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MPI BC Chapter AGM ends with an unexpected motel stay by [Jim Romanik](#)

Article published on February 16th 2012 | [Software](#)

Owning an online registration company has some advantages. One is that I get to work from home on Vancouver Island most of the time and catch the ferry over to the office in North Vancouver when required.

When I saw the email for the MPI AGM come in, I noticed that it started earlier than most meetings and was ending by 7. This worked out perfect for me as I could catch the first ferry to Vancouver in the morning and then catch the last ferry home. It would be a long day, but that's the nature of commuting from the Island.

The AGM went as expected, although if you were expecting long, drawn out proceedings, you would have been disappointed. Ryan met all of the official requirements of an AGM, but managed to do it in record time.

Next up was the speaker for the event, Rob Gialloredo "President and CEO of Tourism Victoria. Rob caught everyone's attention with an interesting glimpse into his past using a series of photos. If you missed it, he briefly showed an image related to a point in his past such as an activity that he participates in or his family, as he mentioned it in the talk. I've seen a few speakers use this style of opening and it is an entertaining and memorable way to get started.

Overall, it sounds like fairly good news for our industry, although growth will be slow and we still need to be changing and working hard to secure business. The point that really stuck with me from the presentation was the slide about the need to be creative. This started me thinking about how increased creativity in my company can win more clients. A few ideas have come to mind and I will be exploring them more in the near future.

There was more time for networking after the event and an opportunity to speak with board members about their specific roles.

I left the event on time and even had time to grab a coffee to help keep me awake for the ferry ride home. I made it to the ferry by 8:45, just in time to buy my ticket for the 9PM ferry home, only to be informed that the last sailing during the week to Nanaimo is now 7PM!

Somehow I missed that update from BC ferries, so it cost me a night in the Horseshoe Bay motel, which I found out is the only accommodation in all of West Vancouver aside from a few bed and breakfasts.

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Article Keywords:

event registration software,online registration software, online event registration software,event registration system, online event registration

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