

ORCA PROBUS CLUB

Comox Valley

NEWSLETTER

March 2020



Ken Talbot, President

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

I always give a cheer when we get to March as usually the worst of the winter is over, the spring flowers and blossoms bloom, and the Comox Valley “snowbirds” return. March is also PROBUS month, so we have decided to dedicate some space in this month’s newsletter to the PROBUS story.

The first PROBUS club was formed by the Rotary Club in Caterham England in 1966. It was intended to allow retired professionals to continue to meet together for fellowship. The name was derived from **PROfessionals** and **BUSiness**. Apparently PROBUS is a Latin word from which “probity” (the quality of having strong moral principles, honesty and decency) was derived. The idea was that PROBUS Clubs would **not** be service organisations and that they would be non-sectarian and non-political.

The concept quickly caught on across the UK where there are now about 1700 clubs in existence. It rapidly spread to New Zealand, Australia and then to North America. The first PROBUS club in North America was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Galt in Cambridge, Ontario in 1987. There are now approximately 255 clubs across the country with about 38,000 members. PROBUS is now truly worldwide, and If you are interested in more statistics about the organisation, we have a few lined up later in the newsletter.

One of the ways we try to keep in touch with at least our nearest 17 PROBUS neighbours is at a Bi-Annual Mid-Island Presidents meeting, where we share experiences and ideas. These local clubs vary in size from 30 to 300 members and cover an area from Salt Spring Island up to the Comox Valley. After the next meeting, I’ll share information with you about any unique features of the other clubs.

See you all on March 10th – cheers!

- President Ken

**The ORCA PROBUS CLUB meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.
Meetings will be held at Comox United Church, corner Beach Dr. & Comox Ave.**

Our Website: www.orcaprobus.ca

ORCA PROBUS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Ken Talbot
Vice-President	Neil Brodie
Secretary	Marguerite Ancell
Treasurer	Caroline Urquhart
Membership	Lynnette Lynch Val Dyke
Social & Activities	Jerith Jones
Facilities	Mike & Barb Wilson
Newsletter	Bruce Ellis
Past President	Marie Knowles
Orca Probus email address	orcaprobus@gmail.com

ACTIVITY GROUP CONTACTS

BBQ Group	Pamela Melko
Bridge	MaryLynn Rasmussen
Camera Club	Bruce Ellis
Dining Out	Lawrence Petkus
Dining In	Pamela Melko
Garden Club	Cricket Price
Golf Group	Ross Cowan
Happy Appies	TBA
Hiking Group	Tim Ackerman
Lunch Bunch	Maxine Slater
Probus Singers	Rae Siebert
Pub Club	Howard Siebert
Quilters Group	Beth Ritchie
Book Group	Marilyn Morris
Walking Group	Deanna Provencher
Bowling Group	Marie Knowles
Wine Club	TBA

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- 10 - Linda Taylor
- 15 - Cheryl Cooper
- 25 - Roland Budd
- 28 - Beverly Quellette
- 29 - Pat Verschoor
- 31 - Margo Ellegood
- 31 - Sadie Brodie



JANUARY SPEAKER

Our speaker for March is Mike Annan. Mike is the executive director of Vancouver Island compassionate dog society. He will be making a presentation on training service dogs for people with stress injuries or PTSD. He will also be doing a demonstration with one of his dogs. Mike is very committed to this program and has a passion for helping people and dogs so we can look forward to an interesting presentation.

Lunch Bunch

Well, a good dozen members enjoyed an exotic East Indian lunch on Feb. 19th at Manvirros. Even participants who do not care for curry had an enjoyable fare.

The walls were decorated with handsome pictures of ethnic scenes.

Maxine



GOLF GROUP

Calling all golfers. Dust off those clubs & your rusty swing!

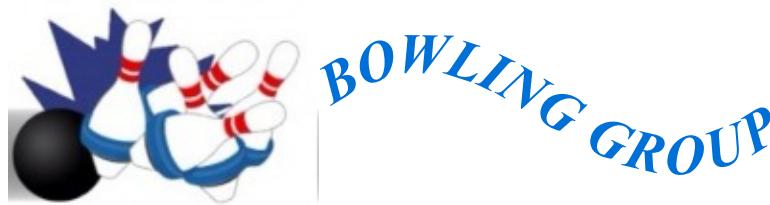
Time to practice to get ready for our first outing of the season Thursday, March 26th from 1 PM. The walking golf rate is a good (for Crown Isle) \$37 (would be closer to \$50 if we waited 'til April or May).

Email with more details to our Golfers list to follow soon.

Ross Cowan, Golf event Co-ordinator

OUR MEMBERS TRAVEL

Members of our club are constantly traveling to exciting locales
This time it is Marguerite and Mike in Puerto Vallarta



DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020

TIME: 1:00 PM
(as always please arrive by 12:45 pm in order to pick up your
shoes and stretch)

LOCATION: CODES COUNTRY LANES – 307, 6TH STREET,
COURTENAY

COST: \$11.55/person (includes 2 games; shoe rental; taxes)
CASH ONLY PLEASE

Anyone new wishing to join us please contact Marie Knowles.
we'd love to have you.



“SAILING TO THE SYMPHONY”

PRISMA (Pacific Region International Summer Music Academy, Powell River)

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2020

REMINDER: Sign up for tickets at the March 10th Meeting.

- **The full package** (consisting of a round trip ferry; lunch; concert ticket; and bus ride from the ferry to the theatre return) – **COST: \$76.50/person**

(As per our notice in the February newsletter, we have been assigned the prime seats like last year).

- **A second package** is now being offered:
concert ticket and lunch only – ferry at your own expense -- **COST: \$54.50**

Final payment date for tickets will be the April meeting.

Thank you for your support as always.

Regards
Marie Knowles and Lawrence Petkus (2020 PRISMA Co-Chairs)

PROBUS SINGERS AND FRIENDS



You gotta love a woman who can play the muffler, the drum, the music stand and the foot tambourine. Or how about the one who takes the time the day before the singalong to learn the guitar riff in These Boots Are Made for Walking.

Or another who works hard on learning harmonies for the singalongs. How about the man who spends considerable time finding out neat facts about each song and then shares them with us. Then there are the generous people who open their home to us each month. Last but not least there are all the wonderful people who come each month and sing their hearts out just for the pure joy of it.

It doesn't get better than this.

This month we meet Wednesday

March 25th at 2:00 pm - Celtic Singalong

The Undecideds

Rae, Rhonda and Bev



WORLD WIDE PROBUS

President Ken mentioned some statistics about Probus Clubs in Canada, but around the world there are over 4500 clubs with 400,000 members. Some clubs have as few as 50 members and some are giant; several of the clubs are for men only and others for women; but most are like ours, for both.

All share the same goal of Fellowship, Friendship and Fun.

SPRING event



The Driving adventure has been rescheduled for April 16!!

This will be a great opportunity to have some fun and meet other members. Everyone will be assigned to a team of 3 - 4 people. We will meet at the Driftwood Mall and each team will be given a list of cryptic clues to find locations in the Comox Valley. A chance to test your local knowledge. You will find the location and take a picture of one of your members and then go on to the next.

We will then gather at a restaurant for dinner and prizes given to the team that located the most sites.

We currently have 41 people signed up but room for more.

More details and a sign-up sheet will be available at the March meeting.



Lawn Bowling Event!

Still working on the schedule and numbers, but the event is still planned, hopefully for June. The costs will be minimal, \$10 for the bowling and possibly a bit more for a snack afterwards. We will have more information for the April meeting.

Paul Ellegood

PUB CLUB NEWS



This month we will be going to the Flying Canoe Pub at the Westerly Hotel. I have spoken to the food and beverage manager and they assured me there would be sufficient staff.

Last month we went to the Ace Brewing Company. At least 10 more people showed up than had confirmed with me. A bit awkward so if you plan to attend please let me know. By all accounts everyone was satisfied with their choices of food and beer.

On a sad note the Prime Chophouse has completely closed down and is for sale. We have had some fine meetings there. Here is hoping a new buyer is found and they reopen. Howard

A senior gentleman, very well dressed, hair well groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel, smelling slightly of a good after shave, presenting a well-looked-after image, walks into an upscale cocktail lounge.

Seated at the bar is an elderly looking lady.

The gentleman walks over, sits alongside her, orders a drink, takes a sip, turns to her and says, "So tell me, do I come here often?"

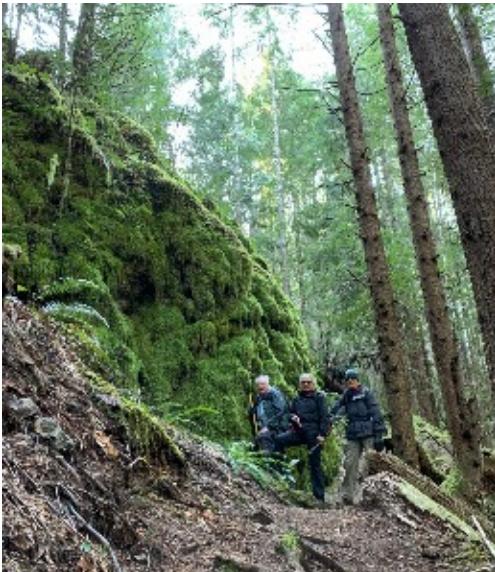
HIKING GROUP

The hiking group managed to squeeze in two hike days in Feb. Both days were under sunny skies but signs of winter were still around in spots with some snow cover at times. One hike was easy and the other rated moderate.

Jim Cooper who led both hikes is very familiar with the Nymph falls trail network and took both hikes to areas we had never seen before. Always good to have variety and on the last hike he showed off the glorious Supply Creek Canyon seen in the attached pictures. We welcomed Cindy Budd a new member who was out for the first time and hope to see her on many more.

Thanks Jim for pitching in as leader and we hope to see more participants as the weather improves, watch for upcoming notices.

Tim!





a matter of survival

a field mouse snuck into the mudroom closet, he was a little mauler
climbed up my wife's coat and chewed on her coat's collar
then to add insult to injury it gathered all the collar debris
stuffed it in her pocket to make a bed so soft and feathery
and when my wife put on the coat with the collar quite bare
she put her hand in the pocket then screamed loudly in the air.

the barn was not warm enough for a long tail rat
he decided that my car heater could take care of that
so he chewed the wires and gathered some string
filled up the heater and made it a splendid thing
and when we drove down the road and the heater started smoking
we had no idea that it was only the barn rat joking.

a raccoon snuck up into the roof and adopted our highest floor
of course, for his family it was a great space with lots of room to store
there were all kinds of treats, stolen goods, and also babies galore
i would have shot him and tossed his family out
but the last farmer tried it and left holes in the roof and thereabout
so i had to climb on the ceiling beams to chase the rascal out.

and when the cat went for a walk and headed across the field
an eagle with a seven foot wing span came down from the sky to reveal
eight huge claws all razor sharp to help dissect a treat
but my cat is a brave soul who is very hard to beat
he dropped his mouse jumped in the air into the eagle's face
that huge eagle chickened out and flew away in disgrace.

on the path to the back hayfield were many piles of corn
the bears were done with the blackberries and all their sharpened thorns
the cornfields ripened with sweet fall snacks that make the bears very fat
they gorge themselves then leave behind many golden scats
when entering the field i turned to see a black bear standing mightily
i yanked my horse's halter to turn his head so he wouldn't see the bear then flee.

so when you go to an art gallery and view a bucolic country scene
with cotton candy clouds, blue skies, and fields of brilliant green
remember there are always circumstances which will never be foreseen
especially in the country where wild animals are very lean
life in the country can be beautiful and sometimes frightening
it's a matter of survival to keep your wits about you and your senses very keen.

the old farmer