

PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN
MONTHLY MEETING
May 20th, 2009

The monthly meeting was held at the Boys and Girls Club at 10 am, with about 35 members in attendance. President Richard Burpee opened the meeting with the singing of O Canada, followed by a sing-along led by Clarence Blois.

Minutes of March 18th and April 15th were accepted as circulated in the Phoghorn, moved by Robert Taylor.

Member News: A moment's silence was observed in memory of Philip Bamford.

Finances: Treasurer Don Mitchener reported that we received a bill for about \$1000 from UPS re the Phoghorn, and after paying it we have about \$1800 on hand.

Membership: Ed O'Keefe circulated a list for checking information and payments, and reported we now have 140 members.

Telephone: Duane Lister reported he needs two more callers to do twelve calls each.

House: Gordon Mouland was absent, so several members got to appreciate what he does each meeting. He failed, however, to leave any Probus decals or Rendezvous sweatshirts with anyone to sell. Richard recorded twenty for fish chowder lunch.

Phoghorn: Richard Wood was suitably contrite and apologetic for spelling the Harbourmaster's name as John Mann when it should be McCann. So the April minutes stand corrected.

Program: Brian Mitchell is looking for suggestions for speakers and for tours.

New Business: (1) Name badges: No new ones were requested. (2) Past President Dave Fraser will activate the Nominations Committee to bring in a slate in September. (3) Debbie Cooper spoke about the Fundy Food Festival at the Cruise Terminal on June 6th: \$60 gets you 35 food samples and six drink tastings; also an on-line Chefs' Auction.

Adjourned for coffee, then **60/40 Draw:** The guest speaker drew Brian Mitchell's name, and \$82 was donated to the Boys and Girls Club.

Guest Speaker: Brian Mitchell introduced Norm McFarlane, the most recent Mayor of Saint John. He (Norman) noted that the LNG tax concession and the Pension Board issue took a lot of time away from economic progress such as Sun Wing, Westjet, new shopping, potential second refinery and second reactor, the Irving headquarters on Long Wharf, the Cruise Terminal, and harbour cleanup. He said he now works two days a week with Avondale Construction who are doing a new hospital wing, and one day a

week with the Boy Scout movement at the international level. He noted that a government minister has lots of power but often accomplishes little, whereas a Mayor has little power but can accomplish a lot. Following a question and answer period, Wes Cosman thanked the speaker, and the meeting adjourned until June 17th.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Secretary.