

PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN
MONTHLY MEETING
January 18th, 2012

The monthly meeting was held at the Boys and Girls Club, with Vice President Don Shaw chairing and about 35 members in attendance. Following welcoming comments and “O Canada”, Clarence Blois led a sing-along.

Minutes of the December 14th meeting were approved as moved by Robert Taylor and seconded by Don Mitchener.

Guests: John McMillan introduced Stewart Hansen, retired from Irving, who obtained his GED at age 56. Dave Lester introduced Steve Ball, retired from UNB.

Finances: Don Mitchener reported that we have 73 paid members and \$943 in the bank. A bill for the Phoghorn has been received.

Phone Committee: Gordon Graham reported he has been having computer troubles. There are only 26 members who have no e-mail and need to be called. He suggested a helper for when the committee chair may be away on vacation.

House Committee: Clive Douthwright booked 12 for shepherd’s pie.

Phoghorn: Cathy Porter of UPS apologized for the on-line edition being sent late. Ralph Wood reported that we currently e-mail 61 copies at 25 cents and mail 47 copies at 59 cents (soon to be 61 cents). Considering formatting, printing and envelopes, each monthly issue costs about \$66. If we were to e-mail all copies and make a dozen available at meetings, the monthly cost would reduce to \$40, which would translate to a savings of \$260 per year.

Spring Trip: Don Mitchener reported on arrangements for a trip to Huntsman Marine in St. Andrews in May. A charge of \$25 is suggested to cover admission (to the Aquarium only) and lunch; transportation will be discussed further.

(Vice-)President’s Comments: We are always looking for ideas for speakers and activities, as well as member input into the Phoghorn.

60/40 Draw: Lou Duffley won \$74 which he donated to the Boys and Girls Club in exchange for a tax receipt for the full amount.

Guest Speakers were Cathy Anderson, Michelle Thibault and Tom Bishop of Canadian Blood Services. They extended thanks to Don Shaw and Ken Gould, who will each give their 700th blood donation on January 31st. Don said the media asked him, would he still donate if CBS moves out of Saint John – he replied, certainly. The speakers spoke of the need for blood, sometimes up to 50 units for emergencies and surgeries. Blood has a

maximum shelf life of five days. There is an aging donor base, so younger donors are needed, especially males of various ethnic backgrounds. You need a doctor's clearance if donating for the first time after age 61. There are 43 permanent sites across Canada with 25,000 clinics. You can donate whole blood, or platelets, plasma, stem cells, etc. To donate, call 1-800-2donate. Further information may be obtained at www.blood.ca. Don Shaw introduced and thanked the speakers.

Adjournment at 12:00 until February 15th.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Secretary.