



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

...to find more about Probus go to www.probus.org

President:

Gordon Thom
604-739-0714

Director

Probus Canada
Pidge McBride
604-274-0446

Past President

Tom McCusker
604-261-4763

Vice-President

Denis Creighton
604-922-6469

Secretary

Bill Weatherall
604-263-3069

Treasurer

Bill Manson
604-988-2365

Speakers

Committee
Fred Cotton
604-266-7060

Membership

Committee
John Hoyle
604-926-2667

Visits and

Entertainment

George Adams
604-926-0906

House Committee

Doug Lambert
604-266-2422

Newsletter Editor

Roy Williams
604-926-4727

Membership Services

Ted Daem
604-732-7758

Historian and

Archivist

Peter McCabe
604-224-4870

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12th 2005

APRIL 2005

Time: 9:30am

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

Speaker: Dr. John MacFarlane

Topic: West Nile Virus

Minutes of the March 8th, 2005 meeting

Attendance: 172 including 10 guests

President Gordon called the meeting to order and welcomed all. After the guests were introduced, Gordon asked John Hoyle to introduce the following new members: Richard Dunsterville (airline industry), Ed Gibbon (financial services), Herb Lewis (mining background), Tony Petrina (mining industry), and Philip Shior (Legal background). All were warmly welcomed and then Gordon called for the committee reports.

Treasurer, Bill Manson - Bill reported a quiet but successful month.

Probus Canada, Director Pidge McBride - Pidge asked those interested in attending the Muskoka Rendezvous to please contact him.

Speaker Committee, Fred Cotton - GVRD's John MacFarlane will speak on West Nile Virus at the April meeting. The May speaker will be the long awaited Carol Taylor. Fred said although under-booked by four, the April 11th China trip, is a go. If interested in coming, contact Fred.

Visits and Entertainment, George

Adams - Registration forms for the Tenth Annual Golf Tournament and the Hycroft/Shaugnessy tour were included in the March Newsletter. The tour still has four spaces available. **Michael Jacobson** has arranged a no-host, after-Probus meeting lunch at Chianti Restaurant. See "LUNCH AT CHIANTI'S" on page page 4.

Newsletter, Roy Williams - The March newsletter was posted to all and also e-mailed to those who furnished an e-mail address. This distribution will also be used next month. Starting with the May issue, it's "e-mail only" for those wishing to receive their newsletter this way. Roy then quipped that Fred shed his red sweater in preference for a jacket, shirt and tie, undoubtedly to illustrate his high esteem for today's speaker, the Honourable Colin Hansen!

The President then asked **Bill Sauder** to introduce this morning's speaker. Colin Hansen opened by saying that Ipsos-Reid has conducted two recent public-opinion polls regarding the Province's economy. The results showed that over the last eight months, favourable responses increased from 36% to 58%. He also said that 3 1/2 years ago the party made 202 written commitments to matters they intended addressing during the first term in office. He advised that every item was either completed or well underway!

When this "Vision of Hope and Prosperity for BC" was introduced people were sceptical. One out of every two mining jobs had been lost, the Provincial tax was the highest in Canada, unemployment was up and people were leaving the Province, convinced its twilight years had arrived. Gordon Campbell felt differently and was sure the Province could be turned around. Given the mandate, he and his team started work immediately. His first priority was health-care and education. Nurses training capacity was markedly increased. Personal Provincial income tax was reduced for all. Since then the government has worked on the other 199 commitments until Colin now sees the light at the tunnel's end.

Colin said the best economic indicators are inter-Provincial migration figures, not a comparison between interest rates and building starts. During the NDP's demise there was an Inter-Provincial out-flow and low economic indicators. By 2003 the Province was again experiencing immigration and the economy was strengthening. Now BC leads Canada in economic growth. All industrial sectors; forestry, mining/exploration, manufacturing and exports are growing. The private sector is regaining confidence and is investing in capital equipment, improving the provincial gross national product. Standard and Poors has increased the credit rating on the BC Government debt because budget goals are being met. BC is second only to Alberta in the debt-to-gross domestic product ratio.

By paying down the provincial debt, interest costs drop providing funds for better disability income assistance, health-care, education and childrens' services. Further, for those with incomes of up to \$16,000 there will be no Provincial tax. The total Provincial taxes now takes less of our incomes than they did 3 1/2 years ago.

Colins concluded his "non-political" talk by urging all to work and vote for our party-of-choice during the pending campaign.

During the question period we were told:

- Colin would not comment on the proposed BC-STV electoral system.
- The government operating staff has been reduced by 7,000 with no ill effects.
- That the coalition with free enterprise is working well, but that good news does not good copy make.
- That government must rely on independent statistical predictions such as the dollar value when developing the budget.
- That medical seats at UBC have been increased from 124 to 256.
- That the emergency room access is now measured by the time taken from arrival 'til discharge or admittance, and these statistics are improving.

As the minister's allotted time had expired, President Gordon asked **Marshall Bray** to thank the speaker.

Bill Weatherall, Secretary

Steveston Village

We are now organizing a tour of Steveston village on Thursday 16th June. Starting at 10 am with a guided tour of the Britannia Shipyard (about one hour), we then walk through the BC Packers facility and the restored Marukame, Japanese house and finish at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. We have a guided tour of the Cannery before going to lunch, at about 1:30pm. Numbers will be limited so please mark your diary and stand-by for more details.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We tend to think of only our Club, but there are 165 other Probus Clubs in Canada. It is thanks to Probus Canada, our national organization that we received the direction and purpose that helped our founders start our Club for

our retired or semi-retired professional and business people in Vancouver. Many of these early members were active in service clubs such as Rotary and welcomed the opportunity for continued fellowship without the demands and commitments required by those organizations.

There has not been much opportunity to mix and meet with members of other Probus Clubs but, as we heard from Pidge McBride, there is the Rendezvous in September where Probus members from across Canada will come together. Pidge, a Charter Member and a Past President of our Club, is serving a term as a Director of Probus Canada after being elected to that position by the Clubs in BC. His contact with Probus Canada has been beneficial and we appreciate the service Pidge is performing both nationally and for our Club. Pidge currently would like to help and encourage the further development of new Clubs in the Lower Mainland.

Pidge was born in Vancouver and attended Magee High School. His attendance at UBC in Arts was interrupted by the war. He joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1943 serving in the Atlantic before becoming involved with anti-sub work in the Irish Sea and the English Channel. In 1945 he returned to UBC to complete his education. Pidge joined Woodward's where he spent his entire career. He spent many years managing in Alberta cities and finally in Vancouver when he became V.P. of Food Operations. He enjoys golf, reading and traveling and has served as a Director

of the Point Grey Golf and Country Club. Pidge and Joan have four children and thirteen grandchildren.

NOTICES

Member Services Desk: Ted Daem

Cash Desk: Ken Warner, Bob Barnbrook

Greeters: John Hill, Geoff Walsh, Neil Smyth

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

This is the last month in which we are mailing a Newsletter to those who are satisfied to receive a copy by e-mail. The cost of printing and postage is close to 80 cents per copy or \$10.00 per year per member. With over 200 members with e-mail facilities, the savings to the Club will be \$2,000 or more per year. Also, the time and effort required by Doug Lambert and his helpers to prepare the Newsletter for mailing will be substantially reduced.

Those members with e-mail addresses who wish to receive a copy by mail please contact the Probus office.

VISITS AND ENTERTAINMENT

PROBUS ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, April 25th is the date! Don't miss this opportunity for fun and fellowship plus great food at the UBC Golf Course. To register, call the office at (604) 261-6818 or Bill Kennedy at (604) 731-4244.



LUNCH AT CHIANTI'S

Michael Jacobson extends an open invitation to join him and other Probus members for lunch immediately following each monthly meeting.

PLACE: Chianti's at 1850 West 4th Ave., (just west of Burrard on the south side).

CUISINE: Italian style featuring pasta dishes etc.

PRICES: Reasonable

MARK YOUR DIARIES

7 PM Saturday, October 1st, -

BC LIONS vs SASKATCHEWAN

Arrangements have been made for Probus members



to enjoy this football game from the comfort of the President's Club Suite. Note the date and time and we'll give you more

details later.

MINTER GARDENS TOUR

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

A guided tour of Minter Gardens including lunch has been arranged for Probus Members and guests.

Travel will be by bus leaving at 9:00AM and returning between 3:30pm and 4:00pm. The cost will be approximately \$50.00 per person. Space is limited. Please phone the Probus Office to register for this tour.

April Guest Speaker

Dr. John MacFarlane

West Nile Virus is a problem that, like death and taxes, carries the attribute of inevitability. So far the impact on British Columbia citizens has been minimal, but this will change. The severity of the impact will very much depend upon the activities of individuals such as our speaker this month. The successful containment

of this problem will also be dependent upon the shared efforts of all the citizens of our Province.

Dr. John MacFarlane is well qualified to lead the campaign to minimize the effects of this potential epidemic. His background is in geography and biology. He has had extensive experience in research and environmental management projects across Canada having worked at some time or another in seven Provinces as well as working in five countries under the aegis of the Federal Government. He has been the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Resource Management Planner since 1999.

He recognized very early on the threat to the citizens of British Columbia and the inevitability of the arrival of the West Nile Virus to our Province. He became a strong advocate for preventive measures at a time that the threat was not generally recognized. He was so active in this area that in 2004 he was appointed the GVRDs West Nile Virus Mosquito Coordinator. His mandate is to coordinate all of the jurisdictions in the GVRD in their efforts to manage the West Nile vector mosquitoes as one part of preventive measures against West Nile infection.

He is a direct descendent of West Coast Gold Rush pioneers, spent a short time in the navy, is married and lives in Delta.

His talk will focus on the issues of the threat posed by the virus on the natural environment, to the people of British Columbia, and to the cost to the community. It is a true sustainability issue.





PRINCESS LOUISA TOUR

Wednesday June 15 and Thursday June 16, 2005

JOIN US TO SEE THE MOST SCENIC AREA OF OUR COAST

Arrangements have been made to dedicate a scheduled departure on a Princess Louisa Inlet tour to our Probud Club. Some modifications have been planned to enhance our outing. Details of the normal program can be viewed on the tour company web site at www.SunshineCoastTours.ca

1. June 15th

(a) Travel to Sunshine Coast on the BC Ferry. Depart from Horseshoe Bay, take the sailing to Langdale. BC seniors ride free mid-week and pay only for their vehicle (\$32.25 round trip).

(b) Arrange a dinner with your friends at one of the restaurants on the Sunshine Coast. Or a group dinner may be arranged at a local restaurant.

(c) It will be necessary to overnight on the sunshine Coast on June 15. You can make your own reservation at one of the many recreational resorts. The cost of accommodation varies from \$85 to \$175 per couple depending on level of accommodation chosen. A list of resorts is available on the Sunshine Coast Tours web site that has some accommodations details for local facilities. You can refer to that if you like..

2. June 16

(a) We leave from Egmont 10am June 16 aboard a vessel carrying a maximum of 25 passengers. Travel is through the protected minor waters of Jervis Inlet..

(b) Included is a morning snack, barbecue ashore at the Princess Louisa Inlet Marine Park and an afternoon snack.

(c) Enjoy the sights of Jervis Inlet - It is beautiful, rain or shine.

(d) At the top end of Jervis Inlet we enter Princess Louisa Inlet through the Malibu Rapids.

(e) At the far end of the Princess Louisa Inlet we have free time ashore at Princess Louisa Marine Park, beside the world famous Chatterbox Falls. Originally this was the homestead of James (Mac) MacDonald. Mac initiated the work to preserve the natural beauty of this destination.

(f) A second stop is planned at Young Life's Malibu Club where there will be a short hosted tour. This development was conceived by Tom Hamilton as a luxurious resort for the Hollywood elite of the day. it never realized commercial success and was purchased by the current owner in 1953.

(g) Return to Egmont in time to drive to the Langdale ferry and take it back to Vancouver

Contact Person : Don Farquhar (604) 948-9908

Registration

PRINCESS LOUISA TOUR - JUNE 15 & 16, 2005

Name (S) _____

Phone # _____

Enclosed is a cheque for \$101.30 each, made out to Probud Vancouver

Please return your cheque and registration to:

Probud Club Vancouver, 252 - 2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5