

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

The monthly meeting was held at 10 am at the Boys and Girls Club, with President Ralph Wood chairing and about 40 members attending. Following "O Canada", a moment of silence was held in memory of Ross Coates who died November 4th; his memorial service will be held December 20th at 11 am at Brenan's. Gordon Mouland led the singalong.

Minutes of October 16th were summarized and accepted with one correction: under Guests, Gordon Dempsey introduced Peter Milburn, not Peter Milberry.

New Member: Kendall Higgins of Higgins Insurance in the KV, joined and was pinned.

Guests: Jim Shillington introduced David Price, Ralph Furness and Rev. Paul Brown.

Member News: Don Jobe had knee surgery and also stints in his heart.

Member Profile: Robert Taylor told two stories from moments illustrating past ineptitudes.

Finances: We have \$1394 on hand.

Membership: Ed O'Keefe reported that we have 55 memberships including those paid today. He will be away until April, and Willard Buckley will look after memberships while he is gone.

Communications: Ralph Wood noted that we need a photographer so we can send pictures to the web site. Brian Mitchell took some pictures today.

House Committee: Gordon Mouland booked 27 for chicken pot pie lunch.

Phoghorn: Ralph reported that Tom Neill will be the new Editor. Snail mail is being phased out, and after December it will be issued from the web site rather than UPS. Copies will be available at meetings.

60 / 40 Draw: Ralph announced that henceforth the money will be given to the winner who will decide privately what to do with it: give it to the Boys and Girls Club and get a tax receipt for 100%, or to another charity, or keep it. Today's winner was Ralph Wood who won \$129; while some may be suspicious that he kept it, the Secretary has faith!

Brochures: The Secretary has obtained updated copies of the national brochure, and Ed O'Keefe is developing a local brochure to go with it.

Constitution and ByLaws: Ralph thanked Willard and Tor for their review of these. Suggested changes were made available, and will be voted on at the January meeting.

Guest Speaker: Ralph Murray introduced Jim Quinn, who was with the Coast Guard and is now President and CEO of the Saint John Port Authority. He had praise for emerging entrepreneurs such as those who won Junior Achievement awards. Saint John has strong transportation links to the rest of Canada, the US, and overseas. We have the largest oil refinery and the only LNG terminal in Canada, an impressive safety record, and a deep water marine terminal announced. Jim said he favours shale gas development so that NB can return to being a net provider of resources as we were at the time of Confederation. He noted that potash cargo, the recycling facility, and container traffic have all seen significant increases in the past year. We are working to build import markets. There are plans to expand the West Side area from 40 to over 100 acres to handle container traffic. Jim's presentation was followed by lots of questions, ranging from containers to shore power for cruise ships. Ralph Wood thanked him.

Meeting adjourned about 12:05 – next meeting December 18th to include the SJ String Quartet and turkey dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Secretary.