

ORCA PROBUS CLUB

Comox Valley

NEWSLETTER

January 2021

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM



It has been said that change is as good as a rest. In that case, good-bye 2020, do not let the door hit you in the butt on the way out. Better yet, welcome 2021, with its fresh start and renewed hope. I personally love the smell of possibility. A lot of us even under normal circumstances look at a new year as a perfect opportunity to set goals and to change at least some of our more unfortunate habits. This is never an easy task. It is a known fact that 80 percent of New Year's resolutions fail miserably.

The key to success is to remember that you are not going to master the rest of your life in one day, so relax. Begin with mastering the day, then keep doing that every day for a month. Stephen Covey said, "It takes 30 days to make a new habit and 3 days to break it." The good news is that failure means you are trying, and there will always be a refresh or restart button waiting for you when things go awry.

It reminds me of the story of two Pirates who found themselves sitting in a Tavern, swapping some yarns over a bottle of Rum. The first Pirate says to the other, "Arrrr, I see you've come on some hard times, Lad, as you have a wooden peg where your real leg once was. What happened?" The second Pirate says, "Well, the boys was having some fun with me on the ship one day, you see, and they made me walk the plank, and before I was able to get back on board, a shark came and RRRRIPPED! me leg right off. So, I have this wooden one in its place, but," he retorted "I see you've also come on some hard times, as you have a hook where your hand once was. What happened to you, Lad?"

Well," the first Pirate said, "our ship was being attacked one day, so I swung the cannon around and as I was a ramming in the powder, off she blew and took me hand with it, so I have this hook, you see." That said, the second Pirate took a swig of his rum and continued, "but not only do you have a hook where your hand once was, you also have a patch over your eye." The first Pirate just looked at him with his one good eye and groaned, "I was a climbing the rigging one day, going up to the Crow's nest, you know, looking skyward, when a Seagull she flies over and drops one right in me eye." The second Pirate looks aghast and stammered, "That caused you to lose the sight in your eye?" "No," murmured the first Pirate as he took a swig of his Rum, "but you know I'd only had the hook for a couple of weeks ..."

It truly does take 30 days to make a new habit, and things may go wrong. Remember, take one day at a time, and before you know it, there will be less negativity, more music; less clutter, more sunsets; less grudges, more creating; less waste, more laughter Whatever your resolution is, just go for it, and **Cheers to a new year and another chance to get it right.**

- President Miles



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Marilyn Hemmelgarn
- 06 Mary Hutton
- 07 Margie Leighton
- 08 Chip Ross
- 10 Margaret Talbot
- 10 Pamela Melko
- 13 Sue Johnston
- 14 Ron Ritchie
- 18 Bruce Ellis

January 12 Meeting

Jodi Cohen is the guest speaker at our January 12th Club meeting. She will speak about the month she spent in Paris, France, three years ago. Jodi is a happily transplanted Calgarian who moved to the the Island 8 years ago, when she retired from a long career at the City of Calgary. In Campbell River, she has volunteered with the Curriculum Committee of ElderCollege. Since moving here, travelling has become a new love, and she has had the good fortune of enjoying several great trips.

Please join us at our Zoom meeting on January 12th for Jodi's PowerPoint presentation. Details on how to sign in will be sent to you by January 10th.

Q: What is a New Year's resolution?

A: Something that goes in one year and out the other.

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in.

A pessimist stays up to make sure 2020 leaves!

New Year's Eves to Remember

Some of our members recall better years in the past ...

Early in 1997, a good friend knew that the 1999 New Year's Eve, the eve of the New Millennium, would be special, so he booked the Ballroom at the Prince of Wales Hotel, the best hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He and his wife then invited 80 friends and relatives to join them for a truly memorable party in '99.

As 1999 rolled around and Y2K became the topic of the year, the hotel realized that it was going to be a huge deal, and tried to buy him out the contract so they could hold their own affair (and charge a lot more). Our friend held firm, no dice.

So, on December 31st, 1999, we gathered in Tuxes and Gowns in the Prince of Wales Ballroom for a fancy dinner and dance. We had flashlights and candles ready for midnight, in case the forecasted disaster occurred, but no problem.

What a party we had that night!

- Bruce Ellis

Year: 1971; Isolated Stewart BC (accessed by float plane or cargo ship)

Ladies with shimmering gowns, upswept coiffures, corsages flown in.

Gents with three piece suits, ties, pointy shoes, and lapel pins.

Laughter, dancing, handshakes, and hugs,

As spirited refreshments poured from the jugs.

Midnight struck, champagne flew through the air,

So much joy and celebration to share.

But oh what a shock as we stepped out that night,

Not a vehicle to be found, buried out of sight!

Ladies hitched up their dresses, gents led the way,

As we all stumbled home on New Year's Day.

(Stewart held Guinness's World Record for snowfall that year:

1196 inches – 96 feet!)

-Isabelle & David Pacholuk

1962, England... My two sisters and I were at a New Year's Eve costume party. The theme was pirates and sea captains. (Appropriate as there were a lot of snooty naval college undergraduates at the party.) Rapid temperature drops were forecast with blowing snow, but why did we care! We were young!

However, when things began to look bad at 11:00 pm we decided to leave. We walked into horizontal snow, a real blizzard. We did manage to get to the main road and navigated that. However, turning east to cross country, the car started to splutter. The snow was so light it was blowing through the grill and shorting the electricals. Snow was piling up in the narrow country lanes and very soon, we ran into a snowbank. The car would not restart and so we had to abandon the car and trudge back to the nearby village of Winterbourne. My younger sister was in flip flops and none of us were dressed for the conditions of 18F. Eventually we knocked on the door of a house where the owners welcomed us in and allowed us to sleep on their sofas, and we were able to phone our parents.

The owners who took us in were extremely hospitable, and gave us breakfast in the morning. By this time all roads were completely blocked with snow. The owners fitted my younger sister up with some boots and we walked home, about 5 miles. We could not walk through the country roads as they were all blocked with snow, but the fields were pretty easy to navigate as all the snow had been blown into the hedgerows.

Fast forward 50 years. The author J K Rowling went to High School in Winterbourne, and the opening scene in one of the first Harry Potter movies looked exactly like that same house where we had sheltered that snowy night. That opening scene in Harry Potter was most definitely filmed in Winterbourne.

- Mike Naish

I prefer my Kale with a silent K ...

For chemists, Alcohol is not a problem, it's a solution.

Ackerman's have often hosted many a New Year's Eve party, and the tradition has always been to wear a 'head or face ornament'.

Last year, 2019 Eve, we were missing the Ellegoods as they were in Holland; but the party shouldered onwards, and we shared a great night with close friends. The food shared was superb, but it was the game of 'Catch Phrase' that had us in hysterics, men against the women; thus, another great time had by all!

I know Jill takes a great many photos, but she's glad she does, so that we can reflect back on our gatherings and remember when we could sit together without masks and hug each other at midnight.

Quote from the Yukon Premier, Sandy Silver, [who] capped a media session by saying: "no pressure 2021, but we're all looking forward to a better year."

Dr. Taslim Alani-Verjee adds, ... "Life doesn't go backwards, and those who want things to go back to that level will probably be disappointed."

Quote: "While some may be wary of being too optimistic, psychology experts say feeling hopeful is a welcome change. Public officials have even been inserting messages of hope into news conferences..."

So, with Hope and Faith in human kind, may we take each day as a gift and enjoy these precious moments, as we believe that we are the fortunate ones who are alive and healthy. Cheers, we survived 2020!!

- Tim Ackerman



The year was 1999, the day December 31st, the place, Vienna, Austria. Margaret and I were living at the time in a roof-top apartment in central Vienna, close to St. Stephen's Cathedral (Stephensdom). With some friends, we had decided to join the city celebration for the New Millennium.

Festivities were held all through the city, with every square having its own entertainment. We chose the Stephensdom Square, where throngs of Viennese were dressed in all their finery and drinking Champagne. We naturally joined the proceedings and purchased flutes of bubbly, only to be told that, having purchased the first, refills were free!

By the time midnight came around, we were somewhat merry, and filled our glasses in anticipation of the chiming of the Cathedral's big bell. Apparently it has a flaw and is only allowed to be rung once a year, at the New Year. At midnight sharp, it chimed a single base tone which reverberated through the Square, upon which everybody took a large drink of Champagne and started hugging and kissing everyone within reach. Then something startling occurred, the champagne flutes were being flung to the ground. Within the hour, the cobbles were covered with shattered glass. Well, of course we did likewise, and then strolled over what felt like a carpet of eggshells back to the apartment, wondering a little about what had just happened.

The next morning, about 9:00 am, we sauntered back to the Square, and to our utter amazement, found not one trace of glass or debris. The city had been wiped completely clean of last night's revelry, leaving only the memories. That's Vienna for you!

- Ken Talbot



When you are a person of - shall we say - greater age than your kids, there are a lot of New Year's Eves that your mind flashes back to. First thoughts are bits and pieces of past parties. A few that make me smile, that I shall keep to myself. But I have to admit, this year will be unlike any New Year's Eve that we have ever celebrated. It's the end of the year that saw things we have never seen before. I have to admit I can hardly wait till the clock strikes 12:01 AM and we can say goodbye to a year that was filled with a lot of challenges and experiences.

Maybe my story is more about what I've learned, rather than a party. This year I've learned to never take a hug for granted, or having time with the people I love and care about, for granted. On a lighter but very important note, I also now know where everything is in my fridge, and exactly where everything is in my freezer! That was a good thing. I have been to some great New Year's Eve parties and have memories from everything from dancing till I had blisters, to laughing so hard I thought I would burst, to having put out a fire on the dining room table when we forgot exactly where to set the burners under the hot rocks for dinner.

Quite the party! Especially since we had had that Emergency Preparedness presentation where we talked about having fire extinguishers in our house. Somehow in the excitement of the moment, the brain absolutely went blank. Fortunately we only damaged a few things on the table, and had to throw all that wonderful food away (because of some fast spills in our efforts to demolish the fire), but put it out we did. I'd call that an embarrassing New Year's Eve moment! So here we are, looking at a New Year's Eve again, but I must say I'm grateful for family and friends that are doing well and staying healthy.

This WILL be a better year. We are on the horizon of great improvement! So, let's raise a glass, everyone, and a huge Happy New Year to us all. We shall see you all on the other side of this, and boy oh boy, there will be a party that will probably be the best New Year's party ever!

— Bev Oulette



In the latter half of the '80's, our family was living in Calgary. The city was preparing for the XV Winter Olympic Games, which would bring the whole world to Calgary in February of 1988.

But this was 1987, and it was New Year's Eve. We were hosting my side of the family for the Christmas Holidays. The city was planning something special for New Year's Eve, and we thought this would be a great way to have a fun evening with my two sisters and two brothers.

The event was to start at 7:00 pm at the recently-completed Olympic Plaza in downtown Calgary. This was to be the venue for the evening medal presentations during the Olympics, and this party was to be a "dry run" to test things like crowd control, staging and so on. We ate a quick meal, then jumped on the C-Train.

The train was soon packed with people, all heading where we were going. The crowds were even thicker when we piled off the train and walked onto the Plaza. Everyone was in a jubilant mood. We stood in the midst of the jam of people, estimated to be 40,000, and rocked to 4 hours of musical acts – what a blast! And then, the headliners took the stage... The Nylons, Canada's premier accapella group. They were riding high on the charts, and put on a spectacular show, singing all their hits – Me and the Boys, Duke of Earl, Up on the Roof, The Lion Sleeps Tonight, Combat Zone, and of course, Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye. What a fabulous concert – the whole crowd was into it.

When the evening ended we were still on a high, riding back on the C-Train, singing "Na Na Na Na ...". And, believe it or not, it was a DRY evening!

I wonder if any of our Orca Club members were there?

- Pat Ellis

New Year's is just a holiday created by calendar companies who don't want you reusing last year's calendar.

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the New Year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter!