



The Phoghorn



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Our next meeting will be at the Boys and Girls Club Wednesday December 19th 10:00am. Our guests will be the Saint John String Quartet to entertain us as they have for many Christmas seasons. This will be followed by our traditional Christmas Luncheon at \$10 a head.

November Meeting

The monthly meeting convened at the Boys and Girls Club at 10 am, with Tor Bordevik chairing and about 30 members in attendance. Tor welcomed the members. O Canada followed. Gordon Mouland was “voluntold” to lead a singalong.

Minutes of October 17th: After noting that editorial license was exercised in the version published in Phoghorn, Robert Taylor moved and Don Shaw seconded the acceptance of the minutes; motion carried.

Member News: Glen D’Arcy is home from hospital. Ian Thompson will be in hospital next week for a procedure. Rev. Lloyd Lake is “cutting back” on his activities.

Finances: Treasurer Don Mitchener was absent, and Robert reported in his stead that about 75 members have paid their dues, including those received in person and by mail today.

Membership: Gordon Graham, deputizing for Ed O’Keefe who is away for the winter, provided updated copies of the membership list.

Telephone Committee: Gordon further reported that he is awaiting an updated list of those paid for this year, to determine how many have e-mail and how many need phone contact.

House Committee: Clive Douthwright reported that lunch would be corn chowder and tea biscuits.

Phoghorn: Ralph Wood reported that it is a “well-oiled machine”. He and Tor and Robert told brief stories, none of which need repetition. Carl Tompkins told another after coffee break.

Club Leadership: Both Tor (as President) and Bob Capson (on behalf of the Nominating Committee) put out a plea for someone to step up into the positions of President and Vice President. The ease of the job, with most work delegated to capable committees, was emphasized.

60/40 Draw: Guest speaker Hodges Hamm drew the name of Barry Beckett, who promptly handed his \$80 over to the Boys and Girls Club.

Guest Speaker: Long-time realtor Hodges Hamm was introduced and later thanked by Don Shaw. He presented a “perfect storm” state of the union in Saint John that contrasted with the message of hope delivered by Mayor Mel Norton last evening. He noted out-migration of whole families to the West and Nfld-Labrador; the high number of empty homes built in anticipation of the 2nd refinery, 2nd nuclear reactor, and Irving World Headquarters that were all cancelled; the zero growth and high unemployment in NB; the completion of major projects (Route One Gateway, Lepreau refurbishing, Peel Plaza) with nothing to take their places. He said the Province should move forward in developing a shale gas industry as a replacement and an oil pipeline expansion, and that the City needs to be more hospitable to new businesses, especially those proposed by immigrant entrepreneurs.

Now for the event of the season ,yes those Christmas Funnies are here by the stocking load.

Christmas is synonymous with snow but how does the weatherman know . . . well here's the truth.

How They Forecast a Cold Winter:

One day in early September the Chief of a First Nation band was asked by his band elders if the winter of 2012/13 was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with the reading signs from the natural world around the country. In truth, neither of them had any idea about how to predict the coming winter.

However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and the chief rang Environment Canada.

'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood.

A fortnight later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked.

'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him.

As a result of this brief conversation the chief went back to the tribe and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could find. A month later the chief called the National Weather Service once more and asked about the coming winter.

'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked.

The weatherman replied: 'Because All the First Nations across Canada are collecting wood like crazy.'

A lawyer sends season's greetings.

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the winter solstice holiday(tm), practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secularpersuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all . . . and a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2012, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make Canada great, (not to imply that Canada is necessarily greater than any other country or is the only "CANADA" in the western hemisphere), and without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform, or sexual orientation of the wishee.

By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms: This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/himself or others, and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year, or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first, and warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.

Christmas Advertising:

Toy Store: "Ho, ho, ho spoken here."

Bridal boutique: "Marry Christmas."

Outside a church: "The original Christmas Club."

At a department store: "Big pre-Christmas sale. Come in and mangle with the crowd."

A reducing salon: "24 Shaping Days until Christmas."

***"Merry Christmas from Ralph and Cathy of the Phoghorn
and may 2013 be a great year for all***