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BRIEFINGS

WEEKEND EXTRA

▶ Number of U.S. oil rigs tumbles

The number of U.S. rigs out drilling for oil fell by the most in a month, a sign that America's cutbacks aren't over yet. Drillers idled 42 oil rigs (excluding gas rigs), dropping the number to 760, Baker Hughes reported on Friday. The rig count has dropped 53 per cent since October, an unprecedented retreat, as the drop in oil prices has made production less profitable. But production isn't slowing yet; the U.S. will pump 9.3 million barrels a day this year, the most since 1972.

▶ Rogers extends roaming deal

Rogers Communications is expanding its flat-rate roaming strategy for wireless users to Europe. The telecom says it will begin offering the service in 35 European countries starting next Wednesday. The rollout comes after the Rogers' Roam Like Home plan launched for the United States last November. CEO Guy Laurence says the U.S. package has seen more than a million customers sign up. Customers can text the word "travel" to 222 before they leave or once they arrive in Europe to activate the discount, and will then be charged \$10 per day to a maximum of \$100 a month.

▶ Smithsonian to launch magazine

Smithsonian Enterprises, the business arm of the popular museum complex, is launching its first new magazine in 30 years with a focus on cultural travellers. Smithsonian Journeys will hit newsstands April 21 as a quarterly publication, the publisher said Friday. Each edition will focus on one destination with photography and stories about history, food, customs and science. The first edition is dedicated to Paris. Copies will sell for \$13.99 US each.

▶ Housing starts rise in March

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. says March was a stronger month for housing starts in most parts of the country. CMHC's seasonally adjusted rate was 189,708 units last month, up from 151,238 in February. Most of the growth came from multiple-unit dwellings, especially in urban areas. Starts of multiple-unit dwellings such as condos and apartments were up 48.2 per cent, rising to 125,263 units on an annualized basis. Construction on detached urban houses accounted for 52,196 units of the total. Ontario, B.C., Quebec and the Prairies saw increases in urban housing construction, while the Atlantic region had a decline.



Entrepreneur Barbara Ross-Denroche says the Leaders in Transition program for women helped her plan what she wants to do when she retires.

Beyond finances: Women plan for a fulfilling retirement

Minerva Foundation helps explore options for life after career

BETHANY LINDSAY
VANCOUVER SUN

Barbara Ross-Denroche had been preparing for retirement for years. She'd even drafted a five-year succession plan for handing over the reins of the company she'd built from the ground up. There was only one thing missing. "What about me? What do I want to be doing? What is

“What is meaningful to me?
It's 25 years that I need to be planning for.”

BARBARA ROSS-DENROCHE
ENTREPRENEUR

meaningful to me?" she said. "It's 25 years that I need to be planning for." Ross-Denroche, co-founder of leadership development firm The Refinery, recently graduated from the Minerva Foundation's Leaders in Transition program. The course helps women over

50 explore options for living a happy, productive life beyond retirement. The 25 women met once a month for six months. They listened to speakers, traded stories and worked on plans for the future. What they learned is that retirement is a transition into

a new phase of life, and not an abrupt ending. In fact, the R-word was verboten. "We're not to use the word retirement. It's a transition! I don't think we used the word retirement at all," Ross-Denroche said. According to fellow participant Joanne Gassman, the program is crucial for what may be the first generation of women holding leadership positions in large numbers.

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