



The Phoghorn

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Probus Club of Saint John
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Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be the first of the new Probus year. We will meet as usual at the Boys and Girls club on Sept 18th at 10am. We will be having the election and installation of new officers. We urge all members along with their guests and prospective members to attend. Lets see a good turn out and give the new season a good start. The executive has been working diligently over the summer to improve the club but needs your support. After the business part of the meeting we will have a very interesting and pertinent guest speaker MS Sheri Somerville of the Natural Gas Advisory for NB with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP). In this role, she is actively engaging stakeholders, communities, groups, associations, and many more to encourage the flow of information about natural gas potential, the exploration and production process, how natural gas fits into the energy portfolio, the economic opportunities and next steps in New Brunswick.

Minutes of the June Meeting: The monthly meeting was held at the Boys and Girls Club, with about 35 members in attendance. Acting President Tor Bordevik welcomed members to the closing meeting of the season. After the National Anthem, Gordon Moulard led the troops in a sing-along.

Minutes of May 15th were summarized by Robert Taylor who moved they be accepted.

Guest: Jim Shillington introduced Bill Harrington, a retired Esso agent, McDonald's franchise owner and Rotarian. He filled out an information form and intends to pay in September.

Member News: Clive Douthwright is in hospital briefly.

Financial: Treasurer Don Mitchener filed a report showing a deficit of \$83.65, which includes the following: It was **moved** by Ralph Wood and **seconded** by Ralph Murray that we donate \$500 to the Boys and Girls Club; **motion carried**. A cheque was presented to Sandra MacGowan with our thanks for use of their facilities each month.

Membership: Ed O'Keefe noted there has been no change in membership. He entreated members to aim to each bring a new guest in September.

House Committee: Twenty booked for lasagna lunch.

Phoghorn: Jokes of varying quality were told by Ralph Wood, Robert Taylor and Carl Tompkins. (Members are left to interpret whose joke(s) were of higher (or lower) quality!)

60/40 Draw: Sandra MacGowan drew the name of Bob Reeves who donated \$80 to the Boys and Girls Club.

Guest Speaker was replaced by a discussion of **the Club's future**. Robert Taylor presented results of the **member survey** which was sent as a special issue of the Phoghorn. Without exception, the 14 who responded, and those present today, enjoy their Club membership and wish the Club to continue. The majority will try to bring in a new member in the next year. The majority declined to consider Executive positions (especially President or Vice President), though today's meeting produced two who will consider it. Most do not want to have winter meetings only every other month, and the majority will consider taking part in winter trips, etc. if they are in town. Several said we should renew our ties with Rotary and invite former Rotarians, along with our newer members, to assume Executive positions. Several members can no longer participate due to age, health issues, etc.

Tor Bordevik noted that Vice President Don Shaw has resigned, and that he himself will not serve a third year, though he will continue to be a member of the Club. He said he spoke to Rotary on June 17th, and some interest was expressed. Above all else, we need new members.

A **Program Committee** was set up to attract speakers: Ed O'Keefe, Glen Macdonald, Frank Ervin, Jim Shillington, John McMillan and Bob James offered to serve on this committee. Noting the absence of both members of the Nominating Committee, it was suggested that this committee might come up with a VP, since program planning is the VP's chief function. Other member input:

- Name badges need to be ordered promptly for new members, and all members should wear them at meetings.
- One Probian suggested a co-ed Club, but neither Club in Saint John is open to that idea.
- An Executive Committee was suggested, with members rotating between the four posts over a four-year term.
- The young are more committed to technology than to group membership; do we have enough commitment to sustain ourselves as a Club?

Meeting adjourned at noon. Next meeting September 18th: \$30 Club Dues are payable at that time.

Now for a few of those inevitable and side splitting Funnies:

A young ventriloquist is touring the clubs and stops to entertain at a local bar in Malibu, California.

He's going through his usual run of stupid blond jokes, when Pamela Anderson, who at that time happens to be in the same bar stands on her chair and says, "I've heard just about enough of your denigrating blond jokes! What makes you think you can stereotype women that way? What does a person's physical attributes have to do with their worth as a human being?" The ventriloquist looks on in amazement. "It's guys like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in my community," she continued, "and of reaching my full potential as a person because you and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only blonds but women at large... all in the name of humor." Flustered, the ventriloquist begins to apologize. Pamela Anderson interjects, "You stay out of this, mister, I'm talking to that little bastard on your knee!"

Rules for a happy marriage (Show to the wife at your peril)

1. If you think you're fat, you probably are. Don't ask us.
2. Learn to work the toilet seat: if it's up put it down.
3. Don't cut your hair. Ever.
4. Birthdays, Valentines, and Anniversaries are not quests to see if he can find the perfect present, again!
5. If you ask a question you don't want an answer to, expect an answer you don't want to hear.
6. Sometimes, he's not thinking about you. Live with it.
7. Don't ask him what he's thinking about unless you are prepared to discuss such topics as navel lint, the shotgun formation and monster trucks.
8. Get rid of your cat. And no, it's not different, it's just like every other cat.
9. Dogs are better than ANY cats. Period.
10. Sunday = Sports. It's like the full moon or the changing of the tides. Let it be.
11. Shopping is not sport.
12. Anything you wear is fine. Really.
13. You have enough clothes.
14. You have too many shoes.
15. Crying is blackmail. Use it if you must, but don't expect us to like it.
16. Ask for what you want. Subtle hints don't work.