



# THE *PHOGHORN-NEWSLETTER*

***PROBUS***

***2023—2024***

***Saint John - New Brunswick***

**AUGUST ISSUE**

**Volume 30 --#12, 2023**



**PROBUS President *Frank McCarey***

Saint John PROBUS Club

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Our **PROBUS Club** of Saint John hosted an **Outing or “special tour”** by Trolley Car, of our city Saint John NB on May 09, 2023. It was a chilly day, but the sun was shining brightly.

The tour would start at **Lily Lake** and finished at the same location with lunch, for those who wish to stay at the same location. About 28 members plus a few guests took in the tour.

The tour was narrated by **Paul-Emile Chiasson** of **Aquila Tours**. The tour started at the **Lily Lake Pavilion** and proceeded up the Mount Pleasant Avenue. The tour stopped several times to explain the local landscape of interest at this point.

In years gone by, ships needed **ballast** to keep their ships “steady” and manageable to navigate the rough seas on the Atlantic Ocean. Some sea captains used this ballast as infill to their homes built on Mount Pleasant Ave or other parts of the city. One place in particular, the home has a very large rock wall constructed as a front to their home. Over 150 year later, it is still there and looks great.

Some sea captains must have been well to-do as three houses were constructed on this street for his 3 daughters. Homes are still in operation and well maintained to this day.

Our next stop was at the “near the top” of **Fort Howe**. This provided a view of the harbour for all ships coming and going. On leaving this stop, it was pointed out the two different rock formations on either side of the roadway. Many years ago, the left side was “**North Africa**” and the right side was “**South America**”. The rock formations were distinctively different. I may be wrong on this, but they were two different continents. Never knew this fact. *See the picture near the Reversing Falls.*

Did you know; water flowing out to the harbour, above the pulp mill, the water drops 25 meters in height because the “riverbed” drops a further 40 meters after the bridge. This is probably where it got its name “**Falls.**” This part of the “**GEOPARK**” designation.

From **Fort Howe** the tour landed at the **Reversing Falls** off Douglas Avenue. Members were permitted to leave the bus for a close-up of the Falls in addition to picture taken time. We were fortunate to be there when the tide was going out. Lots of activity on the water.

The tour continued by driving over the Falls and landing up at the restored lookout land that used to be a hospital of sorts, **Provincial Hospital**, many years ago. The park is laid out in pathways with wooded statues of famous people. A plaque was attached to each figure explaining who and what their status was. The Irving people did a very nice job in creating this park. From this area, one can see some of East Saint John and the full **Reversing Falls** as it exits from the Saint John River to the harbour.

The tour continued to “**Carlton Martello Tower site**”. From there the “**out-post**” commands a view of the entire harbour, inner and outer. During WWII, a concrete block house was added to the top of the Tower. This is the only **Tower** to have this feature. We were there on a clear day and the view was fantastic.

Since this was near the end of the tour, we all gathered for a group picture which turned out great.

The tour bus headed back to the **Lily Lake** starting point. A large group of members went into the Lilies restaurant for a fine lunch.

A presentation was made to our tour guy, **Paul-Emile Chiasson**, during the lunch period. It was overheard several times during the event, “**we should do this more often.**”

## SOME OF THE PICTURES FROM THE TOUR OF SAINT JOHN, May 09, 2023



The tour started at Lilly Lake near this Monument, "**Day of Mourning Monument**" of injured or killed workers that occurred on the job or at the work place. Very im[pressive].



This is the trolley bus that was used for the tour. Our first stop was on **Mount Pleasant Avenue**. During the busy times of the wooden boats that docked at our Saint John Harbor, used ballast in the lower holds of the ship. "Ballast" used in the ship, provided "stability" on the high seas. At each port, it was unloaded because it was not required any more. This ballast was used as "fill" on many properties in the Saint John area. This stone wall is a classic example of the larger stones that were used to make up retaining walls from the ballast of ships. This wall extends around the corner for another 30 meters.



The light grey rocks under Reversing Falls Bridge were once part of South America. The dark grey shales and sandstones were part of North Africa. (Julia Wright/CBC)

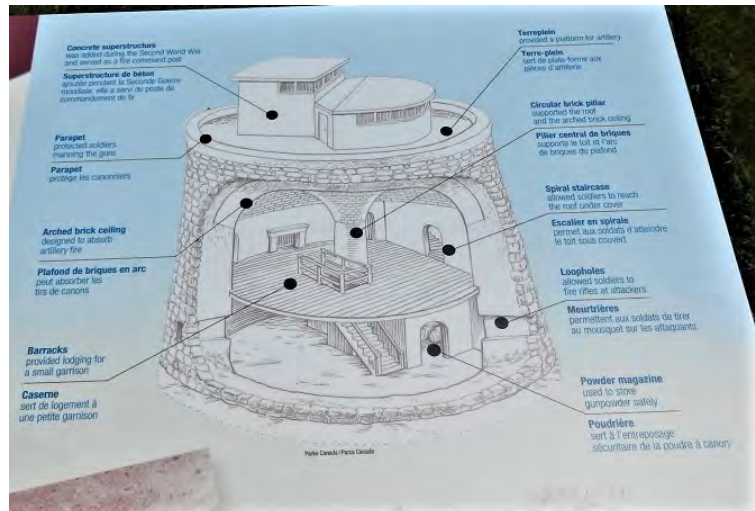
Fossils of Cambrian-era trilobites — aquatic crabs or arthropods that live in the base of oceans — have been located in the shale and sandstone. Stromatolite fossils — stone formations formed by ancient cyanobacteria, among the first known life forms on Earth — have been found in the lighter marble.



Sorensen holds a stromatolite fossil, left, found in the marble beneath Reversing Falls Bridge, and a trilobite, right, found in the sandstone and shale. (Julia Wright/CBC)



The next planned stop was the **Reversing Falls**. We were fortunate to arrive when the falls were in full retreat to the harbour. **Did you know:** to the right, the river bottom drops 25 meters at his point and another 40 meters just passed the Bridge. This is where the name “Reversing Falls” came from?



Our next stop was the “**Carlton Martello Tower**”. This sits on a high point of land in West Saint John that commands a full view of the outer and inner harbour. A drawing shows the interior layout. This was in used during the war of 1812, I believe. It was also used during the WWII with a concrete house added to the top. Of all the Towers built across Canada, this is the only one with the concrete house added, and that makes it unique. The tower was not open as it is undergoing maintenance/repairs. Repairs are supposed to be completed for the 2024 season.



A typical view of the interior of the living quarters at Martello Tower.



Here are a few views of the city with the new cranes at the container site and a cruise ship in port on the East side.



The view covers a wide section of the South end and East side of Saint John. Close-up view of the downtown at the bottom of King Street, with the office towers.



In this picture, the storage tanks for the ships to unload Bulk Crude Oil can be seen just above Parkridge island, on the left side and a bulk oil carrier on the horizon.



Our last stop was to the park now called WOLASTOQ, which means the St. John River. This is the former location of the Provincial Hospital. It commands a fantastic view of the Saint John River as the water begins its flow to the harbour, and the Bay of Fundy. This cycle of "reversing" occurs twice a day and ever day.



This view shows, start of reversing the flow of water after the Reversing Falls Bridge.



Views of the many figurines that are spaced throughout the park.





## Koluskap and Beaver

*The following is a creation story kept by the storytellers of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) about their ancestors in the communities of the Wolastoq (St. John River) where it meets the Bay of Fundy.*

*For Wolastoqiyik, Koluskap is the traditional ancestor of all their peoples who lived with them and cared for them. The stories of Koluskap are legends, passed through thousands of generations, about the world in the beginning and the people who lived here then. [Information from Patricia Bernard, Madawaska-Maliseet First Nation, 1996]*

In times long ago, beaver were huge animals that the Wolastoqiyik feared. One giant beaver lived in a great lodge on an island in a smaller river joining the mighty Wolastoq (St. John River) that flowed from the north.

Where the mouth of the Wolastoq foamed into rapids as it met the ocean bay, Beaver decided to build a dam. You can see those rapids from here, for they are now called Reversing Falls.

The people of the Wolastoq watched angrily, as their beautiful camping grounds farther up the river valley were gradually flooded. Soon the grounds would disappear under the water, the ancestors feared, then the whole country. They took their fears to the powerful Koluskap who listened to their pleas.

Koluskap saw the damage Beaver's dam was already causing. Koluskap called on Beaver to take down his dam — once, twice, three times — but Beaver refused. Then, with one blow of his great club, Koluskap smashed the dam and the river rushed out once again to the bay.

The wild surge of water carried along a piece of the dam right past the shoreline. It finally came to rest as an island in the bay. We now know it as Partridge Island.

Koluskap's tremendous blow made other changes to the river. Some of the floodwater farther up the Wolastoq did not drain out, but remained, creating broad and shining lakes for the Wolastoqiyik to use forever after. Also, the force of the blow broke off a piece of split rock beside the rapids. If you look along the right shore of the Reversing Falls you can still see that rock today.

Koluskap was determined that beaver should never again have the power to endanger his people's lives. So he made beaver, forever after, animals of small size.

*This text was edited by Maliseet Consultant Doreen Saulis.*



Legend has it **a Beaver** has built a dam at the mouth of the St. John River. The write up explains the situation but **Koluskap**, after several warnings to dismantle the dam, **Koluskap**, smashed the dam so water could flow. Then you have the Reversing Falls as we know it today.



Members of **PROBUS** formed up for a group photo.



Most members of the tour did stay for lunch at Lillies located a Lilly Lake Restaurant. On the right we have Paul Meier and Bernard Cormier enjoying a cool drink. Paul was the organizer and presented a gift on behalf of **PROBUS** to **Paul-Emile Chiasson** of **Aquila Tours**.

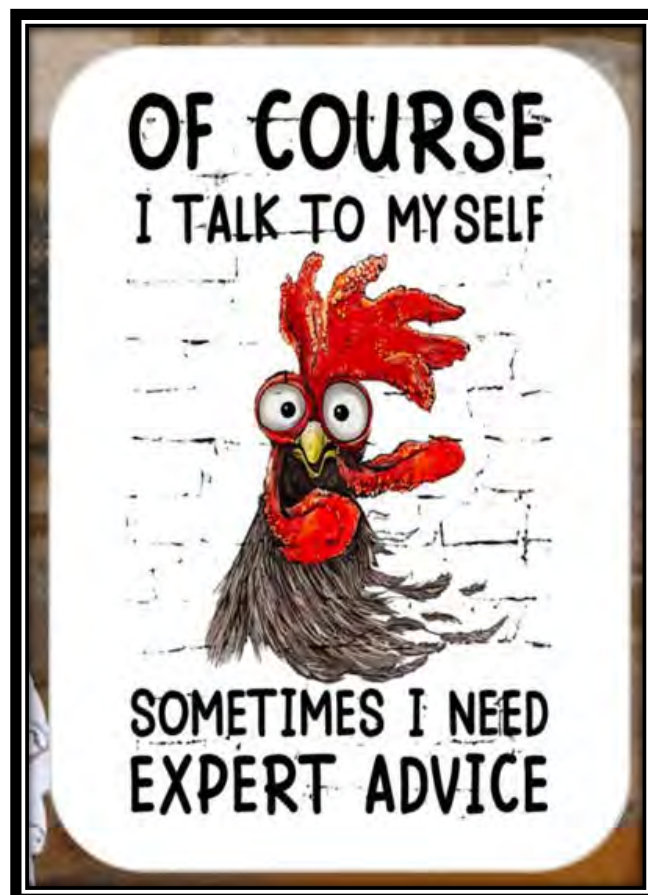
***The next PROBUS meeting is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> at the same location, “Canada’s Best Value Inn” located on Main Street in Saint John.***

***The meeting will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor.***

***The meeting time is still at 11:00am as before.***

***A reminder notice will come out a few days before the meeting.***

***Tom C***



And for those of us who moved from Chicago . . . .

*At The Villages in Florida last week, there was a bumper sticker on a parked car that read:*

***"I miss Chicago."***

*Someone broke the window, stole the radio, shot out all four tires, and left a note that read:*

***"Hope this helps."***



PROBUS SAINT JOHN NB

***A Professional and Business Retirees Club.***

PROBUS Club Membership #026. Published by **PROBUS Club** of Saint John, NB E2L3V9  
Meetings are at the **Canada Best Value Inn on Main St** every third Wednesday of the month, 11:00 am.  
Website <http://www.sjprobud.ca> --- **PROBUS CANADA** website [www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)

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August 15th, 2023