

PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN
MONTHLY MEETING
February 20th, 2013

The monthly meeting was held at the Boys and Girls Club, with Acting President Tor Bordevik chairing and about 20 members in attendance due to storm threatening freezing rain, plus the usual quota of snowbirds. Tor welcomed members, followed by O Canada and singalong on a Valentine theme, led by Gordon Mouland.

Minutes of January 16th were summarized by Robert Taylor and approved on motion by Don Shaw, seconded by Gordon Mouland.

New Member: Dr. Michael England introduced himself, was promptly coerced into paying \$30, and was pinned.

Member News: Former member Pat Toole died. Barry Beckett's wife Flora died of cancer. Roger Aske is improving.

Finances: Treasurer Don Mitchener e-mailed a report to the Executive, showing a bank balance of \$1139 and 72 members paid.

Membership: Tor noted that we need about 100 members to meet fixed expenses. We still need to establish an information route and procedure so that we are working with one membership list, and all members should have a copy thereof. At present the Secretary receives registration forms from new members and conveys the information to the Membership head and deputy, the Phoghorn editor, and UPS.

House Committee: Clive Douthwright booked 12 for turkey soup lunch. The need for a replacement PA system is noted by both us and the Boys and Girls Club.

Phoghorn: Prior to four stories (of the usual questionable quality) by himself and one (of equally questionable quality) by Gordon Graham, Ralph Wood actually said something about the monthly newsletter, noting that UPS is changing owners in March, but plans to retain their service to us uninterrupted. Ralph was asked to draft a letter to Cathy Porter to thank her for her service to us over the years; Robert will put it on Club letterhead.

President's Comments:

- We need a volunteer to look after sick / visiting.
- Dave Fraser has made some suggestions re publicizing ourselves to community groups.
- We need a Trips committee and Membership committee.
- We'll be visiting the new cruise terminal May 21st (a Tuesday) at 10 AM.
- The coffee needs improving (it was better after being re-made today). Laurie Hossack offered to bring in his favourite Costa Rican coffee next month.

60 / 40 Draw: The guest speaker drew David Sprague's ticket, which was worth \$42. He was happy that he finally won, but complained that it was the smallest draw ever!

Guest Speaker: Tor Bordevik introduced, and later thanked, Theresa Mercer, the Chief Financial Officer at Rocmaura Nursing Home. She noted the following facts about nursing home fees:

- Room, board, and care costs about \$200 per day per resident. Of this, residents currently pay \$101 (or \$3072 per month) and government subsidy covers the rest.
- Residents must use their monthly income, less \$108 comfort allowance, first, and if that is insufficient they can get further government subsidy, but they have to apply for it.
- Assets such as a home are not considered in the cost equation. But the spouse's income is taken into account.
- The resident receives an income tax receipt, as this is a valid medical expense, but it cannot be combined with the Disability tax credit.

Adjournment moved by Robert Taylor at 12:00. Next meeting March 20th.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Secretary.