

PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN
MONTHLY MEETING
May 15th, 2013

The monthly meeting was held at 10 a.m. at the Boys and Girls Club, with Acting President Tor Bordevik chairing and about 30 members in attendance. Following welcome and O Canada, Gordon Mouland led a singalong.

Minutes of the April 17th meeting were approved on motion of Robert Taylor, seconded by Don Shaw.

Guest: Don Shaw introduced Harold Mays, retired well-known driving examiner in Saint John.

Member News: The meeting was asked if anyone knows how Rev. Lloyd Lake is doing – no one replied.

Finances: Don Mitchener reported that the picture hasn't changed from last month.

Membership: Ed O'Keefe reported he has 107 on his list, of whom 79 have paid for this year. He noted that our falling attendance is not fair to the Boys and Girls Club or to our speakers who expect more people. We need to contact those who haven't paid over the summer and ask if they intend to continue.

House Committee: Clive Douthwright booked 15 for meat loaf lunch.

Phoghorn: Ralph Wood actually had one not-bad joke in the Phoghorn this month, and one at the microphone.

Club Outing: Don Shaw reminded members of the tour of the new Diamond Jubilee Cruise Ship Terminal next Tuesday May 21st at 10 a.m. No pre-registration is needed.

President's Comments: Tor noted that membership and attendance have decreased markedly, and there is little interest shown by members to fill Executive positions and to further develop our Club. At a meeting yesterday the Executive decided to give the Nominating Committee another chance to fill the Executive positions. The Executive will also survey members re their interest in continuing the Club. Discussion of survey results and of future plans will be held at the June 19th meeting rather than a guest speaker.

Member discussion raised several points:

1. We need more activities to keep up interest.
2. We should seek members from retired members of Rotary, Kinsmen, and other service clubs.
3. We might consider rotating the January and February meetings into the summer months.

60/40 Draw: The Guest Speaker drew Bob James' name. He donated his \$71 winnings to the Boys and Girls Club.

Guest Speaker: Bob Youden, past Chair of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, was introduced by Don Shaw. He has been consulting with the NB Government about ways to reduce their \$800 million deficit. He noted the closure of mills and mines, etc. which also causes small businesses (10 or fewer employees) to fall on hard times. One in three NB workers is on EI at least once a year. There is an influx of foreign workers while 12% of NB workers sit idle. An aging population places more demands on health services. Four in ten schools are half empty, and many are aging and in need of upgrades. Delays at Point Lepreau during and after the refurbishment have been costly to NB Power. There is no government help for small businesses, which accounts for half of our work force.

A question and answer period followed. Tor thanked the speaker.

Next Meeting is June 19th.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Secretary.