



# NEWSLETTER PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

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JULY 2006

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 11th, 2006**

**Time: 9:30 AM**

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

**Speaker: Peg Wilson**

**Topic: The World Bank - It's Triumphs and  
Challenges**

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 21 - Bard On The Beach**

**Midsummer Night's Dream**

**Sept. 16. Football Game**

**BC Lions vs Montreal**

**October 7 - Fraser River Cruise to Fort  
Langley Cranberry Festival**

## PEG WILSON



Peg has been involved in the international development business since 1984, when she was lured away from part-time consulting

and homemaking with the promise of a chance to travel to, and work in China. One thing led to another, and she ended up in Washington working as an energy economist and financial analyst for the World Bank.

While she moved back to Vancouver in 1997, she has continued to work for the Bank on a wide range of assignments, and has been involved in projects in many of the countries of the former Soviet Union, as well as in Africa, Pakistan, Malaysia, Nepal, and - most recently - Mongolia. Most of these assignments have also involved extensive

work with senior government officials on policy issues such as sector restructuring and privatization, legal and regulatory reform, enterprise finances, fiscal impacts, and social protection.

Peg now lives in West Vancouver with her husband and a hyper-active dog, enjoying part-time retirement and part-time work.

## **Minutes of the June 13th Meeting**

**Attendance: 142 including guests**

President Denis asked Bill Sauder to introduce our speaker, Dr. Daniel Muzyka, Dean of the Sauder School of Commerce. The Dean had another engagement requiring him to leave early, so our business meeting was scheduled after the talk.



The Dean spoke about the BC Government's recent budget and examined our competitiveness with the rest of Canada and the world. Dean Dan started with a couple of economic truisms: the world is becoming a single economic unit, and, to successfully compete in the world economy requires superior products. He then made the point that traditionally, BC's earnings are based on what is negotiated rather than productivity. In addition, there is a misconception that people will come to BC because of its beauty. Wrong, they only visit because of beauty. After this introduction he outlined the rest of his talk: our competitiveness, recent progress, current issues, opportunities/challenges and recommended actions.

- **Competitiveness** - Dean Dan gave an embarrassingly large number of examples of our lack of competitiveness: In 1970 out of 24 nations we ranked 5th in productivity, and by 2004 we had slipped to 17th. Dean Dan stated that we are turing this around; while we were the only province to report a negative growth in disposable income through the 90's our GDP has been improving in the 2000's and we are once again a "have" rather than a "have not" province.
- **Progress Made, "The worst is over!"** - Many examples of our significant turn-around were given but there are no laurels to rest on. We must diligently maintain our efforts to fix the problems of the 90s. The Dean estimates these problems will take 10 years to overcome, and we will never regain the lost opportunities. He offered a checklist to monitor performance. This includes minimizing government regulations, using generally accepted accounting and budgeting practices, re-directing health care matters towards "management" rather than a "philosophic" approach, increasing educational spending

(this year there were 5,000 applications for the 500 seats available at the Sauder School of Commerce) and keeping the Manufacturing and Processing Industry's tax level low.

● **Current Issues** - Our demographics will continue to put pressure on our healthcare system and could result in labour shortages. The antagonistic methods of labour/management negotiations will continue to threaten our present and future. Our persistent high crime rates will deem BC undesirable unless corrected. We must work to increase our export base and the "value-added" aspect of our resource type exports as well as develop new export/import partners to lessen our dependence on the U.S.

● **Opportunities and Challenges** - China is quickly rearranging the World's economic line-up and very soon will become the 4th largest economy. While this will cause problems for many countries it should present BC, because of location, increased business opportunities. The ever increasing worldwide energy shortage will benefit Canada and particularly the provinces of Alberta and BC. Since 9/11 the world demand for security has markedly increased, offering opportunity for those that develop better technology.

● **Action Required** - In the short-term we must strive to maintain a competitive economy, increase our investment in education, look at healthcare from a "management" viewpoint, deal with crime and assure we take full advantage of new immigrant's existing skills. In the medium-term we should take bold steps to diversify our export base, streamline traditional industries that are under-performing and invest in infrastructure for identified growth industries, especially transportation. In the long-haul we must increase the "value added"



aspect of all industries, encourage small-industry entrepreneurship and manage regional transitions and protect emerging industries.

***During the question period we learned that:***

- The U.S./Canadian border is understandable of more concern to our neighbours and Dean Dan stressed that neighbors should respect each other's concerns through dialogue and, as necessary, through corrective action. Matters such as our very liberal immigration practices and lack of drug control are examples.
- We should expect that China would find Russian lumber more competitive than ours simply due to lower labour rates and shipping costs, regardless of corruption claims.
- The current trend of China adopting more westernized business practices will automatically force the U.S. to overcome the commercial problems developed in the 70s.
- Any economic advantage BC may have had was surely lost by our political directions of the 90s. Dean Dan stressed that we must be competitive not only within Canada but worldwide as well. He pointed out that, much to BC's detriment, countless union jobs were lost in the 90s.
- Governments do not create business opportunities, but they can provide valuable contacts. Institutes such as the Board of Trade should hold the government accountable for its level of performance.
- Venture capital must be attracted into the Province. As it currently stands there are laws that encourage anything but, and this situation must be corrected.

Lloyd Doidge thanked the speaker.

Meanwhile, back to the business meeting. President Denis informed us that there is room available on the Princess Louisa Inlet tour and that Bard on the Beach tickets can be picked up after the meetings. We were also informed that the July meeting speaker is the World Bank's Peggy Wilson. President Denis then invited Past President Gordon Thom to make a very special presentation. This pleasurable task was to award John

Hoyle with Honourary Life Membership in Probus Club Vancouver. Gordon then called on Nick Thornton to introduce our new members but warned him that the President wouldn't allow more than a minute each. President Denis quipped, "take two." The new members are: Kurt Rudzewski (banking), Adrian Grant-Duff (forest industry), Will Preston (transportation industry) and Sam Mahaffy (insurance).

Bill Weatherall Secretary

## **NOTICES**

**It is with regret we announce the passing of Al Newmarch on June 8, 2006 and Malcolm King on June 19. Our condolences to their families. A donation will be made in their names by Probus to Lions Gate Palliative Care and the Heart and Stroke Foundations respectively.**

Member Services Desk: Ted Daem

Cash Desk: Jack Croll, Bob Clark

Greeters: Bob Axford, Lloyd Doidge, Dan Winram

## **BRIDGE**

Probus members are invited to join with members of the Rotary Club of Vancouver for evenings of contract bridge.

- First session is at Point Grey Golf and Country Club. Date to be announced. Subsequent sessions, October until May with a Christmas break.
- 2 tables hosted at members' homes 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
- Tea, coffee, dessert and snacks/beverages provided by hosts.

*Members who are interested are asked to complete and return the attached form. Contact Jack Zaleski if you do not have a partner at this time. Others may be interested. Partners do not necessarily have to be members.*

For Further Information contact Jack Zaleski  
604-261-7492 or Gordon Thom 604-739-0714



## HONOURARY LIFE MEMBER

A Honourary Life Membership was presented to John Hoyle to recognize his important role as a Charter Member in the founding of the Probus Club Vancouver.

In the spring of 1997, the Rotary Club of Vancouver, became interested in sponsoring a Probus Club in Vancouver.

Tom Calkin, Rotary President '96 - '97, approached John Hoyle to explore this idea. John thus perhaps became the first committed member of our now 300+ strong Probus Club Vancouver.

John is a Pioneer Rotarian and a Paul Harris Fellow.

Gordon Thom, Past President, in presenting the Honourary Life Membership paid tribute to John in his founding role, "John, this Club in which you played a major leadership role in starting has provided us much fellowship and with a way of keeping in touch with past and even many new friends. It is with much gratitude that we want to thank you and recognize you today. Thank you."

John, last fall after many years of service, retired from the Management Committee and as our Membership Committee Chairman. His wise counsel is missed.

John and his wife Marianne are interested supporters of many events and activities of this Club including the up and coming Princess Louisa Inlet trip.

John's business career was in general insurance

## BARD ON THE BEACH MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

8:00 pm Friday July 21, 2006

\$30.00 Per Person

This show has received great reviews. The upcoming meeting is your last chance to book with the Probus group. Remember there are no other events on, so parking should be easy. Dean Winram is co-ordinating this event and he wants

everyone to arrive by 7:30pm in order for our group to sit together. He will provide you with your tickets when you arrive. A reservation form is attached. Why not send it in to the Probus office now rather than wait until the last minute?

Dean's telephone number is 604-736-4246.

## PROBUS FOOTBALL NIGHT BC LIONS VERSUS THE MONTREAL ALOUETTES

Saturday September 16th, 2006

On September 16th Don Matthews brings his high flying Alouettes team into the Lions Den. Don is the winningest coach in the Canadian Football league and the Alouettes are lead by quarterback Anthony Calvillo.

This year each team in the CFL will be close to parity because teams were strengthened with off season signing. This will be an exciting competitive year.

This is your invitation for an evening of fun, fellowship and exciting football.

Probus has taken over the Presidents' Suite at BC place Stadium which will accommodate 91 fans. Please invite a friend to enjoy the game.

5:30pm - cash bar opens for the evening

6:15pm Dinner served featuring "Big Dogs"

7:10pm - the Kickoff

Don't delay, complete the ticket order form today to avoid disappointment

If you have any questions, please contact Jack Farley at 604-922-1515,