



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 Probus go to www.probus.org

July 2009

President

George Adams

604-926-0906

george_adams@telus.net

Past President

Ted Daem

604-732-7758

allanbrock@shaw.ca

Vice President

Nick Thornton

604-263-2418

nicktis@shaw.ca

Secretary

Ted Horsey

604-731-6213

efhorsey@telus.net

Treasurer

Bill Manson

604-988-2365

mansbill@telus.net

Speakers Committee

David Scott

604-408-9021

david@schott.ca

Membership Committee

Don Newman

604-263-5740

The_newmans@telus.net

Activities Committee

John Cruickshank

778-330-7617

johncruickshank@shaw.ca

House Committee

Doug Lambert

604-266-2422

Newsletter Editor

Roy Williams

604-926-4727

roytwitch@shaw.ca

Membership Services

Bill Sexsmith

604-261-8293

bpsexsmith@shaw.ca

Historian and Archivist

Gordon Thom

604-739-0714

thomga@telus.net

Next Meeting: July 14th, 2009

Time: 9:30 AM

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

Speaker: Francis M. Saville

Topic: "An Introduction to Nexen Inc. and the Oil &
Gas Industry"

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 12th - Bard on the Beach

August 18th - Baseball Game and
Barbeque

Francis M. Saville



Francis M. Saville, Q.C., was born in Hardisty, Alberta. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1962 with a B.A. in Political Science and

in 1965 with a Bachelor of Laws degree. In 1984, he was appointed Queen's Counsel. He holds the Certified Director designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Mr. Saville is Counsel with Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP, Barristers and Solicitors. Prior to his appointment as Counsel, he was Senior Partner and Vice Chair of the firm, where he practiced in the fields of energy and environmental law for over 35 years. He is a senior member of the firm's energy regulatory and public policy group and was selected by Best Lawyers, a well-respected legal rankings publication, as a leading lawyer in Canada in energy regulatory law.

In 1994, he joined the Board of Nexen Inc. and was appointed Chair in 2005. Mr. Saville is a member of the

Board of Trustees of Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, and was appointed Chair in 2008. He was a Director of Mullen Transportation Inc. from 1993 to 2005, and was a Director of the Alberta Chamber of Resources for nine years. He was a founding member and later served as Chair of the Canadian Institute of Resources Law at the University of Calgary.

At the community level, Mr. Saville served as volunteer Chair of Canada Olympic Park during the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary. He served as Vice Chair and Director of the Alberta Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS) for eight years and sat on the organizing committee for the G8 Leaders Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta in 2002.

Francis Saville has been married to his wife Linda for 42 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren. He enjoys politics, traveling (particularly in their motor home), old timers' hockey and golf.

Report of the June 9th Meeting

Attendance: 156 members and guests

After calling the meeting to order, **President George Adams** welcomed the new Chairman of the Speakers Committee, **David Scott**. Next, **John Cruickshank** highlighted the upcoming activities (see Inside for details of "Bard on the Beach" and the "Vancouver Canadians Baseball Game".)

Our guest speaker, Dr. Brian Day, who has become an international advisor on health care systems, was introduced by **Dr. Bill Ibbott**. Dr. Day has just returned from a meeting at Columbia University in New York advising on the United States health care system.

Dr. Day said that the health care system in Canada is like orthopedics in that things that were broken should be fixed before they get worse. He quoted U.S. President Obama "Why can we not have a universal health care system like many European countries, where people are treated on needs, rather than financial resources?", and David Walker, the United States Comptroller General who said that the United States was "On a path toward an explosion of debt, due to retirement of baby boomers, spiraling health care costs, plummeting saving rates and reliance on foreign lenders." He said that Canada is in the same position as the United States.

Dr. Day said that Canada started rationing access of patients to doctors to save on health care expenses. The Cambie Surgery Clinic opened in response to massive wait lists of patients for surgery--450 of his own patients. His personal operating room time in the hospital dropped from 22 hours to 5 hours a week. Cambie Surgery Clinic has helped eliminate wait lists for injured workers and other groups and is a valuable part of the Canadian health system. It is patient-focused.

Major challenges to our present health care system are wait lists and access, worker shortage,

aboriginal health, chronic and mental illness, rural medicine, technology, and children's health.

Health costs have ballooned: \$37 to \$142 from 1984 to 2005; from 6% to 10% of GDP since the 1960's; 90% of every new budgetary dollar in BC goes to health care.

According to Dr. Day the quality of health care in Canada is the worst of Germany, the rich Commonwealth countries and the U.S. in:

- sick patients waiting 6 days plus to see a doctor,
- waiting 4 hours plus in the emergency room,
- last in the use of information technology for patient medical records, and
- last in use of interventional radiology.

It costs more to have wait lists than not to have wait lists, not only in the time and pain and suffering, but it costs more for medical operations for bone repair or replacement if they are delayed. Many patients die because they have to wait for so long for treatment. In 1970 Canada was 4th in the world for number of doctors per 1000 persons, it's now 26th. He says that medicare administrative costs are too high--in British Columbia its 15-16%, in the United States it is 7-8%.

A 2007 NRG Research Group poll found that 54% believed the health care system did not serve the needs of patients and 22% said the system was in a crisis. Only 4% said the health care system serves patients very well and needs little change. Dr. Day said that none of the politicians in any party have faced the health care issue publicly yet. There must be a change in the system providing health care services in Canada because we can't afford the existing system. As medical technology improves, the cost of providing medical services using that technology becomes

ever more expensive.

A 2009 National Post article ranked Canada 26th on the list of health care systems in the world yet 5th highest in expenditures. European systems placed patients at the centre and provided funding related to the services performed.

Dr. Day suggests following the British system as outlined in the March 31, 2008 edition of The Mirror. The article "Patient Power and the New NHS" indicates that: it is the greatest change since the founding of the NHS; patients choose from more than 350 hospitals including private; it applies from bunions to heart surgery; it provides flexibility and convenience; it stimulates hospitals to improve and allows patients to avoid long waiting lists. The changes have remarkably reduced costs and waiting lists.

Dr. Day quoted from the 2008 Throne Speech in which British Columbia Lieutenant Governor Steven Point said: "Your government will also launch an innovation and integration fund...to help move beyond 'block funding' toward a new province-wide patient-centered funding model". He holds out hope for the improved funding system in British Columbia.

Tourists coming to British Columbia for medical purposes are not subject to waiting lists, and can be served faster than British Columbians. British Columbians are now medical tourists to other countries, so they can get prompt and good medical services that they cannot obtain in British Columbia.

In closing, Dr. Day referred us to the report of the Canadian Medical Association issued in Saskatchewan in August 2009, recommending patient-focused care.

After answering questions, Dr. Day was thanked by Dr. Don Newman and the meeting then terminated.

NOTICES

BARD ON THE BEACH EVENING

Sunday, July 12th, 7:00 p.m. curtain

A total of 47 members and guests have requested tickets. Participants can pick up their tickets between 6:15PM and 6:45PM at the front entrance from John Cruickshank who will be wearing a cream colored Tilley hat

VANCOUVER CANADIANS BASEBALL GAME

and Barbecue Picnic in the Park at Nat Bailey Stadium

Tuesday, August 18th, Matinee Game at 1 p.m.

This is a partner event, and grandkids are welcome, too

Enjoy a barbecue picnic along the first-base line at Nat Bailey Stadium before the game and watch the Canadians play from reserved grandstand seating at 1 p.m. This all-you-can-eat barbecue picnic is a popular summertime tradition for Canadians fans, and it ***sells out quickly***. ***Available from noon on, the barbecue includes all the usual fare plus assorted desserts and a walk-up service bar. Parking adjacent to the ballpark is available for \$5.00. For further details visit www.canadiansbaseball.com.***

If you wish, you can watch the entire game from the picnic area. We will have our own section there with tables, chairs and umbrellas, as well as group-reserved seating in the grandstand. We have reserved 55 places at present but will attempt to expand the number if the demand is greater.

PRICE: \$34 per adult, \$22 for children 4-12 (free for children under 3).

Please reserve your place(s) immediately by mailing payment to the PROBUS Club Vancouver business office, 252 – 2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6M 2B5. ***Please mark envelope "Baseball Game".***

Membership Services Team

Member Services Desk: Bill Sexsmith
Cash Desk: Gary Derkson, George Cook
Greeters: Stan Clarke, John Gemmill



FOUND

A beige raincoat was left at the Planetarium and Space Centre a few meetings ago. You can claim it at the Member Services Desk at the next meeting.

The International Probus Network

Our Origins and Objectives

The International Probus Network (IPN), originally named the Informal Probus Network was conceived and formed in July 1996 by Wilf Beer of the Woy Woy Probus Club Inc. of Australia. The initial idea was to form a series of chat groups, whose members had the opportunity to meeting together on the Internet, and discussing any matter among themselves - excluding political or religious topics. A new kind of Probian Fellowship on the Net! IPNA1 was formed in 1996, centred in Australia with a nucleus of 14 Australian, Canadian and New Zealand Probians. This Group did provide a new opportunity for Fellowship on an International scale and it wasn't long before Wilf Beer found himself forming other Groups.

There are now four groups operating, two based in Australia one in Canada, and one in the UK. By design each Group is international in composition. We now have about 150 Probians participating who represent over 100 Probus Clubs from twelve countries throughout the world.

Group Structure

Each group is limited to 40 members plus coordinators, with a limit of 20 from the host country and the balance coming from elsewhere in the world. There are four main groups and three special interest groups - to view the contact details for any of the IPN groups or Special Interest Groups click on one of the links in the menu bar below at the website listed below. Only IPN Coordinators and Special Interest Group Leaders email addresses are shown on these pages.

Joining members are allocated to a particular "home" IPN Group for induction, administration and for fellowship. New members will undoubtedly take their first steps by communicating with those in their own group. Members are encouraged to communicate outside their group boundaries and to join or start a specialist group as they wish.

Application for Membership

Any member of a Probus Club is most welcome to join the IPN by filling in the details in the application form and emailing the form to IPN Membership coordinator, Kevin Bunce kevin.bunce@gmail.com.

Some blank entries in the form are acceptable. If you don't have the information on hand, as it can be provided later if necessary.

New IPN members will be allocated to an IPN chat Group and subsequently will receive Group membership lists. In order to expedite the introduction of a new member the information submitted on the application is made available to all other IPN members. It is not used for other than IPN purposes, and is not distributed beyond the members of the Network. If you are uncertain and require further information or assistance, in the first instance please email Kevin Bunce or go to the home of Probus on the web - www.probus.org and click on "International Chat."