

Annabel Slaight Bio

Annabel Slaight is a Canadian media pioneer spending much of her lifetime creating magazines, books and tv for kids under the OWLkids banner, reaching over 60 million families. She has been honoured with many awards including the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario for nurturing a passion for science and nature among generations of Canadian kids. In 1999, she became the founding Chair of the Shaw Rocket Fund investing in kids' digital media.

Having spent summers on Lake Simcoe since childhood (in Georgina since 1964), Annabel with her husband Brian retired in 2002 to the Georgina community of Roches Point. At this time, Annabel began work to build community and help Lake Simcoe.

A first project was a series of community maps and "The Georgina Book –What Citizens Value the Most". She then co-founded the Ladies of the Lake to champion the health of ailing Lake Simcoe. The famous "in the buff" calendar earned \$500,000 and helped trigger federal and provincial action plans. Ladies of the Lake morphed into the Ontario Water Centre, an educational charity, and its flagship ClearWater Farm, an educational eco farm and community asset demonstrating the benefits of living in harmony with nature. Arising from the farm, Annabel is co-creating/co-executive producing a major new eco-media initiative for and by children called "Future Chicken". Launching on multiple media platforms including the CBC in November 2023, it features a time-travelling live-action animated chicken using positivity and humour as tools for youth and their families to take climate action.

BIOGRAPHY:

Mr. Paul Higgins Jr. Co-Chairman Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee Inc.



Paul Higgins Jr. is the is the Co-Chairman of Mother Parker's Tea & Coffee Inc., one of the largest coffee and tea manufacturers in North America. The Company headquartered in Mississauga, Ontario with operations in Mississauga, Ajax, Ontario and Fort Worth, Texas.

Mother Parkers has been family owned and managed since 1912. It currently specializes in premium, private label coffee and tea brands for both retail and foodservice channels, in a variety of formats and packages. Mother Parkers also manufactures and distributes its own brands, including Higgins & Burke™, Martinson®, Brown Gold® and Mother Parkers®, and maintains an operational interest in the Marley Coffee® company. In recent years, the Mother Parkers has become a leader in the fast-growing single-serve capsule market with breakthrough innovation and the launch of RealCup® capsules and the EcoCup™ recyclable capsule.

Mr. Higgins and his brother, Michael Higgins, are the third generation to steer Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee to growth and expansion. Paul Higgins Jr. has worked in nearly every area of the business, including finance, sales, marketing and general management. He has overseen the development and expansion of the Company's own brands, as well as those private label brands owned by some of North America's largest grocery and restaurant chains.

As Co-Chairmen of Mother Parkers, Paul Higgins and his brother have earned the respect and recognition of their peers and industry partners, receiving the We Care Hall of Fame Award from the Friends of We Care organization of the foodservice and hospitality industry, the Golden Pencil from the Food Industry Association of Canada, the Successors Award for Canadian Business, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Retail Council of Canada and named to the Order of Canada. Under their leadership, Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee has also been recognized by customers, suppliers, industry associations and business groups with numerous awards over the past 45 years. In honour of their father and to mark Mother Parkers' 100th Anniversary in 2012, the Higgins brothers launched a campaign that successfully raised \$1 million to fund research into finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease.

Paul Higgins Jr. has served on several boards, including chairman of the Food Association of Canada, board member of the National Coffee Association, vice-chair at the Ontario Science Centre, board member of the Toronto Community Foundation, chair of We Care, chairman of Food & Consumer Products of Canada, board member of ClearWater Farm and board member of St. Michael's Hospital Foundation. Paul is proud to have three children who are the fourth generation of the Higgins family to work in Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee.