Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021/22

Committee/Activity Name: President's Position

Submitted by: Jonn Robertson

Activities: *(List highlights of the Year)*

Management Committee meetings were held throughout the year. General monthly meeting resumed in person in October 2021.

On November 8, I participated with 10 other Probus Club presidents in a regional meeting hosted by our Regional Rep – Keith McGregor.

Through the summer our outdoor activities restarted. On July 13 Helene and Pat Sullivan hosted Probus Garden Club Members to their lovely seaside garden for their Annual Summer Tea. The golf club restarted. Two new activities, Pole Walking and Kite Flying, were introduced to the club. The Men's Coffee and Bull sessions started meeting in June in the Sears parking lot (and have moved back indoors now.)

Some of our indoor activities, such as Canasta, continued to meet and play using Zoom technology. And, as restrictions were reduced, indoor activities such as Ladies Canasta, and Drinks & Appies began meeting in members' homes.

On August 18th we held our Car Rally. Laura Kristiansen and Martha Hardy organized this event, which turned out to be a fun and exciting time for all. Six teams participated in the Rally, challenging for the prizes.

On December 8th, we enjoyed our annual Christmas Lunch. This year, we included a celebration recognizing our 10-year anniversary. Laurie Jones, Activity Chair, and her committee (Heather Smith, Shirley Forwell, Val Mahonin, Patricia Wakefield, Diny Van Beers) arranged a great event.

Throughout the year, Bastion City has issued the newsletter, keeping members informed of events and activities. And promoting member interests. A "Special Edition" highlighting our ten years as a club was prepared by Laura Kristiansen.

Successes: *(List what worked really well - strengths)*

At a time when several other Probus clubs paused all operations, Bastion City Probus continued to operate. In 2021/22 we had 11 new members. Throughout 2021/22 we maintained our monthly general

meetings where we heard from guest speakers on a range of topics (hand writing analysis, Western Canada marine response, Nanaimo Search and Rescue, and a lighthearted talk on "Commerce and the *music* Classics"). On-line meetings were held until October, when we started to meet in person again. Unfortunately, the Omicron variant forced us to return to an on-line meeting for January 2022.

Historically, we have targeted to carry over approximately $4,000 into the new fiscal year. Due to Covid limiting the activities we offered in 2021/22, we decided to not collect membership fees for this fiscal year. Therefore, when our 2021/22 budget was prepared, we anticipated we would only be able to carry over approximately $2,500. As I write this report in late January 2022, we anticipated carrying over approximately $3,500.

Works in Progress: (*List what didn't work so well - weaknesses)*

Future Considerations: *(List opportunities and/or challenges)*

Looking forward to 2022, I believe we are well placed to continue to "provide regular gatherings to those who appreciate and value opportunities to meet others for friendship, social networking and fun."

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021

Committee/Activity Name: Past President

Submitted by: Diny van Beers

Activities:

As Past President, I attended Management Committee meetings on a regular basis, either by Zoom technology, or in-person (Fall 2021).

As Past President, I participated in meetings of the Nominations Committee (October/November) in proposing a new slate of potential candidates for the 2022/2023 Management Committee.

Successes:

The Management Committee continues to operate smoothly under the leadership of President, Jonn Robertson, and I am confident that it will continue to do so in 2022, albeit with a new Management Committee.

Works in Progress:

N/A

Future Considerations:

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve in the capacity of Past President and I am grateful to have had this opportunity. Despite the challenges of COVID-19 over the past few years, I will continue to support the new Management Committee and the Bastion City Nanaimo Probus Club where and when possible in the future. My best wishes go to the members of the new Management Committee and to the Probus members for the coming year.

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021/22

Committee/Activity Name: Vice President

Submitted by: John O'Malley

Activities: *(List highlights of the Year)*

I assumed the role of Vice President halfway through the year when I volunteered to take up the President Position for the year 2022/23.

The Vice President does not have a great deal to do except to stand in for the President when he is unable to chair meetings, organise the set up of the meeting room for the general monthly meetings when able to meet in person and most importantly, to give support to the sitting President.

During my short term as VP, I have helped Jonn Robertson (President) when called for. I have consulted with him on several occasions when he asked for my council. Met in person a few times and recently have taken custody of the Clubs Paper records and paraphernalia.

I'm now looking forward to take over from Jonn after the AGM in February.

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021/22

Committee/Activity Name: Secretary

Submitted by: Maggie Helfrich

Activities:

1. Take minutes at monthly in person General meetings (as requested by Jonn Robertson. Zoom meetings are recorded and posted to the Website)
2. Take minutes at Management Meetings.
3. Submit minutes to all committee members present at each meeting (as requested by Jonn Robertson) for review.
4. Distribute approved minutes to Management Committee.
5. Send approved monthly General Meeting minutes to Web Chair for posting on the Website.

Successes:

Works in Progress:

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021/22

Committee/Activity Name: Website Manager

Submitted by: Joanne Swain

Activities:

- The archival records have been entered on to the website for storage and can be referenced by executive members. These files/photos are also held by the President in an external hard drive.
- A change has been made to our homepage. This adjustment will now allow the site to change the page when clicked, rather than require the viewer to scroll down the page to view the requested link. It was a minor change, but I believe it allows a much smoother function for the viewer.
- Our website provider has retired and has transferred our account to V3Media. We've had an interaction with the new provider regarding problems with our club's webmail's and found them very helpful as they led us through to the solution. I'm encouraged by this and feel we should remain with this company.

Successes:

- While navigating through our website trying to make changes on the WordPress format, I was very grateful for the support I received from other managers, most notably Laura Kristiansen and Laurie Jones. Thank you for your patience and support.

Works in Progress:

- There is still room to store files on our website but there will come a day when we will max. out on our storage capabilities on WordPress.

Future Considerations:

- It would be best to have someone that is familiar with WordPress take the lead or assist the Web Manager. We currently use the most basic WordPress format, and anything extra requires us to "upgrade" to the Pro level, with an extra fee, of course. Having a working knowledge of WordPress would be a great asset.

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021

Monthly meetings: GUEST SPEAKERS:

February 11 - AGM – Bob Crosby, a former Engineer at Ocean Networks Canada in Victoria who presents on "**Earthquake Early Warning for B.C."** through the operation of sensor networks to detect subduction earthquakes. He is also a member of Nanaimo North Probus Club. An excellent visual presentation with many website links.

March 10 – Celebrating our **10th Anniversary** with Jamie Doolittle, President of PROBUS CANADA, Keith McGregor, Director of B.C. District #1 & Reg Whynott, Managing Director, & Past President of PROBUS CANADA. "**Their PROBUS lives".** Very affirming and supportive of our decade-in-action. Well done members.

April 14 – Virtual Guest Elaine Charal, handwriting expert in Ontario, "**Power of the Pen"** explaining what our strokes of the pen mean. Several of us sent in examples which Elaine used in her presentation. She also included a fun 2021 Numerology overview. An enjoyable, exciting, enlightening presentation.

May 12 – Michael Lowry, Communication Manager for Western Canada Marine Response Corporation spoke on **"Marine Spill Response on Canada's West Coast".** This organization also trains & equips First Nations' groups who are often first on the scene of a spill & are key in sensitive areas. John O'Malley's nephew, Chris, also works for WCMRC. Excellent discussion re Trans-Mountain pipeline, Falsehoods & Oceans Professional plan, 2016. Stats between 1970-2017 show low probability of tankers leaking/sinking, but high impact, plus international cooperation and collaboration. Good to know that someone is looking out for our beautiful coastline.

June 9 – SAR Nanaimo Search and Rescue, Jamai Schile, Board of Directors Member responsible for Public Outreach & Fundraising. She presented "**Useful tips on staying safe and having fun outdoors, plus an overview of the NSAR Hall upgrade."** She was accompanied by Richard Romer a Team Leader & a Swiftwater Rescue Team member, and sea kayak guide.

July & August – *another* different summer!

September 8 – Our own Laura Kristiansen who gave a lighthearted, thoroughly researched talk on **"Commerce & the Classics"**. It was a wonderful, detailed look at how classical music permeates our society through its liberal use of cartoons, feature films, popular music and commercials. Definitely worth another presentation in person. She has not only created our stellar newsletter, but has contributed puzzles to various

organizations and publications, she is a wiz on the computer (hardware & software), loves reading, doing word puzzles and games.

October 13 – Colin Bartlett, Owner/Operator of The Backyard Wildbird & Nature Store in Nanaimo. **"Our local birds and what they like to eat to keep them singing joyfully".** Enjoyable with good, unique samples, with good feedback from members.

November 10 – Sharon Speevak, retired lawyer and part of initial group who started ElderDog in Nanaimo, spoke on the "Loving bond between dogs and their human families, especially in their senior years". Two of our members, Jonn Robertson and Debbie Kandert are volunteers with ElderDog. Excellent interactive visual presentation, with humour and sensitivity.

December 8 – Our **Christmas luncheon** at the Curling Club, with entertainment by The Tidesmen" Acappela group. Excellent location and meal.

January 12 – Christine Maxwell, a member of the Harbour City Probus club gave a presentation on **"Heli-Hiking that almost did not happen".** Chris is a senior who loves to travel and does not hesitate to hike wherever possible, especially in challenging terrains. This time, she was just ahead of the bushfires in the BC Interior. The history of heli-hiking was fascinating.

February 10, AGM – No guest speaker this year.

Successes: Guest Speaker Recordings of all the zoom presentations, so all members can access them, for a limited time. Thanks so much to Laura and Joanne.

Works in Progress: Next year Shirley Forwell will take back the reins. It has been delightful working with Shirley and I will continue to assist if and when necessary.

Future Considerations: We will no doubt continue to evolve by dealing with Virtual meetings as Covid continues to mutate and keep us on our toes and socially distanced. It would be great to have your suggestions for speakers as well as your feedback afterward.

Sometimes, it is like "dancing in the dark" with coming up with a topic or speaker that would appeal to the majority of our membership.

Thanks to the Management Committee for a year of "pivoting" – it has been a challenge for us all, but has no doubt made us a stronger team in the long run. In fact, PROBUS CANADA is impressed with our ability to continue our monthly meetings regardless. I've enjoyed getting to know you all over the last two years and hope to see you in person in the not-to-distant future! Please take care of yourself, one another and our club.

Program Chair: Heather Smith,
Program Deputy: Shirley Forwell

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021/22

Committee: Activities Chairperson

Submitted by: Laurie Jones

Activities: This was my first volunteering activity as a new club member, and it was a good way to meet some great people.

Successes: Getting to know the Activity Leads was interesting, not only for what their event involved but also to learn more about the Bastion City Probus group as a whole, and the club's history.

Works in Progress: My personal life has become quite busy again as I am not fully retired, so I had to hand the reins off for the next year. Thankfully, Patricia Wakefield has done the position before and will be able to step in, with the help of Joan Link, who has also done the position

Future Considerations: I will continue being Activity Lead for the Nordic Pole Walking and possibly the Kites & Bites.

It has been a pleasure working with everyone on the executive committee.

Thanks for the opportunity.

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021

Committee/Activity Name: Communications

Submitted by: Laura Kristiansen

Activities:

The newsletter published several 'enhanced' issues during 2021, as well as the extremely large, 93 page "10th Anniversary Special Edition.

- In February, I produced a "Valentine's Day Edition" newsletter with a 5 page Valentine's Day supplement, and a 2 page puzzle spread with a variety of puzzles of various difficulty levels.
- I wrote special holiday articles for St. Patrick's Day in March, 9-1-1 in September, Thanksgiving in October and Remembrance Day in November.
- In all 10 regular issues we enjoyed Diana Dugas's "Hiking with Diana" photo essays.
- The "Special Anniversary Edition" was published on July 13th, our actual Anniversary date.

Successes:

The **newsletter**:

- For the first six months there was a **Member Spotlight** feature in every Newsletter. These features get good feedback from the members.
- The "Hiking with Diana" features appears every month, and also get positive feedback from members.
- There was a lot of excellent feedback on the "Special Anniversary Edition". Members really appreciated the time and effort that went into that publication.

The August 18th **Bastion City Car Rally**, organized by Martha Hardy and me, was a great success. Six teams participated; there were many prizes and door prizes, and a picnic in the park after the rally.

Works in Progress:

After running the Member Spotlight in the newsletter throughout the 2020/2021 Club year and during most of the 2021/2022 year, it seems that we have run out of volunteers for this feature. I have not been able to find a volunteer since June 2021.

Creating a variety of puzzles is one of my favorite jobs when putting together the newsletter. I only get the odd comment on them (a few per year) so it is difficult to tailor them better to the readership; or adjust their difficulty level; or include puzzle types that appeal to the members. I will just continue creating them in hopes that some people do them.

Future Considerations:

Although it isn't part of my job to create content for the newsletter, I had a lot of fun creating articles of my own. I will probably continue doing so in future issues.

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021/22

Committee/Activity Name: Book Club

Submitted by: Margaret Rubin and Joanne Hasan

Activities: *(List highlights of the Year)*

We have a dedicated group of readers that made great efforts to continue with reading. At the beginning of the year 2021 we met through Zoom and then when the weather improved we met outdoors.

Successes: *(List what worked really well - strengths)*

Strengths
Our biggest strength is our members who have not given up on being in touch and reading.

What worked well

We started 2021 with Zoom but as time passed it did not work as well has we had hoped so it was outdoor meetings sometime in the rain under cover at the Sears doors.

Works in Progress: (*List what didn't work so well - weaknesses)*

Future Considerations: *(List opportunities and/or challenges)*

Opportunities and challenges *As we have a full list of members we must be doing what the group wants and as time goes on we will adapt to what ever changes that are necessary.*

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021/22

Committee/Activity Name: Kites & Bites

Submitted by: Laurie Jones

Activities: This was a new activity for the group with a good attendance on our first day. We shared the kites I brought, but Martha brought her own, purchases at Costco.

Successes: It was a fun day in the sun, with picnic lunches we packed after.

Works in Progress: The second time was not well attended, partly because I didn't get a list together for e-mailing.

Future Considerations: When the weather gets warmer in the spring, I will see if there is interest in trying the event again.

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021/22

Committee/Activity Name: Nordic Pole Walking

Submitted by: Laurie Jones

Activities: This was a new activity for the group with a good attendance from day one. We had approximately 10 people participate, particularly on the days our instructor, Brian Sugiyama was there.

Successes: Several participants felt the pole walking helped them overcome some physical challenges, like sore hip, sore back, and helped them feel better about their balance when walking.

Works in Progress: The route at the waterfront/seawall worked but some participants needed to make sure there was a place to rest as they could not walk as far as others. We just picked them up on the way back and it worked well.

Future Considerations: When the weather gets warmer in the spring, we will start the sessions again, and ask if the participants would like to have Brian back for the sessions. He was inspiring.

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021

Committee/Activity Name: Men's Coffee and Bull Sessions

Submitted by: Mike Kandert

Activities: *(List highlights of the Year)*

Regular bi-weekly Coffee and Bull sessions.

Successes: *(List what worked really well - strengths)*

In conformity with Covid guidelines tailgate coffee sessions were originally held in the former Sears car park. The sessions were subsequently moved inside to Northtown Java on Wednesday 21 September 2021.

The sessions reinforce the camaraderie and friendships that have been created among the group and afford the needed social contact that is so important, particularly during events such as pandemics.

Works in Progress: (*List what didn't work so well - weaknesses)*

Dealing with continuing Covid restrictions.

Future Considerations: *(List opportunities and/or challenges)*

The ultimate elimination of the pandemic restrictions.

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021

Committee/Activity Name: LOVERS OF LIVER & ONIONS (LOLO'S)

Submitted by: DINY VAN BEERS

Activities: *(List highlights of the Year)*

This new dining activity is for lovers of liver and onions wanting to get together for dinner once a month. The plan is to go to a different restaurant on a rotating basis on the third Tuesday of the Month. We started our first dinner in September, and continued throughout the Fall.

Successes: *(List what worked really well - strengths)*

- September 21st – Black Bear Pub – 7 Club members attended.
- October 19th – Ricky's All Day Grill – 15 Club members attended.
- November 16th – Milano's Restaurant – 12 Club members attended.
- December 21st – Smitty's Restaurant (Southgate Mall) – 5 Club members attended.

Works in Progress: (*List what didn't work so well - weaknesses)*

- January's dinner was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Future Considerations: *(List opportunities and/or challenges)*

- It is my hope that LOLO's will continue once the COVID situation improves.

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021/22

Committee/Activity Name: Cultural

Submitted by: Bonnie Stebbings

Activities: No highlights. No group activities because of covid. Theatre/arts related events are submitted to the newsletter

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021

Committee/Activity Name: Pub Suppers

Submitted by: John Jensen

Activities: *(List highlights of the Year)*

We managed to have 3-4 outings

Successes: *(List what worked really well - strengths)*

Anytime more people show up then I expected is success

Works in Progress: (*List what didn't work so well - weaknesses)*

I am hoping to start-up again in Feb. even though there are still some Restrictions in place

Future Considerations: *(List opportunities and/or challenges)*

I would like more input from different people as to where we should go

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021

Committee/Activity Name: Garden Club

Submitted by: Jacque Thompson

Activities: Despite some Covid restrictions limiting numbers in attendance, the Garden Club did have 5 events in the summer of 2021 that were enjoyed by all who participated. 5 members hosted Garden Gatherings. Jacque Thompson, Heather & Jim Smith, and Linda & Bob Smith opened their backyard gardens to members. These afternoons are a lovely way to spend relaxing time with fellow members and share gardening tips and ideas. Pat & Helene Sullivan hosted their annual pot luck garden tea at their beautiful seaside garden and Linda & Mel Dale had a lovely pot luck luncheon at their home and garden in Qualicum Beach.

Successes: Member participation is what really makes our club's activities successful.

Future Considerations: Because of Covid we were unable to have our annual plant exchange in May. Also, many of the garden events in the community that we often took part in were cancelled. Luckily all of our activities take place outside so that allows for opportunities for our members to get together.

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021

Committee/Activity Name: Ladies Wednesday On-Line Canasta, and Ladies Thursday In-Person Canasta

Submitted by: Diny van Beers

Activities: *(List highlights of the Year)*

- All in-person activity was suspended until July 2021, when small groups of players started meeting every other week on Thursday afternoons. Shortly thereafter, In-person games were changed to weekly games as opposed to by-weekly.

- On-Line Canasta continued throughout the year, but changed to Wednesday evenings (as opposed to Thursdays) and continued with the weekly format.

Successes: *(List what worked really well - strengths)*

- The camaraderie and friendship of the group really enhances the fun aspect of the activity. This activity is intended to be a fun social activity and not one of competitive play.
- The on-line activity has been a real benefit in staying connected during this difficult time.
- Players are patient and willing to help each other out.

Works in Progress: (*List what didn't work so well - weaknesses)*

- Last minute cancellations tend to be problematic as finding a spare with short notice is a challenge.

Future Considerations: *(List opportunities and/or challenges)*

- Promoting the activity and providing more training opportunities would help attract new players.
- Continuing with "special" sessions, such as the pyjama party, will keep the group engaged.

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021/22

Committee/Activity Name: Wednesday Women and Wine

Submitted by: JoAnn Shelton

Activities: *(List highlights of the Year)*

A monthly night out at a local restaurant or pub to eat, drink, and socialize. Women only on the third Wednesday of each month.

Successes: *(List what worked really well - strengths)*

We were only able to do a few times because of PHO restrictions, but a good time was had by all.

Works in Progress: (*List what didn't work so well - weaknesses)*

PHO restrictions

Future Considerations: *(List opportunities and/or challenges)*

Looking forward to the easing of restrictions this year.

Bastion City Nanaimo
Probus Club

Annual Report 2021

Committee/Activity Name: Movie afternoon

Submitted by: Carol Tisdale

Activities: *Well, we really didn't have many movies that we could even go to. The first movie, I had one person and myself, the 2nd movie I had two people and myself (James Bond), and this last movie – just myself (House of Gucci).*

Successes: The success is that I didn't have to go to the movie alone (which I usually do) on two occasions.