



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

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

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

...to find more about Probuss go to www.probus.org

June 2008

President

Ted Daem
604-732-7758

Past President

Jack Farley
604-922-1515

Vice President

George Adams
604-926-0906

Secretary

Lindsay Mann
604-899-2611

Treasurer

Bill Manson
604-988-2365

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604-266-7060

Membership Committee

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604-263-2418

Activities Committee

Lloyd Doidge
604-228-8181

House committee

Doug Lambert
604-266-2422

Newsletter Editor

Roy Williams
604-926-4727

Membership Services

Tremayne Perry
604-261-9669

Historian and Archivist

Gordon Thom
604-739-0714

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 10th, 2008

Time: 9:30 AM

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

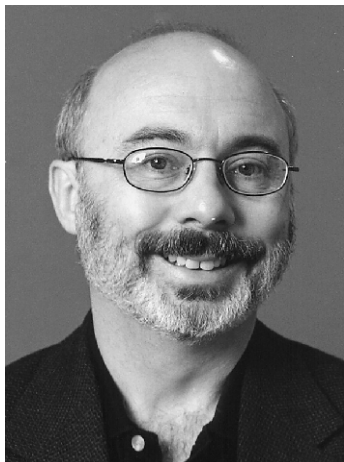
Speaker: Marc Edge

**Topic : Asper Nation-Canada's Most
Dangerous Media Company**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 21st - Capilano Historic Watershed
Bus Tour**

MARC EDGE



Marc Edge was born in New Westminster and grew up in Burnaby, where he got into the newspaper business in the late 1960's

as a paper boy. He did a Commerce degree at SFU, where he got into journalism writing for the Peak Student Newspaper and covering sports for The Daily Province. His first full-time newspaper job was at the Calgary Herald, where he worked for two years. He returned to the Province in 1979 after the eight-month Pacific Press strike, working in the business section, on the City Desk, and as education reporter. He went back to school in 1982, completing a Master's degree at

Michigan State University. He returned to work at the Province as Supreme Court reporter until 1993, when he took "early retirement" at age 38. He sailed to the South Pacific aboard his 40-foot ketch Markenurh before studying for his Ph.D. at Ohio University. His doctoral thesis, a history of Pacific Press, won the 2002 dissertation award of the American Journalism Historians Association and was published as his first book. He then spent three years teaching at a university in Singapore before returning home to write a book on the economics of hockey, Red Line, Blue Line, Bottom Line. Since then he has taught at three universities and written his third book, Asper Nation: Canada's Most Dangerous Media Company. He is currently an Associate Professor at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville Texas, but spends his summers aboard Markenurh back home in the lower Mainland.

Minutes of the May 6th Meeting

Attendance: 149 members and guests

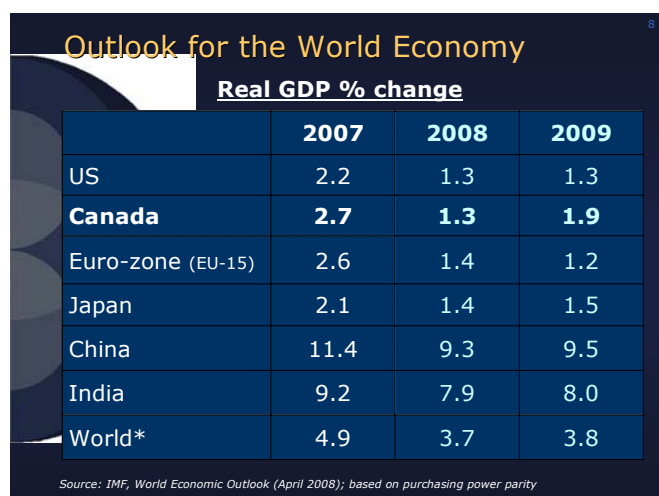
President **Ted Daem** opened the meeting at 10:00 am and after welcoming members, acknowledged **George Taylor's** presence of mind at the last meeting for thanking the speaker without prompting. **Nick Thornton** for Membership announced that thirty five prospects are wait-listed and therefore no more applications will be accepted at this time. President **Ted** reminded members that the club is run by volunteers and all members are invited and encouraged to participate. The executive has been compiling a list of duties for each position on the Management Committee. Also, a new committee comprised of Past Presidents, named the Executive Succession Committee, has been struck to select the next slate of officers.

Don Hudson introduced Jock A. Finlayson, Executive Vice President of the Business Council of BC, speaking on "Turbulent Times: B.C. Economic Outlook and the Changing Competitive Landscape." Mr. Finlayson cautioned that the economic outlook was one of extreme uncertainty, nevertheless he would address generally first global and US prospects, then Canadian, and finally B.C. over the next two years. In a densely documented and illustrated power point presentation of charts and graphs, enlivened by personal notes and humour, Mr. Finlayson authoritatively developed these topics. Some highlights follow..

BC and the world face remarkable challenges. After years of torrid growth, BC

and the world will slow. BC will outperform most of the provinces, although exports will be weak. Construction will moderate though remain strong through 2008-9. Particular challenges for BC include its export base, its weak productivity, the devastation of the forest industry by the pine beetle, an aging population (labour constraints) and carbon constraints.

Mr. Finlayson first isolated fundamental factors for his analysis: the record high price of oil, \$120 at the time of presentation; the remarkable run-up in prices for agricultural products; the unprecedented severity of the US housing downturn; the disruption of credit markets (although the worst may be over, the re-pricing of risk has disrupted business); the extraordinary technonic shift to the emerging markets for leadership, portending changes twenty years out; the Canadian dollar reaching and exceeding parity with the US dollar; the shift of economic dynamism and population from the centre of Canada to the West.



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| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| US | 2.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Canada | 2.7 | 1.3 | 1.9 |
| Euro-zone (EU-15) | 2.6 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| Japan | 2.1 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| China | 11.4 | 9.3 | 9.5 |
| India | 9.2 | 7.9 | 8.0 |
| World* | 4.9 | 3.7 | 3.8 |

Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook (April 2008); based on purchasing power parity

There is a general global slowdown, from an average growth of 5% 2004-2007 to 3.5% in 2008. The housing decline in the US will lead to recession. Europe and Japan are slowing. Economic growth is shifting from the established economies to the emerging ones. Canada and BC cannot decouple from these events although supported by strong commodities prices and fiscal health. In response to questions, Mr. Finlayson acknowledged the off-shore oil potential of BC which is unwisely blocked by a moratorium on exploration.

- Tourism and retirement are important to BC; tourism is 5% of GDP, but there has been a decline of US visitors.
- The world will move to one currency, but pegging the dollar now would give up central bank sovereignty.
- Climate change is happening but there is not much you can do about it except adapt.
- Brazil, Mexico, Vietnam will be part of a global shift in productivity.
- Barriers to trade are destructive: inter-provincial barriers in Canada are a self-inflicted wound. We should get rid of them though that won't help BC much.
- Immigration as a solution to the labour shortage carries its own disadvantages in poor language skills or inadequate educational credentials.
- The marijuana trade is a big industry, a six or seven billion dollar cash business and the largest underground economy in Canada. A preferred solution would be legalization but the US will prevent it.
- BC can export basic metals directly to Asia.

- Considering whether technology might save the forest industry, Mr. Finlayson indicated that there may be opportunities in fibre, wood pellets, ethanol.
- The US tariff on Brazilian sugar and the like is a shameful boondoggle.
- US real estate should provide an excellent investment opportunity later in 2008.

BC Economic Forecast
(annual % change unless noted)

| | actual | | estimate | forecast | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|----------|----------|--------|
| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| Real GDP | 3.3 | 3.1 | 2.0 | 2.8 | 3.5 |
| Employment | 3.1 | 2.7 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 1.7 |
| Retail sales | 6.5 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.4 | 7.5 |
| Foreign exports | -2.3 | -6.5 | -2.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Housing starts (units) | 36,500 | 39,200 | 34,000 | 34,000 | 33,000 |

Source: Statistics Canada and Business Council of British Columbia.

BC Economy: Overall Picture

- Strong multi-year expansion giving way to a slightly below average performance
 - » real GDP growth averaged 3.4% over 2003-2007, vs 2.6% over 1997-2003
- Resilient domestic economy
 - » construction should help propel the economy, but it is already at elevated levels
 - » non-residential building activity has likely peaked
- Widespread weakness in export sector
 - » lumber prices and output down
 - » value of exports down in almost all categories
 - » pulp is providing a lift
 - » 2008 will mark third year of lower exports

Eric Hain thanked the speaker for his expert, authoritative and far-reaching presentation.

Chris Lee reminded members that they are invited to lunch at Malones after each meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Lindsay Mann, Secretary

NOTICES

Member Services Desk: Tremayne Perry

Cash Desk: Duthie Welsford, Grover Sinclair

Greeters: Jim Helmeken, Rod English, Walter Badun

PRESIDENTIAL FORUM



The newly created EXECUTIVE SUCCESSION COMMITTEE chaired by our past president Jack Farley is working well. Jack will have the 08/09

slate of officers and committee chairs in place for presentation at the August meeting. The June Executive meeting should finalize a detailed guide line for the operation and expectations of each member of the management team. Our Probus club has grown to a size where this added formality should aid in its administration, while not overburdening any one member.

For any club members that might be in the Saint John, New Brunswick area there is a 2008 Probus Rendezvous. CATCH THE WAVE commences Thursday, September 25th winding up Saturday p.m. September 27th. If you're interested you can call me for a printout of the details.

KEEP IT SIMPLE AND KEEP IT FUN

Ted Daem

CAPILANO HISTORIC WATERSHED BUS TOUR

THURSDAY AUGUST 21, 2008

12:30PM TO 4:30PM

Last September Probus Club members took a "sold out" bus tour of the Capilano Watershed. Another tour has been arranged but this time we are going to look at the history of the watershed.

We will take a trip into the past while visiting a valley steeped with cultural history. Join the group and re-live the humble beginnings of the Capilano water supply. Visit the sites of the first two water intakes and realize the incredible vision of early watershed managers. You will see evidence of past resource use in the artifacts that linger in the forest and the foundations that are now over-grown.

- The tour starts at the upper Grouse Mountain parking lot, North Vancouver.
- Arrival time is 15 minutes prior to the start of the tour to check in with the guide.
- Wear comfortable, durable and waterproof clothing and sturdy footwear (the watershed is often cooler and wetter than anywhere else in the region).
- Bring your camera.
- There are no food or drink facilities in the watershed, so you may want to bring a snack and water.
- Outdoor toilets are provided at most tour stops.

There is no charge for the Tour and the bus is limited to 42 passengers (members only-no guests). Therefore "first come, first serve."

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REGISTRATION FORM
CAPILANO HISTORIC WATERSHED
BUS TOUR
AUGUST 21, 2008

Name _____

Please bring form to the June meeting or mail to:

Probus Club Vancouver
#252 – 2025 West 42nd Avenue
Vancouver,BC V6M2B5

Mark envelope: Capilano Watershed Tour

For additional information contact Jack Farley (604)922-1530

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