

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16 MAY 2020, 7:00 PM, On-Line (Zoom)

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Deceased Members-Moment of Silence**
- 3. Minutes of last Annual Meeting (15 May 2019)**
- 4. Business arising from the Minutes**
- 5. President's report**
- 6. Treasurer's report**
- 7. Appointment of Auditor for 2020-2021**
- 8. Reports of Vice Presidents**
 - a. Vice President (Programmes)**
 - b. Vice President (Publications)**
 - c. Vice President (Publicity)**
- 9. Report of Membership Secretary**
- 10. Report of Nomination Committee**
- 11. New Business**
- 12. Adjournment**



Minutes of Annual General Meeting – 15 May 2019

1. Opening: The President, Sara Beanlands, called the 141st meeting of the Society to order at 7:30 pm in the Akins Room of the Nova Scotia Archives with a quorum of 45 members and guests in

She then called upon those present for any additions to the pre-circulated agenda for the meeting and upon hearing non, the agenda was adopted as circulated on the motion of John Grant and Bertrum MacDonald.

2. Remembrance of deceased members. A moment of silence was observed in memory of those members, or former members, whose passing had come to the attention of the Society during the past year. In particular the death this week of Society Fellow, Janet Kitz was noted. Dan Conlin on behalf of the Society recalled in addition to her research and work related to the commemoration of the Halifax Explosion, Janet had also been a long time Parks Commissioner of Point Pleasant Park, had authored a book on the Park and had researched, curated, and written on the architect Andrew Cobb.

3. Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting: The minutes of the 2018 annual general, meeting held May 16, had been included in the pre-circulated package of information and were approved on the motion of James Morrison and John Cordes.

4. Business arising from the minutes: The president indicated that there was no business arising from the minutes that needed to be addressed separately from the related reports.

5. President's report (Sara Beanlands): The President briefly reviewed the year highlighting a number of items covered more fully in her report that was also included in the circulated package of reports. She celebrated the appearance of the **Journal** and thanked its editor and editorial team. She noted that this year would see the retirement from Council of John Grant, who had been the Vice President of Programs for 7 years, and the retirement of John Cordes after 5 years as Treasurer. The achievements of these officers were noted with a round of applause. Also thanked was Randy Barkhouse whose 3 year Council term was closing.

6. Treasurer's report (John Cordes): Also included in the information package was the Treasurer's report showing revenue of \$10, 215 and expense of \$18 066. He remarked that this reporting period included 2 issues of the **Journal**, a write down in value of back issues of \$2000 which was a non-cash adjustment affecting the balance sheet, and that the annual dinner was balanced in income and expense but not in the same reporting period. He noted it was his final report as treasurer and that his workload was greatly reduced by the work of Rosemary Barbour in pre-processing the membership fees.

He sought questions from the meeting and when none were offered, moved the acceptance of his report, including the notation of the Society's auditor indicating agreement in the correctness of the information. After seconding by Allan Marble, the Treasurer's report was adopted.

7. Appointment of Auditor. Hugh Creighton had agreed to continue as the auditor, and this was moved and adopted on the motion of John Cordes and Jim Morrison.

8. Reports of Vice Presidents: (Programs – John Grant, Publications-John Reid, and Publicity-Tanja Harrison) The respective Vice Presidents all demurred any additional remarks as they nodded that all was covered in their written reports that were included in the pre-circulated package. John Grant however did indicate that the speaking slots were filled until 2021.

9. Report of the Membership Secretary: This was also included in the meeting package.

The adoption of the reports of the Vice Presidents and the Membership Secretary were proposed as a single motion by Jim Orr and John Cordes and accepted as such by all present.

10. Nominating Committee: James Morrison presented the report of the Nominating Committee on behalf of himself and the other committee members Sara Beanlands and John Macleod. The report was as follows:

President: Sara Beanlands (2017)

Past President: James Morrison (2017)

Vice President (Programme): Vacant

(Subsequent to the annual meeting Shirley Tillotson accepted this position)

Vice President (Publications): John Reid (2018)

Vice President (publicity): Tanja Harrison (2018)

Treasurer: Robin Orr (2019)

Recording Secretary: John Macleod (2001)

Membership Secretary: Rosemary Barbour (2002)

Assistant Secretary: Anjali Vohra (2007)

Council:

Gregory MacNeil 2017

Claudine Bonner 2018

Albert Lee 2019

Dan Conlin 2018

Sara Hollett 2019

Mattias Rudorff 2019

Upon receiving this report, the President inquired of those present if there were any additional nominations. She repeated her inquiry a second time; and then a third. Upon hearing no additional nominations, she asked for a motion to adopt the report and accept the nominations. This was offered by James Morrison and Dan Conlin and was accepted by all,

Program: The President then called upon John Grant to introduce the speaker, for his 63rd and, for the moment, his final introduction of the Society's speaker. John in his introduction noted that next year Society meetings would start at 7:00 to better accommodate questions, conversation, and Archives' closing.

Speaker: The evening's speaker was Harold Wright of Saint John. A prolific author on subjects related to historic Saint John, Mr Wright was also a recent recipient of a commendation from the Minister of Veterans Affairs for his efforts and activities in promoting and preserving the heritage of Canada's War Veterans.

His topic for the evening was the *Jervis Bay* an ocean liner impressed into war service that confronted the German Cruiser *Admiral Scheer* while protecting a convoy. Originally built for the Australian

government owned Commonwealth Line in 1922 the *Jervis Bay* originally plied between South Australia and England via the Suez Canal and carried 723 third class, and 12 1st class passengers. In the UK when war was declared, the ship was conscripted into His Majesty's service and armed and deployed to aid in the protection of convoys.

The ship's connection to Saint John was through a six week refit prior to what would be it's last voyage, convoy HX-84 from Halifax that departed on October 28, 1940 . Of the crew of 254, 30 were Canadian or from Newfoundland.

Rather than focussing on the story of the underdog confronting the well armed cruiser to save the convoy and the resulting Victoria Cross for the *Jervis Bay*'s captain, the paper focussed on the more local members of the crew and the subsequent reunions, held at first in the UK and then at Saint John for the Canadian survivors.

Killed was Albert E Price, 23 of Gallagher Ridge, New Brunswick. Among the survivors were Ken Marginson, of New Glasgow, who went on to teach engineering at Dalhousie University and lived until 1995; Robert Squires, aged 20 when the boat sank, born in the UK but who met a woman from Saint John and after the war lived in Saint John until his death in 2005; George Bearman, 27, of Halifax who died in Halifax in 1977 and Warren Stevens who at the age of 32 was older than most of the crew and who died in Lunenburg in 2001.

Following a period of discussion, the meeting adjourned to refreshments and the speaker was thanked by the Vice President.



President's Annual Report – September 2020

It has been an extraordinary year – one that has altered our lives and, inevitably, changed our history. Unfortunately, the emergence of COVID-19 brought our 2019-2020 lecture series to an abrupt end and has forced us to begin our 2020-2021 series with a new format. The adjustment has been challenging but we have embraced the opportunity to learn new skills and find new ways forward through this uncertain time. Indeed, this is not the first pandemic the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society has endured, and, with the combined strength of our dedicated Council and loyal membership, we remain committed to the preservation and promotion of Nova Scotia's history.

On behalf of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society, I thank all those speakers who generously shared their time and expertise with us, and especially to those who were unable to present. We will endeavor to share some of those we missed in upcoming volumes of the Society's *Journal*, which continues under the skilled and careful editorship of Anne Marie Lane Jonah. Many thanks to Anne Marie and to all members of the Editorial Board, as well as our Vice-President (Publications), John Reid. I must also thank our Vice-President (Programme), Shirley Tillotson, for organizing an exceptional lecture series and for leading the transition to our forthcoming on-line programme. We are very much looking forward to the upcoming season.

It has also been my great pleasure to welcome Dr. John Grant and Dr. Margaret Conrad as Fellows of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society. It was our intention to celebrate their significant contributions to the history of Nova Scotia at our Annual Dinner, which sadly had to be cancelled. Rest assured, we will find an opportunity to formally mark this occasion in the near future.

Finally, as I complete my term as RNSHS President, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to members of Council and the Executive, past and present, for your support, kindness and patience over the past three years. I am so very grateful for your efforts, dedicated service, and commitment to the Society. It has been a honour to serve as President and a privilege to work with each and every one of you. And to the RNSHS membership for your longstanding and loyal support, without which we could not continue.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Beanlands



2019 -20 Treasurer's Report Annual Meeting

The following unaudited treasurer's report is based on the information available at the time of preparation.

RNSHS Financial Statement for Fiscal 2019-20

REVENUE	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
Membership Dues	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 6,237.67	\$ 6,544.52
Publication Sales	\$ 100.00	\$ 415.25	\$ 225.00
Annual Dinner	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,371.00
Donations	\$ 990.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 975.97
Bank Interest (GICs)		\$ 95.09	\$ 53.60
HST Rebate Received	\$ 481.67	\$ 535.87	\$ 683.74
Royalties		\$ 231.97	\$ 152.75
Misc Payment PAYPAL	\$ 200.00		
Unspecified	\$ 2,213.48		
TOTAL	\$ 10,985.15	\$ 10,215.85	\$ 11,006.58

EXPENSES			
Journal Production	\$ 3,839.85	\$ 11,069.56	\$ 0.00
Printing, Stationery, Postage	\$ 2,377.91	\$ 1,657.45	\$ 724.30
Annual Dinner	\$ 1,497.93	\$ 2,229.28	\$ 1,766.40
Post Office Box		\$ 218.50	\$ 213.90
Bank Fees	\$ 107.68	\$ 102.20	\$ 88.00

PayPal Fees		\$ 53.23	\$ 45.31
Meeting Expenses	\$ 147.78	\$ 736.42	\$ 339.26
Undergraduate University History Society & Conference	\$ 500.00		
Inventory Write Down		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,471.15	\$ 18,066.64	\$ 6,677.17
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 2,514.00	(\$ 7,850.79)	\$ 4,329.41

RNSHS BALANCE SHEET as at March 31, 2020

ASSETS	2020	2019	2018
RBC Current Account	\$ 17,658.69	\$ 18,162.72	\$ 12,752.49
RBC GICs	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 26,330.95
PayPal Balance	TBD	\$ 57.00	\$ 430.23
Cash	\$ 60.00		
Inventory	TBD	\$ 4,020.00	\$ 6,020.00
TOTAL ASSETS	TBD	\$ 38,239.72	\$ 45,533.67

LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	\$ 1,145.71	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Outstanding Cheques	0.00	\$ 570.63	\$ 13.79
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,145.71	\$ 570.63	\$ 13.79
TOTAL EQUITY	TBD	\$ 37,669.09	\$ 45,519.88
Change in Total Equity		(\$ 7,850.79)	

Prepared by Hope Beanlands Interim Treasurer

September 14, 2020



Report of the Vice-President, Programmes, 2019-20

To the President, the Executive, and the membership of the Royal Nova Historical Society:

In this, the first year of my two-year term as Vice-President, Programmes, I was fortunate to inherit the work done by my predecessor, John N. Grant. Sadly, however, the last three lectures of that programme had to be cancelled when, in March 2020, the provincial government implemented public health measures to control the spread of the novel coronavirus and the illness it causes, Covid-19. The society regrets having missed hearing the three speakers whose lectures were consequently cancelled (Louise Carbert, Susan Surette-Draper, and John N. Grant).

The lectures that were actually delivered covered the usual interesting variety of subjects, addressing Nova Scotian topics on a variety of scales from the highly local to the transnational, and time periods from the 18th century to the 1960s. Here are the lectures that were delivered:

Sara Hollett, "The New Nova Scotia: Provincial Tourism, History, and Identity, 1956-1966"

Heidi MacDonald, "The Long and Contentious Road to Women's Suffrage in Nova Scotia"

Stefanie R. Slaunwhite, "Comprehending the Complexities of Community and Class: Integration at Graham Creighton High School"

Bob Sayer, "The Extraordinary Paul Laurent, Mi'kmaw Sagamow"

S. Karly Kehoe, "Caribbean Slavery and the Scottish Diaspora in the Maritimes"

Mathias Rodorff, "The Annand Family and the Foundation of the Press as the 4th Estate in Nova Scotia"

The Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society is the senior historical society in the province and will continue to seek presentations that represent the province in its entirety and diversity. Thank you to all the speakers who shared the product of their research with the Society. Congratulations and thanks to the *Journal* for its work in publishing many of the presentations and preserving our history.

The Fall (2020) and Winter (2021) programme is now in place. We will be pleased, however, to be made aware of prospective presenters for the 2021-22 series. Please do not wait to be approached, but rather inform me, Shirley Tillotson (stillots@dal.ca) or any member the Society's executive about a paper or topic that might be shared at a future meeting.

I extend my gratitude to the President and Vice President, Publicity, for their assistance and to the Council for its support.

Respectfully submitted

Shirley Tillotson

13 September 2020



Report of Vice-President Publications for 2019-20 Year

A major achievement for the year was the publication of Volume 22 of the *Journal* in September 2020. It is a very strong issue, containing a number of substantial articles, as well research notes, genealogical contributions, and book reviews. Particularly noteworthy is Allan Marble's "Halifax was plunged into Gloom: The Impact of the Spanish Influenza Pandemic on Nova Scotia" (pp. 8-31), which following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 was posted on the Society's website on an open access basis and has accumulated many views. Congratulations to all associated with Volume 22, and particularly to the journal's very dedicated editor, Anne Marie Lane Jonah. Thanks are extended as well to the members of the Editorial Board for their support and their contributions to the process. Volume 23 is currently at an advanced stage of preparation.

The Editorial Board of the *Journal* held one meeting during the year, on 22 January 2020. Along with a recommendation to proceed with the EBSCO agreement that the Council had originally approved in principle on 20 March 2019, the Editorial Board recommended exploring the possibility of an application for membership of Érudit/Coalition Publi.ca. Because membership of Érudit would imply the partial adoption of an open access model, as well as a more rigorous requirement for peer-reviewed articles, the Editorial Board recommended that the Society membership be consulted before any decision was taken. An earlier recommendation of the Editorial Board had been that the membership be consulted on the possibility of a move towards electronic distribution of the *Journal*. The Council accepted these recommendations at its meeting on 15 April 2020, and a consultation process will be launched early in the 2020-21 year.

The Editorial Board made two other important recommendations regarding the *Journal*, which have also been accepted by the Council:

- (a) Appointment of a volunteer Managing Editor, who would be responsible primarily for administering the peer review process. As well as bringing the workload of the Editor to a more reasonable level, this appointment would also potentially contribute to succession planning for the Editorship.
- (b) Restructuring the current Editorial Board into two separate bodies. The restructured Editorial Board would give active support to the editorial team, and would be a small working body consisting centrally of the Editor, the Managing Editor, the Genealogy Editor, the Book Review Editor, and the three Vice Presidents. A new Editorial

Advisory Board would not normally meet as a group, but would consist of people who have committed to participate as assessors in the peer review process. While it would be understood that members would not be asked to serve as an assessor to any unreasonable degree, and while there would of course continue to be assessors from outside of the Advisory Board, this arrangement would contribute significantly to alleviating the current difficulties faced by the Editor in finding willing and qualified assessors.

Although further action in these areas has been delayed by the disruptions associated with Covid-19, it is expected that implementation processes will be initiated early in the 2020-21 year.

John Reid
16 September 2020

**Annual Report of the Vice-President, Publicity
September 16, 2020**

It has been a serving at the VP Publicity over the past year. The following are highlights since the last Annual General Meeting.

Public Lectures, Website, Promotion, and Other Activities

The six public lectures outlined in the VP Programme's report were live streamed via the RNSHS Facebook (FB) page. With speakers' permission, the lectures were also recorded and posted to FB, to the Society's YouTube channel, and embedded for viewing via the website under Past Lectures. The pandemic necessitated the cancellation of the remaining three lectures in the series. With the kind permission of Dr. Allan Marble, we were able to openly share online his published paper based on his 2018 public lecture by the same name 'Halifax was Plunged into Gloom': The Impact of the Spanish Influenza Pandemic on Nova Scotia, 1918-1920'.

Updating the website and promoting the public lectures are some of the duties of this role. The VP Publicity also monitors the social media accounts and the info@rnshs.ca email account with queries steadily received from around the world. In consultation with the VP Publications and Journal Editor, assistance with navigating other Journal access options was provided.

On social media our followers continue to grow: FB (from 1093 to 1667 followers this time last year) and Twitter (from 450 to 534 followers as of this writing). The RNSHS listerv has also grown from 313 to 331 subscribers. Consistency over persistency has been the approach to engagement this year. If anyone is interested in becoming involved with our social media team we would welcome the assistance. Please email info@rnshs.ca for more information.

I am grateful for the support of our Members and the Council over the past year. Special thanks to Sara Beanlands for her outstanding work as our President. Sara is the second woman to have led the Society during its long history and I am proud to have been a member of her team.

Respectfully submitted,



Tanja Harrison
Vice-President, Publicity



Report of the Membership Secretary to the Annual General Meeting, 2020

Membership as of 31 March 2020

Type of Membership	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Life Members	15	15	15
Individual Member - Canada	136	132	124
Individual Member - USA	7	6	9
Individual Member - International	0	0	0
Institutional Member - Canada	34	35	34
Institutional Member - USA	9	9	9
Institutional Member - International	1	1	1
Family Members	4	4	6
Student Member	3	5	2
TOTAL	209	207	200

Complimentary copies 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. 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
Dr. David. A. Sutherland, FRNSHS
Dr. Peter B. Waite, FRNSHS

Rosemary V Barbour
Membership Secretary

April 2020



NOMINATIONS TO RNSHS BOARD 2020-2021

President	Lois Yorke	2020-2023
Past President	Sara Beanlands	2020-2023 for James Morrison
VP Programmes	Shirley Tillotson	2019-2021
VP Publicity	Tanja Harrison	2018-2021
VP Publications	John Reid	2018-2021
Secretary	John Macleod	2001-
Assistant	Anjali Vohra	2007-
Membership	Rosemary Barbour	2002-
Treasurer	Hope Beanlands	2020-2023
Councillor	Nicole Neatby	2020-2023 for Gregory MacNeil
Councillor	Claudine Bonner	2018-2021
Councillor	Albert Lee	2019-2022
Councillor	Dan Conlin	2018-2021
Councillor	Sara Hollett	2019-2022
Councillor	Matthias Rodorff	2019-2022