



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

**This will also be our 2022 AGM**

**Our invited speaker is;**

**Maria Perretta**

**Executive Director**

**Ridge Meadows Seniors Society**



# Probus Club of Maple Ridge

## President's Message and Program



Sam Lewindon, President

### **Welcome to our 2022 Annual General Meeting**

### **Annual General Meeting, Program February 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	Speaker, thank you
11:00	AGM,
11:20	Reports and Elections
11:45	Meeting closes

Another Probus year has quickly passed, this one has been especially trying for a Social Club. The number and varied nature of the Covid restrictions forced shutdowns of in-person meetings and led to an increase of virtual activities. However, our club met these challenges and maintained a safe and stimulating calendar of events, with many activities being conducted outdoors as the weather improved. As vaccines and boosters became available, our members followed the Public Health guidelines and vaccination became a key factor in enabling us to revisit the Special Interest Groups, safely! As 2022 starts, it looks like we are facing another uncertain year, but again, our main priority is member safety. Please ensure that you are aware of, and follow, all the recommended Public Health regulations to be able to access our in-person events.

These challenging times are toughest on the Management Committee, who have had to meet the moving goalposts of public health regulations when planning club activities. Thanks to the MC Team this past year, we made the club an exciting place to be. Our membership grew by over 30%, and we now face the coming year with confidence, and a healthy budget.

This year we also hope to expand on the activities that allow us to meet in-person. Monthly meetings may even return, but with a new format, and being subject to the health regulations in force at the time, and using new technology to allow us access to Guest Speakers. It promises to be an exciting year!

*“You have such a February face, so full of frost, of storm and cloudiness”. William Shakespeare,*



## **Maria Perretta**

### **Executive Director**

**Ridge Meadows Seniors Society**



As the Executive Director of the Ridge Meadows Seniors Society, Maria Perretta fulfills her aspirations of enhancing quality of life for older adults as well as leading a passionate staff and volunteers to put their ideas into action.

As a young girl, Maria developed a soft spot for elders. Her mother, who was a single mom and hairdresser, showed her the importance of volunteering time for others - even if you didn't have time to spare. Maria developed a solid foundation for better understanding the struggles of older adults and how to find what interests people and to develop a plan and make it all happen!

A combination of her life experiences, background in Gerontology based Therapeutic Recreation and 20 years of management experience within Adult Day Centres, Retirement Living and Not For Profit organizations, makes her an innovative leader in the field of healthy aging. She uses her experiences to enlighten others, create awareness and develop innovative ideas when leading and supporting her incredible team of staff, peers and volunteers.

Maria is also proud to be a working mom, mother to one unique 8 year old and a wife to a very supportive husband- who is a big kid himself.

## Speaker's Notes:

*by Marie Slessor*

Laurie introduced our speaker, **Rick Laing**, speaking about Ridge Meadows Search and Rescue. Rick joined what was then Maple Ridge Search and Rescue in 1985 and was Team Manager for 20 years before his retirement. Since retirement, he works part-time for the Province of BC in Emergency Management. Laurie thanked him for the many hours he has volunteered both in Ridge Meadows and the provincial Search and Rescue.

Rick told us there are approximately 2500 volunteers in various Search and Rescue groups in BC who enjoy getting out in nature and helping people. Ridge Meadows Search and Rescue, like all such groups, is under the umbrella of Emergency Management BC which looks after all disasters like the fires and floods we have had this year. EMBC sets the policies and training standards which govern all SAR groups, and provides for Workman Compensation and Liability Insurance in case of injury during a rescue. It also provides annual funding for group training and equipment. Last year in BC there were 1900 operational tasks or rescues, which is more than the rest of Canada combined. This reflects our vast recreational area and our rugged terrain.

There are 79 SAR groups in the province and BCSAR Association is the umbrella group for all of them, it looks out for the best interests of SARs volunteers, and presents a united front to the government. Some of these groups perform over 200 calls a year, while some have less than 12. Calls come out anytime of day or night, but now with GPS and better cell phone coverage there are less 2am calls.

Maple Ridge SAR began in 1969 when a local hiking group got together and in 1996 it was renamed Ridge Meadows SAR. They cover about 700 square kilometres, from Pitt Lake to Mission, with Golden Ears Park seeing a lot of activity. They currently have 39 members and last year put in over 3000 volunteer hours and did over 63 "tasks". They train every Wednesday, putting in over 4000 training hours last year. They train on such things as First Aid, Rope and Rescue Operations, Boat Rescue and Swift Water Rescue, since every year our area has 2 or 3 drownings. When asked about what is needed in a volunteer, Rick said that it needs someone who is physically fit, is available, takes initiative, has a sense of commitment, and is willing to learn communication skills. They look for people who are willing to help people and give something back while being part of a larger team.

Rick said the teams are only sent out by a requesting agency such as police, fire, ambulance, local government or the coroner. It is typically begun by a call to 911. The types of calls they deal with are: missing persons or persons in distress, medical rescue, evidence search, a downed aircraft or vessel in distress, search and recovery of human remains or a domestic animal rescue if there is a danger to the public in trying to rescue it.

An extensive question period followed. Rick answered that out of 100 attendees at an information session, about 8 to 10 will start to train with the RM group. They do not use dogs, but are able to access RCMP dogs. When asked about funding, he said that through EMBC they are fairly well funded including mileage, meals if out for a long rescue, and for training. A question was asked about cell reception in Golden Ears Park, and Rick said it is improving, but the best thing you can do is file a trip plan with someone reliable. When asked about the hut on Golden Ears Mountain, he said that the original hut was demolished, but the Golden Ears Hiking Club has erected a shelter further up Panorama Ridge and it is well-maintained and frequently used by RMSAR. He also told us that it is frustrating to SAR volunteers when people go out unprepared and make unsound choices. He said they regard their role as one to try to inform people so they don't repeat their mistake. In 35 years, he has only seen 2 repeat cases.

Michael thanked him for the presentation and to the 39 members who volunteer for RMSAR with their sincere dedication and commitment.



### A Winter Tale *by Josine Eikelenboom*

Just like here along the Westcoast of BC, winters in the Netherlands were different from today. Every winter there was a period of frost, when the many waterways froze to beautiful ice rinks. Literally everybody got the skating fever. Skates were taken out, the irons were cleaned from the protecting Vaseline and sharpened, and off we went to the frozen canals, lakes and ditches. It was easy to make a tour of 30 km just by stepping on the ice behind your house.

1963 was a particularly cold winter. At that time, we lived with our young family of 4 on a houseboat moored along an orchard, in a waterway that connected one of the main rivers with a lake. It was so cold that the waterline was frozen. We had to bring in drinking water from the nearby farm, and make a hole in the ice for dish- and cleaning water. My youngest was still in diapers and those (cloth- of course!) were rinsed in the manmade hole. The baby, who was 1 year old, actually learned to walk on the ice surrounding the houseboat.

In the evenings we met with our friends-neighbours, two fellow houseboat young couples, on the ice. The kids were in bed, the baby phone that served all three houseboats was on, one of the parents stayed home to keep guard, and the rest went off for a tour on the ice. After an hour we reconvened to enjoy hot chocolate (with or without rum!) together. What a great and unforgettable winter!

It was already March when - with regret - we saw the icebreaker making an end to the party: the waterway was used for transportation vessels to bring oil from the harbour of Rotterdam to the airport Schiphol, and the icy disruption had lasted all too long.

*Josine, skating on the canals*





## Through the Lens

*Curated by Rick O'Doherty*



*Whistler Scene—Tamara O'Doherty*



*Throw me another snowball—Rick O'Doherty*



*Snow Caps? - Sam Lewindon*



*Hiding in plain sight—Rick O'Doherty*

### A New Zealand Journey

A few years ago, I was fortunate to be invited to visit a friend who lives in North Hatley, New Zealand. It was my first trip to the area, and hopefully it won't be my last. What impressed me at first was the similarities between the landscape of New Zealand and that of my home in Canada. The temperature felt comfortable and homey, and the vegetation was similar to what I was accustomed to.

We decided to make a road trip from North Hatley where my friend Linda lives, to the city of Rotorua and there were interesting spots to drive through on the way. To me the most interesting town we drove thru which immediately grabbed my attention (as I am a lover of the English language and admire what can be done with words). I am speaking of the town of BULLS, and my jaw dropped when I read names of the local establishments. Firstly, there was the DelectaBULL Café, which was situated by the Rent-A-BULL establishment where you could take home many implements for temporary help at home. Then we passed the SocialBULL community hall ~ now how clever is that? Oh yes, I wanted to stop the car and pop in to the IncrediBULL Gift Shop, and I would also like to have wandered in the CollectiBULL Antique Shop, but time was passing, and so we moved on, driving past MOVE-a-Bull and the police station, appropriately named ConstaBULL. On the way out of town, we passed Live-A-BULL and who knows what went on in there!

We passed thru the town of Taihape which had a roadside model of a huge gumboot and it turns out they have an annual gumboot throwing festival. Wouldn't that be entertaining to attend!

We spent time exploring the hot mud pools along the highway. They reminded me of my visit to Yellowstone National Park in the 'States' years earlier. Here in New Zealand the earth scape bubbles and boils with mud baths along the marked trails. Hopefully animals in the area have learned to avoid the mud baths, as once in them there would be no getting out.

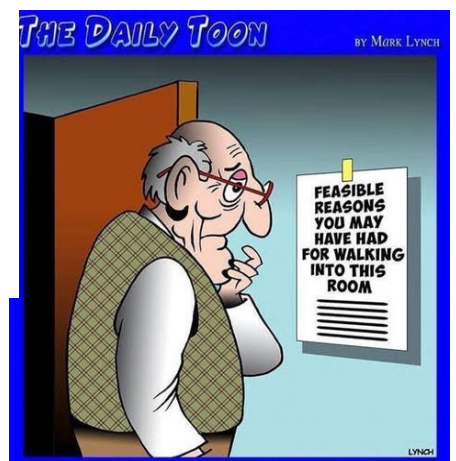
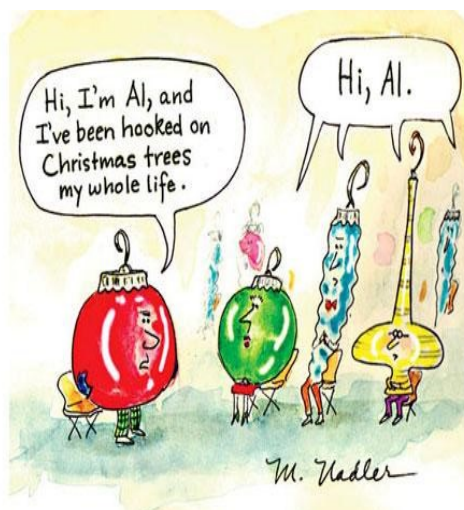
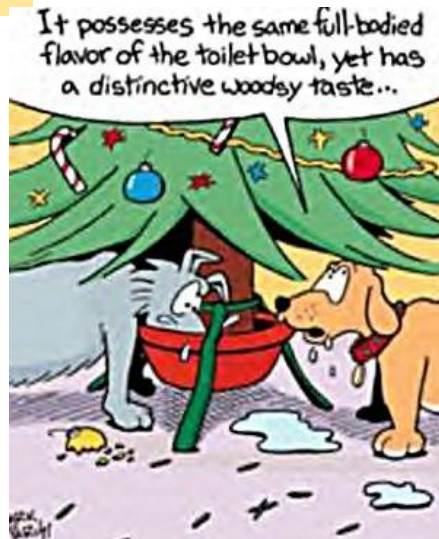
We stayed the night just beyond the hot pools in the town of Rotorua and in the motel every room had its own private hot tub on the outside deck - as this is a Geothermal area. We had a good soak and even better laughs, as there are no friends like old friends whom you have shared life's journey with. Then we visited an authentic life-size Maori village and viewed Maori weaving, and carvings, experienced authentic Hangi, (meat and vegetables cooked in large baskets on hot stones underground) and watched a cultural performance of the Haka as well as singing and dancing. Guess who the invited central foreign Haka 'visitor' they tried to frighten was!

Our journey culminated in the town of Rotorua where we visited a ZORB amusement centre. Here they have an absolutely gigantic plastic sphere (a ZORB), much like I had years ago for my children's gerbils to be placed in so they could race around our home in the plastic ball. At the Zorb Amusement Park, paying customers hiked to the top of the hill, climbed inside the plastic sphere which is partially filled with water, and then rolled down the hill. What fun!

New Zealand ~ I'd love to visit again, and that my friends is NO BULL!



## Monthly Mirth



A backward poet writes inverse.



# Messages, Notices and Information

## Wanted:

**Stories for:**

**Memory Lane:**

Contact Josine at: [eikelenboom@telus.net](mailto:eikelenboom@telus.net)

**Photos for:**

**Through the Lens**

Contact

Rick at: [micricgoingplaces@gmail.com](mailto:micricgoingplaces@gmail.com)

## Management Nomination Slate

<u>Past President</u>	<u>Skip Johnson</u>
<u>President</u>	<u>Sam Lewindon</u>
<u>Vice President</u>	
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Marie Slessor</u>
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Jason Leemans</u>
<u>Historian &amp; Archivist</u>	<u>Carla Reed</u>
<u>Membership</u>	<u>Kathleen Spiess</u>
<u>Speakers</u>	<u>Laurie Freebairn</u>
<u>Communications</u>	<u>Jean &amp; George Cryslar</u>
<u>Member at Large</u>	<u>Theo Rathonyi Reusz</u>
<u>Member at Large</u>	<u>Michael Buckingham</u>
<u>Member at Large</u>	<u>Dick Drew</u>
<u>Member at Large</u>	<u>John Bale</u>
<u>Member at Large</u>	<u>Josine Eikelenboom</u>

## Origin of the Phrase:

### Armed to the teeth:

Being overly prepared, or too well equipped.

*17th century pirates who wanted to make sure they never ran out of ammunition, held a gun in each hand. In order to be prepared, they tended to keep another gun in their pocket and held a knife in their teeth*

## Probus 'Coffee Morning'

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

***Next meeting: via Zoom. February 2nd***

## Special Interest Groups:

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

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

**Crafts:** *Convenor, contact, Michaela*

*[micricgoingplaces@gmail.com](mailto: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: Carla Reed*

*Contact: [carlar2@telus.net](mailto:carlar2@telus.net)*

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

*Meets, noon last Thursday, monthly*

**Cycling:** *Convenor, Kathy Pierce*

*Contact; [prairiegirl60@gmail.com](mailto:prairiegirl60@gmail.com)*

**Golf :** *Convenor, Rick Howard*

*Contact, [rickhoward@shaw.ca](mailto: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:**

**Did you hear about the man  
who lost his whole left side?**

**Well, he's all right now!**