



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

AUGUST 2008

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

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Ted Daem
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Historian and Archivist

Gordon Thom
604-739-0714

Next Meeting: Tuesday August 12th, 2008

Time: 9:30 AM

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

Speaker: Dr. Alfonso Rivera

Topic : Water Sustainability: Is the World running
out of Water? And what about Canada?

UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 21st - Capilano Historic Watershed
Bus Tour**

Dr. Alfonso Rivera



Dr Alfonso Rivera
is a Physical
Hydrogeologist,
specializing in
groundwater
modeling,
coupled
hydro-mechanica

l and solute transport processes,
groundwater exploration, water resources
management and project management.

Dr. Rivera has practiced
hydrogeology for 29 years in Mexico,
USA, Switzerland, Spain, France and
Canada. He obtained his Ph.D. with
maximum honours from the prestigious
Ecole des Mines de Paris in France. He
is an internationally renowned expert in
various branches of hydrogeology.

Before joining the Geological
Survey of Canada, Dr. Rivera published
extensively in the international
community both scientific papers as well
as technical reports in English, French,
German and Spanish. He has been
involved in 30 high-level scientific

presentations, on the international scene,
and in Canada.

Dr. Rivera has promoted the
groundwater sciences extensively as a
distinguished lecturer both within Canada
and internationally with lectures and
seminars in France, UK, Spain, Mexico,
and Burkina Faso. He has taught
international courses on groundwater
(e.g., University of Barcelona, Spain;
University Louis Pasteur, France;
University of San Luis Potosí, Mexico;
Switzerland, Inter-States Engineering
School, Burkina Faso.)

He was appointed Chief
Hydrogeologist of the Geological Survey
of Canada in 1999, and he is the
Program Manager of the ESS
[Groundwater Program](#) since 2003. He
was the chair of the National Ad-Hoc
Committee on Groundwater for
2000-2003; he is adjunct professor at
Université Laval and at Université du
Québec (INRS). He served a three-year
term as a member of the NSERC
committee on Environmental Earth
Sciences Grant Selection Committee

from 2002 to 2005.

He is the recipient of various awards, among which the “5NR Science Award to Leaders in Sustainable Development of Canada”, which he received in 2003.

Dr. Rivera is member of the UNESCO-ISARM Americas Group representing Canada since 2005; Associate Editor of the International Hydrogeology Journal; Scientific Editor of the Journal of Water Sciences (published in French as “Revue des Sciences de l’Eau”); and member of the WHYMAP Technical Committee.

Minutes of the July 8th Meeting

Attendance: 135 members and guests

President **Ted Daem** opened the meeting at 10:00 am, cheerfully greeting members and looking forward to the new management committee composition which will give him a well-earned rest. As usual, Treasurer **Bill Manson** had nothing new to report. **Nick Thornton** introduced five new members (detailed elsewhere in Newsletter). For Activities, members were reminded of the Capilano Historic Watershed tour on August 21st for which there was still room for three more members. On the occasion of **Roy Williams’** 81st birthday, it could now be announced that he has completed the transfer of all club Newsletters, Management Committee Minutes, as well as other documents, to a portable harddrive which will serve as the Club’s archives.

Jack Farley introduced the speaker, Ian F. Thomas, Chairman of Thomas Consultants, specializing in the planning and development of large-scale retail projects. Mr. Thomas spoke on “Retail: the New Gathering Place”. He provided an abundantly illustrated slide presentation. Mr. Thomas showed the historical evolution of the

large retail space from the first shopping centres into the present model of an integrated, multi-use neighbourhood, a gathering and meeting place which is part of a larger urban fabric. The objective now is to create great places which are pleasant to be in, which have a soul. When people are comfortable they linger and keep spending,. Two-thirds of all shopping is done in shopping centres, an industry which has created more millionaires than any other.

The objective of the new diversity of design is to create a busy social centre, a thriving place for community. Starbucks is an instance. The new focus is on attracting people because people create great places. The new attention is to the spaces between the buildings. Whistler, one of Mr. Thomas’s projects, is the most successful example of the new village model in North America. “Mountains are the excuse but the village is the attraction.” This model is the secret for success.

The historical basis for this model is European, such as the Galleria di Milan or the Champs Elysee. The mixture of uses, such as people living above shops, creates the bustle of ceaseless activity. So to the historical mall of the past is added a life-style centre, such as Park Royal Village or Grandville Island. A town centre is created to which community activities are added. The final stage is addition of offices and hotels to the mix.

To define the objective of creating “The Community Core,” Mr. Thomas cited Robert Stark, a client in Cleveland. “A dense, vertically integrated mixed-use neighborhood” is designed “because stacking residential, office, academic, entertainment, fitness and other uses on top of an aesthetically enriching and socially interactive streetscape of shops, eateries and other commercial businesses

establishes density and the perception of substance. A lot of people in the same place at the same time doing different things generates energy and creates a dynamic, constantly changing environment.”

Mr. Thomas described the new development historically as coming full circle, from main street to main street. The 40's saw the creation of the suburban shopping center. The 50's provided the beginning of developments like Oakridge and Park Royal. The 60's provided the enclosed mall and the 70's the formula mall, anchored by department stores. The 80's added marble and brass--glitzy, rich effects. The 90's aim at the effect of elegance, softness, a secular cathedral or pleasure dome, like the lobby of a luxury hotel (eg. the Four Seasons). A single focus on sales has shifted to the creation of a hybrid colossus, moving from inside to outside, making retail an extension of living and leisure activities, entertainment, eating and drinking.

Mr. Thomas illustrated the luxurious new “lifestyle centers” such as in Boca Raton, Florida, or Dallas or San Jose. Shopping is being transformed from the selling of products no one needs into a necessary experience everyone wants. The old sea of parked cars is being broken up to make parked luxury cars part of the new décor. Now attention is given to open-air experience, to fireplaces and fountains, which people love and which encourage social interaction. Dubai is perhaps the most spectacular new example of luxurious multi-use design.

In response to questions Mr. Thomas observed that the West Edmonton Mall has held up surprisingly well, though undergoing renewal. Granville Mall illustrates the disastrous effect of getting people off the street, but people will come back when the current construction ends. The Pacific Centre is not working well. The model of Chicago's golden mile or New York's Fifth or Madison avenues shows what works superbly

well: the combination of retail with hotels and apartments. The 1885 Galleria in Milan is the benchmark—the model for Toronto's Eaton Centre—beautiful, seductive. The Arbutus Centre in Vancouver is not working—it is neither big enough nor small enough. Dubai is the most dynamic current development, although only 1.5 million people live there.

John Cruickshank thanked the speaker for the vividly illustrated presentation. President **Ted Daem** adjourned the meeting to lunch at Malone's.

Lindsay Mann, Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL FORUM



“Gone Fishing”
(Wish You Were Here!)



KEEP IT SIMPLE AND KEEP IT FUN

Ted Daem

NOTICES

Member Services Desk: Tremayne Perry
Cash Desk: Bob Wadsworth, Bob Swanell
Greeters: Ray Casson, Norm Weitzel, Colin Warner

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

John Cruickshank – College Administration
Gary Derkson – Dentistry
Tom Gibbs – Banker
Sholto Hebenton – Lawyer
Bill Thomas – Obstetrician

CAPILANO HISTORIC WATERSHED BUS TOUR

THURSDAY AUGUST 21, 2008

SOLD OUT!!

For those members participating in the tour,
please be sure to be at the Upper Grouse
Mountain parking lot no later than 12:15PM. The
BUS LEAVES at 12:30 sharp.
Please refer to the July Newsletter for tips on what
to wear and take to the Bus Tour.

THE BIRTH OF PROBUS CLUBS IN CANADA

The word PROBUS is derived from the
words PROfessional and BUSIness. The first
Probus club in the world was formed England in
1965 when a recent retiree named Fred Carhill
started meeting for coffee with several other
excommuters. There were many retired men in
this area with similar business and professional
backgrounds and Fred decided to form a

luncheon club. The local Rotary president
organized the first meeting and with forty five men
in attendance they established the Campus Club.

At about the same time in September
1965, Harold Blanchard, a member of the
Caterham Rotary Club also retired. At his urging
the Caterham Rotary club organized a meeting for
retired professional and businessmen aged 60
and over in February 1966. Forty two prospective
members attended and agreed to a monthly
luncheon meeting. They adopted the name of
Probus, taking the first three letters of
PROfessional and **BUS**iness. Harold is
considered the 'father figure' of Probus in Great
Britain.

Probus has since spread throughout the
world and at the present time there are
over 51000 clubs worldwide and the numbers are
increasing steadily.

Probus Clubs were introduced to New
Zealand in 1974, Australia in 1976 and
Canada in 1987.

PROBUS IN CANADA

JOHN REYNOLDS MORRIS



More than 26,400 Probus
members in 198 Clubs in
Canada can thank John
Reynolds Morris for
introducing Probus Clubs
to Canada. John Reynolds
Morris was the founder of
Probus in Canada, the first
president of Probus

Centre-Canada and presently President Emeritus
of Probus Centre-Canada. As President Emeritus,
his wisdom and sage advice continues to be an
invaluable asset to the Directors of Probus
Centre-Canada.