

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: June 20, 2000

TIME: 9:30AM

LOCATION: Stanley Park Pavilion

SPEAKER: Michael Walker,

Executive Director, Fraser Institute

TOPIC: Myths of the Canadian Health Care
System

Minutes from May 16, 2000

Attendance: 115

Roy Williams chaired the meeting. He gave recognition to **Doug Lambert** for his unsung heroism in making the House Committee work. **John Catchpole** thanked **Chris Lee** for arranging the enjoyable trip to Minter Gardens. **Dick Matthews** announced that as of May 7 our membership has been capped at 231 members - the main reason being that, large crowds frustrate social interaction. Guests may attend up to three times per year. Applications received will go on a wait list. **Geoff Walsh** announced that the Saturna Island trip has been oversold.

The President introduced Arthur Erickson whose extensive CV is contained in the April Newsletter.

Mr. Erickson gave us an informal overview of his experiences in Vancouver over the past 76 years. He characterized himself as the fly in the civic ointment - keeping after civic facilitators in an effort to get them to do the right thing.

The Simon Fraser University design was his first major undertaking. The SFU design

rules, that emphasized diversity in the disciplines, were not followed in his design.

They wanted the academic disciplines separated into different building units. His concept was to have the disciplines functionally integrated into one communal unit. He and his colleagues were surprised when their design won the competition. Gordon Shrum, as chancellor was a remarkable man, very fair, and left the details of the project in Erickson's hands. They managed to design and build the project in the mandated two years (normal would be five years) by using the runners-up to take on some buildings under his design leadership. He created a master scale module with blanks into which the modules that were created by the runners-up had to fit. Other campuses at that time promoted diversity among the disciplines. His creation allowed interplay among the faculties.

During his years in Vancouver he has seen the city grow from 150,000 with a business core and a large surrounding residential area. With few restaurants and where social activities were centered in the home. Over the years the move to the suburbs continued. The downtown area has now become attractive because the downtown peninsula is a small island with the open sea around, he recommends that the downtown density be limitless. He foresees a population of ten million in greater Vancouver because of our special environmental advantages (in spite of the rain). For instance, the climate has formed the arts here, as an example painters and musicians are more poetic than elsewhere. The lower mainland not being a flatland the up-down topography creates stepped rather than flat building styles such as in the early Fairview Slope constructions. In contrast to the

JUNE 2000

President:
Roy E. Williams
926-4727

Past President:
Pidge McBride
274-0446

Vice-president:
John Hopkins
985-8422

Secretary:
Don Farquhar
948-9908

Treasurer:
Bill Wallace
222-2365

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

**Membership
Committee:**
Dick Matthews
922-0358

**Visits and
Entertainment:**
Tom McCusker
261-4763

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

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

Rotary Liaison:
John Hoyle
926-2667

disciplined Eastern stone and brick boxes, the west has a casual but ingenious approach to architecture. He, however decries the alleys of trees in the suburbs creating areas of darkness and formality. He recognizes the necessity of trees but would prefer smaller and more varied trees.

Mr. Erickson then embarked on a survey of transportation in the lower mainland of BC. We have existing rail right of ways - Arbutus to Richmond, Vancouver Harbour to Hope, Second Narrows to Prince George, Vancouver Harbour to Seattle, and Robert's Bank to Hope. Each of these should add tracks for high speed passenger trains. In addition the Olympic Committee is missing an important transportation alternative by not building rapid rail to Whistler and North from the end of Indian Arm. It would be possible to access Squamish in thirty minutes. This rapid transport to the lower mainland would open areas of the south slopes of mountain ranges to new residential development.

He disagrees with all the current proposals of the third crossing of Burrard Inlet. Most would have non-city traffic passing through the city creating traffic jams in the West End and destroying the downtown waterfront. He presented an alternative with a tunnel originating in the industrial area of the False Creek flats and ending in the industrial area of North Vancouver near Keith Road. Both of these would give easy access to the Trans Canada Highway with minimal civic disruption. He foresees that this enhanced transportation will allow development in West Vancouver to the scale of the West End and North Vancouver as a second CBD.

He is appalled that Vancouver does not have a downtown core subway system. He presented maps which showed that two loops would handle the need. It is of vital necessity for downtown businesses and would service the coming intense growth in the downtown core.

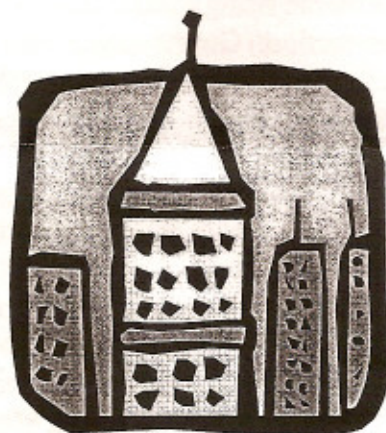
The Provincial Government is requiring Robson Square to have more retail space to increase it's utilization and to offset its costs. Various proposals were presented including the use of a glass canopy supported by glass beams for a rain cover over the north sunken court.

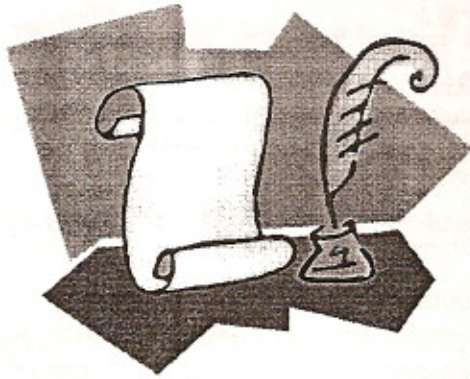
He sees a future for Canada in the production of the fuel of the future - liquid hydrogen. Canada could become a major producer of this environmentally friendly fuel within twenty years.

Questions: Skytrain, billboards, accordion busses, Vancouver Island Access, funding of transport.

The speaker was thanked by Tony Wooster for a provocative and interesting presentation.

Don Farquhar, Secretary





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Management Committee of our Club meets at least every three months. The last meeting was held on May 9th. You may be interested in a few of the important matters that were discussed.

One item that has come up regularly is the size of our Club which is by far the largest out of the 16 clubs in BC. Your Management Committee feels that we should not permit the club to become so large that meeting and socializing with other members becomes too difficult. Also, we do not want to be forced to find a new meeting place because the Stanley Park Pavilion cannot accommodate our members. As our membership Chairman, Dick Matthews reported at our regular meeting on May 16th, we have capped our membership at it's current level for the moment. A committee comprised of John Hopkins, Fred Cotton and Norm Weitzel has been formed to review the entire matter and is to report back to the next Management Committee meeting with their recommendations. In the meantime a waiting list has been established for applications received after May 9th.

Another matter of concern is the public address system in the Stanley Park Pavilion. We are investing in a lapel microphone which should solve the problem.

The membership roster was also discussed. Consideration is being given to upgrading the contents for the next printing. We hope to poll the members for information such as e-mail addresses, wives' names and special interests.

Finally, we discussed the appointment of an historian to establish and maintain a record of the clubs activities.

I hope to see you at the next meeting on June 20th.

Sincerely,
Roy E. Williams
President



JUNE MEETING GREETERS ARE:

- LEO SAUVE
- GORD YOUNGSON

Dr. Michael A. Walker

Executive Director, The Fraser Institute

Michael Walker is an economist, journalist, broadcaster, consultant, university lecturer and public speaker.

As an economist, he has authored or edited 48 books on economic topics. His articles on technical economic subjects have appeared in professional journals in Canada, the United States and Europe, including the Canadian Journal of Economics, the American Economic Review, The Journal of Finance, the Canadian Tax Journal, Health Management Quarterly and Health Affairs.

As a journalist, he has written some 680 articles which have appeared in some 60 newspapers, including the Globe and Mail, the Wall Street Journal, the Vancouver Sun, the Chicago Tribune, the Reader's Digest, the Detroit News and the Western Star - the latter being the newspaper in his birthplace, Corner Brook, Newfoundland. He has been a regular columnist in the Vancouver Province, the Toronto Sun, the Ottawa Citizen and is a member of the Financial Post, Board of Economists.

As a broadcaster, he has written and delivered some 2,000 radio broadcasts on economic topics and appeared on radio and television programmes in Canada, the United States and Latin America.

As a consultant, he has provided advice to private groups and governments in the US, Argentina, Australia, Bermuda, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Hong Kong, Jamaica, New Zealand, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Sweden, Venezuela and Canada.

He has lectured to over 1,000 audiences at Universities and other venues on five continents.

Since 1974 Michael Walker has directed the activities of the Fraser Institute. Before that he taught at the University of Western Ontario and Carleton and was employed at the Bank of Canada and the Federal Department of Finance. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Western Ontario and his BA at St. Francis Xavier University.

He is a director of a number of firms and other enterprises, including Mancal Corporation, the Milton and Rose D. Friedman Foundation and the Max Bell Foundation. He is on the Financial Post Board of Economists. In 1992 he was awarded the Colin M. Brown Freedom Medal and Award by the National Citizens' Coalition.

He is married and has two children.