

PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN
MONTHLY MEETING
16 December 2009

The last meeting of the decade was held at the Boys and Girls Club at 10 am, with about 60 members in attendance, attracted by the promise of Christmas dinner for lunch, even if said dinner *was* \$10 instead of \$5 as published in the Phoghorn! President Brian Mitchell welcomed members, after trying to get their attention with the PA ailing and the gavel missing. After “O Canada”, Gordon Moulard was thanked for providing a new Canadian flag and stand. A moment’s silence was observed in memory of **Frank Cormier** who died suddenly yesterday, Clarence Blois led the troops in a Christmas sing-along, with accompaniment either by tape or *a capella*.

Minutes of the November 18th meeting were accepted with several corrections: (1) For the second time, the Secretary referred to Ralph Wood as Richard. (2) The motion re the Olympic Torch purchase was moved by Bill Brydges, not Bill Bambury. (3) The budget approved for the Torch was \$700 not \$800.

Business Arising: Sandy Gregory reported that \$500 was collected at the last meeting for Torch expenses, and Rotary gave \$210 for the cabinet. Rotary will also finance signage, and will arrange presentation to Debbie Cooper when the Torch reaches Vancouver. He thanked the Club, and said he has tax receipts available.

New Member: John Fowler, a guest at the November meeting, joined as a member. He will be pinned when the Secretary gets his act together and orders new pins.

Finances: Treasurer Don Mitchener thanked Robert Taylor for collecting and depositing \$2200 in dues the past three months. \$500 will be given to the Boys and Girls Club today. Club dues have to be sent to Probus Canada. No bill has been received from UPS. We have \$3275.46 in the bank. (His report is attached.)

Phoghorn: Neil McKelvey reported his did not come this month.

Program: Bob Capson reported that we have a speaker for January, and that he is working on trips to the LNG Terminal and the Wind Farm.

Survey: First VP Tor Bordevik reported, at greater length than Bill Brydges ever aspired to, the results from 72 questionnaires that he e-mailed to members re desired Club activities; he got only 11 responses. The survey and results are attached, and will be studied by the Executive. The questions concerned:

- Members giving a short talk about themselves;
- A yearly BBQ with friends and/or family;
- Field trips;
- Topics for speakers;
- The Probus Song;

- The Club Newsletter;
- Speakers Corner;
- The 60/40 Draw;
- Clubs within the Club;
- Other comments.

Community: Ralph Murray announced that the Seafarers Mission will hold a Christmas Reception this Friday December 18th at noon.

Draws:

- Sandy Gregory won a record \$238 in the 60/40 draw, which he passed on to the Boys and Girls Club.
- Jim Gillespie had the Queen of Clubs and won the draw for a NB Liquor gift certificate.

Program: Carl Tompkins introduced the Saint John String Quartet, who played a medley of Christmas Carols from around the world; they were thanked by Clarence Blois, who then sang some more Christmas Carols with taped accompaniment.

Presentation: \$500 for the Boys and Girls Club was given to Debbie Cooper, who thanked the Club.

Meeting adjourned to January 20th. Turkey dinner followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Secretary.