



PROBUS

The
“PHOGHORN Newsletter”

Saint John, NB - CANADA

JULY—2021

Monthly Edition

*Meeting Location -- The Best Value Inn—Main Street,
Saint John N.B.*

NO MEETINGS FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST

Next meeting SEPTEMBER 15th 2021



“The PHOGHORN”



“NEWSLETTER”

A Professional and Business Retirees Club.

PROBUS Club Membership #026. Published by **PROBUS Club** of Saint John, NB E2L 3V9

Meetings are at the **Canada Best Value Inn on Main St, next to the Lord Beaverbrook Arena**, every **third Wednesday of the month**, 10:00 am. Website <http://www.sjprobus.ca> --- **PROBUS CANADA** website www.probus.org

Volume 28—#11 JULY--2021

2020-----2022 Executive members

***Don LeBlanc*-----President**

***Ed O’Keefe*-----Past president**

***Vacant* -----1st Vice President**

***Frank McCarey*-----2nd Vice President**

***Robert Taylor* -----Treasurer**

***Chip Lawton & Carl White* -----Acting Secretary**



President *Don LeBlanc*

Presidents’ Report--Don LeBlanc

Fellow PROBUS members.

Sad tidings for this week with the passing of ***Sherman Palmer***.

I am pleased that he was with us at our last meeting!

Sherman was known to have had a lengthy career with Bank of Canada. He was a talented Camera enthusiast and volunteered with the Community Cable channel in SJ for local programming. He was a representative Senior Ambassador for several terms for our area!

He had been the current President of the Senior Resource Centre in SJ and was very dedicated to community service!

Sherman was 85 on this past St Patrick’s Day. Details of funeral arrangements will of course to be announced shortly. Probud Club will miss *Sherman*!

Very warm regards to all.

Don LeBlanc PROBUS Club President



Sherman Palmer at our June 2021 PROBUS meeting

MINUTES FROM THE PROBUS CLUB of SAINT JOHN
Month of June 2021

Minutes of Meeting Call to Order - 10:06 June 16, 2021

President, Don LeBlanc, opened the meeting with the singing of O'Canada. Twenty-nine members (29) were in attendance.

Members in attendance were advised that today's meeting was the **Annual General Meeting** of the Club.

Memoriams for departed members – No deaths were noted.

The President acknowledged that PROBUS ***Keith Dow*** was in attendance after a long absence. Welcome back Keith.

Minutes of last meeting - The minutes were included in the Phoghorn which was emailed to members. A motion to accept the minutes was made by ***Sherman Palmer*** and seconded by ***Gordon Dempsey*** (motion passed)

Business arising – Nothing presented.

Treasurer Report - ***Robert Taylor*** circulated copies of a **Preliminary Financial Report** and advised that an adjustment would be made to the final figures following the conclusion of today's meeting. It was moved by ***Ralph Wood*** and seconded by ***David Flewelling*** to accept the Report (motion passed)

Upcoming Programs – It was indicated by *John Doyle* that for **September** there will be a presenter from Fredericton and for **October** a representative from **Ganong Bros.**, *Briana Ganong*.

Snippets- was not available. **Don LeBlanc** spoke about *James Renforth*, a Rower, whose family name was adopted as the name for the area. He also spoke about a CBC Radio Broadcast that featured an interview he

was involved in that featured some history about ***Benedict Arnold***, which included some facts about Arnold's connection to shipbuilding in the area.

Ralph Wood and Paul Meier presented entertaining jokes.

Presidents Report

Don LeBlanc reported that a meeting would be scheduled with the Committee Chairs to discuss the activities for the upcoming year.

He suggested that perhaps the Club could consider doing some such summer activities such as a golf day, etc. He also gave some information about the Senior Resource Centre and suggested that members may want to look into getting involved with their activities. It was indicated by Sherman Palmer, who is involved with the Centre, that 400 plus Tax Returns for seniors were completed at the Centre this year.

Elections for the slate of offices in 2022

Ralph Woods, past president, conducted the elections process for the up coming year 2021-2022. Slate of Officers Elected for upcoming year as ratified by the members in attendance:

Don LeBlanc, President,

Frank McCarey, 2nd Vice President,

Chip Lawton/Carl White, Recording Secretaries

Robert Taylor, Treasurer.

Position of 1st Vice-President, not filled at this time.

Don LeBlanc, identified the **Committee Chairs:**

Tom Craig, Phoghorn Editor, Maintenance manager, Club photographer.

John Doyle, programs—guest speakers for monthly meetings.

David Flewelling, name tags badges for new members.

Paul Meir, ticket draw.

Robert Lockhart, Web Master.

Ed O'Keefe, Past President.

Dale Stevens, Membership Applications.

Committee Members (Advisors) at Large – *Peter Morris, Dale Stevens, Don Tompkins, Willard Buckley, Ron Pearce, Resident Jokester, Ralph Woods, Snippets, Bill Covert.*

A special thank you to all those who have offered to serve in one of the above-named positions. An organization can only succeed with the support and involvement of its membership and our members certainly step-up when needed!

Break for Coffee Club

Ticket Draw – **Pat Gallagher** was the winner of \$112.00.

There were also three additional draws of \$30.00 Gift Cards that were won by **Ed Creaser, Keith Dow,** and **Brian Mitchell.**

Presentation – **Don LeBlanc** introduced **Bernard Cormier**, a local Historian, Magician, and member of Knights of Columbus, among other things, who gave a **Presentation on the Queen Elizabeth II** and the Monarchy. Advised that **Queen Vitoria** is known as the Mother of Confederation; the fact that Saint John is the only City that has a 21 Gun Salute on Victoria Day; talked about the connection of the Queen to the Military; pictures of the Queen for display are available at no charge from the Government; a number of special Distinctions, such as the Order of Canada and the Oath of Allegiance taken by new Canadians were connected to the Monarchy and as well that the **Queen** herself took an Oath of Allegiance, to the people of the Commonwealth when she was coronated.

Keith Dow thanked **Bernard** on behalf of the Club with a small token, a gift card. Bernard also stayed for lunch.

The meeting adjourned for lunch. **(It was announced by Don Leblanc and Robert Taylor that because today was the AGM, lunch fees would be covered by the Club)**

Carl White, Recording Secretary

PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN

FINANCIAL REPORT 2020-21

Bank Balance 01 September 2020		\$1,673.40
Plus, Income:		
47 Dues (2 new, 1 early) at \$20	\$970	
Donations from Members	64	
Christmas Dinner	<u>660</u>	<u>\$1,694.00</u>
Equals Funds Available		\$3,367.40
Less Expenses:		
P.A. System	\$370.28	
Boys & Girls Club for Jan/Feb'20	200.00	
PROBUS Canada: 45 members at \$2.50	\$ 112.50	
Supplies	43.00	
Phoghorn	217.00	
Guest Speaker's Lunch	15.00	
Christmas Dinner Refunds	675.00	
AGM Gift Cards, Lunches	<u>490.08</u>	<u>\$2,122.86</u>
Equals Bank Balance 14 June 2021		\$1,244.54
Plus, Cash on Hand:		
For Ladies' Dinner March 2020	48.00	
For Christmas Dinner		<u>100.00</u>
Total Bank + Cash		\$1,392.54

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Taylor, Treasurer

16 June 2021.

REMINDER: Membership dues of \$20 each are payable at the September 15th meeting.

REMINDER: Encourage your retired friends to join so they, like you, can “Stay connected.”

(New members add \$20 initial fee to cover name tags, pins, binders).

Can we attract 30 new members in our 30th year? Our 30th Birthday is Sept. 16th, 2022.

MOMENTS FROM OUR A.G.M.



A large pound cake was a treat to all members for desert.



Treasure **Robert Taylor**, in the checkered shirt, attends to business. **Don LeBlanc** greets **PROBUS** members



Paul Meier provides some humor during the meeting.

Carl White is our new Secretary, assisting **Chip Lawton**.



Two of our **PROBUS** members of long standing, chat prior to the start of the meeting,

Don Mitchener and **Brian Mitchell**



Our guest speaker for the June meeting was ***Bernard Cormier***.



Bernard provided a very informative background of ***Elizabeth II*** in addition to the protocols associated with Royalty.

Strange But True

Do you like to read a good murder mystery? Not even Law and Order would attempt to capture this mess. This is an unbelievable twist of fate! At the 1994 annual awards dinner given for Forensic Science (AAFS), President, Dr. Don Harper Mills astounded his audience with the legal complications of a bizarre death.

Here is the story:

On March 23, 1994, the medical examiner viewed the body of Ronald Opus, and concluded that he died from a shotgun wound to the head.

Mr. Opus had jumped from the top of a ten-story building intending to commit suicide. He left a note to the effect indicating his despondency. As he fell past the ninth floor, his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast passing through a window, which killed him instantly.

Neither the shooter nor the deceased was aware that a safety net had been installed just below the eighth-floor level to protect some building workers, and that Ronald Opus would not have been able to complete his suicide the way he had planned.

The room on the ninth floor, where the shotgun blast emanated, was occupied by an elderly man and his wife. They were arguing vigorously, and he was threatening her with a shotgun! The man was so upset that when he pulled the trigger, he completely missed his wife, and the pellets went through the window, striking Mr. Opus.

When one intends to kill subject 'A' but kills subject 'B' in the attempt, one is guilty of the murder of subject 'B.'

When confronted with the murder charge, the old man and his wife were both adamant, and both said that they thought the shotgun was not loaded. The old man said it was a long-standing habit to threaten his wife with the unloaded shotgun. He had no intention to murder her. Therefore, the killing of Mr. Opus appeared to be an accident; that is, assuming the gun had been accidentally loaded.

The continuing investigation turned up a witness who saw the old couple's son loading the shotgun about six weeks prior to the fatal accident. It transpired that the old lady had cut off her son's financial support and the son, knowing the propensity of his father to use the shotgun threateningly, loaded the gun with the expectation that his father would shoot his mother.

Since the loader of the gun was aware of this, he was guilty of the murder even though he didn't actually pull the trigger. The case now becomes one of murder on the part of the son for the death of Ronald Opus.

Now comes the exquisite twist...

Further investigation revealed that the son was, in fact, Ronald Opus. He had become increasingly despondent over the failure of his attempt to engineer his mother's murder. This led him to jump off the ten-story building on March 23rd, only to be killed by a shotgun blast passing through the ninth story window. The son, Ronald Opus, had actually murdered himself. So..... the medical examiner closed the case as a suicide.

A true story from Associated Press.



Recent picture of central ***Saint John*** from the Harbor Bridge.



As our president of ***PROBUS Canada*** states “Be a friend...Bring a friend”

Tom Craig
The Phoghorn Newsletter.
JULY 14th, 2021

