

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

May 2015

www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca

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Monthly Meeting at the Chief Joe Mathias Centre 100 Capilano Road, North Vancouver, 604-980-6338 Coffee and Fellowship: 9:00 am, Club Business and Speaker: 9:30 - 11:15 am



Monday, May 11th

with speaker

Charles Lamnam

Director of Fiscal Studies, Fraser Institute

“The State of Government Finances in Metro Vancouver”

Charles Lamnam is Director of Fiscal Studies at the Fraser Institute. He holds an M.A. in public policy and a B.A. in economics with a minor in business administration from Simon Fraser University. Since joining the Institute, Mr. Lamnam has published over 50 studies and 190 original articles on a wide range of economic policy issues including taxation, government finances, pensions, investment, income mobility, labour, entrepreneurship, public-private partnerships, and charitable giving. His articles have appeared in every major national and regional newspaper in Canada (including the *Globe and Mail* and *National Post*) as well as prominent US-based publications (including *Forbes* and *The American*). Mr. Lamnam's career in public policy spans nine years. He regularly gives presentations to various groups, comments in print media, and appears on radio and television broadcasts across the country to discuss the Institute's research. He has also appeared before committees of the House of Commons as an expert witness.

Join Charles Lamnam, Director of Fiscal Studies at the Fraser Institute, for an illuminating discussion about the state of government finances in Metro Vancouver. His talk will answer such questions as:

- Are municipalities “squeezed” for revenue or is spending the problem?
- Which revenue sources are municipal governments increasingly relying on?
- How do government finances compare across municipalities?
- Are higher taxes needed for the proposed transit expansion plan?

Mark Your Calendars with these Important Dates



Next Meeting at the Chief Joe Mathias Centre

- Monday, June 8th, 2015

Special Events - see page 2 for more details...

- Canadian Museum of Flight, May 12th - Space Still Available
- Museum of Anthropology Tour at UBC, June 16th
- Bard-on-the-Beach, Dinner and Show, July 19th

President's Notes



I am writing this from a BC Ferry leaving Departure Bay for Horseshoe Bay and home. Looking out at the tranquility and beauty of Departure Bay, it is easy to be relaxed and at peace with the world. Environmental issues such as the oil spill in English Bay that was so well covered by Michael Lowry at our April meeting seem far away. However, the hustle and bustle of the lower mainland will soon bring me back to reality.

In this tranquility and with reality a couple of hours away, I have been reflecting upon the state of our world of late brought on by the conflict in the Ukraine, Africa, Iraq and Syria. In the 1960's when the Berlin wall went up and when we almost went to war with the USSR over Cuba, cooler heads prevailed and soon protocols between the USSR and the US were established to ensure that a nuclear war did not occur over an issue such as triggered WW I. In the early 60's I was stationed in Germany with the Canadian Battalion with responsibilities along with our NATO allies for the northern most tank route through Germany. It was particularly harrowing because as the Cuban crisis unfolded, our communications with what was going on were sketchy. In many ways, this was more concerning than today when we know just about everything that is going on in the world in "real time".

Today, we are all too aware of the conflicts that are taking place. We watch Putin employ his combination of hard/soft tactics in Europe and to a lesser extent in Syria. In some ways the Russian initiatives of today are more worrying than during the cold war. The protocols that existed to ensure no mistakes could trigger a nuclear war appear to be no longer in place. The western world will have to find a way to ensure that Putin backs off his expansion plans while at the same time ensuring that Russia somehow feels comfortable in its own skin.

Somehow, the world is going to have to find a way to allow us all to mutually co-exist, while at the same time ensure that we manage our environmental affairs more responsibly.

You might reasonably ask, what does this have to do with Probus? While we collectively may not be able to change the course of history, your Management Committee is committed to provide speakers who cover meaningful topics to assist you in staying abreast of world and local affairs and perhaps, in some small way, ensuring that our world unfolds as it should.

Barry Heselgrave

Contact - president@northshorevancouver.ca

Special Events - May 12th and More

There is Still Space Available for The Canadian Museum of Flight Tour on Tuesday, May 12

The Canadian Museum of Flight at Langley Airport houses over 25 aircraft both static and flying and is dedicated to restoring, preserving and showcasing Canada's rich aviation heritage.

The 1.5 hour tour, costing \$15, will start at 10:30 with a briefing by the manager over coffee and pastries and then will break into smaller groups with individual guides.

(See the April Shorelines for all the details)

**Contact John Elliott if you wish to attend
604-925-3535 (johns.elliott@telus.net).**

**Pay at the May meeting OR if paying before
the May meeting, mail your cheque for \$15.00 to:**

Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver,
P.O. Box 92042, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 4X4.

The following events are planned for the summer of this year:

- A tour of the Museum of Anthropology at UBC will be held on June 16th 2015. This will be an event open to spouses and members friends and will include a guided tour of the world class facility, followed by lunch. Transport will be on a carpool basis leaving and returning from Park Royal. The event will be co-ordinated by John Walker, hiljon@telus.net. Further details of the event including cost will be communicated at the May meeting and by email.
- Our usual very popular 'Dinner and Show' night at the Bard-on-the-Beach featuring Shakespeare's 'A Comedy of Errors' is scheduled for July 19th, 2015. This event will follow the usual arrangement of transport by chartered bus, a picnic dinner, hopefully a brief story of the play by a member of the Bard organisation and then the play. This event will be co-ordinated by John Pennefather, jpennefather@shaw.ca. Further details will follow in future Shorelines, at meetings and by email.

Other events that are being pursued for the Fall include the Gondola ride at Whistler, a tour of Neptune Terminals and possibly a tour of the new SeaSpan yards. The AGM will feature in September and the year will close out with a changed format Christmas event.

John Elliott and Colin Ritson

New Members Introduced and Welcomed at April Meeting



(L-R) Michael Evison, John Walker, Ian Marshall, John Webster, David Petitpierre and Variath Kutty.

Parking at Chief Joe Mathias Centre

We have discussed with the administration the issue of parking at the Centre at our monthly meetings. The following should be of assistance to our members in the future.

1. Three or more parking spaces immediately outside the side entrance to the Centre, i.e. the entrance nearest the stage, will be reserved for members who are mobility challenged.
2. In addition to the main parking lot, members may park along the roundabout in front of the main entrance to the Centre.
3. If necessary, members may park along Capilano Road south of Welch. If you must park along Capilano Road please angle park.

If you have any questions call Mike McMahon at 604-671-3598.



Greeters at April Meeting



Greeters Alistair Duncan and President Barry Heselgrave

Last Month Speaker - Michael Lowry



President Barry Heselgrave thanks speaker Michael Lowry

Marine Spill Response on the West Coast

In a very timely talk, Michael Lowry gave us a detailed explanation of the plans in place in case of an oil spill, and an update of what happened in English Bay on April 8. There have been many arguments about the timeline. Michael said that they were informed around 6 PM but they didn't yet know the source or severity of the spill. When the situation was understood, the Coast Guard gave the go ahead, and a ship and crew were deployed at 8:06 PM, arriving on site by 9:25 PM. Booming and skimming commenced, and by 3 PM the next day, they had boomed off 80% of the spill. (The Federal Industry Minister James Moore said the spill response was "world class".) Some of the Bunker C may have sunk, some evaporated, and some washed up along the North Shore as well. It is estimated that the spill was about 2700 litres, the cause not yet determined. (Having posted a \$300,000 bond, the MV Marathassa sailed on April 25.)

Michael then provided a historical perspective on the rationale behind the creation of a marine response capability. After the Exxon Valdez disaster, all governments realized the importance of proper planning, equipment and readiness. In 2013 Transport Canada mandated a risk based response plan which must be regularly updated. Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) is the only organization certified by Transport Canada to respond to marine spills along the BC coast. They work with all levels of government, the Coast Guard and First Nations.

The West Coast is divided into different geographic zones, with each zone having its specific spill response protocol. This will depend on the type of spill, distance, weather, equipment and personnel available, and spill severity. For example, a minor spill near Port Renfrew would be treated differently than one in Vancouver Harbour. Nevertheless, the goal is always to mitigate the marine damage.

WCMRC consists of 2200 member companies, thirty three vessels, assorted equipment and a full time staff of about 50. The member companies vary in size from large oil producers to smaller ones like Harbour Air. Their offices are in Burnaby, Duncan and Prince Rupert. Their budget is between \$6 and \$8 million a year. In practical terms, the WCMRC engages contractors to perform much of the oil spill activity. They have approximately 100 contractors located along the coast of BC.

Michael described the Unified Command System employed for marine response. It is a model that is used in many areas where a multi-disciplinary or multi-organizational capability is required. In this case, the Coast Guard, the WCMRC and other organizations such as the Port Authority work under this structure. Hence, responsibilities are clear and the results tend to be more effective. Michael advised that the standards for marine response were generally insufficient for today and that a new standards regime was under development. He pointed out that the WCMRC generally exceeds today's response standards. Oil spills will always be a threat and preparedness is vital.

Ken Bryden

A Little Humour

Six Great Truths

1. Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
2. Wrinkles don't hurt.
3. Families are like fudge, mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
4. Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
5. Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
6. Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre, not the toy.



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

Editorial contributions and comments are welcomed
and may be sent by e-mail to :

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or by mail to:

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