

Shorelines

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Next Meeting

Monday, March 8th, 2010

with speaker

Jock Finlayson,

Executive Vice President - Policy,
Business Council of BC

*“Prosperity in a Competitive World:
British Columbia’s Post-Olympic Decade”*

Mr. Finlayson was born in Comox, British Columbia. He holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and a Master of Arts degree, both from the University of British Columbia. He also received a Master’s degree in business administration from Yale University and a postgraduate diploma in economics from the University of London (United Kingdom).

Mr. Finlayson is Executive Vice-President of Policy at the Business Council of British Columbia. From 1990 to 1994, he was Vice-President of Research at the Canadian Council of Chief Executives in Ottawa. Earlier in his career, he worked as a Senior Associate at Environics Research Group and gained experience at two Canadian management consulting firms. Mr. Finlayson was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Bank of Canada in June 2007.

Mr. Finlayson is a member of the Board of Directors of BC Innovation Council, where he is Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, and also serves on the Boards of the Canada West Foundation and the Human Resources Management Association of British Columbia. In addition, he is a member of both the Economic Forecast Council to the British Columbia Ministry of Finance and the National Statistics Council.

Mr. Finlayson has published widely in the fields of international trade, economic policy, and Canadian public affairs. He is a past president of both the Association of Professional Economists of British Columbia and the Ottawa Economics Association.

April Meeting

Monday, April 12th - Dr. Brett J. Skinner,

President, Fraser Institute and Director Health and Insurance Policy,

“Health Care Systems Around the World: Compare and Contrast”

Last Month Speaker



John Leonard Presents Dr. André Gerolymatos with a Probus North Shore Honourary Membership

On his seventh visit to our Probus North Shore Vancouver Club Dr. Gerolymatos again provided a fascinating and thought-provoking analysis of the Middle East, its problems and opportunities.

Afghanistan in some ways is a complicated country while in other ways it is not so. War has been a part of life there for so long it might be labelled “the national sport”. It is said that after the British defeated the Afghans (the only ones to ever do so) all the British soldiers who took part were awarded a medal. The Afghans wanted to know why they also didn’t get medals. They said, “After all without us you wouldn’t have had a war.”

Pakistan is part of the problem with the main problem being the many tribes living in the border area between the two countries. Pakistan is, in fact, an amalgam of tribes.

Dr. Gerolymatos pointed out that poverty is the hand maiden to Islam fanatics and that the 6,000 religiously-based schools regularly graduate future terrorists. After the Russians left Afghanistan half the local male population was in its mid teens. These unemployed young men were perfect targets for the extremists and often found their only source of income to be from the Taliban.

So what are the solutions?

Our speaker suggested that employment has to be the number one priority. The UN should pay the young men more than the Taliban does and put them to work rebuilding homes and the infrastructure. The population should be allowed to elect a leader that will be seen to have legitimacy by the Afghans, and not be a western appointee. The election of a king should also be considered – royalty was a major part of their life in the distant past.

Finally, the West should stop trying to change traditions that have existed for thousands of years. Then GET OUT and STAY OUT. A war is unwinnable and occupation obviously doesn’t work.

Dr. Gerolymatos also spoke of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine. The only reasonable solution is to create a Palestinian country that can be disassociated from terrorism and, through employment, minimize the practice of its people living off welfare from the West.

Iran is the super power of the Middle East and has support from Russia. Iranian activities leading toward atom bomb capability is their way of “twisting the tail” of the US. If they wanted nuclear capability it is readily available on the black market from the extensive supplies of unaccounted USSR armaments. Israel is the only real US ally in the Middle East while other countries may pretend to be for reasons of trade and foreign aid.

An attitude exists throughout the countries of the region that blames the West for everything that goes wrong and this of course feeds the existing mind-set and in turn the terrorist activities of the extremists.

The terrorists have learned that they no longer have to carry out a successful attack; even the potential threat of one will cause massive disruption and huge expense. The success of this strategy coupled with Western paranoia is personified by the immense attention and cost for security at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Bev Machesney

February Greeters



Ralph Carder, Mike Carter and Bruce Jamieson

New Members Welcomed and Introduced at February Meeting



David Alsop
Marine



Bill Caulfield
Medicine



John Roberts
Dentist



Jim Stephenson
Economist,
Engineer

Brief Backgrounds of a Few of Our Recent New Members



Owen Johnson (*member since October 2009*) was born in Barbados and has lived in West Vancouver for 37 years. Owen spent his business career as an entrepreneur owning, developing and managing Trimco Industries Inc., a privately held packaging and distribution business located in Richmond BC. In addition to his business interests Owen has been active in various business related and community organizations



Bill Miles (*member since October 2009*) was born in Vancouver and now lives in West Vancouver. Bill graduated from UBC with a B.Comm. and LLB; he was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1962 and was awarded the Q.C. designation in 2000. His preferred area of practice has been corporate and securities law, latterly as a senior partner with Borden Ladner Gervais (formerly Ladner Downs).



John Norman (*member since October 2009*) was born in Clinton, Ontario and has lived in West Vancouver for 21 years. John is a graduate from University of Toronto with a B.A.Sc. and a M.A.Sc. in engineering geology and in addition is a Chartered Accountant. He spent his professional career in finance and administration areas principally with companies in the mineral exploration and development industry in Ontario and BC.



Don Russell (*member since May 2009*) was born in Port Alberni and has lived in West Vancouver for 10 years. Don graduated from UBC in 1964 with a B. A. Sc. in Civil Engineering. He spent his professional career with IBM Canada in various technical, sales, service and management positions throughout Western Canada. He is a member of Seymour Golf and Country Club and recently completed a 3 year term on the Board of Directors.



Darrel Smith (*member since October 2009*) was born in Vancouver and has lived in North Vancouver for 7 years. Darrel is a graduate of UBC with a Bachelor of Commerce, joined RCAF Officers School and Pilot Training and attended the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program. Darrel spent his career in aviation with the RCAF, Transport Canada (civil aviation) and most large Canadian airlines.

President's Notes



President David Osoba

I enjoyed reading the summaries of the recent talks by Dr. McDonald and Dr. Gerolymatos. Dr. McDonald made the point that the development of low-cost energy played an important role in improving the quality of peoples' lives, and Dr. Gerolymatos noted that poverty and unemployment in both Afghanistan and in Palestine are major factors in destroying the quality of life of people in those regions.

Here, in Tucson, I'm aware of another important resource for a good quality of life – water. It's ironic that in Vancouver, at least during the Olympics that are in progress as I write, there is too much water in the form of rain (snow would be preferable), but in the American Southwest, there is a shortage of water. A drought of several years duration has been partially alleviated by higher-than-average rainfall in January but, according to local climatologists, the drought is not over yet.

Reports on planning for future shortages of water, perhaps as soon as 2015, appear frequently and are commented on in the local newspaper. This planning involves many agencies in Arizona and California who draw on the Colorado River for irrigation and potable water.

Another factor of great importance for a good quality of life is, of course, good health. The dramatic increase in longevity and good health over the past 150 years is largely attributable to public health measures including sanitation, proper housing, mass immunization, and sewage treatment. The availability of a general education for a large proportion of the population improves employment and living standards. We can thank all of these factors as being responsible for the high quality of life we enjoy today.

David Osoba

Executive Pose With Olympic Torch



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

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