



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

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

September 2009

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Next Meeting: September 8th, 2009

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: H.R. MacMillan Planetarium and Space Centre

Lower Level

Speaker: Dr. Andre Gerolymatos, Chair of Hellenic Studies at SFU

Topic: Islam Today

Dr. ANDRE GEROLYMATOS



Andre Gerolymatos, was educated in classics and modern history at McGill University in Montreal. He specializes in Military and Diplomatic history, and has published several articles

and books on these fields such as Espionage in Classical Greece and Guerilla Warfare and Espionage in Greece 1940-1944. In addition, he has written on conflicts in the Mediterranean and Middle East and has lectured on those subjects at Harvard and Stanford Universities. From 1987-1996 he was the Director of the Hellenic Studies Center at Dawson College in Montreal and in 1996 he received the Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC Chair in Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. In 1997 Dr. Gerolymatos was appointed Director of the Research Institute on Southeastern Europe at Simon Fraser University.

His most recent works include: The Balkan Wars: Myth, Reality, and the Eternal Conflict for Stoddart Publishing 2001
republished in USA by Basic Books in 2002

under the title: The Balkan Wars: Conquest, Revolution and Retribution from the Ottoman era to the Twentieth Century and Beyond: also Red Acropolis, Black Terror; The Greek Civil War and the Origins of Soviet-American Rivalry 1944-49 for Basic Books, July 2004.

He has collaborated with several scholars on a study of Sovereignty and the Law of the Sea: Aegean Sea Issues After the Cold War, (for London: MacMillan Press 2000) in which he also contributed "The Greek-Turkish Military Balance of Power in the Aegean: Strategic and Tactical Objectives", and Greece and the Balkans: Challenges and Opportunities, 1975-95(New York 1999). He is the co-editor of British Documents on Foreign Affairs, Part IV, Series F: Europe, 1946-1950. He is working on a monograph on Greece, Turkey and the Southeastern Mediterranean: The Dodecanese, A Case Study.

His current interest is in the Middle East and he has given several lectures as well as commentary in the media with respect to this particular region. At present he is completing a manuscript on "Dreaming in the Sand" which will be published in the fall of 2010.

Report of the August 11th Meeting

Attendance: 129 members and guests

George Adams, the President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Then Membership Chairman, **Don Newman** introduced six new members (See "Welcome New Members"). Next, **Ted Daem** gave the Nominating Committee Report (Details inside).

The speaker Larry Blaine, CEO of Partnerships BC was introduced by our member **Colin Dobell**. Dr. Blain defined "Public Private Partnerships" ("PPP" for short) as partnerships of public governmental bodies and private business organizations. The terms of the partnership are in long term, performance based partnership agreements whereby private business organizations design, build, maintain / rehabilitate and often finance governmental infrastructure projects. The public governmental organization retains ownership and control of the project after completion.

The partnership agreements permit risk transfer, innovation, and life cycle planning. The objectives of the PPP are a fair, open and transparent competitive process for the infrastructure project, providing good value for taxpayer dollars, and thereby serving the public interest. He stated that there are PPPs now used in most commercially advanced jurisdictions in the world, with the notable exception of the United States. The concept of PPP originated with the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in Britain.

Traditionally, governmental infrastructure projects had more closely controlled governmental oversight; the PPP mode provides for less closely controlled governmental oversight, with oversight as provided for in the partnership agreement, with an objective of obtaining better value for taxpayer money. Briefly, the Private Sector takes on the

design, construction, maintenance/rehabilitation, management of the facility services and the financing of the project. The Public Sector determines the need for and scope of the project, controls its use, owns it and the land and is accountable for it.

Dr. Blain gave the following examples of PPP Projects in British Columbia, and the advantages accrued over the traditional mode of construction:

- (a) **Kicking Horse Canyon Park Bridge**, where the innovative construction technique saved 21 months of construction time. It the first incrementally launched curved girder bridge in North America, and more economical and of less environmental impact than traditional bridges.
- (b) **Port Mann Bridge**, where the partner proposed single bridge design, which eliminated the need for bridge replacement at the end of the original bridge's life.
- (c) **Sea-to-Sky Highway**, for which the private sector was better at integrating design construction, with a more efficient design and increase speed and safety benefits.
- (d) **Golden Ears Bridge**, for which the private sector provided global supply management expertise. Steel was made in China, shipped to the Philippines where it was fabricated into girders, then shipped to British Columbia.
- (e) **Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre**, which is a performance-based project, with private finance and performance based payment providing for effective risk transfer. The penalty for room non-availability is \$900 per day.

Dr. Blain said that the PPP mode of infrastructure construction provided better planning and procurement procedures due to

better comprehensive business plans, risk analysis, specified performance standards, a life-cycle approach, costed designs and competitive and transparent selection processes, all of which lead to more informed decision-making and better execution, with "NO SURPRISES". He said that the public sector, in the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre avoided schedule and cost certainty risks in the Surrey Outpatient Hospital avoided financing risk, in the William R. Bennett Bridge avoided design and constructability risks, in the Canada Line avoided geotechnical risk, and in the Sea-to-Sky Highway avoided deferred maintenance risk.

Partnerships British Columbia is a provincial crown corporation set up in 2002 to provide expertise in the area of PPP, being a more efficient way of providing this expertise to governmental bodies than through the traditional civil service, or by retaining private consultants. It was created to evaluate, structure and implement PPPs. It is a centre of procurement and cost estimating expertise. It has a staff of 45, with a board of directors that makes its recommendations to governmental bodies. It has offices in Victoria and Vancouver, and provides assistance in oversight of construction.

Partnerships British Columbia clients include the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Ontario; British Columbia Transmission Corporation, BC Hydro, Translink, the City of Vancouver, U.B.C., Provincial Health Services Authority, Fraser Health, Vancouver Coast Health, Interior Health, Northern Health, Pima County Arizona and Russia.

Dr. Blain said that the essential elements for success of Partnerships British Columbia is political and stakeholder support, an enabling policy framework, a focused delivery agency with a blend of public and private sector experience, flexibility and market alignment, and a focus on the best planning, construction and financing practices.

More information on Partnerships British Columbia may be obtained on its website www.partnershipsbcc.ca.

After questions, Mr. Mark Cullen expressed the thanks of the meeting to Dr. Blain for his informative talk.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I will be absent from the Annual General meeting of our Probud Club in September when you will be asked to elect my successor and so I am taking this opportunity to tell you that it has been a distinct honour and a privilege to serve as your President for the past year.

From the small beginnings, our Club has grown into one of the largest in Canada. With that growth has come the need for reasonable and realistic governance practices, not the least of which has been the provision for succession at all levels. In this we were sorely tested with the sudden loss of Fred Cotton who had led our very successful Speakers' Committee for many years. It was to my great relief that David Scott stepped into the breach, assumed the role and established a strong committee which has developed a forward programme of which we can be very proud.

One of the items now being addressed is the development of a Probud Vancouver website. I realize that mention of the word "website" instils a sense of dread and loathing amongst those who have not yet progressed into the "electronics" world.

It has been recognized for some time that communications and information flow would be facilitated and many other efficiencies realized by having our own website.

However, the development, under the direction of Jon Collins, recognizes the fact that several of our members prefer not to be "connected" and the services those individuals receive, will not be diminished.

Since I will not be present to do so at the time, I take this opportunity to extend my warmest wishes to my successor and his Management team. Two of my Management team will be stepping down: Bill Manson, who has been our Treasurer for many years and is best known for the brevity of his financial reports, has asked to be relieved of his position and Ted Daem, our Immediate Past President, has done much to ensure that succession is addressed for each Management position and that a description of the duties and performance expectations is available - this valuable information is particularly useful when addressing the issue of succession at each level. Ted will be stepping aside in rotation.

On your behalf, I thank Bill and Ted for their conscientious effort and for their significant contribution to our Club.

Each member of the Management team has made a unique contribution to the Club and I thank them for that and for their dedication, hard work and support - as Ted Daem once said "they made me look good".

Finally, I thank you, the members, for your courtesies, your support and your encouragement.

NOTICES

Membership Services Team

Member Services Desk: Bill Sexsmith

Cash Desk: Ray Casson, Eric Hayne

Greeters: Gary Derkson and Hugh Hamilton

Vancouver Canadians Baseball Game & Barbeque A Great Success!



Our Activities Committee staged another memorable event on Tuesday, August 18th at Nat Bailey Stadium. Close to 50 Probus Vancouver members, spouses and grandchildren enjoyed an excellent barbeque

followed by an exciting Vancouver Canadians baseball game. It was a beautiful, hot, sunny day. Everyone arrived around noon to feast on appetizing hamburgers, hot dogs, corn on the cob, a variety of salads followed by cookies and cake.

The game started at 1:00 o'clock and to the delight of the fans, the Vancouver Canadians were the winners.

Vancouverites who do not take in one or more baseball games at Nat Bailey Stadium this year are missing out on a top notch professional sports event.

It is with regret we announce the passing of Irwin Allen on June 21st, 2009. Our condolences to his family. A donation will be made in his name by Probus to the Canadian Cancer Society.

welcome New Members

Sandy Cairns – Physician / Internist

Bert Cameron – Physician / Educator

Don Griffiths – Insurance / Group Benefit

Michael MacNeill – Psychologist

Bob Nugent - Physician / Radiologist

Philip Tindle – Lumber / Wholesale

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT-2009

The Nominating Committee comprised of Chairman, Ted Daem, George Adams and Nick Thornton submitted the following slate of nominees for 2009-2010:

President: Nick Thornton

Past President: George Adams

Vice-President: Bill Sexsmith

Secretary: Ted Horsey

Treasurer: Wayne Audette

The following have agreed to serve as Committee Chairmen:

Speakers Committee: David Scott

Membership Committee: Don Newman

Activities Committee: John Cruickshank

House Committee: Doug Lambert

Newsletter Editor: Roy Williams

Membership Services: Jon Collins

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.