

Goldeneer

The Newsletter of the

PROBUS CLUB of MAPLE RIDGE

December, 2022

Our next Event

Will take place on Saturday

December 17th, 2022

At 5pm

This will be our Christmas Dinner!



“THE SEASONS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL”



Probus Club of Maple Ridge

President's Message



Sam Lewindon, President



THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!

And what a year we have had!

From your enthusiastic support of our Summer Outdoor Activities, to your regular attendance at our Coffee Mornings, joining our monthly Zoom meetings and by participating in our various Special Interest Groups - we have had an historic year! We have expanded our membership to our largest size yet, and added 14 new members this year. We are On a Roll. So thank you all very much!

Any organization is only as successful as the support its members' provide, so;
'Well Done Us'!

However, the year ahead will be a difficult one if we do not find volunteers to fill the gaps in our Management Committee left by those who's term of office is up. As we are all volunteers, we do need other members to step up and help our club grow - will you be one of them?

Our Annual Christmas Dinner is planned for Saturday, December 17th, at the Meadow Gardens Golf Club's Loft Restaurant. Meeting at 5pm, a three course dinner will follow! There are a few places at the table still available so please let me know if you are able to join us. It promises to be a grand event!

A notice of our Annual General Meeting will be forthcoming soon and this will be an in-person meeting at Meadow Gardens Golf Club, so please watch out for announcements for this event!

Wishing you and your family a **VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



Speaker's Notes:

by Marie Slessor

Mary Robson

Sam introduced Mary Robson, who has been the Executive Director of the Friends in Need Food Bank since 2013. He told us she has had a varied career in business and hospitality, and was a charter member of Meadow Ridge Rotary and a leader in opening Rotary to women. Her family hosted 2 families from Syria in 2016 and are now hosting 2 families from the Ukraine.

Mary told us that there are several programs run by the Food Bank. One is the School Meal Snack Program which covers all but one school in Maple Ridge, and that over 3000 students benefit from some kind of food support. She is pleased that they received full funding of over \$100,000 for this program from the Breakfast Club of Canada. One of the highlights of this program is that the graduation rates of students in alternative programs has increased.

There are currently three branches of Friends in Need Food Bank – the main depot in Maple Ridge, a satellite in Pitt Meadows, and a branch at the Senior's Centre which is indoors with a calmer setting. Their purpose is to make sure that no one goes hungry. The increase in the cost of living and inflation have led to an increased demand for the food bank. This is also true for the food bank itself, which has seen an increase of about 15 to 20% in costs. Mary says that they see lots of working families that cannot make ends meet. There are also newcomers in Maple Ridge and they serve about 50 families from the Ukraine.

She is very proud of their Perishable Food Recovery Program, and are a leader in this. It was started 3 years ago as a pilot program from Food Banks Canada. They were given a grant from Enterprise Canada and Walmart, they found an empty space and were able to put in coolers, freezer and all the equipment needed to run the program. They pick up from all the major grocers in the community 364 days a year. 50% of the recovered food goes to humans, the other 50% goes to farmers for animal feed and compost. The value of food put back into the community is \$4.4 million and it is calculated that they have saved over 4.1 million kilograms of CO2, a fact recognized by both the Climate Hub and the city. They operate in the morning, distributing food to people, and then the farmers pick up the leftovers at the end of each day. They have now switched over to using totes which has been a big saving over the cost of single use plastics, to say nothing of the ecological footprint.

During question period we learned that they are not in need of volunteers other than for the Christmas campaigns like the CPR train or the fire fighters. Things at the depot are still kept very tight because of Covid, and all the services are outside. Mary says they have an amazing team, but invited anyone to contact Nancy, the volunteer coordinator for information.

Duplication of services is not an issue, since the food bank is a food provider. They work closely with churches and other community groups since not everyone in need attends the food bank. If the food bank has it, they will share.

Information on donating was answered by Mary telling us that online is very easy, through Canada Helps, and that since working with this group they have raised over \$800,000.

When asked about the shopping model, Mary said they were just in the process of switching over to this when Covid hit so they have had to stay with the pre-packaged hampers. Each registered family receives a hamper once a month made up of staples like canned goods and soups. Once a week they receive a perishable bag, and can also choose from some items outside in totes. Every family receives milk and eggs monthly. Mary said when she began at the food bank there were about 475 families but it is now up to over 600 families who receive assistance per month. 37% are seniors which is a consistently growing category, 33% are families with children under 18.

Dick thanked Mary and congratulated her. The food bank provides a remarkable service for the community. He also told us that she and her husband, Gordy, have been outstanding community citizens.

A joke that went a bit too far.

By Josine Eikelenboom

In the Netherlands, presents are given not on Christmas day but on December 5th, St. Nicolas Day. The legend is that St. Nicolas, together with his Moor helper boy and his white horse, board a steamship in Spain and sail to Holland, where they arrive in early December. The ship is loaded with presents for the Dutch children. Saint Nic and Black Peter go out after dark, riding the roofs on the white horse, and listening at the chimneys how the kids are behaving. It will all be written down in the Saint's Big Book. Sometimes, Black Peter knocks on the door of a house and throws candies inside, without ever been seen. How exciting and scary at the same time!

My husband Adrian grew up in a big family. The large 18th century house had several rooms where University students were boarded. On the evening of the big day, it was arranged that two of the students would dress up as St. Nicolas and Black Peter and bring some presents to the kids. These students were jolly guys out for some fun. With a loud bang on the door, they announced their arrival. The entire family was assembled in the living room, full of expectation. St. Nicolas made his entry, was reverently greeted by parents and children, and took place in the large armchair set out for him. Black Peter, who was carrying a bag full of presents and another, large jute bag, handed the Saint his Big Book. "Have you all have been good this year?" The older children, who knew who was hiding behind the large white beard and the black skin, were snickering but the smaller ones, deeply impressed, shouted or mumbled "Yes Saint Nicolas". "Well, let's see what the Big Book has to tell". Starting with the older kids, a present was found in Peter's bag and handed over.

But then: "Oh, oh what do I read here? Adrian? I see you haven't been that good, you fought with your sister. And you were screaming. Is that right?" The 5-year old stared at the Saint with his big brown eyes and didn't know what to say. "We have to put you in this big jute bag and carry you back to Spain, my boy. You will have to stay there for a year, and learn how to behave properly". And Black Peter took the kid up and threw the jute bag over his head, carried him to the closet in the corridor and whispered: "we will get you in a moment o.k..?"

The party went on, all the kids got their present, they sang the seasonal songs for the Saint, there were hot drinks (genever for the Saint and his helper) and then it was time to leave. Suddenly, little Maartje started to cry loudly. " Adrian!! They will take Adrian away!!"

"Oh my God" the overburdened mother exclaimed, " we have forgotten Adrian, the poor kid". Of course all turned out well and Adrian wasn't taken away.

But it was an experience he could never forget.

Through the Lens

Curated by Rick O'Doherty

Next Month's Theme , "Snow Scenes"

SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS OF LIGHT



Festive Maple Ridge Bandstand by Simon



Tree of Light by Simon



That Christmas feeling by Michaela



Nomination Please

Our Probus Club has been operating in our town for nearly five years, and Sam has been so clever in establishing the activity groups and operating the ZOOM format during the last “Bad Years”. A large part of that comes from the people behind him that have been able to contribute their ideas into the way things are done. I think I can say that the team that makes up the management committee not only contribute ideas but that it also only takes a small amount of time out of their lives to put the activities in place, and once they are up and running, it only requires a minimal attention.

A sizeable number of the membership are able to socialize in person (that Covid showed us is so important), and to develop friendships and contacts as a result of Probus.

Sam has been so conscientious in establishing such a smooth operation, by coordinating all the events with the support of willing members. Our club now needs participation from some other members to take on a few different things. Any society or club will always thrive when new members get involved and put in their ideas and feel that they are part of that entity. Without that fresh input things are likely to decay. Volunteers are now needed to fill some upcoming vacancies in the management committee.

The position of Vice President, is urgently needed, and whoever accepts this vacancy will have Sam in a 'shadow' position, so he/she will not go in cold. (It's a team effort)

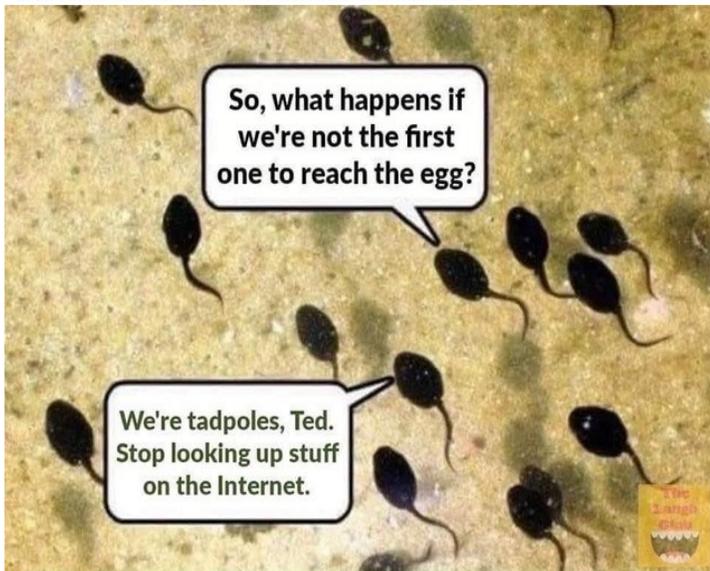
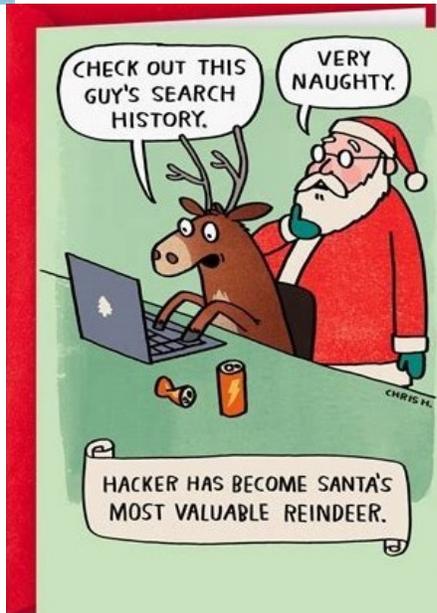
So, when you read this, please give some consideration to getting involved, and contact either Skip or myself, Michael - on behalf of the nominating committee.

Skip Johnson

Michael Buckingham

Theo Rathonyi Reusz

Monthly Mirth



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

A Christmas Concert at WestAcres

What happens when an opera composer teams up with a songwriter, 4 opera singers, a guitarist, 2 cellists and 2 violinists to create a **December 16th** Christmas Concert?

An unforgettable Christmas Moment!

Peter Tam - Opera Composer/Jazz Pianist/Singer

Stella Chen - Opera Singer Soprano

Zoe Rozek - Violin soloist (12 year old wunderkind)

Bruce Coughlan - Singer-Songwriter/Guitarist

Julie Duerichen - Opera Singer Soprano

*Sylwia Karwowska - Opera Singer Soprano/Cellist/
Pianist*

Anne Catherine - Violin

A donation of \$40 covers refreshments, musician expenses, promotion, technical support and 45% for the Salvation Army Kettle drive. A tax receipt is available for donations greater than \$50

Origin of the Phrase: Skeleton in the closet

Definition: A secret that someone is embarrassed about.

Origin: Before the UK passed its 1832 Anatomy Act, grave robbers supplied skeletons for medical schools. When a raid occurred, the teachers tended to hide these skeletons in the closet so as not to have them confiscated.

Probus in-person 'Coffee Morning'

First Wednesday of the month, at 10am

Next meeting: Dec. 7th

Special Interest Groups

Book Club: *Convenor, Carla Reed*

Meets 1:30pm, second Tuesday, monthly

Bridge: *Convenor: Kathleen Spiess*

Meets, 2pm third Monday, monthly

Camping: *Convenor: Michaela O'Doherty*

Computer/Photography: *Convenor: Sam Lewindon*

Meets, 10am, last Wednesday, monthly.

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

Dining: *Convenors: Marie Slessor/Carla Reed*
Meets 6pm second Thursdays, 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, weekly Tuesday and Friday am

Walking: *Convenor, Renate*

Meets 9am Tuesdays, weekly

Wine Club: *Convenor: Sam Lewindon*

Meets, 5pm last Friday, monthly

"Groaner" of the Month:

**A crazy wife says to her husband that
moose are falling from the sky.**

The husband says, it's just reindeer