



# 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

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

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604-739-0714

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604-274-0446

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604-261-4763

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604-922-6469

#### Secretary

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#### Speakers

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#### Membership

Committee  
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#### Visits and

#### Entertainment

George Adams  
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#### House Committee

Doug Lambert  
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Roy Williams  
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**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 14 th, 2005

**JUNE 2005**

**Time:** 9:30am

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

**Speaker:** Fred McMahon, Director, Centre for Trade and Globalization  
Studies at the the Fraser Institute

**Topic: Measuring and Promoting Freedom in the Arab World: A Joint  
Project by the Fraser Institute and the International Research  
Foundation of Oman.**



### Fred McMahon

As Director for the Centre for Trade and Globalization Studies, Fred manages the Economic Freedom of the World Project

and examines global issues such as development, trade, governance and economic structure. The Centre coordinates the Economic Freedom Network, an international alliance of independent think tanks in nearly 70 nations.

Mr. McMahon is the author of numerous research articles and several books including, "Looking the Gift Horse in the Mouth: The impact of Federal Transfers on Atlantic Canada" which won the Sir Anthony Fisher International Memorial Award for advancing public policy debate. Another significant book is "Road to Growth:

How Lagging Economies Become Prosperous."

He has written for numerous publications including, The Wall Street Journal, National Post, Time(Canada), Globe and Mail, Ottawa Citizen and most other major Canadian newspapers. Research articles he has recently authored or co-authored include: "Economic Freedom of North America, 2004 Annual Report," a summary of which appeared in the European Journal of Political Economy and "Quebec Prosperity: Taking the Next Step". **EDUCATION:** Fred graduated from McGill University with a B.A. Linguistics. While at McGill he was involved in student activities as Vice-President, McGill Student Society and President of the Debating Union. He was awarded the McGill Scarlet Key as Canadian debating champion and placed 2nd in the English world debate tournament. He returned to McGill to earn his M.A. Economics in 1987.

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

**1979-1984** - Business and News Reporter at the Halifax Herald Ltd.

**1988-1990** - City Editor of the Montreal Daily News

**1990-1994** - Economics Editor at the Bank of Canada-responsible for the Bank of Canada Review, the Bank's flagship publication

**1995-1999** - Senior Policy Analyst at the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies - a founding member who participated in all start up activities

**1999-2000** - Policy Director for the Consumer Policy Institute in Toronto

**2000** - present - Fraser Institute.

## Minutes of the May 10th Meeting

**Attendance:** 165 including 4 guests

**President Gordon** called the meeting to order, welcomed all, and then said he wanted business completed before the speaker's arrival set for 10:15. He asked members to introduce their guests, and warmly welcomed two old-time members, **Brice Macdougall** and **Bill Wallace**, the past treasurer, then on to Committee Reports:

Treasurer, **Bill Manson**: In Bill's absence **Bill Wallace** reported, "The finances are in good hands." There's something about Treasurers and short reports!

Past Presidents' Committee, **John Hopkins**: In John's absence, President Gordon explained this new committee's function and commended it for a report designed to assure the Club's longevity.

Probus Canada, Director **Pidge McBride**: Pidge had nothing to report this month but just wait 'til next!

Speaker Committee, **Fred Cotton** and Newsletter, **Roy Williams**: Roy expressed surprise at being called to pinch-hit for Fred. "Red Sweater" Fred was around during the coffee/social period, but on hearing that our speaker, Carole Taylor, required a ride, he tossed his file to Roy and a "red streak" shot

to his car! Our speaker for June will be Fred McMahon of the Fraser Institute. His topic, Measuring and Preserving Freedom in the Arab World. Roy thanked members for their support of the e-mailed Newsletter. The audience responded with a fervent applause demonstrating their approval.

Visits and Entertainment, **George Adams**:

**Chris Lee** spoke in George's absence. There are three upcoming outings: the Princess Lousia boat trip, the Steveston Village walking tour and the visit to Minter Gardens, Details are in the last Newsletter.

Then as Carole Taylor had just arrived, Gordon gave **Art Jones** the pleasant task of introducing the long promised speaker.

Carole's topic described her feelings about political election campaigns. She said if able, giving back to your community is a responsibility. She also mentioned that, other than the interview with Wally Oppal, she has purposely stayed out of the campaign limelight. To win an election the real issues often give way to half-truths, which catch the media's eye and make good copy. Carole's assessment is that political campaigns center around three general areas of confusion: misinformation, misunderstandings and memory loss, (MMM's). Several examples were given.

The opposition's claim that the Government has closed 113 schools doesn't tell the whole truth. Firstly, the Government prepares a budget and then allocates the funds through School Boards. In turn, based on issues such as changing student demographics, teacher attraction and class size, they determine how to make school facilities fit requirements. As there are 30,000 fewer students throughout BC, varying by area, the Boards must determine whether classroom and/or school closures are necessary. If the media, itself often misinformed, attempted to carry such detail, it would likely be misunderstood by the public. The bottom line, this year's Education Budget at \$884 per student, is the highest ever. The claim that the Government broke its election promise to build 5,000 new seniors bed

facilities in their first term while true is misleading. Only after being elected, did the need to inventory the existing facilities become evident. This revealed that ten percent of the units didn't meet Fire Regulations and many were short other necessities, for example wheelchair accessible washrooms. Some were condemned outright, while 4000 needed extensive renovations. Combine this with the 1700 units currently being built and the Government appears wiser and more caring than the broken election promise suggests.

Carole gave additional examples of MMM's at work. She warned that politicians might take advantage of memory loss tendencies. It's very easy to forget the disastrous conditions of four years ago and the hard struggle back to economic recovery. The message is don't let this happen on May 17th. In closing Carol said all who are running deserve credit and respect. It's not an easy Job!

During the question period we learned that:

- Both the Vancouver Port Authority and the CBC were dysfunctional when Carole became involved. Her modus operandi was to define the organizational structure clearly and assure total transparency. By doing this, top executives function more effectively.
- After May 17th the challenge will be to balance the monies available between health care, education and seniors' needs.
- The Liberals took a neutral stand on BC-STV. But personally Carole finds it confusing and hoped for an alternative choice.
- Forty two percent of all provincial spending goes to health care; the 52 Health Regions have been consolidated into six.
- The RAV line cut and cover rather than a bored tunnel was Trans Link's decision.

President Gordon asked **Jack Farley** to thank the speaker, concluding the meeting.

Bill Weatherall, Secretary

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At our last meeting I was pleased to welcome back Brice Macdougall and Bill Wallace, two long term Charter Members whose past major



contributions helped to make our Club the strong vital organization it is today. Brice was our first Speakers Chairman and even when the Club was small he was able to entice the outstanding speakers that in turn attracted so many of you who now actively participate and regularly attend our meetings. For his work the Club honoured Brice with an Honorary Life Membership. Bill Wallace was our first Treasurer and served in that office until 2003. Being Treasurer is not a light easy task. Bill kept us current and through his leadership did much to establish the excellent financial foundation we enjoy today. Both these gentlemen have been active in other areas of our community but as those tasks lighten we hope to see more of them.

We were pleased to be able to accommodate the above average number of members who turned out to hear Carole Taylor's excellent presentation on May 10th. The Management Committee has decided, thanks to input from John Hopkins and his committee of Past Presidents, to manage our intake of new members so as not to exceed an average attendance of 150 people. As such we will maintain a manageable number for the Planetarium and fellowship area. Consequently we will admit a few new members over the next few meetings but not all of those currently on the waiting list can be invited to join at this time. Please advise friends that you have

nominated to continue to be patient as vacancies do occur.

I have mentioned some of our Past Presidents in recent Newsletters both to recognize their contributions and so that new members can know these men who continue to contribute to the Club. Don Farquhar, our 2002-2003 President, is currently organizing the Princess Louisa Tour for June 15-16. Don was born in Edmonton in 1933 and obtained his MD at UBC in 1958. He holds a certificate in the College of Family practice of Canada and is a fellow of that College. The highlight of his career was working in the UBC environment 1980-96. Don, in 1984 earned a Certificate in BC Studies through Simon Fraser University. He has served as President of Vancouver Medical and Saltire Society(St Andrews Ball). In retirement Don focuses on tennis, travel and voluntary organizations. He is married to Rochelle and they have 6 children. We thank you Don for your ongoing contribution to Probus.

Gordon Thom

## NOTICES

**Member Services Desk:** Ted Daem

**Cash Desk:** Jack Croll, Jim McPherson

**Greeters:** Tom Simms, Dick Beck, Barrie Lindsay

## VISITS AND ENTERTAINMENT

### TOUR OF STEVESTON VILLAGE

*Tuesday 21st June, 2005*

Arrangements have been concluded for our tour of the historic Steveston Village on Tuesday, 21st June as follows:

Starting at 10:00 am we will have a guided tour of the Britannia shipyard. We will then walk to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery stopping on the way to view the restored Murakame house and the BC Packers facility.

We will then have a guided tour of the Cannery, a National Historic Site, following which we will be served lunch (at about 1:00pm) at the adjacent Steveston Hotel.

Parking will be available at both the Shipyard and the Cannery - the walking distance between the two is about

**ONE MILE.**

The cost for this tour and lunch will be \$30.00 per head. For those who have already registered, please send

your cheque to the office as early as possible, marking your envelope "STEVESTON" (for those who have remitted payment at the earlier indicated price, a refund for the difference will be forthcoming).

Numbers are limited and there has been an enthusiastic response. However, **a few spaces do remain.**

For those interested, you should submit the enclosed application form, together with your payment, as soon as possible. Remaining places will be allocated in order of receipt of the application.

To reach the Shipyard by car, assuming you are coming from Vancouver on No. 2 road, turn right onto Moncton Street then left onto Railway Avenue. Follow Railway Avenue to the left and you will reach Britannia Heritage shipyard on the right hand side.

## PRINCESS LOUISA TOUR

*Wednesday, June 15th and Thursday,  
June 16th, 2005*

Complete details about this attractive tour appeared in previous Newsletters. There are still a few spots remaining for those who would like to take advantage of this Sunshine Coast and Princess Louisa Inlet cruise.

If you are interested, please call the Probus Office or convenor Don Farquhar at (604) 948-9908. Don't delay, act today!

## LUNCH AT CHIANTI'S

There is an open invitation to join other Probus members for lunch immediately following each monthly meeting

**PLACE** Chianti's at 1850

West 4th Ave., (just west of Burrard on the south side)

**CUISINE:** Italian style featuring pasta dishes etc.,

**PRICES:** Reasonable



# Registration

## Walking Tour of Historic Steveston Village

### Tuesday 21, June, 2005

Please submit this form together with your payment (\$30.00 per head) to Probus Club Vancouver at 252-2025 West 12th Avenue., Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5

*Please print*

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark your envelope "Steveston"

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# Registration

## PRINCESS LOUSIA TOUR

### JUNE 15 & 16, 2005

Name (S) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a cheque for \$101.30 each, made out to Probus Vancouver

Please return your cheque and registration to:

Probus Club Vancouver, 252 - 2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5