

ORCA PROBUS CLUB

Comox Valley

NEWSLETTER

April 2021

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM



Howard Hill was probably the greatest archer who ever drew a bowstring. There is actual news reel footage of him shooting an arrow and hitting the target dead center of the bull's-eye and then with a second arrow splitting the first in half. He also established the record for winning the most bow-and-arrow field tournaments in succession, a total of 196. That is truly an incredible feat. I personally have never shot a bow-and-arrow unless you were to count the toy ones many of us had as kids. I would however lay down a bet that with only one hour of instruction with me as your teacher, you could go up against the likes of Howard Hill and be shooting and hitting the target with more consistency than he could on his best day.

Now, at this point you must be saying to yourself, "Wow! Miles must be an awesome teacher." or "That is crazy! How, would that even be possible?" Well first, you see, I would blindfold Howard Hill and then spin him around a few times so he had no clue where the target was and if he did somehow track it down, I would move it. This analogy of course is ridiculous. How can a person be expected to hit a target they cannot see or a target they cannot find or a target that is constantly on the move?

The world's present pandemic is making this a very relatable story. At this point in time, you are probably feeling a lot like a blindfolded, head spinning, confused Howard Hill. You begin to reset all your goals in accordance with the latest COVID-19 Provincial guidelines. You formulate a new plan for success based on this new up to date information and just when you are about to hit your target dead centre of the bull's-eye everything gets turned upside down and all around. Just when you think you know when and what you can do the rules change, restrictions increase and confusion along with frustration once again sets in.

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM CONTINUED

The Management Committee of The Orca Probus Club share in your disappointment. We also struggle to hit certain targets but like you, continue to work hard at weaving our way through this unprecedented COVID maze. We would love nothing more than to get our activities back up and running. We can hardly wait to begin planning for social get togethers. We look forward to getting back to The Legion for our General Meetings and of course The Pub Club afterwards. From time to time, we even get a little ahead of ourselves and begin taking baby steps towards normalcy only to be reminded that we need to rein in the team and hold our horses.

It was Winston Churchill who said, "Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm." So, be assured that without a doubt, we will enthusiastically continue to shoot arrows into the air. We will do this with the hope they might hit an everchanging elusive target and with the knowledge that we may have to retrieve those arrows, sheepishly put them back into our quiver and wait a little bit longer before taking another shot. Patience after all is the companion of wisdom.

- President Miles

GOLF GROUP

We are off to a great start with thirty members signed up. If you haven't signed up yet and would like to join us, please contact me at the email below.

Our first golf date is set for **Thursday, April 22nd** at Comox Golf Club, for nine holes and "possible" dine. Unfortunately we will not know until Monday the 19th, what the COVID restrictions and protocols will be as it is an ever changing scene. In the mean time an email will be sent to PROBUS golf club members with the details we have so far and requests for signup for the 22nd.

Dave Pacholuk

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APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04	Joan Matheson	20	Lynne Pringle
06	George Fettes	22	Louise Casson
10	John Powell	26	Dave Matheson
11	Barbara Wilson	27	Alan Tippet
14	Ken Talbot	28	Nancy Larkin
14	Beth Ritchie	29	Derek Mowatt
14	Richard Williams	30	Don Bertram

MILESTONES

In April 2011, Deanna Provencher and Lawrence Petkus joined Orca Probus, and we wish them a happy 10th anniversary with our club.

Thief steals wheels from Police Car. Cops are working tirelessly to nab suspect.

APRIL MEETING

Ken Beattie is an engaging and enthusiastic speaker who has presented on seven continents. During the Canadian winters he often lectures about luxury cruise lines with exotic ports of call in South America, Africa, the Mediterranean and the South Pacific. Ken has been a professional horticulturist for over 25 years, with 14 years of television experience.

Join us on April 13 for Ken's presentation about the exotic landscapes, gardens and people that he has visited on his cruises.

Please join us on Zoom for this presentation on Tuesday, April 13th at 2:00 p.m.

We asked members to tell us about projects that have filled their time.

Joan Matheson sent in these pictures of 2 UFO quilts she completed.

(Editors note: I had to look up UFO because I did not see any flying saucers, but to quilters it means Unfinished Object).

The one on the right is made up of pieces that other Probus quilters gave her in an exchange meeting some time ago.



Karen Ross offers a paper-pieced quilt called the “Elephant Abstraction”, a 54” x 60” inch project. Karen says it was very much like doing a puzzle.



More quilts finished during lockdown – these were made by Beth Ritchie.



Pandemic Pastimes: Working With Trees

It was just about a year ago when we decided to get away from the growing hassles of the early pandemic period, and headed out to our summer cottage on one of the small off-grid Gulf Islands (Ruxton Island, 5 km off Cedar/Yellow Point).

During our months there the previous summer, I had started gathering deadfall and cutting down a few dead/dying trees as a way of reducing fire hazard. It was still cool when we arrived last March, so I started bucking up the accumulated logs to fill up our woodshed to heat the house. This turned into a huge summer-long project, and I eventually had enough arbutus and fir bucked and split that I had to build a new and bigger woodshed. We capped off last fall by FINALLY getting a new metal roof installed on the house and the woodsheds.

All that dry wood was a blessing when we were at the cottage again in February during the big snowfall.

My ongoing "tree" project is genealogy, which I've dabbled at on and off for forty years, barring a major hiatus when our kids were small. Of late I have been spending one to five hours a day delving through the records and have now managed to push six of our eight main family lines back into the late to early 1200s. Evelyn's ancestry is all from the Netherlands, and research on Dutch ancestry is surprisingly easy. Their record-keeping has always been good (thanks to Napoleon), and you usually aren't faced with ancestors who crossed the seas in the 1800s, leaving a cold or non-existent trail. I was able to trace Evelyn's Mother's maternal line into the early 1500s in about three months' work.

My "tough nut" is my Mother's maternal line. Like a lot of Albertans, they immigrated from Bukovina (now split between Romania and Ukraine). The family had a Germanic, not Ukrainian background, however. In the late 1800s the Austro-Hungarian land-owning aristocracy had encouraged skilled German-speaking workers to settle in Bukovina, to work in mines and in the forest industry. When those industries floundered in Bukovina, large groups of neighbours and family members came en masse to the Prairies, often taking up farming.

One interesting coincidence . . . my Mother's only brother flew out of an RAF bomber base in Yorkshire during the war, and was killed on a mission over France in April, 1944. My family tree research has revealed that his airbase was very close to where his ancestors lived in the late 1600s. I like to think he might have ridden his bike past their homes and graves on his days-off rambling.

- Rod Keith

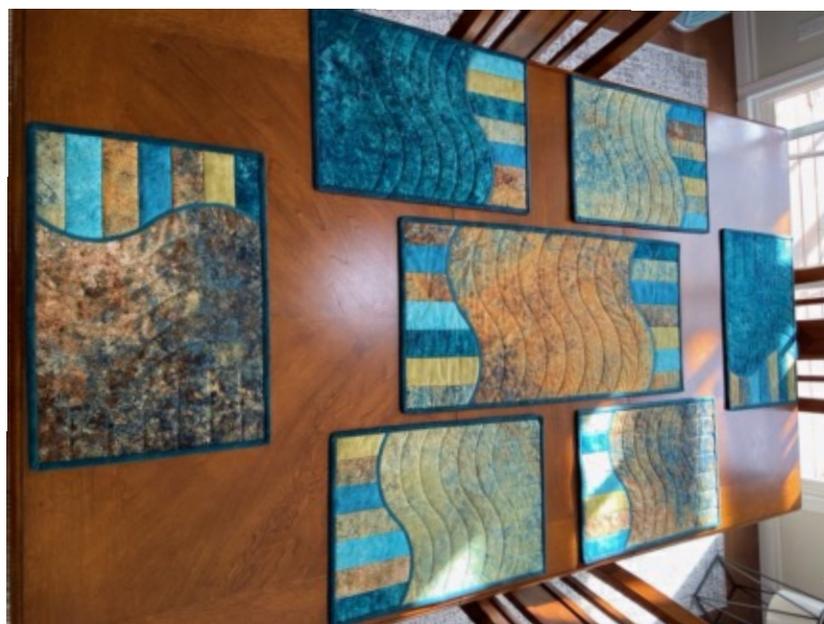
Michelangelo painted on ceilings, Leonardo Da Vinci painted on boards.
Miles Jones paints on rocks.



As some of you are aware, my hobby is building model ships from scratch. I recently completed a model of the 1830 French steam-powered frigate, Le Sphinx. Ordinarily, this would've taken me at least 2 years to build, but with all the COVID time on my hands, I was able to complete this in just over a year. - Bruce Ellis



Barbara Wilson has been busy sewing up fancy placemats for their kids.



Caroline Urquhart fills her time with Cross Stitching.



Cricket Price started a new hobby during these past few months: needle felting. After graduating from "dog toys", she is now into "whimsy". This little bunny is wishing everyone a happy spring!



OUTDOOR PROJECTS

Mike Naish is getting a jump on spring by starting his seedlings in his greenhouse.



Tim Ackerman moved into a Strata patio home a while back.

Tim was always active in yardwork in his previous home. With time on his hands, he is busy as an unpaid strata worker for all the units. Painting and washing and trimming hedges.



Marilyn Morris built another obelisk based on the plans she obtained from Barb Wilson. A nice addition to her garden.



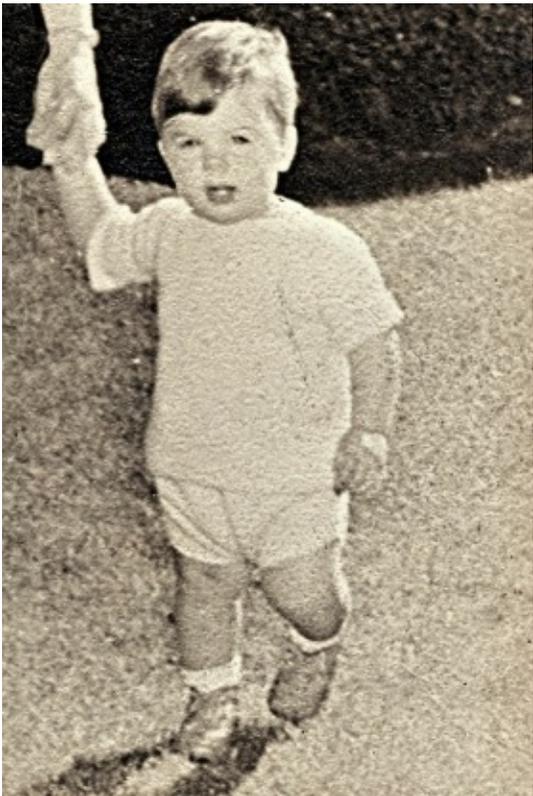
Guess who these people are? This is what they looked like when they were young.

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