



# 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

September 2008

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

### President

Ted Daem  
604-732-7758

### Past President

Jack Farley  
604-922-1515

### Vice President

George Adams  
604-926-0906

### Secretary

Lindsay Mann  
604-899-2611

### Treasurer

Bill Manson  
604-988-2365

### Speakers Committee

Fred Cotton  
604-266-7060

### Membership Committee

Nick Thornton  
604-263-2418

### Activities Committee

Lloyd Doidge  
604-228-8181

### House committee

Doug Lambert  
604-266-2422

### Newsletter Editor

Roy Williams  
604-926-4727

### Membership Services

Tremayne Perry  
604-261-9669

### Historian and Archivist

Gordon Thom  
604-739-0714

**Next Meeting: Tuesday September 9th, 2008**

**Time:** 9:30 AM

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

**Speaker:** David Hahn

**Topic :** *"Reinventing Ferry Transportation - A  
new era for BC Ferries"*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

The Activity Committee is busy planning  
events for the fall season.

## David Hahn



David Hahn  
joined BC Ferries  
in May 2003 as  
President and  
CEO, bringing  
with him over 20  
years of  
executive

experience to support the major task  
of transforming B.C.'s ferry system  
into a customer service-oriented,  
commercialized enterprise.

David specializes in business  
restructuring, strategic planning,  
revitalized marketing, revenue growth,  
acquisitions and customer service.  
Much of his experience was a result  
of a lengthy tenure with the Ogden  
Corporation in New York. There he  
held the position of chief operating  
officer at Ogden Aviation, managing  
U.S. and international operations,  
including 25,000 employees and

airport operations in 30 countries.

In the earlier part of his career,  
David was director of marketing for  
Hertz Corporation, which has 5,100  
international locations.

David believes a seamless  
transportation network is essential to  
British Columbia as the Province  
prepares for the 2010 winter Olympics  
and an exciting period of economic  
growth over the next 25 years.

On a personal note, David was  
pleased with the opportunity to move  
his family to British Columbia, one of  
his favourite places to travel in North  
America. With a son undertaking law  
at Fordham Law School and a  
daughter attending college in Victoria,  
David and his wife are able to enjoy  
some leisure time, which is spent  
golfing and enjoying the coast.

## Minutes of the July 12th Meeting

Attendance: 110 members and guests

President **Ted Daem** opened the meeting at 10:00 am with the usual good cheer, honouring Probus member **Philip Owen** for his Order of Canada award. President Ted acknowledged the successful work of the Executive Succession Committee composed of **George Adams**, **Jack Farley** and himself in establishing a formal structure for the management committee and chairs of committees, with deputies for each position. Treasurer **Bill Manson** reported the Club held in the treasury \$15,755.12 unencumbered. **Don Newman** for Membership reported the development of a new nominating form for membership.

**Michael Lambert** introduced our distinguished speaker, Dr. Alfonso Rivera, Chief Hydrogeologist for Natural Resources Canada. Dr. Rivera spoke on the topic "Water Sustainability: Is the World running out of Water? And what about Canada?"

In an expectedly authoritative and massively substantiated overview Dr. Rivera answered these critical questions in the light of present scientific knowledge. His moderately reassuring conclusion is that whereas there is no present crisis of scarcity either globally or in Canada, dramatically increasing consumption will require both much greater scientific research and much more coordinated preparation at every level to avoid such a crisis in the foreseeable future. Such crises of scarcity are already apparent in many locales. To address the problem requires a concerted effort both nationally and internationally, entailing the integration of economic, political, and geographical considerations based on sound scientific knowledge. This is the challenge

ahead.

The world has a lot of fresh water in various forms—some 35 million cubic kilometers. 24.4 million cubic kilometers is comprised of glacial ice, permafrost and permanent snow. 10.7 cubic kilometers is ground water and soil moisture. Lakes and marshlands provide 1.0 million cubic kilometers and rivers a small fraction of that. To provide some sense of scale, our five vast great lakes comprise 23,000 cubic kilometers; the giant Guarani Aquifer in South America holds 40,000 cubic kilometers of fresh water. While there are difficult issues of availability and sustainability of water use, the world still uses only a small part of the available fresh water. Still, since global population tripled over the course of the twentieth century and demand on finite freshwater supplies increased sevenfold, it is obvious that increasing demand will at some point create scarcity. Even today 1.1 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water and 2.4 billion lack access to adequate sanitation.

Reviewing a great many examples illustrating a diversity of local conditions, Dr. Rivera demonstrated how effective water management can address the most pressing problems. Israel is an example of the best water management practice, with not a drop wasted. But in other regions much remains to be done. Canada is privileged to enjoy an abundance of fresh water but it is not uniformly rich in water and there are issues of knowledge and management, as tragic failures in Walkerton, Ont. and North Battleford, Sask. demonstrated. Canada is steward to seven percent of the world's surface fresh water and 25% of global wetlands, yet economic development, population growth and climate changes have already posed and will continue increasingly to provide

challenges. For example there are parts of Canada, including much of the southern Prairies, where there are no remaining surface water flows that have not been allocated. In southwestern Ontario, economic development and population growth are placing intense pressure on the groundwater resources. In addition, projected shifts in climate will likely create significant impacts on Canada's fresh water.

Supply and demand is one side of the water-management challenge. The other is protecting the quality of Canada's water—the safety of both the water used and the water returned to nature.

Economic development, population growth, and changes to climate are combining to intensify the pressure on Canada's water resources. There is a critical need to develop a better understanding of these resources through research: where and how water is used, how various uses compete and interfere with each other, and how to address this growing competition while protecting the quality of Canada's—and the world's—water supply. This is the challenge we face preparing for the future.

Responding to questions, Dr. Rivera acknowledged that Lake Shasta in the US was declining at a consistent rate. In Florida, limestone allows salt water penetration of fresh water. Once polluted by salt, fresh water remains so. The US is certainly looking to Canada as a source of fresh water. While water is easy to make in a laboratory, it cannot be made in large enough quantities to be useful; desalination is a more practical source. Water cannot be destroyed but it can be rendered useless in various ways.

George Plant thanked the speaker for an extraordinarily detailed, authoritative and comprehensive account of a topic of urgent interest to all. President **Ted Daem** adjourned the meeting to lunch with the speaker at Milestones.

Lindsay Mann, Secretary

## PRESIDENTIAL FORUM



Well, Probus Members, it's been a year since I became President and the time has passed very quickly for me. As I said earlier, at this age life's like a roll of toilet paper, the closer you are to the end the quicker it goes. I hope it was a fun and interesting year for everyone. My thanks for your patience. Thanks also to the executives and committee chairs for giving us a well run and interesting club...the number one club sought for membership in town!

Please fill in the EVENTS COMMITTEE SURVEY when you receive it. The results will greatly help establish the direction that the Club's outside activities take. Thanks You.

Ted Daem, President

## NOTICES

Those of us who live in greater Vancouver realize that we have a wild frontier on our doorstep but we seldom take the



opportunity to explore what is "beyond the fringe". On Thursday, August 20th thirty-five Vancouver PROBUS members and guests climbed onto a school bus at the Grouse Mountain parking lot for a four hour tour of the Capilano Watershed. The tour, a sustainable region initiative of Metro Vancouver, was organized by our own Jack Farley and John Cruickshank, with an assist from Chris Lee. Our guide, Marianne Fish, kept us enthralled as we ventured beyond urban North Vancouver into the dramatic wilderness

of the Capilano Valley. The watershed, a major source of drinking water for over 100 years, is now closely regulated as it returns to as much of a natural state as possible. We reflected upon economic activity in the past and marveled at the remarkable ability of our ancestors to "get things done" under very trying circumstances. Concrete channels and settling ponds remain as a reminder of early engineering prowess to create a source of potable water for early Vancouver. Two tourist hotels graced the area 100 years ago, a veritable hunter's paradise on the doorstep of the growing city.

We were reminded of the considerable significance of the logging industry in the early days of Vancouver as our intrepid bus driver Gary drove his trusty bus over the labyrinth of gravel roads to the site of abandoned rail rights of way and the rotted remains of wooden logging railway trestle bridges. Politics, economic development, abandoned hopes, potable water, geology, glaciation, erosion control projects and possibilities for the future were the order of the day on this remarkable journey into the past.

Thank you, Marianne and Gary, for being such fine tour guides. For further information contact:

Metro Vancouver, 604-432-6430

[/www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org)

**Chris Lee**

## NOTICES

**CONGRATULATIONS TO Philip Owen**  
on receiving the Order of Canada!



**It is with regret we announce the passing of John Beveridge on August 8th, 2008. Our condolences to his family. A donation will be made in his name by Probus to the YMCA.**

**Member Services Desk:** Tremayne Perry

**Cash Desk:** Bob Wadsworth, Bob Swanell

**Greeters:** Gordon Thom, David Stowe, Frank Anfield

## Contract Bridge

Contract Bridge will resume again this fall.

Sessions are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings, each month beginning in October. A growing number of Probus member enjoy the regular fellowship. If you are interested in hearing more contact Gordon Thom at the next meeting or email [thomga@telus.net](mailto:thomga@telus.net) or 604 739-0714

## Rotarian's - Probus Investment Club

The Investment Club, limited to 33 members (about half Probus) has had some members leave the Club creating a great opportunity for anyone interested. The Club meets for drinks and dinner the last Thursday of each month with a topical speaker, portfolio review, investment proposal consideration, etc. all with good fellowship. You don't have to be an investment expert but with only 33 members, active involvement is expected. For information contact Gordon Thom, [thomga@telus.net](mailto:thomga@telus.net), 604 739-0714 or at the next meeting.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT-2008

The Nominating Committee comprised of Chairman, Jack Farley Ted Daem and George Adams submitted the following slate of nominees for 2008-2009:

**President: George Adams**

**Past President: Ted Daem**

**Vice-President: Nick Thornton**

**Secretary: Ted Horsey**

**Treasurer: Bill Manson**

The following have agreed to serve as Committee Chairmen:

**Speakers Committee: Fred Cotton**

**Membership Committee: Don Newman**

**Activities Committee: John Cruickshank**

**House Committee: Doug Lambert**

**Newsletter Editor: Roy Williams**

**Membership Services: Bill Sexsmith**

**Historian & Archivist: Gordon Thom**

Any additional nominations (with prior agreement to stand) must be conveyed to the Nominating Committee at least 24 hours in advance of the Annual Meeting.