



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

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AUGUST 2007

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Gordon Thom
604-739-0714

Next Meeting: Tuesday August 14, 2007

Time: 9:30 AM

LOCATION: CHANGE OF VENUE

**Point Grey Golf and Country Club
3350 South West Marine Drive**

Speaker: Dr. Michael Byers

Topic: Intent For A Nation: What is Canada For?

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 15 - Holland America Luncheon

September 13 - Capilano Watershed Bus
Tour

September 28 - Holland America
Repositioning Cruise



Dr. Michael Byers

Why do Canadians think so small? "We're a serious country. But our clout -- we don't use it." says Michael Byers, who argues it is time for a clear-eyed appreciation of our strengths and weaknesses, of all we have and all we could be. Instead of emulating our increasingly isolated neighbour, Byers says we should be advancing the Canadian model, an idealistic, fiscally prudent, socially progressive vision of foreign policy that has never looked so good.

Playing against George Grant's seminal *Lament for a Nation*, Byers' new book *Intent for a Nation* is an informed and opinionated overview of where Canada stands globally and what aggressive and progressive social, environmental, and governmental policies are needed to carry the country forward in an ever more competitive and volatile world.

Dr. Byers holds the Canada

Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law at the University of British Columbia. Prior to 2005, he was Professor of Law and Director of Canadian Studies at Duke University; from 1996-1999 he was a fellow of Jesus College, Oxford University. Dr. Byers is a regular contributor to the *London Review of Books*, *Toronto Star* and *Globe and Mail*, and a frequent guest on the CBC.

The *Globe and Mail* writes that the *Intent for a nation* is "a passionate and cheerful call for international action, based on a diligent reading of our values and our potential...closely argued, convincing, challenging, sometimes even exhilarating."

The *Georgia Straight* calls *Intent for a Nation* "passionate rebuttal of the notion that Canada lacks influence."

The *Vancouver Sun* writes that *Intent for a Nation* is "a tremendously informative and thoughtful book."

Minutes of the July 10th Meeting

Attendance: 130 including guests

The PA system being down, **President Jack Farley** hollered, "greeting" to the group and the group responded in kind. He called upon Treasurer **Bill Manson**, silent for too long, to report on the Club's finances. Our current bank balance is \$14,969 (\$7,890 a year ago). The \$5 meeting fee was sufficient to cover the rent and coffee expenses and leave a surplus of \$700 for the year. Bill's final comments dealt with a problem related to Club events involving a bus. The ticket price is based on a full load, so late cancellations end up in a loss for the Club. **Don Hudson** was asked to hurry up to the mike (now working) and explain the security checks required to go onboard the Holland American ship for the upcoming luncheon. The committee will be calling all participants and explaining the requirements. Next, **Nick Thornton** introduced three new members. (See, Welcome New Members). **Gordon Thom** introduced the speaker, Robert Plecas.

Bob started with an overview of W.A.C. Bennett's 20 years as Premier -- how the Socreds slipped in via the "second choice ballot" and won over the Liberals, Conservatives and the CCF. He represented Social Credit but did not believe in the funny money dogma. W.A.C. won six elections and ran the Province from 1952 to 1972, a period of 20 years. He was a builder of highways and hydropower dams and thus encouraged industry, such as pulp mills and mines to develop our natural resources. He supported post-secondary education and through all of the above still managed to balance the budget. He was a free enterpriser but nationalized BC Hydro and BC Ferries for the public's good. In effect, his efforts opened up B.C. While he never missed a chance to warn his flock against the NDP and the godless socialists at the gates, by election time 1972, he

was considered stale dated and lost to David Barrett

David was born in 1930 into a very poor family. Nevertheless, education was important to his parents and he graduated with a master's degree. In various social work positions, he frequently found himself at odds with the bureaucratic management. Tommy Douglas impressed him to the point he adopted a similar political career approach. His first cabinet meeting dealt with two issues: first, recognizing his party's tenure was likely short term he decided to move quickly; second, he resolved that his cabinet would operate in a hands-on manner and not delegate political decisions to the bureaucracy. Barrett set out to socialize BC with a vengeance: Government employees grew by 8,000 new permanent positions in 3 years; the minimum wage was raised to the highest in Canada; the legislative agenda more than doubled, just to name a few of many changes. However, Barrett made one serious political mistake. So convinced was he that the clobbering he gave the father he could also give the son, and, upon W.A.C.'s resignation allowed the by-election, being contested by Daddy's boy, to be held much earlier than required. This resulted in insufficient time for the Socreds to call a leadership convention giving Bill a clear, virtually uncontested shot at the riding and very likely was the root-cause of Barrett's defeat. In a nutshell, Barrett's downfall was labour unrest, probably brought on by the NDP's lack of negotiating skills. They were forced into the "heavies" roll and managed to get both organized labour and the business community frustrated, furious and dumbfounded. Financial overruns, back-to-work legislation and the ICBC's deficit forced an early election call.

In the other camp and early after his defeat, W.A.C., Grace McCarthy and Dan Campbell started to rebuild the Socred party, which had shrunk to less than 4,000 (largely dispirited) members. They were given a boost by the NDP's introduction of the Agriculture Land Act that simply gave the government too much power. At an early meeting this faux pas was clearly orchestrated by Hugh Harris and new memberships came streaming in. When the time was right, newfound friend Hugh also agreed to be Bill's campaign manager providing he would also run for premier. On September 7th, 1973, Bill Bennett won the by-election with 39% of the vote. On October 11, Bill announced that he was seeking the Social Credit Party leadership. Five others contested the position. Bennett won on the first ballot by 883 votes more than the rest of the candidates combined. He made two important points in his acceptance speech: As the new leader he was clearly his own man. Secondly, the "new" party would be open and exclusively support free enterprise. As leader of the opposition, Bill was a nervous public speaker who did much better one-to-one or in a small groups. He often appeared ill at ease at a podium or head table. These aspects were majorly overcome by time but he remained more private than public. When making a speech Bill did markedly better during questions and answers and always encouraged those travelling with him to critique his performance. In preparation for the next election Bill had to plan and work very hard to persuade the right thinking populace to consolidate within Social Credit. This meant that Bennett had to basically destroy the Liberals, the Conservatives and the do-gooders trying to form coalitions so that there was only one viable centre-right party in BC. He succeeded, and with the election themes such as the NDP was incompetent to manage the public's hard-earned dollars, was ready to take on Barrett.

For reasons best known to his advisors, Barrett called an early election for December 1975. The news reached Bennett at home where he

quickly outlined the campaign issues as unemployment, inflation, cutbacks in education and healthcare funding and failure in maintaining the highest paying Canadian seniors pension plan. Thanks to Grace McCarthy, the Socred war office was a well-oiled machine already up and running. Bill and his party won a clear majority with close to 50% of the vote. During his tenure, Bill won three elections and served for almost 11 years. His accomplishments include Expo, the Coquihalla highway, the SkyTrain, BC Place, North East Coal and BCRIC, the Ombudsman and sponsorship of many Canada-wide and international sporting events. But his true genius was his ability to organize and manage in a fair manner. Popular vote rates Bill Bennett's administration very well in deed, securing 3 of the top 5 results over the last 50 years. Further, those that worked with him closely, held him in high respect. As one summed it up, Bill Bennett was difficult to dislike. Through the years Bill Bennett certainly wore well!

During the question period we learned that:

- It is a conundrum as to why Bill Bennett would expose himself to a possible accusation of inside trading as happened regarding Doman Industries.
- The questions to be faced with ongoing proposals such as the Prince Rupert Container Port which is being delayed through the efforts of four First Nations Bands, is firstly to determine whether there is a need to negotiate. The answer is clearly yes, as ruled by the Supreme Court. Therefore, it must be determined which of the Bands' claims are legitimate. The example given: Was the proposed location originally a town site (legitimate) or just a place to eat berries(not legitimate)?Once the facts are clear the only successful way to deal is to work together in a businesslike manner. Negotiators must recognize that the First Nations want financial gains and that the law is on their side. Solutions will only be found on that basis.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT



I have previously reported on the important roles that our members play in contributing to the success of our Club. They include **Fred Cotton** (Speakers Committee), **Don Hudson**

(Activities), **Doug Lambert** (office), **Roy Williams** (our Editor-in-Chief) and **Pidge McBride** (our liaison with Probus Canada).

Here are some other "unsung heroes" of Probus Vancouver. Our secretary **Bill Weatherall** not only takes the Minutes of our Management Committee meetings but also produces excellent Minutes of our monthly meetings for the Newsletter. Our treasurer **Bill Manson** keep track of our finances and even manages to produce a surplus for our Club. **Nick Thornton** compiles the information on our new members and does a masterful job in introducing them at our monthly meetings.

Tremayne Perry looks after our Membership Services desk and is responsible for building up an army of volunteers. This group provides the greeters who welcome our members as they amble down the stairs at the Planetarium. They also collect the monthly fees and event cheques, dispense visitor tags, and keep a close eye on the cash box!

And behind the scenes we also have **GEORGE ADAMS** who keeps our roster up to date. He also updates the program for sending our Newsletter by email and prints the labels for sending the "letter by snailmail." **Bill Kennedy**, **Dave Campbell**, **Tom McCusker** and **Pidge McBride** help **Doug Lambert** in the office, stuff the Newsletter for mailing, keep the name tag boxes in order and set up and store the boxes.

A big THANK YOU to our many helpers.

Jack

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN HOLLAND AMERICA CRUISE

Lloyds Travel has advised us that our repositioning cruise for Sept. 27 needs to be changed as the **Ms Oosterdam** will be in drydock at the end of the Alaska cruise season. Consequently, we have replaced our cruise with the following:

September 28 - Ms. Volendam - 4 Nights

Vancouver-Astoria-at sea-at sea-San Diego
Inside Cabin - \$540.00; Outside Cabin - \$610.00
Verandah Cabin - \$740.00

However due to the change of plans, you may also book on the following cruises

September 26, MS Zaandam - 5 nights Vancouver –

Victoria – Astoria– at sea – at sea – San Diego
Inside Cabin - \$699.00: Outside Cabin - \$782.00
Verandah Cabin - \$1055.00

September 29, MS Zuiderdam - 4 nights

Vancouver – at sea – at sea – at sea – Los Angeles
Inside Cabin - \$589.00: Outside Cabin - \$670.00
Verandah Cabin - \$790.00

In addition to the above costs, the return air fare will be in the order of \$350.00. All costs shown are in Canadian dollars.

We have also been advised that if you can organize a group booking in the order of ten people, you can discuss the possibility of a group fare reduction. Also, if you wish to arrange a visit to Las Vegas or another city, that can be arranged by Lloyd's as well. Lloyds Travel also advised that the heavy booking season for repositioning cruises is just starting and so if you are interested you should contact them as soon as possible in order to get the accommodation you would prefer.

The contact at Lloyds Travel is as follows:

Jude Harms - Lloyds Travel & Cruises

206 – 906 West

Broadway, Vancouver,
BC

V5Z 1K7

Phone:604-872-5464,
ext.104



NOTICES

CHANGE OF VENUE

There is a chance that the strikers will picket the Planetarium & Space Centre, Therefore the meeting has been moved to:

Point Grey Golf and Country Club
3350 S.W. Marine Drive
Vancouver

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Norm Anderson - Engineer - Mining
Rick Charles - Investment Management
Bill McDonald - Consulting Engineer -
Construction

HOLLAND AMERICA LUNCHEON - **AUGUST 15, 2007**

All those who registered for the luncheon have been accepted. No draw was required. There will be a total of 62 (members and wives) attending from Vancouver Probus.

Member Services Desk: Tremayne Perry
Cash Desk: Alan Brown, Bob Wadsworth
Greeters: Ray Casson, Norm Weitzel, Colin Warner

CAPILANO WATERSHED BUS TOUR **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2007**

A bus has been reserved for Probus Vancouver on Thursday, September 13th at 12:30PM for a GVRD organized and guided tour of the Capilano watershed. The tour is four hours long and starts at the Grouse Mountain Tramway parking lot. Box lunch, water and soft drinks will be provided. There are several stops enroute and bathroom facilities are available. The GVRD has advised there are good photographic opportunities. The cost of the tour is \$20.00 which covers a box lunch, water, soft drinks and gratuities for guide and driver. Weather is obviously a factor in what you wear. If it is showery, some rain gear is in order and remember it will be cooler in the watershed area than in the city. Above all, wear comfortable warm clothing and shoes.

We want everyone there at least 15 minutes before departure. The bus will be in the upper parking lot next to the Tramway unloading area. The cost for all day parking is \$5.00.

As the GVRD says, "this is a chance to see where your drinking water comes from." Also hear what the GVRD is doing to ensure both the quality and quantity of Vancouver's water.

So sign up using the form in this newsletter! Friends and relatives are welcome

Capilano watershed Tour September 13, 2007

Registration Form

Name _____

Number of tickets @\$20.00 _____ Total Cost \$ _____

Drop off at next meeting or mail to: Probus Club Vancouver, 252-2025 West 42nd Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5

**Notice for those Probus Members attending the
tour and luncheon on
Holland America's Ship, the ms ZAADAM**

When: Wednesday, August 15th

Check-in: 10 am

Where: Canada Place
Cruise Ship Terminal Level *in the main open area, to the right
just past Security.*

Here you will see representatives from Holland America and Lloyds Travel & Cruises who will check you in and give you your Visitor's Pass. Final boarding procedures will be given then.

Disembarkation: about 1pm

Please be sure to bring gov't-issued photo i.d. (passport or driver's license) plus proof of citizenship (birth certificate or passport).. you will not be able to board without these.

One Note: Parking in the area can be hard to find on "ship days"...so please allow extra time for this possibility. We must go onboard together, so once the group has embarked, you will not be able to get on individually. Parking further away and walking or taking a bus the rest of the way may be a good solution.

If you have any questions, please call Lloyds travel at 604-872-5464