

PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN
MONTHLY MEETING
November 18th, 2009

Meeting held at 10 am at the Boys and Girls Club with President Brian Mitchell chairing and about 50 members in attendance. Following welcome and "O Canada", Clarence Blois led a group of courting songs, accompanied by Don Tompkins.

Minutes: The Secretary summarized the minutes of October 21st, which were accepted on motion seconded by Clarence.

Member News: Don Tompkins introduced John Fowler, a retired teacher, as guest. Blake McCullough was back at today's meeting.

Finances: The Treasurer was absent, so there was no financial report.

Membership: Ed O'Keefe circulated an updated list. He advises members to e-mail any changes to him. Only one Phoghorn was returned this month. He noted that Cathy Porter of UPS can do mass e-mails. Changes to note: Larry Mundeel died in May, and Janice Willis has sent an updated address in Ontario for Ray.

Telephone Committee: Duane Lister's committee will call all members re their intentions for the December meeting, which includes entertainment and turkey dinner.

House Committee: Gordon Moulant counted 20 for turkey soup and sandwiches.

Phoghorn: Richard Wood noted that all who have e-mail addresses registered with the Club will receive the Phoghorn by e-mail unless they request otherwise.

Program: Bob Capson reported that we are okay for speakers through February, and he will have more to say re possible trips next month.

Olympic Torch: The Club congratulates Debbie Cooper, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club, on being chosen to light the City's Olympic Cauldron on November 24th. It was **moved** by Bill Bambury and **seconded** by Randy Giffin that the Club invite donations and finance any shortfall in the estimated \$800 cost for Debbie to buy her torch (\$400), pay expenses (\$100), and build a display cabinet for it (\$200). Motion **carried** with eight nay votes. Tom Jarrett offered to look after the building of the cabinet.

60-40 Draw: Dave Sprague and Don Noel drew Bill Bartlett's ticket, and Bill donated \$114 to the Boys and Girls Club.

Other: Details on the Mississauga Club Cruise: see Richard Burpee.

Speaker: Bob Capson introduced John Eisner of Atlantic Credit Counselling Services. He showed a bottle of torn up credit cards from his firm's clients – such bottles are taken into schools for presentations. Major points covered:

- Credit card offers that we get in the mail – some banks have ten kinds.
- It'll take 17 years to complete minimum payments on \$2000 credit.
- Parents shouldn't co-sign credit cards for university students.
- Debt load of student loans.
- The average consumer has four to six credit cards with balances on them.
- A video with a couple's story from near bankruptcy to financial solvency.
- Instant gratification : buy now, pay later.
- Make sure the "six months interest free" is paid on time.
- At \$25 per 1.5 hour session, the average client needs about three years' counselling.
- Collection agencies in NB can call 7 am to 9 pm, and Sunday pm.
- 80-85% of high school students own cells; only 10-15% are saving for education.

Following questions and answers, Tor Bordevik thanked the speaker.

Meeting adjourned to December 16th.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Secretary.