



PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

Clubs for Retired & Semi-Retired Professional & Business Persons, Former Executives & Others

#252 - 2025 West 42 Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5
Telephone: (604) 261-6818

Next Meeting – First Annual Meeting

Date: September 16, 1997;

Location: Stanley Park Pavilion

Time: 9:30 a.m.;

Speaker: John Râtel,
Director Government Affairs

Topic: 90 years as the motorists advocate

B.C.A.A.

Minutes of August 19, 1997 meeting which was called to order by by Chair Fred Cotton at 9:55 a.m.

- Bill Manson reported that 29 attended the golf event and that Roberts Bank tour is still on for September. A tour of the construction of the Catamaran Ferry will be in late fall.
- Chair Fred Cotton asked the new members to introduce themselves. They are Dick Nelson, Len Wright, Paul Higgins, George Sayers, Tony Wooster, Ted Hickson. Membership stands at 80 plus member (paid!). Our target is 100 members.
- Our guest speaker, Jim Lawrie, was introduced by Dave Pollock and thanked by Bill Burge.

Jim Lawrie talk entitled "Is B.C. Effectively Riding the Pacific Wave?" was, as our grandchildren would say, "Awesome - simply Awesome".

Some of the points I noted, are as follows:

- Hong Kong has been the finest example of free enterprise, no debt, no capital gains tax, no property tax, income tax is 15%.
- July 1, 1997 handover, one country but two systems
- Current lender of H.K. understands China, the West, and Business
- In China, the coastal cities are doing well but there is potential for social unrest.
- All Asian markets are different, but are run by Chinese.
- The Chinese business people are enterprising, pragmatic, and put a great store in "Face".
- Vancouver business people are generally in too much of a hurry to build a relationship.
- Singapore and Hong Kong are light years ahead of B.C. in business.
- Taiwan is considered by China to be one of its Provinces.
- B.C. must learn from H.K. and Singapore and therefore change, if it is to enter the Global Market.

This is just a brief summary of the point I recorded from Jim Lawrie's talk. It is impossible to tabulate all the fine ideas and guidance he included in this "Awesome" speech.

A question and answer period followed.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Jim Gilley
Interim Secretary
August 25, 1997