



The Phoghorn



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Probus Club of Saint John
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Happy New Year Welcome to 2008!



Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday January 16th 2008 at 10.00 a.m. at the Boys and Girls Club. This will be of special interest to all tax payers as our guest speaker will be Mr. Glen Beers CA, who will be speaking on the changes in the income tax rules including the new "income splitting" procedures and their implication. He will also be talking on some other tax related retirement and estate matters. Please come with your questions ready for what promises to be an interesting and topical subject.

Last Meeting

President Dave opened the meeting as usual with O Canada and announced that the month's draw proceeds will be donated to the Erika Lowe Memorial Fund.

We were then led by our choirmaster, Calarence Blois, in a seasonal carol and festive singalong.

Minutes

The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting which were duly approved.

Sick List

President Dave notified members that Frank Irvine was on the sick list, and that Carl Tompkins had gone to Halifax for eye surgery. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Executive

The executive structure of the Club was discussed and it was agreed that we should go with two vice presidents to avoid if possible, the situation which arose this year. Brian Mitchell was then voted in unanimously as second vice president.

Christmas Donation

It was voted that we make our customary Christmas donation of \$500 to the Boys and Girls Club.

Membership

With a view on informing and possibly recruiting new members, Bill Brydges will be a speaker at an upcoming meeting of the Saint John Rotary Club on the joys and thrills of Probus. He will be formally thanking them for their support of Rendezvous 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 for coffee and socializing.

After the adjournment, President Dave presented Debbie Cooper of the B&GC with the \$500.00 cheque. The entertainment was a presentation of Christmas music by our perennial Christmas guests, the Saint John String Quartet, who once again showed their skill.

Speaker

Chris Buckley spoke on the Erika Lowe Memorial. We then had the 60/40 draw, won by Ray Alan. The proceeds of the draw were donated to that fund.

Banjo Barons

The Banjo Barons supplied us with some lively banjo, guitar and vocal numbers featuring individual band members and our own Clarence Blois.

Rev Lake said grace and members were then served a delicious turkey lunch with all the trimmings.

Welcome to the (Alleged) Funnies

Mark Twain - *New Year's Day... now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.*

The Diary of a Snow Shoveler

- December 8** - 6:00 PM. It started to snow. The first snow of the season and the wife and I took our cocktails and sat for hours by the window watching the huge soft flakes drift down from heaven. It looked like a Grandma Moses Print. So romantic we felt like newlyweds again. I love snow!
- December 9** - We woke to a beautiful blanket of crystal white snow covering every inch of the landscape. What a fantastic sight! Can there be a more lovely place in the Whole World? Moving here was the best idea I've ever had. Shoveled for the first time in years and felt like a boy again. I did both our driveway and the sidewalks. This afternoon the snowplow came along and covered up the sidewalks and closed in the driveway, so I got to shovel again. What a perfect life.
- December 12** - The sun has melted all our lovely snow. Such a disappointment. My neighbor tells me not to worry, we'll definitely have a white Christmas. No snow on Christmas would be awful! Bob says we'll have so much snow by the end of winter, that I'll never want to see snow again. I don't think that's possible. Bob is such a nice man, I'm glad he's our neighbor.
- December 14** - Snow lovely snow! 8" last night. The temperature dropped to -20. The cold makes everything sparkle so. The wind took my breath away, but I warmed up by shoveling the driveway and sidewalks. This is the life! The snowplow came back this afternoon and buried everything again. I didn't realize I would have to do quite this much shoveling, but I'll certainly get back in shape this way.
- December 15** - 20 inches forecast. Sold my van and bought a 4x4 Blazer. Bought snow tires for the wife's car and 2 extra shovels. Stocked the freezer. The wife wants a wood stove in case the electricity goes out. I think that's silly. We aren't in Alaska, after all.
- December 16** - Ice storm this morning. Fell on my butt on the ice in the driveway putting down salt. Hurt like heck. The wife laughed for one hour, which I think was very cruel.
- December 17** - Still way below freezing. Roads are too icy to go anywhere. Electricity was off for 5 hours. I had to pile the blankets on to stay warm. Nothing to do but stare at the wife and try not to irritate her. Guess I should've bought a wood stove, but won't admit it to her. God I hate it when she's right. I can't believe I'm freezing to death in my own living room.
- December 20** - Electricity's back on, but had another 14" of the damn stuff last night. More shoveling. Took all day. Darn snowplow came by twice. Tried to find a neighbor kid to shovel, but they said they're too busy playing hockey. I think they're lying. Called the only hardware store around to see about buying a snow blower and they're out. Might have another shipment in March. I think they're lying. Bob says I have to shovel or the city will have it done and bill me. I think he's lying.
- December 22** - Bob was right about a white Christmas because 13 more inches of the white crap fell today, and it's so cold it probably won't melt till August. Took me 45 minutes to get all dressed up to go out to shovel and then I had to poop. By the time I got undressed, pooped and dressed again, I was too tired to shovel. Tried to hire Bob who has a plow on his truck for the rest of the winter; but he says he's too busy. I think the jerk is lying.
- December 23** - Only 2" of snow today. And it warmed up to 0. The wife wanted me to decorate the front of the house this morning. What - is she nuts!!! Why didn't she tell me to do that a month ago? She says she did but I think she's lying.
- December 24** - 6". Snow packed so hard by snowplow, I broke the shovel. Thought I was having a heart attack. If I ever catch the man who drives that snowplow I'll drag him through the snow by his nose and beat him to death with my broken shovel. I know he hides around the corner and waits for me to finish shoveling and then he comes down the street at 100 miles an hour and throws snow all over where I've just been! Tonight the wife wanted me to sing Christmas carols with her and open our presents, but I was too busy watching for the snowplow.
- December 25** - Merry -bleeping- Christmas! 20 more inches of the slop tonight. Snowed in. The idea of shoveling makes my blood boil. I hate the snow! Then the snowplow driver came by asking for a donation and I hit him over the head with my shovel. The wife says I have a bad attitude. I think she's a fucking idiot. If I have to watch "It's A Wonderful Life" one more time, I'm going to stuff her into the microwave.
- December 26** - Still snowed in. Why the heck did I ever move here? It was all HER idea. She's really getting on my nerves.
- December 27** - Temperature dropped to -30 and the pipes froze, plumber came after 14 hours of waiting for him, he only charged me \$1400 to replace all my pipes.
- December 28** - Warmed up to above -20. Still snowed in. THE WITCH is driving me crazy!!!
- December 29** - 10 more inches. Bob says I have to shovel the roof or it could cave in. That's the silliest thing I ever heard. How dumb does he think I am?
- December 30** - Roof caved in. I beat up the snow plow driver he is now suing me for a million dollars not only the beating I gave him but also for trying to shove the broken snow shovel up where the sun don't shine. The wife went home to her mother. 9" predicted.
- December 31** - I set fire to what's left of the house. No more shoveling.
- January 8** - Feel so good. I just love those little white pills they keep giving me. Why am I tied to the bed?