

ORCA PROBUS CLUB

Comox Valley

NEWSLETTER

November 2020

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM



Hello everyone! I am certainly looking forward to this year as President of The Orca Probus Club. I know there will be many positives to focus on throughout the year along with a few scattered frustrations. Of course, in our new COVID-19 world there will also be some outright obstacles, but as C.S. Lewis said, "It's not the load that weighs you down it's the way you carry it." I know that we as a committee and as a club will continue to carry it well in a safe, calm, kind and brave manner.

Some of you know who I am but certainly not everyone, as I am relatively new to the Club and the Comox Valley. My wife Jerith and I moved here from Manitoba approximately three and a half years ago. I grew up on a farm just outside a place called Minitonas, Manitoba in the Swan River Valley. My past is that of a Farm Boy, Cowboy, Adventurer and Sports Enthusiast who went from day to day working, playing and exploring the countryside. My life like yours and everyone else's is really, just an accumulation of moments and memories.

I ended up becoming a teacher and later a school Principal. I never planned on becoming a teacher, it just seemed to happen. I initially thought I might farm and work construction like my Dad. Of course, being Canadian, I also had aspirations of playing professional hockey. This eventually led me to the University of North Dakota. I never did make their hockey team, but I did get an education. While at University I also got married to Jerith. (Best decision I ever made.)

We officially returned to the Swan River Valley in 1978. Jerith was employed as a Laboratory Technologist with the hospital. I with The Swan Valley School Division as a teacher in Minitonas. We had returned to our roots in the valley and for me, my hometown. Over the course of the next thirty-eight years we continued working in our professions, living our lives and raising our son and daughter. So many memories, some remembered and some forgotten, but all of them treasures in our life.

I read somewhere that life has no remote. You need to get up and change it yourself. So, we made a change, after living most of our life in the Swan River Valley. We made a move to the Comox Valley. Time for some sea breezes, ocean waves, sunshine, a little rain, a lot slower pace and many more amazing moments.

So, how did I end up with The Orca Probus Club? When I first came to Comox I decided to volunteer at the curling rink. While coaching Junior Curling I met a fellow volunteer by the name of David Pacholuk. He asked me where I came from. I told him I moved here from Swan River, Manitoba. David said, "Nobody comes from Swan River." I said, "Actually, I come from a Village just east of Swan River called Minitonas." "Well, I'll be darned," David said, "I graduated Grade Twelve from the Minitonas Collegiate in Minitonas, Manitoba." Wow! It is indeed a small world.

A few weeks later David said, "why don't you and Jerith come with Isabelle and I to a Probus Club meeting." I said, what's Probus?" And the rest, as they say, is history. - President Miles



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01	David Kruger	15	Dave Dyke
09	Grant Compton	19	Michael Wilson
09	Susan Baldwin	22	Carol Borch
12	Karen Fettes	27	Rose Jacobson
13	Lawrence Petkus	27	Carol Labine

MILESTONES

Congratulations, Suzanne Linnell, on your 15th Anniversary with Orca Probus...
way to go!



A very special birthday greeting to Rose Jacobson this year.

On November 27, Rose celebrates **100 years!**

If we could have a meeting, I think this would call for a Standing Ovation.

I am sure she would appreciate a call or a card from her friends.

November 10 Meeting

Rod and Evelyn Keith, Orca PROBUS members, will be making a Zoom presentation about the SERVAS organization. SERVAS is an international community of hosts and travellers. The Keiths will explain its purpose and their experiences as part of the organization. The photo shows Evelyn Keith, center left, at one of the SERVAS dinners in France in 2019.



We will send you details on how to connect to this Zoom meeting, which will begin at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, November 10th.

We hope you will all join in!





Ken Talbot

In normal years, we get to acknowledge and thank the Past President at the Christmas party, where he or she is presented with a gift and a standing ovation. Well, that's not going to happen for Ken this year, and it is a shame.

This has been a difficult year for the Club.

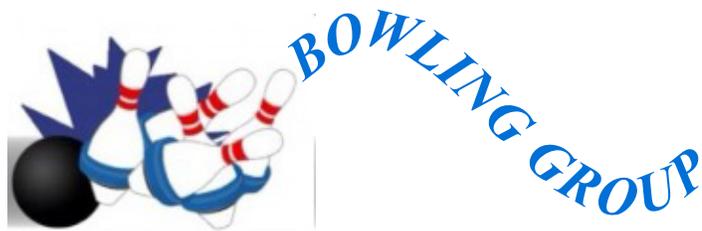
Those of us on the Management Committee recognize the leadership that Ken has offered us over the past year. He organized Zoom meetings for the committee and pushed for Zoom meetings to replace our normal monthly Club get-togethers. He encouraged everyone to reach out and contact other members to keep this club together.

Thank you, Ken!



Melanie Olson is our Sunshine co-ordinator. Her role is to send out cards and contact those members who have experienced illness, sadness or bereavement.

In normal times, she would hear of opportunities for these contacts at our group meetings, but it's not happening this year. Please notify her if you know of someone in the Club who needs a little cheer. Please drop her a note.



Even though we only had 5 attendees at our October 21st bowling get-together, it was still lots of fun.

The hi-light, which was saved until the very end, was made by Ron Ritchie who scored NOT 1 BUT 3 STRIKES. What a guy!!

So, if you think you might want to be some competition, join us:

DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

TIME: 1:00 PM

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

COST: \$11.55 per/person – CASH ONLY

NOTE: COVID safety measures are in place at all times.

Marie Knowles

Editor's Note -

In phone calls, members say they miss the social contact with other people in the Club, and ask about activities. True, there is not much going on, but bowling is an opportunity to at least meet other members. They maintain COVID protocols, with separation between lanes and sterilizing. Certainly as safe as visiting Costco.

Here is the chance. I have not been bowling in 40 years, but this month, Pat and I will join the group. In preparation, I watched the movie The Big Lebowski. I think it will be fun, and I am ready to ROLL.

- Bruce

Keeping Busy During Covid

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Some of you may be aware that my hobby is a model shipwright. I make models of ships from the 18th and 19th century. Each model can take up to 3 years to complete.

My nephew contacted me to see if I would make a train for his twin boys who are turning 3. I think he had in mind one of those little trains that run on a small wooden track, but I had different idea. I took a break from my latest model and made 2 trains, one a circus train and the other a logging train. These toys should hold up as they are made of Maple, Oak and Walnut. - Bruce Ellis



I started on this car a few years ago, and kind of lost interest for a while, and it sat. Recently, the juices started flowing again and with COVID, anxious to get back to it. It's a 1940 Chevy businessman's coupe. It has a bored Chevy 305, with some hot rod aspects to it, namely flat top pistons, Z28 cam, edelbrock highrise and carb, headers etc. Transmission is a 700R4 with a shift kit in it. Mystery hurst shifter. Rear diff is a Ford 8" with 3.08 gears. A 72 Chevy Nova front end with disc brakes. It is running, just needs glass, body paint and interior done. - Dave Pacholuk



Our COVID!



We started our COVID experience in Vietnam, having booked a trip with Scenic Cruises last year. The trip was for 22 days, and ours ended after 10 days when they closed the border between Vietnam and Cambodia. We did finish the first part of Vietnam, which included touring varying areas and sites, and 3 nights on a ship on Halong Bay. We thoroughly enjoyed the portion of the trip we completed, but were sorry we missed the 3 days in Seam Reap area, and a 7 day cruise on the Mekong River back to Vietnam.

The good part of the return trip was being moved up to first class on the portion of the trip from Taipei to Vancouver, a night flight, and Margo was able to get 6 hours of sleep. We arrived in Vancouver the day before quarantining was required, but we did it anyway as we were sure none of our friends would want to see us.

When we arrived in Vancouver, our son met us at the airport with our car, touched elbows, then he hobbled off on his broken ankle, wearing a boot, to catch the Sky Train back homedarn COVID! We caught the last ferry out of Horseshoe Bay, arrived home about 1:30 am, and Tim was still awake to welcome us with a wave from across the street.

We were well looked after by Tim and Jill when we got home, groceries and of course some scotch... dropped off on my lawn. Always good to have friends.

We were slow in getting into seeing people, but have now increased our bubble to about 3 couples who have actually come into the house for dinner, cards, etc. We did manage to go over to Vancouver for our grandson's 5th birthday, arriving at cake time when his friends and their parents were about to leave... and perhaps will go again next month when his sister turns 7, but that is it for travels.

We had a week booked in Whistler in June, moved that to October, but alas, all was cancelled. We would like to visit Toronto, as we have a 1 year old there, but couldn't trust the driving and or flying options to get us there healthy. Perhaps in the new year...

Our weekly church service is on Zoom, and we hear they are hoping to start services at the end November, but with a limited number attending.

We stay healthy, watch a lot of TV thanks to Netflix and Prime Video, do daily walks. We have managed a couple of patio dinners with bubble friends at local eateries. That's it... my MasterCard bill has set new records for lows.

- Paul and Margo

Ode to a Roofer

'Twas was in the moon of wintertime
 A storm blew in at night
 The mighty arbutus crashed on the roof
 The damage was NOT slight!

A roofer was needed, the search began
 All summer we awaited his arrival
 "I can do it, and I'll give you a date"
 But he proved to be unreliable.

In 2020 a quest began
 For a roofer who would "follow through"
 We thought we had one, lucky us,
 But then there was COVID, who knew?

In May we reconnected and he said no,
 His workers were happy with CERB.
 We started again...third time lucky, we hoped
 And the guy on the phone wasn't a nerd .

But emails vanished, our stress returned,
 As rain clouds began to gather
 We need you here, This year! THIS YEAR!
 We really don't want to natter.

We'll house you and feed you,
 The view will amaze,
 We are ready and waiting,
 And we will not embrace!

But now it's October, a promise was made,
 Our fingers are crossed for good weather
 We need calm waters, and not too cold,
 Since it's outside that we will gather.

A promise made, but no, not yet,
 "We will try again real soon",
 And we just sit, in our leaky place,
 And watch yet another Full Moon.

Evelyn Keith



Guess who these members are – here's what they looked like when they were younger!

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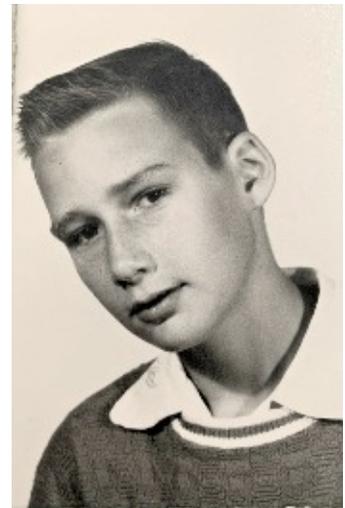
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HIKING GROUP

I thought I would let you know that the Club hikes are still continuing from time to time, limited more by the weather now than by my house move. I'm going to continue them over the fall/winter as far as possible, though I suspect there will be a fair number of cancellations due to rain, especially November through January.

We made it up some of the Cumberland bike trails to one of the reservoirs last week, and yesterday a small, select group (Miles and I) did the Kwai Lake Loop on the Forbidden Plateau. The picture is from yesterday's hike, showing our President about to head over the Bridge on the River Kwai, a.k.a. the log over the outlet creek of Kwai Lake.

Interested in joining a hike? Contact Jim Cooper



Jill Ackerman has recommended of a video to watch. It features Bob Turner exploring the estuary on Bowen Island. Copy this URL to your browser.

https://youtu.be/_o1F5Iu5cN0

Howard says, "He who laughs last, did not get the joke!"

Looking for an Activity?

Courtenay Official Community Plan Update
NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETINGS



1. COURTENAY AIRPARK
Walk: Mon Oct 26, 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Virtual: Tues Nov 10, 6 - 8 p.m.

2. TERMINAL ADDITION
Walk: Tues Oct 27, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

3. MCPHEE/17TH STREET
Walk: Tues Oct 27, 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Virtual: Tues Nov 3, 6 - 8 p.m.

4. LOWER RYAN ROAD
Walk: Wed Oct 28, 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Virtual: Sat Nov 7, 10a.m.- noon

5. UPPER RYAN ROAD
Walk: Wed Oct 28, 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Virtual: Wed Nov 4, 6 - 8 p.m.

6. HARMSTON AREA
Walk: Thurs Oct 29, 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Virtual: Thurs Nov 5, 6 - 8 p.m.

7. LAKETRAIL AREA
Walk: Fri Oct 30, 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Virtual: Fri Nov 6, 6 - 8 p.m.

8. GREATER DOWNTOWN
Walk: Sat Oct 31, 10 - 11:30a.m.
Virtual: Mon Nov 9, 6 - 8 p.m.

9. EAST COURTENAY
Walk: Sat Oct 31, 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Virtual: Sat Nov 7, 1 - 3 p.m.

10. SANDWICK AREA
Walk: Sun Nov 1, 10 - 11:30a.m.

11. HEADQUARTERS AREA
Walk: Sun Nov 1, 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Virtual: Sun Nov 8, 1 - 3 p.m.

Share Ideas for Your Neighbourhood

Sign up for a small group walk-shop and/or a virtual discussion of one of several Courtenay neighbourhoods to discuss how our city should grow.

WALKSHOP: 90-minute group walk guided by City staff. Limited number of participants per walk. COVID-19 protocols will be in place.

VIRTUAL OPTION: 2-hour Zoom neighbourhood discussion. Computer, internet and audio equipment required (speakers & mic if you wish to speak). *Pre-Registration required for walkshops and virtual options. Instructions provided upon registration.*

Learn more and register at courtenay.ca/OCPUupdate
Questions? 250-703-4839 or planning@courtenay.ca



CITY OF COURTENAY

Sign up for walks in the areas you spend a lot of time in, where you live and work.

Sign up early!
Limited space is available.