



Lighthouse at Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia.

## **PROBUS**

The PHOGHORN NEWSLETTER

Saint John NB

APRIL Issue

Volume 32 -- #08

2024—2025 Executive members

President ----- ***Paul Meier***

Past president ----- ***Frank McCarey***

1<sup>st</sup> Vice president ----- ***Carl White***

Treasurer ----- ***Gordon Burnett***

House Manager ----- ***Larry Timms***  
*and Assistant Treasure*

**Next regular meeting for April is the 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

### **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF April**

***TONY AZIZ***

***DAVID FLEWELLING***



## Message from President April 16<sup>th</sup> 2025

Hello everyone,

It feels as though winter is finally ending and I, for one, will be glad to see the end of it!

The guest speaker at our regular February meeting was Lisa Legere who spoke on "Stay Out of Fraud's Reach", a timely topic indeed. Lisa's talk was very well received. There were lots of questions and her handouts provided a useful recap for our members.

In March, we did not hold a meeting and members were invited join the Women's PROBUS Club for a St. Patrick's Day celebration and meeting. We had 16 of our members attend which was thoroughly enjoyable. The ladies were very welcoming. The food (Irish Stew) was outstanding and there was musical entertainment at the end of the meeting. I believe all of our members who attended were glad they did.

Planning is well underway for the balance of our fiscal year. Your management Committee will be reviewing plans in its meeting on April 8 and the approved plans will be presented to members in the regular monthly meeting on April 16th.

Speaking of the April meeting, and as previously advised, that meeting will take place at the Rothesay Netherwood School and will include a presentation by the school and a tour of their outstanding campus and facilities as well as lunch. The (total) cost including lunch will be \$20 per person and, as a follow up request to those who have not yet responded, **please let me know (plmeier@bellaliant.net or 847 2888) if you will attend so we can ensure the right amount of food is available.** I hope you will be able to attend. RNS is truly a hidden gem.

RNS is located at 40 College Hill Road in Rothesay. I have copied a map below which shows the parking lots on campus. The best lots to use are the one at the far right of the schematic and the one at the top of the schematic. The plan for the outing is set out in the schedule below:

**Location: Science Hall 135/136**

**Expected Group Size: 35**

10:00: RNS Staff – set up 10 tables of 4; coffee, tea, water available

10:30: RNS Presentation to members

11:00: Tour (students)

11:30: Lunch is set up

11:45: IT Support Available

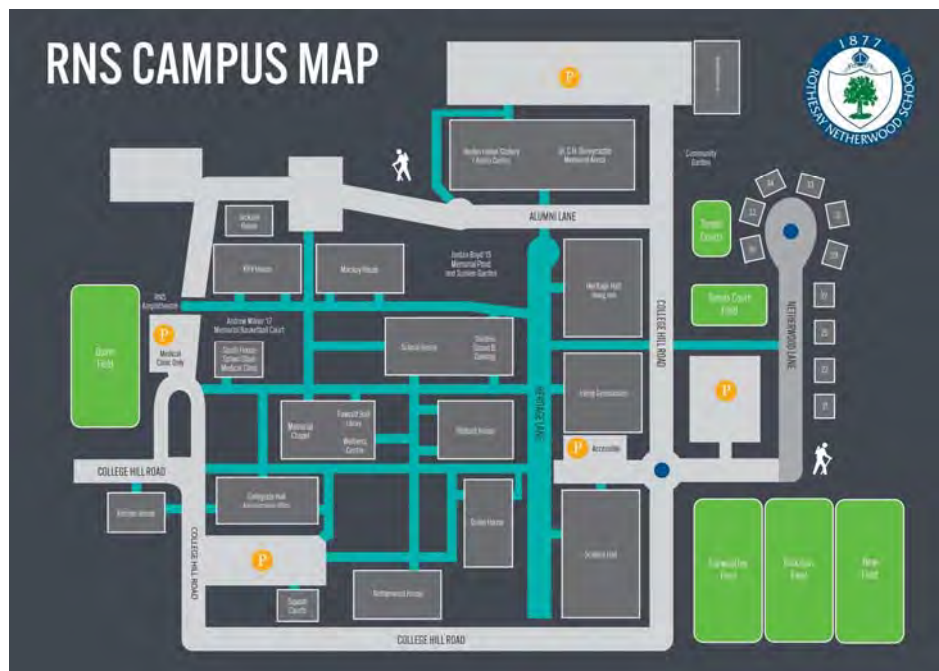
12:00: PROBUS Meeting – members only

1:15: Clean Up – RNS Staff

The Science Hall is RNS's newest building (donated by J.K.Irving) and is, in the judgement of many who have toured it thus far, absolutely world class. Please try to be on time so you can have a coffee and be there for the presentation.

I think that is it for now. Don't forget to let me know you will be attending the RNS meeting and tour if you haven't already done so.

Paul



PS, you may wish to look at the school's website before the meeting. It is excellent and contains a larger version of the schematic above.



This is the **PAST PRESIDENTS PLAQUE**.

It has not been displayed over the last 4 years due to COVID and moving to a new venue.

The last two presidents names have been added. It will be displayed at all future meetings but cannot remain on the wall "in between meetings."

This would violate Retreat House rules.

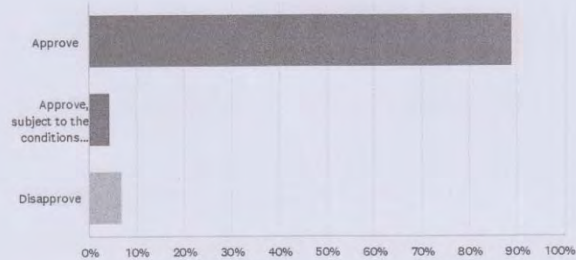
Recently, A notice was distributed by PROBUS, Mary Campbell, Atlantic director, on how PROBUS clubs felt about the \$1.00 increase in PROBUS fees for 2026. The results are shown below in the attachment.

## Fee Increase Survey Report, March 28, 2025

Proposed Change in Annual Club Renewal Fees

Q3 Does your club approve of the fee increase to \$4 per club member?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Approve	88.96%	145
Approve, subject to the conditions stated in the comments below	4.29%	7
Disapprove	6.75%	11
TOTAL		163

### Relevant Comments

Particularly during these tough times, the percentage increase of 33 % seems very high.

Sounds reasonable to me.

If expenses are outstripping income, and all efforts have been made to keep expenses in line then the only alternative is to increase dues.

Thank you for responsibly looking after the affairs of the organization.

We understand the rising costs.

Financial situation actually appears slightly better this year than last year. I suggest you hold off for one more year to see if this trend continues.

Not surprised with a request for an increase in fees. Unfortunate but appears to be necessary to cover costs.

This is a reasonable proposal and ensures that the policy regarding reserve funds is honoured - just as we do in our own club. It was approved unanimously by our Management Committee. Thanks.

The \$1.00 per member increase is a 33% increase. I know it is only \$1.00 and the cost to us is \$400 but the optics of such a large increase would be difficult for our membership to agree with. Have we sent out an RFQ for insurance to find a better fit & rate.

We would agree to an increase to \$3.50 and then an additional \$.25 per year if the goal is \$4.00

Our Club is experiencing increased costs and planning to increase our fees as well, so it is helpful to know ahead of time that PROBUS Canada fees will increase

On March 18/25, the men's **PROBUS club** were invited to the **PROBUS ladies** monthly meeting as a social event. Of course, in coincide with **St. Patrick's Day** and an **IRISH STEW** was served for those that paid for the lunch. Below are



a few of the many pictures taken. Unfortunately, I was not able to gather all of names the ladies in the pictures. By all accounts, the meal was great and everything went smoothly.



The President of the Ladies PROBUS, **Lucille Mackinnon**, was away. **Ross Anderson** chaired the meeting.





***Ed Creaser, Chip lawton, Don Mitchner, Pat Gallagher,***  
3 ladies from the PROBUS Club and ***Greg Langille*** at this table



***Blair MacDonald and Frank McCarey*** head this table.



***Pat Gallagher and Ed Creaser*** getting their meal





This PROBUS lady won one of the door prizes.



*Eileen MacDonald, green sweater, lining up for the Irish Stew.*



*Paul Meier* talks to the PROBUS Ladies.



My new best ladies friends



Entertainment after the meal.

If any of the PROBUS members would like a copy of all the pictures taken, let me know by email and they will be sent to you. TOM CRAIG

[tec1942@rogers.com](mailto:tec1942@rogers.com)

## NOTEWORTHY LOCAL NEWS

This is the largest container ship ever to come to the Saint John Port. Santa Rosa - registered in Denmark. 984 ft long x 140 ft wide.



Image by Lynda Jennex

All pictures, Images, show in this issue, except one as noted, were taken by me, **Tom Craig**



## PROBUS SAINT JOHN, NB

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

PROBUS Club Membership #026.

Newsletter Published by **PROBUS CLUB** of Saint John, NB E2X 2X4

Meetings are at the ***Villa Madonna Retreat House, Rothesay N.B.***

***every third Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am.***

Website <http://www.sjprobus.ca> --- **PROBUS CANADA** website [www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)

TOM CRAIG Editor ***the Phoghorn Newsletter.***

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