



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
22 MAY 2024, ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Deceased Members – Moment of Silence**
- 3. Minute of Last Annual General Meeting (24 May 2023)**
- 4. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 5. President’s Report**
- 6. Treasurer’s Report**
- 7. Appointment of Auditor for 2024-2025**
- 8. Reports of Vice Presidents**
 - a. Vice President Programme**
 - b. Vice President Publications**
 - c. Vice President Publicity**
- 9. Report of the Membership Secretary**
- 10. Report of Ad Hoc Committee for Community Support Grants Initiative**
- 11. Report of Nomination Committee**
- 12. New Business**
- 13. Adjournment**



Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society

Minutes of Annual Meeting, held in the Zoom-a-verse, 24 May 2023.

1. **Opening.** Lois Yorke, the president, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with 27 members and the host in attendance on Zoom. (This exceeded our quorum requirements.) In her opening remarks Lois Yorke reviewed the challenges with having an annual meeting in connection with a lecture at the Central Library that had resulted in this evening's Zoom Annual General Meeting.
2. **Agenda:** The Agenda had been posted with the Annual Meeting package on the Society's website and was approved without additions or changes on the motion of Lois Yorke and Hope Beanlands.
3. **Commemoration of deceased members:** During the past year a number of active members known to many of the membership had passed away. A moment of silence was observed in contemplation in particular of the contributions of David Sutherland, James Orr and Julian Gwyn to the life of the Society.
4. **Minutes of Annual Meeting 2022.** The minutes of this meeting, held 18 May 2022, were accepted on the motion of John Macleod and David Flemming.
5. **Business arising from the minutes:** Business as required, will be included under relevant headings already included on the Agenda.
6. **Way Forward:** This report which looked at the Society's past and examined its future with a view to expanding the scope of our membership, program and activities to be more inclusive and reflective of the diversity of Nova Scotia's population was reviewed. Although there are many potential action items that come out of the report it was not something that would be actioned as part of the annual meeting.
7. **President:** The President reviewed some of the highlights that were included in her written report. The Community Support Grants had commenced and we had experienced interest through applications. While the advent of Zoom hybrid meetings had expanded our audience and opened proceedings to members from afar as well as local, it had also been challenging to incorporate social as well as business parts into the lecture meeting. A continuing challenge for a society with open meetings, online lectures and an online

Journal remains the value proposition for membership. The Journal continues its success as we continue to seek a Managing Editor.

In completing her term as President, Lois indicated that it had been an honor to be the Society's president and a journey to do so in the time of COVID. She also thanked those who were leaving their current positions for their contributions to the society. Leaving this year will be Hope Beanlands (Treasurer), Tanja Harrison (VP-Publicity), and Nicole Neatby and Stefanie Slaunwhite (Councillors).

8. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, Hope Beanlands, reviewed the balance sheet and statement of revenue and expense that had been included in the annual meeting package. She indicated that these had yet to be reviewed and finalized by the Society's auditors, the firm of Smith and Touesnard. The draft statement of income and expense indicated income of \$7,454 and expenses of \$7,750. While the Balance Sheet showed \$36,486 in cash on March 31 2023.

On her successful motion, seconded by James Morrison, the meeting received these draft statements and continued the appointment of Smith and Touesnard as our auditors to review the statements and to prepare any compliance statements necessary for the Canadian Revenue Agency.

9. Reports of Vice Presidents;

- a. **Publicity / Program:** Tanja Harrison reviewed her report as Vice President (Publicity) as well as the report of Sara Rimmer, Vice President (Program) who was absent following the birth of a child. She emphasised that the relationship with the Central Library has been a productive one for both. She thanked Grace McNutt and Sara Beanlands for their work, with Sara, in the smooth running of the Zoom meetings as well as the Eastlink recordings of them.

10. **Membership report:** The Membership Secretary, Grace McNutt reviewed her written report and commented on the challenges of keeping the membership informed through paper and e-mail.
11. **Community Support Grants:** Mathias Rodorff, the Chair of this committee, indicated the grants and applications were well covered in the pre-circulated report and that he was available if there were any questions.

On the motion of Lois Yorke and Sara Beanlands, all of the circulated reports of committees and officers were accepted as presented.

12. **Nominations Committee:** Sara Beanlands then presented the report of the nominating committee describing the proposed slate as "terrific" and thanking the outgoing officers, (Lois, Tanja and Hope) and the outgoing councillor Nicole Neatby.

The slate was as follows:

		Date of first appointment
President	Stefanie Slaunwhite	2023
Past President	Lois Yorke	2023
Vice-President (Program)	Sara Hollett Rimmer	2021 (on leave) Potential one year appointment could be made)
Vice-President (Program)	Courtney Mrazek	2023
Vice-President (Publications)	Bennett McNutt	2022
Secretary	John Macleod	2000
Secretary (Membership)	Grace McNutt	2022
Assistant Secretary	Mathias Rodorff	2022
Treasurer	VACANT	
Councillor	Brian Tennyson	2023
Councillor	Seamus McClare	2021
Councillor	Wayne Slaunwhite	2023
Councillor	Phil Bagnell	2022
Councillor	Raymond Lennark	2022
Councillor	Christopher McCreery	2022

Upon receiving this report the President then inquired into the zoom-a-verse if there were additional nominations. Upon hearing none she again put the same question a second and then a third time without hearing any additional nominations. It was then moved by her and seconded by James Morrison that nominations cease and that the slate of officers and councillors be adopted as presented. This was accepted by all present.. It was noted that we were still open for a treasurer.

The incoming president, Stefanie Slaunwhite then offered her additional thanks to the retiring officers and councillors and asked for if there was any additional business to come before the meeting.

Bill Jordan then said that we had missed Allan Ruffman in the list of departed members and adherents of the society. It was noted that Allan during recent years had been an often front row attendee, attentive to the subject being discussed and seeming always ready with a question that would link the paper to a question of recent public interest. Bill also asked about the potential for paying membership by e-transfer.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.



President's Annual Report – May 2024

This report encapsulates the activities of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society for the 2023-2024 year. Our Council met every two months between September 2023 and May 2024 to discuss new and ongoing matters concerning the Society. As the first year of my term draws to a close, I would like to take an opportunity to thank those who have supported the RNSHS this year. This includes but is not limited to: the Council and Executive of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society; The Halifax Public Library; The Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia (special thanks to Russell Grosse); and Saint Mary's University.

The Nominating Committee has made the following recommendation to fill our vacant Councillor position, and John Langley will fill this role. We also had Alex Myrick join us on Council earlier this year. Finally, we welcome to our ranks Dawn Caldwell, who will be taking over the Treasury as Hope Beanlands completes her (extended) term. We thank Hope for her dedication to her role these past four years and wish her well.

The 2023 edition of the *Journal* is with the printers, and we apologize for the delay. The 2024 edition is shaping up nicely and we do not expect a delay at the other end. Further to this, we have good news, as we welcome Alex Myrick to the position of Managing Editor. Thank you, Alex, for filling this vital role. The process of moving to online publications is still underway. We have partnered with Erudit and will continue to update membership as we progress to paperless publication.

In other society news, our Community Grant Committee has awarded one grant this year. We congratulate Sandi Stewart, the successful recipient of \$250 towards her research dissemination.

Our Lecture Series was successful this year, with a full complement of nine lectures, offered monthly from September to May. We thank Saint Mary's University for the use of their space for the first two lectures in September and October, and of course the Halifax Public Library for lectures hosted in November, December, January, March, April, and May. We also extend another huge thank you to the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia for hosting our February lecture, and we hope to partner with them again soon.

In lieu of the Annual Banquet, we hosted a Meet & Greet before our May Lecture. The Annual Banquet continues to be on hiatus until further notice. This will be revisited by the Council in the fall, and we will potentially host a 150th anniversary banquet. We are open to feedback and suggestions on hosting this event.

“The Way Forward” – Update

We have made progress this year to align with the “The Way Forward” Recommendations that came out of last year’s membership consultation on 1 April 2023, and have implemented several recommendations this year. We have begun consultation on our current land acknowledgement, which reflects Recommendation #5. Ongoing discussion around Recommendation #6 has also commenced.

#5: Review and refresh wording for current statement acknowledging ancestral territory, and the use of this statement, after consultation with recognized Mi’kmaw representatives.

#6: Explore new statement acknowledging contributions of African Nova Scotians to our province, and the use of this statement, after consultation with recognized community representatives.

We have continued to deliver our monthly lecture in a hybrid format, except when, due to unforeseen circumstances, this was not possible. This aligns with Recommendation #9:

#9: Continue hybrid delivery model for monthly lecture meetings (onsite, online, YouTube).

We also hosted one lecture this year outside of Halifax in February of this year. The lecture was hosted at the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia and was topical to the community. This is in accordance with Recommendation #10:

#10: Move monthly lecture meeting out into broader HRM community at least once a year, on a two-year trial basis.

We hope to continue to foster broader community engagement and will continue this endeavor in the 2024-2025 Programme. Finally, Recommendations #12 and #13 were also considered in our programming this year. Our February lecture was presented by an emerging scholar, and four out of five lectures in the Winter Programme were on Black Nova Scotian history. We will continue to work with scholars and the broader community to produce inclusive histories.

#12: Council and all VPs to continue encouraging and working with younger presenters and emerging scholars.

#13: VP Programme to develop a checklist of under-represented content areas, and continue identifying new/expanded topics and themes.

As part of our refresh of the RNSHS and its activities, we have also begun the process of a website revamp. An initial meeting was held with Courtney Mrazek, Grace McNutt, and Alex Myrick, and they identified a preliminary list of considerations. We will inform the membership when consultation is required, and want to flag this item as an initial step towards the website overhaul.

Below is the tentative schedule for 2024-2025 Lecture Series (pending finalization). We tend to meet on the third Wednesday of the month, except for in December, when we meet on the second Wednesday of the month. Our final lecture in May 2025 will be a “Special Lecture” and we will have a Meet & Greet beforehand with light refreshments. I have also included a tentative date for the 2025 AGM as well, which will again be hosted on Zoom.

Lectures:

18 September 2024
16 October 2024
20 November 2024
11 December 2024
15 January 2025
19 February 2025
19 March 2025
16 April 2025
21 May 2025

Annual General Meeting:

28 May 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Stefanie Slaunwhite

President

19 May 2024



Treasurer's Report 2023 - 2024

Prepared by Hope Beanlands, Outgoing Treasurer

March 31, 2024

ASSETS	2023	2024
Current		
Cash	\$ 36,485.55	\$ 11,411.32
HST Receivable	\$ 318.18	pending \$ 257.66
Érudit Receivable	n/a	pending \$ 2,562.74
	<u>\$ 36,803.73</u>	<u>\$ 14,231.72</u>
Inventory	\$ 4,020.00	\$ 4,020.00
Investments	\$ 0.00	\$ 26,500.00
	<u>\$ 40,823.73</u>	<u>\$ 30,520.00</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 40,823.73</u>	<u>\$ 44,751.72</u>

Statement of Operation and Net Assets (Unaudited)

March 31, 2024

Revenue		
Membership Dues	\$ 4,147.32	\$ 5,171.12
Donations	\$ 1,874.00	\$ 1,275.00
Journal Sales and Royalties	\$ 874.61	\$ 152.11
Conference Refund MSV University	\$ 250.00	n/a
Interest Income	\$ 308.31	Due April (\$
<u>1,121.25)</u>		
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 7,454.24</u>	<u>\$ 6,598.23</u>
Expenses		
Bank Charges and Interest	\$ 103.34	\$ 108.12
Fees: PayPal	\$ 134.16	\$ 96.33
RNSHS Journal Production	\$ 3,787.42	\$ 576.47
Office Expenses	\$ 3,225.85	\$ 1,774.23
Community Grants	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.00
Speaker Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 250.00
Room Rental (Saint Mary's University)	0.00	\$ 431.25
The Way Forward Consultation	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,122.68
Zoom Subscription		\$ 230.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 7,750.34</u>	<u>\$</u>
4,589.08		
Liability: Uncashed cheque #000071	\$ 247.95	\$ 0.00
Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$ 41,214.00	\$ 40,823.73
NET ASSETS, END of YEAR	<u>\$ 40,823.73</u>	<u>\$ 44,751.72</u>
Revenue vs. Expenditures	\$ - 296.10	\$+ 3,927.99



CONTINUED Treasurer's Report 2023 - 2024

Notes:

1. GICs totalling \$26,500 were purchased April 2023 and yielded \$1,121.26 when they matured on April 29, 2024. The delay in investing funds from the maturing GICs in February 2023 was deliberate to enable the RNSHS take advantage of anticipated increasing interest rates. GICs, for a total of \$28,000 were purchased on April 29, 2024. Interest at maturity will be \$1,414.00.
2. The charitable status of the RNSHS was revoked by CRA on September 2023. Efforts to reinstate the charitable status of the society are on-going. Progress is being made.
3. In 2022-3 expenditures exceeded revenue by \$ 296.10. In 2023-4, revenue exceeded expenditures by \$3,927.99.
4. The value of the journal inventory (previous issues) has not changed in the last three years. A process to review the inventory and assign a value needs to be developed/adopted in the coming year.
5. Arrangements have been made for érudit to deposit revenue directly into the RBC bank account. The amount of \$2,562.74 plus April revenue is expected any day.

Prepared by Hope Beanlands,
Outgoing Treasurer, RNSHS
May 18, 2024



Report of the Vice-President, Programmes

We had another successful lecture season in 2023-2024:

1. “Cracking the Nazi Code: The Untold Story of Canada’s Greatest Spy,” Jason Bell
2. “An Architect’s View of Nova Scotian History (October 18th),” Syd Dumaresq
3. “An Architect’s View of Nova Scotian History: Part II (November 15),” Syd Dumaresq
4. “A “second Captain Dreyfus affair”: Joseph Bernstein’s Halifax experience,” Judith Fingard
5. “Labour, Enslavement and Indigenous Space: Liverpool, Nova Scotia in the Atlantic World, 1759-1812,” Amber Laurie
6. “The Inequalities of Integration: A History of Space and Race at Graham Creighton High School,” Stefanie Slaunwhite
7. “Black Roots and white roots intertwined in Nova Scotia’s Tree of History,” Karen Hudson and Kathrin Winkler
8. “The History of the Port at Pugwash,” Stephen Leahey
9. “What’s Law Got To Do With It? The Role of the Law in Creating and Exacerbating Racial Disparities in Colonial Land Allocations After the War of 1812,” Melisa Marsman

The September and October lectures were held at Saint Mary’s University, the February lecture was held at the Black Cultural Centre, and the rest were held at the Halifax Central Library.

Participant numbers were high again in 2023-2024. The library keeps detailed numbers of in-person participants and Zoom participants, but our average in-person was 30 people and average on Zoom was 25 people. Judith Fingard’s December lecture was not livestreamed on Zoom due to a family emergency. Stephen Leahey’s lecture was livestreamed on Zoom, but not recorded due to technical issues. This year we had several complaints about one of our microphones not working. We investigated and tested the microphones but could not identify the issue. We will continue to monitor it and seek professional assistance, if needed.

Looking to 2024-2025, we are continuing to seek out topics related to previously marginalized communities in Nova Scotia, as well as invite new scholars, and innovative methods of delivery, while also keeping RNSHS Journal content in mind. We are committed to continuing having all lectures live streamed.

Our partnership with Halifax Public Libraries for our Public Lecture series will continue for the 2024-2025 year and dates are currently being booked. We worked with Eastlink Podium TV again this year. They filmed the September lecture, the January lecture, the March lecture, and the May lecture. None have aired yet on Eastlink Podium TV.

We are behind on uploading lectures to the RNSHS YouTube channel and this will be completed this summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Hollett Rimmer / Vice-President, Programmes, May 21, 2024



Vice-President Publications Report for the 2023-2024 Year

On behalf of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society, I am delighted to welcome Alex Myrick as our new Managing Editor. Alex joined Council this year and was acclaimed as Managing Editor in March, following his application for the position. We are grateful to Alex for taking on this vital role in the production of the Journal, which will undoubtedly benefit from his contributions in our editorial process. The Managing Editor assists the Editor of the Journal in an administrative role, coordinating the peer review process in consultation with the Editor, identifying and corresponding with peer reviewers and encouraging them to adhere to the timeline of our publication.

Regarding the delay in the publication of Volume 26 of the Journal, I appreciate the patience and understanding of our members. The upcoming issue will uphold the high standards our Journal has established, and I am happy to note that it will go to print shortly. As of now, all our content for the volume has been submitted and all that remains is our final review following the finished graphic design. Members can expect their copies to arrive in June. Many thanks to our Editor, Mathias Rodorff, who assumed this role last year following the departure of Anne Marie Lane Jonah. Mathias has tirelessly fulfilled the roles of both Editor and Managing Editor for the Journal in that time, and I am very grateful for his dedication. Thanks as well to all of our authors, whose contributions underpin the success of the Journal.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage members to offer submissions to the Journal for Volume 27, highlighting that this invitation is extended to authors beyond those who present in the Society's lecture series. Since 2020, the number of submissions has presented an ongoing difficulty for the Journal. The Journal depends on the generous contributions of our members and local historians in maintaining its reputation as a venue for significant publications in Nova Scotian history. I encourage all members to extend to their colleagues an invitation to submit to the Journal.

Since taking on the role of Vice-President Publications from John Reid last year, I oversaw the Journal's first publication with *Érudit*. Volume 25 was successfully published on *Érudit*'s platform last fall. I appreciate *Érudit*'s guidance in their publication process, which will enable the Journal to reach a wider audience and has allowed the Society to receive its portion of royalties from this partnership. By augmenting the exposure of our academic publications and adding a revenue stream for the Society, our collaboration with *Érudit* will help to sustain and strengthen the Society's contributions to Nova Scotian history. Thanks to Anne Marie Lane Jonah, Mathias Rodorff, and Neil Meister for helping to identify and resource the necessary components to *Érudit* for publishing last summer and fall. This first experience publishing with *Érudit* will be instructive for future publications of the Journal on their platform. Thanks as well to Hope Beanlands and Stefanie Slaunwhite for their help finalizing our administrative information with *Érudit* this spring.

Sincerely,

Bennett McNutt, VP Publications / 20 May 2024



Annual Report of the Vice-President, Publicity

The following are highlights since the last AGM, summarizing the 2023-2024 year for the RNSHS. The hybrid public lectures in the fall and winter, with the online and in-person options hosted by the Society and held at the Halifax Central Library most times, were promoted throughout the year via the membership email listserv, Facebook, Twitter, and on the RNSHS website. This year we also held public lectures at Saint Mary's University when the Halifax Library was unavailable in the fall, and we were delighted to co-host a lecture in the winter at the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia. We hope we can continue to build and nurture important relationships with communities across Halifax, where the RNSHS is based.

1) Advertising

One of the central responsibilities of my role is advertising RNSHS public lectures and events. Please see below for information on some of the platforms I have been using and engagement statistics.

Mailchimp:

- We currently have 410 email subscribers.
- Our email open-rates (when someone opens the email and reads it instead of deleting it un-read or never opening it) is in the 60-65% range.

Facebook:

- Over the last year, the Society's Facebook account followers has continued to grow. It was at 3.3K at the last AGM, and as of today it is at 3.4K.
- Our average reach (accounts that saw it) across the 2023-2024 year was 417 people through Facebook.
- Our average likes/reactions was 7 per post. If we want to boost engagement, it would help if members should share the RNSHS posts on Facebook to reach a larger audience?

Twitter:

- On Twitter/X we currently have 674 followers.
- To reach more people we need more shares. Like Facebook, if we want to help facilitate this, maybe members who have Twitter can share these posts?

WordPress (RNSHS Website Platform):

- As of right now, there is no data/statistical reports telling us engagement levels from people using our website. I would like to draw member's attention here to the ongoing discussions of making a new website. Our platform is older and is crashing more often. A new website platform would be more secure and offer more options to share information with members.



COTINUED Annual Report of the Vice-President, Publicity

YouTube:

- I have not been using YouTube this year, which has been my first as the VP of Publicity. My predecessor in this position gave me the password, but someone else had been editing recorded videos and sending them to post. I endeavour to start posting recorded lectures up in the 2024-2025 year.

2) Email correspondence:

The info@rnshs.ca central email account continues to be active, receiving research and journal article queries. I try and answer emails in a timely manner. I have them forwarded to my work email, which I reply to emails from. It has been a pleasure getting to know members and potential members through correspondence.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Mrazek
Vice-President, Publicity

21 May 2024



Report of the Membership Secretary to the Annual General Meeting, 22 May 2024

Membership as of May 22, 2024

Type of Membership	2022-23	2024-25
Life Members	15	14
Individual Member - Canada	84	116
Individual Member - USA	8	9
Individual Member - International	0	0
Institutional Member - Canada	20	31
Institutional Member - USA	6	6
Institutional Member - International	1	1
Family Members	2	1
Student Members	4	5
TOTAL	140	183

Complimentary copies of the Journal are sent to the Governor-General and the Lieutenant-Governor. Deposit copies are sent to Library and Archives Canada

Fellows

Dr. Margaret Conrad, FRNSHS
 Dr. John Cordes, FRNSHS
 Dr. Brian C Cuthbertson, FRNSHS
 Mrs. Joan Dawson, FRNSHS
 Dr. Judith Fingard, FRNSHS
 Mr. David B Flemming, FRNSHS
 Dr John N Grant, FRNSHS
 Mr. Donald F Maclean, FRNSHS
 Dr. Alan E. Marble, FRNSHS
 Dr. Henry Roper, FRNSHS
 Ms. Karen Smith, FRNSHS

Grace McNutt
 Membership Secretary

May 2024



RNSHS Community Support Grants - Report from the Sub-Committee

Members: Raymond Lennark, Mathias Rodorff and Wayne Slaunwhite

Since 2021 the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society supports organizations and individuals in Nova Scotia by offering two grants, per annum, each worth \$250. The Sub-Committee reviewed the received applications, sent their recommendations to the President, and reported to the Council. All applicants were notified by the President. The recipients received a cheque and were asked to submit a follow-up report within three months of completing their funded activity. For 2023 the Society received three applications but awarded only one grant to Sandi Stewart.

The community support grant was awarded to Sandi Stewart, who is currently doing her PhD at the University of New Brunswick, to support her in delivering your presentation, "Museums & Community: Evaluating the Mastodon Exhibit," at the Universities Art Association of Canada conference on October 24-26, 2024, at Western University (London, Ontario).

On behalf of the Sub-Committee and the Society I sincerely thank all the people who had applied in 2023 and congratulate the recipient. The Community Grant Committee decided to support only one grant this year because the other two applications did not meet the criteria for the award. Since the community grant program has now passed its third year the Council approved the Committee's proposal for reviewing the grant description, eligibilities, and advertisement over the course of this summer. In the fall of this year, we are looking forward to receiving the next applications for these two annual grants.

Respectfully submitted,
Mathias Rodorff
16 May 2024



Proposed Executive and Council 2024-2025

President	Stefanie Slaunwhite	2023
Past President	Lois Yorke	2023
Vice President Programs	Sara Hollett Rimmer	2021
Vice President Publications	Bennett McNutt	2022
Vice President Publicity	Courtney Mrazek	2023
Recording Secretary	John MacLeod	2001
Assistant Secretary	Mathias Rodorff	2022
Membership Secretary	Grace McNutt	2022
Treasurer	Dawn Caldwell	2024
Councillor	Raymond Lennark	2022
Councillor	Christopher McCreery	2022
Councillor	Brian Tennyson	2023
Councillor	Alex Myrick	2023
Councillor	Wayne Slaunwhite	2023
Councillor	John Langley	2024

Respectfully submitted,
Nominating Committee,
15-05-24