



Orca Probus Club NewsLetter

January

2024

Presidents Podium

Well welcome to 2024. I hope you made it through the celebration on New Years eve and wonder if any of you actually made it to midnight.



Bruce Ellis

It sure does not feel that much like winter with no snow. Not that I am complaining. My snowblower can sit idle in the garage all winter and I would not be disappointed.

Our daughter and her husband joined us for Christmas. Given that they travelled here from their home in Palm Beach Florida, they took our foggy, overcast weather in stride. They were hoping to go skiing but had to suffice with long walks in the forests.

2023 was actually a good year for Orca Probus. We gained a number of new people and our membership remains strong. At the January meeting we will be distributing the membership directory brochure. I do not know about you, but the pictures help my failing memory on who is who.

We had some fun over the last year. We had the great scavenger hunt in May, and a BQQ in July. Last fall gave us two great parties, the Octoberfest and the Christmas event which were well attended and enjoyed as well as a bus wine tour. This year we hope that with the right help we can have even more parties, just need a few members to volunteer to help organize.

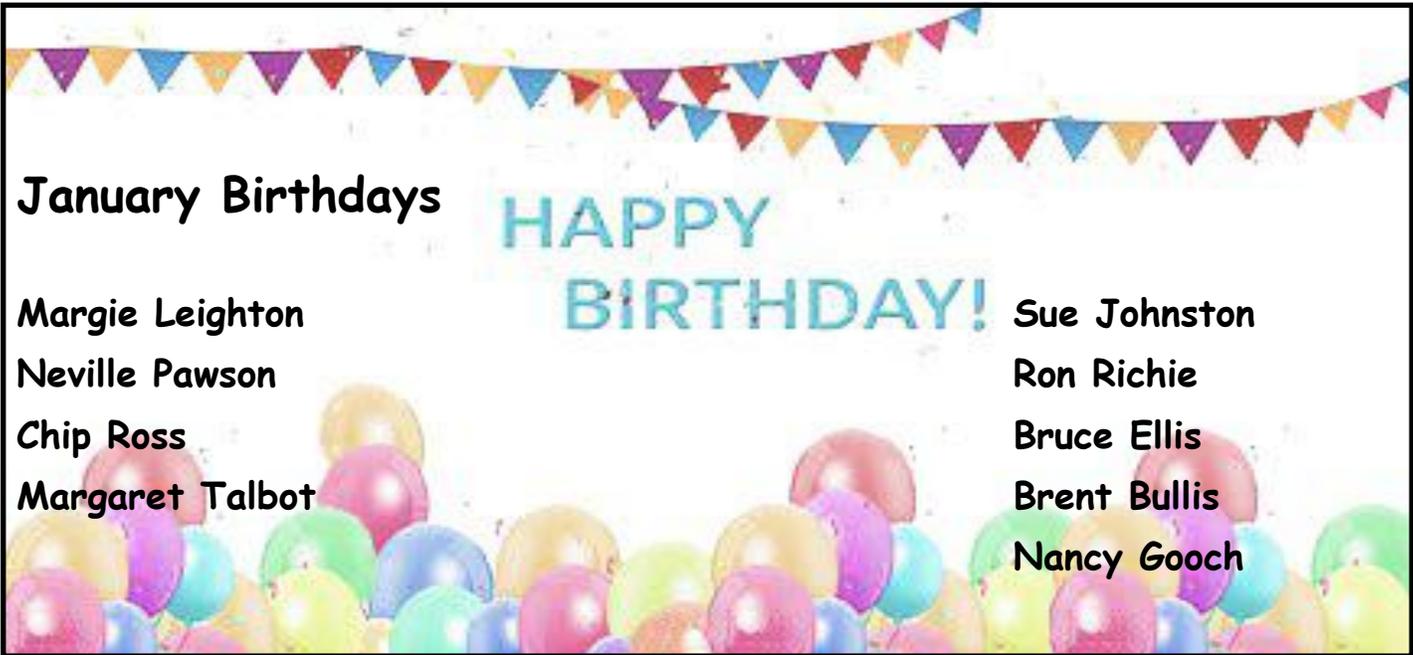
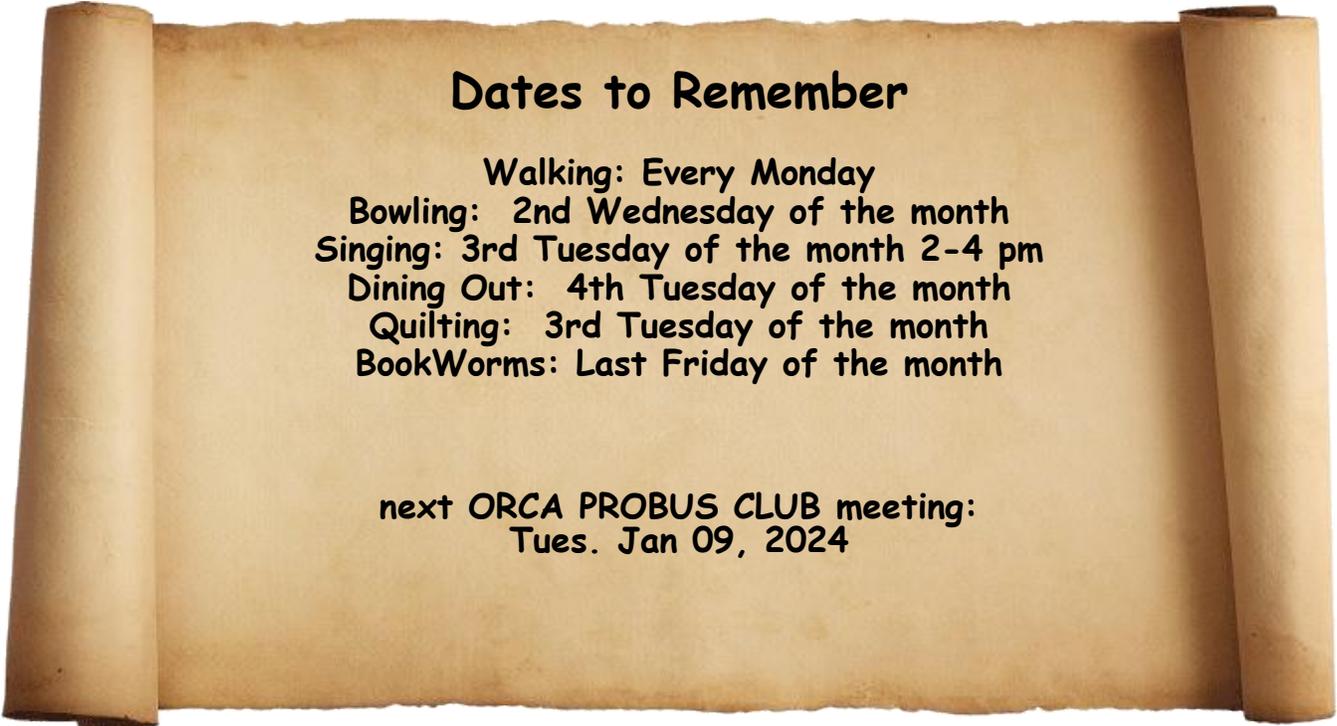
All the best to you all for the new year and may it bring continued good health.

Bruce

Club Executive

President	Bruce Ellis	Communication.....	Mike Wilson
Vice-President.....	Debbie Olson	Social	Barb Wilson
Secretary	Gwendolyne Kruger	Facilities.....	Rod Olson
Treasurer	Mike Naish	Past President	Marguerite Ancell
Membership.....	Pat Ellis	Sunshine	Deanna Provencher

Newsletter Contents			
Club Announcements	3	Activity Group Contacts	8
What's Up	4	Club Activity News	9-13
Club News	5,6,7	Things to Ponder	14



Club Announcements

Those members that attended the October meeting will recall the excellent presentation by our fellow Orca member Stan Gooch.

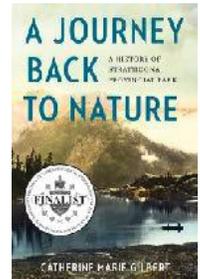
At the time he mentioned that he had a book about to be published. If you enjoyed his presentation you will certainly enjoy his book.

It is called Tales From A Diplomatic Life and is now available at the Blue Heron book store in Comox. It is a good read.

January's Speaker

Catherine Gilbert will speak about her latest book, "A Journey Back to Nature; A History of Strathcona Provincial Park" which won the Lieutenant Governor's Third Place Award for Historical Writing.

Catherine is a historian, lecturer and versatile freelance writer who has taught both European and Canadian history at the post-secondary level, and who specializes in BC coastal history. Catherine's talk is based on her current book which was published in the Spring of 2021, about the contentious history of BC's first provincial park, established in 1911 and in particular shedding light on the period of the 1930s to 1950s. Highlighted are the environmental battles fought in the early '50s and late 1980s by those who wished to protect the park from development by industry.



Bring the Puzzles Back!

Some of the members mentioned how they wished there were jigsaw puzzles on the book exchange table, especially now that the weather is getting cooler and wetter. Bring your unwanted puzzles to our next meeting, then ... pick up a puzzle that appeals to you, put it together over the month, then bring it back to the next meeting, and take a new one?

WHAT'S UP!



These pictures were taken by Ken and Luana Buchanan on a day trip to Havana whilst we were in Cuba.



Annie Judson's hiking trip to Northern Greece and Corfu



Club News



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

Evening formalities included President Bruce Ellis's presentation on behalf of the club to Past President Neil Brodie, in memoriam, with a donation to BC Cancer.

Barbara Hanson, Manager, delivered a greeting to the group. 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 Wilsons, Dykes, and Ellis' for a wonderful evening!



Club News



Club News



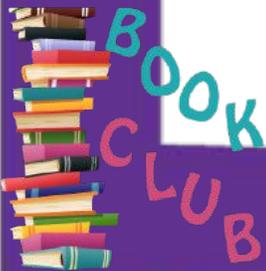
Susan Baldwin
winner of the
Christmas Gift
Basket filled with
items from the
Comox Valley.

The basket was
created by Bruce
and Pat Ellis

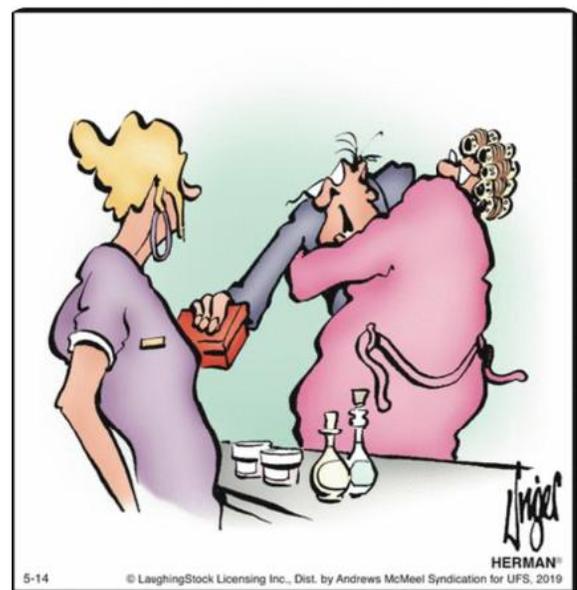


Club Activity News

The Bookworms enjoyed a wonderful and tasty lunch at Locals at the Old House. We Visited a lot and discussed the book "Small Things Like These" a small amount while savouring the food.



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HERMAN®
"When I told him it would be nice to have my breakfast in bed once in a while, he told me to sleep in the kitchen."



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HERMAN®
"My wife bought this and I want to return it." (c)

Club Activity News



We had 15 bowlers turn out on Dec 15 with 2 new players joining us. Lots of whooping and hollering filled the bowling alley. We still have lots of space for more bowlers so don't be shy to contact me to get your name on the list.

The "star" of the last event was Jill Ackerman who had a score of 205 on her 2nd game as she calmly threw 3 strikes in the 10th frame. Well done!!

Details for January are as follows:

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

TIME: 1:00 PM (please arrive by 12:45 pm)

PLACE: COOL'S COUNTRY LANES
(307 - 6th Street, Courtenay)

COST: \$14.90 per/person - **CASH ONLY PLEASE**

(Price includes two games; shoe rental and taxes)

We will arrange to go for coffee afterwards for those who are interested at the time.

Marie Knowles



Club Activity News

Hiking Group

On 14 December the hiking group explored the farthest (and wettest!) corners of Seal Bay.



"We forgot the food!"



"You getting athlete's foot is about as ridiculous as a coal miner with sunstroke!"

Club Activity News

PROBUS SINGERS AND FRIENDS



Who doesn't love singing Christmas carols and seasonal favourites? Well on December 12th, a large group of Probuc Singers got together and shared their love of music once again. The room was filled with wonder and memories were shared. At the break, we enjoyed some hot apple cider and some home made baking. The room was abuzz with the chatter of everyone visiting. What a special day!

The Probuc Singers will meet again on Tuesday, January 16th from 2 - 4. Happy New Year everyone!

Club Activity News



Walking

Well December was definitely wetter than November but we managed to get in three walks. The first walk started at the Lazo Swamp on probably the wettest day of 2023 but we are a hearty group and despite the lure of Christmas shopping, two of us showed up for an abbreviated version of the planned walk. The next walk started at the marina over to Filberg Park with a stop at Benito's for coffee. The last walk was the air park south. We are ready for a great new year with many scenic walks in the Comox Valley. New members are always welcome.



Things to Ponder!

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.

Generation Gap

