

HAPPY

NEW

YEAR

From your PROBUS CLUB members.



Renforth Lighthouse, New Brunswick

PROBUS

The PHOGHORN NEWSLETTER

Saint John NB
JANUARY Issue
Volume 33 -- #05

2025—2026 Executive Team members

President ----- *Carl White*
Past President ----- *Paul Meier*
1st Vice President ----- *Tony Aziz*
Secretary.....*Greg Langille*
Treasurer-----*Gordon Burnett*
Assistant Treasurer-----Larry Timms
& *House Manager*

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Michael Gunter

PROBUS Agenda – January 21, 2026

1. Call to Order
2. O Canada
3. Name tag Presentations
4. Introduction of Guests
5. News of Members
6. Approval of Minutes of December Meeting - Greg
7. Treasurer Report – Gord
8. President's Update
 - A. Executive Meeting update – January 15th
 - B. Sound System concerns - Carl
 - C. Member Recruitment – Chip/Paul
 - D. Membership Dues – Gord
 - E. Member Profiles – Paul
 - F. June Meeting (Yip Cider) – Paul
 - G. March 17th Attend Probus Women's Meeting
 - H. Community Activities – Tours – Refinery, Port, Pulp Mill– Chip, Carl, Larry
 - I. Future Speakers – Feb – Brenda Foster, Nursing Homes Without Walls, March – Karen Ulmanis/Tim LeBlanc, Electronic Products Recycling Association/Recycle NB
9. Jokes
10. Coffee Break
11. Speaker – Lynn Forbes, Brent Suttie, Lee Swanson - Museum Project
12. 50\50 Draw
Adjourn for Lunch



President-Carl White PRESIDENTS REMARKS

Resident's Message – January 2026

The Holiday Season has come and gone and I want to welcome everyone all the best for 2026! The December Meeting was quite eventful and fun with the Christmas sweater contest and the music of the String Quartet! We had a productive Membership Drive last year and I know we are on the right track to keep it going into the months ahead. New Members can bring new and fresh ideas to our Club, and we encourage all ideas and thoughts! As per our on going objective it is planned to have Guest Speakers who can share some interesting information at our Meetings and if anyone has a suggestion for a Speaker, please feel free to offer a suggestion. Once again, I look forward to enjoying our Meetings!

Secretary-Greg Langille



Minutes from the December 17th 2025 meeting

Name tags were presented to new members.

Several guests were introduced.

Motion by **Greg Langille** to approve minutes of Probus meeting held on 19th November, seconded by **John Doyle**, motion approved.

Brief report from **Chip Lawton** that we have 4 new potential members.

Gordon Burnett reported that as of December 15th we have 57 paid up members. Our membership goal is to have 75 members.

We had a Christmas carol sing-a-long directed by **Barry Snodgrass**.

The **Saint John Quartet** gave the most enjoyable performance of popular Christmas songs.

Several members showed up with ugly sweaters for the ugly sweater contest and members of the quartet awarded prizes for the winners.

Review of upcoming meetings:

January: We will have **Lynn Forbes**, with the **Museum Project**. She will give an update on the major revitalization and expansion of the New Brunswick Museum.

February: We will have **Brenda Foster**, who will give a presentation Nursing Homes Without Walls

Paul Meier reported on the arrangements for our June meeting. **YIP Cider** on the Kingston peninsula has been booked, further details to follow.

Treasurer-Gordon Barnett



NOTICE: We regret to announce the passing of PROBUS member **Denis Skidmore** on January 7, 2026. Denis was a member for a few years.

- Lunch for the PROBUS group at the January 21st meeting will be “CHICKEN POT PIE”

FIVE NEW MEMBERS RECEIVE THEIR NAME TAG.

Five new members to PROBUS were presented name tags at the December meeting.



On the left is *David Ives, Mac Estey, Graham MacDougall, Brian Robertson, Brent Seely*

[Some people get weird as they get older.](#)

[Not me. I've always been like this.](#)

NOTES At our December meeting we hosted a contest for the ugly/nicest **Christmas sweater** Contest. Much to the delight of the PPROBUS group, it was a big success. Some 9 members rose to the occasion with sweaters and even a Christmas theme necktie. Four prizes were handed out by our guests of the *Saint John String Quartet*, with *Tony* being the first.

I'm sure this will become an annual event. Below are, in no order, pictures of our members with Christmas-themed sweaters. Several attractive winter-themed sweaters were also observed.



Tony Aziz



Gordon Burnett



Brian Mitchell



Carl White



Ross Moulard



Dr. Eshwar Kumar

Being a man is hard. No wigs, no make-up, no lashes, no nail painting.

If you are ugly, you are just ugly.



Peter Gaulton shows off his "Snoopy" sweater. Brent Sleely dressed for the occasion .



Gary Watson had a very different Christmas Sweater. Good one Gary.



David Ellis –winter theme sweater



Paul Meier-- winter theme sweater



Barry Snodgrass leading the PROBUS group in Christmas Carols sing along.



Don Mitchener introducing the Saint John String Quartet Group. This, I believe, is the 7th year the group has returned to perform for the PROBUS group at Christmas time.

The performance was well received.

This year all members took part in the sweater contest by awarding the prizes.

**Just heard that 5 inches of fat
can block a bullet.
I'm not overweight,
I'm bulletproof.**



L-R DANI SAMETZ, NADIA FRANCAULLA, STEPHEN MOTT, CHRIS YOON



L-R Barry Snodgrass, Gary Watson, Dr. Eshwar Kumar.



Brian Mitchell, David Flewelling, John Doyle and Wes Cosman.



President Carl White and Donald LeBlanc enjoying their dinner.



L-R Wes Cosman, John Doyle, Gary Watson. *The three Amigos.*

For my age, I have lot going for me.

My eyes are going,

My knees are going,

My back is going....

Stupid is knowing the truth,

Seeing the truth

But still believing the lies.



A picture is worth a thousand words.

Interesting article forwarded from Paul Meier.

I've come to realize something about my generation: we are the bridge.

We were born in one world... and grew up in another.

A world where summers meant open windows, the hum of a box fan, and the smell of fresh-cut grass.

Where neighbors waved from their porches, and if your bike chain broke, you didn't Google it — you knocked on a door and someone came out with a wrench.

We lived in a world built on patience.

We waited for letters to arrive.

We waited for the library to open.

We waited for our favorite song to play again on the radio — and when it finally did, it felt like magic.

Then, almost overnight, everything changed.

Phones shrank. Music became invisible.

News arrived before the coffee finished brewing.

We learned to type, to swipe, to tap.

We learned to talk to machines — and to have them talk back.

We've seen milk delivered to the door in glass bottles...

and we've scanned groceries without speaking to a single cashier.

We've dropped coins into payphones...

and we've made video calls to loved ones across oceans.

We've known the deep quiet of a world without notifications —

and the noise of one that never stops buzzing.

And sometimes, the younger ones look at us like we're behind.

But what they don't see is this:

we know both worlds.

We can plant tomatoes and write an email.

We can tell a story without Google — and then fact-check it with Google.

We know the weight of a handwritten letter and the reach of a message sent in seconds.

We've lived long enough to understand that you can change without losing yourself.
That you can honor where you came from while still learning where the world is headed.

We've buried friends and welcomed grandchildren.
We've seen diseases disappear and new ones arrive.
We've unfolded paper maps — and followed glowing blue lines on GPS.
We've sent postcards with stamps — and emojis with a single tap.

And maybe that's our greatest gift:
the memory of a slower, gentler time,
and the courage to adapt to a world that never sits still.

We can teach the young that not everything needs to happen instantly.
And we can remind our peers that it's never too late to try something new.

Because that's what we are —
the bridge between what was and what will be.

And as long as we keep standing strong,
the world will always have something solid to cross on its way forward.

Because every generation builds the road a little further —
and ours? Ours remembers both the dirt path and the highway.



The next meeting is at the Villa Madonna January 21ST, 2026

PROBUS SAINT JOHN, NB

A Professional and Business Retirees Club.

PROBUS Club Membership #026.

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**Meetings are at the *Villa Madonna Retreat House in Rothesay NB,*
*every third Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am.***

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