

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

MAY 2010

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Next Meeting

Monday, May 10, 2010

with speaker

Dan Doyle,

Executive Vice President - Construction, VANOC and
Chair, BC Hydro

“2010 Olympics: Behind the Scenes”

In May 2006, Dan Doyle joined VANOC as its executive vice president, construction with responsibility for the \$580 million development and building of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games venues.

Large complex building projects are second nature to Doyle. With more than 35 years of experience with BC's Ministry of Transportation, most recently as deputy minister, he has overseen some of the province's landmark construction initiatives. Highlights include the rehabilitation of Vancouver's Lions Gate Bridge and the development of the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement project. Doyle also served as chairman for Rapid Transit 2000, the company responsible for building the Millennium Line extension to Vancouver's rapid transit system.

Dan Doyle was appointed Chair of BC Hydro's Board of Directors on July 16, 2009. A civil engineer by training, Doyle's lengthy career has been recognized with many accolades, including the Canadian Transportation Person of the Year (2005) and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Institute of Transportation Engineers. In addition, he was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal for Excellence in Public Administration (2002).

Special Events and Current Parking Regulations

See Page 4 for information about Special Events in May and June
Page 5 - View a map & details of parking regulations at Capilano GCC

June Meeting

Monday, June 13th - Steve Davis,

Director of the Independent Power Producers Association of BC,
“BC - Western USA Power Integration”

Last Month Speaker



Dr. Brett Skinner thanked by David Osoba

Dr. Brett Skinner, President and Director, Health Policy and Insurance Policy Research of the Fraser Institute gave us his inaugural speech since moving to Vancouver from Toronto. He gave an excellent talk about Health Care in Canada with ample comparisons to other provinces and countries. His presentation included many statistics and tables; this probably made all the retired accountants in the audience happy.

From his viewpoint health care is about patients and taxpayers. Among the 30 major countries Canada ranks 7th in the amount spent in relation to its GDP with 10% going to health care. The USA is 1st at 15% of GDP.

He pointed out that health care spending is growing faster than inflation and faster than government revenues. The amount spent on health care is taking up more and more of government expenditure and is now around 50%. This rate of growth is unsustainable unless we change our approach. Meanwhile, Canada ranks low in the number of CT scanners and MRI machines: Canada has 12 and 6.2 compared to USA with 34 and 25, and Japan is first with 91 and 40.

In the area of pharmaceuticals, Canada does have control over brand name drugs which are 50% lower than in the USA but our generic prices are twice that of the USA. In addition, it takes much longer to get approval for new drugs in Canada compared to the USA and Europe.

Dr. Skinner felt that the answer to our out of control costs is user fees and paying hospitals for service on a use basis rather than block funding. Since most taxpayers are isolated from taxes on health costs, there is very little political will to bring in significant changes that may upset the voters.

Brett has a recent book (September 2009) called

“*Canadian Health Policy Failures*”. Information and charts are available for a free download at http://www.fraserinstitute.org/Commerce.Web/product_files/CanadianHealthPolicyFailures.pdf.

Gordon Adair

April Greeters



Bill Coulter and Jack Croll

Are You Interested?

Are you interested in getting to know about a dozen Probus members better? Do you have 2 hours available to attend a meeting the first Tuesday morning of each month?

The Club Management Committee will have several openings in the near future and would very much appreciate hearing from interested members. For more information please contact **Esio Marzotto**, at **604-984-6880** or **esiom@shaw.ca**.



New Members Welcomed and Introduced at April Meeting



Keith Fenton
Engineer



Mike Sommers
Management Consultant



Peter Taggart
Engineer

Brief Backgrounds of a Few of Our Recent New Members



David Alsop (*member since February 2010*) was born in Winnipeg; he has lived in North Vancouver for 37 years. He is a graduate from the University of Manitoba with a B. Comm. and from Harvard with an MBA. David has served as a senior executive with a variety of large BC companies, often requiring his specialized skills as a “turnaround specialist”. He has served as President, North Shore Community Foundation.

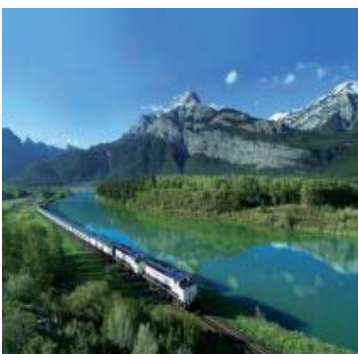


Bill Caulfield (*member since February 2010*) was born in Lincolnshire, England. He graduated from the University of Edinburgh Medical School and completed post graduate studies in obstetrics and gynaecology in England and at Dalhousie University. Bill practiced in Manitoba and in BC (Port Alberni, Abbotsford and Mission), and for the past 5 years he has resided in and continues to work part time in North Vancouver.

Special Events in May and June



Lawn Bowling: Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. you are invited to try out the sport of lawn bowling at the West Vancouver Lawn Bowling centre. This is the second year that Probus members are invited. You may bring as many guests as you wish. It is a great sport for husbands and wives and your personal friends. Only requirement is to wear flat-soled shoes or runners. The Club will supply lawn bowls for your use. **Don Beck** would love to hear from you if you are interested. (Phone 604-925-9007 or E-mail - djbeck@telus.net)



Whistler Day Tour, Return on the Whistler Mountaineer – Thursday, June 24th:

At this time we need to hear from you only if you are interested. We have a limit of 54 seats. A cost of \$315 will cover the coach ride up; gondola rides up the mountain; \$25 lunch voucher; ride on the Peak to Peak and return trip aboard the Whistler Mountaineer which includes their delicious Afternoon Tea. Highlights of the trip include spectacular views of Howe Sound and the Coast Mountains, Shannon Falls, Mount Garibaldi and the impressive Cheakamus Canyon. Make sure to capture the mountainous fresh air and create lasting photographic memories in the Heritage Observation Car. During your journey enjoy a delicious Afternoon Tea. Contact **Malcolm** by phone at 604-926-2001 or by email: events@probus-northshorevancouver.ca. *More events on next page.....*

President's Notes



President David Osoba

It's good to be back! I was very interested in Dr. Brett Skinner's presentation on what's "broken" in the Canadian health care system. The cost of health care is outpacing both the GDP and the amount of income that governments can generate from taxation. It's of interest that three of the "fixes" he proposed are in the news now. Quebec and Ontario have added "health premium" taxes and Quebec wants to charge a user fee for each doctor visit. Ontario is bent on reducing the price of generic drugs by preventing the manufacturers from giving pharmacies rebates to sell them. This seems reasonable – although the overall savings to the cost of health care will be in the vicinity of only 1%. And BC announced that it will pilot a proposal to pay hospitals based on the number of patients they treat and the services they provide. This is in contrast to the block funding the province now provides to hospitals irrespective of the work actually done.

Most European countries pay hospitals based on service which seems a reasonable way to do business. Another way has been proposed in a report entitled "*Bending the Health Care Cost Curve*" authored by a trio of Ontario organizations. This report advocates paying for health care based on treatment outcomes - that is, is the treatment successful, and not just on the number of treatment visits. Will these proposals actually save money? No one is certain that they will. And even more important - will they improve health care outcomes? That's the big question.

The above mentioned initiatives by governments are about economics, not health outcomes. Longevity (the number of years lived) and healthy life years (the number of years spent in good health) are probably determined more by public health measures like sanitation, a clean water supply, proper sewage disposal, mass immunization to prevent communicable disease like measles and polio, as well as good diet, avoidance of smoking and lots and lots of exercise. So keep on golfing, go to the gym or go walking, and watch out for the worst sign of a good life - that big roll around the belly!

David Osoba

Special Events



Once Again By Popular Demand!

Golf with Your Probus Pals

3rd Monday - May to September

Venues to be announced shortly. Start Close to Noon.

Please respond to Phil Boase pjboase@telus.net or at **604-985-2790** if you are interested in joining us for a fun and informal game of golf. There is no need to commit to all events but it is **mandatory to register now** in order to subsequently receive the information for each event.



Four Probus Clubs Cruise

June 30th, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

\$60 - includes buffet lunch

For more details:

Contact John Cruickshank at
johncruickshank@shaw.ca or
by phone at **604-568-5800**

Meetings

Second Monday of each month, except when changed to avoid conflict with special holidays on that day; in addition, our Christmas Luncheon replaces the December meeting.

Coffee and fellowship: 9:00 am to 9:45 am

Club business and speaker: 9:45 am to 11:30 am

Capilano Golf and Country Club

420 Southborough Drive

West Vancouver, BC V7S 1M2

(604) 922-9331

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<http://www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca/>

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Parking at Capilano Golf and Country Club

We value our ability to meet at the Capilano GCC premises for our monthly meetings.

Capilano GCC has brought to our attention that most of us have been parking in areas intended for “Club members only” as well as in the “Handicap” slots. These areas are known as the “upper” lots. They are heavily used by Golf Club members during the spring, summer and fall.

From now until November 1st we are to use only the “lower” lots, unless you have a Handicap sign and/or are a Capilano GCC member. The lower lots are located to the left after we enter the grounds. There will be a parking attendant stationed on the main road who will guide us. There will be 2 jitneys at the lower lots to give a ride to those of us who wish to use them. Others will walk the road or use the stairs to the front of the clubhouse. Please note that the jitneys will not be available after the meeting.

After November 1st and till March 31st we will be permitted to park in the upper lots as there will be many fewer golfers and other members using these lots during that period.

David Osoba

