



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday December 19, 2000

TIME: 9:30AM

LOCATION: Stanley Park Pavilion

SPEAKER: Gregory K. Steele

TOPIC: The Proposed Hague Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgements in Civil and Commercial Matters - An Example of Canada's Leadership Role in International Affairs.

Minutes from November 21, 2000

Attendance 115 including three guests

President **John Hopkins** opened the meeting at 10:01. He was pleased that most of the returned questionnaire forms contained positive comments. We have received 190 renewals of membership with 30 more to come. He gave praise to **Brice Macdougall** for his excellent choice of speakers. Several volunteers have come forward to take on the job of Historian. The Presidents Luncheon will be on January 16, 2001 at the Point Grey Golf and Country Club. **Dick Matthews** urged that the outstanding questionnaires be submitted immediately. **Fred Cotton's** Vancouver book sales have gone well. There are more available @ \$10.00 each. **Brice Macdougall** announced that the next speaker would be Rotarian Greg Steele. The next meeting of the Executive will be held Tuesday, November 28th.

The guest speaker, Kari Simpson, was born in California of Canadian parents and left there for Canada at age 14. In her early years she worked as a commercial pilot.

She founded the Citizen's Research Institute 12 years ago. This privately funded registered non profit organization was an amalgam of several groups who had concerns regarding freedoms in Canada in the areas of constitutional, legal, social and medical issues. The organization initially was involved with

what was perceived as improper apprehension of supposedly abused children by zealous government social workers but has broadened its scope to focus on the changing identity of Canada. This change she feels has a lot to do with the educational systems failure to make democracy work.

One result is that special interest groups have flourished and have become very powerful with the help of government support and funding. An example is the "Child Protection Industry" which has developed into a multitude of government funded bureaucracies with tentacles which reach into all aspects of our lives. Since this has produced a large block of voting civil servants, governments in power are unwilling to dismantle them. Control and compliance are the hallmark of these agencies. One example of inappropriate administration of programs is that teachers are administering sexual abuse programs which have not been developed by professionals and which are based on predetermined guilt.

The **CARE PROGRAM** teaches children that those closest to them could be those who could harm them by such things as inappropriate touching despite the fact that most parents are raising their children in an appropriate manner. The children are advised to report any such suspicious behavior to their teacher. Most small children cannot differentiate between that which is or is not appropriate and there are many inappropriate reports given by confused children. There is no protection for parents and care givers in the legislation. The complainant is never identified so parents have fewer protections than criminals. As a result a generation of parents have become afraid to discipline their children for fear of being reported to these agencies. Children can be apprehended even if there is only a "likelihood" of harm occurring. A lot of apprehensions are done to middle class families because the case workers don't like working with the hard case lower classes.

Historically there are more children in foster care than ever before. About \$2 billion per year

President:

John Hopkins
985-8422

Past President:

Roy E. Williams
926-4727

Vice-president:

Norm Weitzel
925-3574

Secretary:

Don Farquhar
948-9908

Treasurer:

Bill Wallace
947-0340

Speakers**Committee:**

Brice Macdougall
684-1757

Membership**Committee:**

Dick Matthews
922-0358

Visits and**Entertainment:**

Tom McCusker
261-4763

House Committee:

Doug Lambert
266-2422

Greeters**Committee:**

Leo Sauve
925-2702

Rotary Liaison:

John Hoyle
926-2667

is spent provincially by the Ministry for Children and Families which supports an army of bureaucrats, counselors, social workers, lawyers and judges. Things have worsened with the NDP being in power. The Citizens Research Institute has put out a declaration of family rights which asks that parents be given the right to control the content of the moral education of their children. This in part has been propelled by the fact that classroom discussion has moved from "tolerance" to "advocacy" in attitudes and presentations on morality. This is allowed under the guise that parents delegate authority to teachers in the upbringing of their children. She feels that the state is ill equipped to deal in the area of personal morality and therefore children should receive this type of education in the home.

Her views conflict with those of the radical fringe in such areas as homosexuality, euthanasia and abortion. As a result, some of her presentations have been the subject of violent demonstrations.

After a question period the speaker was thanked by Al Baker for her interesting and informative talk.

Don Farquhar, Secretary

**ALERT - ALERT - ALERT****Dear Probus Member:**

We are aware of this scam. I have verified this with TELUS security that the 809 scam is indeed true.

This scam warning is being distributed all over the U.S. It is pretty scary - especially given the way they try to get you to call.

This scam has been identified by the National Fraud Information Center and is costing victims a lot of money. There are lots of different permutations of this scam, but here's how it works:

You will receive a message on your answering machine or your pager, which asking you to call a number beginning with area code 809. The reason you're asked to call varies. It can be to receive information about a family member who has been ill; to tell you someone has been arrested or died; or to let you know you have won a wonderful prize, etc.

In each case, you are told to call the 809 number right away. Since there are so many new area codes these days, people unknowingly return these calls. If you call from the U.S., you will apparently be charged \$2,425 per minute. Or, you'll get a long recorded message. The point is, they will try to keep you on the phone for as long as possible to increase the charges. Unfortunately, when you get your phone bill, you will often be charged more than \$24,100.00.

The 809 area code is located in the British Virgin Islands (the Bahamas). It can be used as a "pay-per-call" number, similar to the 900 numbers in the U.S. Since 809 is not in the U.S., it is not covered by U.S. regulations of 900 numbers, which requires that callers be notified and warned of charges and rates involved when you call a "pay-per-call"



number. There is also no requirement that the company provide a time period during which the caller may terminate the call without being charged.

Further, whereas many U.S. phones have 900 number blocking to avoid these kinds of charges, 900 number blocking will not prevent calls to the 809 area code.

We recommend that no matter how you get the message, if you are asked to call a number with an 809 area code that you don't recognize it; investigate further and/or disregard the message. Be wary of e-mail or calls asking you to call an 809 area code number. It is important to prevent becoming a victim of this scam, since trying to fight the charges afterwards can become a real nightmare. That's because you did actually make the call. Your local and long distance carrier will most likely tell you that they are simply providing the billing for the foreign company. You will end up dealing with a foreign company that argues they have done nothing wrong

TELUS Residential Sales & Service

NOVEMBER GREETERS:

Norm Weitzel

Jack Stein



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A management committee meeting was held recently and I will update you on several pertinent items.

The Presidents Luncheon will be held at Point Grey Golf and Country Club on our **REGULAR MEETING DAY - TUESDAY JANUARY 16TH.**

The cost will be as follows:

Members - \$10.00

Guests - \$30.00

These costs are payable at the door.



Please fill out the enclosed form and bring it to the December meeting or call the office to advise if you plan to attend the meeting and the luncheon. This is essential, as we must advise the Caterer, at the Golf Club, how many to expect for lunch.

Next I would like to express our thanks to the Membership, for the excellent responses submitted to the Questionnaire. You have offered some great suggestions for speakers and places to visit, which you will hear more about as the year progresses.

With respect to our Membership, we have included all those who were on the waiting list, as of November 30th. A final total of the membership should be known prior to the December meeting.

On behalf of the Executive and Committee Chairmen, I wish to extend to you and yours, sincere Greetings and Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a New Year, filled with Good Health and much Happiness.

John Hopkins,
President

PLEASE NOTE: IF THERE ARE ANY INACCURACIES IN OUR MAILING LIST REGARDING YOUR NAME, PHONE, ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.

VISITS AND ENTERTAINMENT:

The following events are tentatively planned as follows:

1. **JANUARY 16** - Presidents Luncheon at Point Grey Golf Club
2. **FEBRUARY 14TH** - Social - Valentines luncheon for members and wives at Capilano Golf Club
3. **MARCH** - Tours of film studio
4. **APRIL** - Bus tour and lunch to La Conner
5. **MAY 7** - Annual Golf tournament
 - Lunch and tour to Wigwam Inn, Indian Arm
6. **JUNE** - Interfor tour

Gregory K. Steele

Employment:

- Steele Urquhart Payne

Education:

- Simon Fraser University - BA (Econ. and Comm) 1976
- University of British Columbia - LLB - 1979

Area of Practice:

- Civil Litigation, including general commercial litigation, insurance litigation, professional negligence claims and personal injury claims
- Appeared as counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada, all courts in B.C.
- Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench and Manitoba Court of Appeal as well as in various administrative tribunals and arbitrations
- Arbitrator of commercial disputes

Professional Activity:

- Member of Legislation and Law Reform Committee - Canadian Bar Association - B.C. Branch 1990 to 1997
- Chair, Legislation Law Reform Committee-Canadian Bar Association-B.C. Branch 1991 to 1997
- Elected member of National Council and Provincial Council for British Columbia - Canadian Bar Association 1994 to 1997 and 1997 to 2000
- Member-at-large Executive Committee - Canadian bar Association - B.C. Branch - 1995-96 and 1996-97
- Member of Special Committee - Canadian Bar Association - B.C. Branch re: Uniform Law Conference of Canada-Proposed Court Jurisdiction and Proceeding Transfer Act
- Member of Special Committee-Canadian Bar Association- B.C. Branch re: Law Reform Commission of British Columbia-Consultation Paper on Recreational Injuries
- Member of Special Committee - Canadian Bar Association - B.C. Branch Fair Automobile Compensation Committee
- Member of Provincial Government Planning Group re: implementation of public Guardian and Trustee Act and adult Guardianship Act
- Member of Law Reform Commission of British Columbia Special Advisory Committee of Standardizing Assumptions relating to Income Tax Gross-up Calculations and Management Fees
- Private Bar Representative - Uniform Law Conference of Canada 1994 to 2000
- Founding Member of British Columbia Law Institute Incorporated January 1997 and Chair since May 1997
- Member of Canadian delegation to The Hague Conference on Private International Law Special commission on Intonation Jurisdiction and Foreign Judgments in Civic and Commercial Matters

Publications: Co-author(Ostrowski, Steele, Plaxton, Kaker, Macaulay) *Testamentary Custody and Guardianship* - advocate Vol. 54 Part 6 November 1996