



Probis Club of Central Edmonton

June 2016

Editor: Ken Hoffman

Speaker: June 21,— Steven Walton, Hotel MacDonald

June presentation and tour events were focused on the MacDonald Hotel, its history, role in Edmonton and its many high quality services.

Our exploration of all things Macdonald Hotel started on June 21 with a presentation by Steven Walton who provided us with extensive amount of information on the Hotel. We heard about and through pictures saw the history of the Hotel starting with its sod turning and ending with the current extraordinary building with its outstanding services that its guest can enjoy today. It opened in 1915 and enjoyed its status as the premier Hotel for a great many years thereafter. Thus, it celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 2015. During its life it served in many ways including a recruiting office in World War 2. As the current premier hotel in Edmonton, it has also hosted a great many celebrity guest over the years including the Queen. However, there were a number of dark days and at one point it was closed. In fact, it was close to being demolished. Finally, the City gave it the status of historic resource saving it from the wrecking ball. In fact, it was the first building on Edmonton to receive this status. The one clear message is that the Hotel occupies a unique place in the City of Edmonton whose citizens will have a very positive experience when they visit for one of its many social events, including Sunday Brunch, High Tea, and the returning Friday buffet.

Tour: June 28— Hotel MacDonald

The following Tuesday the presentation was followed up by outstanding video and tour. Our tour guides Steven Walton, Angela Saenz and Marcel Wache are to be commended for their provision of an interesting and informative tour.

Bruce Perry provided the pictures that follow. These provide only a snippet of the many interesting parts of the Hotel.

We started in the lobby. As can be seen the tour was well attended by members and spouses.



We then went up to a meeting room and were treated to a 3D video of the history of the Hotel. This video will form part of a history of Edmonton documentary that is to be shown later this year.

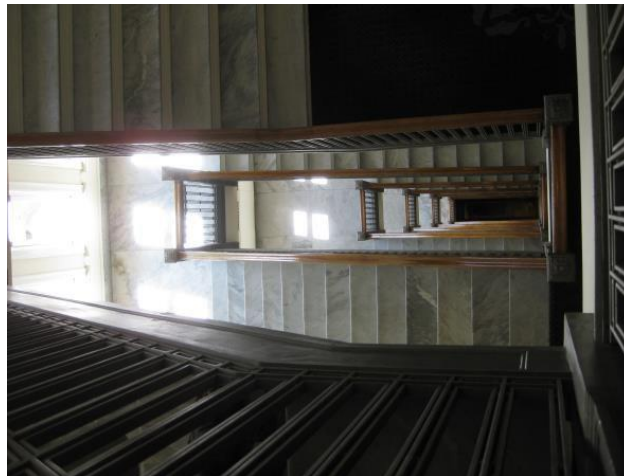
One of the most interesting parts of the tour was the gardens and patio. The garden is a true asset. Also, we took a moment to note the progress that has been achieved with the Hotel's bee colony. Yes, you will soon be able to enjoy MacDonald Hotel honey.



The true treat of the tour was a walkthrough of the Fairmont Gold Queen Elizabeth II Suite. It was truly remarkable, the stairs seen in the background of the picture take one to a second story bedroom.



We saw a great many features in the tour including restored dining room, unique art, historic photos, and ball rooms. Many of these have their own history and stories which our guides shared with us. The final picture provides an interesting view of the central stairwell looking down from the top



We wrapped up with a great lunch in the Harvest room. We extend our appreciation to the Hotel MacDonald for two wonderful events which put a fine finish to the events of the last several months starting in September 2015.