



Orca Probus Club NewsLetter

January

2025

Presidents Podium

Happy New Year!

As we reflect on the past year as a Probus club, I believe that we should be very grateful for the success it was. We did lose some members but we also gained some new ones. I am working with an incredible group of volunteers on the Management Committee and we have many successful groups led by other volunteers, some for many years.

As we head into 2025, let us all think about how we can contribute to the future success of this club by participating in groups, volunteering, and attending the meetings. It is with great pride that I serve as your President! Every New Year brings hope for better things and the opportunity to start anew. Let's remember that as we ring in 2025!

Debbie



Debbie Olson

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Club News

Club Executive

President.....	Debbie Olson	Communication.....	Mike Wilson
Vice-President.....	Laura Wendland	Social.....	Barb Wilson
Secretary.....	Gwendolyne Kruger	Facilities.....	Carol Coupland
Treasurer.....	Mike Naish	Past President.....	Bruce Ellis
Membership.....	Pat Ellis	Sunshine.....	Deanna Provencher
		Web Master.....	Blair Deering

Dates to Remember

Walking: Every Monday
Bowling: 2nd Wednesday of the month
Singing: Tues. Feb 18, 2 PM
Dining Out: 4th Wednesday of the month
Quilting: 3rd Tuesday of the month
BookWorms: Last Friday of the month
Hiking: Tuesday or Thursday - Twice a month

next ORCA PROBUS CLUB meeting:
Tues. January 14, 2025
2 PM

Milestone Anniversaries



Three members will celebrate their 10th anniversary with Orca PROBUS on January 13th, 2025

Lynnette & Michael Lynch
Melanie Olson

Club News

January Birthdays

Margie Leighton

Neville Pawson

Chip Ross

Margaret Talbot

Pamela Melko

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!

Ursula Banke

Sue Johnston

Janis Carels

Bruce Ellis

Brent Bullis

Nancy Gooch

January's Speaker Gerald Wendland

Energy ... what really is it? Our lights come on, our houses are heated, our cars run and we can travel the world. What are its sources, how much do we use, how much is there and what does the future look like? Let's discover the realities of this essential resource that at times we all take for granted.

Gerald Wendland is a geologist and a retired energy educator. He has spent the last 7 years analyzing energy trends and related fields.

Seniors Beware: AI Gives Scammers A Powerful Weapon

Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) CARP warns seniors about latest AI tools that can scam them. Might be a good read for some! Click on the following link or copy/paste into your browser! <https://www.carp.ca/2024/11/25/seniors-beware/>

Explore Vancouver Island Together!

We're looking to plan a fun **camping/RV** trip and would love to see who's interested in joining us! Our goal is to explore some of the island's hidden gems, including Cortes Island and Sointula Island. Since we're fairly new to traveling around Vancouver Island, we'd also appreciate input from experienced adventurers on must-visit spots and activities.

If you're interested in joining or have suggestions, let us know! Let's plan a memorable getaway together. Contact Ken and Luana Buchanan

Club News

ORCA PROBUS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Guests were greeted with a festive setting of lights, and decorations downstairs of the Blackfin called the Dockside.

Evening formalities included MC Gerald Wendland's presentation on behalf of the club to Past President Bruce Ellis, thanking him for his leadership, commitment, and service as President 2023-24. Also, Gerald challenged the members to a Christmas trivial "pursuit"

The winner of the door prize was Elaine Walker. She took home a gift basket of Vancouver Island goodies.

Members were treated to a delicious 3 course plated meal.

Toes were soon tapping and guests were filling the dance floor, or simply enjoying the music of the "Barnacle Boogie Band".

Thank you to the Laura and Gerald Wendland, Judi MacGillivray and Robert Noon, Pat and Bruce Ellis, for a wonderful evening!



Club News

ORCA PROBUS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Club News

ORCA PROBUS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Club Activity News

Bowling



December 11 was our last bowling event for 2024. Even though Christmas activities were in full swing and shopping needed to be done, 13 players came out for fun and exercise.

Some great scores were had but the exceptional player was JILL ACKERMAN with a score of 424. This was an outstanding show never recorded with our group before. Jill really set the bar this day. Sneaking up behind Jill was NORM TRACE with 353 points. Another terrific score.

A group of us headed to Rhodos Café to finish off the afternoon.



Our next get together is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

On behalf on the Bowling group we wish all Club members a very Merry Christmas.



Marie Knowles

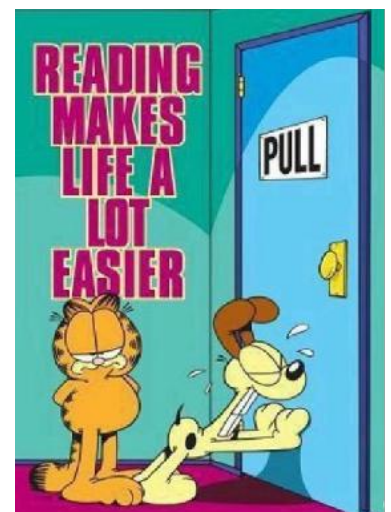
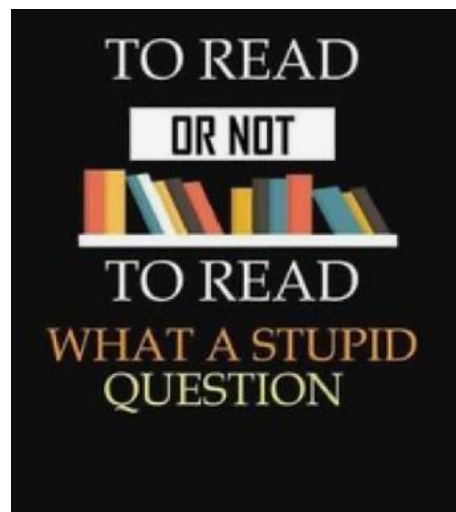


Club Activity News



BOOK
CLUB

The BookWorms held their wine, I mean wind up Christmas Potluck. A great time was held by all as they played a gift exchange game which elicited lots of laughter and groans (no injuries were reported).



Club Activity News



The group joined two award winning powerhouses - vocalist, Dawn Pemberton and bassist/bandleader, Jodi Proznick and an all-star band

as they brought a joyful and soulful bounce to favourite holiday classics.

The music included holiday classics made famous by Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Ella Fitzgerald, John Legend, Donny Hathaway, Otis Redding, Darlene Love, Vince Guaraldi, and more!



Their collaboration is a blend of natural harmony and mutual admiration. Dawn, a Vancouver soul dynamo with a love for rhythm and groove, and Jodi, an accomplished bassist and bandleader with an impressive career in jazz, have shared the stage many times before. However, this project has brought a new dimension to their partnership.



Club Activity News

HIKING



On 3 December we took advantage of a brief lull in the Fall rain to explore some of the nearby Forbidden Plateau bike trails.



PROBUS SINGERS AND FRIENDS



On December 17th, 25 brave people came out in the rainy weather to join in on the festive singing. We sang all the standards and holiday favourites. We even sang one song acapella as a request. It was glorious (at least to the ears of those in the room). The camaraderie continued as we shared hot apple cider and treats donated by several of the members. There was much joy and laughter as we shared the love of music and all agreed that we were all in the holiday spirit when it was over. We will continue to meet every other month, so the next session will be Tuesday, February 18th at 2:00. Please contact Rod and Debbie Olson if you are interested in joining the Orca Probos Singers.

Happy New Year!

Club Activity News

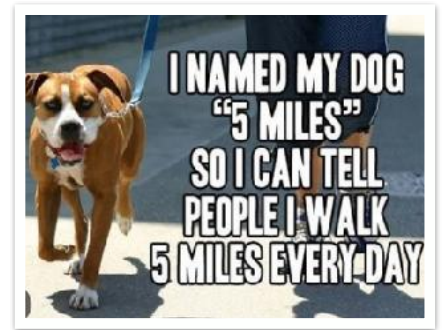


December walkers were a hearty bunch ignoring the rain and soggy paths and enjoying walks to the Rotary Rail Trail, Royston Wrecks, Tin Town, Melba's Pond at Seal Bay and finally,

Valleyview Greenway trail. We

did over 30 different walks during the year and are looking forward to many more. Happy New Year from the Orca Walking group!

A Merry Christmas cheer!



Trying to keep dry while we wait for a few more walkers and treats afterwards to end a fantastic year of walking and talking! Happy New Year!

Food For Thought

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL BORN IN 1930's, 1940's, 50's, and 60's !!!

First, you survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a tin, and didn't get tested for diabetes. Then after that trauma, your baby cots were covered with bright colored lead-based paints. You had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when you rode your bikes, you had no helmets, not to mention, the risks you took hitchhiking. As children, you would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a van - loose - was always great fun. You drank water from the garden hosepipe and NOT from a bottle. You shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this. You ate cakes, white bread and real butter and drank pop with sugar in it, but you weren't overweight because.....

YOU WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!! You would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach you all day. And you were OK. You would spend hours building your go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out you forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, you learned to solve the problem. You did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, no video tape movies, no surround sound, no mobile phones, no text messaging, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.

YOU HAD FRIENDS and you went outside and found them! You fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents you played with worms(well most boys did) and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever. You made up games with sticks and tennis balls and although you were told it would happen, you did not poke out any eyes. You rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them! Local teams had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!! The idea of a parent bailing you out if you broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law! This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever!

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. You had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and you learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL! And YOU are one of them! CONGRATULATIONS!