

Shorelines

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH SHORE VANCOUVER

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Monday, August 9th Zoom Meeting - 9:30AM

with guest speaker

Dr. Michael Walker, Chairman, Fraser Institute Foundation & Founding Executive Director of the Fraser Institute



Our speaker Dr. Michael Walker's presentation on why interest rates are so low promises to be very interesting. He starts with a list all the factors and institutions normally thought to determine interest rates and then states: "**NONE OF THE ABOVE.**" Plan on joining us to learn who or what was missing from the list.

Dr. Walker was the executive director of the Fraser Institute from its inception in 1974 until September 2005. Before that he taught at the University of Western Ontario and Carleton and was employed at the Bank of Canada and the Federal Department of Finance. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Western Ontario and his B.A. at St. Francis Xavier University. In 2016, he was appointed to the Order of Canada.

As an economist, he has authored or edited 45 books on economic topics. His articles on technical economic subjects have appeared in professional journals in Canada, the United States and Europe, including the Canadian Journal of Economics, the American Economic Review, the Journal of Finance, the Canadian Tax Journal, Health Management Quarterly, Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv and Health Affairs. His primary concern as the founding Executive Director of the Fraser Institute has been to promote the examination and use of competitive markets as a method for enhancing the lives of Canadians and others. His popular writing included a regular column in the Financial Post and regular contributions to newspapers and periodicals in the Americas and Europe. His most recent editorial appeared recently in the Wall Street Journal.

He is the co-founder, with Milton and Rose D. Friedman, of the Economic Freedom of the World project which is now a collaboration of institutes in 85 countries and produces the annual Economic Freedom of the World Index. *continued on page 2 ...*

Mark Your Calendars with These Important Dates



Monday, September 13th, 2021 Zoom Annual General Meeting - prior to guest speaker Anna Stukas, *Carbon Engineering Ltd.*

Monday, October 4th, 2021 Zoom Meeting - Dennis Molnar, Historian, "*Amazing People Stories of World War 2 (Part 3) including the British Women who sank 5 German U-Boats*".

President's Notes



While drafting these notes, it is a beautiful, sunny, smoke free morning on the west coast!

However, as we are all aware, areas of our province are in peril from drought-induced wild fires forcing thousands of our fellow citizens to either evacuate or be under threat of evacuation. The fact that this appears to be becoming an annual occurrence in the province emphasizes the seriousness of the situation requiring advanced fire fighting measures and public vigilance.

As reported by provincial officials, the valued assistance of military, out of province and international fire fighters during this particularly dangerous fire season has been necessary and is a "welcome relief".

Regarding the AGM in September and the election of your new Management Committee, it is with anticipation that we look forward to our meetings being in-person later this year.

Additional committee members are most welcome and, if interested in volunteering, the MC will sincerely appreciate hearing from you.

Finally, it is timely with the looming federal election, that we have the unique opportunity on August 9th to hear from Dr. Michael Walker, eminent economist and founding Director and former Chairman of the Fraser Institute, regarding his perspective of the post pandemic financial/economic issues confronting our province *and nation*. His address and following question period promises to be relevant and thought provoking!

Wishing you an enjoyable summer and please keep well and keep safe. Look forward to seeing you all on August 9th at 9:30.

Ron Wood

Contact: president@probus-northshorevancouver.ca

Special Events

The Special Events Committee has agreement in principle with several agencies to host tours for our members but, to date, none of those agencies have agreed to resume hosting group tours.

We continue to liaise with them and will recommence event activities as soon as participating agencies agree to receive visitors. We hope that will be soon.

Doug Magoon

Speaker Michael Walker Cont'd

The Index, and its subnational offspring, is one of the most widely cited such measures in current academic literature.

He served as director of many commercial firms including Canaccord Capital and Mancal Corporation. Currently he is Chairman of the Fraser Institute Foundation and a director of: the Milton and Rose D. Friedman Foundation, The Canadian Constitution Foundation, North Point School and he is founder and director of Port4Homes Ltd. a BC based owner of modular home communities. He is also a director of The Pacific Academy for Advanced Studies which organizes the annual Alamos Alliance meetings of the Chicago Boys who have been instrumental in the economic reform process in Latin America and elsewhere.

He has received the Vancouver Rotary Club Service Above Self Award, the Colin M. Brown Freedom Medal and Award by the National Citizens' Coalition, an honorary Doctor of Laws degree (LL.D.) from The University of Western Ontario, and an Honorary Doctorate from Francisco Maroquin University in Guatemala amongst other recognitions.

He is the father of Margot Mallicoat and Joel Walker and lives with his Partner Ellis Ripley Trafford in West Vancouver and Craig Bay on Vancouver Island. His later-life passion is piloting his amphibious float plane between Vancouver Island and the mainland.

New Member Introduced and Welcomed at July Meeting



John Parkinson was born in Liverpool and went to Leeds University to get a degree in chemical engineering. It wasn't too long before Hooker Chemical recruited him to work in North Vancouver as Senior Research Engineer, and when Hooker became Canadian Occidental Petroleum, he went on to become Plant Manager of their Squamish operation.

After 20 years he moved to become Vice President, Operations at McKenzie and Feimann, who were a Canada wide industrial chemical supplier. Then he eased into retirement doing consulting work in project management and R&D tax recovery.

Current interests are gardening and travel. Hopefully, you will be soon able to travel to places other than into the garden!

Jeremy Marr

Membership Renewals

Shortly you will receive your membership renewal invoice for \$60 by e-mail, due by September 15, regardless of the month in which you joined. The renewal rate is the same as last year as the inability to get together temporarily continues to eliminate room rental costs. Payment can be made by mailing a cheque or by e-Transfer using Interac.



**TIME TO RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!**

Cheques for \$60 with completed renewal notices showing any data base changes should be mailed to the address on the renewal notice. Returning the form ensures the payments are properly processed. We

often encounter situations where the payment is with a company cheque or has only initials and a surname rather than the name used in the PROBUS registration.

Alternately, as over 120 of you did last year, pay by e-Transfer using Interac. This is very simple - done through your bank account, often at no charge. Instructions will be on the renewal invoice. Should you have database changes, please let Linda know directly.

Your prompt response will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know at jeremy@marrassoc.com or contact our administrator at linda@probus-northshorevancouver.ca.

Jeremy Marr

October Zoom Coffee Session



Starting in October, Pop-Up meetings will be replaced with a new approach for a pre-meeting Coffee Session. More information about these sessions will be provided in the September newsletter.

Terry McLeod

Last Month Speaker - John Atkin

John Atkin is a civic historian, author and heritage consultant with very deep knowledge of the history of Vancouver who organizes and conducts tours for groups and individuals. Today's topic is the viaducts and their impact on the local communities in and around the Vancouver East Side.

The viaducts are the end product of a lot of City actions within the east end of the city. The "East End" is the historic name of the area of the city that encompasses Carroll Street (China town and the Japanese district) all the way up to Commercial Drive. The nature of this area began with the history of non-native settlement in this area. Looking at a 1976 map of Vancouver you can see trails through what is left of the forest, which were indigenous trails connecting villages and places of use for fishing and the like. These trails became some of the earliest roads. The first non-native settlement was Stamps Mill which we know as Hastings Mill in 1865, the first entity on the south shore of Burrard Inlet. In 1867 Gassy Jack opened a saloon on the other side, the beginning of the settlement on Granville and the City of Vancouver. The Oppenheims bought huge tracts of land for development on the east side, and the Canadian Pacific Railway bought 6,000+ acres of land on the west side.

Vancouver was an incredibly diverse place from the start and well used by many indigenous groups from the mainland, Vancouver Island, and settlers. The Mill's workforce included local indigenous population, Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiian, Chilean and Blacks among many others. Japanese were actively recruited for the mill resulting in the settlement close to the mill.

The Great Northern Railway entered the scene and landed their station in Chinatown. Both railroads convinced the city to let them purchase and fill the eastern basin of False Creek. The railroad activity prompted the building of the original Georgia Viaduct in 1915, in anticipation of the opening of the two train stations. This was important as the viaduct connected downtown to the east side and allowed access to suburbs.

The Mill, railroads and entertainment troupes employed many black people who settled in and around the area now called Strathcona. Hogan's Alley was the unofficial name for Park Lane in Vancouver's Strathcona neighborhood. The alley ran between Union and Prior Streets from approximately Main Street to Jackson Avenue. Hogan's Alley was initially home to Vancouver's Black population.

Hogan's Alley subsequently became an entertainment district for the vaudeville circuits which travelled by train (Great Northern) between the USA and Canada. A map was presented that showed the routes of three well known vaudeville circuits of the day (Ackerman Harris, Sullivan

Last Month Speaker - John Atkin

and Consideme, Pantages) coming across the northern USA to Vancouver and then down to Seattle. Most of the theatres were on Hastings Street, and two on Main Street. After hours entertainment and restaurants were also developed nearby to service the troupes and show-goers. An interesting fact is that Ross and Nora Hendrix settled in Vancouver after their troupe went bust in Seattle, had a son James, and grandson Jimi Hendrix who played at the PNE in 1960. The Strathcona area was the “first and last neighbourhood in Vancouver with a substantial concentrated black population” (Wade Compton, author).

In the 1920’s there were 3 distinct areas that made up Vancouver – City of Vancouver, Municipality of Point Grey, and the Municipality of South Vancouver. They amalgamated in the mid-20’s into the City of Vancouver. A planning consultant was hired to do city planning and he brought in the concept of Zoning which was new. Everything around the creek and the basin was zoned as heavy industrial, the land around the train stations were zoned as 6-story light industrial (imagined factories) which was across the Strathcona neighbourhood. This was bad news for residential land owners, as the banks would not finance renovations or real estate due to the zoning. The anticipated boom in economic activity in the industrial zones never materialized due to the Great Depression at this time in history. The neighbourhood failed to flourish and became known as the “Blighted Slum” through the research of a UBC professor, who noted that there was a lack of playgrounds and parks, and the population was mainly Chinese and Blacks.

By the 1950’s automobiles were on the scene and city planning was developing road systems. Trans-Canada was formed using the old inter-urban line. Boundary Road was seen as the connection to the Second Narrows, the east-west route through Grandview, Woodland and Strathcona, using the old Georgia Viaduct as the route into downtown. The 1963 re-development map indicated a new route that would go right through Hogan’s Alley. City planners in 1957 decreed the Japanese district was “beyond redemption as a residential area” and should be turned to industrial.

A proposal for a waterfront freeway that connected to the Trans-Canada Highway failed to gain traction and eventually fell apart. Several road plans were developed with various connections to and through downtown. The final plan included the Georgia and Dunsmuir viaducts, which had a new network of highways which would basically remove the core of Chinatown, a huge chunk of downtown east side and of Gastown. People were displaced, some gave up and moved, as home repairs were prohibited at the time. The City didn’t want you to increase the value of

your house if they were going to expropriate it for development. For much of the Hogan’s Alley and Chinatown populations, the development of the viaducts destroyed businesses and homes which had to be cleared for construction. A huge amount of land and demolition was required, as can be seen in some of the pictures. The old viaduct had a speed limit of 25 mph, was held up by timber, and was sinking into false creek. As they were building the new viaducts, a new city council came in and eliminated the freeway plans that the viaducts were being built to accommodate.

Artist Stan Douglas wrote and produced a multi-media play called CIRCA 1948 from the National Film Board. It showed what Hogan’s Alley was like at its height, and it played at the Stanley Theatre. It is available as an App you can get for phone and iPad that takes you through the area and where you see illuminated signs or windows, you can click on them and the audio plays stories and music and gives you a real sense of what the place was. It is very cool! Also worth looking at is the map found on “blackstrathcona.com” which illuminates some of the lost or misunderstood history.

Coming to a close, what is happening now? The viaducts are coming down. It is not just because we don’t need them – traffic counts are quite low and they are underutilized. Also, they are falling down. When they built them, they didn’t do their research very well. The eastern end of the viaducts are sitting on what is a least a 40 foot deep mass of viscous and slow moving coal tar, and are sinking. At the other end the issue is with the fill (unknown) and it is also sinking. Part of the delay (it has been discussed for 20 years) is planning, and part is figuring out how to recycle all the concrete. There is now a project manager for demolition and the city is planning what will take up the space. A future neighbourhood is planned, and a Creekside Park adjacent to Andy Livingstone Park which will re-connect Chinatown with Main Street and False Creek. There is a focus for bringing back the natural habitat, and three indigenous groups are consulting with the city.

No questions were posed.

This summary was prepared by member Darlene Dean



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

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