



## **Annual General Meeting**

Wednesday, 15 May 2013, 7:30 pm, Nova Scotia Archives

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of last Annual Meeting (16 May 2012)
3. Deceased Members - Moment of Silence
4. President's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Auditor's report
7. Appointment of Auditor for 2013-2014
8. Reports of the Vice Presidents
  - a. Vice-President (Programme)
  - b. Vice-President (Publications)
  - c. Vice-President (Publicity)
9. Report of the Membership Secretary
10. Business Arising from the Minutes
11. Report of the Nominating Committee
12. New Business
13. Preview of New RNSHS Web Site
14. Introduction of Monthly Speaker
15. Lecture by Allen Penney
16. Adjournment

## **Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 16 May 2012.**

**Opening:** The President, Bertrum MacDonald, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the Akins Room of the Public Archives with 69 members and guests in attendance.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous annual meeting, held 18 May 2011 were read by the Secretary and accepted on the motion of Virginia Clark and John Macleod.

**President's Report:** Bertrum MacDonald gave a synopsis of his circulated report. He concentrated on the quality of the year's program and thanked outgoing Vice President of Program, Claire Campbell for her efforts and also for her legacy of pre-booked commitments for the following year as well. Good papers in a form suitable for publication are the basis, when combined with the volunteer efforts of Brian Cuthbertson and the editorial board, for our successful Journal. Recognizing this the Society had renewed our conversations with ProQuest in order to get more issues of the Journal available in a digital format through ProQuest's various subscription packages aimed both at Public and institutional libraries.

He related that as President one of his most pleasurable duties was to call upon David Sutherland this evening to receive one of the Society's fellowship in recognition of his service to the Society through the successive offices of Vice-President, President, and Past President, in recognition of his role as an mentor and teacher of Atlantic history and historian, and also in recognition of his roles as a public historian representing the discipline in academic, federal and provincial councils. David Sutherland accepted the honour and the applause offered by the audience.

The President also thanked outgoing Council members including Treasurer Michael Earle, and Vice Presidents Claire Campbell and Janet Guildford for their service to the Society as well as outgoing Council member Paul Bennett. The latter two also having been instrumental in getting the Society on to the web. The President's report was accepted on the motion of Elizabeth Manley and Joan Dawson.

**Treasurer's report:** Michael Earle in the Treasurer's Report for the year ending March 31, 2012 showed revenue of \$8835, of which nearly \$7000 was from membership, and expenses totaling \$12,359 of which \$8200 was for Journal expense and postage. Although showing an operating deficit of about \$3500 the Society had an operating bank account balance of \$12,000 and a reserve account of \$10,500. This report was accepted on his motion, seconded by Rosemary Barbour.

**Auditor:** On the motion of Michael Earle and Allan Marble, Hugh Creighton was reappointed as our Auditor.

### **Vice President's reports:**

**Program – Claire Campbell:** Claire reported on the highlights for the coming year. She also had a number of recommendations including: continuing to plan to cover some of the expenses for two out of town speaker each year; to continue to partner at least once a year with another organization to raise the audience and visibility of the Society; to continue to have a new voices program slot for student

work; and to continue to explore the idea of one non-regular meeting event or lecture each year. This report was accepted on her motion after being seconded by Taunya Dawson.

**Publications – George Parker:** George Parker reported on the success of the Journal of the previous year and the progress being made for the next issue. On his motion, seconded by Sara Beanlands, the report was accepted.

**Publicity – Janet Guildford:** In her absence the President addressed the highlights of her report which emphasized the need to make better use of the website and to regularize our presence in various event listings such as those in the Coast. This report was accepted on the motion of Michael Earle and Henry Roper.

**Membership:** Rosemary Barbour reported we had 280 members.

**Nominations:** On behalf of the Nominations committee of David Sutherland, Allan Dunlop and Allan Marble. The latter as chair reported nominations of James Morrison, as Vice President of Program, Taunya Dawson as Vice-President of Publicity, James Ferguson as Treasurer, and Blake Brown and Iris Shae as Councilors. After the calls for additional nominations were met by a period of silence it was moved by Allan Marble and seconded by John Grant that nominations cease. With that done the President welcomed the new officers and councilors into office.

## **Notices**

Before introducing the speaker the President told those present that PB Waite's book on RB Bennett would be launched at an event on June 3 in the afternoon and the Saege restaurant.

## **Speaker**

Claire Campbell then introduced Lou Duggan the evening's speaker. A graduate of the Dalhousie program in information management Lou Duggan now works at the Saint Mary's University Library but was formerly at Cape Breton University. The paper was titled "The reading habits of Alexander Graham Bell."

Working with Sarah Gilbert, they analyzed the library of Alexander Graham Bell as it is housed at the Bell Museum in Baddeck. Lou Duggan explained some of their preliminary findings from their examinations of his books and periodicals. They looked for marginalia, underlining and other notations that might indicate the interaction of the reader with the text and which might indicate something about the influence of others in Bell's research and in his methodology. In the 2000 items examined they noted and indexed more than 1300 such notations. A challenge in their research was that although it was Bell's library he did employ a number of engineers and other assistants who also probably had access to the collection and who may have made the notations. While some marginalia might be identified as being Bell's other forms of notations were less clear as to who might have made them.

Following a period of discussion the speaker was thanked by the President and the meeting adjourned.



### **President's Annual Report–May 2013**

The Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society has enjoyed another year of a full slate of informative public lectures and has published another excellent volume of the Society's *Journal*. Each member of the executive and Council actively fulfilled their responsibilities and took on new initiatives.

#### **Public Lectures**

Following the custom of many years, the Society hosted monthly lectures from September 2012 through May 2013 as follows:

- 19 September 2012 – “The Kings County World of the Rev. Edward Manning to 1846,” by Dr. Julian Gwyn, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of Ottawa.
- 17 October 2012 – ““Once you’ve tried everything where do you go?”: Changing Tactics in the Campaign Against Biocide Forestry in Nova Scotia, 1976-1984” by Mark Leeming, doctoral candidate, Department of History, Dalhousie University.
- 21 November 2012 – “The Natural History of a Sustainable Institution: The Nova Scotian Institute of (Natural) Science,” by Dr. Suzanne Zeller, Department of History, Wilfrid Laurier University. Co-sponsored lecture with the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, the School of Information Management, Dalhousie University, the Atlantic Node of the Situating Science Research Cluster, and the History of Science and Technology Programme at the University of King’s College.
- 12 December 2012 – “Love and War: The Royal Navy at Halifax During the Napoleonic Wars,” by Dr. Keith Mercer, Research Associate, Gorsebrook Research Institute for Atlantic Canada Studies, Saint Mary’s University.
- 16 January 2013 – “The Three Lives of Edward Cornwallis,” by Dr. John Reid, Department of History, Saint Mary’s University.
- 20 February 2013 – “The Life and Career of M. Lillian Burke, 1880-1852” by Dr. Edward M. Langille, Department of Modern Languages, St. Francis Xavier University.
- 20 March 2013 – “Chinese Migration to the Maritimes: The Early Years, 1890-1925” by Dr. James Morrison, Department of History, Saint Mary’s University, Albert Lee, Halifax, and Grace Bell, Saint Mary’s University.
- 17 April 2013 – “A Fond but Extravagant Farewell: The Halifax Funeral of Prime Minister Sir John Thompson, 1895” by Dr. David Sutherland, FNSHS, Adjunct Professor (retired), Department of History, Dalhousie University.
- 15 May 2013 – “Louisa Neville: Mrs. Thomas Chandler Haliburton,” by Allan Penney, Research Associate, Nova Scotia Museum.

As the above list highlights, scholars from institutions throughout the province as well as elsewhere in Canada were invited to present lectures. We were particularly pleased to co-sponsor the November 2012 lecture by noted historian of science Dr. Suzanne Zeller on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, one of the longest standing research associations in the country. In

its mandate to “promote an understanding of Nova Scotia’s history and cultural development,” the Society has an obligation to encourage new scholars, which this year included graduate students from Dalhousie (Mark Leeming) and Saint Mary’s (Grace Bell) universities. Many of the papers presented during this year will be revised and published in the Society’s journal.

### **Journal**

The Society’s journal continues to be prepared under the capable editorship of Brian Cuthbertson (General Editor), Karen E.M. Smith (Book Review Editor), and Terrence M. Punch (Genealogical Editor), assisted by the Vice-President (Publications) and an editorial board. Through a contract with ProQuest, all of the volumes of the journal are now available in digital format and accessible online through libraries (e.g., Halifax Public Libraries and many academic libraries) which maintain licenses to the large suite of journals ProQuest offers.

### **Future Planning**

As a departure from its normal focus on history, almost 25 members turned out for a future planning session in advance of the February 2012 public lecture. With the aid of a position document prepared by Council member Dr. John Grant, the members generated a sizeable suite of ideas for future programming by the Society. Subsequently, the Council established a rapid task force to review those ideas and suggest priorities for the Society. That task force submitted a report and series of recommendations on three broad themes: Outreach, Membership, and External Communications to the May 2013 meeting of the Council, which will be acting on those recommendations over the next several months.

### **Membership**

Membership in the Society remains stable as is shown in the report by Rosemary Barbour (Membership Secretary). A total of 284 members, most of whom are individual members, constitute the Society. Efforts to retain and extend the membership will continue in the next year.

### **Relationships with Other Organizations**

Over a period of many years, the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society has developed cordial relationships with educational institutions and other societies in the province. We regularly announce the lectures offered by the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, and other historical associations and we distribute notices to members about other relevant activities in the province. Recently, the Society was represented by Council member Sara Beanlands at meetings considering the establishment of a provincial Heritage Council.

### **Web site and Promotion of the Society**

This year, the Council of the Society approved a recommendation to promote the Society’s initiatives, especially through a new Web site. A Dalhousie graduate student Alison Froese Stoddard was engaged as Web Assistant, and an entirely new Web site is under development and will be launched during the summer 2013. This new site will provide significantly enhanced capability to promote the work of the Society and give attention to activities of related organizations throughout the province.

### **Additional Activities**

The members of the Executive and the Council have responded to a variety of inquiries over the past several months. Past-President Henry Roper has been largely responsible for responding to enquiries submitted via the Society’s Web site.

**Acknowledgements**

The terms of two members of the Council and the Executive conclude with this annual meeting. I wish to extend thanks to Taunya Dawson, Vice President (Publicity), who initiated a variety of new methods to promote the Society's public lectures, including launching Facebook and Twitter accounts. Sandra Barry has been an active member of the Council for several years and has been particularly helpful in assisting with the development of the new Web site. All other members of the Council have been very helpful over the past twelve months. Dr. Henry Roper and Rosemary Barbour, for example, handled the coordination for the dinner meeting in April 2013

Planning for the 2013-2014 season of lectures is well-advanced, thanks to Jim Morrison, Vice-President (Programmes) and I look forward to working with the new Council and Executive to fulfill the mandate of the Society. I encourage all members to submit ideas for future events and to take an active role in encouraging new memberships and promoting the Society's lectures in the coming year.

*Submitted by*

Bertrum H. MacDonald, PhD  
President



## **Annual Report of Vice-President, Programmes, May 2013**

I am very pleased to report to the council and the membership of the Society a most successful year of speakers.

### **2012-13 Speaker Programme**

Julian Gwynn presented the Blakeley lecture in September on the 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century world of Rev. Edward Manning. A more contemporary historical issue was presented by Mark Leeming on the campaign against biocide forestry in Nova Scotia in the 1970s and 1980s. A joint presentation with the Nova Scotian Institute of Science in October brought out a large audience for Suzanne Zeller's analysis of the first century of the Nova Scotia Institute of (Natural) Science. The final paper for 2012 was by Keith Mercer on the Royal Navy in Halifax during the War of 1812. The Three Lives of Edward Cornwallis by John G. Reid began our winter term. In February E.M. Langille spoke on the life and career of M. Lillian Burke. A three part presentation by James H. Morrison, Grace Bell (graduate student) and Albert Lee featured the early years of Chinese migration to the Maritimes, Nova Scotia, and Halifax. The annual dinner at the Dalhousie Faculty Club featured a book draw in which virtually everybody won a book, a mind stretching quiz and a fine after-dinner speech by David Sutherland on the Halifax funeral of Prime Minister Sir John Thompson in 1895. There is nothing quite like the spectre of death especially someone else's to aid one's digestion. The year ended with Allen Penney's presentation on Louisa Neville on May 15, 2013.

### **2013-14 Programme and Suggestions**

The programme for next year is fully scheduled with the Blakeley lecture featuring Elizabeth Mancke on the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) with commentary from three other scholars of the period. This event will be held at the Maritime Museum and be sponsored jointly with Royal Society of Canada (application pending) and the Gorsebrook Research Institute at Saint Mary's University. Other topics for the year include soldiers in the War of 1812 by Michael Vance, Laura Stanley and strong men in Nova Scotia and recently minted PHD scholar Katie Cottreau-Robins and her Plantation research on 18<sup>th</sup>-century Annapolis Valley.

- The Akins Room as well as the Maritime Museum space have been booked for the appropriate dates.
- An application will go forward to the Royal Society of Canada in early June for financial support for the Treaty of Utrecht event.
- The Council should seriously consider the introduction of "webcasting" or monthly presentations whenever possible.
- I recommend that some small gift – a stipend, book certificate, etc. – be given to the presenter at the close of their lecture as a thank you.

In closing, I wish to thank the Council and our membership for their speaker and topic suggestions and also to extend my appreciation to those who filled in for me when I was unable to attend meetings in September and January.

**James H. Morrison, C.M., PH.D., Vice President, Programmes**



## Annual Report, Vice-President, Publications, May 2013

1. **The Vice-President, Publications** acts as a liaison between the Editor of the *Journal*, Brian Cuthbertson, and the Council. The Editor and the Vice-President are *ex-officio* members of the *Journal's* Editorial Board, whose members Henry Roper, Karen Smith, and David Sutherland act as readers and editors for papers submitted to the *Journal*.
2. **The *Journal*, Vol. 15 (2012)**, with a print run of 500 copies, was distributed in September 2012. Etc Press was paid \$3,401, considerably less than the \$5,433 for Vol. 14 because Etc Press now does the lamination of the covers. Payments to Andrew Glencross for production, \$837.50, and to Neil Meister, for the cover, \$412.50, were approximately the same as for Vol. 14. It contained seven articles, one genealogy, four book reviews, and eleven colour plates. Contributors received 20 offprints of their articles. Several copies with missing pages were placed by Etc Press with good copies.  
  
Brian Cuthbertson reports that there are seven papers in process or promised for publication, plus a genealogy, and the possibility of an eighth paper from the 15 May 2013 meeting.
3. **Digitizing the *Journal***. The contract with ProQuest dated October 2010 was to digitize the *Journal* from Vol. 4 onward and make these versions available to their subscribers. This year arrangements were made for Etc Press to scan Volumes 1, 2, 3, and 6 to PDFs at a cost of \$180.00 plus tax, which were sent to ProQuest in April 2013 for digitizing.
6. **Royalties**. We are waiting to hear from ProQuest's March 2013 report of any royalties accruing to the Society. In 2012-13 we received royalties of \$66.58 from the collective Access Copyright (The Canadian Copyright Agency).
7. The archivist of St. Mary's University has expressed interest in digitizing the 44 volumes of the precursor to the *Journal*.

Respectfully submitted

**George L. Parker**, PhD  
Vice-President, Publications  
10 May 2013





### **Annual Report of Vice-President, Publicity, May 2013**

This year has been a busy one for publicity. Efforts were made to increase awareness of the Society and scheduled lectures. A Twitter account and a Facebook page were created early in the fall 2012 to give the Society a social media presence. So far, our last Facebook post received 302 views.

Plans for a possible new pamphlet were discussed early in the fall, but the proposed design was not finalized. I am grateful to Anjali Vohra for making arrangements for printing of the pamphlet for 2012-13 lecture series.

A poster was created for every lecture and distributed and posted as much as possible. Sara Beanlands, Peter Dawson, Hope Beanlands, and Will Dawson offered much assistance with the distribution of the posters. A QR code was designed and added to our poster design for the winter lecture series.

Sara Beanlands has also been busy compiling e-mail addresses of historical/genealogical societies to add to the poster distribution list.

A student, Alison Froese Stoddard, was hired to make further improvements to the website.

Respectfully submitted,

**Taunya J. Dawson**

Vice-President, Publicity



## Report of the Membership Secretary to the Annual General Meeting, 15 May 2013

Members in Good Standing, 2012-2013		Members in Good Standing, 2011-2012	
Life Members	17	Life Members	18
Individual Members (including 3 student members)	207	Individual Members (including additional Family Members)	211
Additional Family Members	9		
Institutional Members	51	Institutional Members	51
TOTAL	284	TOTAL	280

### Fellows

Dr Brian C Cuthbertson, FRNSHS  
 Mrs. Robert Dawson, FRNSHS  
 Mr. Allan C Dunlop, FRNSHS  
 Dr. Judith Fingard, FRNSHS  
 Mr David B Flemming, FRNSHS  
 Mrs Janet Kitz, FRNSHS  
 Mr. Donald F Maclean, FRNSHS  
 Dr Allan E. Marble, FRNSHS  
 Mrs Joan Payzant, FRNSHS  
 Mr Terrence M Punch, FRNSHS  
 Dr. David. A. Sutherland, FRNSHS  
 Dr Peter B. Waite, FRNSHS

### Rosemary V. Barbour

Membership Secretary

8 May 2013



### **Report of the Nominating Committee, May 2013**

The Committee nominates the following members to be the Officers and Council of the RNSHS for the period 2013-2014

President	Bertrum MacDonald
Vice President (Programme)	James Morrison
Vice President (Publications)	George Parker
Vice President (Publicity)	Sara Beanlands
Treasurer	James Ferguson
Recording Secretary	John MacLeod
Membership Secretary	Rosemary Barbour
Assistant Secretary	Anjali Vohra
Council	John Grant, William Lawrence, Iris Shea, Blake Brown, Marilyn Gurney, Ross Langley
Past President	Henry Roper

*Nominating Committee:*

David Sutherland, Allan Dunlop, Allan Marble

5 May 2013