



# NEWSLETTER

## PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

...to find more about Probus go to [www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)

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**Next Meeting: Wednesday April 14th, 2004**

**APRIL 2004**

**Time: 9:30am**

**Location: H. R. MacMillan Planetarium and Space Centre - Lower Level**

**Speaker: Ken Carty, Citizens' Assembly, Chief Research Officer**

**Minutes of Tuesday, March 9th, 2004**

**Attendance: 140 members and 2 guests**

**Gordon Thom** (in the continued absence of McCusker in, on or about the 50th state) acted as Chair and, apart from nearly forgetting to introduce his, own guest, did his Vice-Presidential job.

**Pidge McBride** reported that arrangements for the "meeting of the Clans" (Probus Clubs of Canada) in September 2005 at Muskoka were "looking good."

**Bill Manson** admitted that the Club "was \$1,000 ahead of last month" without any further fiscal disclosure.

**Fred Cotton** advised that April's speaker would be an officer of the B.C. Citizens Assembly in Electoral Reform.

**John Hoyle** led the Club pin presentation to two new members **Gil Bradner** and **Don Jones**.

**George Adams** gave his usual "booze" report, praising some

members, castigating others but, in passing, it was mentioned that **Chris Lee's** Roundhouse/Yaletown Walking Tour on April 21 was over-booked i.e. don't call Chris, he'll tell you!

**Doug Lambert** reported that diamonds were still not the Club's "best friend" as there was still space on the July 13, 14th trip.

Our guest speaker, Dr. James A. Boutilier (B.A. from Dalhousie, M.A. from McMaster, PhD from University of London - all in History) an expert on the Asia/Pacific area (political, security, military) was introduced by **John Rawsthorne**.

Dr. Boutilier started with an overview of Asia, the growth of China, Japan's loss of power, volatile and dangerous North Korea, the shift from Moscow, Washington, Tokyo and

Europe to Asia, the re-emergence of India, international terrorism in central and S.E. Asia (China "overlooks all"), Beijing vs China is barely a country - "an experience" but a coherent political entity. "Isms" are dead in China (Communist/Socialist). Mao is replaced by the mini-skirt and MacDonald's ("Whitehot economy" - "Curious proto capitalist"). Increasingly self-confident with POTENTIAL! Pro active with major leverage.

Taiwan is bluff and bluster.

Bad news is China's banking (huge overhang of debt). It's state owned enterprises (social and business) are being closed down but we (Canadians and the rest of North America) are on prozac when China's commerce is looked at. "China is under every Christmas Tree" (and a lot of other trees e.g. golf courses). China also has huge energy and water problems with the G.D.P. "well below" the \$6,000 margin. More than 10% of China is on the move (coastal cities are the magnet). The control and Chaos of China!

Japan, the traditional driver in the far east. In the doldrums since the 90's. Ever so slowly coming back. South Korea directed to China - not U.S.A. Intra Asia more important than trans Pacific. Eclipse of Europe e.g. Shanghai, number four container port in world ("these people think big").

Japan was passive about security but now sending warships to Indian Ocean and troops to Iraq. Hiroshima disappearing from scene. Loss of economic dominance by Japan to China - THE RISE OF CHINA. . Second largest economy in world.

No love is lost between Japan and

North Korea ("a skillful megalomaniac") but there is no comparison between North Korea and Iraq.

All major powers interests meet in the Korean peninsula and China trying to broker agreement which is not amenable to solution. "The Non proliferation Treaty is in tatters - stiffed by North Korea and Iran."

Indonesia - 1st among equals. Distinction between N.E. Asia and S.E. Asia (where rampant corruption - what was corrupt, was NOT sharing!). East Timor (tissue paper over a volcano - "leader's husband is a crook")

Questions and Answer period brought out disconnect between education of Asians (Chinese) and political side (happy to send to B.C. etc. but China is a police state - "no sense of humour." "Works on connections."

Energy requirements soar. From central Asia to coastal areas of China and from central Asia thru Russia with coal being the source of energy (75% of energy in China) and resulting huge environmental problems (smog, acid rain etc.) Export of jobs to India etc. - not just one way.

The Chinese and Americans need each other and the Japanese are incrementalists and the reform of Japan will be by consensus. Slow improvement is being made.

**Pidge McBride** thanked our speaker.

**Denis Creighton, Secretary**

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**MARCH GREETERS:** Bob Barnbrook, Gordon Youngson

**MEMBER SERVICE DESK:** Bill Weatherall

**CASH DESK:** George Plant, John Macgowan

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As Vice President I had the pleasure, in the absence of our President, of chairing a very informative March meeting. President Tom McCusker who continues to soak up the sun in Hawaii promises to return before our next meeting.

Speakers Chair, Fred Cotton, thanked the hard working members of his committee for all their suggestions and help in finding the variety of outstanding speakers that speak to us. Our March speaker was no exception. Fred and his group have a breadth of speakers and topics booked for most meetings through the rest of the year. It doesn't pay to miss a meeting. To Fred and the Speakers Committee, our thanks for your work on our behalf. You continue to make every meeting a treat not to miss.

Also of note is how members, more and more, seem to enjoy the fellowship of chatting with old friends and new acquaintances over coffee before the formal part of our meetings. Doug Lambert and the many others who quietly work to have things ready when we arrive have noted that members seem to be arriving earlier so as take full advantage of this opportunity

Next month we welcome back our President. Don't miss the April meeting. I'm sure it will be another good one.

Gordon Thom

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## NOTICES

### ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMNET

Time is running out to enter this year's golf tournament to be held on Monday, April 26th at the University Golf Club. If you have never played in this fun tournament you are missing a great golf outing featuring loads of fellowship and great food! HIGH HANDICAPPERS ARE WELCOME. See enclosed entry form for details.

### ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR

Chris Lee has done wonders once more, organizing a guided Walking Tour of the False Creek area, the Concorde Pacific site, Yaletown and the Roundhouse Community Centre on **April 21**.

This event was over-subscribed quickly and it has been necessary to turn away some applicants. For those who are included, we will assemble at the Roundhouse at 10:00 am and return there for lunch, concluding about 1:30 pm.

Public parking, accessible from either Pacific Boulevard or Drake Street, is available under the Roundhouse at a cost of \$1.00 per hour.

### HARRISON HOT SPRINGS BOAT/COACH TOUR

The response for this trip has been very good and we now have vacancy for only one more person. However, experience would suggest that between now and the end of May we will experience some withdrawals (especially once we start collecting money!) so you should not be discouraged from making an application but do so soon.

Starline Tours will be conducting the trip on Monday **May 31** leaving by boat from New Westminster Quay at 7:00 am, proceeding up the Fraser River and into Harrison Lake. Lunch will be provided on board and we will disembark to the Harrison Hot Springs Hotel at about 2:00 pm. We will then board a bus and return to New Westminster, stopping at Westminster Abbey on the way, arriving at New Westminster Quay at about 5:30 pm.

The price for this trip will be about \$115.00 per person, \$230.00 per couple. An announcement about payment will be made in the newsletter next month.

### TRIUMF/CYCLOTRON FACILITY

The visit to this important facility will take place on **April 7** starting at 10:00am and lasting for about one and a half hours. Attendance will be limited to 45 persons. Most of the places are now taken but for those who wish to join but have not yet applied, please call George Adams at 604-926-0906

## TRIP TO DIAMOND MINE IN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Considerable interest has been expressed in this trip to the Diavik Diamond Mine Inc. - one of the two diamond mines operating in the NWT, some 300 km. northeast of Yellowknife.

Participants will leave Vancouver by schedule airline early on Tuesday, July 13, arrive Yellowknife about noon and view one or two of the diamond cutting facilities in Yellowknife, "overnighting" there.

On the morning of July 14 we travel to the mine site by charter and view the pit operation and the process plant (unfortunately, the recovery area is off-limits) before flying back to Yellowknife and catching a flight back to Vancouver, via Edmonton, arriving during the evening of July 14.

The mine can handle a maximum of 25 people.

The cost of this trip will depend on the number of participants but is expected to be in the order of \$1,300 per head, including an allowance for accommodation costs in Yellowknife

If you are interested in making this trip, please return the application form which was included with last month's newsletter, to the Probus office (no payment is necessary at this time) or, if you require more information, please contact Don Codville (604 929 3650) or Doug Lambert.



### **Ken Carty Chief Research Officer**

Ken is one of Canada's foremost authorities on electoral systems. Ken is

the former head of the UBC's Political Science department (1996-2001) and teaches courses on Canadian and comparative western politics. His research is focused on the structure, organization and behaviour of political parties, using both survey research and personal interviewing methods.

He has published widely on the political recruitment, leadership and electoral activities of parties in Canada, Europe and Australia. His most recent book, *Rebuilding Canadian Party Politics*, is on the transformation of the national party system in Canada and he is completing a book-length study of local party organization and activity with Munroe Eagles, a political geographer at SUNY-Buffalo.

Ken is a Senior Fellow of Green College, one of UBC's residential graduate colleges. He is the Chair of the Publications Board of UBC Press and Past-President of the Canadian Political Science Association. He is also a member of the Canadian Democracy Audit team at the Centre for Canadian Studies at Mt. Allison University and responsible for co-authoring the project's summary volume.

Ken is also active in British Columbia life. In 2002-03, he served on the Federal Election Boundary Commission to redraw the boundaries of B.C.'s constituencies in the House of Commons. He is chair of the Board of the Vancouver School of Theology and active in his local congregation which has just started a feeding program for the homeless called Out of the Cold.

Ken escapes academia by skiing in Whistler. One day he hopes to explore India, although he'd settle for Cajun food and jazz in Louisiana. Ken is a die-hard Montreal Canadiens fan - but we love him anyhow!