



Orca Probus Club NewsLetter

November

2023

Presidents Podium

October is drawing to a close and we enter November. The month to relax before the flurry of events that December and Christmas will bring. Pat and I had a very quiet Thanksgiving this year. Family who were supposed to visit had to reschedule but we still prepared the full Turkey extravaganza. Even with just the two of us we still could offer thanks and consider how well off we are.

With all the problems in the middle east and Ukraine, the fire destruction through the interior, we are fortunate to live in the Paradise of Comox Valley.

As I write this podium, the sun is shining, the Comox Glacier is glistening over crystal clear mountains and the trees are in colour.

How fortunate we are to live here and for that we give thanks.

Cheers Bruce

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Club Executive

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

Newsletter Contents			
Club Announcements	3-7	Activity Group Contacts	12
What's Up	8	Club Activity News	13-20
Club News	9-11	Things to Ponder	21

Dates to Remember

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

Christmas Dinner/Dance: Dec 5, 2023

next ORCA PROBUS CLUB meeting:
 Tues. November 14, 2023



Club Announcements



July 3, 1941 - September 29, 2023

In Loving Memory ~

Neil Whitman Brodie passed away peacefully in his home in Courtenay, B.C. on September 29th with Sadie, his wife of 57 years, by his side and a view of his beloved garden.

Born in 1941 to John and Jean Brodie, Neil grew up in Port McNeill, Agassiz, and Nanaimo. He attended UVic to become a teacher and moved to Williams Lake to teach in 1964 where he met his bride and fellow teacher, Sadie (Sarah). They moved to the Comox Valley in 1966 and welcomed their son Adam in 1974. Neil was a teacher in the Comox Valley for 31 years.

Neil was dedicated to wildlife and fish conservation and was a lifetime member of the Courtenay Fish and Game Club for 56 years. He was also an enthusiastic gardener and avid traveler in his retirement. He loved a good joke and telling tall tales, most often paired with a good scotch.

He will be greatly missed by his wife Sadie, sisters Leonor (Bruce) and Pat, brother Pete (Catrin), and stepmother Kathleen.

He also will be greatly missed by his niece Suzanne, and his nephews Scott, Ross, James, Will and Ben and their families, as well as nieces in Scotland and his many friends: golfing, fishing, and hunting buddies, Seal Bay neighbours and the Probus Club.

Neil was predeceased by his son Adam and the two are likely now catching some big fish together again.

A celebration of life will be held on November 18 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Courtenay Fish and Game Club, 3780 Colake Road, Comox, B.C.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to BC Cancer Society.

Condolences may be offered at www.telfordtoneffboyd.ca

Club Announcements

November Speaker

"Russia and Ukraine: Then and Now"

STEWART GOODINGS

A former Assistant Deputy Minister in both the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia, Goodings has experience in policy development, program delivery, executive education and international development. His career assignments included a Royal Commission, a central agency, several line departments, a Crown Corporation, as well as national non-governmental organizations.

He has provided expert advice on technical assistance projects in East Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia, the Caribbean and South America, with a particular focus on civil service reform, executive education, gender equality and inter-governmental relations. He has also organized study tours in Canada for visiting experts from other countries related to municipal administration, legal and judicial affairs, and public sector reform. His clients have included the Association of Universities and Colleges, the Canadian Bureau for International Education, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs.

Under contract with the federal Public Service Commission, he continues his work as a coach and mentor for federal managers. He was the founding Executive Director of the International Program at the Canadian Centre for Management Development, now the Canada School for Public Service.

A graduate in history of Queen's University, and the University of Toronto, he now lives in Comox and Denman Island, BC. He is Chair of the Denman Island Readers and Writers Festival, and is the author of a novel published in 2022, titled *My Friend, My Enemy*, inspired by his experiences visiting Russia and Ukraine on technical assistance missions in the 1995-2015 period.

Club Announcements



CHRISTMAS DINNER/DANCE
Dockside (lower Blackfin) Banquet Room
Tuesday, December 05, 2023

5:00pm Doors Open 6:00pm Dinner

Cash Bar

Entertainment/Dance w/Barnacle Boogie Band

See Menu on next page

Ticket Sales
Members - \$65.00 Guests - \$75.00

CASH or CHEQUES (payable to Orca Probus)
or
eTransfer - payable to orcaprobus@gmail.com
(ticket will be emailed to you)

Tickets available at monthly meeting
or
at any time by contacting
Mike Wilson _____

No cancellations after November 24th

Club Announcements

Christmas Party Menu

Crunchy Kale Salad
Moroccan Carrot Salad
Warmed bread, buns, whipped butter
Served family style

MAINS

Choice of:

BEEF

7 oz NY Striploin, black garlic butter, peppercorn demi, garlic smashed potatoes, broccolini, asparagus

CHICKEN

Chicken supreme, wild mushroom cream, herb roasted potatoes, roasted winter vegetables

FISH

Poached wild BC salmon, dill cream, citrus risotto, broccolini, asparagus



DESSERT

Choice of:

Espresso Chocolate Mousse

NY Cheesecake, toffee pecan praline, whipped cream

Mixed berry fruit crumble, vanilla bean ice cream

GFO - Sorbet

Dark roast coffee and specialty teas

(Please inform Barb Wilson of any food allergies)

Club Announcements

If you are celebrating a marriage anniversary of 50 or 60 yrs., please agree to have your milestones announced in the Probus newsletter. Send in a picture of your marriage and a current picture.

Alice and Stan Strilchuck celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 13, 2023 Congratulation!



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!



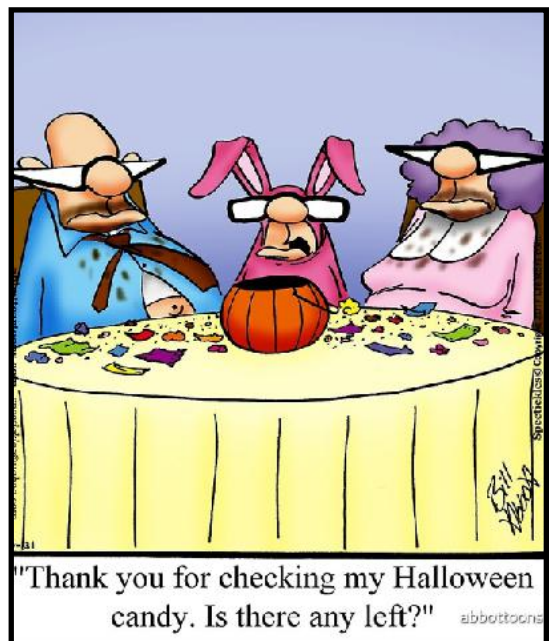
Fall Colours

Spring Creek Ranch, Fort Steele, BC 800 acres of organic land. Raised 50 years of Thoroughbred race horses and now grows organic hay and beef cattle. Paradise if you don't mind working hard.

Halloween Quote:

"There is a child in every one of us who is still a trick-or-treater looking for a brightly-lit front porch."

Unknown



"Thank you for checking my Halloween candy. Is there any left?" abbottoons



"Why would anyone rent us a nine-bedroom house for \$200 a month?"

10-31

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Club News

Members taking part in the October meeting



Members receiving their badges

(L to R) Diane Collins, Margaret/
Alan Taylor, Vangie and Vince
McCarthy standing with President
Bruce Ellis

Club News



Members working for you!

Thanks to Barb and Mike Wilson, Val and Dave Dyke for the organization and planning of the Oktoberfest party and Dave Vick, DJ extraordinaire.

Thank you to members who stepped forward to prepare the food and decorate the tables. Many thanks goes out to: Art & Mary Jane Rees; Debbie and Rod Olson; Sue Johnston; Georgia McClellan; Jill Ackerman; Val Dyke and Gail Embury. Special thanks to Dave Dyke who prepared the bratwurst, using his special recipe.



Club News



Club Activity News

Ten Orca bookworms met at Mary Jane Rees' home to discuss our most recent novel, "Gone, But Still Here". The book is fiction but closely follows the author's own life and is mostly based in Canada. It explores the experience of caring for a family member who is suffering from

Alzheimer's disease and in the story also identifies racial issues that affected the family.

A comprehensive and very interesting discussion was lead by Evelyn K.

The group's next book is "The Island Without Trees".



Club Activity News



Our first get together of the season on Wednesday, October 11th went off very well. 11 players were in attendance with 5 of those being brand new members. In total there are 19 players on the bowling list but there is always space for more, so let me know if you are interested.

There was lots of fun, laughter, cheers and high fives going on so for sure everyone was pleased to be back for the season.

Georgia McLellan bowled 4 strikes - she was on fire. Afterwards 8 of us gathered at Rodos Café for more social time.

Details for November are as follows:

DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

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

PLACE: CODES COUNTRY LANES
(307 - 6th Street, Courtenay)

COST: \$13.85 per/person - CASH ONLY (price includes 2 games; shoe rental and taxes)

Marie Knowles



Club Activity News



Dining and Theatre



The group enjoyed a meal at Yiamas Greek Taverna and attended the Robin Williams tribute.



I recently discovered the benefits of a good vocabulary.....A very old university friend of mine called me recently to have a little chat and I first asked him what he was working on these days.....he said he was working on "Aqua-Thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum and steel under a constrained environment"....I was actually quite impressed until, upon further inquiry, I learned that he was washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision.

Club Activity News



Dining In



Alice and Stan Strilchuck hosted Rod and Debbie Olson as well as Lynette and Michael Lynch on Friday, October 20th.



On October 23, Dave and Joan Matheson hosted Marilyn and Gene Morris along with Mike and Barb Wilson



Dining Out

15 members met at the Kinaree Thai restaurant



Club Activity News



Pub Club

The group enjoyed themselves at the Church Street Tap House after the monthly meeting. Lots of conversation and suds were enjoyed.



Club Activity News

PROBUS SINGERS AND FRIENDS



On a very windy, rainy, Tuesday, there were 26 singers from Strathcona, Orca and Glacier Probus groups who joined their voices in song. The energy in the room was palpable and the sounds remarkable. With Rod Olson, Ken and Noreen Rowley on guitars, we were led through decades of songs that brought back memories and made everyone smile. Bruce Ellis did a top-notch job of introducing each song and giving a brief history. We always hear new and interesting details that often surprise us. This group meets the third Tuesday of each month from 2 - 4, and if you would like to be added to the email list, please contact [Rod and Debbie Olson](#). All are welcome! Just look at the smiles on the faces of those in attendance.

Club Activity News



Walking

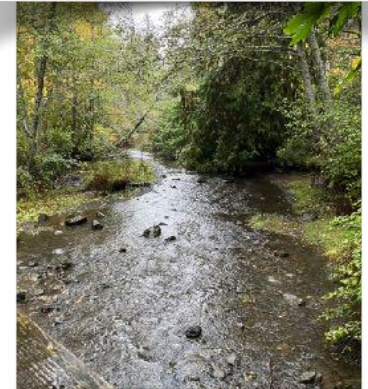
I realize it was a bit damp today, but a few intrepid Walkers joined in for the Estuary walk today on October 2nd. The weather channel lied when they told me that the rain would let up this afternoon, but no big deal. It was at best a drizzle.

Temperature was great and there were so many leaf colours to enjoy. At one point there was a sign on a property with a ripe apple tree encouraging walkers to pick as many of the apples that we wanted. So we each picked a couple to bring home. Patty is making applesauce tonight to go with our pork steaks.

On the way back we paused to look at the Millard Creek. The last time we walked this route, the creek bed was bone dry.

Nice walk. Not soaked but a little damp when we got back to the cars.

Bruce



Oct 16 walk on the Puntledge



Oct 16 Watching Salmon



Oct 16 Puntledge in full flow

Club Activity News



Walking

Once again a walk through Roy Morrison park did not disappoint. The beautiful big maple leaves everywhere were dazzling as were the spawning fish. Who knew the Chum salmon could be so big.



We wrapped up the month of October with a new walk through the small but beautiful Driftwood Marine Regional Park and the area around it. On a sunny, calm day there is nothing better. Take a look at the pictures and you will realize you are missing a lovely Monday afternoon if you aren't walking and talking with the Orca Walking Group.

Melanie



Things to Ponder!

This conversation was supplied by
David Oakes . . .

David asks Brenda: "What's for dinner?"

Brenda: "Nothing!"

David: "That's what we had yesterday!"

Brenda: "I made enough for two days!"



There once was a harmless street in the suburbs where no one took much care of their gardens. The lawns were overgrown, the weeds were taking over and the hedges desperately needed to be cut back. It looked unsightly, but when the neighbors looked at each other and their gardens and they just shrugged their shoulders and laughed.

It was all too hard, no one could be bothered making it better and because everyone's garden was the same, no one felt compelled to change anything. Then the gardener moved in.

Bill was a tidy, hard-working little man who started working out on the front yard as soon as he moved into the street. He got the lawnmower out and gave the grass a good cut. Then he put his gloves on and pulled out all of the weeds. Finally, he brandished a large, shiny hedge trimmer and started shaping his hedges. Satisfied with his hours of hard work, the gardener went inside for a well-earned lemonade. Intrigued, the neighbors walked by and casually inspected the newly manicured garden.

At first, nothing changed, but over time, something interesting happened. One by one, the neighbors started to take more pride in their own gardens and the sounds of lawnmowers could once again be heard on a Saturday morning. After a few months, the street was transformed from a messy, unappealing collection of houses, to a beautifully cared for avenue that wouldn't be out of place in a stylish magazine.

Moral of the story:

It's easy for people to look at the world and think that because no one else around them cares, they don't have to either. Each of us has more influence in our community than we dare to imagine. Start imagining and put in the work.