



# NEWSLETTER

## WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Volume 17 Issue 15, August 2020

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, September 1, 2020

9:45 a.m. - you are welcome to log on to Zoom

10:00 a.m. Meeting online via Zoom. Please be on time.

The link to Zoom will be emailed August 27 with a reminder August 31.

If you wish to join by telephone: please call Barbara Wynn for the number and ID #.

**Speaker for September:** Michael Geller, Architect AIBC, FCIP, RPP, MLAI

**Topic:** So where are we going to live next? And where will our children and grandchildren live?

Michael is an architect, planner, real estate consultant and developer with five decades' experience in the public, private and institutional sectors. He is President of the Geller Group, which is active in real estate consulting and development. Recent projects include two small heritage conservation housing developments in West Vancouver that he can't sell and planning for a major new resort community at Furry Creek.

He also serves as an Adjunct Professor at SFU's Centre for Sustainable Development.

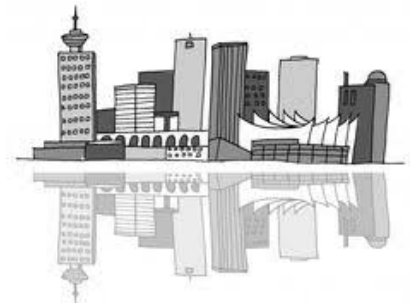
For seven years Michael was president of the SFU Community Trust overseeing the planning and development of UniverCity on Burnaby Mountain. Prior to joining SFU, he oversaw development of the Bayshore community in Coal Harbour, Deering Island in Southlands, rezoning of the Steveston waterfront and numerous condominium developments.

Prior to establishing his firm, Michael worked for Narod Developments and CMHC in Vancouver, Ottawa and Toronto. While in Vancouver he was CMHC's project coordinator for the first phase redevelopment of the South Shore of False Creek.

Michael used to write a bi-weekly column in the Vancouver Courier and is a frequent media commentator on housing and urban issues.

He is a past president of the Urban Development Institute and has been honoured as a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners and Life Member of the Architectural Institute of BC.

He is also a member of PROBUS Vancouver (Men's).



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Women's PROBUS of Vancouver:

[www.probusvancouverwomen.com](http://www.probusvancouverwomen.com)

Contact us:

[PROBUSwomen.news<at>gmail.com](mailto:PROBUSwomen.news@atgmail.com) ( replace <at> with @ )

PROBUS Canada:

[www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)

PROBUS International:

[www.probusglobal.org](http://www.probusglobal.org)

## Membership Information

### A Message from President Barbara Wynn

Dear Members:

It is now almost five months since we were all advised to social distance, wash our hands constantly, sanitize everything, and curtail travel. Now that summer is here, at least we have the privilege of getting outdoors to enjoy walks, tend our gardens, or just sit and relax outside, maybe at the cottage.

During this time of COVID-19, the Management Committee and I have been emailing back and forth, organizing Speakers, and learning how to become Zoomers! So far we have had three interesting talks with three high-powered women: Two via Zoom and one with Gluu.

It was a treat to see so many log on, but we would love to see more of you participate. If you need help setting up to access Zoom, do not hesitate to email or call me or Jane LePorte (see the last page of the Newsletter for our contact information).

Looking forward to seeing you in September.

Warmest regards, Barbara

To liven up our newsletter and communicate more, especially with those not able to attend our virtual talks, we would love to hear from you with an anecdote/story about your experiences during COVID-19. Please send submissions, about 50-75 words in length to Newsletter Editor Jane LePorte by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Here is the first story from President Barbara:

#### COVID-19 THROUGH THE EYES OF A 4YR OLD:

Our grand-daughter in NZ had been watching and learning from the NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who has been receiving much praise for her handling of the COVID-19 crisis.

Dressed in a Tiara and Tutu and holding a foolscap sheet of paper, Olivia earnestly declared herself the Prime Minister, and gave the following instructions:

You can't go to Pre School.

You can't go to the playground or park.

You can't have friends around to play.

You can only go for SHORT walks, and you have to wash your hands frequently.

**Zoom Meetings:** Our wonderful President, Barbara Wynn, and her equally wonderful husband, Graeme, are hosting/operating the Zoom meetings for us, with our grateful thanks.

You are invited to join the meeting between 9:45 & 10:00 AM; please be on time as it will be difficult to admit you after 10:00 as our hosts will be doing a myriad of things to ensure a smooth meeting with (possibly) no time to invite you in.

**Management Committee Contacts:** As noted in the July newsletter, the last page of future Newsletters will have Not To Be Shared email addresses and phone numbers. Please don't put your Newsletter in the yellow recycling bag! Keep it forever.

**Annual Dues:** Treasurer Barbara Paterson assures us we remain members in good standing and when we resume meetings at Point Grey Golf Club she will determine what the dues will be.

**Membership:** Please update any changes to your postal and email addresses or phone number to ensure you continue to receive the Newsletter and emails with important information.

There are two ways of doing this:

1. Go to the foot of the password-protected roster on our website, [www.probusvancouverwomen.com](http://www.probusvancouverwomen.com); select "Roster Change Button" and a form will pop up. Follow instructions including "Click this button" at the very bottom of the form.
2. Email Lois Lindsay with these changes.

**Newsletter:** Material to be included in the next Newsletter should be submitted to Jane LePorte by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Correspondence:** If you know a PROBUS member who should receive a get-well or condolence card, please let Davinder Grewal know.

**NEW:** Pop-ups for lexophiles – these will "pop up" in various places in future newsletters. Here's the first one, courtesy of the New York Times' annual competition. The winner was:

*"Those who get too big for their pants  
will be totally exposed in the end".*

## August Speaker – Angela Elster

Angela Elster, President and CEO, VSO, was introduced by Estelle Jacobson, who recapped the many accomplishments of this dynamic speaker. Her topic: “The Resilient Symphony: Transformative Opportunities Throughout a Global Pandemic.

Angela began her position as President and CEO of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra on January 15, 2020 to implement the plan for the upcoming season. On March 15, COVID-19 made its huge impact on all areas of society around the world!

This largest arts organization in Western Canada immediately pivoted and continued the Beethoven Festival by live-streaming Symphonies No. 5 and No. 6; greatly expanding audience numbers. This led to the surprise realization that digital tools are available to connect to the whole world in ways not imagined. By launching VSO@Home, the virtual performances have been viewed half a million times.

Angela expressed gratitude for the support of the VSO’s hard-working management, administration staff and musicians (who are working at reduced salaries), grants from the Federal and Provincial governments, and corporate sponsors, as the budget was cut by 50%. Most gratifying are the many individuals making ticket and monetary donations.

Few people realize that Vancouver has the only orchestra in Canada with its own world-class music school instilling the love of music in young people via weekly fun online classes. The Concerts Curriculum provides digital classes for B.C. and elsewhere, schools to expand knowledge on different types of music, and careers such as conducting.

The advanced students at the School of Music, aka the future professional musicians, gave us a wonderful concert. All of them were home alone performing “Hymn to Freedom” – perfectly synchronized!

Another wonderful online ensemble performance was a combination of musical front-line medical staff and VSO musicians playing “All You Need is Love” – again perfectly synchronized! Angela expressed her joy of working with this group; a tribute to all front line workers.

Angela told us what our creative VSO is offering to keep musicians and staff employed to do what they love for a re-imagined 2020/21 season. VSO@home will continue live-streaming concerts to bring excellent music to us all, recognizing digital music cannot replace live music.

A plan has been submitted to BC Health to provide live music in various ways with small groups of musicians. In August and September you may see “surprise” pop-up concerts throughout parks and gardens – the surprise is necessary to avoid large crowds gathering.

On Canada Day at B.C. Place, six musicians from the brass section played *O Canada* with the magnificent harbour and North Shore mountains in the background. They were nicely distanced and no audience was visible!

Maestro Otto Tausk will return from the Netherlands in September and as 28 musicians could socially distance on the Orpheum stage, it is hoped that approval will be given for an economically viable number of patrons to attend innovative concerts in person at the Orpheum and Chan Centre. However, Angela assured us health and safety are most important and, until it is absolutely safe, performances will be outdoors; weather permitting.

Angela would welcome repertoire suggestions and also fundraising ideas.

Estelle Jacobson thanked Angela and expressed her confidence in Angela and everyone at VSO.

Editor note: You might enjoy a talk on YouTube.com, "VSO Public Townhall" with Angela, Music Director Otto Tausk, and Chair of the VSO Board of Directors Etienne Bruson.

### **A Bit of PROBUS History**

Women's PROBUS Club of Vancouver is part of an organization established in the United Kingdom in 1965/66 by Rotarians - no women allowed in those days! The goal was to establish non-political, non-sectarian, and non-profit Clubs for semi-retirees to share ideas and similar interests, and to make new friends. The name derives from PROfessional BUSINESS.

New Zealand established clubs in 1974, Australia in 1976, and Canada in 1987 with three clubs in Ontario and one in B.C.: White Rock and South Surrey. Now there are approximately 4,000 Clubs in 23 countries.

The website, [www.probusglobal.org](http://www.probusglobal.org), mentions an online chat feature where the benefits are making friends in faraway places and logging on wherever we are/whenever we like. This enhances our membership in PROBUS, as have our Zoom meetings while we patiently wait for regular meetings to resume.