

**PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN
CHRISTMAS MEETING
December 10th, 2014**

The monthly meeting was held a week early, as Santa Claus had the audacity to book the Boys and Girls Club on our normal meeting date. President Ralph Wood welcomed the 35 members present. "O Canada" was as usual led at far too high a pitch by our resident choirmaster Gordon Mouland. The usual sing-along was shelved in lieu of some Christmas songs later.

Minutes of the October meeting were published in the Phoghorn. They were approved as moved by Robert Taylor and seconded by Len Kinsella. *[Member suggestion – go back to reading them; sometimes they're funnier than Ralph Wood's jokes.]*

Guests → Members: John Doyle introduced retired florist Fenton Keirstead, who joined and was pinned. Laurie Hossack introduced Burton Purcell, who was pinned but has yet to pay dues.

Member News: Clive Douthwright is at Hospice. Sadly, Gordon Mouland's wife Mabel passed away since we last met.

Finances: Treasurer Don Mitchener filed a report which shows a balance of \$2539.02, including the \$1000 bequest received last month. 40 members have paid. The report was approved as moved by Ralph Wood and seconded by Frank Ervin.

Communications: Ralph thanked Willard Buckley for keeping members up to date via e-mails.

Phoghorn: For the first time this was published by the Boys and Girls Club. They promised to get it out earlier in future.

Jokes Unlimited: Ralph had 12 pages (he said) of one-liner Christmas jokes. Members allowed him to get through only half of them before they mutinied and headed for the coffee urn.

60/40 Draw: Many arm's lengths of tickets were sold, and the pot was \$107.25 – it had to be a Scotsman who paid the \$.25 for ¼ of a ticket. Gordon Dempsey was the winner.

Christmas Cheer: Our usual Christmas draw was won by Stewart Hansen.

Presentation: The Club presented \$600 to Amy Shanks, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club. She promised it would be used for Christmas gifts for needy children. She told of one child who received a gift from the Club and re-wrapped it so he would have something to open on Christmas morning.

Christmas Tie Competition: Willard had notified members by e-mail to show up in a Christmas tie. Amy Shanks judged Dale Stevens' to be the best. A group photo was taken for the web site, so members can form their own opinion.

Guest Performers: The Saint John String Quartet was introduced by Carl Tompkins. Their music was a winter theme. Ralph Wood thanked them and presented each with a bottle of homemade wine.

Next Meeting will be January 21st. John Doyle will arrange a speaker to talk about pre-planning of funerals.

Luncheon: Most members stayed for our traditional turkey dinner catered and served by the Boys and Girls Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Secretary.