



PEGGY'S COVE LIGHT HOUSE, Nova Scotia

PROBUS

The PHOGHORN NEWSLETTER

Saint John N.B

JANUARY ISSUE

Volume 32 -- #05, 2025

2024—2025 Executive members

President ----- *Paul Meier*

Past president ----- *Frank McCarey*

1st Vice president ----- *Carl White*

Secretary ----- *Robert Taylor, (acting)*

Treasurer ----- *Gordon Burnett*

Assistant Treasurer --- *Larry Timms*

Hello everyone and Happy New Year!

We closed out 2024 on a very positive note with our December meeting. Attendance was exceptional with over forty staying for an excellent Christmas dinner. We had two guests- **David Salter (Greg Langille)** and **Jim Streeter (Chip Lawton)**. The meeting was largely devoted to music and fellowship. The **String Quartet from the NB Symphony** was outstanding, again, including some humorous jokes. Thanks to **Don Mitchener** for making the arrangements. Later, **Barry Snodgrass** returned to lead us in singing a number of old favourite Christmas carols. Barry commented on the high quality of our group's singing, it appears the work of Robert Taylor and Don Tompkins in leading us singing Oh Canada is having an impact! Thanks to **John Doyle** for arranging for Barry's return.

I am delighted with the rise in attendance and with the recent addition of a number of new members. If we can continue these trends, the future of our club looks assured. Thanks to the membership committee and all members who have brought new prospects to our meetings. Our success rate in "closing the deal" with these prospects has been excellent in no small part, I believe, because prospects see the enjoyment members are having at the meetings.

Looking ahead, in our January meeting on the 15th, our speaker will be **Heather Campbell**. Heather was brought to us by **Trevor Holder** and her topic will be the Integrated Health Initiative underway at UNBSJ. Also, at the January meeting we will provide an update on the field trips planned for the balance of the year and the status of the "small groups initiative" which has the potential to significantly increase the value members derive from PROBUS.

I want to close this note with a recognition of the folks from Villa Madonna who are doing such a good job of looking after us and who respond very quickly to our needs. The three key employees are **Veronica Wilson (GM)**, **Steve Hudson (room arrangements)** and **Debbie Childs (Chef)**. We are very fortunate to have the Villa as our venue. Please make a point of saying thanks to these folks if you have the opportunity when attending one of our meetings.

I hope to see as many members as possible out to our next meeting, Again, all the best for a happy, safe, healthy, and prosperous 2025 to you and your families!

Paul

The meal being offered at the January 17th
meeting is "**CHICKEN POT PIE**"
See you there.

PROBUS Saint John held their annual Christmas lunch at the *Villa Madonna Retreat House* in Rothesay NB on December 18th, 2024. A record number of members and a few new prospects brought the number up to forty-five or so. By the look of the pictures show in this edition, members stated it was well received. This Newsletter edition is special as the annual *Christmas Dinner* was taking place and lots of pictures will be shown in this edition.

MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN
Christmas Meeting – 18 Dec 2024
MINUTES

The monthly meeting at Villa Madonna was called to order by President Paul Meier, with about forty-two members in attendance. Paul gave special welcome to Past President Ed O'Keeffe and Webmaster Robert Lockhart – they travelled from Sussex to be with us. Program guest Barry Snodgrass led the members in O Canada.

Guests: Chip Lawton introduced Jim Streeter, and Greg Langille introduced David Salter.

Member News: Dr. Eshwar Kumar is away in India. Dave Flewelling is still recovering in Halifax.

Presentation of Pins: Acting Secretary Robert Taylor presented 5-year pins to David Cassidy, Donald Connolly, Greg Langille, Sid Lodhi, Robyn Humphries, Howard Pearn, and John Watson; 10-year pins to Tom Craig and John Doyle; and a 15-year pin to Willard Buckley. Paul Meier presented a 20-year pin to Robert Taylor and a Past President pin to Frank McCarey.

Minutes of the November 20th meeting were approved as published in the Phoghorn Newsletter.

Finances: A report for July to November 2024 was published in the Phoghorn. It shows forty-eight members paid and current balance of \$2,260.00.

Field Trips: The President reported that eight members visited the Jewish Historical Museum and Synagogue on December 4th; this trip will be re-offered later due to its educational value. Trips for maple sugar and to Rothesay Netherwood School are in the works for late winter and spring.

Interest Groups: The President put out a survey to gauge interest and said that members can commit later to whatever activities are offered. Other Clubs have found that activity groups have improved member engagement.

Thanks were expressed to the helpful staff at Villa Madonna, especially Veronica, Debbie, and Steve.

Jokes were offered by Chip and Paul, followed by Coffee'n'Chat.

Program: The Saint John String Quartet played Christmas tunes, and then Barry Snodgrass led a sing-along of Christmas songs and carols.

50/50: Mack Pike won \$70.

Adjournment to turkey dinner in the dining room.

Robert Taylor, Acting Secretary.

SECTION OF “PINNING THE PINS”



image by Tom Craig

Current President *Paul Meier* presents the PROBUS “Past President’s” pin to *Frank McCarey*.



Secretary *Robert Taylor* presented PROBUS Pins to New Members; *Graham McDonald, Peter McGill & Michael Gunter*



Five-year membership PROBUS Pins were presented to:
L to R *Robyn Humphries, Howard Pearn, Denis Skidmore
Don Connolly, Greg Langille, Sid Lodhi & presenter Robert Taylor.*

Images by Tom Craig



Ten-year pins were presented to, *Tom Craig, Willard Buckley, John Doyle*. Presented by Secretary *Robert Taylor*.
Images by Tom Craig

PROPOSAL--NEW FOR 2025 ?—BEST CHRISTMAS TIE AWARD.



Christmas tie as worn by our “sing along” guest *Barry Snodgrass*. *Image by Tom Craig*

CHRISTMAS SING ALONG SESSION



Back by popular demand, **Barry Snodgrass**, leads the group in Christmas sing a long. Well done Barry. Images by Tom Craig

COFFEE TIME SECTION.



Relaxing moment during the coffee break.



Our web master, **J.C. Robert Lockhart**, talks to **Frank McCarey**. It was good to see **Robert** as it is difficult for him to attend.



Coffee time. Perfect time for members to chat with old friends and meet any new members.

Images by Tom Craig



A new member talks with *John Teed* during coffee break. PROBUS members *Peter McGill* and *Willard Buckley*.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT.

This year we were pleased that the *Saint John String Quartet* were able to return and provide some beautiful Christmas music. It was very well received. Hopefully, we will see them next year, December 2025.



Images by Tom Craig



Members of the Quartet are, L-R, *DANI SAMETZ*, *NADIA FRANCAUILLA*, *STEPHEN MOTT*, and *CHRIS YOON*.

CHRISTMAS DINNER SERVING.



PROBUS members help themselves to the buffet style Christmas Dinner. L to R, *Graham MacDonald, Pat Gallagher, Willard Buckley, Chip Lawton, Don Connolly, and David Merrithew.*



Willard Buckley and Chip Lawton.

Images by Tom Craig

Members enjoying their Christmas dinner.



L-R—Peter Gaulton, Barry Snodgrass, Carl White, Gary Watson and Past President Donald LeBlanc.



L – R Fred Shillington, Robyn Humphries, Dale Stevens and David Ellis.

L -R Ed Creaser, Eric Johnson, and J.C. Robert Lockhart enjoying their Christmas Dinner.





Seated L-R Past president *Ed Okeefe*, *Gordon Dempsey*, *Willard Buckley*,
Graham MacDonald, and guest.

Our next meeting is January 15th, at 10:00 am 2025 at the Villa Madonna, Rothesay.

Hope to see you all there.

Happy New Year To All, 2025



**PROBUS SAINT JOHN NB
CANADA**

A Professional and Business Retirees Club.

PROBUS Club Membership #026. Published by *PROBUS Club* of Saint John, NB E2L3V9
Meetings are at the *Villa Madonna Retreat House, Rothesay*, every third Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am.
Website <http://www.sjprobus.ca> --- *PROBUS CANADA* website www.probus.org
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Be a Friend....Bring a Friend