



# PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

Clubs for Retired & Semi-Retired Professional & Business Persons, Former Executives & Others

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## NEXT MEETING

Date: August 18, 1998  
Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Stanley Park Pavilion  
Speaker: **David Podmore**  
CEO Greystone Properties

Topic: Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre Expansion

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Meeting Tuesday July 21, 1998 Attendance: 75

The wait list as announced at the last meeting will not begin for several months. Bill Manson solicited ideas for future special activities. Please call him at 988-2365. Doug Lambert (266-2422) will sort out badge problems. Gordon Thom (o. 687-6211 h. 739-0714) needs bridge players to play in the evening alternate weeks starting in September. Brice Macdougall announced that next month's speaker will speak about the plans for the Vancouver waterfront including the harbourside properties in North Vancouver.

Bill Ibbott introduced the speaker. Doug McCallum, the mayor of Surrey gave a brief overview of Surrey. Growing at 1000 people / month - the fastest rate in Canada. No debt. Cash reserves of \$400 million. Balanced budget. His philosophies include: less not more government activities with reduction of staff from 1500 to 1000 in 3 years and encouraging volunteerism to reduce costs and increase the feeling of community involvement, proactive problem solving, flattened management strategies, and attracting high tech. industry.

Transportation is the catalyst to urban and industrial growth and should be a priority. While politicians and committees have studied transportation problems to death nothing has been done to improve transportation for ten years in the lower mainland. As a result traffic is in gridlock. Lack of political will ensures continuance of this situation. In desperation Surrey/Langley residents have said to their employers "move here" as a remedy for our transport problems and Crown Corporations have listened. ICBC, Revenue Canada, Ministry of Environment, and the RCMP have moved thousands of jobs to Surrey. As a natural course business enterprises and service groups will follow.

Mayor McCallum then discussed the following:

**Lower mainland transportation** - has been under the BC Transit authority which has no money therefore the bus system which is the workhorse of the system is in chaos with old stock and no money for maintenance. The new Greater Vancouver Transit Authority is buried already by bureaucracy. The Light rail proposal which has been successful elsewhere and is one tenth the cost of skytrain was trashed overnight by the BC Government. Skytrain needs a much larger population base to be economic. Lions Gate Bridge is getting a "paint job" when it should become a key crossing with perhaps LRT.

**Cascadian Corridor:** (Portland to Vancouver) is in gridlock. The USA side is spending millions (funded by gas tax which by law is not diverted into general revenue) to upgrade their transportation infrastructure. BC is doing nothing with the result that a major shift of shipping to US ports will take place.

**Airport Authority:** is an example of how motivated individuals in the private sector can create a very efficient enterprise.

**An Interurban:** is being planned by six Fraser Valley Mayors which could run from the Airport to Chilliwack along the old right of way. He described various problems that have arisen and used these to outline various innovative transportation problem solving methodologies.

There were **Questions** about HOV lanes, Surrey tax incentives, and additional Fraser River crossings.

Bernie Reidel thanked Mayor McCallum for his informative talk and presented a gift to the speaker.