



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

#252-2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver B.C. V6M 2B5 (604) 261-6818

Clubs for retired and semi-retired professional and business persons, former executives and others

NEXT MEETING: April 20, 1999

TIME: 9:30AM

LOCATION: Stanley Park Pavilion

SPEAKER: Paul Griffin, Regional Director BC and Yukon Bankers Association

TOPIC: Y2K Next Challenge - The Chicken Little Syndrome

Minutes from March 16, 1999

Attendance: 102

Guests: 2 were introduced by their sponsors.

Pidge McBride opened the meeting at 10:00 am. He requested that any members knowing of sickness or bereavements within the membership inform the office at 261-6818.

FINANCES: The treasury has over \$11,000.00 currently. Again calls from many areas of the floor for "Dividends" were ignored.

SPEAKERS: **Brice Macdougall** announced that Paul Griffin will be our next speaker.

ENTERTAINMENT: **Jim McPherson** has 32 signed up for golf. He needs to know who will require carts.

GREETERS: **Norm Weitzel** will approach for volunteers. A one meeting commitment each is what he requires.

George Plant requires help at the money taking desk. Volunteers will receive an appropriate recognition.

Gordon Thom introduced the guest speaker - Mr. Ted Nebbeling MLA for West Vancouver/Garibaldi who spoke on "Highway to Success".

Mr. Nebbeling arrived in Canada from Holland in 1971 looking to settle in Canada. He chose Whistler because he felt it was a place of

potential. He listed the factors of Whistler's success. The most important being the creation of a global plan for the valley, including lifts and then sticking to the plan, having a successful business plan, ongoing community involvement, and keeping quality of life in the forefront of all plans.

Whistler is bidding for the Winter Olympics of 2010. With a 12 year timeline it is difficult to keep the momentum of enthusiasm. Transportation will be a major issue with 30-60,000 daily commuters of which 65% will be arriving from the airport. He would like improved transportation facilities to Whistler to be one of the legacies of having the Olympics here. The options are:

1. Increase the current highway to four lanes throughout. He does not favor this option for environmental and aesthetic reasons. The cost would be high.
2. Building a new road through the GVRD watershed has been rejected for environmental reasons.
3. He favors building a high speed train line up the west side of Indian Arm then through the Stawamush Valley to Squamish and then paralleling the current line to Whistler. He stated that a good transport system will be essential for business.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:

1. Good labor relations similar to Expo 86's "no strike" provisions will be essential. Labour laws enacted in the past 5-8 years will have to be changed.
2. Money for the new road is not provided in any current government budgets. All three levels of government will have to be involved.
3. Gambling and Charities - NDP developed a watertight system following Bingogate which

President:
Pidge McBride
274-0446

Past President:
Fred Cotton
266-7060

Vice-president:
Roy E. Williams
926-4727

Secretary:
Don Farquhar
948-9908

Treasurer:
Bill Wallace
222-2365

**Speakers
Committee:**
Brice Macdougall
922-5321

**Membership
Committee:**
John Hopkins
985-8422

**Visits and
Entertainment:**
Jim McPherson
922-2742

Bill Manson
988-2365

**House
Committee:**
Doug Lambert
266-2422

**Greeters
Committee:**
Norm Weitzel
925-3574

Rotary Liaison:
John Hoyle
926-2667

removed charities from the gaming business and was to take fraud and politics out of the licensing system. Nothing has changed. As a result - friends and politics still rule where licenses are offered.

- 4 Fast election: unlikely there will be one - which leaves us until the fall of 2000 before the next election. Mr. Clark will be the scapegoat for all the wrongs perpetrated by this government and Joy McPhail will rise as one of the most prominent people to replace him. Gordon Wilson was having a lot of personal and financial problems. In addition his party crashed with a large debt remaining. His jump to NDP in part was predictable. This gave him a \$40,000.00 salary increase.
- 5 Nisga'a Treaty: his party is firm that there has to be a referendum on all treaties. The facts regarding money and land are not available at present. He noted that the First Nations will "culture" to override the provisions of treaties - an example being the recent challenge to the labour codes.

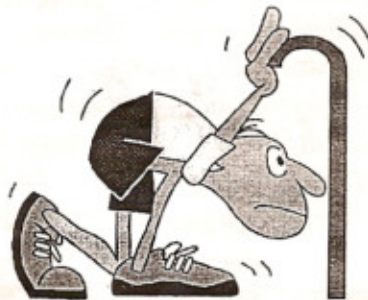
The speaker was thanked by Bob Wall. The President closed the meeting at 11:20.

Don Farquhar, Secretary.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: It is difficult to believe that 6 months of our present year has gone by already. As spring is here (by date not weather) we look forward to hopefully a warm spring and summer. We also look forward to our golf tournament in May - it should be great fun with lots of Kibitzing so sign up now!

I know our activities chairmen are working hard to come up with more club activities these next few months. Please get involved - we need several volunteers for various committees. Please let any of your executive know of your willingness to serve.

Thank you - Have a great day.



YOU KNOW YOU'RE OVER FIFTY WHEN

- Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.
 - Your knees buckle, but your belt doesn't.
 - You feel like the morning after when you haven't been anywhere.
-
- The little old lady you help across the street is your wife.
 - Your mind makes arrangements your body can't meet.
 - You finally get it all together, but you can't remember where you put it.
 - When you sit in your rocking chair you can't get it started.
 - You have more hair on your chest than on your head.
 - Your children begin to look old.
 - You look forward to spending a quiet evening at home.
 - You know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

Paul G. Griffin

Mr. Griffin joined the public relations and corporate communications field nine years ago following a distinguished career as a senior news journalist and television host.

His career in broadcast journalism included 8 years as CBC's National Reporter in British Columbia and several foreign assignments in Central America, Mexico and London. From 1986 to '89 he CO-hosted, with Barbara Frum, CBC's flagship news program, The Journal. He also served for two years as the Senior Editor and host of CBC's Newsworld Morning, and was the first person to appear on Canada's all-news network.

In 1990, Mr. Griffin left journalism and returned to his favourite city, Vancouver, to pursue a career in corporate communications. In addition to his role as a sessional instructor in Mass Communications at Kwantlen University College, Mr. Griffin runs his own media consulting and video production firm. Before joining the Canadian Banker's Association last September as the Regional Director for BC & Yukon, Mr. Griffin was the Manager of Communication and Public Affairs for the City of Surrey for six years and the Manager of Media and Technology Services for the Coquitlam School District for two years.

Mr. Griffin is married with two children.

It is with regret we announce the passing of Jim Gilley on March 26, 1999. Our condolences to his family. A donation has been made by Probus to B.C. Cancer Foundation

VISITS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Golf Tournament is nearly filled for May 3rd. Starting Time is 12:00 noon and we would like everyone there by noon.

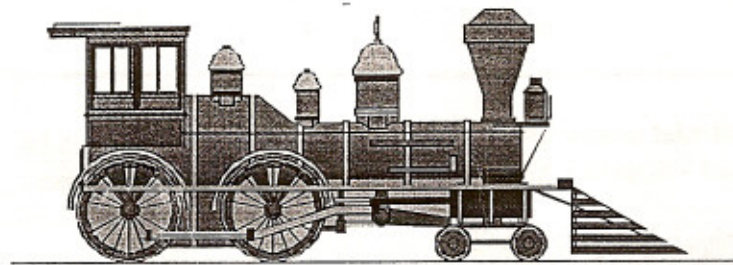
We are planning an evening at Fraser Downs Race Track on May 13. An evening of Harness Racing and Buffet Dinner with wives, single or with "significant Other", as you please. Transportation, parking and location will be discussed at our April Meeting. Price is \$24.00 per person. Payment required 2 weeks in advance. Those interested should be prepared to make a commitment at our April 20 meeting. Seating is limited to about 40.

We have a list of events suggested for consideration where you have expressed some interest as follows:

Museum of Flight - Seattle
Tar Sands Tour
GM Parts Plant Tour

Annual Outdoor Bar BBQ
Harbour Dinner Cruise

Jim and Bill are looking for some volunteers who would be interested in helping to research and organize any of the above events. After having had a couple of years at the job they would like to be replaced due to Old Age and the need for some new enthusiasm.



Do you recognize any of these names?

Howser Lakes Railway
St. Mary & Cherry Creek Railway
Belcher Mountain Railway
Midway & Vernon Railway
Columbia & Red Mountain Railway
Nicola Pine Railway
Kootenay & Elk Railway

If you don't it isn't surprising, since all these railways were at least partly constructed and subsequently abandoned in the early 1900's. Their history and that of many others that met a similar fate is mostly lost today, but not entirely since even though the railways are long gone the railroad grades are still there, albeit weathered and worn, some are the back roads or highways of today.

About twenty years ago, I developed an interest in B.C. history related to the development which followed after the first placer miners opened up the interior of the province. Since what followed placer mining was hard rock mining, a need for transportation of ores to smelters arose. I have traveled in fall throughout Southern B.C., Northern Washington, Idaho, and Montana, following the old railways which served both the smelters and the growing commerce of the time.

At various times there were over 20 smelters, and the railways which served them, have often provided me with enjoyable trips of exploration throughout the southern interior and cross-border country. I have hiked or driven upon many miles of abandoned railroads, some quite passable, others not, others 4 X 4 only, necessitating knocking down trees and brush grown up on the old grades. The old trestles are of interest since they are collapsed or missing - many were 'logged' for their timbers after abandonment - and the gap they left is often impassable. Tunnels are something else - many are partially collapsed - but some are just like a city sidewalk inside, with perfectly preserved ties and ballast - dark, though.

This strange hobby has led me to many long-gone smelter sites and some 60 or more abandoned railroads. I have driven over much of the more recently abandoned Kettle Valley Railroad - this is no longer possible now that people have come to realize what extraordinary asset these grades are as hiking and bicycling trails.

A goodly amount of the cross-border railway investment in the early 1900's was due to the intense rivalry, even hatred, between Jim Hill of the Great Northern and CPR management. The Great Northern, challenging the CPR, pushed into B.C. with 12 border crossings using a variety of charter names for construction, the VV&E being only the best-known one of many. These entries are all visible today - you just must know where to look, and it helps to have a 4X4 off-road transport, a radio telephone (not cellular) and a winch for insurance.

I have many pictures taken in obscure back-road places, some of which are even of interest to other people, but the best part of this quasi-historical hobby is enjoyment of the beautiful fall weather in the South-eastern interior and, further, there's no traffic problem in this travel.

BRUCE McCALLUM