

PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN
MONTHLY MEETING
June 15th, 2011

Meeting convened as usual at the Boys and Girls Club. There were about 35 members in attendance. Regrets were received from Carl Tompkins. Past President Brian Mitchell chaired the meeting. He welcomed members. After "O Canada", Clarence Blois led the troops in "The Probus Song" (words and music attached to Minutes).

Minutes of the May 18th meeting were approved on motion of Robert Taylor, seconded by Ralph Wood, with one correction re guest Doug Brien (not Breen).

New Member: Doug Brien took out membership, and will be pinned in September.

Welcoming Back Bill Brydges after several months away with health issues.

Member Profile: Ralph Wood, a native of a town near Plymouth, England, spoke of his time serving on aircraft carriers during the Korean War. He then worked for Shell Oil in Singapore, Montreal, Nova Scotia. He moved to Saint John in 1977 and worked with Sunbury Transport.

Finances: Treasurer Don Mitchener filed a report to the end of May, showing a current balance of \$1216.37. From this will be deducted \$500 for the Boys and Girls Club.

Membership: Ed O'Keefe reported that membership has fallen from 144 to 135 in the past year, of whom 103 have paid their dues. He asked members to recruit over the summer, and made membership forms available. The alternative, he said, is perhaps to amalgamate with another Club. Input from members:

- Invite the press to a meeting.
- A prize for the best recruiter.
- Emphasize to the media the benefits for the Boys and Girls Club.
- One on one approach is best.

Telephone Committee: All is in order.

House Committee: Clive gave 12 for fish chowder lunch.

Phoghorn: There was none this month due to the Canada Post strike and lockout and a computer glitch. Despite no one seeming to miss the jokes page, Ralph Wood filled in with a couple of the missing jokes anyway.

President's Comments: Brian noted the excellent presentation on stem cell research last month, and encouraged members to contribute to the fund-raising effort.

60 / 40 Draw following Coffee Break, Brian Mitchell drew Clive Douthwright's name. Total raised was \$102, and it was donated to the Boys and Girls Club as usual.

Guest Speaker: Brian Mitchell introduced and later thanked Tor Bordevik, who was filling in for Peter Jollymore. Tor spoke about international shipping, beginning with the evolution from the use of logs and reeds as flotation devices, to Roman boats rowed by slaves from two or even three decks, to sailing. Kayakers used stars, birds and waves to find their way. He noted the roles of Tor Heyerdahl, Chinese junks, Dhows, Columbus, Ferdinand Magellan, John Cabot (originally Giovanni Cabotto), Sir Francis Drake, James Cook and the “Endeavour”, the Mayflower (the first charter ship moving passengers from the UK to settle in the Colonies), Cutty Sark (tea clipper), Nelson’s flagship Victory, the Marco Polo, the SS Savannah (first transatlantic steamer in 1819), the eras of steam and steel (1880’s) and diesel (1912) ships, transition from open to closed bridges, warships (2000 Liberty ships built in a week each), 300+ Victory ships (more sturdy), bulk carriers, nuclear powered merchant ships, ice breakers, cruise ships, apartment ships (\$2 million and up), Coastal Express ships, semi-submersibles which can carry ships or oil rigs or even rocket tracking stations, and supply ships. Several members were knowledgeable on the subject, and stayed behind for questions and answers.

Next Meeting: September 21st.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Secretary.