



# NEWSLETTER

## WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

Volume 18 Issue 14, July 2021

Next meeting: **Tuesday, August 3, 2021**

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

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

A reminder of the meeting will be sent last week of July  
and the link to the Zoom meeting will be sent August 2, 2021.

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

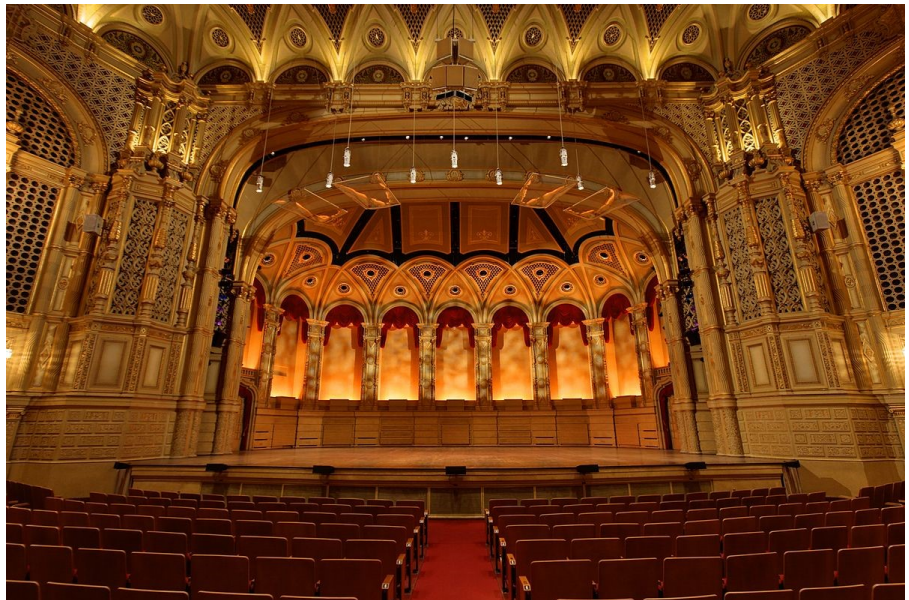
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**Speaker: Cassandra Bequary**

**Topic: My Path to the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra**

Cassandra was born in Connecticut and will tell us about her musical journey and adventures before arriving at the VSO in 2016.

Zoom in to learn what instrument she plays; where she studied and with whom; her musical connections in the world of Chamber Music; her involvement teaching young people; and how COVID-19 has affected her musical career and herself personally.



**The beautiful Orpheum – we look forward to helping fill these seats soon.**

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Women's PROBUS of Vancouver: <https://probuswomen.com>  
Contact us: [PROBUSwomen.news@shaw.ca](mailto:PROBUSwomen.news@shaw.ca)  
PROBUS Canada: <https://probus.org>  
PROBUS International: <https://probusglobal.org>

## A Message from President Leslie Chang

*Our new President in her garden;  
we wish her a wonderful year*

Dear Members:

Congratulations! We have completed a whole year of PROBUS Pandemic Virtual Speaker Conferences. We are indebted to our Past President, Barbara Wynn, for leading us through this unprecedented year of profound changes, adjustments, and Zoom meetings. Barbara and her husband, Graeme Wynn, have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring our speakers to your screens. Thank you to Barbara and Graeme for your strong commitment to support the Women's PROBUS of Vancouver. Throughout the pandemic, our membership has shown resilience and has continued to foster a shared interest and focus on personal learning as well as fun, fellowship, and friendship.



I am honoured to serve as your incoming President. I have been a member of PROBUS for three rewarding years since Donna Battye invited me to join. Despite the extremely challenging circumstances, PROBUS has been running smoothly. Barbara has been a wonderful mentor and I am supported by a strong, knowledgeable executive team. I am optimistic that the COVID-19 vaccination program will allow us to get back to normal very soon so that we can resume our monthly in-person meetings at the Point Grey Golf Club. Until then, I encourage all of you to participate and enjoy our monthly Virtual Speaker meetings.

I am curious to see where this next year will take us. I anticipate a year of more changes with a greater appreciation of friendships and camaraderie. We are all on this journey together and I am looking forward to a productive and fulfilling year ahead.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie Chang

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### Message from Past President Barbara Wynn

As we fell short of a quorum in two AGM votes (June 1 and July 6, 2021) for the Executive slate for 2021/22 and the 2021 Financial statement, the Executive and Management Committee made a decision to move and approve that we accept the vote of the majority of those present at the general meeting, Tuesday, July 6, 2021, due to the extenuating circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

All those present voted and unanimously passed both votes. An email was sent after the July meeting to ask if anyone opposed this decision; none did and the vote for Executive slate and Financial Statement was passed. This is a one-year exception to the normal procedure.

It now gives me great pleasure to hand over the virtual gavel to Leslie Chang, our next Madame President.

### Annual Membership Dues

Dues for the 2021-2022 year are now payable and must be paid by September 15. The preferred method is to log onto your profile on our website: <https://probuswomen.com> as follows:

Click the “head & shoulders” icon, top right corner.

Enter your email and password to log in.

Go to “Join Us” and click member profile.

Go to invoice and payments.

Pay by credit card - \$80.00.

A receipt will be sent within a few minutes.

**\*\* Remember to log out – click the “head & shoulders” icon \*\***

(If you have not established your profile and need assistance, contact Webmaster Estelle Jacobson.)

To pay by cheque or bank draft: Payable to Women’s Probus Club of Vancouver, \$80.00.

Mail to Treasurer: Barbara Paterson, 5749 Athlone Street, Vancouver V6M 3A1.

**Future Meetings:** One of the defining phrases of the past year: “You’re on mute”.

We continue Zooming to our meetings for a while longer; please join us; it’s easy and fun.

**Update Your Contact Information:** Log on to the new website:

<https://probuswomen.com>.

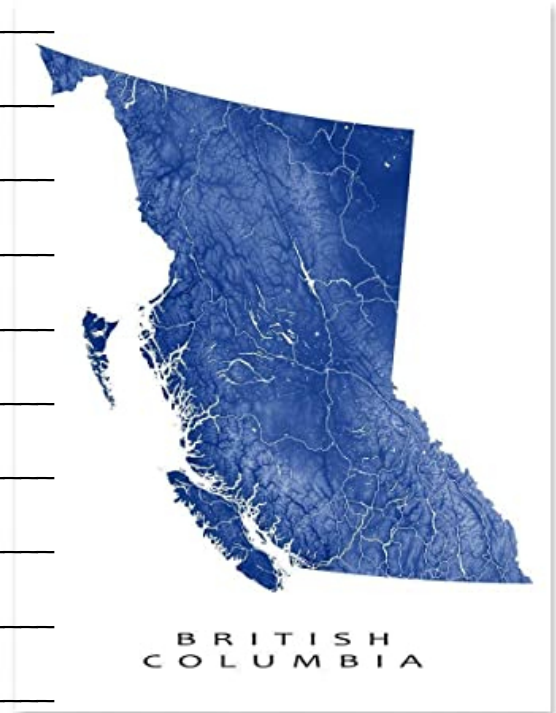
**Newsletter:** Material to be included in the next Newsletter should be submitted to Editor Jane LePorte by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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

**Management Committee Contacts:** Please see the last page of this Newsletter for confidential telephone or email contacts when you need or want to send information.

How well do you know towns in BC? Name these; the answers on Page 6, but don't peek!

1. Former Queen \_\_\_\_\_
2. Fishy Appendage \_\_\_\_\_
3. 2000 lb. Monarch \_\_\_\_\_
4. Pursue \_\_\_\_\_
5. Sea Drops \_\_\_\_\_
6. Between Faith & Charity \_\_\_\_\_
7. Horse Drawn Buggy \_\_\_\_\_
8. Big Utensils \_\_\_\_\_
9. Award \_\_\_\_\_
10. Massachusetts Tavern \_\_\_\_\_
11. Open Pasture \_\_\_\_\_
12. Path \_\_\_\_\_



*If the above made your brains a bit tired, here are some "no-brainers" ...*

**Seen on a T-shirt:**

- \* I'm not arguing, I'm just explaining why I am right.
- \* Sometimes I have to remind myself it's not worth the jail time.

**These actually appeared in Church Bulletins:**

- \*\* Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- \*\* Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir; they need all the help they can get.
- \*\* The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

**July Speaker – Dr. Lynne Quarmby**  
**Professor Molecular Biology & Biochemistry, SFU**

Her talk, titled *Watermelon Snow and Climate Change* encompassed stories of cell biology, climate science, climate activism, one-time politics, burnout, and the Mythic Arctic landscape – all highlighting the urgency of our climate crisis and a path forward.

A passionate scientist, for 20 years Lynne’s research focused on cell biology and particularly on whether human cilia and mutations of them are related to cilia in algae. Her algae research and studies using mice led to the discovery of a gene mutation that can cause severe juvenile cystic kidney disease called nephronophthisis.

During those 20 years of lab research, the larger world was changing and global climate change began to absorb more and more of Lynne’s attention. Charts on global temperature warming show a steeper and steeper increase over time, and worldwide the earth is 1 degree warmer than it was in pre-industrial times, but this increased heat is not evenly distributed. From 2015-2019 Arctic warming was much faster than in other areas around the globe, and our recent heat dome is a consequence of global warming. By reducing the temperature differential, the jet stream is meandering and stalling, resulting in long periods of heat with events such as the Fort McMurray fire and the prolonged California drought, creating their own weather systems as smoke clouds are created from the fires. This is now happening in B.C., and another consequence is the floods being experienced in Europe. Also, our oceans absorb much of the heat from the climate resulting in billions of shellfish dying on our shorelines.

We must reduce our carbon dioxide levels as quickly as possible. There is only a 50% possibility to meet the Paris Agreement target to lower global warming by 1.5 degrees Celsius, as individual nations have their own climate plans. Currently there is a 66% possibility of reaching 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Canada’s *goal* is to achieve zero net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050.

Lynne became a climate activist and was arrested during the Trans Mountain pipeline protests. Her son, Jacob, encouraged her to protest saying “*do it – this is important for my future*”. Lynne also ran for the Green Party in the 2015 election, but most voters did not share her passion for climate-change issues.

After pouring most of her time into campaigning, she lost her research funding, closed down her molecular cell biology lab and came to realize that she would need to have a new research program in order to continue working at SFU. She learned about the Svalbard, Norway Research Institute’s work on an algae that darkens the Arctic snow and therefore melts the snow more quickly. This is watermelon snow, so named because in certain conditions the green algae turns the snow red. Lynne’s current research lab focuses on studying local species of algae that are displaying the watermelon effect. The effects of this algae on the ice and snow are now important enough to be included in climate modeling research and also to be considered when making predictions about how the rate of melting ice and snow is contributing to climate change.

In 2017, Lynne was offered a spot on the ship Antigua sailing to the Arctic with a group of artists (dance, visual, musicians, composers, photographers, etc.) and two other scientists. Exhausted and discouraged after the campaign, she viewed this as an opportunity to rest, recover and look for snow algae. The ship was tethered to a shrinking ice sheet for 24 hours and it was an incredible, mind-altering environment to re-focus on the “big picture” of climate change. Upon returning home she realized that while she had not taken time to grieve and acknowledge what is already lost by climate change, everything we do helps to minimize the impact.

Lynne continues to despair about the world and its future; however, she has come to realize that “*We Can All Do Something and Make a Difference!*” Unfortunately, Canada is a climate-change laggard and with all its big cars and houses and high fossil-fuel consumption, it is one of the worst on the globe. The economy and politics are strongly linked; however, we need to know that we can live on renewable energy with very little need for subsidies.



Svalbard archipelago “Nothing but ice, sea and sky”

As individuals, what can we do? Vote and use our voices to let our leaders know this is our #1 issue. We need political action – recycling and turning off lights is fine, but the big issues need addressing. Join others to support environmental causes. **PAY ATTENTION! MAKE NOISE!**

Jane LePorte introduced our speaker, who joined us from her home on Gabriola Island.

Barbara Wynn thanked Lynne, commenting on her extraordinary involvement in combating climate change from so many different aspects.

Many thanks to Mary Graham for beautifully including all these aspects in this recap.

Lynne Quarmby’s book “*Watermelon Snow: Science, Art and a Lone Polar Bear*” was written after her Arctic expedition – a wonderful read!

Please visit her website <https://quarmby.ca>.

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Answers to BC towns quiz on Page 4 –

- 1. Victoria, 2. Salmon Arm, 3. Princeton, 4. Chase, 5. Ocean Falls, 6. Hope,
- 7. Surrey, 8. Grand Forks, 9. Merritt, 10. Boston Bar, 11. Field, 12. Trail

Non-members may contact us at [PROBUSwomen.news@shaw](mailto:PROBUSwomen.news@shaw).