

# ORCA PROBUS CLUB

Comox Valley

NEWSLETTER

March 2021

## ***PRESIDENT'S PODIUM***



Record Snow and Cold Recorded in Parts of Vancouver Island. That was one of the news headlines on February 14th. The article went on to say that here in the Comox Valley we are kind of dealing with the depth of winter now and we would stay in that pattern of snow and cold for several weeks. It was described as the snowstorm for the ages. Snowmagedon!

As a child of the prairies, let me stop right here and try to put this into some perspective. Two days after that news article was written, I went for a walk in the neighbourhood. People were shovelling snow and visiting with friendly enthusiasm. One gentleman was pushing snow from his driveway wearing only a light coat, shorts and flip flops. Yes, flip flops, mere days after Snowmagedon. Sheesh! A jogger ran past me wearing shorts and a hoodie. Two kids were sliding down a pile of pushed up snow on what appeared to be ice cream pail lids. Snowmen and snow forts were being made everywhere from the now soft and melting snow. It seemed that everyone was outside and there was excitement in the air. As I turned toward home, it started to snow again. Huge wet flakes were coming down. A young couple almost ran into me as they looked skyward with mouths open, gleefully trying to catch snowflakes on their tongue. This, I thought to myself, is the islands version of snow and cold temperatures?

Memories of my childhood on the prairie come flooding back, and I see myself standing in the middle of our farmyard with my tongue firmly wrapped around a metal gate pole after having attempted to lick an icicle that clung to it. There is only one way to get your tongue off that pole when it is -30 degrees Celsius, and no one is coming to your rescue anytime soon. It is not like I could holler for help.

I shuddered slightly from the visual and then continued to make my way back home.

## ***PRESIDENT'S PODIUM CONTINUED***

Once there, I decided to check the temperatures in Manitoba, -42 degrees Celsius with a windchill of -54 degrees Celsius, and it had been like that for over a week and a half with no end in sight. Trust me when I say, “no one, absolutely no one was outside gleefully catching snowflakes with their tongue or pushing snow in flip flops.

In his book, If you're not from the prairies, fellow prairie to island transplant, David Bouchard writes.....

*“So, you're not from the prairie, and yet you know snow.*

*You think you know snow?*

*Blizzards bring danger as legends have told,*

*In deep drifts we roughhouse, ignoring the cold.*

*At times we look out at great seas of white,*

*So bright is the sun that we squeeze our eyes tight.*

*Of all those memories we share when we're old,*

*None are more clear than the snow and the cold.*

*If you are not from the prairie, you don't know snow and you've never been cold.”*

The common phrase I hear from long-time residents of the island is, “but it is a real damp cold here, damp, real damp.” My come back is always the same, “On the prairies it is not a damp cold, it is plain and simple, Damn Cold!” If February 12th to 18th was Snow-meggedon and the depth of winter that we must endure, we are definitely the fortunate ones to live here in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island. So fortunate in many other ways as well.

Have an awesome day! It is February 28th and I am putting the finishing touches to my President's podium. I tee off in 45 minutes. The average temperature across the prairies is -21 degrees Celsius. No tee-times are being booked.

- President Miles



## ***MARCH BIRTHDAYS***

10	Linda Taylor
15	Cheryl Cooper
25	Roland Budd
28	Beverley Ouellette
29	Pat Verschoor
31	Margo Ellegood

## ***MILESTONES***

We have four ten-year milestones to celebrate this month. Congratulations to Louise Casson, Marie Knowles, Sandi and Claire Tetreau all of whom joined Orca Probus in March 2011.

*Remember... you are a truly unique person!  
Just like everyone else.*

## **MARCH MEETING**

The speaker at the March meeting will be John Deniseger talking about Milner Gardens.

Vancouver Island University's Milner Gardens and Woodland has been rated one of the top gardens in Canada. Learn about Milner's unique history, community involvement, and its present and future plans. In partnership with Vancouver Island rhododendron clubs, the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden opened at Milner in 2018. This unique, developing garden has been designed to explore the incredibly diverse world of the genus Rhododendron. There is far more to this far-ranging genus than you ever imagined.

John Deniseger is a retired aquatic biologist (BC Premiers Legacy Award, BC Hall of Excellence), outdoor enthusiast, and avid gardener. He is the chair of the Milner Gardens and Woodland Board, and former president of the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society.

Please join us on Zoom for this presentation on March 9th at 2:00 p.m.

## ***GOLF GROUP***

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First, I would like to thank Ross Cowan for all the work he has done in the past organizing our golf and golf social outings. We have had some great outings over the years.

Would all Orca golfers please confirm via email, whether or not they wish to continue golfing with ORCA PROBUS. New golfers are welcome!

Further information will follow as COVID restrictions evolve.

Looking forward to a great year of PROBUS golf.

Dave Pacholuk

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Joe was out with his buddies shooting a round. On a par 3 he gets a hole in one!

His friends were whooping and cheering but Joe says “What’s the big deal? I was aiming for the hole.”

As a club, we are currently limited in our opportunities to enjoy social contact with other members. The monthly zoom meeting is the extent of what we are now sharing. But there are so many other options where we could use zoom for small group get-togethers. The book club is already using this option, however, there are a variety of groups who could meet on-line.

From other Probus clubs, we have heard of sub-groups that meet for coffee and chat, Trivia challenges, Bridge or card games, movie appreciation discussions, knitting groups etc. All we need is for someone to say they will start a group. We will offer training on zoom and promote the group to other members.

So think about it. Could you conceive of an idea and lead a group? Contact the Orca Probus email site or phone any of the executive if you have an idea.

## Interesting but otherwise useless Trivia

When babies are born they have no kneecaps. These bones do not develop until they are about 3 years old. Instead, there is cartilage and padding that makes it comfortable for babies to crawl on their hands and knees even on a hard floor.

While we all know that a group of crows is referred to as a Murder, did you know that a group of Hippos is called a Bloat? Try using that in a conversation.

Fredric Baur developed the Pringles Chips container and the process for stacking chips. When he died, he was cremated and, at his request, buried in a Pringles can.

The dot that goes over a lower case i or j is called a Tittle.

According to the Book of Genesis in the Bible, the chicken came before the egg. "For God created birds and directed them to go forth and multiply."

The name of the lint that gathers at the bottom of your pocket is Gnurr.

We have all seen the 1988 movie Die Hard. Did you know that the role of John McClane was first offered to the 74-year-old Frank Sinatra? Apparently Die Hard is considered a sequel to a 1960s movie The Detective which starred Frank. He had it in the contract that if they ever did a sequel, the role had to be offered to him. He turned it down, and it went to Bruce Willis. Still, it would have been interesting.

In 1967, actress Jayne Mansfield was riding in a convertible that ran into the rear of a tractor trailer in a fog. Her car went under the trailer and all in the car were decapitated. Since then, laws require that all large trailers have a bar across the back to prevent a car sliding underneath. This is referred to as a Mansfield bar. Check it out the next time you are behind a big rig.

St. Patrick did not banish the snakes from Ireland. The island of Ireland has been snake-free since the ice age.

Since 1945, all British tanks come equipped with tea-making facilities.

Barry Manilow's hit song "*I Write The Songs*" was not written by him. It was written by Bruce Johnston.

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

1



2

3



4 *What a Cutie*

## **ORCA GAL'S HAPPY HOUR-**

Thursday March 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Lady members, join us on Zoom for Happy Hour. Dress up (at least above the shoulders), bring your beverage of any kind, and share your news with each other.



This is a chance for the women of the Club to get to know each other better. Each person will have a turn speaking or simply listen. Express yourself, sing a song, read a poem, tell a joke, tell a funny story — whatever you wish. We look forward to seeing you. This will help us get over the COVID blues. A reminder with details will be sent out.

Cheers from the distaff side of the Management Committee:

Marguerite Ancell   Jerith Jones   Melanie Olson   Lynnette Lynch  
Caroline Urquhart   Karen Fettes   Barbara Wilson

### ***Some valuable thoughts from the late 60 Minutes' commentator, Andy Rooney:***

Things that I have learned over the years ...

That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

That you should never say "no" to a gift from a child.

That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights did wonders for me as an adult.

That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer to the end, the faster it goes.

That love, not time, heals all wounds.

That I wish I could have told my Mom that I loved her one more time before she passed away.

That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

That when your newly-born grandchild holds your little finger in his tiny fist, you're hooked for life.