



Our next Probus General Meeting

Will take place on Thursday,

March 21st, 2024

At 10:00 am,

via Zoom.

The Invitation & Link will be sent a day or two before the meeting, by email.

PLEASE NOTE!

Our invited speaker is;

Ahmed Yousef

Topic:

Maple Ridge City Council Initiatives



Probus Club of Maple Ridge

President's Message and Program



Simon Modera, President

Hello all!

Probus Meeting, Program

March 21st, 2024

| | |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| 10:00 | Welcome |
| 10:05 | Introduction of Guest Speaker |
| 10:10 | Guest Speaker |
| 10:40 | Q & A |
| 10:55 | Thank you |
| 11:00 | Club speaker |
| 11:20 | Club business |
| 11:45 | Meeting closes |

This is the first time you have heard from me in this role and in the newsletter.

Theoretically I should start out telling you a bit about future activities. I will save that for later. Right now however, I need to pay tribute to my predecessor Sam Lewindon. President from 2021 to 2024. Sam received 'Canadian Achievers' Honors at the AGM. Awarded by Dick Drew a fellow co-founder. The plaque reads ***"CANADIAN ACHIEVER. Probus Club of Maple Ridge Honors Sam Lewindon with a Special Tribute in Recognition of your Outstanding Level of Excellence as a CANADIAN ACHIEVER"***

You may only know Sam from this publication but many of us know him as a magician. Sam grew the fledgling club during Covid and brought us firmly into the 2020s with virtual meetings and much, much more. Sam held several roles concurrently, many for all 3 years; President, Zoom Host, Newsletter Editor, Coffee Morning coordinator, Wine SIG leader, Computer SIG leader, Sam participated in at least 5 other SIGs and is, frankly, the glue that keeps this great club together.

All this while participating in 3 other clubs. Not to worry, he is not going anywhere, I won't let him; indeed Sam will be right here; editing this newsletter and performing his Gandalf magic through your management committee.

A personal perspective: In the dim past I held the leadership role in a service organization at club and area (district) levels. This gave me some insight into what a well-run club looks like. Probus Maple Ridge is impressive by any standard. Much of that has resulted directly from Sam's very capable hands, his excellent management committees and great SIG leaders. We are, and I hope will continue to be, the beneficiaries of their competent and willing efforts. Their ongoing voluntary efforts for us all is much appreciated.

Thank you Sam, and thank you all for what looks to be an interesting year ahead.

Introducing our Guest Speaker:

Prepared by Michael Buckingham

Ahmed Yousef



Born in Shebin El Kom, El Monoufia, Egypt. I've lived and worked in several countries, including the USA, Egypt, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, and Canada.

My wife and I married in 2003 and moved to Maple Ridge in 2010. Since arriving in Maple Ridge in 2010 with our twin daughters, our son was born two years later; I have been and continue to serve as an active volunteer in the community. Among the groups I have been affiliated with are Scout Canada, Hope for Freedom Mat Program and Operation Red Nose. I also serve on the boards KidSport, the Friends in Need Food Bank, the Ridge Meadows Climate Hub, and the Ridge Meadows South Asian Cultural Society.

Having earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master's degree in International Relations and worked in the field for a few governments, I have been fortunately voted in as the first Muslim City Councillor in British Columbia in 2018.

Currently, I'm serving my second term as a City of Maple Ridge Councillor, my focus is on policies that affect everyday things like feeling safe on the streets, shopping locally, creating local employment, more recreational opportunities, while always respecting taxpayers' pocketbooks.

Speaker's Notes:

by Chris Frandsen

AGM Club Speaker

Michaela O'Doherty

Our Club Speaker was Michaela O'Doherty who delivered a fantastic presentation of her special "Moments in Time".

Throughout her blogs, Michaela takes us on a journey through her gardens and the wonders of nature. Passionate and obsessed with the beauty and the personality of her garden, she shares many "Moments in Time" in her blogs. She continually writes as she does a daily walkabout in her garden and observes the many changes that can occur over night.

Some of Michaela's "Moments in Time" blogs are "To Write or Not to Write", Garden Walkabout, Honey Bird, a little story about hummingbirds. "A Rose in Not a Rose, After the Storm and so many more.

Take a pause from your everyday, busy life and take a good look around you to see and appreciate the small beauties that Mother Nature provides to us everyday!

Please check out Michaela's Blog link:

Ascentedgarden.blogspot.com.

You will be amazed, fascinated, captured and hopefully, look at your own garden with excitement!

Europe Trip

By Michaela O'Doherty
Paris



In Paris, we and our adult daughter stayed in a quaint apartment with a very European courtyard.

It was a marvelous trip, but there's so much to tell, so I'll get straight to the sites.

In Versailles our legs had quite the work out. There were amazing gardens with ornate fountains, timed to run in unison throughout the property. A personal canal had been built for the long ago elite enjoying their trysts on romantic row boats, and the Palace with its hundreds of rooms was an amazing experience.

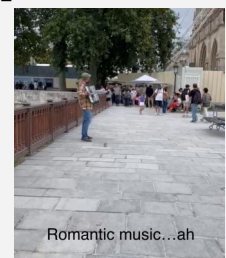


The Pantheon hosts a huge crypt. The bodies of rich and famous lay here inches from us in "rooms" inside stone crypts. Very eerie, but both men and women occupy the beds. It seems the French are hugely entwined with the arts and sciences in their culture. They also keep the monuments and histories of both nasty rulers and good ones, to retain their complete history. This was a very impressive culture and we felt privileged to learn about it firsthand.

We walked the Champs Elysees and saw the Place de la Concord and the Luxor Obelisk. Along the Champs Elysees many high end stores thrived as rich tourists took the opportunity to take home Parisienne styles.

We passed by Notre Dame at one point but it's still very much under repair. A grand old lady having a face lift. Michelle had her portrait painted on the bridge there, but none of us could see a likeness! Maybe because we all look alike? (the painter was Asian lol) On one of the bridges a busker played fabulous French music, lending a very romantic aura to the moment, which is indelibly engraved in my memory.

This is just a taste of our experience. I hope to tell you more later!



Local Scenes



Port Haney Wharf *by Sam*



Bonson Landing *by Sam*



Cranberry Harvest *by Simon*



Best Mountains *by Sandie*



Kanaka Creek Regional Park *by Simon*



Fall, at the Golf Course *by Sandie*

Our Club's 6th Annual General Meeting, held on February 15th at the Meadow Gardens Golf Club, was considered by those attending as; "The best one yet"!

Despite the last minute room change, the almost 50 members seated in the Sherwood room enjoyed a comprehensive overview of the club's operation. Ably guided by the graphics and numerous slides arranged for display on the projection screen by Simon, Sam greeted everyone and asked Kathleen to introduce the Guests and new Members. Sam then introduced the Management Committee. One highlight of the morning was the awarding of the "Canadian Achievers Award" to Sam Lewindon, for service to the club, the award presented by club founding member Dick Drew.

Our Treasurer, Noelleen, provided an overview of our financial situation, explaining the current good health of the club by use of a series of flowcharts.

Simon then introduced Skip, who conducted the Election of Officers, and introduced Simon as our new President, and the Management Committee for 2024, (see page 12).

A further highlight was the Club Speaker, Michaela O'Doherty's reading of poetic blogs on the subject of her Garden Joys.

With a comfortable mix of both business and social time, the meeting allowed for reports from the 14 Special Interest Groups—considered by many as the life blood of the club, and included a preview of the upcoming Guest Speakers for our next, Zoom based, General Meetings.

Following the meeting, 23 members joined together for a lunch at the Wedge Bistro.



Dick, Sam, and the Award

Our Probus A.G.M. was well attended - which is very encouraging - and for those that were unable to be present, we were treated to some thoughts/musings from Michaela as she sees her world of Nature from a spiritual connection with several themes, e.g. Morning in Spring, the Beauty in flowers, the Wind, and many others, that many other people might not be seeing. The writings would be closer to some of the older poets such as Wordsworth or Sarah Teasdale, W.H.Davies from the days when the subject of nature was more enthusiastically accepted by people of that time.

One small phrase that almost slipped past me was the silent 'thank you' given in a very quiet voice, to the plant world, whether in a nicely tended garden, a flourishing Rose, or a plant struggling for life in it's natural setting. I also have very often given a silent thank you to flowers, or a shade tree, a vegetable, (no less), in appreciation of what they have provided to us. I usually have not mentioned it to anyone, for obvious reasons, (if I do. they may give me a quizzical look as they take a step or two back !); however, in the last number years I have mentioned it to some people, only to find that almost everyone else has also come to that point of understanding with their own personal flavour of 'omage in the same way.

Aah, - How Deep is the Spirit that Binds.

Michael B.



Sam & Simon—'Past and Present'



Skip with his Service Award



Nancy, Laurie, Michaela and Kala



Tracey and '12 hat' Sam

Odd Stuff

West Coast Poem

*It rained and rained and rained and rained.
The daily average well maintained.
And when our fields were simply bogs
It started raining cats and dogs.
After a drought of half an hour
There came a most refreshing shower.
And then the queerest thing of all:
A gentle rain began to fall.
Next day, was really fairly dry
Save for the deluge from the sky.
This wetted people to the skin,
But after that, the rain set in.
We wondered what's the next we'd get.
As sure as fate, we got more wet.
But soon we'll have a change again,
And we shall have.....a drop of rain!*
Anon

Maple Ridge Music Society

Is presenting one more concert this season, on **Saturday March 9th at 3 pm** at Westacres.

Carter Johnson, Piano,

He is currently, performing, teaching and completing a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at Yale University.

Secure your seat by calling 604 467-3162 [email mapleridgemusicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mapleridgemusicsociety@gmail.com)

Entrance by donation

Study: Scent Diffusers Improve Memory in Seniors by 226%

A new study conducted at the University of California, Irvine, shows that diffusers improve memory in seniors by 226%

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-sensory-revolution/202312/scent-diffusers-improve-memory-in-seniors>

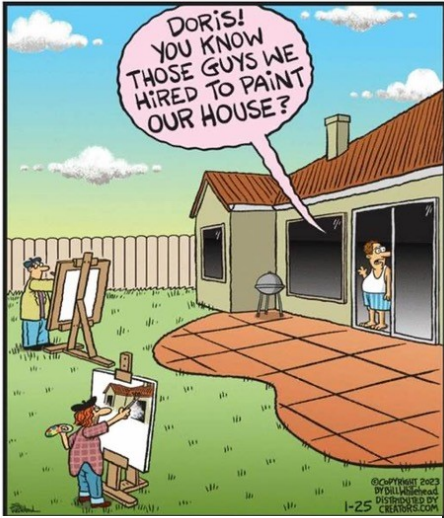
January Speaker Notes - Correction!

Tanya Lyn Werk - Executorship Presentation - Passwords and an Executor, the statement should read as:

Access to electronic devices may be required in the will to avoid potential trespass/criminal charges in the future.

Passwords should not be given to an Executor without authority!

Monthly Mirth



BEFORE WE PERFECT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, CAN WE WORK ON NATURAL STUPIDITY

STILL ONLY 10 BASTARD PENCE

Daily Daftly 2 JULY 2019

DAILY NEWS AS IT HAPPENS

ANGRY MAN HITS OUT AT THIEF WHO STOLE HIS SPECTACLES

He said: 'I will find you, I have contacts.'

By Matt Adams Chief Editor FULL STORY PAGE 12

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A truck loaded with Vicks VapoRub overturned on the highway.

Amazingly, there was no congestion for eight hours.

☺☺☺



Messages, Notices and Information

Wanted:

Stories for:

Memory Lane:

Contact Josine at: eikelenboom@telus.net

Photos for: **Through the Lens**

Contact Rick at: micricgoingplaces@gmail.com

Probus in-person 'Coffee Morning'

First Wednesday of the month, at 10am

Next meeting: March 6th

Member Privacy

Probus Maple Ridge respects the privacy and anti spam needs of members, therefore we do not publish their contact information.

Prospective members interested in attending Special Interest Groups should request contact via the Membership Coordinator

Origin of the Phrase:

One For the Road

Meaning:

A final drink before leaving a place.

Origin: During the middle ages, the condemned ones were taken through what today is known as Oxford Street, to their execution. During this final trip, the cart would stop and they would be allowed to have one final drink before their death.

Special Interest Groups

Book Club: *Convenor, Carla Reed*

Meets 1:30pm, second Tuesday, monthly

Bridge: *Convenor: Tom Halewood*

Meets, 1:30pm First & third Monday, monthly

Camping: *Convenor: Michaela O'Doherty*

Computer/Photography:

Convenor: Simon Modera:

Meets, 10am, fourth Wednesday, monthly.

Crafts: *Convenor, Michaela*

Meets, 1pm second Wednesday, monthly

Dining: *Convenor: Marie Slessor*

Meets 6pm second Thursdays, monthly

Dine Away: *Convenor, Michaela*

Meets 6pm third Tuesdays, monthly

Discussion: *Convenor, Theo Rathonyi Reusz*

Meets, 10am first Thursday monthly

Lunch: *Convenor. Aline Drew*

Meets, noon last Thursday, monthly

Scotch Sippers: *Convenor, Jim Tarasuk*

Meets, October and February, yearly

Table Tennis: *Convenor; Michael Buckingham*

Meets, Tues. Wed. and Friday mornings, weekly

Walking: *Convenor, Renate*

Meets 9am Tuesdays, weekly

Wine Club: *Convenor: Sam Lewindon*

Meets, 5pm last Friday, monthly

Word Weavers: *Convenor, Tracey Lewindon*

Meets, 2pm second Monday, monthly

"Groaner" of the Month:

The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray

is now a seasoned veteran.

Probus Club of Maple Ridge



Management Committee Members

For the period February 15, 2024 to February 20, 2025

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>President</u> | <u>Simon Modera</u> |
| <u>Past President</u> | <u>Sam Lewindon</u> |
| <u>Vice President</u> | |
| <u>Secretary</u> | <u>Marie Slessor</u> |
| <u>Treasurer</u> | <u>Noelleen Modera</u> |
| <u>Recording Secretary</u> | <u>Chris Frandsen</u> |
| <u>Communications</u> | <u>Michaela O'Doherty</u> |
| <u>Historian & Archivist</u> | <u>Carla Reed</u> |
| <u>Member Coordinator</u> | <u>Kathleen Spiess</u> |
| <u>Guest Speaker Coordinator</u> | <u>Michael Buckingham</u> |
| <u>Club Speaker Coordinator</u> | <u>Skip Johnson</u> |
| <u>Media Liaison</u> | <u>Dick Drew</u> |
| <u>Newsletter Editor</u> | <u>Sam Lewindon</u> |
| <u>Newsletter Assistant</u> | <u>Laurie Freebairn</u> |
| <u>Auditor</u> | <u>Jason Leemans</u> |

LINK TO OUR PROBUS WEBSITE

<https://www.probusclubofmapleridge.org>

LINK TO THE PROBUS CANADA WEBSITE

<https://www.probus.org>

LINK TO THE PROBUS GLOBAL WEBSITE

<https://www.probusglobal.org>