



# 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

July, 2017

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 11th at 9:30 am**

**Location: H.R. MacMillan Space Centre**

**Speaker: Elizabeth May, Leader of The Green Party of Canada**

**Topic: Canada at 150**

### NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

**Aug 8: 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.**

## **ELIZABETH MAY, O.C., M.P.**



Elizabeth May is the Leader of the Green Party of Canada and its first elected Member of Parliament, representing Saanich-Gulf Islands in

southern Vancouver Island.

Elizabeth is an environmentalist, writer, activist and lawyer, who has a long record as a dedicated advocate — for social justice, for the environment, for human rights, and for pragmatic economic solutions.

Born in Connecticut, she moved to Nova Scotia with her family in 1973. Elizabeth grew up working in her family's small business, a restaurant and gift shop on the Cabot Trail. She first became known in the Canadian media in the mid-1970s, through her leadership as a volunteer in the grassroots movement against proposed aerial insecticide spraying on forests near her home on Cape Breton

Island, Nova Scotia. Her efforts helped prevent aerial insecticide spraying from ever occurring in Nova Scotia.

Years later, she and a local group of residents went to court to prevent herbicide spraying. They won a temporary injunction in 1982 to hold off the spray programme, but after two years, the case was eventually lost. In the course of the litigation, her family sacrificed their home and seventy acres of land in an adverse court ruling to Scott Paper. However, by the time the judge ruled the chemicals were safe, the export of dangerous 2,4,5-T herbicides from the U.S had been banned. The forests of Nova Scotia were spared being the last areas in Canada to be sprayed with Agent Orange.

Her early volunteer work also included successful campaigns to prevent approval of uranium mining in Nova Scotia, and extensive work on energy policy issues, primarily opposing nuclear energy.

## Report of the June 13th Meeting

Attendance: 165 Members and Guests

The meeting was chaired by our President, Doug Jones, who started by welcoming our speaker, June Goldsmith. This month's short story concerned a group of friends who met to celebrate their 40th birthdays at a restaurant and continued to do so every 10 years until their 80s. Doug then talked about our upcoming outing to Bard on the Beach on Thursday, July 13th. Doug Graham was asked to talk about the outing to Nat Bailey Stadium for a noon baseball game. Registration details are on page 4 and on page 5 is some information on the trip to the Boeing plant in Everett in October. Raymond Greenwood thanked his Greeters and Cashiers. Doug then asked Don Paterson to introduce June Goldsmith, the founder and artistic director of Music in the Morning, a concert society that features local, national and international artists who speak from the stage about the music they play. The society, founded in September 1985, grew out of Goldsmith's great love and passion for music and a desire to share the same with others.

She opened her talk by giving the audience a small taste of Music in the Morning with a performance from Six Pieces for Piano, Op. 118 by Johannes Brahms.

She gave a short talk on the significance of Brahms's music. Quoting Friedrich Nietzsche she said that it, above everything else, is about yearning. The music she performed was composed toward the end of Brahms's life as a tribute to his associate and possible lover Clara Schumann.

Goldsmith attended UBC in the '50s where studied English and history before going on to teachers' college. At this time there was no music department at UBC.

She put her music career on hold and began teaching at the high school level at John Oliver and Killarney and quickly became the music teacher.

She married Danny Goldsmith, a lawyer in Vancouver and they had two sons, David and Gordon. Following their birth, she became a stay-at-home mother until her youngest son Gordon was in Grade 1, when she decided that she really missed music. Luckily, she received a phone call from UBC who needed someone to teach music in their continuing education department. She initially told them she would need a year to prepare as she had been out of practice for some time. The person from UBC, however, was confident of Goldsmith's ability and asked her to begin in two months. Goldsmith recalled this as a pivotal moment in her life and said that if it wasn't for that phone call she might still be waiting to prepare. She worked at UBC for six years before taking a break. Her former students, however, said they really missed her classes and asked if she would be willing to do it in her home. She described this as the living room series. Her first audience was a group of 12 women who gathered at her home for coffee and then music in the morning. Goldsmith played the piano and sometimes brought in professional musicians as well.

After about a year she asked the group, which had grown to about 20, if they would help her turn their sessions into a regular concert series. The name "Music in the Morning" came to her during a trip to Hawaii. She envisioned a one hour series with no intermission or program notes where the artists give insights into the music they play right on the spot. At 10 a.m. there would be coffee followed by a concert at 10:30.

The first concert was a resounding success with 270 tickets sold and she was already planning the second season by the time of the third concert. Her husband suggested that she create a board and turn it into a business operation. He also assisted with contracts.

She wanted people to have a good time and leave the morning concert feeling better than when they came. Music in the Morning offered an

atmosphere as well as sociability which she compared to the Probus. She recalled some of the challenges of being an artistic director including booking the talent, negotiating their fee with management companies and dealing with nervous performers. She recounted an incident where a singer asked her to hold the audience for 10 minutes while she dealt with her cough. Goldsmith, however, had a reputation of always starting on time and encouraged the performer to press on. "I'm going out on stage in five minutes to introduce you and when I say your name and you'll come out and you'll be happy that you did," she told her. The performer, however, was "glorious as can be" and the concert was "spectacular."

In another instance a well-known pianist who was also a composer was asked to play four preludes that he had written for four days. Gold-Club. Her audience was not a "little coffee klatch for the ladies who get together to do some music" but a very serious crowd of music enthusiasts who had a real grasp on what was going on. She described the listener or audience as the last and possibly most important part of music as participants in a living art form. She initially focused on early music like Mozart and Chopin but later presented contemporary music which was unusual for a general audience at that time. It was her intent to challenge the audience with new music that expanded their horizons. She believes that new music sharpens one's listening skills because it forces the listener to pay more attention to the sounds that are coming out.

smith, however, noticed that the last prelude sounded different on different days. When she asked the pianist about this he confessed that he didn't have a chance to write a prelude and decided to make it up on the spot since it was already in the program.

Much of her work involved assisting the performers by meeting them at the airport and taking them out for sushi. She said that she was not initially strong on the business side of things but grew to like it all the same. She said she always took a pragmatic approach to the financial end of things and never brought in an artist that she could not afford. She compared this approach to parents who won't buy the fridge until they have the money to pay for it. She struggled to secure much in the way of Canada Council funding, however. She was very proud of the grants they put forward but thought perhaps the council viewed them as too successful.

In addition to attracting artists the series also brought in a steady stream of audience members. She said it filled a niche in the cultural life of Vancouver. Preciously there were no opportunities for daytime morning programs. It also enriched her own life by connecting her with artists and opportunities for her own musical growth.

She talked about her special relationship with the St. Lawrence String Quartet who are based out of Stanford University in California. They came to play for Music in the Morning in 1991 and quickly became a very important part of her life. Following her husband's death the quartet invited her to come down to Stanford to play in one of their educational seminars. She now goes down every year to talk about music and interview some of their visiting artists.

She is currently a regular guest on CBC Radio 1 and she also volunteers in her grandson's Grade 1 class, "I thought they weren't getting enough music so I go to his class."

She has also started a special series for autistic children and their families. Hugh Lindsay thanked June for her wonderful presentation and presented her with the customary honorarium.

*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 "June Goldsmith"*

## Rotarians' Investment Club

Our next Meeting will be on Thursday June 29th at the RVYC starting at 6.00pm (sharp) with a no-host bar at 5.30pm. Probus Members and guests are welcome to attend, but since we will not be having a Guest Speaker, but will be mainly concerned with monitoring and enhancing our Portfolio of 13 stocks, it may not be of general interest this month. Four stock presentations will be presented by Members.

We enjoy a lively discussion of our activities and ideas over an excellent 3 course dinner, including wine/coffee/ gratuities for \$60.00 and the meeting is usually over by 9.30pm.

This will be our last meeting before the summer recess, although we shall be having a party in July or August to include our "significant others".

Please call/email our new President, Tim Gibbs ([timgibbs@hotmail.com](mailto:timgibbs@hotmail.com) ; 604-225-0331) if you wish to attend by Tuesday June 27th.

Club Information available from John Sullivan ([johnws@telus.net](mailto:johnws@telus.net) ; 604-263-4486)

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our PROBUS Club meeting was held Tuesday, June 13 again at the Vancouver Academy of Music. Our speaker was June Goldsmith, C.M., O.B.C. , of Music in the Morning fame who for decades, has charmed audiences with her knowledgeable and enthusiastic approach to classical music. She has been in love with classical music since childhood and has never lost her passion for this genre. We were treated to some with her playing an Intermezzo by Johannes Brahms, while explaining some of the intricacies of composing music. Born in New Westminster, June graduated from UBC and began teaching music in high school. When she was raising her children, she invited friends to her house to play and appreciate classical music. This eventually led to larger attendance and ultimately she started Music in the Morning at the Vancouver Academy of Music in 1985. That program is still running successfully and she is also on CBC on a monthly basis. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed her wonderful presentation. We had a large turnout for the meeting, including several guests of members. Our membership is healthy, with just over 395 members and about a three month waiting list.

Coming up on Thursday, July 13 is an evening performance of Much Ado about Nothing, one of Shakespeare's best known comedies, at Bard on the Beach. There may be a few tickets left, so if you are interested, please contact Doug Blackman right away. On Wednesday afternoon August 30, your Activities Committee has arranged a block of 50 seats to attend a baseball game at Nat Bailey Stadium. This was a very popular event a couple of years ago. More details and instructions on how to sign up are in this Newsletter.

Next month we are back in the Auditorium at the Space Centre on Tuesday, July 11. Our speaker that day will be Elizabeth May, OC., MP., the leader of the Green Party of Canada, to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday with us.

## Welcome New Members



**TOM REID**  
MUNICIPAL ECONOMIST



**JIM FLETCHER**  
VENTURE CAPITALIST



**BILL CLARKE**  
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER  
PROPERTY MANAGER

## IN MEMORIAM

*It is with regret that we announce the passing of*  
**Bob Swannell** on May 30th,  
**John Seney** on May 31st,  
**Norman Leach** on June 4th

*Our condolences to their families and friends*  
The PROBUS Club of Vancouver will make donations in their names to charities of the families' choosing.

## Thanks to our June Member Services Team

**Ben Hume, Lawrence Duff,  
John Bishop & Bob Ross**

**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 July 11 or 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW  
THOSE HUGE  
OFF THE  
AND STAY IN**



**JETS GET  
GROUND  
THE AIR?**

**WELL, SO HAVE I! SO I'M GOING TO  
JOIN THE PROBUS GROUP TOUR TO  
THE BOEING PLANT AT EVERETT ON  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24th  
TO FIND OUT!**



**OUR COACH, WITH A SEATING  
CAPACITY OF 56 PROBUS  
MEMBERS, WILL DEPART AT 8AM AND  
RETURN AT 5:30PM.**

**FULL DETAILS ON HOW YOU CAN  
JOIN THIS EXCITING OUTING WILL  
BE IN THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER**