



The Phoghorn



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Probus Club of Saint John
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Next Meeting - To be held Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Boys and Girls Club. This will be our special Christmas meeting featuring the Saint John String Quartet and Clarence Blois and the Banjo Barons. This will be followed by our Christmas lunch to which your spouses are invited. This excellent spread is priced at \$10 per head and a bargain at the price.

Last Meeting - President Dave Fraser opened the meeting at 10 a.m. with the singing of O Canada, followed by Clarence Blois leading the sing song which featured requests from the members.

Minutes – The minutes of the previous meeting were presented by Robert Taylor, Secretary and duly approved.

President's Remarks- President Dave then led those present in a moment of silence in memory of member Dr. Henrik Tonning who passed away recently. Condolences were passed to his family and friends. Dave also noted that Wylie McGinley was not so good and that Jim Gillespie had had an accident which badly injured his knee. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Dave then reported that Richard Burpee had accepted the nomination as Vice President. This was passed unanimously. Congratulations Richard!

Further discussion on a second Vice President ensued, and it was decided to vote on this proposal at the December meeting as this requires an amendment to the club's constitution. David then urged members to actively recruit new members.

Treasurer's Report - Acting Treasurer Ed Creaser reported a bank balance of \$1507.86. Members are reminded that membership dues are now due and can be paid by cheque to the address below the Phoghorn banner.

Ed Okeefe presented the Boys and Girls Club with a gift certificate for a weekend for two at the Delta Hotel to be used as a fundraiser for the Club. Ed also asked for a show of hands of those who wanted a copy of the updated membership list.

Gordon Moulard sold Probus car decals and then solicited 23 for lunch of Fish Chowder.

Carl Thompkins spoke about the Erica Lowe memorial fund and suggested we do something about contributing at the December meeting. Erica was a member of the Saint John String Quartet and had performed for us on several occasions before her untimely death.

Rendezvous 2008

Bill Brydges brought members up to date on the organizing committees' activities and announced that Fred Shillington had agreed to be co-chair of the organizing committee. Bill also acknowledged the sterling work of all those involved and mentioned that they were meeting a lady from Australia who would be making a reconnaissance visit for the Australian delegation.

60/40 Draw

A total of \$127 was collected by Torbjorn Bordevik assisted by Ian Thompson. We wish to refute the rumour that Tor and Scotty were tax collectors prior to retiring. The lucky winner was Frank Sentchal who donated the \$127 winnings to the Boys and Girls Club.

Presentation - After the coffee President Dave introduced John Buchanan, the President of Saint John Rotary Club, which was the sponsor of our Club 15 years ago. John was assisted in his presentation by Bill Ives. John gave us a history of the Saint John Club and a summary of past and present Rotary projects, as well as a brief

history of Rotary. Bill then spoke on Rotary International and all its ongoing projects. This proved to be an interesting and informative talk, well received by those present. President Dave thanked John and Bill and presented them with a small token of our appreciation. The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Now for the Christmas Funnies

A Parents' Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house
I searched for the tools to hand to my spouse.
Instructions were studied and we were inspired,
In hopes we could manage "Some Assembly Required."
The children were quiet (not asleep) in their beds,
While Dad and I faced the evening with dread:
A kitchen, two bikes, Barbie's town house to boot!
And, thanks to Grandpa, a train with a toot!
We opened the boxes, my heart skipped a beat....
Let no parts be missing or parts incomplete!
Too late for last-minute returns or replacement;
If we can't get it right, it goes in the basement!
When what to my worrying eyes should appear,
But 50 sheets of directions, concise, but not clear,
With each part numbered and every slot named,
So if we failed, only we could be blamed.
More rapid than eagles the parts then fell out,
All over the carpet they were scattered about.
"Now bolt it! Now twist it! Attach it right there!
Slide on the seats, and staple the stair!
Hammer the shelves, and nail to the stand."
"Honey," said hubby, "you just glued my hand."
And then in a twinkling, I knew for a fact
That all the toy dealers had indeed made a pact
To keep parents busy all Christmas Eve night
With "assembly required" till morning's first light.
We spoke not a word, but kept bent at our work,
Till our eyes, they went bleary; our fingers all hurt.
The coffee went cold and the night, it wore thin
Before we attached the last rod and last pin.
Then laying the tools away in the chest,
We fell into bed for a well-deserved rest.
But I said to my husband just before I passed out,
"This will be the best Christmas, without any doubt.
Tomorrow we'll cheer, let the holiday ring,
And not have to run to the store for a thing!
We did it! We did it! The toys are all set
For the perfect, most perfect, Christmas, I bet!"
Then off to dreamland and sweet repose I gratefully went,
Though I suppose there's something to say for those self-deluded...
I'd forgotten that BATTERIES are never included!
The three wise men arrived to visit the child lying in the manger. One of the wise men was exceptionally tall, and bumped his head on the low doorway as he entered the stable.
"Jesus Christ!" he shouted.
Joseph said, "Write that down, Mary; it's better than Clyde!"



Bill Brydges
Ed O'Keefe
Ralph Wood
Ed Creaser . . .
OH MY!



Seasons Greetings from the entire Phoghorn staff and the fabulous Cathy Porter at the UPS Store who makes the Phoghorn blow every month and yours truly.

Merry Christmas to you and yours