



The Phoghorn



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Saint John Probus Club—Host City For Rendezvous 2008 (Only 510 days left)

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Volume 14 No. 3 – November 2006

(Meetings held on third Wednesday of the month at Saint John Rotary Boys & Girls Club on Paul Harris Street)

Next Meeting

To be held **Wednesday, Nov. 18th, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Boys and Girls Club.** The speaker will be our own Don MacGowan. Don's talk will be on the fate of a Saint John sailing vessel, the "Lizie C Troop" built in Courtenay Bay in 1873. She was lost on the coast of Japan in 1890. Don has done extensive research into the background of this vessel about her loss. He was subsequently invited to visit Japan for a ceremony marking her loss. This should prove to be an interesting talk.

? ? Last Meeting ? ?

President Dave Lester opened the meeting at 10am with the singing of O Canada by the 50 members present. Clarence and Ray then lead the sing song in their usual inimitable style, after which Clarence announced the addition of the Banjo Barons to the fare for our Christmas meeting.

Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were duly read by Robert Taylor deputizing for Lorne McGuigan and duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Ed Creaser reported a balance of \$1498.45 with still a considerable number of members not having paid their dues for this new year 2006/2007. Ed will be pleased to receive your dues by cheque only as this obviates issuing receipts. Dues can be mailed to our address on the Phoghorn banner.

Presidents Remarks

President Dave Lester announced that our December meeting will be on the **13th of December**, and not the third Wednesday as is usual, so please note carefully as this is our usual Christmas Dinner at a nominal cost. The Saint John String Quartet and this year the Banjo Barons will entertain. So lets have a good turn out for this festive meeting. The purchase of a club banner was discussed and subsequently voted on and approved unanimously. President Dave also announced he would act as our sick members person for this year, so if you hear of anyone sick please inform Dave.

Gordon Moulard, acting unpaid house manager, solicited for lunch of Lasagna and despite the dearth of numbers decided to order 23 lunches just to be consistent.

Bill Brydges - Co Chair Rendezvous2008

Bill gave an update of recent activities of the Committees. Members should be aware that the additional webpage for Rendezvous 2008 is up on our website and besides displaying our spanking new RV logo, also includes the interest survey which has been circulated to all clubs in Canada. Members can download the survey in MS Word format and on completion send by email, fax or post to the address given. We are as interested in your

opinions as we are in those from other clubs so complete the survey "Catch the Wave". Only 510 days left before Rendezvous 2008.

Volunteers Wanted

Member Neil McKelvey who is also on the board of the Mission to Seafarers, is seeking volunteers to drive the Mission van picking up seamen from the various berths and transporting them to the Mission building on the West Side where they can avail themselves of the services offered. This is a part time voluntary job. If you are interested contact Neil at 652-6912 or 632-2770, or by e-mail at nmckelvey@smss.com.

Neil McKelvey was the winner of \$108.00 60/40 draw and the B&GC were the beneficiaries.
Meeting was adjourned at 1045 for Coffee.

Speaker

After the coffee break Ed O'Keefe introduced our speaker, Dr. David Forgie, the well known Rothesay Chiropractor complete with his assistant - a plastic skeleton. Dr Forgie attempted to teach us all the benefits of Chiropractic manipulation, proper stance and the benefits of exercise and a good balanced diet all in the short space of forty-five minutes. He was forced to conclude many sections of his talk with a blanket statement of Blah blah blah, and unfortunately was not able to field a lot of the questions his interesting talk provoked. Ed O'Keefe thanked Dr. Forgie and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Now for the Funnies

This month no group is scandalized, no individual is teased, no profession slandered. This is not a change of policy - it's just that we have done all the professions, seasons, festivals, etc. and are now reduced to a general miscellany to fill this space.

Seems a local eccentric (with WAY too much time on his hands) loved to take his riding lawnmower into strange neighborhoods and cut people's grass while they were asleep. In the morning they'd awaken to newly-mown lawns up and down the street. The local newspaper kept tabs on where this anonymous grass cutter would strike next. A recent headline proclaimed in bold print: The Lawn Stranger Rides Again!

A few years ago in my back garden there was this anthill, where all the wood ants lived. This was right near the gate at the back, and we let them live there, because they weren't causing any hassle, or eating the foundations or anything like that. Now, you know how ants have loads of different levels in their colonies for different things like larval nurseries, well these ants were even more civilized; they had sports centers, where ants could work out and play (an)tennas and other games; the ant pile had a cinema, showing such cartoons like "Penelope Pitstop" (remember the Anthill mob?) and also classics like "Them". On the bottom floor there was a shopping mall, where the ants could buy all kinds of ant-related products. This particular colony was very commercial, and there were a good number of MerchAnts. My next-door neighbor, who is a nuclear chemist, is a very careless man. He is apparently involved in some very well paid top-secret experimentation with the government, and he never talks about his work.

One day, as he was coming round the back of his house (he had locked himself out of the front door) he slipped on the wet grass (it always rains here, and he has expensive leather-soled shoes) and dropped his briefcase. Unfortunately he had left his regular briefcase at home that day, so he had had to buy a cheap temporary replacement from the market to take home his experiment. This bad quality replacement flew open as it fell under the gate, and a small lump of polonium (or was it astatine?) fell out.

Anyway, it was something which had a half life long enough to get to the ant hill! It jumped out of the case and out from within its shielding (which he had neglected to check) and lodged in the wood ant pile! He was a bit squeamish, and didn't really feel like plunging his hand into an active ant colony, so he left it there intending to come back for it later. Being as hopelessly forgetful as he was, he totally forgot about it. Meanwhile, within the colony things started to change, as the radiation started to mutate the ants' genetic code. Far from growing enormous and red like in most ant horror movies, the radiation inhibited their growth hormone production, and they lost their pigment producing capabilities. You could see through them! Suddenly things had to change in the hill: the stairs had to be smaller, and all the equipment had to be shrunk! In the shops all the styles were too large, and the colors all clashed, so they had to make a whole new range of clothing and accessories. They sold off the old stuff under the promotional line of: Reduced for" Clear Ants."

? *Have a nice day!*