

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

MAY 2011

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Next Meeting

Monday, May 9th, 2011

with speaker

Graham E. Fuller,

Adjunct Professor, of History SFU and Former Vice-Chairman of the National Intelligence Council at the CIA

“Middle East from the Inside”

Graham E. Fuller is currently Adjunct Professor of History at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, BC. He has a BA and MA from Harvard in Russian and Middle East studies. He worked 20 years as a CIA operations officer, seventeen overseas in Turkey, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Afghanistan and China. He later became Vice-Chair of the National Intelligence Council at CIA, with overall responsibility for national level strategic forecasting.

After leaving government service, Mr. Fuller was a Senior Political Scientist at the RAND Corporation for 12 years where, among many publications, he wrote on political Islam in various countries and on the geopolitics of the Muslim world.

He speaks several Middle Eastern languages as well as Russian and Chinese. He has written many books and articles on Middle Eastern and South Asian geopolitics, including: *The Center of the Universe: the Geopolitics of Iran*; *The Geopolitics of Islam and the West*; *Turkey Faces East: Turkey's New Geopolitics from the Balkans to Central Asia*; *The Arab Shi'a*; *The Future of Political Islam*, 2003; and *The New Turkish Republic: Turkey's Pivotal Role in the Middle East*, 2008. His latest book is *A World Without Islam*, (Little, Brown), August 2010.

Mr. Fuller will present some of the key conclusions of his latest book, *A World Without Islam*, and then link it to current and recent turmoil in the Arab world. What does it all mean? How will it impact the US and Western policies?

June Meeting

Monday, June 13th

Speaker will be announced at May meeting
as confirmation was not available for this newsletter.

Last Month Speaker



Dan Potts thanks Pierre Gratton

Pierre Gratton, President and CEO of the Mining Association of British Columbia (MABC), provided a description of the economic scope of the mining industry in BC as well as an update on the current status of the many new mining proposals in BC. He also described a new initiative of the Mining Association of Canada, “*Towards Sustainable Mining*”, as evidence of the commitment of today’s mining industry to sustainable development and to demonstrating that sustainability commitment to the public.

MABC represents 17 companies with operating mines and 14 mining companies with active development projects in BC.

The recent boom in the prices for the output of BC mines has been the driving force behind the development of new projects, re-opening of shut down facilities, and the expansion of existing mines. In the last 10 years copper prices have increased from less than \$1/lb to over \$4/lb. Metallurgical coal, another major commodity produced in BC, has climbed from \$50/ton to around \$200/ton. Growing demand from emerging economies, particularly China, has been identified as the major force causing the growth in demand.

The mining industry is one of the major resource industries in the province contributing over \$7 billion to the provincial GDP. With 20 major mines, over 30 mineral producers and two smelters, there are 14,000 direct mining jobs and an additional 35,000 indirect jobs in supporting activities, with total inferred employment in excess of 85,000. In 2010 the industry spent approximately \$1 billion on new mine development.

The status of the various mines in BC continues to evolve as some operations reach the end of life and others are developed and expanded. Kemess South is closing in the first

half of 2011 and the future of the Huckleberry mine beyond 2012 is uncertain. Major mine expansions are underway at Quinsam (coal), Highland Valley Copper, and the two molybdenum mines, Endako near Fraser Lake and MAX located southeast of Revelstoke.

Three major mines are under construction: Copper Mountain, New Afton, and Mt. Milligan. Copper Mountain is expected to begin operation in June of 2011, followed by New Afton in 2012 and Mt. Milligan in 2013. The three mines represent an investment of approximately \$2 billion and will create about 900 new direct operating jobs.

Six major mines are expanding or are going through development approval processes in advanced development. This list includes Willow Creek, Line Creek, Red Chris, Roman, Morrison, and Prosperity. New mine opportunities exist in all regions of BC with expansion of coal mining in the northeast and southeast BC and major opportunities in the northwest with the planned construction of the Highway 37 power line.

New mine development remains a difficult challenge with duplicate environmental review processes by the federal and Provincial governments and often challenging issues to resolve with First Nations with their unsettled and often overlapping land claims. The mining industry is also wary of losing the important competitive advantage of low electric power rates. Adequate infrastructure for transportation and power transmission to often remote sites is another major challenge.

Mr. Gratton will be leaving BC shortly to assume the position of President and CEO of the Mining Association of Canada. According to one industry leader, “MAC welcomes Pierre Gratton’s return after three years leading the Mining Association of BC through the turbulence of the 2008 economic crisis and on through what is described as the BC mining renaissance.” We wish Mr. Gratton the very best in his new assignment and we hope we can all benefit from the further sustainable growth of this industry in Canada and BC.

Dan Potts

Don't miss the upcoming
Special Events
in June and July
See details on Page 4.....

New Members Introduced at April Meeting and Our April Greeter



Len Drugge
Education



Bill Soprovich
Businessman



April Greeter, Gary Bailey

Brief Backgrounds of a Few of Our Recent New Members



Paul Newton (*member since February 2011*) was born in Pietermaritzburg in Natal, Republic of South Africa. He had an active piloting career as an Airline Transport Pilot for more than 40 years, 31 of them with South African Airways and 9 with Korean Air based out of Vancouver. At retirement Paul served as a Boeing 747-400 Flight Instructor on international routes. Also, in retirement Paul immigrated to Canada and lives in North Vancouver.



Robert Piggott (*member since February 2011*) was born in Toronto and has lived in North Vancouver since 1968. He graduated from the University of Toronto in Civil Engineering in 1957. In his career he worked in Municipal Engineering principally in Brampton and Ottawa and has been the Regional Director, Western Canada, for the Cement Association of Canada. In recognition of his career contribution he was made a Life Member (Ret.) of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC and a Fellow of the American Concrete Institute.

Photos from April Tour of West Coast Railway Heritage Park



Probus attendees were served a most splendid and enjoyable lunch.



Attendees rode the massive turntable that is used to move rolling stock (including the Royal Hudson) in and out of the Round House

President Dan Pott's Notes



It was another cool April morning on Wednesday the 20th when I met up with my car pool at the park and ride for our trip up to Squamish. It was a beautiful drive up the Sea to Sky Highway. Impressive views of the water and the snowcapped mountains kept our attention as we proceeded toward Squamish to meet with the group from North Shore Probus and tour the West Coast Railway Heritage Park.

The West Coast Railway Association (WCRA), a non-profit society, operates the Park on a 12 acre site containing the second largest collection of heritage railway rolling stock in Canada, now numbering over 95 pieces. Also there is a significant collection of railway artifacts and an early 20th century home that was the original residence of the first conductor that worked for the PGE and lived in Squamish.

The WCRA has 1500 active members who restore, preserve, and maintain vintage locomotives and railcars and support the Association's activities.

After a warm-up, we all headed out for a tour of the park which included a Mini Rail tour around the site and visits to a number of rail cars with interesting exhibits including a number of model train layouts. Also very impressive was the new roundhouse which opened last year with a turntable in front allowing access for nine different rail tracks that go into the building.

But the star of the show was no doubt the Royal Hudson. Built in 1940 and weighing in at 350 tons, this steam engine is maintained in beautiful condition, it having been returned to operating condition following a rebuild in 2003, and remains available for specialty rail tours.

Standing in the roundhouse admiring this gigantic piece of machinery the obvious question was "*How do you get the engine in or out of the roundhouse?*" Firing it up would not work as it would quickly smoke up the new roundhouse and make the facility a mess. One of the guides explained how it is done. They use compressed air as a replacement for steam to operate the engine for the short distances required to move it in and out!

All in all the tour was a delightful event and many thanks to Ernie Maguire for his efforts in organizing the tour. Should you have an interest in visiting the West Coast Railway Heritage Park it is open every day from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. More information is available at www.wcra.org.

Dan Potts

Special Events

Thirty-one Probus members enjoyed the three hour visit of April 20th at the Squamish Railway Park. The history of our great Canadian railroads was delivered by their many volunteer member/guides, who further expanded on their special interests such as engines, specialty cars used over the ages and model trains of all scales travelling through their property. Everyone enjoyed two train trips and a very fine lunch, served in a great setting.

On **Thursday, June 16th** a bus tour to Boeings in Everett will take place. The cost per person depends on the size of the bus required. We presently have 32 registered. If we fill a 48 person bus, the combined cost of the tour and transportation will be approximately \$45 and \$51 if we stay under 36 travellers. Let's aim at the 48 sign-ups at our next meeting.

On **Thursday, July 14th** from 10:30 to 12:00, we are invited to visit our Seymour Capilano filtration plant in North Vancouver. If you would enjoy staying for a lunch off site, please state so at your sign-up and it will be arranged. There is no charge for the tour itself. For further information, contact **Ernie Maguire**, at 604-926-7574 or by email at elmaguire@shaw.ca.

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.
Dress Code: Business Attire. Jeans are **NOT** permitted.

Coffee and fellowship: 9:00 am to 9:45 am
Club business and speaker: 9:45 am to 11:30 am

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Visit: <http://www.capilanogolf.com/public/club/index.aspx>

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