



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

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

NEXT MEETING: May 18, 1999
TIME: 9:30AM
LOCATION: Stanley Park Pavilion
SPEAKER: F. Les Reed, Professor Emeritus
Forestry Resource Management UBC
TOPIC: Reshaping Forestry Policy

Minutes from April 20, 1999

Attendance: 118
Guests: 7 were introduced by their sponsors.

Pidge McBride opened the meeting at 10:10 am.

TREASURER: Bill Wallace had no report and no dividends.

MEMBERSHIP: John Hopkins Membership stands at 204.

SPEAKERS: Brice Macdougall announced that next speaker will be Les Reed from UBC.

ENTERTAINMENT: Jim McPherson 43 signed up for golf. There is room for one more. The Fraser Downs harness racing night is on May 13. Twenty couples can be accommodated for a superb buffet dinner costing \$24.00 per person.

BULLETIN: Stew McKenzie again requested that members submit material for the publication.

HOUSE: Doug Lambert has lots of PROBUS pins available for those without.

Bill Ibbott introduced the guest speaker. Paul Griffin has a broad background in broadcast journalism, and communications. Currently he is the Regional Director of the Canadian Bankers Association.

On the Y2K issue he is spending a lot of time creating measures to communicate to Canadians that their Banking Industry has dealt with the situation. The Y2K problem arose

because in the past computer memory was very expensive. To cut memory space, programmers only used the last two digits to designate a year not only in software but also in hardware and in imbedded chips. The world has become dependent on computer chips/computers to assist in running such things as elevators, electricity and gas distribution, airplanes, cars etc. Even those who have attended to the Y2K problem satisfactorily may run into difficulties with interfacing with parties who have not.

The costs are enormous. To change one line of code costs an average of US \$1.50. The cost for Canada is about \$12 billion. It is estimated that 60-90% of companies are affected. The process to change is time consuming, complex and resource intensive requiring about 80,000 programming years of work. There are management issues and PR issues, not just involvement of technology and science.

The Banks were the first to appreciate the Y2K problem and started to correct in mid 1997. With 6,000 person years of work they feel they are ready and do not expect anything adverse to happen to the Canadian banking system on December 31, 1999.

Now industry has to reassure the public who have been oversold on the disaster scenario that most companies and utilities in Canada are ready.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:

- charge and Cash cards will work
- no restrictions on cash withdrawals
- major utilities could be ready
- new PC's are OK
- only 60% of small businesses are ready by now
- Boeing aircraft appear ready (changing the date on their computers to 2000 did not cause them to crash)

President:

Pidge McBride
274-0446

Past President:

Fred Cotton
266-7060

Vice-president:

Roy E. Williams
926-4727

Secretary:

Don Farquhar
948-9908

Treasurer:

Bill Wallace
222-2365

Speakers**Committee:**

Brice Macdougall
922-5321

Membership**Committee:**

John Hopkins
985-8422

Visits and**Entertainment:**

Jim McPherson
922-2742

Bill Manson

988-2365

House**Committee:**

Doug Lambert
266-2422

Greeters**Committee:**

Norm Weitzel
925-3574

Rotary Liaison:

John Hoyle
926-2667

- problem areas will be in some third world countries
 - he does not know about the readiness of the health industry
 - insurance may not cover liability caused by the foreseeable Y2K problem.
- The speaker was thanked by **Strachan Birnie**.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

By the time you read this message in our Probus Bulletin we will have had two very successful activities - namely a golf tournament at the University Golf Club, on May 3rd at which 40 golfers took part - a great day was had by all - many laughs and a lot of bad "shots". The dinner was good too. Also we had a "nite at the races" on May 13th. We were at Fraser Downs Race Track in Cloverdale for the Sulky Races, 20 couples attended. A great evening and wonderful food and a wonderful opportunity to bring our wives into our club activities.

Thank you Bill Manson and Jim McPherson for organizing these two special events - I know we can expect more of the same in the coming months.

We look forward to a good turn out on May 18th, we think you will enjoy our speaker for that day.

See you then!

**Dr. Les Reed**

Les Reed is the President of F.L.C. Reed and Associates Ltd., a consulting firm located in Surrey, British Columbia.

Reed runs an international business which specializes in timber supply outlook studies, marketing, forest policy and strategic planning.

A long time pre-occupation with timber supply and demand balances has taken Reed to some 40 countries. He is a principal author of a 1995 outlook study of world forest resources.

Career highlights include Assistant Deputy Minister, in charge of the Canadian Forest Service (1980-83), Prime Minister's National Advisory Board on Science and Technology (1985-88), fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry since 1987, and Board of Governors of Commonwealth Forestry Association.

Reed has a BA in economics from Lewis & Clark College in 1954 and an MA from the University of Oregon in 1959. He was nominated Professor Emeritus from the University of BC in 1992 after 8 years in a funded chair of forestry policy research.

SINGULAR SINGLE MALTS

In the past decade the North American market for single malt scotch has become so popular that the producers are seeking ways to sell their product. This has resulted in older vintage dated product aged in different types of woods including used bourbon, sherry, port, and pauillac wine barrels. This has resulted in a broader range of product with prices from thirty-five to seven hundred dollars a bottle. An example of one is as follows.....



BALVENIE DEFINING THE CRAFT OF MALT WHISKY MAKING:

To be called a single malt scotch, a whisky must come from only one distillery, be made only from barley and, of course, be from Scotland. It must also meet a minimum age requirement and be within a range of alcohol levels. One of the finest distilleries of these single malt whiskies is Balvenie.

The process of making single malt whisky has five main steps. First the barley is malted. By steeping it in water, it germinates and turns starches into sugars. The sprouting is halted by laying the barley on a perforated floor over a kiln. The next step is mashing, in which, the dried malt is milled to form a grist. This is mixed with water and cooked in a vat called a mash tun. The liquid drawn off is called wort. The wort is allowed to cool and yeast is added to start the process of fermentation. Now, all the ingredients have been added: barley, water and yeast. The quality of these few ingredients is key to a great whisky.

The next step in the process is distillation. The wort is twice distilled in pot stills which may be less efficient than column stills, but this inefficiency is what allows all the flavor and character to be retained in the spirit. The last, and some would say the most important step is aging. Scotch is often aged in used bourbon barrels, but other types such as sherry or port casks are popular to create unique spirits. Laid in oak, the spirit takes on its personality which will be determined by the type of wood used and the length of time it is aged.

Located in the heart of Speyside, right next to the Glenfiddich Distillery, the Balvenie Distillery has been owned and managed by an independent family company, which has been dedicated for five generations to the traditions, craftsmanship, and care of malt whisky making. Balvenie has four maltmen, three mashmen, three tun room men and three stillmen and between them they make all the Balvenie bottled. Nowhere else will you find a distillery that still grows its own barley, that still malts its own traditional floor maltings, that still has coopers tend to its barrels and coppersmiths tend to its stills.

There is a wide range of Balvenie whiskies available here in BC. Balvenie Founder's Reserve (=192302) \$45.95, is aged no less than 10 years and has a fine hint of sherry. Balvenie Doublewood (+387316) \$62.96 spends part of its 12 years of aging in bourbon oaks and the other part in sherry casks. Balvenie Singlebarrel (+366963) \$84.95 is aged 15 years in a bourbon cask from which 300 bottles are produced, hand numbered and hand signed with the cask and bottle number. Balvenie Portwood (+500090) \$102.95 is a 21 year old whisky that spends the final period of maturation in old stills.

Stew McKenzie