



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

#252-2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5 Phone and Fax (604) 261-6818

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

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May 2008

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Next Meeting: Tuesday May 6th, 2008

Time: 9:30 AM

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

Speaker: Jock A. Finlayson

**Topic: "Turbulent Times: Prospects for the
Canadian Economy in 2008/09."**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday MAY 22ND - Walking Tour of the
West End.

JOCK A. FINLAYSON



**Executive Vice
President
Business Council of
B.C.**

Jock Finlayson is
Executive Vice
President at the
Business Council of

British Columbia, an association representing 210 large and mid-size BC companies that together account for approximately one-quarter of all jobs in the province. In this capacity he directs the Council's work on economic, fiscal, tax, environmental and regulatory issues of interest to the province's business community. Finlayson previously served as Vice President of Research at Canadian Council of Chief Executives, a leading national business association in Ottawa. Prior to that he worked as a Senior Analyst at Environics Research Group, a market research and public opinion polling firm in Toronto, and gained experience at two Canadian management

consulting firms.

Mr. Finlayson holds a master's degree in business from Yale University, undergraduate and M.A. degrees from UBC, and a post-graduate diploma from the University of London. He is the author or co-author of two books and more than 35 published articles and book chapters, most dealing with topics in the areas of international trade and Canadian public policy. A frequent commentator on economic, business, and public affairs issues, he contributes a monthly column to *Business in Vancouver* and writes frequently for the *Vancouver Sun*, *The Financial Post*, and a number of other newspapers.

Mr. Finlayson is a member of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Canada, and also serves on the Boards of the Canada West Foundation and the BC Innovation Council. He is a member of the Economic Forecast Council to the BC Ministry of Finance and past president of both the Association of Professional Economists of BC and the Ottawa Economics Association.

Minutes of the April 8th Meeting

Attendance: 230 with spouses

President **Ted Daem** opened the meeting at the Academy of Music at 10:05 am commenting on the great success of both the Presidents' Lunch and the March meeting which lasted a record length of time as members questioned the speaker, a brilliant young astrophysicist from UBC. The oversubscribed tour of the Reifel Bird Sanctuary organized by **John Rawsthorn** was a marvelous event treating participants to sightings of snow geese, owls, sand cranes, among others. The next event is a Walking Tour of the West End on May 22nd. (See notice inside). President **Ted** thanked in particular, **Fred Cotton** and the Speakers Committee for organizing this day's extraordinary event.

Gordon Christopher introduced the celebrated Bramwell Tovey who is completing eight years as music director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Recently, the Orchestra performed to sold-out audiences all Beethoven Symphonies in six concerts which were broadcast over the CBC and throughout Europe and the UK. The Orchestra under his direction received a Grammy award in February and last week a Juno award. This summer he will be guest conductor at the Hollywood Bowl. In a presentation which combined eloquent exposition and a virtuoso range of illustrative piano performances, Maestro Tovey provided an impassioned and humorously engaging, self-deprecating account of the work of the orchestra and his own career in advancing the cause of great music and its appreciation among all audiences and age groups. The cumulative force of the presentation and performances amounted to an ambassadorial demonstration of the value and human appeal of this art.

Maestro Tovey began with a simple

statement of the purpose of music elicited by his recent performances with the VSO of the Beethoven symphonies. The greatness of the music is the expression of profound emotion. Its interest is in seeing how the greatest mind expresses itself. The Ninth Symphony illustrates how a simple tune can be elaborated into a structure for moving as many people as possible. The VSO is a treasure. Its award of a Grammy, the gold medal for music, marks the summit of performance achievement, an achievement comparable to that of the Berlin Philharmonic and the Moscow and Paris Orchestras.

Maestro Tovey turned to the work of the VSO, answering the objection that its music may be elitist by demonstrating its broad popularity and range and its extensive work with children. The VSO has performed modern music at the Round House, it has performed for "Bach and Beyond" at the Chan Centre, it has performed children's concerts. Over 45,000 children have watched Beethoven performances (using actors). The orchestra has invited young guest artists.

Under Maestro Tovey's direction the VSO has simply turned around: it had a falling box office and a one million dollar deficit; it has been deficit free now for four years with sold-out concerts. It has received accreditation from the Canada Council, along with only four other major national artistic companies. Only five were awarded over one million dollars: the Canadian Opera Company, the National Ballet, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and the VSO (fourth), TSO (fifth)! A collective agreement with the orchestra has three years to run. All funding contributions to this substantial cause are therefore welcome!

Maestro Tovey detailed the orchestra's work with children. The Vancouver Academy of Music has a plan for children and young people who are deeply interested in the music.

Maestro Tovey wove his biographical details with the different kinds of music that he performed, engaging the audience in the music and his own experience of it: *Warum* by Schuman; the Rondo from the *Pathétique Sonata* by Beethoven.... music children love because of its direct expressive force. Maestro Tovey's upbringing in a Salvation Army family contributed greatly to his musical and spiritual development, playing by ear at the age of seven. He illustrated an improvisation of "The Lord is my Shepherd" and how rock music simply gives a beat to popular songs like "Yesterday." He illustrated the classic status of the song "As Time Goes By" and its jazz improvisation. He concluded amusingly by elaborating a tune from the musical letters in George Adam's name (GEED), to improvise a variation on "Happy Birthday".

In response to numerous questions Maestro Tovey described the new state of the art music education center to be completed in fall of 2010. He indicated that the Orchestra has played not only with preeminent musicians like Lang Lang and Anne-Sophie Mutter most recently in the Beethoven series but also with Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Yo-Yo Ma and Frederica Von Strade among others. He gave a self-deprecating account of his dedication to jazz, which allows the association with other great musicians, such as Holly Cole, Renee Fleming, and Andre Previn. He acknowledged again the wonderful, devoted musicians in VSO orchestra, who labour principally for love of the art since other orchestras can—and do—offer them more money. Maestro Tovey concluded that performing this music is the greatest job in the world.

George Taylor thanked Maestro Tovey for another brilliant performance, applying the astounding range of his musicianship to a warm, engaging, and inspiring presentation.

President Ted Daem adjourned another outstanding meeting.

Lindsay Mann, Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL FORUM



Bramwell Tovey, Music Director of the Vancouver Symphony, put on a great show for members and spouses at the April Meeting held at the Academy of Music.

I would like to thank all those who gave so generously of their time to arrange another fabulous event for the Club's enjoyment. We had a record breaking attendance including a record number of beautiful gals. I wonder if we shouldn't have them more often... gives you a chance to dust off your jacket and ties (hair was all slicked down and did I detect cologne?). Serving coffee and cookies was a nice touch. Pidge McBride might have looked better if he'd worn a little apron. See you at the next meeting. My wife won't be there so maybe I can dig up a joke or two.

Ted Daem

NOTICES

It is with regret we announce the passing of Jim McConnell on March 16, 2008. Our condolences to his family. A donation will be made in his name by Probus.

Member Services Desk: Tremayne Perry
Cash Desk: Hank Levelt, Allen Coombes
Greeters: Harry Richards, David Moir, Paul Moritz

extended to new members and their wives to join fellow PROBUS members and spouses for this special event. Call Chris Lee, 604-926-1022 for further information. Think good weather and wear comfortable walking shoes!

WEST END WALKING TOUR UPDATE

A CENTURY OF RESIDENTIAL CHANGE

Thursday, May 22nd, 2008 –
10:00AM to 2:00PM



Thank you for your enthusiastic response. Currently we have room for four more participants. If you

are able to come complete the registration form included herewith and send it, together with your cheque, to the PROBUS office, 252-2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C V6M 2B5.

Just a reminder to registrants that we will be assembling at the Roedde House Museum, 1415 Barclay Street, on Thursday, May 22nd at 10:00am for a welcome and orientation session before the actual walk. Please note that street parking is very limited but there is ample parking two blocks away at the Landmark Hotel, 1400 Robson Street, at a cost of \$2.00 per hour.



A warm invitation is particularly

Quotable Quotes

“I’m proud to pay taxes in America. The only thing is I could be just as proud for half the money”. Arthur Godfrey

“The wonderful thing about a theory is that any fool can propose one”. Gary B. Wright

“Broadmindedness is just another way of saying a fellow is too lazy to form an opinion”. Will Rogers

“What we want is to see the child in pursuit of knowledge, not knowledge in pursuit of the child” George Bernard Shaw

**DATE CHANGE REMINDER:
NEXT MEETING IS ON
MAY 6TH
The 1st Tuesday in May**



WEST END WALKING TOUR

Thursday, May 22nd, 2008

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S) _____

PHONE # _____

Attach your cheque payable to PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER for____ persons @ \$30.00
each \$_____.

Please mail to PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER, 252 – 2025 West 42nd Ave., Vancouver, B.C.
V6M 2B5
