.

*~Graham*

# INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Members!

I am honoured to be President of one of the coolest clubs in Canada. I have served the board since I was a junior and have done my best to help improve and maintain the Vancouver Magic Circle. Thank you Graham Kita for a fantastic 2 years of service, you accomplished a lot in your years as president and did the club a whole lot of good, I hope to follow your lead this year.



We have an exciting year ahead of us! The Board is working very hard on some up and coming projects that some of you have suggested. We have high goals and expectations and we plan to do our best to achieve them all, however we cannot accomplish them to our expectations without your help! So this year we are looking to be more organized in terms of event planning, as well as getting committees organized so that we can pull off some amazing and fun events this year. Of course, as plans get finalized we will let you all know via Mail Chimp and Facebook.

This year the appointed directors are John Smithman, Dennis Bauyon, Alex Seaman, and Jeff Christensen. Thank you for volunteering and accepting the position of Director. I look forward to serving the club this year, and working with everyone!

*-Billy*

THE VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

PRESENTS

# 2016 Installation

## BANQUET AND SHOW

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**RICHMOND COUNTRY MEADOWS**  
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TICKETS 45.00



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# Thursday, February 25th 2016

STARRING

KEL

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& COMPANY

DIRECT FROM  
CANADA'S GOT  
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- The City of Richmond

"One of the best magic acts I've ever seen!"  
- Martin Short, legendary comedian

# MAGIQUE

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# Getting to know Ray Roch

Our very own Ray Roch has had quite a career in Magic. And, in his own words, “...it ain’t over yet”

When I was ten years old I would watch the Ed Sullivan show on a Marconi black and white television and be mesmerized whenever a magician came on. I really enjoyed the magic, but had no intention of becoming a magician, nor did I aspire to become one as a child. I wasn’t inspired until I was much older when I accidentally encountered someone who taught me the sleight-of-hand magic skills that led to a successful career.

It all started in Winnipeg, Manitoba around 1967 when I was a young father with a wife and two children desperately in need of a home. We had taken on the task of care-taking a 45-suite apartment building in lieu of paying the rent. We “socked” away the rent money we saved and after a time, bought our very first house. It was a new one located at 198 Kisil Bay in East Kildonen, Manitoba. It cost \$17,000 with a payment of \$175.00 a month. Although it was a struggle to make ends meet, at least our hard earned money was going towards our very own home!

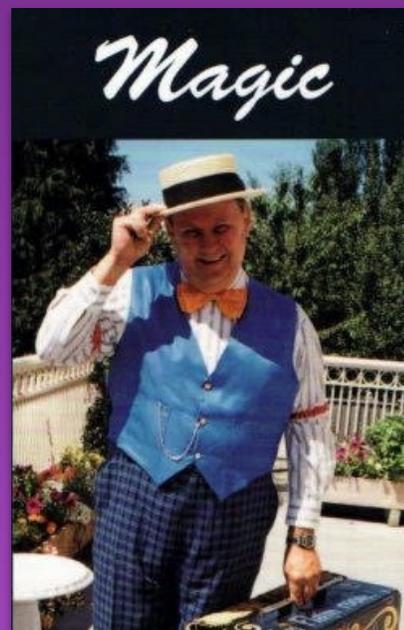
It was while vacuuming the carpets in this apartment complex that I first encountered a bunny running throughout the halls, and after careful observation, determined which suite it came from. As caretaker, I had to inform the occupant, Terry Greenwood of the no-pet rules, and was disarmed by his simple explanation! He was a magician and required the rabbit for his performances. We soon became friends and to this day keep in touch, usually meeting once a year at the 4F convention in Batavia, New York.

Terry showed me many of his sleight-of-hand magic tricks, and being curious, I pestered him as to how they were done. However, in those days, magicians didn’t readily divulge their secrets. It was only after we had become good friends that he finally agreed to teach me some magic, with the stipulation that he would only teach me if I learned how to perform the difficult tricks to his satisfaction.

I persevered, and in time became so proficient that he introduced me to the inner secrets of the magic community. To this day, when someone asks me to teach a magic trick, I show how to do something that is very difficult. This is to determine if there is a sincere desire. Unfortunately, there are many who only want to learn the secrets of magic and are not prepared to devote the hours of repetitious practice it takes to become proficient.

Becoming a magician was the best thing that could ever happen to me. I was an introvert as a young man and terrified to stand in front of people and speak. I can vividly remember the first time I stood in front of my peers to perform a magic sleight! I shook like a leaf, and if it hadn't been for the encouragement I received after a torturous performance, I would have easily given it all up. Thank goodness I didn't, and over time relaxed while performing, thus beginning a most rewarding career as a magician.

*-Continued on page 7*





I suspect that I was always destined to become a magician because of the struggles I endured while growing up in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I was part of a large French Canadian family, Mom, Dad and six hungry kids with never enough money! I had to constantly resort to subterfuge and quickness of hand to get my fair share of food and clothing, not realizing that I was acquiring the preliminary skills of a magician.

Fortunately, I was able to combine my work as a professional magician with my job as a driver for Greyhound Lines of Canada. It was the only company I knew of that would allow me to book-off without a hassle so I could pursue magic gigs and still earn a pension. The

only restriction was that I had to be available to drive a bus during the peak periods. (Christmas etc. etc.) It was this freedom that allowed me the flexibility to perform for 50 odd years at every type of venue imaginable, conventions, private parties, cruise ships, trade shows and even fairs, festivals and rodeos.

A highlight of my worldly travels was my performance close to the North Pole while touring with the "Frantic Follies Vaudeville Review", a venue that included the isolated "DEW" line bases manned by the Canadian Armed Forces during the Cold War.

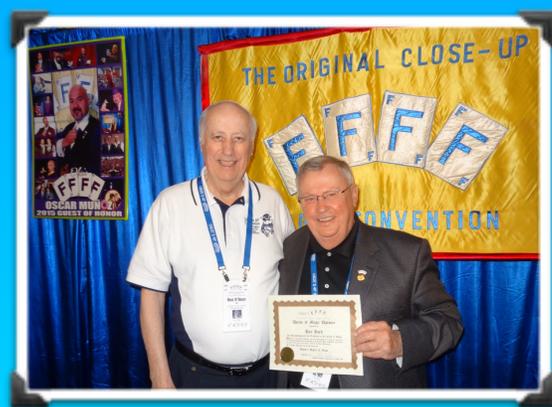
It was these Follies that influenced me to develop a character I used extensively while performing at themed and corporate events. It was a depiction of an old time vaudevillian or con-man with a straw hat, baggy pants and spats, a wonderful costume that brought me work simply because I was different, very colourful, stood out in a crowd and performed the old "Three Shell Game", which in itself, is a novelty.

I can still recall close-up venues where to gather a crowd, all I had to do was place the shells and a pea on the table. I didn't have to say a word.

The shells piqued people's curiosity and they readily approached my table in their eagerness to be bamboozled. It was a great attention getter and fun to watch. Hence the act, Flim Flam Foolery was born!

My signature piece though, is my coin act. I performed a routine, called "Easy Money" featuring dollar size coins in my stage show for many years with great success. Initially, I was told that the coins would be too hard to see. However, with good lights and music, I managed to prove the nay Sayers wrong by entertaining at thousands of venues with my original presentation of "Easy Money".

I also performed at the famous "Magic Castle" in Hollywood, a Mecca for magicians and more recently, during the illustrious "Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic" magic conference held annually in New York, where I earned a coveted "Ph D" in magic!



And the journey is not over. In the past number of years I worked tirelessly to develop an original concept called "The Impossible Box", whereas a magician takes 6 playing cards, bends the ends and interlocks them to form a card box that can be used to produce multiple items using sleight of hand techniques. I recently received three notable reviews for my creation in recent issues of the Vanish, Magic and Genii Magazines.

THE VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

PRESENTS

# Chris Randall

LECTURE



Starring: Chris Randall

DOUGLAS COLLEGE

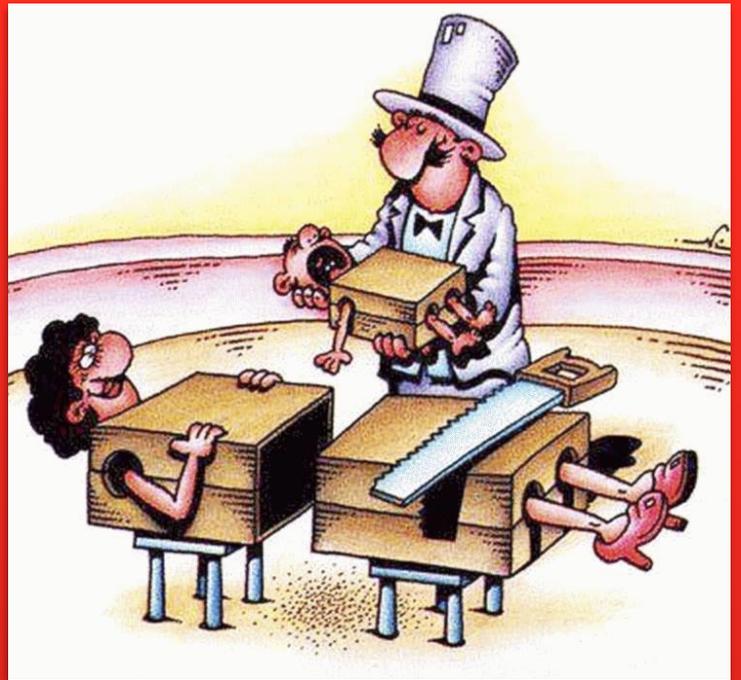


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Friday, Feb 26th.



I have a few twix up my sleeve



# January Report By: Dennis Chan

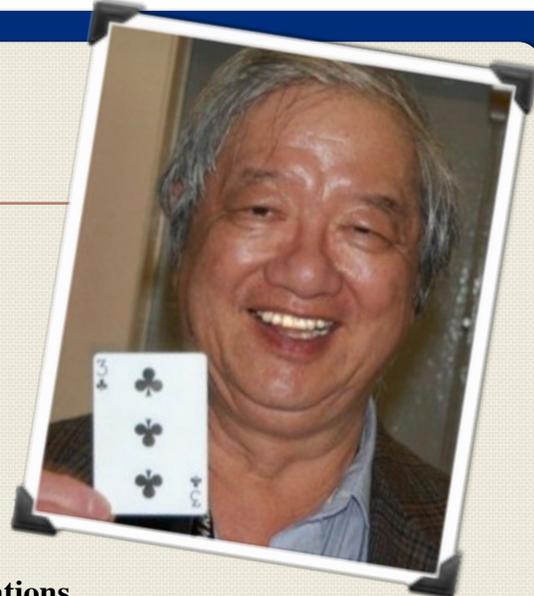
The Vancouver Magic Circle's 2016 magic season started off with a social gathering. This was Past President's night when Past Presidents must perform a magical effect. Past Presidents performing effects were Graham Kita, Alex Seaman and Bryn Williams. This was also one trick night when members are invited to do a magical effect. Members performing their effects were Ed Goldberg, Dennis Chan, Jens Henriksen, Matthew Jones, James Hanson, Chris Yuill, Wiley Allen, Bob Britton, Steve Dickson, Jeff Christensen and guest Erik Killian.

Ballots for the Kramien and Murray awards were handed out. Nominees for the Kramien award for showmanship in a performance during the course of the year were: Amanda O'Leary and Jeff Christensen. Nominees for the Murray award for the most creative performance during the course of the year were Chris Yuill and Brianna Carlson. The winners will be announced at the installation banquet.

During the business portion, it was announced that the installation banquet and show will be held on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Country Meadows Golf course in Richmond. Featured performer will be Chris Randall from Las Vegas. The next day, Chris will give a lecture at Douglas College in New Westminster.

This was also election night for 2016 club officers. Graham Kita presided. Positions to be filled: President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant-At-Arms.

Nominees were proposed: President-Billy Hsueh, 1st VP-Kelvin Ng, 2nd VP-Bryn Williams, Secretary-Karen Eskilson, Treasurer-Wiley Allen and Sergeant-At-Arms-Dennis Chan. Graham Kita invited additional nominees from the membership. Stephen Braybrooke nominated John Smithman for President, but Election chair Graham Kita declared this nomination inadmissible due to a clause in our Constitution limiting president nominees to currently elected executive members. There were no other nominees. All proposed nominees were declared elected by acclamation.



## **Congratulations to the new executive for 2016!**

This was also New Member Initiation Night. To qualify as an active member of the Vancouver Magic Circle Ring 92, they must have performed three magical effects during the year. Performing their three effects this evening were Michael Dinero, Rod Boss and Gary Spence. Presiding over the initiation ceremony was Alex Seaman. The new members are Rod Boss, Brianna Carlson, Michael Dinero and Gary Spence. Congratulations to all and welcome to the club!

Meeting guest, Shayne King, long time member of the Victoria Magic Circle (Ring 183), did some rope magic. Shayne was here to do a show in nearby Abbotsford, BC.

A new "Best Spread Award" will be presented to the member providing the best refreshments for a meeting during the past year.

Dennis Chan and Alex Seaman sold raffle tickets. Graham Kita, Rod Boss and Karen Eskilson provided raffle prizes. Thanks. Dennis Chan and Karen Eskilson provided the refreshments. Many thanks to Stephen Braybrooke who supported the club by buying all six dozen cookies leftover from the refreshments to give to the homeless. Club photographer, John Smithman, took photos of the evening's events.

There were 32 members and 7 guests in attendance.

-Dennis Chan and John Smithman



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HOLD A CUP OVER THE TOP EDGE OF A SAUCER AND TELL YOUR FRIEND TO WATCH CAREFULLY.



BEGIN TO TRY AND BALANCE THE CUP ON THE EDGE OF THE PLATE.

*Mac & Bill King*



AND BEHOLD! AFTER A LITTLE FIDDLING, YOU ARE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE! YOU ARE NOW THE SUPREME RULER OF BREAKFAST!

WHUH?

## HOWDY DO IT?

THE CUP DOESN'T ACTUALLY BALANCE ON THE PLATE'S EDGE. IT IS HELD UP BY YOUR THUMB, WHICH IS CLEVERLY HIDDEN BEHIND THE PLATE. ALWAYS USE A SMALL PLATE OR SAUCER, AS CHANCES ARE YOUR THUMBS AREN'T LONG ENOUGH TO WORK WITH A FULL-SIZED PLATE WITHOUT GIVING AWAY THE TRICK. FOR SAFETY PURPOSES, YOU MAY WANT TO USE A PLASTIC CUP BUT FOR OPTIMUM DRAMATIC EFFECT, YOUR MOTHER'S GOOD CHINA WORKS BEST. YOU DECIDE.



SHAWN FARQUHAR  
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WORLD PREMIERE  
MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2016  
PLUS A SPECIAL LECTURE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> IN THE PALACE OF MYSTERY  
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"Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain - and most fools do." -Dale Carnegie

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**Chilliwack** - Cultural Centre - Thursday March 10th, Ph: 604.391.7469

**Vernon** - Performing Arts Theatre - Friday March 11th, Ph: 250.549.7469

**Kelowna** - Community Theatre - Saturday March 12th, Ph: 250.762.5050

**Penticton** - Cleland Theatre - Sunday March 13th, Ph: 250.490.2426

**Maple Ridge** - ACT Theatre - Tuesday March 15th, Ph: 604.476.2787

**North Vancouver** - Centennial Theatre - Thursday March 17th, Ph: 604.984.4484