



Our next Probus General Meeting

Will take place on Thursday,

April 20th, 2023

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;

Vickie Jensen

Topic:

Deep, Dark & Dangerous

BC's Subsea Community



Probus Club of Maple Ridge

President's Message and Program



Sam Lewindon, President

Probus Meeting, Program

April 20th , 2023

9:40	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 business
11:20	Meeting closes

Something To Celebrate!

For a Club that believes in **Fellowship, Friendship and Fun**, we also have a reason to Celebrate!

Our Membership renewals are complete for this year and we are proud to announce a 90% renewal rate - thank you very much for your support, plus we have added four new members this year! The participation in our Special Interest Groups has also increased, which goes to show the camaraderie we have developed in our Club's reasonably short history.

Looking forward to the Summer Outdoor Events, we can anticipate a good response to those activities as well! Which raises the question of who will help in planning these events? As we prepare for the upcoming Summer Outdoor Events, we would like to receive input into the kind of 'Field Trip' that would interest you? This usually takes place in July and has a better attendance if it is local. Your responses can be directed to me but we will soon announce coordinators to look after each Event. Our enthusiastic Photography group will have an outing of its own in April and looks forward to planning the May "Artists Outing" - last year it was held in Maple Ridge Park, but this year...

Our Guest Speakers cover a wide range of topics but if there is one topic you would like to have covered please let Michael and his team know. And, if you know an expert in that field that we can approach, that is even better!

Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter!

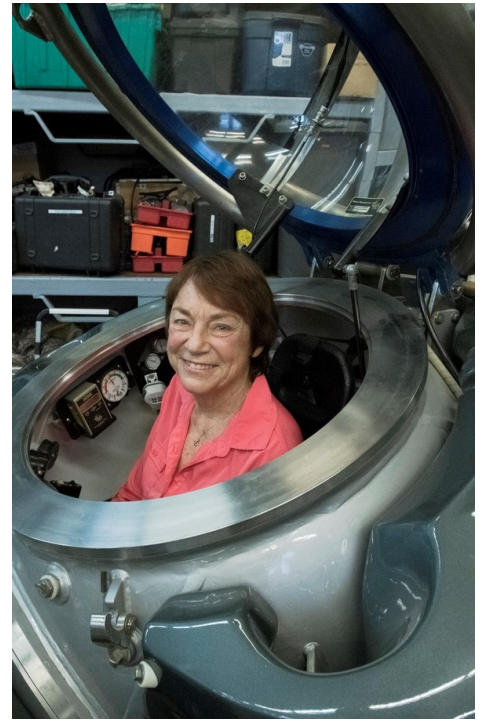
April, the angel of the months, the young love of the year. Vita Sackville-West



Introducing our Guest Speaker:

Prepared by Michael Buckingham

Vickie Jensen



VICKIE JENSEN earned her water wings as editor of *Westcoast Mariner* magazine. She then authored *Saltwater Women at Work*, *Ships of Steel* and *Working These Waters*, as well as co-authoring *Build Your Own Underwater Robot* and *Underwater Robotics: Science, Design & Fabrication*.

In *Deep, Dark & Dangerous*, her latest maritime history book, Vickie explores the fascinating story of how B.C. became a world leader in the underwater tech industry—a risky work world few of us know.

Speaker's Notes:

by Marie Slessor

Elaine Yamamoto, chair of District 42 School Board was this month's speaker. When Michael introduced her, he said she wore two hats – one as head of Literacy and the other as School Board chair.

Elaine told us a bit about herself. She grew up in Burlington, Ontario, then worked as an au pair in France, returned to Canada to obtain a degree in Journalism from Carleton University, then spent two years in Tokyo, finally returning to the University of Toronto to study International Relations. She said these years were due to her wanderlust, her curiosity for other cultures, and her belief in the value of education.

Elaine is third generation Japanese. Her grandfather came to Pitt Meadows via Hawaii, and in 1942 moved his family east to Burlington, then to Manitoba to work in the sugar beet fields. Her mother resisted leaving school to work, and was one of only two Japanese graduates from nursing school in Winnipeg.

Elaine is Literary Outreach Co-ordinator where she supports adult, community and family literacy for Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, and the Katzie first nation. She told us 700,000 BC residents have challenges with literacy, such as filling out forms while 45% of adults under 65 have difficulty reading a newspaper. Literacy is needed for employment as well as health and safety. There are more challenges with literacy for immigrants, Indigenous people and older Canadians.

She outlined programs available locally. One is the Learning Room at the Ceed Centre where one can get help with paperwork or connect with local programs. Janice Williams deals with the Community Adult Literacy Program which provides one on one tutoring with volunteers. There is also a Women's Conversation group that meets in the library. This is made up of immigrant women who are seeking a better future for their families, and Elaine told us of their amazing resilience. There is a Temporary Foreign Workers group that meets at the Colleen Finlay Centre. Eric Langton Elementary has a Hive program which promotes reading, as well as a clothing freecycle. There are also Community Book Bins, and before Covid they were at 17 locations. First Book Canada has new books for children, all donated by many local groups. Family Literacy Day is held at the Maple Ridge Library as part of Winter Fun Fair and attracts 600 to 800 people.

Putting on her School Board hat, Elaine told us that the trustees formulate policy, allocate resources, and monitor performance of our local schools. She said the board does not do day to day management, that is left to the Superintendent and other professionals. In District 42, as well as the 7 trustees, there are 10 senior staff, 2200 staff and more than 15,000 students. Because it is a public school system, there is a long list of programs they advocate for to obtain funding. She was proud to announce two new capital projects – a new Eric Langton Elementary that will have room for more than 600 students, and a just announced new Pitt Meadows Secondary School to replace the present old building. Since our district is growing, portables are a fact of life. She also told us that District 42 has an amazing trade program which allows graduates to have completed the first year of their Red Seal Certification in fields like culinary arts and many other fields. She also supports year-round education in our correctional facilities, since inmates have lower literacy skills than average.

Elaine told us this is budget season, and invited us to the group input meeting on April 19. She said we have one of the highest graduation rates in BC, with 79% of all students graduating with a B or higher. One need she sees is for more local post-secondary opportunities.

During question period, the need for more post-secondary opportunities locally was discussed, and Elaine invited us to participate in a survey being done by the school board on the subject. When asked about expansion of French Immersion, she said that there are plans to include Maple Ridge Elementary in the program, but there is a shortage of qualified teachers.

Sam thanked Elaine for a very comprehensive presentation and said she had given us insight into how education reaches out to all.

A Tale of Monarchs

By Christine Duamel

Almost six years ago I stood in a wind swept forest surrounded by thousands of orange and black Monarch butterflies. A few were flitting about, but most hung in festoons from the branches, looking like giant fungus-like clumps.

I was in the mountains in Mexico, about 100 miles northwest of Mexico City and witnessing a rare and wonderful sight: one of several protected reserves where Monarch butterflies congregate to hibernate through the winter, having migrated over 3,000 miles south from Canada and the northern United States. Some of you may be familiar with Monarchs, although they do not come to the western provinces of Canada.

Do you know about their incredible life cycles and migration?

The adult butterflies start to emerge from their hibernation in about February or March, depending on the temperature and then start their long migration which spans several generations. No one knows quite how they navigate but these small, fragile beauties head northwards, stopping to lay their eggs in Texas where they then die.

Miraculously, their offspring know exactly where to go, fluttering northwards with determination until it is time for them to once again stop, lay their eggs and die. The third generation reaches their destination and spend the summer feeding, mating and laying their eggs.

It is this fourth generation of “super butterflies” which migrate south all the way to Mexico, starting in late August or early September and making the long journey to the same forests in Mexico. They will live eight times as long as their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents and endure long hours of flying and all kinds of weather conditions before reaching their safe haven where they can hibernate through the winter.

I could tell you so much more about the butterflies, how they are protected from predators by being poisonous and how they are endangered, but I encourage you to do your own research or, better still, go and see them for yourselves.



Spring Flowers



Rhododendron Beauty *by Jean*



Snowdrops *by Theo*



Beauty on the Porch *by Laurie*



A Show of Tulips *by Sandie*



Flowering Trees
by Jean



Member Happenings



The Dining Group at Il Corsaro



Dine Away Group inaugural meeting at Jimy Mac's

*The Management Committee
Celebrating with Jason!*



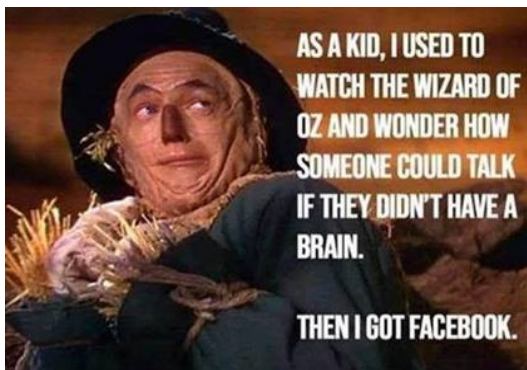
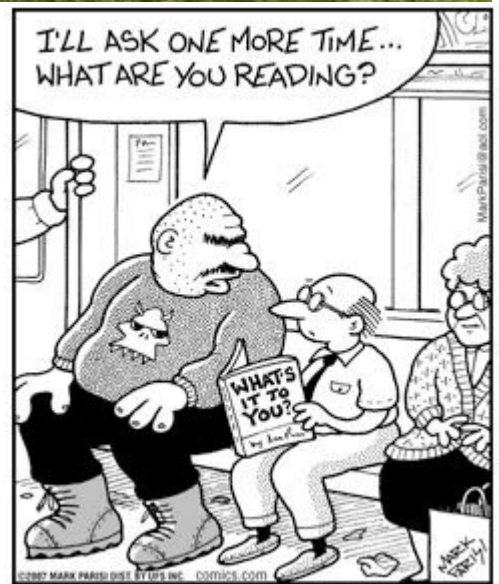
Monthly Mirth

Me washing \$200 worth of groceries in 2022

I have always believed in miracles but I had never actually witnessed one until I saw this angel restore this poor, blind, homeless man's sight right in front of me. — 🙏 feeling blessed.



EVENINGS AT 7 IN THE PARISH HALL	
MON	ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
TUE	ABUSED SPOUSES
WED	EATING DISORDERS
THU	SAY NO TO DRUGS
FRI	TEEN SUICIDE WATCH
SAT	SOUP KITCHEN
SUNDAY SERMON 9 A.M. "AMERICA'S JOYOUS FUTURE"	



Messages, Notices and Information

“Word Weavers”!

Our latest Special Interest Group!

Do you have stories that are asking to be shared?

The Probus “Word Weavers” Special Interest Group might be for you!

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Whether it’s for yourself or for the enjoyment of others, your stories deserve to be recorded.

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*This new Special Interest Group is for those who wish to explore **creative writing for fun!***

Join us to share ideas and inspiration with others who like to play with words.

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We meet over Zoom at 2pm on the second Monday of each month. If you’re interested, please email Tracey at naturesheart.tl@gmail.com so she can send you the Zoom link before our first meeting on April 10th.

All you need is a sense of curiosity and a desire to play with words...and maybe a pen!

Origin of the Phrase:

OVER A BARREL -

Definition: Being in difficulty.

In the days before CPR, a drowning victim would be placed face down over a barrel and the barrel would be rolled back and forth in an effort to empty the lungs of water. It was rarely effective. If you are over a barrel, you are in deep trouble.

Probus in-person ‘Coffee Morning’

First Wednesday of the month, at 10am

Next meeting: April 5th

Special Interest Groups

Book Club: *Convenor, Carla Reed*

Meets 1:30pm, second Tuesday, monthly

Bridge: *Convenor: Kathleen Spiess*

Meets, 2pm First & third Monday, monthly

Camping: *Convenor: Michaela O’Doherty*

Computer/Photography:

Convenor: Simon Modera

Meets, 10am, last Wednesday, monthly.

Crafts: *Convenor, contact, Michaela*

micricgoingplaces@gmail.com

Dining: *Convenors: Marie Slessor/Carla Reed*

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

Table Tennis: *Convenor; Michael Buckingham*

Meets, Tuesday and Friday mornings

Walking: *Convenor, Renate*

Meets 9am Tuesdays, weekly

Wine Club: *Convenor: Sam Lewindon*

Meets, 5pm last Friday, monthly

“Groaner” of the Month:

**Smaller babies may be delivered by stork,
but the heavier ones need a crane.**