



Our next Probud Meeting
Will take place on Thursday,
December 16th, 2021
At 5:00 pm

This will be our



Christmas Dinner!

“SEASONS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL”



Probus Club of Maple Ridge

President's Message



Sam Lewindon, President



A Reason to Celebrate?

Much has already been said about this year of 2021, and most of it not in celebration!

HOWEVER, our Probus Club has reason to celebrate some accomplishments. We have increased our membership numbers by 30%. Our Management Committee has to be congratulated for providing an exciting range of activities for us to socialize, in spite of many restrictions, and even to meet face to face, safely! We have held successful Zoom meetings with truly outstanding speakers, had field trips to stimulating places, **and**, we have maintained a healthy bank balance. All this is a reason for a small celebration, at least!

Our Special Interest Groups have expanded and we now have **ten** exciting activities for our members to explore—and with the appearance of eBikes, the Cycling group looks like expanding some more - check out the list of groups on page 9.

Our Club is only as strong as the support the members provide, so, with the AGM approaching, please consider how you may serve your fellow members by helping out on a committee, or by putting your name forward for a Management Committee position—we are all volunteers, after all!

“December's wintery breath is already clouding the pond, frosting the pane, obscuring summer's memory”... John Geddes



Speaker's Notes:

by Carla Reed

Laurie introduced the speaker, Dr. Howard Lim, a gastro-enterologist at the B. C. Cancer Agency. Dr. Lim is also teaching at UBC. His speciality is personal genomics. POG.

Dr. Lim began by showing us a chart of 'the dysregulation of genomics', which emphasized how complicated the subject is. Whereas formerly, for instance, all lung cancers were treated somewhat similarly, now new techniques and drugs allow for targeting the many varieties specifically. These new approaches of 'personalized treatment', or POG, have resulted in extended lifespans for many patients, notably those with pancreatic cancer, which used to have poor survival statistics. Another major benefit has been that more generalized testing is much more expensive, whereas targeted testing may be one-tenth of the cost. An analogy Dr. Lim made was that you might have had to study the complete works of Shakespeare to understand something, now studying one sonnet will lead you to the solution.

While targeting cancer types is very important for the BCCA, sharing information with other agencies is equally so. The three major agencies in Canada are Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal and they all work together. In B.C. there is further cooperation between the various agencies within the province. Some of the issues they cooperate on, for instance, are 'health technology assessment', ensuring that the right therapies go to the right patient. The financial value of the technology is assessed too, so that the dollar value must yield good patient outcomes.

This leads straight to the philanthropic aspect of the situation. Dr. Lim and Sandi London, a colleague from the BCCA, both spoke to this. Big business has given generously, especially in the U.S. For example, in Oregon Nike donated over a billion dollars for research. Government grants are essential too, but so is personal philanthropy, if all this new and exciting work is to thrive.

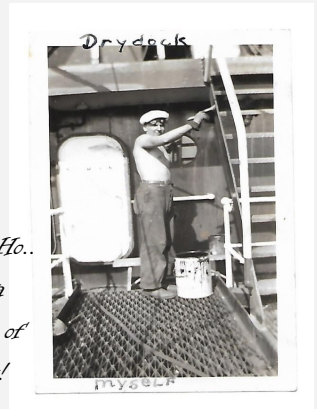
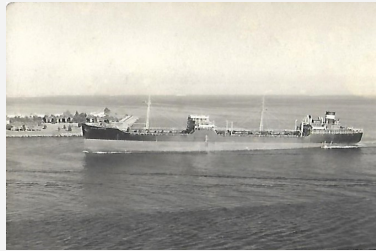
Sam thanked Dr. Lim for taking time from his busy schedule to introduce the POG program and illustrate its successes.

Sandi London spoke of a link to a CBC "Nature of Things" program which covers this approach of cancer treatment. This is the link:

<https://gem.cbc.ca/media/the-nature-of-things/season-56/episode-14/38e815a-00bc215df2d>

The Stowaway who got away. By Dick Drew

In 1952, I was 18 years old, working as a deck hand on the SS Imperial Quebec, a T2 type tanker hauling crude oil from ports in Venezuela to refineries anywhere from Buenos Aires to Halifax and all ports in between.



*Yo..Ho..Ho..
and a
bucket of
paint!*

Many unusual and memorable things happened during the five years I travelled that wonderful world. One incident that has stuck with me occurred when we were heading North one day out of Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela bound for a refinery near Baltimore when a crew member discovered a stow away hiding in a lifeboat. The crew was a buzz of activity searching for any companions. He assured us he was alone. He carried no identity and spoke only Spanish. Those of us who spoke French were asked to interrogate him. All he would admit to was his first name and that he had friends in New York.

The ship's Captain contacted Venezuelan authorities and was told he fit the description of a man they were looking for. We were to keep him under lock and key until our return.

In Baltimore the US Immigration people were convinced our crew members had something to do with it. They posted a guard, and refused all shore leave. He was handcuffed to a bunk rail, released only for nature calls and was released when we sailed two days later.

He was a passenger on our return trip, sunning himself all day on the boat deck, eating his meals with us in the crew's mess, acting as if he did not have a problem in the world.

Crew members took a genuine liking to him. collecting money to help him once he was in prison. He thanked us profusely. One day out of Puerto La Cruz he was locked into the ship's sick bay to await his fate.

Once we had tied up, the ship was invaded by a platoon of soldiers who had come to haul away our stow away. When they opened the sick bay, surprise, surprise, our stow away had got away.

The soldiers searched our ship. the crew were accused of aiding and abetting. Again, shore leave was cancelled.

Even now nearly seventy years later, I often wonder what happened to the stowaway who got away.



Downtown Maple Ridge, by Theo



'Oh Christmas Tree', by Michaela



'Southern Christmas' by Jean and George

Member Happenings

By Kathleen Spiess



Probus Wine Club



Sam kindly hosted our first **Wine Club** Special Interest Group (SIG) on Friday evening, October 29th. There were approximately a dozen of us in attendance, and while we all chatted comfortably together earlier and later, we listened attentively when Sam uncorked the first of three samplings. He had done a lot of research and provided us with some information on the wines we would be sampling, and he circulated a map showing us the region they were from, -'South Okanagan'. Sam had even gone to the trouble of contacting the wineries themselves to find information in addition to what appeared on the labels.

One of the most appreciated handouts was a Tasting Sheet where we could privately define the wine as to colour, smell, taste, etc. and this will be a valuable record for each of us to keep as we travel the province with our taste buds in the upcoming months. If you'd care to join us in November, please contact Sam to see if there is space available.

A cap of 16 members had to be implemented due to the keen interest of this activity. Of course, a waitlist is quickly building! The next meeting of this group - November 26th. Then a seasonal break until January 28th. Sign up contact is on page 10.

Member Happenings

By Kathleen Spiess

Coffee Morning!



The group gathered again, this time in record numbers of about twenty to chat and socialize. Home Restaurant on Lougheed serves up a delicious breakfast, or if you have a longing for a desert, they have pies that reach abnormal heights, especially the meringue on the lemon meringue pies! Lots of folks ordered food, and all this was in addition to the endless refills of coffee we were allowed after paying our \$5 admittance to attend.

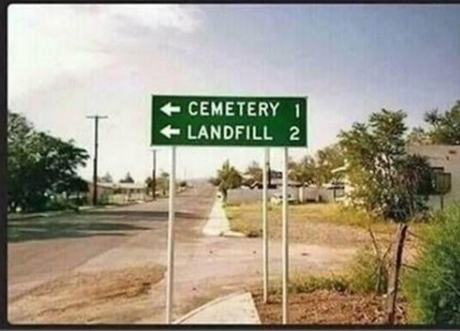
Personally, I found the Wednesday morning a wonderful opportunity to chat with potential new members. There is something sacred about meeting in person, and you are encouraged if *you* have an acquaintance who may be interested in joining Probus to invite them along as a guest to our next gathering of the coffee clan. At a formal meeting, a guest can only sit and listen, but at a coffee morning, they can contribute as much or as little as they'd like to the table conversation.

And who knows where the conversation may lead? Oh, to be a fly on the wall.... At the table where I was seated, many of us spoke about our pets ~ four of us loved animals, but we were split between cats and dogs, and it was interesting to see the line drawn so tightly around our choices. At other tables, perhaps local politics were discussed, or perhaps hobbies and travel destinations ~ come and participate, and gain insight into what makes some of your fellow Probus members tick. Our next Coffee Morning is on Wednesday, December 1st. at 10am.

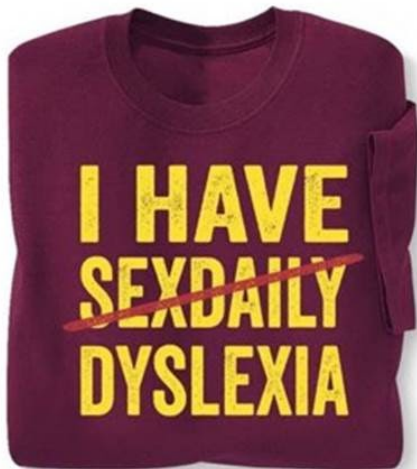
We'd all love to see you there.

Monthly Mirth

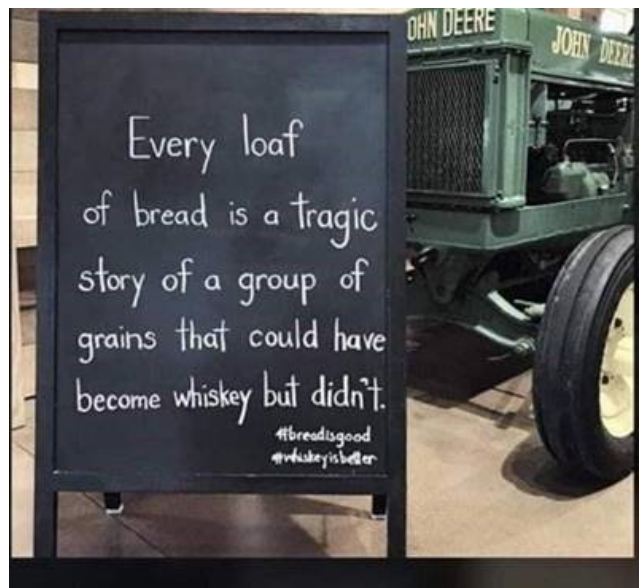
My wife said when I pass she would go the extra mile to give me the burial I deserve...



"Wine production is way up since we piped in hip hop music."



"Male, 38, still living with his parents. They asked us to keep him overnight, so they could change the locks."



A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it

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 'Coffee Morning'

First Wednesday of the month, at 10am

Next meeting:

January 5th 2022

Probus Club of Maple Ridge

CHRISTMAS BUFFET DINNER

December 16th @ 5pm

Pitt Meadows Golf Club

13615 Harris Rd, Pitt Meadows

A Seasonal Festive Buffet

Quizzes

Prizes and Surprises

Book your seat now!



Origin of the Phrase:

Break the ice:

To make a group feel comfortable so as to cultivate friendship.

During the time when roads were not yet fully developed, ships were the main means of transportation and trade. During the winter, these ships might get stuck on ice that formed on lakes and other bodies of water, breaking the ice saved lives!

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 December 1 Thursdays, monthly

Walking: *Convenor: Carla Reed*
Contact: carlar2@telus.net

Lunch: *Convenor. Aline Drew*
Meets, noon last Thursday, monthly

Cycling: *Convenor, Kathy Pierce*
Contact; prairiegirl60@gmail.com

Golf : *Convenor, Rick Howard*
Contact, rickhoward@shaw.ca

Bridge: *Convenor: Kathleen Spiess*
Meets, 2pm third Monday, monthly

Wine Club: *Convenor: Sam Lewindon*
Meets, 5pm last Friday, monthly

“Groaner” of the Month:

**Two silk worms had a race.
They ended up in a tie!**