



# NEWSLETTER PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

PO Box 74539, KITSILANO, Vancouver, BC, V6K 4P4

Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities

www.probusvancouver.com

August, 2017

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 8th at 9:30 am**  
**Location: H.R. MacMillan Space Centre**  
**Speaker: Herb Grubel, Professor of Economics (Emeritus), SFU; Senior Fellow The Fraser Institute**  
**Topic: Regulations and their effect on societies, activities and costs, good or bad.**

### NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

**September 12th: Rudy Buttignol  
President & CEO, Knowledge  
Network  
Topic: TBA**

## HERB GRUBEL



**Herbert (Herb) Grubel** was born in Frankfurt Germany in 1934. He lived there until he immigrated to the US where he earned a BA at Rutgers University in 1956 and PhD in economics at Yale University in 1963. He has held full-time teaching positions at Yale, Stanford, the University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania, held temporary teaching and research positions at the US Treasury and a number of leading universities around the world. Presently he is Professor Emeritus of Economics at Simon Fraser University where he had been teaching since 1972 before his mandatory retirement in 1999. He also is a Senior Fellow of the Fraser

Institute.

He has published many books and professional articles and newspaper columns, dealing with theories and issues in international trade, finance, immigration and economic policy. Googling his name in 2017 brought up 17,100 references to his publications.

In 1993-97 he served as a member of Canada's Parliament for the Reform Party representing the electoral district of Capilano - Howe Sound, three years of which as the party's Finance Critic. He retired voluntarily from politics wiser but no richer.

You might find it interesting to know that Herb was celebrating his 10th birthday on the day your newsletter editor was born!



### PROBUS VANCOUVER BRIDGE CLUB

**Our PROBUS Vancouver Bridge Club has limited openings for new members. The Club plays Rubber Bridge in private homes**

**from mid-September until mid-June. PROBUS members may join as singles or as twosomes with their partners, who do not need to be Probus mem-**

**bers. Members who are interested should contact:**

**Carl Jonsson: 604-261-6687 or 604-640-6357 – [Krokabo@shaw.ca](mailto:Krokabo@shaw.ca),  
for more details.**



## Report of the July 11th Meeting

Attendance: 160 Members and Guests

President Doug Jones opened the meeting and acknowledged the guests present. Dave Smith introduced 3 new members (see page 3). Doug Graham talked about the Vancouver Canadians Baseball Game, details of which, together with the planned Boeing Plant Tour in October, are on pages 4 and 5. Peter Scott thanked our retiring transcriber, Jacquie Miller, for her contribution to his sanity and introduced her replacement, Nathaniel Christopher. Stuart Clyne thanked our greeters and cashiers (see page 3) and Peter Hebb introduced our speaker, Elizabeth May, OC, MP, who began her talk, "Canada at 150", by telling members that she is still uncomfortable with being referred to as a politician. "I love being described as a parliamentarian and whenever someone says I'm a politician I wonder what I did to offend them, so I still have trouble with the terminology," she said.

When May ran for Parliament, she promised her community to improve the culture and decorum within the sometimes raucous chamber. When she is heckled, she sits down and when she can't hear other speakers, she makes hand signals to the Speaker.

Reflecting on Canada's sesquicentennial, May acknowledged the enormous contribution of Canada's indigenous peoples, which include the First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples.

May explained that Canada's system of Westminster parliamentary democracy, which we inherited from Britain, has been heavily influenced by the United States over the past century.

The media, she said, covers elections as though we are electing a prime minister as opposed to 338 MPs. In theory and under our Constitution it's up to MPs to vote for one of their own to be prime minister.

May spoke extensively about her work on the House of Commons Special Committee on Electoral Reform which submitted its final report [\*Strengthening Democracy in Canada: Principles, Process and Public Engagement for Electoral Reform\*](#) to the House of Commons on Dec 1, 2016. (Note the link to the report.)

The expert witnesses to the committee, offered advice that extended beyond changing the voting system. One of their suggestions was for MPs to hold a pro forma vote for prime minister, following a general election, in order to remind the media of their Constitutional role.

Canada is the only Commonwealth member state, where the leader of the party that wins the most seats in a general election becomes prime minister.

She contrasted this with the United Kingdom and Australia where prime ministers can be ousted by their caucus as opposed to elections or party conventions.

Many of these ideas are articulated in a book titled [\*Turning Parliament Inside Out: Practical Ideas for Reforming Canada's Democracy\*](#) (note the link) which was co-edited by Conservative MP Michael Chong, Liberal MP Scott Simms and NDP MP Kennedy Stewart and includes chapters written by five other MPs including May.

May said that the diminishing role and agency of individual MPs is one of our most significant democratic deficits.

She said that MPs have a limited ability to stand up and speak on behalf of their constituents and are instead told what to do or say by political party staffers, who will instruct MPs to read so-

called "canned speeches" with very little notice.

She pointed out that the Standing Orders of Parliament preclude pre-written speeches but the rule is no longer observed. If the rule was followed, she said, it would massively improve the quality of debate and ensure that anyone who is giving a speech would have to know the subject at hand.

She said that if MPs were allowed to do what they wanted to do and worked for their constituents as opposed to their party, they would do a much better job.

She noted that the Trudeau administration spent several millions of dollars on a survey that revealed 70 per cent of Canadians would rather have many parties work together to come up with a solution by consensus, rather than one big party making all of the decisions, even if the consensus approach among many parties takes more time.

She explained how political parties are motivated by so-called "wedge issues," which is when political parties focus on one issue to get their base to the polls, in an effort to deprive other parties of seats.

She said the Conservatives, who were elected to a majority with 39 percent of the popular vote in 2011, used the long gun registry as a wedge issue to unseat incumbent Liberals and NDPers. She said that the Conservatives were not interested in finding a compromise that respected the rights of hunters as well as First Nations communities.

Furthermore, she said that leaders of Canada's major political party have undue influence over their candidates. MPs must secure their leader's approval to run as a candidate under the party banner. This gives the leader of a party in Canada powers that a leader of a party anywhere else in the Commonwealth doesn't have.

She also spoke about the need to replace Canada's first-past-the-post electoral system that we inherited from Britain. She said that previous parliamentary studies found that first-past-the-post doesn't reflect the popular will in any country where you have more than two parties or candidates. They concluded that first-past-the-post was not a good system for our democracy but did not propose any alternatives.

The House of Commons Special Committee on Electoral Reform, however, took the next step and wrote a majority report that said we should replace first-past-the-post with proportional representation after holding a referendum.

May concluded her talk by saying that if we get our democracy right everything else will fall into place and she would worry less about other issues that occupy her mind like climate change or Canada's economic future.

"If we govern ourselves in a way that reflects a healthy modern democracy we'll get better government and over time perhaps I won't be rejecting the term 'politician' but will think it carries some public esteem as opposed to derision," she said.

Jon Collins thanked Elizabeth for her interesting, entertaining and revealing talk and presented her with the customary honourarium, which she gave to her Rotary Club.

*For an unabridged version of the above which includes questions and answers, go to our PROBUS website at [www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com), click on "Speakers" and then on "Elizabeth May"*

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



I hope everyone in Probus and all your families enjoyed celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday on Canada Day. We have so much to be thankful for, to live in such a great country. Let us hope that it continues this way.

Our Probus Club meeting was held Tuesday, July 13, once again at the Auditorium in the Space Centre. Our speaker was Elizabeth May, the leader of the Green Party of Canada and Member of Parliament for the southern Vancouver Island riding of Saanich-Gulf Islands. She delivered an excellent presentation, which was very appropriate to celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. She talked about attaining our independence, and our adoption of the Westminster Parliamentary system, which has now morphed into a form of the U.S. Presidential-style democracy. Nearly everything in our Parliament is now controlled by the leaders of the elected majority. She gave us some eye-opening and humorous stories of what actually happens in both houses. We received many new perspectives on our parliamentary system, plus thoughtful analysis and ways to improve.

We had a good turnout for the meeting, considering it is now lovely summer weather and many members are out of town or otherwise active. Several of our members brought guests, who are always welcome. Our membership is healthy, with 398 active members and about a three month waiting list.

On Thursday, July 13, over 50 of our members thoroughly enjoyed an evening performance of Much Ado about Nothing, at Bard on the Beach. It was a wonderful presentation of a classical Shakespeare comedy. The venue is great, with the backdrop of the outdoors. The acting was first class and humorous, so everybody had lots of fun.

On Wednesday afternoon August 30, your Activities Committee has arranged a block of 50 seats to attend a baseball game at Nat Bailey Stadium. The game starts at 1 pm and we will all be supplied with a very extensive outdoor barbeque and buffet. This was a very popular event a couple of years ago. More details and instructions on how to sign up are in this Newsletter.

Our next speaker on Tuesday, August 8, is Herb Grubel, Professor Emeritus at SFU, and a Senior Fellow at The Fraser Institute.

All of our meetings for the remainder of the year, will be at the Auditorium, except for the Presidents' Lunch on October 13 at the Arbutus Club.

**Rotarians' Investment Club**

The Club gained three new members this past year who have enjoyed the experience and are contributing to the knowledge we share.

We have had some gains and some losses, of course. We are holding on to some "losers" such as Painted Pony (-45%) MacDonald Detwiler (-27%) Whitecap Resources (-18.6%) but the gains have been Pure Industrial REIT (+18.5% in 4 months!), Novagold (+29.4%) and Brookfield Asset Management (+146% over several years which we have just sold).

Each stock is reviewed every month by two watchdogs who will also be keeping an eye on the news during the summer break.

We will enjoy a summer party in August, and our next meeting is on September 28th. Details to follow.

For Club information contact John Sullivan at [johnws@telus.net](mailto:johnws@telus.net); or residence - 604-263-4486.

**Welcome New Members**



**DARRYL McNAUGHTON  
SURGICAL & FORENSIC  
PATHOLOGIST**

**ANTON GRUNFELD  
CHIEF OF EMERGENCY  
PHYSICIAN**



**PAUL BECKMANN  
LAWYER,  
QUEEN'S COUNSEL**



**VISITING ANOTHER PROBUS CLUB**

You can attend the meeting of any other **PROBUS Club**, as a guest. However, you should contact the club you wish to visit and advise them of your plans.

The meeting address of clubs in Canada can be found on the website "probus.org" under **National Pages and Contacts**.

**Thanks to our July Member Services Team**

**Greeters: Bob Ross, Bud Wong & Darryl McNaughton**

**Cashiers: Nick Scarfe & Peter Brock**

**VANCOUVER CANADIANS BASEBALL GAME  
AT SCOTIA BANK FIELD IN NAT BAILEY STADIUM  
AGAINST THE BOISE HAWKS  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017**

**OPEN TO MEMBERS, GUESTS AND FAMILIES**

We have booked 50 seats in the facility called The Porch, which is where we were seated two years ago. Located just beyond the left field fence, The Porch is a covered section at Scotiabank Field, designed for groups who are looking for a fun, laid-back area to enjoy a C's ball game.

You will get a never-before-seen vantage point of the Canadians as they fight toward another Championship and enjoy some of these exciting benefits:

- Luxurious, covered seating in "Club style" seats complete with a tray/counter for your food and beverage;
- Thrilling views from home run territory;
- Exclusive area, ensuring privacy;
- Special all-you-can-eat buffet menu with all your ballpark favourites, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, corn-on-the-cob, salads, desserts, ice cream, water and pop;
- Walk-up service bar.

**9:30 am: Box Office opens**

**12 noon: Gates open and buffet lunch commences**

**1:05 pm: PLAY BALL!!**

**Car pooling is suggested**

For directions to the ballpark, go to [www.canadiansbaseball.com](http://www.canadiansbaseball.com), click on "SCOTIABANK FIELD" and click on "Green Transportation Options to Scotiabank Field" in the drop down menu.

**We suggest registering soon to ensure a seat as this popular event is sure to sell out.**

**Registration:** At the Activity Desk at the Probus Meeting on August 8

1. Mail Registration Form and Payment (**\$50 per adult; \$35.00 per child aged 4 to 12**) to:  
Doug Graham, 2068 W. 35th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6M 1H9. Email: [douggraham@telus.net](mailto:douggraham@telus.net)
2. Make checks payable to the **Probus Club of Vancouver**.
3. Remember - you will not be registered until payment is received.

I plan to attend: Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ (please put "Baseball" in the MEMO line)

Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

**To check that you are registered, go to the Activities section of the website.**



## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 CHARTERED COACH TOUR TO THE BOEING PLANT IN EVERETT, WASHINGTON LIMITED TO 56 MEMBERS**

The Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour is one of the premier attractions in the Pacific Northwest. Located just 25 miles north of Seattle, the Boeing Tour is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to view 747, 777, and 787 Dreamliners (may not be known until arrival) being assembled on the Everett production line before they take to the skies all over the world. The plant is the largest building (by volume) in the world. Each tour is approximately 90 minutes long and includes fascinating facts about Boeing and the planes that bear its name.

**ALL PASSENGERS MUST HAVE A VALID PASSPORT AND ARE ADVISED TO HAVE PERSONAL OUT OF PROVINCE MEDICAL INSURANCE.**

### **THE SMALL PRINT OR WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

**OUR 56 PASSENGER COACH WILL LEAVE FROM 37TH AVENUE BETWEEN OAK AND OSLER BY VANDUSEN GARDENS AT 8 AM SHARP. DO NOT PARK IN THE VANDUSEN LOT, THERE IS PLENTY OF PARKING ON 37TH AVENUE—WE RECOMMEND YOU TRY TO CARPOOL! COFFEE AND MUFFINS WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE COACH AND A CATERED LUNCH AT THE HILTON GARDEN INN & A SHUTTLE TO THE PLANT.**

### **IMPORTANT DETAILS!**

This tour involves walking about a quarter of a mile and climbing a flight of stairs. Still photos and video cameras, electronic devices (mobile phones, cameras, pagers) and personal items (purses, bags, backpacks) are not permitted on the Boeing Tour. **Free lockers** are available on-site. There are restroom facilities and a café at the Future of Flight. **Restrooms are not available during the Boeing Tour.**

### **Registration Form**

Make cheques for \$110.00 per person, payable to the **PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER.**

1. Take Registration form and payment to the August 8 or September 12 or October 10 PROBUS meetings or mail to: Chris Finch, #105—5760 Hampton Pl, Vancouver, BC, V6T 2G1. Phone # 604-222-2201.
2. Payment in full for the coach charter is required from PROBUS by September 24. As long as we have a firm commitment by then, your payment must be received by October 10, after which no cancellation will be possible unless another registrant is found. Due to the considerable interest in this unique trip, it will initially be open to members only. **Guests may be registered after September 14 if space is available.**
3. Remember - you are not registered until payment is received.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_

**To check that you are registered, go to the Activities section of the website.**