



The Phoghorn



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A Professional and Business Retirees Club

Probus Club of Saint John
c/o Boys and Girls Club, Paul Harris Street, Saint John, NB E2L 3V9
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Next Meeting - To be held at the Boys and Girls Club, Wednesday December 21st at 10am when our speakers will be Ms. Cathy Taylor and Helen Brdgio from the City of SaintJohn. They will be talking to us about some of the exciting things going on with the newly rejuvenated Lily Lake Pavilion. This should be an interesting talk as the transformation of the pavilion has been truly remarkable.

Dues

It's Dues time again and unless you've paid for more than one year, \$25 dollars is due - so bring your chequebook or mail the \$25 in to the Treasurer at the address on the mast head. It is important that we get this necessary chore out of the way before the Treasurer gets dunning letters from Probus Canada.

President's Remarks - President Richard opened the meeting at 10 am with the singing of O Canada . This was followed by our usual sing song lead by Clarence Blois and Don Tompkins on the piano with the theme, of course, being the festive season. President Brian kept formalities to a minimum but took the occasion to present Debbie Cooper with our traditional Christmas cheque for \$500, our semi annual gift in lieu of rent for the facility. Brian congratulated Sandy Gregory after Sandy announced that the target for the Olympic torch fund had been achieved with a little help from the Rotary Club. Well done Sandy - a great idea and well executed. Ralph Wood announced that advertising the Christmas lunch for \$5 was simply a ruse to get a good attendance. He knew after our visit to the cruise terminal where the prospect of a free lunch enticed our best turnout all year, that the membership likes lunching at a good price. Anyone who thought the \$10 charge for our Christmas lunch is too much is reminded that this is the 21st century and not the 80's or 90's when you retired.

Secretary - Robert Taylor then read the minutes of the December meeting which were duly approved.

Membership - Two guests were welcomed, and on paying their dues became pinned members. Peter Joli introduced Tom Neill and Tor Bordevik introduced Ujjay Kawatra. Brian then announced that previous guests Bill Fulton and Mike Edwards had also joined the club and were duly pinned. We also welcome back to the fold a longtime member, Ross Coates.

Treasurer's Report - was unavailable.

Brian Announced that member Larry Mundeel had passed away in May and a moment of silence was observed in his memory.

Vice President - Thor Bordevik then regaled us with the results of a telephone survey regarding club activities – past, present and possibly future too and those who managed to dodge Thor's call can partake in the survey and fill his email box with spam. See back page for your chance to gain revenge for all that 60/40 extortion.

In all seriousness, this is an attempt to determine the wishes of members regarding club activities in the future. So members are urged to respond to Thor by email.

At 10:45 we adjourned for coffee and social time.

Upon resumption the 60/40 and a special draw were conducted and I won neither.

Prior to our Christmas lunch we were entertained by the Saint John String Quartet who played a selection of Christmas carols along with stories of the tune's origin. The recital was much enjoyed and set the atmosphere for lunch. This recital has become a tradition with the club as the group has played for us for many years.

Christmas lunch was then served and was as delicious as usual and well worth the \$10 price.

President Brian wished everyone the compliments of the season and members dispersed for the holidays.

Probus Questionnaire

Please email your response to Thor at the following email address at bordevik@nbnet.nb.ca or hand it in at the next meeting or mail to the address on the Phoghorn masthead.

1. What would your opinion be with regards to asking current members to give a 3 to 5 minute talk about "who am I – what I have done"
 2. What would be your view about a suggestion of holding a yearly BBQ with family and friends.
 3. What type of field trips or visits to places of interest would you suggest we look for in the future?
 4. What type of subjects would interest you the most with regard to our monthly speakers?
 5. Has anyone ever heard the Probus Song?
 6. Although our newsletter is very well received is there anything in your opinion that we can do to expand and improve on it?
 7. Should we have a "Speaker's Corner" at our monthly meetings where members can freely "sound off" ideas and concerns?
 8. Should we keep or change the format of our 60/40 draw? Perhaps other recipients?
 9. Would there be any interest in forming "Clubs within the Club" with other activities - for instance Dinner night, Bridge, Walking, Book sharing, Bowling, etc?
- Others.** A small committee to help in looking for possible speakers and topics?
Attendance. More attendance would help "juice" up the meetings?
Need more fun at the meetings
Possibilities of sprucing up the minutes. A more humorous spin on them would spice them up.

Now For Those Alleged Funnies

A guy stood over his tee shot for what seemed an eternity, looking up, looking down, measuring the distance, figuring the wind direction and speed. Driving his partner nuts.

Finally his exasperated partner says, "What the hell is taking so long? Hit the damned ball!"

The guy answers, "My wife is up there watching me from the clubhouse. I want to make this a perfect shot."

"Forget it, man -- you don't stand a snowball's chance in hell of hitting her from here!"

A guy was invited to an old friend's home for dinner.

His buddy preceded every request to his wife by endearing terms, calling her Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc.

The guy was impressed since he knew the couple had been married almost 70 years, and while the wife was off in the kitchen he said to his buddy,

"I think it's wonderful that after all the years you've been married, you still call your wife those pet names."

His buddy hung his head. "To tell you the truth, I forgot her name about ten years ago."

Happy New Year !!