

# PROBUS CLUB OF DUNCAN NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2025



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

#### **Happy Thanksgiving to all!**

As most of you know I live in Cowichan Bay and I thought I would update you on the changes in CowBay.

- The Masthead is no more, with a new restaurant in place with same owners. They have changed the concept to something less formal with live music, named "Olivers". Come down and try it out.
- The sea lions are back at the end of the wharf in CowBay, noisy, and smelly but a great attraction for tourists. They should be there until mid November, while chasing the salmon. I even note that bus loads of tourists are stopping to view the sea lions, so the dock is a busy place. Here is a link to more info on these creatures <https://www.cowichanestuary.ca/animals-of-the-estuary/sea-lion/>
- A new restaurant set to open "The Little Corner Sandwich Shop" which was formally located in Cobble Hill. It's now set to open in a new location in Cowichan Bay, next door to Tru Grain Bakery. It appears they have a stop work order in place posted on the door so not sure when they will get this sorted and open for business.

- True Grain Bakery is featuring all things pumpkin, such as pumpkin pies, shortbread, pumpkin swirls (version of a cinnamon bun, and pumpkin cake loafs. This is one busy place, probably the most active location in CowBay.

Goodbye to Summer and Hello to the Fall.

## MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

**The Monthly General Meeting will be on October 21st at 10 am in the Arbutus Golf Club. See you there.**

Our speaker for October 21<sup>st</sup> will be Dr. Elizabeth Zoffman who will speak on Madagascar and “The Cost of Colonization”.

### **REMINDER: PROBUS club fees are now due!**

For your convenience there are two ways to pay the annual fees of \$50/person.

1) By cheque payable to PROBUS Club of Duncan - can be handed off to Marg Brown, our Membership Chair.

2) Transfer payment to Jan Grootwassink at [treasurer@probusduncan.ca](mailto:treasurer@probusduncan.ca)

## SOMETHING TO NOTE

A new “Special Events Committee” has commenced and will be listed in the special interest section at the end of the newsletter. They are Dorothy Whittome, Donna Rodway and Leslie Hodgson. Thanks to all these ladies for their volunteer spirit.

## PROBUS EVENT: DISCOVER THE PAST IN VICTORIA

A leisurely walk through downtown Victoria will start at the Victoria Information Centre, 812 Wharf St. at **2 pm on Saturday October 25\***. Please be at this location at least 10 minutes prior to the start time. Our professional guide, passionate about local history will share fascinating stories of famous and colourful people from the past. Find out how Victoria became the capital of British Columbia, hear stories of the fur trade and gold rush periods. Along the way we will see the Inner Harbour and wander the streets and alleyways and squares of the Old Town, Bastion Square and China Town.

As the tour starts at 2 pm, lunch reservations have been made for those who wish to participate at Milestones, adjacent to the Victoria Information Centre at 12 noon. The restaurant assures me that we will be served with plenty of time to be at the starting point to begin our walk.

The cost of this tour is \$18.00. You may e-transfer your fee to [treasurer@probusduncan.ca](mailto:treasurer@probusduncan.ca) or pay Millie Annela at the meeting on October 21st. I would appreciate if you would contact me at 250 748 3198 or at [donnarodway@gmail.com](mailto:donnarodway@gmail.com) to let me know if you are joining us for the walk and if you are planning to attend the lunch.

## PROBUS EVENT: VISITING THE RAPTOR CENTRE

Twenty- three intrepid bird loving Probus members went to The Raptors on Friday October 26th. The birds were wonderful and the tour was very informative. We recommend this attraction to anyone with visitors to the Cowichan area.



The September 50/50 winner was John McFerran, a guest that day, who kindly donated his winnings of \$42.50 to our club. What a nice fellow!



**50/50 DRAW**

Roxanne Carriere

## PROBUS INTERMEDIATE FUN PARTY BRIDGE

If you know the basic conventions of bridge and want to play, please contact Sue Fryer at [jandsfryer@shaw.ca](mailto:jandsfryer@shaw.ca) for details about playing on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month. Free registration is required.

**Group A already has begun and enjoying this happy pastime.**

Dorothy Whittome is a qualified teacher for beginners. She is a longtime PROBUS member so contact her if you want to learn this fascinating game in the Fall!

“Delicious Autumn! My very soul  
is wedded to it, and if I were a  
bird, I would fly about the Earth  
seeking successive autumns.”  
(George Eliot, English writer 1819  
- 1880)



**SOMETHING TO  
PONDER**



# CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

## APPIE NIGHT SIGN UP

Our lineup for Appie Nights is slowly filling in. Please consider hosting one of these fun events and let anyone on the executive know what month you prefer. I can also be reached directly by email at [stonepolish@gmail.com](mailto:stonepolish@gmail.com). It generally ranges at about 20 people but honestly, smaller gatherings are perfectly suitable and the limits are entirely up to you as the host. Everyone brings their own drinks along with their appetizer contribution (enough for sharing) so it's easy for the hosts. Everyone has a great time at these early evening gatherings and it's a good opportunity to get to know new members. As your event approaches please let Jan know the correct date and time and a communication with details will be issued to all members.

October: Sharon Arnold

**November: available**

December: Larry and Aleen Gray

**January 2026: available**

**February 2026: available**

**March 2026: available**

**April 2026: available**

**October's Appie Night: hosted**

**by Sharon Arnold:**

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5 pm**

**600 Shorewood Drive, Mill Bay**

**millamo1@gmail.com**

**250 732 6013**



# APPIE NIGHT AT THE NEWMANS

The Appie Evening at the Newmans was a great success as the weather was kind and we were able to be outside the whole time. It meant that Happy Hour turned into Happy Three plus hours. Outside lights and oil lamps helped. It was difficult to keep track of all the conversations and laughter that were going on.

The food was amazing and delicious: Devilled eggs, stuffed endive, pumpernickel bread with dip, assorted quiche, spring rolls, two kinds of meat balls, nuts and dried fruits, sausage rolls with the thinnest of pastry, and more than I can remember.



## BREKKY BRUNCH

➤➤➤ **HOSTED BY KATIE DAAN**  
**AT THE DUNCAN WHITE SPOT**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8TH AT 8:30 AM**

The Brekkie Club is open to **ALL** members and would welcome new attendees. Please drop a line to Katie at [katiedaan@gmail.com](mailto:katiedaan@gmail.com) or 250-597-4736 so that she may arrange table space. The Brekkie Brunch group meets every second Wednesday of the month, same time and location. Thanks.

## FUN FACTS

“According to superstition a broom placed on the doorsill will keep witches from entering your home.” (The Old Farmer’s Almanac, 2025)





# THE 6-S'S WINE TASTERS

So Fall is upon us, and we are back into the onerous task of wine-tasting!!!

Our hosts for the evening were Hugh & Anne Clarke. Our numbers were diminished by vacationers and illness, but 7 of us persevered, and we had perhaps the most expensive tasting to date, and you won't be surprised that all wines came from our own Cowichan Valley.

However, we were very pleased the quality of the various wines, and would not hesitate to recommend them to our readers. They received great comments and were pretty comparable in the individual ratings. They may be a little pricey, but would be great for "special occasions."

White	Emandare	2022	Cowichan Valley	White Blend	\$26.99	86.9
White	Enrico	2022	Cowichan Valley	Noble Chardonnay	\$23.99	89.4
Rosé	Unsworth	2023	Cowichan Valley	Rose	\$26.69	78.1
Red	Averill Creek	2023	Cowichan Valley	Red Field Blend	\$27.99	84.1
Red	Alderlea	2022	Cowichan Valley	Matrix Red Blend	\$28.99	86.4



## WARMLAND READERS



**MEETING TIME: 2ND TUESDAY  
MONTHLY AT 10 AM**

Our September book was “I am I am I am” by Maggie O’Farrell. Maggie is a prolific and acclaimed writer from the UK. The book we read was written for her daughter and seems to be intended as a celebration of life. The book describes Maggie’s 17 brushes with death. The consensus of our book club was that many of these brushes with death were the result of a lack of planning or good judgement. We wondered if her serious illness with encephalitis predisposed her to this. The book also seemed disjointed and hard to put into a sequence of events. Well, on we go to explore “The Curve of Time” for next month.

Submitted by Sharon Arnold

## BETTER BOOKIES



**MEETING TIME: 2ND TUESDAY  
MONTHLY AT 10 AM**

This month’s book *The Magician’s Assistant* by Ann Patchett is a novel that explores truth and lies, illusions and reality through the eyes of Sabine, the magician’s assistant. When the death of the magician, Parsifal, reveals that he has family living in Nebraska, Sabine embarks on a journey of discovery, physically leaving Los Angeles for Nebraska and learning about these previously unknown family members and the tragedy that caused Parsifal to wipe them from his life. Mentally, she starts her grieving process and slowly grows to love and respect her new family. A well written and engaging read.

Joanne Moon for The Better Bookies



Happy Booker's choice for September, was **Kingmaker by Sonia Purnell**. It was the story of Pamela Churchill Harriman, an astonishing life of seduction, intrigue and power. Wow! This woman had a huge place in history and she did make kings. Her life was spent in a time when women were not able gain power for themselves, they had to be satisfied with the reflection of power from their husbands. Pamela learned this well and married a number of times to gain money and power. Her husbands were much older and she paid the price by being a nurse/helper/servant and many times ended up supporting them when they lost their money by making bad choices.

Pamela craved power and seemed to be a quick, good study of it. She had excellent instincts on how to wield it, but along the way made many enemies. Even her child Winston was cruel to her and Harriman's children were estranged. She gave them money but they didn't appreciate it. After she died, there was a sheaf of letters uncovered, whereby all of the men she had attracted proffered that they wanted to marry her. This was in stark contrast to public opinion that she was just being used. Some of the catty remarks upon her death were awful.

Throughout the book, names were dropped and she was a confidant of leaders around the world. She ended up being a French Ambassador and had private lunches with French President Mitterant. Nelson Mandella, President Clinton, President Biden, a veritable who's who of democratic politics were all her friends. She gave lunches and receptions that were amazing. Even President Trump gets a walk-on part, and it isn't flattering. This is a big book, but full of interesting insights into history.



## MONTHLY HIKE



**WHEN: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2ND**  
**ARRIVE AT 9:45 AM FOR 10 AM START**  
**WHERE: STONEY HILL REGIONAL PARK**

This regional park has spectacular views of Saltspring Island and the surrounding area with a scenic 3.20 km looped trail. The hike is less than we have done in the past taking just over an hour to complete. Meet at 10:15am for a 10:30 start.

Directions: From the Trans-Canada Highway turn east on Trunk Road. Go left at the roundabout to Maple Bay Road. Turn right on Genoa Bay Road and then left on Stoney Hill Road to the parking lot approximately 1 km.

Lunch will be at the Shipyard Pub which you will have passed before Stoney Hill.

Any questions contact Anton Turner 250-746-7423

## DISCUSSION GROUP UPDATE

Please note that Bert Pieke is finally on the mend but it's slow going. We wish him all the best and look forward to seeing him soon. In the meantime Bert is looking for a volunteer to lead the discussion group and organize times and topics. If you can help out you can contact him directly (he may be able to respond) or let the anyone on the executive know. Also be sure to drop me a line and I'll include that in the newsletter. Roxanne Carriere  
stonepolish@gmail.com



## MONTHLY WALK



**WHEN: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16TH**  
**ARRIVE AT 10:30 AM FOR 10:45 AM START**  
**WHERE: STOCKING CREEK PARK**

The walk will commence on the Cowichan Valley Trail and return on park trails. The walk is flat but for those who wish to do more there is an option to drop down to the waterfall and back. Meet at 10:30 for a 10:45 start. Lunch will be at the Sawmill, which you will have passed enroute.

Directions: Go north on the Trans Canada Highway and turn right on Henry Road. Then left at the roundabout on to Chemainus Road. Through Saltair and left at Gait Road and right on Finch Place and park at the park entrance.

Any questions contact  
Anton Turner 250-746-7423



1995 BC Dutch Immigrant association commissioned this bronze sculpture on the occasion of 50th anniversary of the liberation of The Netherlands by Canadian Armed Forces. The first copy of the restricted edition of 6 stands on Robson Square in Vancouver. The second at 1221 Wilder Road, a 60th birthday self-present.



## THE EXECUTIVE 2025/2026



President: David Carriere  
403 671 0820



Vice President: Dorothy Whittome  
250 746 6645



Secretary: Carol Roome  
250 7467697



Treasurer: Jan GrootWassink  
250 743 7850



Membership Chair: Marg Brown  
778 422 0220



Past President: Win Teague



## **ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER ROLES**

### **Members at Large:**

Charles Ayers 250 748 4810

Sharon Arnold 250 732 6013

Marg Brown 778 422 0220

Jane Fox 250 748 2317

Leslie Hodgson 250 416 1122

John Howatt 250 746 9248

Ian Kennedy 250 244 4722

Bert Pieke 250 746 0782

Marilyn Richardson 250 252 3279

Donna Rodway 250 748 3198

Ceri Newman 250 746 6773

Sally Whitmore 250 246 1919

## ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER ROLES

### Non Elected Positions:

Speaker Coordinator: David Carriere 403 671 0820

Membership Drive: Marg Brown 778 422 0220

National Probus Representative: Ian Kennedy  
250 244 4722 or kennedy.ian.m@gmail.com

Volunteer Committee Chair: Dorothy Whittome 250 746 6645

Sunshine Duties: Margaret Nadeau

Communications: Jan GrootWassink 250 743 7850

AudioVisual Equipment: Jan GrootWassink 250 743 7850

Web Site: Bert Pieke 250 746 0782 and Charles Ayers 250 748 4810

Newsletter: Roxanne Carriere stonepolish@gmail.com 403 826 2644

50/50 Tickets: Leslie Hodgson 250 416 1122 and  
Jack Stevenson 250 743 6151

Bio Book: Phil Salt 250 733 0960 and Marg Brown 778 422 0220

Book Table: Janet and Anton Turner 250 746 7423

Quiz Master: Rosemary Kennedy 250 244 4722

Greeting Committee: Ceri Newman 250 746 6773,  
Ken and Marilyn Sulz 250 742 9352, and Helen Stevenson 250 743  
6151

Ride Share: George Daan 250 597 4736

## **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

Appy Evening: Meeting time varies monthly, details TBA separately

Better Bookies: Meeting 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 am

Margo Johnston 250 733 227 or [mjohnst2@shaw.ca](mailto:mjohnst2@shaw.ca)

Warmland Readers: Meeting 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 am

Marg Brown 778 422 0220 or [a\\_mbrown@shaw.ca](mailto:a_mbrown@shaw.ca)

Happy Bookers: Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 2 pm

Jill Jones. 778 422 3317 [jilljones37@outlook.com](mailto:jilljones37@outlook.com)

Brekkie Brunch: Meeting 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:30 am

Katie Daan 250-597-4736 or [katiedaan@gmail.com](mailto:katiedaan@gmail.com)

Dining Out: Meeting time varies - Jan GrootWassink 250 743 7850

Discussion Group: Meeting last Tuesday of each month at 2 pm

Bert Pieke 250 746 0782 or [bpieke@gmail.com](mailto:bpieke@gmail.com)

Investment Group: Meeting first Tuesday of each month at 3:00 pm

Ross Haggart 250-888-0908 or [haggart149@gmail.com](mailto:haggart149@gmail.com)

Intermediate Bridge: Meeting first Tuesday afternoon of each month

Sue fryer 250 709 9081 or [jandsfryer@shaw.ca](mailto:jandsfryer@shaw.ca)

Special Events Committee: Dorothy Whittome 250 746 6645, Donna Rodway 250 748 3198, and Leslie Hodgson 250 416 1122.

## **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

Hiking Group: Meeting time first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am  
Ian Kennedy 250 244 4722 or [kennedy.ian.m@gmail.com](mailto:kennedy.ian.m@gmail.com)  
Charles Ayers. 250 743 4810 or [chayers99@gmail.com](mailto:chayers99@gmail.com)  
Jan GrootWassink. 250 743 7850 or [wilderconsulting@outlook.com](mailto:wilderconsulting@outlook.com)

Management Meeting: Meeting Thursday, one week before monthly meeting - chaired by David Carriere - 403 671 0820 or [chimodjc@gmail.com](mailto:chimodjc@gmail.com)

Monthly Meeting: Meeting 3rd Tuesday at 9:30 coffee/10 am meeting  
David Carriere 403 671 0820 or [chimodjc@gmail.com](mailto:chimodjc@gmail.com)

Walking Group: Meeting 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:00 am  
By Committee - Primary contact Ian Kennedy 250 244 4722 or [kennedy.ian.m@gmail.com](mailto:kennedy.ian.m@gmail.com)

Wine Tasters: Meeting 3rd Tuesday of each month (subject to change)  
John Howatt 250 746 9248 or [John.tammy@mac.com](mailto:John.tammy@mac.com)