



Orca Probus Club NewsLetter

February

2024

Presidents Podium

Well, despite my wish in my January podium that I could get through the month without using my snowblower, as you know did not happen. Still a lot better than living in Calgary or Winnipeg.

Many believe that February is the most depressing month of the year. Fortunately it is also the shortest. But I believe Hallmark cards had also declared February as the most Romantic month of the year. Apparently to commemorate some guy that died in 270 AD.

This is also the month when many of our members abandon the glorious weather we have here in the Valley and risk sunburn and sand in their underwear visiting resorts in southern locales.

I would also have liked to seek warmer temperatures this month, but I feel that as the President of Orca Probus, I must stay here on duty just in case (unlike a certain Prime Minister) so Pat and I are not going anywhere until July.



Bruce Ellis

We will have several of our family visiting this month and, with other activities, I am sure the month will fly by.

We have a very good speaker lined up for our February meeting, so I hope to see you there.

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

Club Announcements

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Dates to Remember

Walking: Every Monday
Bowling: 2nd Wednesday of the month
Singing: 3rd Tuesday of the month 2-4 pm
Dining Out: 4th Tuesday of the month
Quilting: 3rd Tuesday of the month
BookWorms: Last Friday of the month

next ORCA PROBUS CLUB meeting:
Tues. Feb 13, 2024
2 PM

February Birthdays

Mark Simonson

Robyn Dickinson

Annie Judson

Albert Rachynski

Gwendolyne Kruger

Liz Van Boeschoten

Club Announcements

SAVE THE DATE !!

**PRISMA
Pacific Region International Summer Music Academy
Powell River**

SATURDAY JUNE 29, 2024

Although June seems a long way away, please enter this date into your calendars so you don't miss this great opportunity.

PRISMA organizers are working hard to fine tune all the details for the event and to determine an affordable price. We should have more concrete information by the March newsletter.

Co-Chairs: Marie Knowles and Lawrence Petkus



Alex and Mona Wile



February 25, 1974 & 50th anniversary photo - Alex received a Bronze medal at 20 years of marriage, Silver at 25 years, & was awarded GOLD for 50 years!!

Club Announcements

Please join us on February 13th to welcome Comox Valley resident Nick Holyome, an Invictus Games participant, as he speaks about "Recovery Through Sport".

Originally from the UK, Nick moved to Canada as a teenager and never left. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces after completing a biochemistry degree at the University of Toronto and served as an officer in the navy, army, special operations, and air force.

He deployed to Afghanistan on four occasions and worked with the counterterrorism teams. After retiring from the CAF, he went back to school and studied cybersecurity risk management. He now lives in Comox with his family and enjoys the many outdoor options available. He can be seen on his skis, bike or wind gear depending on the weather. Nick was selected for Team Canada Invictus Games The Hague in 2022 and also competed in Dusseldorf, Germany at Invictus Games 2023.



Mike Naish, 10 years with Orca
as of Feb. 11th.

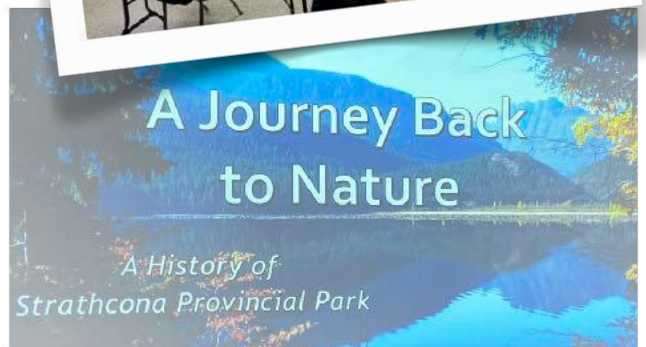
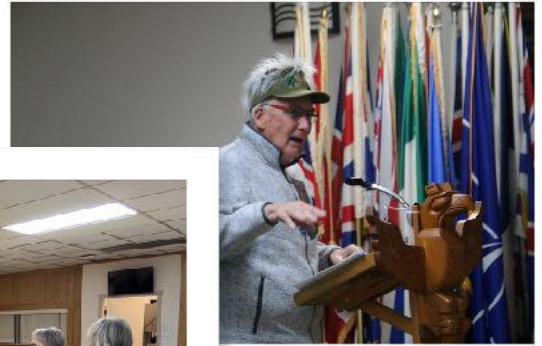


Those that attended the January meeting may recall I mentioned the tiny town Tregarva where we lived when I was born. It was small. This is an aerial photo taken, I believe, in 1954. The long red building in the picture is a one sheet, natural ice curling rink. This was, after all, Saskatchewan..... Bruce Ellis



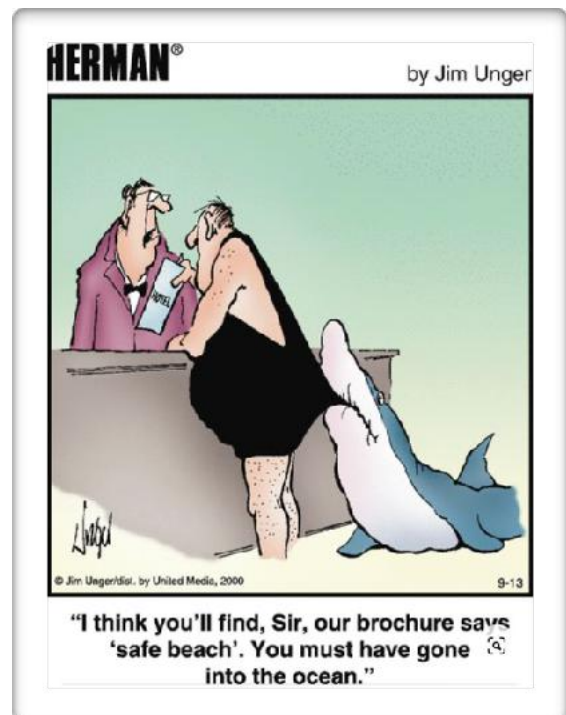
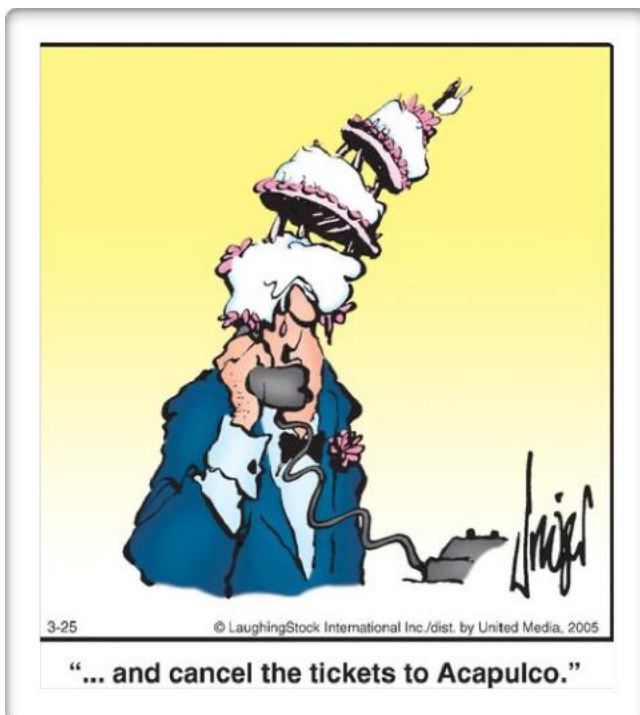
Club News

Action around the room at the January meeting!



Club News

Members Steve and Karen Jeffrey receiving their Orca Probus pins from club president Bruce!



Club Activity News

Bowling



What a great time we had at Bowling on January 10, 2024 - our first get together of 2024. 16 players were in attendance. Four full teams. Fantastic turnout.



Some great scores were achieved with 9 players going over 200. However, the super stars of the afternoon were: Jill Ackerman - 343 and Louise Casson with 302. Who knows what bowling accomplishments lay ahead for these gals. Story to be continued..... Congratulations!

After the event a group of 10 met up for coffee and treats at Rhodos Coffee and Bistro. What a wonderful way to end our afternoon and catch up with friends.



I can't thank the members who continuously support the Bowling Group. Thank you so much for your dedication and enthusiasm which you bring to the alley every month.

Anyone else wishing to join us for Bowling please contact me at the email below.

Marie Knowles

Club Activity News

Dining Out



Located in the bustling heart of Comox, Sushi Wara presents the same elegance and thoughtfulness that characterizes our authentic passion towards Japanese cuisine.

Club Activity News



The first Probus Singers and Friends for 2024 was held on Tuesday, January 16th. It was a lovely day, weather wise, and we just beat the snow by one day. The participants were excited about the set list and sang out with enthusiasm. Bruce Ellis always gives us very interesting tidbits about the songs which adds some fun to the afternoon. The next session will be February 20th so mark your calendars and come out. If you are not on the email list but would like to be, please reach out to Rod and Debbie Olson.



Club Activity News



Dining and Theatre



He stumped Penn & Teller twice on their hit TV show Fool Us. He lit up Times Square and amazed audiences all over the world. He is hailed as one of the most unique and innovative illusionists in the world.

Combining breathtaking visuals with Vitality's captivating style, An Evening of Wonders is an interactive theatrical experience that takes the audience on a magical journey. In this world paintings spring to life, photographs become minimovies, and audience members see their faces vanish from their own driver's licenses. Even time itself reverses as bare broken branches visibly repair and renew themselves with the green leaves



Mike, Barb, Georgia,
Gerald, Laura

Club Activity News

HIKING



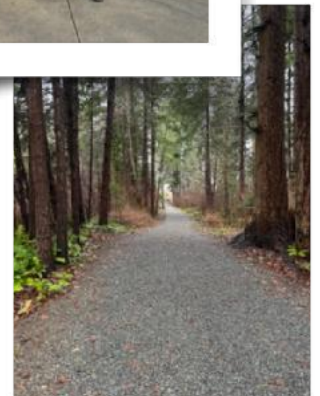
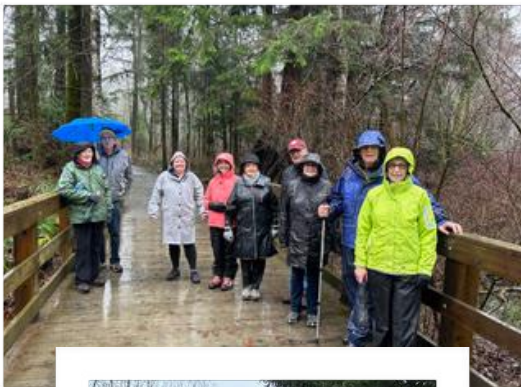
On 11 January dedicated members of the group met with the intention of hiking some of the lower Forbidden Plateau biking trails. However, snow and ice prevented safe parking at the trailhead, and a modified version of the route from an alternate starting point was shortened because of icy trails. Hopes of another hike later in the month met an even worse fate, dashed completely by the uncooperative weather. Sorry - no pictures from 11 January.

Jim

Walking



What a soggy, wet January we have had but that did not deter the hearty Orca Walkers. We walked The Rotary railway trail, downtown Courtenay, the Airpark and Tin Town walk and welcomed new member Carol. If you are interested in joining us email Melanie.



Club Activity News

Pub Club News

The group enjoyed themselves at the Dockside!



A little Valentine Humour

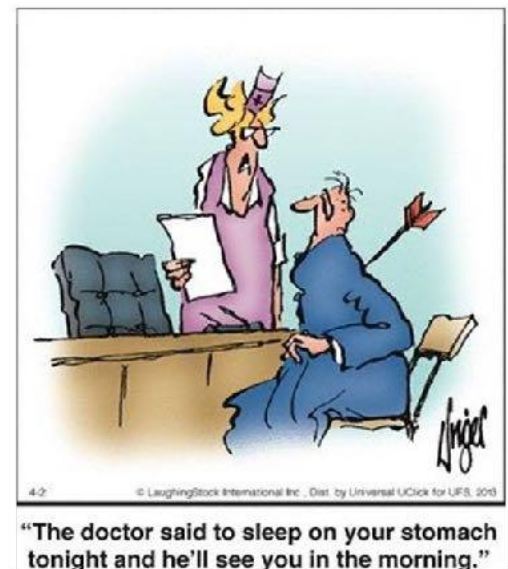
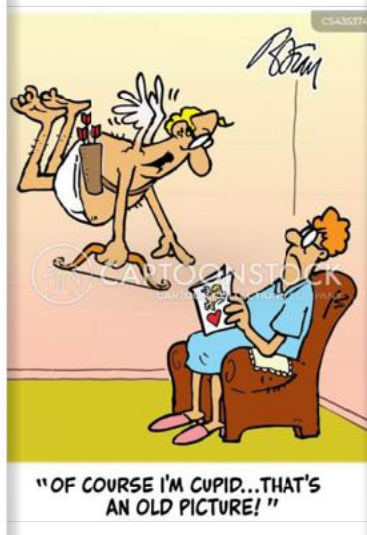
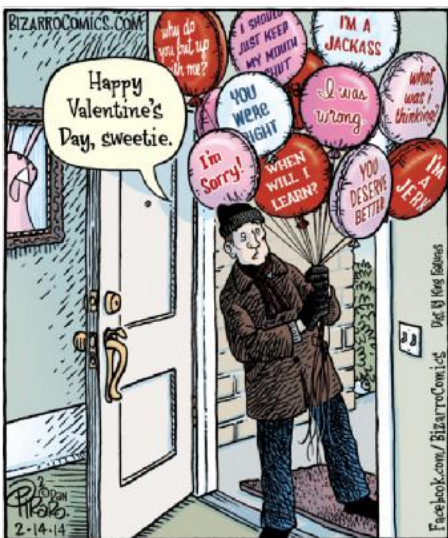
When was the first Valentine's day celebrated?

(I have no original source on this one so it may be fact or fiction.)

The lover's holiday has its beginnings in the 4th century B.C. in Rome. The Romans held an annual lottery wherein young men would draw a young woman's name from a box. The couple would be assigned to each other the entire year for entertainment and pleasure. This celebration, traditionally held on February 15, also included banquets, dancing and foot races run in the nude.

Around A.D. 496, early church fathers sought an end to the pagan practice, but knew better than to upset the citizens by removing the lottery completely. Instead, they had teenagers pull the names of saints from the box. The teen was supposed to spend the year emulating that saint's life as much as possible, which was probably not as much fun as naked marathons. St. Valentine was chosen as the patron saint of the new event, and young Roman men resorted to courting females by sending handwritten notes delivered on February 14.

Valentine's



Understanding Gender Differences

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine.

"House" for instance, is feminine: "la casa."
"Pencil," however, is masculine: "el lapiz."

A student asked, "What gender is 'computer'?"

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether "computer" should be a masculine or a feminine noun.

Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that "computer" should definitely be of the feminine gender ("la computadora"), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic;
 2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
 3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval;
- and
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be Masculine ("el computador"), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won.