



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

MARCH 2006

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 14/06

Time: 9:30 AM

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

Speaker: Jim Allworth, Director of
RBC investments

Topic: Where Do We Go From here

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6 - Tour and Luncheon

Domaine de Chaberton Estate Winery

April 24th - Golf Tournament

May 17 - Tour of UBC

Sept. 16. Football Game (BC Lions vs
Toronto)

October 7 - Fraser River Cruise to Fort
Langley Cranberry Festival

Jim Allworth

Jim was raised in Toronto, but has been a permanent resident of Vancouver for the past 30 years, where he lives with his wife Roseanne. He is a graduate of Simon Fraser University (Economics).

Jim has been in the investment business for 37 years, as both a research analyst and portfolio strategist.

He is a director of RBC investments, he is also Vice-Chair of the RBC Dominion Securities' Investment strategy committee which is responsible for giving direction on the outlook for financial markets to the rest of the firm and to the firm's clients.

His presentation today is entitled, 'Where Do We Go From Here.' He will talk about what changes we foresee in the economic, interest rate and investment environment over the next few years, and what shifts investors should make in their thinking to

cope with changing circumstances.

PROBUS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mark your calendar for the 10th Annual Probus Golf Tournament to be held on Monday, April 24th, 2006. This is an event you will not want to miss regardless of your handicap! The day includes golf, wonderful fellowship and a superb dinner at the University Golf Club. You can sign up by completing the enclosed REGISTRATION FORM and sending it to the Probus Office or turning it in to the Member Service Desk at the March Club meeting. Contact Don Newman at 604-263-5740 or Bill Kennedy 604-731-4244 for additional information.

Minutes of the February 14th Meeting

Attendance: 153 including 7 guests

President Denis called the meeting to order and requested guest introductions. Denis alluded to this being the time for Committee Reports then quipped that our Treasurer has thanked the Club for financing his trip to Huston. Next he brought down the house by suggesting Fred Cotton intended lining up Dave Emerson and Belinda Stronach as future speakers. Coming back to earth, President Denis said that the March speaker would be Jim Allworth from RCB Dominion Securities. Taking a bit of a break, President Denis asked Dr. Don Newman to speak on our upcoming Probus annual golf tournament, which is detailed elsewhere within. Denis then requested Don Hudson to say a few words regarding future events. Don talked of the planned May 17th UBC tour and a visit, lunch and tour of the Domaine De Chaberton Estate Winery in Langley. Both these tours will be detailed in further newsletters. So pleased was President Denis at Don's presentation, he asked him to stay on and introduce the speaker, Dr. Stefan Ganzle.

Dr. Ganzle began with some European Common Market background saying that the organization we know today traces its beginning to 1951, more than fifty years ago, when the six founding members (Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, France, Germany and Italy) formed the European Community of Steel and Coal (ECSC) and agreed to pool parts of their state sovereignty. Today, the European Union (EU) encompasses twenty-five member states and, in the not too distant future, the membership is expected to reach thirty. This expansion will stretch the EU's political influence well beyond its geographically defined borders.

Dr. Ganzle then posed the rhetorical question, 'Why is the EU so special?' In brief, he explained that it has evolved into a community and

legal capabilities to enter into binding legislation. This is based on the premise that there can be jurisdictional agreement, within the realm of member states, as to the individual areas of legal responsibility of the two levels of government. For this to work the division must realistically leave the member states with the areas of jurisprudence that they can handle best. At present, each member state accepts the supreme authority of the EU in all matters agreed to. Sounds easy? It isn't. Consider the complex interactions of the Community institutions at the European level then add in the evolution of the European Court of Justice, the European Commission and Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the European Council (all active bodies within the EU) - it boggles the mind. Currently, many of the member states are vying for leadership positions within the EU, especially in those supranational institutions like the European Commission.

The EU is not without problems. Given the most recent failure of the Constitutional treaty as well as the frustrations of processing new member state applications, many observers are sceptical about the future of the EU. But the history of this unique endeavour clearly depicts a track record of crisis. The European Union of Steel and coal suffered a serious set back due to the failure of the European Defense Community. The Treaty of Rome (1957), which addressed the basic foundations of the Common Market, met with General de Gaulle's strong hostility towards supranationalism. This list goes on, but the biggest problem today is to successfully deal with expansion.

Dr. Gangle concluded by saying that for the first time in history the European continent is united under the EU umbrella. What the Europeans must learn is that the EU Institutions

and policies must be refined and reworked so they can satisfy the changing realities of Keeping Europe unified.

During the question period we learned that:

- Turkey wants to join the ECU both for political and economic reasons. They want access to the European market, and would expect an influx of capital similar to that which Southern Ireland experienced upon joining. Turkey is also politically aligned with the European countries.
- The size of bureaucracy, while considerable, is not as much a concern as over-regulation. It's the member states themselves that request this regulation in the first place.
- The Islam emigration to member states and the relative birth rate compared with the long standing Europeans, especially in France and Germany is causing concern. The Denmark cartoons have caused a considerable setback. As each State has different policies there is no common social mode for the Common Market.
- The ECU is not an ideal single currency area because of the basic economic differences between member states. Nevertheless the euro is the political glue that holds the Common Market together.

President Denis asked John Hopkins to thank the speaker

Bill Weatherall, Secretary

MEMBER HONORED

Congratulations to Bruce Buchanan on receiving the Order of Canada

Presidential Musings



Why is this picture still here? Write or phone your Editor and tell him you want to get rid of him. Come on guys, just a figure of speech!

In the past year or so we've had speakers

dealing with biotechnology in B.C., the Vancouver City Planner, the criminal courts in the Lower Mainland (a retired judge), politics in B.C. (from the Government but only 1 3/4 speakers because Carol didn't talk entirely about politics), West Nile virus, economic freedom in the Arab world, Vancouver (a twofer with an author-artist, walking tour guide), climatology (global warming or not), China (the big picture), commercial auctioneering, an Economist (well being), sports columnist, Convention Centre Expansion Project and the European Union. Eclecticism = the Speakers Committee. You even get to learn a thing or two!

See you on the 14th.

Denis

NOTICES

JOIN US FOR LUNCH after the meeting at the Chianti Cafe, 1850 West 4th Ave. (Just West of Burrard)

It is with regret we announce the passing of Bill McNulty on Feb. 11th, 2006 and Jack Parnell on Feb. 20, 2006. Our condolences to their families. Donations will be made by Probus to the BC Cancer Foundation and St. Philip's Anglican Church.

Member Services Desk: Ted Daem

Cash Desh: Bob Bambrook, Ken Warner

Greeters: Gordon Dunn, Ken Meredith, Norm Weitzel

SKAGIT VALLEY TULIP FESTIVAL

Monday, April 10, 2006

The Women's Probus Club of Vancouver has extended an invitation to members of our Club who would like to join with them on their tour to the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. Spouses and friends are welcome.

A bus is being arranged which will leave from a central point. The cost is \$35.00 per person which covers the bus trip and tulip field entry fees. Lunch is on your own in La Conner. They need confirmation by March 12 to commit for the bus.

Please call Estelle at 604-731-2260 to make your reservation. Cheques are to be made out to Women's Probus Club of Vancouver and mailed to 1192 Nanton Ave., Vancouver V6H 2C5

DOMAINE DE CHABERTON ESTATE WINERY TOUR AND LUNCHEON THURSDAY APRIL 6, 2006

Maximum Number - 60 people

This tour, wine tasting and luncheon is an event that has been highly recommended to us. Domaine de Chaberton has been in operation since 1991 and has become one of B.C.'s largest wineries. It was started by a French family (Claude and Inge Violet) who emigrated to Canada. Their family has been in the wine business in France since 1644.

The tour and wine tasting will take place from 11:00AM to 12:15PM. The three course luncheon will be served in the highly recommended Bacchus Bistro at 12:30PM. The cost for the tour, wine tasting and the luncheon will be \$35.00 per person. The Chef has recommended that wine at lunch be handled on a table basis. So our cost of wine with lunch will depend on your negotiating ability with those seated at your table.

If we get 50 people, the winery will close the restaurant to the general public. We will operate on a first come first served basis with spouses and guests welcome. We would like to

confirm our attendance to the winery by April 1 and hopefully we will have over 50 so it can be our own private party. Dress is to be "Well Dressed" casual.

Please complete the enclosed reservation form and send it to the Probus office.

Directions - the winery is located in Langley at #1064 -216th Street. There are two easy routes both of which take about 45 minutes from Vancouver centre.

1. Go south on Highway 99 through the Deas Island tunnel, turning off at the White Rock Crescent exit. Continue on towards White Rock (the King George highway) until you reach 16th St., (a major roadway with a traffic signal). Turn East (left) and continue on 16th Street until you reach 216th St., and turn south (right) to the winery.
2. Go east on Highway 1 over the Port Mann bridge until you reach the 200th Street Exit. Turn south (right) and continue through Langley until you reach 16th St. (this is a fair distance). Turn east (left) at 16th Street until you reach 216th St., Turn south (right) and proceed to the winery. There is good signing on 16th St. as you approach the winery location

Planning Ahead for UBC Tour!

Lloyd Doidge and Chris Lee are working together to plan a walking tour of the unique and surprising north end of the UBC campus from 9:30 in the morning to mid-afternoon on Wednesday, May 17. We will start at the Sage Bistro (former Faculty Club) and will return there for lunch. Further details of the tour, parking arrangements, costs and a registration form will be included in the April Newsletter.