



# *The* Phoghorn



Published by **PROBUS Club** of Saint John, NB – *Tom Craig*  
A Professional and Business Retirees Club.  
Meetings at the Boys & Girls Club located on *Paul Harris Street*  
*Every third Wednesday of the month*  
Saint John N.B. E2L 3V9 Website <http://www.sjprob>

**“CANADA 150<sup>TH</sup>”**

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## **President's Remarks.**

### **Gentlemen,**

As we come to the time of the year when we can count our blessings. We need to think of how lucky we are. For most, we can look around and see the family and friends that help make our lives feel warm and fuzzy, especially if we are in good health.

So, lets try this year to think of people we know that are not so lucky. We need to reach out to them and try to shed a little blessing their way. At **PROBUS** we have a very friendly family where we can offer a hand and invite a friend or family member to join us for our Dec 13th Christmas lunch, pay their way and even offer to drive them.

I want to say a special thanks to the members who have volunteered to call and remind the members of our monthly meetings.

You have helped to make our gathering more meaningful. Also, your phone call means so much to those who receive the call as I have had great feedback. So, keep up the great job especially in the **New Year**.

**Merry Christmas to all.**

## **Monthly Meeting Report**

### **PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN**

Monthly Meeting  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The second regular meeting of our 2017-2018 season was held Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the *Boys and Girls Club*, Saint John. President Ed O'Keefe called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., welcoming about 35 members and guests. After singing “*O Canada*”, Gordon Mouland led the sing-a-long.

A moment of silence and remembrance was held for *Diane Flewelling*.

Secretary *Willard Buckley* asked for a motion of approval of the Minutes of the September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting as distributed in “*The Phoghorn*”, motion by **Gordon Mouland**, seconded by **Gordon Dempsey**, and approved by the membership.

Three guests were introduced – *David Chorley* by President Ed O'Keefe; *Tony Brooke* by Ralph Wood; *Ian Winchester* by Dale Stevens.

New members were welcomed to the Club by President Ed, with membership pin, name tag and membership package presented to *Harry Follett*, sponsored by Dale Stevens; **Don LeBlanc**, sponsored by Ed O'Keefe; **Sherman Palmer**, sponsored by Robert Taylor; **Gary Watson**, sponsored by Ed O'Keefe.

Bill Covert read a section, relevant to the date, from “*Saint John Snippets*”.

Treasurer **Don Mitchener** reported we had \$2,002.54 on deposit, with another \$300.00 collected at the meeting. He will forward \$100.00 for the PROBUS Insurance. He projects us to break even for the year, assuming the usual amounts paid to the *Boys and Girls Club*.

First Vice President John Doyle reported that programs have been set for the rest of the 2017-2018 session: **December** – *The Saint John String Quarter*; **January** – *Victoria Clark*; **February** – PROBUS member *Keith Dow*; **March** – *Harold Wright*; **April** – *Beverly Franklin*; **May** – *Bernard Cormier*.

Mention was made of the **PROBUS** President plaque, updated with Past President **Robert Taylor's 2** terms of service. That hangs on the wall, along with our 25 years of service certificate. **David Flewelling** was thanked for providing the plaque and new members name tags.

President Ed has a supply of business style cards, with pertinent **PROBUS** information, which members could pass on to possible members. He mentioned that a list of years service was being compiled so pins relating to the years would be ordered. Members were asked to enter the information on the sheets provided for that purpose. As well, **PROBUS** automobile decals are available from President Ed, and **PROBUS** licence plate holders could be ordered, by advising Secretary Willard.

Gordon Dempsey congratulated “*The Phoghorn*” editor *Tom Craig* on the last edition. A very short version of the Fabulous Funnies was provided by *Carl Tompkins*. The guest speaker, **Michael Griffin**, drew the ticket for our draw, with guest **Tony Brooke**, holding the winning ticket. Tony graciously donated the proceeds of \$53.00 (\$73.00 less \$20.00 withheld) to the **Boys and Girls Club**, accepting the official Tax Receipt.

Secretary Willard formally introduced **Michael**, a long-time volunteer for the **Seafarer's Mission**. Michael spoke on behalf of the **Saint John Seafarer's Mission**, relating their many services to the maritime community. Vice President *John Doyle* thanked **Michael Griffin** for his address, presenting him with a **PROBUS** mug in appreciation.

The meeting adjourned about 11:35 a.m. About 18 stayed for optional lunch of lasagna, salad, and fresh from the oven cookies.

Respectfully submitted  
**Willard Buckley**  
Secretary

New Members are presented with the **PROBUS** membership binder, featuring club information.



New member **Gary Watson** receives his PROBUS book from president Ed O'Keefe.



Also, **Sherman Palmer** receives his PROBUS book from Robert Taylor.



**Harry Follett** receives his PROBUS book from Dale Stevens.

**Don Leblanc** receives his PROBUS book from President Ed O'Keefe.



Our Guest speaker, Mr. **Michael Griffin**

President Ed, on left, presenting our guest speaker with a **PROBUS** Coffee mug, with our V.P. John Doyle, on the right.

By the time you receive this newsletter, *The Saint John String Quartet*, will performed at our function in a few days time December 13<sup>th</sup>/2017. This is an annual event at **PROBUS**, this time of the year. Here is a picture taken in December 2016 performance.



Left to right; *David Adams, Danielle Sametz, Sonya Adams and Chris Buckley*

### [Derivations of some old expressions—interesting trivia:](#)

#### Subject: Historical Trivia

Did you know the saying "God willing and the Creek don't rise" was in reference to, the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creek" it is deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

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In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)

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As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October) Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would

carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig... 'Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

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In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'

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Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt .... Therefore, the expression 'losing face.'

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Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades...' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

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Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to "go sip some Ale" and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

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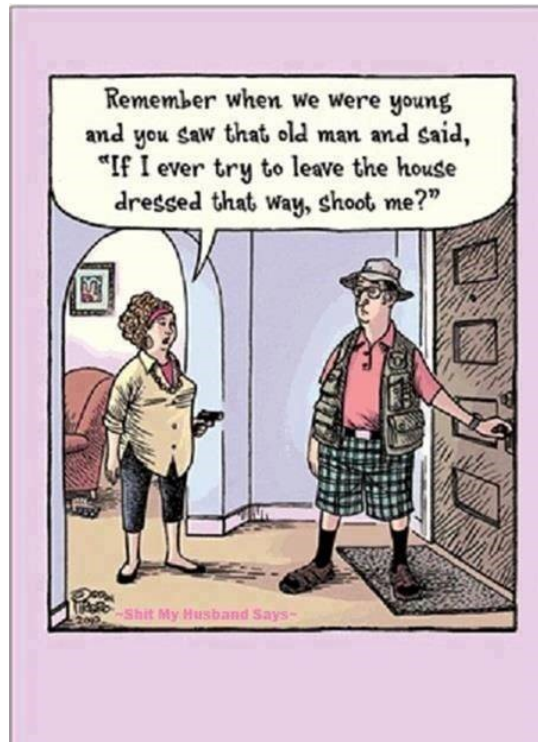
At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the phrase 'minding your 'P's and Q's'.

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One more: bet you didn't know this!

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem; how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey; Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.'

All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you?



I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. **People get out of the way much faster now.**

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John" and renamed it the "Jim".  
**I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.**

Old age is coming at a really bad time. When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. **Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.**

The biggest lie I tell myself is..."**I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it.**"

I don't have gray hair; **I have "wisdom highlights"! I'm just very wise.**

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. **We haven't met yet.**

, I'm not complaining because I am a Senager (Senior teenager). I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant. And I don't have acne.

**I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names.**

**Tom Craig -- December 2017**

*Pictures, Gordon Dempsey & Tom Craig*





*A World of Good Wishes.  
One of the real joys  
this holiday season is  
the opportunity to say  
thank you and wish you  
the very best for  
the new year*



Season Greetings

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