



**Our next Probus Meeting
Will take place on Thursday,**

March 17th, 2022

**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;

Kirk Grayson

Topic:

Climate Reality



Probus Club of Maple Ridge

President's Message and Program



Sam Lewindon, President

Review of the Annual General Meeting

Probus Meeting, Program

March 17th , 2022

9:45	Sign -in
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

Probus Maple Ridge, is now entering its Fifth year!

Our Foundation Meeting was held on January 18th, 2018, with the Charter meeting being held on February 15th, 2018.

Attendance at this year's AGM meeting was the highest yet for our Probus Club! As you will have heard in the presentation by our Treasurer, Jason, we now have a membership of over 60, with a member retention rate of over 90%! Thank you very much for your continued support of our Club!

Now it is my pleasure to welcome **George and Jean Crysler** to our Management Committee for 2022, as Communications Coordinators. Welcome to you both!

You will also have noted that we have returned many of the former Management Committee Team, to provide continuity in the management of our Club, so thank you for supporting them too! The search for a Vice President will continue, but we can appoint a member to this position, so if you have an interest....?

The current Public Health Orders now allow us to expand our in-person activities, so we look forward to seeing many of you adding to our **Special Interest Groups**, which provide a varied assortment of stimulating activities. A list of these is on page 9. If you have an idea for a new SIG, just let us know.

We hope to have a very active year!

"March is the month of expectation". Emily Dickinson



Speaker's Notes:

by Marie Slessor

Laurie introduced our speaker, **Maria Perretta**, Executive Director of the Ridge Meadows Seniors Society. Laurie said that Maria has always been interested in working with and helping seniors. She has a background in Gerontology based Therapeutic Recreation and 20 years of management experience within Adult Day Centres, Retirement Living and Not for Profit organizations.

Maria began by recognizing and mentioning several Probus members who partake in the programs of the Seniors Society or volunteer with it. She said the mission of the non-profit society is to help those 55 and over to have a happy and healthy life. They have two drop-in activity centres, one in central Maple Ridge on 224th Street, and one in Pitt Meadows behind the recreation centre.

Due to Covid, both these centres had to close in March of 2020 and re-think how to offer programs safely to a vulnerable group. The centres are now gradually re-opening with mask mandates and vaccine passports in place. She said they offer over 100 programs and activities per week to support an active healthy lifestyle including mental health, and to protect against social isolation. Anyone over 55 is eligible to join for \$25 a year and programs such as yoga, table tennis, dance, knitting, technology help, low-cost dining and many more are offered. The dining program is very popular for both eat in and take out daily from Monday to Friday at lunch time. The cafeteria is open to the general public as well as members.

Maria said there are many opportunities for people to volunteer and they are blessed to have over 100 volunteers, but Covid has seen a decrease from over 200. There are many roles for volunteers and one of the important ones is driving. The Seniors Society kitchen prepares Meals on Wheels and made over 20,000 meals for delivery last year. Other driving tasks are taking people to medical appointments, to activities at the centre, or for visits to family and friends. Other places to volunteer are in the kitchen, at the coffee shop or reception, as an activity leader, for special events and even for income tax preparation. One very popular event in which volunteers can help is the Repair Café which will begin again this month. There is an experienced competent staff that co-ordinates the volunteers.

Throughout her presentation Maria shared with us quotes from members who expressed their appreciation of all that the centre offers. One said that it is not a centre for old people, but rather "a centre for active living". Seniors' isolation is a growing issue and the society has a full time Outreach Co-ordinator who facilitates programs connecting isolated seniors to activities and their community. Maria told us the society has an active Facebook page, and also produces a bi-monthly magazine called "The Grapevine" which lists all the activities going on.

A short question period followed. When asked about funding, Maria said that they relied on partnerships with businesses like London Drugs for the Christmas bags for seniors, schools for supplying their baking, and the cities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows for an operating agreement. She also said they rely on grants, and unfortunately have lost their \$70,000 gaming grant this year. Members suggested that she approach all 3 area Rotary clubs for funding. Maria said we could all help with two ongoing fundraisers – taking our empty bottles to the depot and donating the proceeds to RMSS as well as shopping at two local liquor stores (Kanaka Creek or 207th) who, if you mention RMSS, will donate 5% of the purchase price to the society.

Sam thanked Maria for an excellent presentation with so much information for us all to process. He said it has opened an opportunity for us to get more involved and do our part to support RMSS.

Kirk Grayson



On March 17, at 10 am, local climate advocate Kirk Grayson will bring the acclaimed Climate Reality presentation created by former US Vice-President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Al Gore, to the Probus Club of Maple Ridge .

Kirk is president of the Maple Ridge Climate Hub, a board director with the Ridge Meadows Recycling Society, and has recently joined the City of Maple Ridge's Environmental Advisory Committee.

A long-time resident of Maple Ridge, Kirk is committed to sharing the realities of climate change – what it means, how it affects us today and what we can expect in the future. Most importantly, she looks forward to finding common ground within our community on what we must do to protect ourselves and the planet for future generations.

Early Childhood Education

In early September 1940, I was to start attending Selbourne Primary School, in Perivale, in the West London Borough of Ealing. This school, built just three year earlier, was only 300 yards from my house and I had seen the children happily playing there when out for walks with my parents. I was looking forward to going there!

This being my first experience of school I did not know that it was to take the whole day, so after the morning assembly and being assigned to our classroom for roll call, and then being sent out to play, I thought the day was done.

Walking the short distance to my house and totally surprising my mother was not the best way to start my first school day. Especially as it led to me being taken back and having my mum explain my absence to the teacher. I hope the school knew I was missing?

This was the time of the “London Blitz”, when daily daytime bombing raids forced us into the concrete Air Raid Shelters, hastily erected during the summer on the school playing field. There the teachers had to try to teach us our lessons while administering air raid precautions, like gas mask drill etc. After a few weeks the daily, daylight bombing ceased, and normal classroom activity resumed. (The bombing did continue each night though). I was getting used to this classroom system when in the first week of January our house was bombed!

Fortunately, we survived, but with my parents now living with family members close-by, I and several hundreds of other children, were evacuated into the English countryside. This was a new experience to be sure! Being billeted with a farm worker and his wife and son, who was my age - we were just five years old. I now had a new educational experience in store. The country school was one and a half miles away, the journey there was along country lanes and across the Village Common, where cattle were openly grazing. As a city boy, the largest creature I had ever seen was a dog, but nothing like these **huge** beasts, whose large brown eyes followed me as I weaved my way between them, I just knew they could smell my FEAR!

A Dickensian style school house with thick stone walls, small windows, a slate roof, creaking floorboards and a dirt playground, was only part of my new life. Living as part of a farming community was, on reflection, a whole education in its self, one that left deep memories.

The year and a half that I spent in that Wiltshire community was to give me a sense of balance that guided me through the next four years of my wartime schooling.

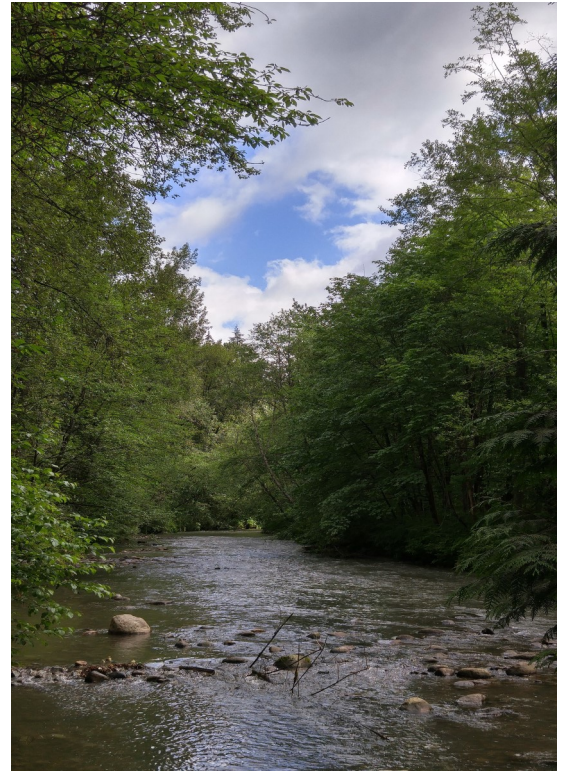
Sam Lewindon

Through the Lens

Curated by Rick O'Doherty



A Maple Ridge Sunset by Rick O'Doherty



The Alouette, at Maple Ridge Park by Sam Lewindon



A morning view of 'Golden Ears' by Renate Rathonyi Reusz



Kanaka Creek Regional Park by Sam Lewindon



Maple Ridge Summer Banner by Sam Lewindon

DARKWOODS



I want to tell you a little bit about Darkwoods, one of my favorite places in B.C. It is a Nature Conservancy Canada conservation area near Nelson B.C., stretching from the shores of Kootenay Lake to the U.S. Border, covering 550 square kilometers. It is the largest privately protected area in Canada, now even larger with the acquisition of an adjoining piece of 7900 hectares (19,000 acres) this year.

The name itself is evocative – although it is not all dark forest by any means, including lakefront to sub-alpine areas and therefore providing habitat for a huge range of flora and fauna. But the name IS important as part of its history. The land was bought in the 1960's by the German Duke of Wuerttemberg, who lived in Germany but wanted to have property in Canada in case the Cold War heated up. One of the most famous forests in the world, the Schwarzwald in Germany, gave him the name – and the connection – between the Old World and the New. (For those of you who don't read German – it is a direct translation!)

From its river bottoms to its sub-alpine peaks, Darkwoods shelters a diverse range of animals, the grizzly bear being probably the most famous. He can roam now all the way from central B.C. Provincial parks through Darkwoods and out at the southern end into protected state parks in the U.S. – an international traveller who needs no visa! Lesser known mammals such as the American badger and wolverines are there, but harder to find. And for fishermen – I'm told bull trout in the Darkwoods streams are bigger and better!

A Darkwoods visit requires a permit from NCC; the roads are open only to 4 wheel drive vehicles – and from September to May, not at all, as they are deep in snow. In summer there is access to trails and some old logging roads, but most of them have been allowed to 'go back to nature'. On those remaining, you may encounter a grizzly bear – like us, they prefer a nice gravel road to bush-whacking! A trek up Darkwoods' highest mountain is strenuous, but give you a breathtaking 360 degree view of all of Darkwoods, and into the U.S.

My latest stay this summer at the Kootenay Lakeside in Darkwoods was, as always, inspiring and wonderful. However I must, in the interests of full disclosure, admit that I also had a very challenging kind of half hour at our camp-site. A grizzly encounter? News that a forest fire had started and was cutting off our exit on the only road? Well, no. I was using the very rustic outhouse, while there was a fierce wind raging through the tree tops around me. This same wind managed to somehow blow shut the wooden bolt on the OUTSIDE of the outhouse, securely imprisoning me on the INSIDE. No amount of shouting for help, in that noisy wind, brought any attention to my dire condition, and I spent the next half hour singing that old favorite "Three Old Ladies Locked in the Lavatory, Nobody Knew They Were There" – only it was just ONE old lady, so I didn't even have anyone to sing with!



Well, there's the story of Darkwoods -- from the sublime to the ridiculous!

Monthly Mirth



The SCOTTISH VARIANT.
At least you can hear it coming.

Someone is at the door

How can you stay calm at a time like this?!

JOHNMSORREZURON.COM © 2012



Guess I've had too much caffeine...I thought this lady was a Muppet.



The dog is helping the beggar to attract people, but the Cat is overreacting...

Finally makes sense, what these jeans are actually for!



For a pastime, I took up Fencing, the Police insisted I give it back.

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



Trio Canada

with
piano, violin, cello

Sunday, March 6th

Admission \$35

Info and reservation:
call Josine at 604 467-3162

Probus in-person 'Coffee Morning'

First Wednesday of the month, at 10am

Next meeting: March 2nd

Special Interest Groups:

Book Club: *Convenor, Bob Grist*

Meets 1:30pm, second Tuesday, monthly

Crafts: *Convenor, contact, Michaela*

micricgoingplaces@gmail.com

Computer/Photography: *Convenor: Sam Lewindon*

Meets, 10am, last Wednesday, monthly.

Dining: *Convenors: Marie Slessor/Carla Reed*

Meets 6pm second Thursdays, monthly

Walking: *Convenor: Renate Rathonyi Reusz*

Contact: Renates1229@aol.com

Lunch: *Convenor. Aline Drew*

Meets, noon last Thursday, monthly

Cycling: *Convenor, tba*

Golf : *Convenor, Rick Howard*

Contact, rickhhoward@shaw.ca

Bridge: *Convenor: Kathleen Spiess*

Meets, 2pm third Monday, monthly

Wine Club: *Convenor: Sam Lewindon*

Meets, 5pm last Friday, monthly

Origin of the Phrase:

Fly off the handle

Definition: To become suddenly enraged.

Origin: The phrase comes from the 1800s, when some axes were so poorly made that when swung, the ax heads would often fly off the handle.

“Groaner” of the Month:

I should have been sad when my
flashlight batteries died,
but I was delighted!