

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

The monthly meeting was held at the Boys and Girls Club at 10 AM, with President Bob Capson chairing and about 25 members in attendance, the rest having migrated south or confined by the constant storms. Bob welcomed members. Following “O Canada”, Gordon Moulard led a noticeably off-key singalong.

Minutes of the January 19th meeting were approved as moved by Robert Taylor.

Member News: Bob Capson welcomed Keith Dow back. Bill Brydges’ operation was postponed. Fred Chatwin is still in hospital awaiting nursing home placement. Bob announced that the Executive would consult about declining membership numbers; he encouraged nominations of new members by existing members. Don Doran sent a letter to resign his membership due to other commitments. There are currently 91 members paid up for this year.

Finances: The Treasurer is away. We have about \$1600 in the bank.

Phone Committee: Duane Lister sent a message that he needs two volunteers.

House Committee: Clive Douthwright ordered 13 turkey soup lunches.

Phoghorn: Ralph Wood read a joke about various nations’ levels of terrorist alerts. The President gave him (and why him?) an envelope that someone gave him for the “Humour Department”.

Storytime! The President and Carl Tompkins had stories to share. Maybe *they*, too, ought to read the contents of the aforementioned envelope!

60/40 Draw: Debbie Cooper drew Don Noel’s name. Don donated his \$58 winnings to the Boys and Girls Club.

Guest Speaker was Debbie Cooper, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club. Carl Tompkins introduced her. She spoke about its programs and its new capital campaign. In 2009 the Club had over 100,000 visits, and 59% of their clients were from single-parent families. Club programs include early childhood education, hot lunch, after school, evening, summer, homework club, youth choices program, health and wellness, and life skills.. Upgrades are needed in technology, art and music facilities. There is a new memorial garden in memory of members who have died. There is a fundraising dinner April 5th. The capital campaign has a goal of \$750,000 for playground equipment, the learning centre, gym renovations, passenger van, technology infrastructure, building needs, and energy improvements. The question and answer period included mention of several Club alumni/ae who have gone on to do well in universities and careers. In

thanking the speaker, Bob Capson apologized for the small turnout, and suggested members use their contacts to bring businesses on board for the capital campaign.

Next Meeting: March 16th. Bob Capson is seeking a speaker from the Saint John Waterfront Development project.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Taylor, Secretary.