



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

DECEMBER 2005

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 13, 2005

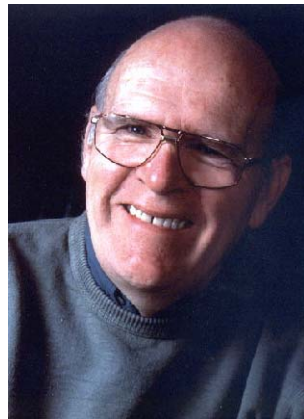
Time: 9:30am

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

Speaker: Jim Taylor, Sports Columnist

UPCOMING EVENTS

Presidents' Luncheon
Tuesday, January 10,
2006
(Details Inside)



JIM TAYLOR

Jim Taylor began his newspaper career in Victoria at the Daily Colonist in 1954 as a part-time sports reporter. He was 17, in Grade 11 at Vic

High, and so nervous that he didn't give up his paper route because he figured the sports gig would never last.

For One year he wrote for the Colonist at night and delivered it in the morning. Then, heading into Grade 12 and suspecting there might be homework, he wrestled with his first major decision: write, or deliver? Writing was fun, but subscribers didn't give you tips at Christmas. Delivering was easy, but paper boys didn't get into games for free.

He ditched the paper route, a decision he's never regretted because really, how many 69-year-old paper boys are there out there?

Two days after graduation he moved into the sports department full time -- and stayed 10 years. After one year with the new Vancouver Times ("It folded, but several people told me it wasn't entirely my fault.") he came back to the Colonist for a year, then returned to Vancouver -- 13 years with the Sun, 17 with the Province -- writing a daily sports column from 1971 through '95 before moving on to national syndication and a six-year stint with the Calgary Sun.

Along the way he has traveled the world with Canada's national teams, and written nine books: Dirty 30 with Jim Young; Inside the Dynasty, with Dan Kepley; From the Backyard Rink to the Stanley Cup, with Walter Gretzky; Man in Motion, with Rick Hansen; Larionov, with Igor Larionov; Gretzky, the Authorized Pictorial Biography, with Wayne Gretzky; Grey Moore; A Legacy of Spirit, with Dan Proudfoot, and two column collections: Forgive Me My Press Passes and You Mean I Get Paid to do This? He also has had a daily radio commentary radio show and made numerous television appearances.

Mr Taylor is a member of the media division in the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2000 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Sports Media Canada.

His great love has always been Canadian football in general and the B.C. Lions in particular, the team that he covered for 35 years. In 2003, he realized a lifetime dream, traveling across the country to interview 91 CFL greats to produce the CFL's first television archive, the acclaimed five-hour CFL Traditions Series. He still considers four-down NFL football a tool of the Devil.

Minutes of the November 8th Meeting

Attendance: 163 including 5 guests

Vice President **Jack Farley** opened the meeting and requested the introduction of guests followed by comments about next month's speaker by **Norm Weitzel**. **Nick Thornton** introduced the following new members: **Chuck Fortier**, retired Customs Broker; **Bernie Hoeschen**, Lawyer; **Leo Dooling**, BC Telephones and **John McNee**, Airline Industry. **Don Hudson** then introduced our speaker, **John Helliwell**.

John titled his talk, "What Makes You Happy." He posed the question, "How satisfied are you with your life *utility*?" Substitute, social well-being or social capital referred to as the norms and support networks of how people deal with one another. With the aid of an "overhead," he compared the relative life satisfaction in various global areas such as the former USSR, the ECM, Denmark, Canada and the USA. On a scale of one to ten the USSR's rating was < 5, the ECM >6, Denmark >8, Canada, slightly less at 7.9 and the USA 7.5. He then explained while the study of human well-being is considered relatively new, Aristotle actually worked on measuring life satisfaction (rather than happiness) eons ago. John illustrated, again with overheads, that life satisfaction in urban areas across the globe fall into a "doughnut effect" where life satisfaction is high in a city's peripheral area and low in the centre core.

Well being is supported by:

- Trust: This, John explained, was when individuals take the well-being of others seriously.
- Engagement with family, friends and neighbours: To

illustrate the meaning, John led us in a chorus or two of "The More We Get Together," saying that life satisfaction flourishes through togetherness.

- Employment and fair remuneration: John emphasized the importance of non-financial workplace rewards, as compared with financial, in fulfilling an individual's career expectations. He said studies show workplace trust is the most important of all.
- Good health: It is a given that good health is very crucial to well-being.
- High quality Government at all levels: More about the importance of good government later.
- No TV; Simply put, media plays on negative society traits that deeply affect our well-being. John gave the example of parent drop-off and pick-up of school children due to a false belief of the danger if they walked to and from school. As a result, many children no longer benefit from engagement with other students before and after school.

Demographic surveys (gender and marital status) in many countries are consistently described as a U shaped curve that plots well-being over the human life span. This curve depicts years, and rising again during retirement. Relative incomes, when measured in developing countries, show a positive correlation with well-being regardless of amount of salary. This differs with European countries where surveys show little correlation between rising income and increased personal satisfaction once a family's earnings rise above the median. A recent Canadian survey showed that people with frequent social contacts, on a 10-point scale, would have a well-being reading one full point higher than others having no such contacts. Government quality appears to have a large influence in explaining International social well-being differences. Two groups of surveys were used to illustrate. The first, in poorer countries where measurements relating to the Government's honesty, regulatory efficiency, rule-of-law and lack of corruption are of major importance. In richer countries however, the surveys were related to the

operation of the democratic process. Both these surveys showed strong correlation between good government and high satisfaction. the speaker.

Bill Weatherall, Secretary.

In concluding, John said there were many psychological, neurological and experimental assessments in progress and when completed, these should be used to enrich, change and supplement measurers of social well-being.

During the question period we learned that:

- In a unionized workplace employer/employee trust has likely disappeared. Once gone, retrieval is very difficult.
- Urbanization is not easy to measure accurately, but it invariably falls into the donut effect described above. These findings appear not only for cities but also for their individual districts.
- In measuring well-being, social trust unexplainably, doesn't appear to be a major factor.
- Life satisfaction appears higher in Canada than the USA. However, their "Belief-in-God" rating is twice ours.
- The current riots in and around Paris are an indication of low trust between poorer district's ethnic youth and the authorities.
- The average person does not understand how powerful the TV media is. Steps should be taken to have TV relate good human experiences along with the bad, on a realistically balanced basis.
- Good quality government is reflected in good health care systems. The Reverse is also true.
- Suicide statistics by country can be misleading. For example, Sweden is unique in classifying fatal single-vehicle accidents as suicides.

Vice President Jack asked **Terry Heenan** to thank

A Small White

Dot

A kindergarten class had a homework assignment to find out something exciting and relate it to the class the next day.



When the time came to present what they'd found, the first little boy the teacher called on walked up to the front of the class, and with a piece of chalk, made a small white dot on the blackboard and sat back down.

Puzzled, the teacher asked him what it was.

"Its a period," he replied. "I see that," said the teacher, "but what is so exciting about a period?"

"Darned if I know," he said, "but this morning my sister was missing one, Mommy fainted, Daddy had a heart attack and the boy next door joined the army."

CHRISTMAS LEGEND

Who was he?

Father Christmas is based on a real person, St. Nicholas, which explains his other name 'Santa Clause' which comes from the Dutch 'Sinterklaas'. Nicholas was a Christians leader from Myra (in modern day-Turkey) in the 4th Century AD. He was very shy and wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it. It is said that one day, he climbed the roof of a house and dropped a purse of money down the chimney. It landed in a stocking which a girl had put to dry by the fire! This may explain the belief that Father Christmas comes down the chimney and places gifts in children's stockings.



NOTICES

Member Services Desk: Ted Daem

Cash Desh: Frank Willis and Michael Ashby

Greeters: David Scott, Lionel Funt, Paul Moritz

It is with regret we announce the passings of Phil Shier on November 3, 2005 and Al Anthony on November 2, 2005. Our condolences to their families. Donations will be made by Probus to the Philip Shier Memorial Fund for law students and The Heart Fund respectively.

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER 2006 MEETING DATES

**LOCATION: H.R. MacMillan
Planetarium and Space Centre
Tuesday at 9:30 AM****

January 10th**

February 14th

March 14th

April 11th

May 9th

June 13th

July 11th

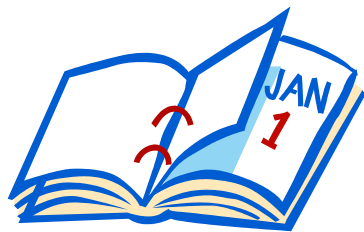
August 8th

September 12th

October 10th

November 14th

December 12th



** January Meeting is at Point Grey Golf and Country Club starting at 10 AM

VISITS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Presidents' Luncheon

The meeting on Tuesday, January 10th, 2006 will be held at the Point Grey Golf and Country Club. It will be followed by the **Presidents' Luncheon** which honours the Past Presidents of our Club.

The subsidized charge for each member is \$25.00 and guests are welcome for \$35.00. There will be a no host bar where you will be able to purchase wine and other beverages.

Arrival time is 10:00 AM with the meeting starting at 10:30 AM. Coffee will be available.

We will need to have an accurate count of those attending to properly set up for the meeting and luncheon. **Members planning to attend are requested to advise the Probus Office by phone at 604-261-6818.**

Please bring your cheque or cash to the meeting.

SEASON'S GREETINGS