

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

**May 19th, 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;**

**Mike Morden**

**Mayor of Maple Ridge**

**Topic:**

**The Challenges of Public Office**



# Probus Club of Maple Ridge

## President's Message and Program



Sam Lewindon, President

### **Thinking Ahead!**

### Probus Meeting, Program

May 19th , 2022

9:45	Sign in
10:00	Welcome
10:05	Introduction of Guest Speaker
10:10	Guest Speaker
10:40	Q & A
10:55	Speaker, Thank you
11:00	Club speaker
11:20	Club business
11:45	Meeting closes

As we value our members' input into how we move ahead, we will be asking for suggestions for our Summer Outdoor Activities. As you may know, we take a break from our General Meeting schedule for July and August and replace these sessions with outdoor activities. You may recall our 'Picnic in the Park' and the 'Winery Tour' of last year. Successful as these were - and we do plan a Picnic again this July, there may be other places or activities that may be of interest. Please let us know of your ideas. Thank you!

Our Guest Speaker for this month is Mike Morden, Mayor of Maple Ridge, who's presentation I know you are looking forward to. In order to present a focussed question period, we are asking for your questions to be forwarded in advance to our club Secretary, Marie Slessor, (see page 9). Your questions will be listed in the order in which they are received. Politicians always seem to generate a plethora of questions, so to manage this portion of the meeting, and to ensure we fit in as many questions as we can within the allotted time frame, your cooperation is requested.

In our "Club Business" portion of the meeting, we will of course be reporting on our Special Interest Group activities, but if there are other items of interest you feel should be included, please let us know as we want to keep our members as well informed as possible about our club.

One very positive fact is that we have retained the Membership level of last year - thanks to your recommendations to friends and colleagues, and if you wish to invite a friend to our next meeting, be sure to let us know so that a meeting link can be sent out to them. Our club's success is measured by our membership's growth!

*"What potent blood hath modest May."* Ralph W. Emerson



## Mike Morden



Mike has lived in Maple Ridge for over 30 years and is honoured to serve as your Mayor. Mike is married to Hilary for 38 years, a researcher and sessional instructor at SFU.

Prior to this term, Mike has served two terms as a City Councillor, two terms at the Union of BC Municipalities and three years as Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee. In addition, Mike is the past President of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mike is an honest, passionate and hardworking problem solver. He is a successful business owner, as well a career volunteer who dedicates his spare time in the service of others to make our community a better place.

As your Mayor, Mike is serving on Translink Mayor's Council and is Chair of the Mobility Pricing Committee, Vice-Chair of Metro Vancouver Regional Housing Committee and sits on the ECOMM Board, Metro Vancouver Mayor's Board and Performance and Audit Committees.

Mike understands complex social problems, sees opportunity and has a proven track record of leadership and taking action. Mike is resolved to bring us a safe and connected community, closure of tent city, strong advocacy with senior government by working together for our needs, great recreation, a vibrant downtown, a strong local economy and a local government that listens and acts for the majority of the people.

## Speaker's Notes:

*by Carla Reed*

Laurie Fairbairn introduced our guest speaker, **Claire Pinkett**. Claire's topic was "Helping Immigrants Build a Future in Canada".

Claire started her language instruction career in 1986, and now is an I.S.S. (Immigration Social Services) Instruction Coordinator for B.C. After working five years in Japan, she joined the L.I.N.C. (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) program at I.S.S.. At that time refugees from then -Jugoslavia were among the first to be served by federal Canadian programs.

I.S.S. B.C. was one of the first immigrant services in this Province and has now grown to be one of the largest in Canada, with 500 staff and 800 volunteers. Different provinces may have different programs, but all are federally funded. In some, the service is provided multi-lingually.

In B.C., services include assistance with, settlement, family education and employment. 'Settlement' means accessing local resources such as housing, health agencies, and schooling.

Claire went on to describe the differences between 'immigrants' and 'refugees':

IMMIGRANTS choose to leave their home country, have time to plan their time of departure and arrange personal matters, leave their home country for better benefits of living in the new one, and may return to their country of origin.

REFUGEES are forced to leave, depart in secret, often with no good-byes, may not be allowed to return, or have nothing to return to.

There is a wide diversity of national origin, culture and languages in both categories, and this often dictates where the newcomers choose to settle. Recent sources of mass emigration have been from Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine. Some newcomers have literacy skills, but not verbal ones, while others have the reverse - or neither. After reaching a certain level in the L.I.N.C. classes they may apply for Canadian citizenship. If they are successful, they are no longer eligible for the I.S.S.

L.I.N.C. will have focussed on practical matters and conversation skills, not academic prowess. Four learning tasks are highlighted: interaction with others; giving/receiving instructions; getting things done, and sharing experiences.

To build on these skills acquired through L.I.N.C., students may become members of conversation circles, have individual mentors, join field trips to local libraries, museums, shopping malls, or any other activity that promotes language skills. All of these depend heavily on volunteers, while the L.I.N.C. staff are all professional teachers.

Claire's excellent presentation, which included a detailed PowerPoint, ended with a question period that indicated a lot of interest in the topic.

### September 11, 2001

Also known as 9/11, is a day the world will never forget.

Our memories start one year before this historical tragedy - August 2000 to be exact. We were asked to join our dear friends (Doug & Carol) for a trip to New York City. As they were 'seasoned visitors' to the Big Apple through their volunteer work with the Fresh Air Fund we knew we couldn't have chosen better tour guides for our first visit. We had planned our days prior to our trip so we could see as much as possible during our visit. Doug and Carol were familiar with the subway and transit system so this was our method of maneuvering the city.

As first-time visitors we naturally wanted to see all the 'tourist sites'. However, when we arrived at the World Trade Centre, Carol and I were overwhelmed. We really didn't want to take the elevator to the observation deck but both George and Doug said "We have to do this - we may never get the opportunity again". Thankfully, we listened to them and rode the elevator to the Observation Deck on the 107th Floor of the South Tower, where the view was spectacular and the air was dead still. Once we were back down on firm ground George took a picture looking straight up the Tower. Little did he know, until the film was developed, that a passenger jet had flown into the corner of the photo just above the buildings. This picture is something the world would see one year later, but with a tragic ending.

Fast forward to 2007 and we visited New York City once again with Doug and Carol. This time we went to what was now referred to as Ground Zero. We were able to tour this area of devastation and view the makeshift memorial at the Fire Station that [I believe] sustained the heaviest loss of Firefighters. All of the tour guides were people with a close connection to someone who had lost their lives in 911. It was truly a very sobering experience.

Sadly, Carol passed away in 2010. We returned to New York City again in 2012 with another couple. During this visit we were able to go to the 9/11 Memorial which is located at the site of the former World Trade Centre complex. While viewing the almost 3000 names inscribed in the bronze parapets surrounding the twin waterfall pools I could hear George and Doug saying "We have to do this - we may never get the opportunity again".

How true those words were!

*by Jean and George Crysler*

***Gardens***



Tulip Planter, *by Theo*



A Garden Study, *by Laurie*



A Quiet Corner, *by Laurie*



A Garden Collage, *by Renate*

## Member Happenings

*By Kathleen Spiess*

### THAI TRAVELS

When a person lives in a country for any length of time, if you get to know 'the locals' you can make some exhilarating discoveries of magical places that are off the local tourist destinations. I was so fortunate while living in Thailand for six years to have the privilege of befriending a young Thai friend of my daughter's (Nam Fon) and her family who took me on some of their family excursions. They even offered me the role of surrogate mother for Nam Fon's Buddhist wedding. Prior to her wedding, Nam Fon and I travelled to many places where she acted not only as my travel companion, but as my translator too. I became her other 'mom'.

One trip I particularly recall as most memorable was a visit to a little known spot, namely the river near the village of Amphawa. In order to visualize what we saw, imagine it is Christmas time on the street where you live and trees border both sides of the street, from top to bottom. And the trees are filled to the brim with tiny twinkling white Christmas lights. It takes your breath away when you walk down the block. Well, this is the vision we saw, as we motored up the river in a long-tail boat, only it wasn't Christmas lights which were regaling us, but rather absolutely thousands, upon thousands of nearly invisible to the eye, fireflies. It is a light show like no other. Fireflies are common in mangrove forests and are a delight to behold ~ Mother Nature putting on a dazzling display. Fireflies are drawn to water, and the Mae Kong River attracts millions of them where they present their synchronous display.

Our adventure had a side event. As we were motoring along, the hired driver of the long-tail boat tried to motor across an absolutely massive clump of water weeds. They were so dense they brought our boat to a standstill, mid-river. The driver actually stepped out of his boat onto the weeds, walked back to his engine and tried to disengage from the entanglement, but it wasn't to be. Fortunately, the river is fairly narrow and some fellows on shore (after a conversation I didn't comprehend, as I never mastered more than very basic Thai) jumped in to the river, swam out, and assisted the driver in freeing the boat from the river's clutches and we were on our way, once again.

The second non-touristy place I visited was the town of Surin where they hold an annual elephant weekend. It is perhaps a bit like the PNE here, not for the rides, but for the tradition of residents from out of town who come in to meet 'n greet distant relatives and neighbours, the main difference being they bring along the family elephant if they have one.

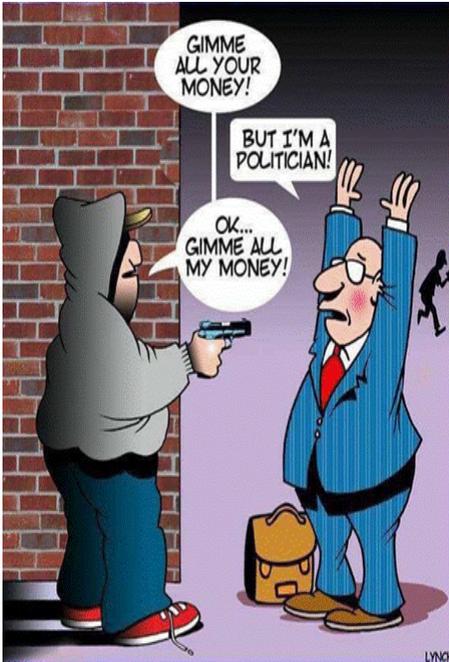
An educational show commences, and the audience is guided thru a performance of a mock war, showing how traditionally a herd of elephants was led into battle. The leader of the herd carries a flag which he uses to indicate to the following elephants which way he wants the soldiers riding the elephants to turn as the battle progresses. (The commentary is only in Thai so you must attend with a translator.) The next presentation reenacts how an older family male would go into the jungle and capture a baby elephant to bring home to his family for his son. The son and elephant grow up together, form a tight bond, and the boy becomes a man and becomes the mahout for his elephant, which was used for agricultural purposes for many years.

### THAILAND ~ A COUNTRY I LOVE

I'm convinced that some Probus members have very interesting travel stories to share, so why not put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and send them along to share with the rest of us! We'd love to read about them, and perhaps some of us could visit places you've enjoyed in the past.

# Monthly Mirth

“Siri, why am I so bad at relationships with women?”  
“I’m Alexa”!



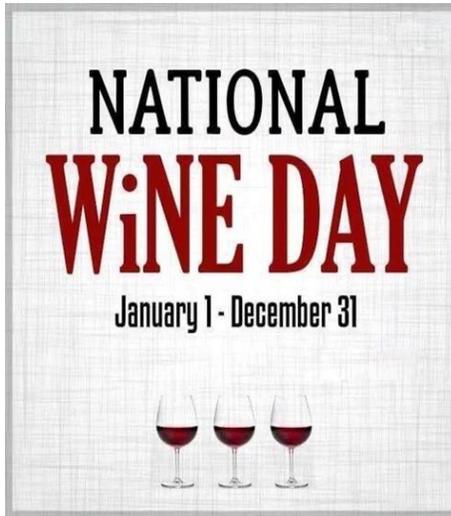
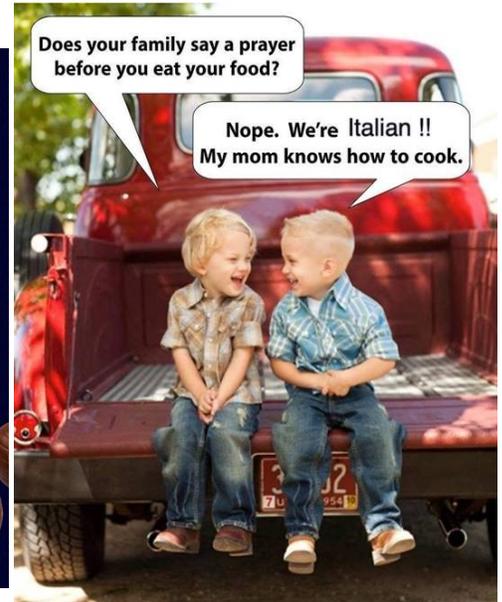
How is that new diet going?

Not so good.  
I had eggs for breakfast.

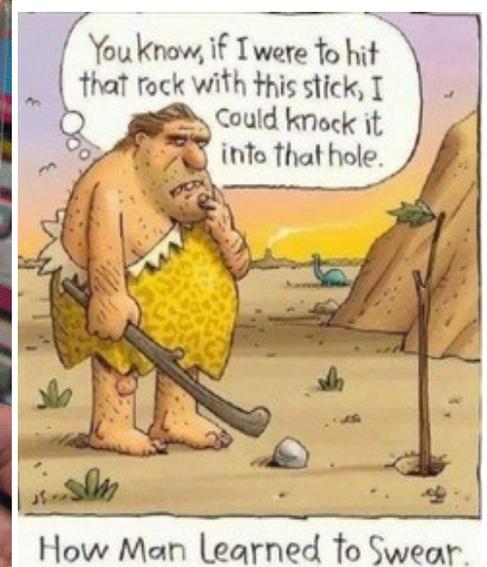
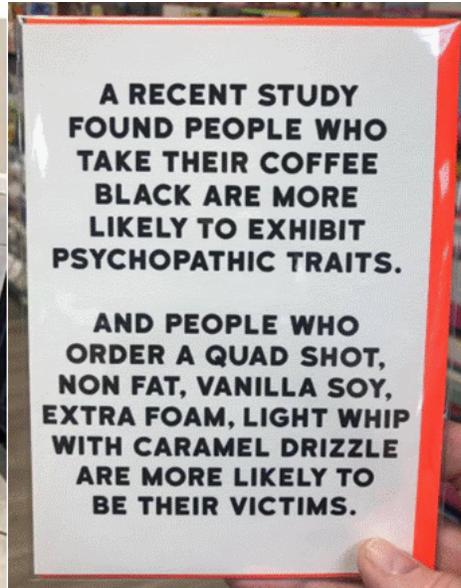
Did you make scrambled?

No, I had Cadbury's.

Recipes From Heaven  
[www.myincrediblerecipes.com](http://www.myincrediblerecipes.com)



The kids won't move back home if **they** can't find 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

## WALKING, Special Interest Group

Please be advised that the Walking group meets each Tuesday, at 9am - 'Rain or Shine', at the parking lot of the Equestrian Centre, on Park Lane.

For further information,  
Please contact Renate at;  
Renes1229@aol.com

## Submit a question for Mike Morden

In order to help manage the question period of the presentation by Mike Morden, could you please send your question to Marie Slessor,

**marieslessor79@gmail.com**

Thank you!

## Origin of the Phrase:

### Bite the bullet:

To accept something unpleasant or difficult.

*During a war or in times when doctors did not have anesthesia, they would distract the patient from pain by asking them to bite hard down on a bullet. The first recorded written use of this phrase was in The Light that Failed in 1891.*

## Probus in-person 'Coffee Morning'

**First Wednesday of the month, at 10am**

**Next meeting: May 4th**

## Special Interest Groups

**Book Club:** *Convenor, Bob Grist*

*Meets 1:30pm, second Tuesday, monthly*

**Bridge:** *Convenor: Kathleen Spiess*

*Meets, 2pm third Monday, monthly*

**Computer/Photography:** *Convenor: Sam Lewindon*

*Meets, 10am, last Wednesday, monthly.*

**Crafts:** *Convenor, contact, Michaela micricgoingplaces@gmail.com*

**Cycling:** *Convenor, tba*

**Dining:** *Convenors: Marie Slessor/Carla Reed*

*Meets 6pm second Thursdays, monthly*

**Discussion:** *Convenor, Theo Rathonyi Reusz*

*Meets, 10am first Thursday monthly*

**Golf :** *Convenor, tba*

**Lunch:** *Convenor. Aline Drew*

*Meets, noon last Thursday, monthly*

**Walking:** *Convenor, Renate*

*Meets 9am Tuesdays, weekly*

**Wine Club:** *Convenor: Sam Lewindon*

*Meets, 5pm last Friday, monthly*

## **"Groaner" of the Month:**

**"Weight loss pills stolen this morning",**

Police say suspects are still at Large