

# PROBUS

*The*

## ***“PHOGHORN Newsletter”***

**Saint John, NB -CANADA**

**DECEMBER —2020**

**Monthly Edition**

***Next Meeting—Cancelled Until further Notice***

***The Best Value Inn—Main Street, S.J.***

**28 YEARS**





# "THE PHOGHORN"



*A Professional and Business Retirees Club.*

## **PROBUS Monthly Newsletter**

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](http://www.probus.org)

Volume 28—#4...December 2020

### 2020—2021 Executive members

*Don LeBlanc* -----President  
*Ed O'Keefe* ----- Past president  
*John Andrews* -----1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
*Peter Morris* -----2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
*Robert Taylor* -----Treasurer  
*Chip Lawton*-----Acting Secretary



**President Don LeBlanc**

### **Presidents' Report.**

As everybody should know by now, the *Christmas Dinner* has been cancelled due to the *COVID-19* situation. Your executive will meet in early January to decide if having a meeting in January is the wise thing to do or not. All members will be notified thereafter.

The tour of the *Irving Field House* was also cancelled shortly after our November meeting and will be rescheduled at a later time.

The entire **Executive** wishes all the *PROBUS* members a very *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*. Stay safe.

## MINUTES From the November Meeting

Call to Order – 10:02 November 17, 2020. Welcome – President **Don LeBlanc** opened the meeting with the singing of **O Canada**. Masks were worn throughout the meeting.

**Memoriams for Departed Members** - **Chip Lawton** reported **John Johnson** has a shoulder injury from a fall at curling. **Don LeBlanc** expressed condolences on behalf of the club to **Don Connolly** on the loss of his wife (**Ann**) this past summer. **Don LeBlanc** noted **Richard Burpee** is back after having had surgery. It was noted that **Dr. Mike England** and **Randy Griffen** are recovering, and that **Jim Shillington** is undergoing treatment for bone cancer.

**Minutes of Last Meeting** – It was moved by **Ralph Woods** and seconded by **Robert Taylor**, to accept the minutes as published in the last edition of **The Phoghorn** which was emailed to members in October.

**Treasurer's Report** – **Robert Taylor**, Treasurer, gave a quick verbal report that the Club has \$1,850.00 in the bank, \$200 is owed to **The Boys and Girls Club** for meetings in January and February 2020. Thirty-two members have paid dues and the **Ladies PROBUS Group** has refunded us for the tickets from the cancelled dinner earlier this year.

**Membership – Guests** – **Robert Purdy** was introduced by **Ron Ellis**. **Bob** is a retired CA. **Pat Gallagher** was introduced by **John Doyle**. **Pat** was the former owner of **Shadow Lawn Inn** which is now operated by his son Jamie. **Paul Meier**, a guest, returned this month and plans to join. Lunch count was not needed as the hotel takes individual orders from our members of three menu choices. Of the 34 in attendance it is believed about 24 stayed for lunch.

**Upcoming Programs** – **John Doyle** reports an outing to the new **Irving Field House** will take place Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of November at 11am. Meet at the Field House for a tour by **Bill McMackin**. A show of hands indicated over 20 members plan to attend although only about 10 plans to go to a local restaurant after the tour for lunch. December meeting will be at **The Villa Madonna** after which there will be a turkey dinner. Tickets are available at a cost of \$25. **The Saint John String Quartet** will provide entertainment. January we will have **John Buchanan** from **The Food Bank**, February, **Bridget Oland** from **Crosby's** will give a presentation.

**Allegedly Fabulous Funnies** – **Ralph Woods** and **Carl Tompkins** provided a few groaners.

**New Business** – **Richard Burpee** received a 15-year long service pin. President **Don LeBlanc** spoke about the possibility of having **Zoom Meetings** in the event that we have another Covid 19 shutdown. **Don** also talked about the recent **Market Place Show** on **CBC** about the effectiveness of different style of Covid masks.

*Break for coffee and conversation.*

**Club Draw** - \$ 94.00 was won by **Willard Buckley**

**Introduction of Guest Speaker** – *Brian Mitchell* introduced *Jim Wilson*, who authors the weekly page in **The Telegraph Journal** where readers submit pictures of wildlife mainly of birds and Jim comments regarding the species. Today's presentation was on the *Monarch Butterfly*. It is interesting that the butterflies travel over 4000 kilometres to *South Central Mexico*. *Monarch Butterflies* gravitate to *Milkweed plants* which they need for reproduction. Jim indicates that he will have Milkweed seeds available in January for those wishing to put a few plants in their garden. Interesting presentation enjoyed by all. *Peter Morris* gave *Jim* a gift and thanked him for the presentation.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

### **A word for our Treasure, Robert Taylor**

In our first three months, 35 gentlemen paid Club dues -- 34 members renewing and one (we welcome **Bob Purdy**) new. Last year we settled at 56 members, and the year before we had 61 members. Those who have not renewed yet are encouraged to do so at our January meeting, or better yet, send a \$20 cheque, payable to:

**PROBUS -- Saint John**, to  
Robert Taylor at  
31-2865 Rothesay Road,  
Rothesay, NB,  
E2E 5V1.

I must update our membership numbers to **PROBUS Canada** by the end of December, and remit \$2.50 per member to them.

Thank you, Robert.

### **On the lighter Side.**

**My doctor said only  
one beer a day**



**So I ordered only one**



**WHEN I WAS A KID**



***This is how they make Green Grapes!***

**Pictures from our PROBUS Meeting on November 18,2020**



**PROBUS** Saint John President, ***Don LeBlanc*** opening our monthly meeting



***Richard Webb*** was presented a 15-year pin as a member of the **PROBUS** Saint John





***Ralph Wood*** on the left and ***Carl Thompkins*** on the right, deliver a few laughs to the membership

### **OUR GUEST SPEAKER—JIM WILSON**



### **"THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY"**





**Jim Wilson** explaining the complete cycle of the **Monarch Butterfly** with plenty of slides and stories. Well done Jim.



Vice President **Peter Morris** presents **Jim** a token of our appreciation as guest speaker.

**Sounds interesting, don't you think?**





I'd like to tell you a story my grandmother told me when I was six or seven years old. We had gone to her home for Thanksgiving dinner and the drive was rather a long one. I had filled the time with making a list of all the things that I wanted for Christmas that year.

Later that evening after I was ready for bed, I showed the list to my grandmother. After she read it, she said, "My goodness, that really is a long list!" Then she picked me up and set me on her lap in the big rocking chair and told me this story:

"Once there was a little girl who came to live in an orphanage in Denmark" (Now my grandmother was from Denmark, so this story might even be true.) "As Christmas time grew near, all of the other children began telling the little girl about the beautiful Christmas tree that would appear in the huge downstairs hall on Christmas morning. After their usual, very plain breakfast, each child would be given their one and only Christmas gift; small, single orange."

At this point I looked up at my grandmother in disbelief, but she assured me that was all each child would receive for Christmas.

"Now the headmaster of the orphanage was very stern and he thought Christmas to be a bother. So on Christmas Eve, when he caught the little girl creeping down the stairs to catch a peek at the much-heard-of Christmas tree, he sharply declared that the little girl would not receive her Christmas orange because she had been so curious as to disobey the rules. The little girl ran back to her room broken-hearted and crying at her terrible fate."

"The next morning as the other children were going down to breakfast, the little girl stayed in her bed. She couldn't stand the thought of seeing the others receive their gift when there would be none for her."

"Later, as the children came back upstairs, the little girl was surprised to be handed a napkin. As she carefully opened it, there to her disbelief was an orange all peeled and sectioned."

"How could this be?" she asked.

"It was then that she found how each child had taken one section from their orange and given it to her so that she, too, would have a Christmas orange."

How I loved this story! I would ask my grandmother to tell it to me over and over as I grew up. Every Christmas, as I pull a big, juicy orange from my stocking, I think of this story. What an example of the true meaning of Christmas those orphan children displayed that Christmas morning. How I wish the world, as a whole would display that same kind of Christ-like concern for others, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.



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

**Tom Craig**

**The Phoghorn Newsletter.**

**DECEMBER 10th, 2020**



