

PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN
MONTHLY MEETING
March 16th, 2011

The regular meeting was held at the Boys and Girls Club at 10 AM, with President Bob Capson chairing and about 25 members in attendance. After “O Canada”, the President welcomed members and expressed concern about the low numbers. He noted the Executive met this morning and discussed membership concerns including the need to condense our current list and to attract new members. He suggested we use the slogan “a social club that does nothing and is proud of it.”

Clarence Blois led a singalong for St. Patrick’s Day and rendered his annual solo “O Danny Boy.”

Minutes of February 16th: Robert Taylor summarized these and moved their acceptance. George McCaughey seconded and the motion was carried.

Guest: Yukako Tsukamoto of southern Japan was welcomed back; our thoughts are with northern Japan after the earthquake and tsunami of March 11th.

Member News: It was reported that Fred Chatwin’s health is slipping.

Finances: Treasurer Don Mitchener reported we have \$1250 in the bank. He also told a “Genie” joke.

Membership: It was noted we have to quell the impression that Probians have to be ex-Rotarians. The Executive recommends calling those who have not paid by the October meeting each year, to ask their intentions. We could be tapping into Lady Probus members’ husbands (their membership was 190 in January 2010), or into CARP (Cdn. Assoc. of Retired Persons), who admit members as young as age 45.

Telephone Committee: Duane Lister was absent. Ralph Wood volunteered last month, and Tor Bordevik sort of volunteered today to round out the committee.

House Committee: Gordon Mouland booked 15 for corn beef and cabbage lunch.

Phoghorn: Some improvement in the jokes therein was noted. Ralph Wood gave a detailed genealogy of Joe Schitt.

Rendezvous 2011: Bob Capson noted that we’ll ship the banner that we used, to Vancouver. Bill Brydges and Fred Shillington, co-chairs of Rendezvous 2008, will be asked if they want to attend, and offered a subsidy if they do. We have electronic information that we can forward to members, and further information can be found at www.probusrendezvous.com

Sugar Camp Tour: Carl Tompkins took a poll re this tour to occur on Sunday March 20th; several were interested, and the phone committee will be activated to see who else. Spouses and friends can go along. Those going will meet at the Highway Irving at 1 pm and carpool.

Program Plans: The Executive discussed possible field trips to the Fundy Trail Interpretation Centre, Elgin Wind Farm, “mystery trip”, trolley tour of city, Voyageur Riverboat, Phoenix Dinner Theatre, or fall foliage tour. Members also suggested the Q-Plex, the Salmon Farm, Ganongs, or G.E.Barbour Co. They also suggested a speaker on the Mile One Interchange project.

60/40 Draw: Yukako was invited to do the draw, and she drew Dale Stevens, who donated his \$57 to the Boys and Girls Club.

Stories: Several were told to fill time until the speaker arrived.

Guest Speaker: Ian McCarthy, General Manager of the Saint John Millrats basketball team. He was introduced and thanked by Bob Capson. Points that he noted:

- He set aside a landscaping company to lead a basketball team in New England.
- The Millrats are a member of the PBL (Premier Basketball League).
- Rogers is a title sponsor.
- He is pleased with the fans’ ownership of the team from the start.
- There are four local coaches; Barry Short is the strength and conditioning coach.
- There is a battle on with Halifax for a playoff spot.
- One goal is to establish a Canadian Basketball League.
- There are 6 to 8 teams in two divisions as far away as Kentucky, Oklahoma.
- There are two Canadian Millrats, one from Toronto and Mike Anderson of Grand Bay-Westfield.
- Players can be cut quickly in a season with few games. So the team may be somewhat fluid.

Adjournment at 11:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Secretary.