



Probis Club of Central Edmonton September 2016

Editor: Ken Hoffman

Speaker: September 20 – Ken Regan, CKUA

Ken Regan, an award winning journalist with experience in print, radio and television news, is the General Manager and CEO of the CKUA Radio Network. “CKUA is Alberta’s cultural network that celebrates music, engages communities and makes life worth listening.” He spoke, without notes, about CKUA’s history, legacy, place in Alberta and challenges it has faced over the years. He shared its successes and vision for the future. What did we hear? A great deal. Some interesting snippets include:

- CKUA started at the University of Alberta in 1927 as an educational station. In 1945 AGT took over ownership. This lasted until 1978 when ownership was transferred to Access. In 1994 it was privatized as a non-profit society.
- In 1997 it went off the air. In response, a number of members of the arts and cultural communities in Edmonton and Calgary banded together to get it back on the air. They did so with remarkable success. CKUA is now a public broadcaster. Funded in large part by donors. 2015 fiscal year its operating revenue of \$5.3 million included \$3.3 million in donations.
- Over its history it proudly claims a number of firsts including being the first station to stream its shows on the internet. It is now listened to worldwide.
- He brought in a few unique examples of its vast library of recordings. This included recordings from the 1940’s, these were sent by the US military to CKUA to help with the morale on the Alaska highway construction, and a record pressed by Thomas Edison.

Tour: September 27– CKUA

The Presentation was followed by a tour of the CKUA facilities. Mark, our guide for this tour, started with a presentation about his background and information on the facilities. CKUA is located on Jasper Avenue beside the Federal Building in the refurbished Alberta Hotel.

We started on the first floor in the Lobby and then moved to a meeting place with a unique sound dampening wall. Next the third floor where we saw the technical room where all the electronics that enable programming and sending out the signal is located. Followed by the second floor which contains the CKUA studios.



Finally, its remarkable library in the basement. The following picture is a part of the record portion of the library.

