



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
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President's Message

Fellow members of PROBUS.

As the 2017 year comes to an end. Your executive would like to thank the many members that have brought forth new members and guests. Also, to those who have lend a hand when it was needed. Its efforts like this that will help our membership grow and become a fun place to be each month. The attendance has grown to make the club meetings interesting and the increased number of members staying for lunch is outstanding. This is a big help to the Boy's & Girl's Club, so keep on coming.

The speaker's program for the balance of the year is outstanding. So, bring a friend and let them learn and become connected.

We want to wish you and yours a *Very Happy New Year* and hope the biggest thing to happen in the coming year is lots of good health.

President **ED O'KEEFE**

PROBUS Club of Saint John

Monthly Meeting
December 13th. 2017

The regular December meeting of our 2017-2018 season was held Wednesday, December 13th, 2017 at the Boys and Girls Club. President **Ed O'Keefe** called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., welcoming about 36 members and guests. After the singing of "*O Canada*", **Gordon Moulard** led us in three songs, of which two were successfully sung.

Secretary **Willard Buckley** asked for a motion for the adoption of the minutes of the November 15th, 2017 meeting as distributed in "**The Phoghorn**". Motion was made by **Gordon Dempsey**, seconded by **Robert Taylor**, and approved by the membership. Treasurer **Don Mitchener** presented the Financial Report, showing an excess of Revenue over Expenses of \$563.39. Motion to accept the Report by **Brian Mitchell**, seconded by **Bill Covert**, approved by the membership.

President **Ed** introduced his guest, **Murray Gilchrist**; George McCaughey introduced his guest **Chip Lawton**; Tom Craig introduced his guest **Bob Bustin**; Don LeBlanc introduced his guest **Sid Lohdi**; and **Carl Tompkins** introduced his guest **Robyn Humphries**.

In Membership news, we were saddened to learn of **Fenton Keirstead** at home with a crushed lumbar; **Bob James and Tom Jarrett** both in the hospital, and **Bill Banbury** recuperating at home. Sympathy cards were signed by the members and mailed.

Three members attempted the *Allegedly Fabulous Funnies* - **Carl Tompkins, Peter Jolly and Ralph Wood**. A motion to pay **Boys and Girls Club \$300.00** for their services was made by **Robert Taylor**, seconded by **Tom Craig**, and passed by the membership.

President **Ed O'Keefe** welcomed **Tony Brooke**, sponsored by **Ralph Wood** and **Ralph Murray**, as our newest member, presenting him with the **PROBUS pin**, his name tag, membership package and car decal. **Bill Covert** read from "**Saint John Snippets**", mentioning **Robin's Drug** store and its' "**Magic Eye**".

Amy Shanks, Executive Director of The Boys and Girls Club of Saint John, was presented with our cheque of \$300.00 by President Ed. **Ms. Shanks** reported briefly on the success of the Club's summer camps.

Vice President **John Doyle** reported on the coming months programs: January--**Victoria Clark**; February--**Keith Dow**; March--**Harold Wright** and **David Goss**; April--**Bev Franklin**; May--**Bernard Cormier**.

The draw for \$107.00, (\$127.00 collected, \$20.00 withheld) was won by Honorary Lifetime Member **Gordon White**, who donated the winnings to the Boys and Girls Club.

Carl Tompkins introduced The Saint John String Quartet: **David Adams** and **Danielle Sametz**--violins; **Sonja Adams**--cello; **Christopher Buckley**--viola.

Carl also thanked the Quartet, presenting them each with our Anniversary mug.

About 32 stayed for our December dinner, which included full turkey plate buffet and two different pies for dessert.

Respectfully submitted
Willard Buckley
Secretary

EVENTS FROM THE PROGRAM DECEMBER 13th AT CHRISTMAS DINNER FUNCTION



The Saint John Boys and Girls Club outdone themselves with the set up for our Christmas dinner. Well done.



Gordon Moulard trying to lead the group in some Christmas songs of the Season. Well done Gordon!



Couldn't asked for a more victorious group singing **Christmas Carols**.



President **Ed Keefe** with Treasurer **Don Mitchener** while presenting his financial report.



Secretary **Willard Buckley**, speaking to the membership.



Bill Covert presenting “**SNIPPETS**” from **David Goss’s** Book on Saint John Snippets dating back to this-date, in time, many years ago.



President **Ed O'Keefe** presenting a cheque from **PROBUS** to the **Executive Director** of the Saint John Boys & Girls Club, **Amy Shanks**



Vice President **John Doyle** outlines the upcoming speakers for the year 2018.



A general break for coffee prior to the presentation from the **Saint John String Quartet**.

At our Christmas Dinner meeting on December 13th, 2017, once again, the ***Saint John String Quartet*** performed with a series of beautiful selections. Well done!

Seated on the left to right are; *David Adams* on **Violin**, *Sonja Adams* on **Violin**, *Danielle Sametz* on **Cello** and *Chris Buckley* on **Viola**.

This group travels all over the province and the world producing the beautiful sounds from these instruments. Hope to see them next year.



NEW MEMBER.

A new member, ***TONY BROOKE***, was introduced by ***Ralph Woods*** and presented with his name tag. Welcome Tony.



SOME LIGHTER MOMENTS



Tiny Cabin in the woods

A TINY CABIN AT CORDOVA LAKE ...

A social worker from a big city in Ontario recently transferred to a tiny community and was on the first tour of her new area when she came upon the tiniest cabin she had ever seen in her life.

Intrigued, she went up and knocked on the door.

"Anybody home?" she asked.

"Yep," came a kid's voice through the door. "Is your father there?" asked the social worker.

"Pa? Nope, he left afore Ma came in," said the kid.

"Well, is your mother there?" persisted the social worker.

"Ma? Nope, she left just afore I got here," said the kid.

"But," protested the social worker, (thinking that surely, she will need to intervene in this situation) "are you never together as a family?"

"Sure, but not here," said the kid through the door.

"This is the outhouse!"

Government workers are so very smart. Aren't you overjoyed that they'll soon be handling all our financial, educational and medical needs?

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Lost Words from our childhood: Words gone as fast as the buggy whip! Sad really!

Mergatroyd!...

Do you remember that word? Would you believe the email spell checker did not recognize the word **Mergatroyd**?

Heavens to **Mergatroyd**!

The other day a not so elderly (65) (I say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy and he looked at her quizzically and said, "**What the heck is a Jalopy?**"

OMG (new phrase)! He never heard of the word jalopy!! She knew she was old..... but not that old. Well, I hope you are **Hunky Dory** after you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology. These phrases included "**Don't touch that dial,**" "**Carbon copy,**" "**You sound like a broken record**" and "**Hung out to dry.**"

Heavens to Betsy! Gee whillikers! Jumping Jehoshaphat! Holy Moley!

We were '**in like Flynn**' and '**living the life of Riley**', and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of **being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China!**

Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, Well, I'll be '**a monkey's uncle!**' Or, this is a '**fine kettle of fish!**' We discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent, as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboard

Long gone: **Pshaw, The milkman did it. Hey! It's your nickel. Don't forget to pull the chain. Knee high to a grasshopper. Well, Fiddlesticks! Going like sixty. I'll see you in the funny papers Don't take any wooden nickels. Wake up and smell the roses.**

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than **Carter has liver pills.** This can be disturbing stuff! ("**Carter's Little Liver Pills**" are gone too!)

We of a certain age have been blessed to live in changeable times. For a child each new word is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age. We at the other end of the chronological arc have the advantage of remembering there are words that once did not exist and there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our collective memory. It's one of the greatest advantages of aging.

Okidoki

WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE FABULOUS 50'S and 60's...NO ONE WILL EVER HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY AGAIN...WE WERE GIVEN ONE OF OUR MOST PRECIOUS GIFTS:

.....OUR MEMORIES.....

BAD PARROT

A young man named John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary.

Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity.

John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to 'clean up' the bird's vocabulary.

Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even more rude. John, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed.

Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute.

Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer.

The parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arms and said

"I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior."

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude.

As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird spoke-up, very softly,

"May I ask what the turkey did?"

The people that prepare the meals each month for PROBUS, are looking for suggesting as to, "what kind of dishes you would like to see served at our lunches"? Please email me with any suggestion and I will pass the list onto them. My email: ycart@rogers.com

January 2018

PROBUS PHOGHORN ISSUE FOR JANUARY 2018
TOM CRAIG