

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
24 MAY 2023, ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Deceased Members – Moment of Silence**
- 3. Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting (18 May 2022)**
- 4. Business Arising from the Minutes**
  - a. Final Report – The Way Forward**
- 5. President’s Report**
- 6. Treasurer’s Report**
- 7. Appointment of Auditor for 2023-2024**
- 8. Reports of Vice Presidents**
  - a. Vice President (Programme)**
  - b. Vice President (Publications)**
  - c. Vice President (Publicity)**
- 9. Report of 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 General Meeting**  
**18 May 2022**

**1. Opening:** Following a lecture given by Susan Surette-Draper and titled “Not just Evangeline: A Look at Real Acadian Women,” the online gathering of the Society resumed at 8:10 pm for the Annual General Meeting of the Society. President Lois Yorke observed that there were at least 29 members and a cat in a virtual quorum of attendance, when the Zoom meeting reconvened as the Annual Meeting

**2. Approval of Agenda:** The Agenda, as posted on the Society’s website was approved on the motion of Lois Yorke and Hope Beanlands.

**3. Memorial Moment:** A moment of silent remembrance and contemplation of the contributions of members and adherents to the Society who had been touched by COVID or who had passed away during the year.

**4. Minutes:** The minutes of the previous annual meeting, held 19 May 2021, had been virtually circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted as posted on the motion of John Macleod and Nicole Neatby.

**5. Business arising from the minutes:** While the 2021 Annual Meeting addressed many topics there were no matters in the minutes that were not already included elsewhere in the agenda.

**6. President’s Report:** Although the report of the President, Lois Yorke, was included in the distributed AGM package, the President did speak briefly to a few of the highlights. The program had continued despite the ongoing COVID pandemic and the necessity of online meetings. The Society would be continuing with this in September with the expected advent of hybrid meetings at a location that had yet to be identified. Despite COVID the Society continued to welcome new members with 35 joining this year. The “*Way forward committee*” had drafted a report with recommendations that would be the subject of a membership consultation in the future. As always, the *Journal* continues to impress and she thanked the editorial board and team.

She particularly thanked the retiring Editors and Council members for their contributions to the Society and its publication. Rosemary Barbour would be retiring after 20 years as Membership Secretary. John Reid, (Vice President) and Council members Albert Lee and Mathias Rodorff were also retiring when their terms ended at this meeting. The forthcoming issue of the *Journal* would be the last for Anne Marie Lane Jonah as Editor and Karen Smith was retiring after 25 years as the *Journal’s* Book Review Editor.

The President also indicated that Karen Smith and John Cordes, our Treasurer from 2014 to 2019, would be named as Fellows of the Society later in the year.

**7. Treasurer’s Report:** An unaudited balance sheet for the 31 March 2022 year end and a statement of income and expense for the year had been included in the meeting package. It showed net assets of

\$40,404.60, income of \$10,937.61 and expenses of \$9,740.99 for the year. She thanked a previous Treasurer, John Cordes, for his help and assistance as well as Joshua Touesnard, our professional reviewer from the firm of Smith and Touesnard, who had also assisted her. The Executive would receive the formal reviewed statements later.

It was moved by Hope Beanlands, seconded by David Flemming and adopted by the Society that the statements be received and that the firm of Smith and Touesnard be named as our reviewers for compliance. (A review is in place of an audit which reflects a formal review process according to national accounting standards. Audits carry "guarantees" and generally incur significant cost.)

**8. Appointment of Auditor:** (Covered above in 7).

**9. Reports of the Vice Presidents:**

**a. Program (Shirley Tillotson):** Shirley was unable to attend and indicated there would be no change to her circulated report.

**b. Publications (John Reid):** John Reid updated the meeting on our acceptance into the electronic publishing collective *Érudit*. His distributed report contained as appendices a "Statement on Characteristics of the *Journal*" and a "Statement on distribution of the *Journal*." Additionally, he also noted the retirement of Karen Smith as Book Review Editor, after 25 years, and that this would be the 6<sup>th</sup> and final issue under the editorial hand of Anne Marie Lane Jonah. He moved the following motion: That the membership place on record its deep appreciation of the contributions of Karen Smith and Anne Marie Lane Jonah to the success of the *Journal*. After being seconded by David Flemming the motion was unanimously adopted in a flurry of yellow zoom hands.

**c. Publicity (Tanja Harrison):** This report was also in the real package of virtual online reports. Tanja commented on the Social Media reach of 60,000 views and the partnership with EastLink's Podium TV.

**10. Membership:** Rosemary Barbour reported membership had increased this year from 184 to 208.

**11. Community Support Grants:** The Admiral Digby Library and Historical Society and the Colchester Historical Society were the first recipients of our \$250 grants. While planned as one to an individual and one to a group, the awards committee of Dan Conlin, Nicole Neatby and Mathia Rodorff, with Council's approval, had made awards to two groups based on the quality of the applications.

**Reports approval:** All of the above yet to be accepted reports were accepted on the motion of Lois Yorke and Sara Beanlands.

**12. Nominations report:** The Nominations Committee of Sara Beanlands, Nicole Neatby and Anne Marie Lane Jonah recommended the addition of Phil Bagnell, Raymond Lennard, and Christopher McCreery as Councillors, with the remaining Councillors continuing in their terms. Additionally, Anjali Vohra (Assistant Secretary) and Rosemary Barbour (Membership Secretary) would be retiring and in their place Mathias Rodorff and Grace McNutt were recommended for those positions respectively. While a vacancy remained for the Vice President of Publications position, (currently held by the retiring John Reid), the remaining officers were also recommended for continuation.

As expected by tradition and required by the by-laws, additional nominations were sought from the pixelated floor, once, twice and then for a final time, thrice. In the presence of real silence for additional

nominations the slate, as proposed above on the motion of Sara Beanlands and Deborah Trask was declared adopted.

Motions of thanks to the outgoing officers, Shirley Tillotson, John Reid, Rosemary Barbour and Anjali Vohra, and councillor Albert Lee, were also unanimously adopted by the Society. Rosemary Barbour had served for 20 years and Anjali Vohra was also a long term servant of the Society.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned on the motion of Paul Armstrong and David Flemming at 8:42 pm.

**‘THE WAY FORWARD’  
CONSULTATION WITH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP – 1 APRIL 2023**

**FINAL REPORT**

**APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS (16)  
SYNOPSIS OF PARTICIPANTS’ COMMENTS**

**PARTICIPATION:** 14 in person; approx. 12 online via Zoom; quorum set at 12 and therefore met. Also 19 responses to online Google questionnaire.

**INTRODUCTION:**

- **Facilitator:** In discussing these recommendations, we are voting on new directions, not by-laws or rules, or changes to them (i.e. the ‘what’ of the recommendations, not the ‘how’).
- **Motion:** To approve and carry the 15 recommendations. **Moved** by John Reid; **seconded** by Hope Beanlands. Clarification requested regarding process: review the Recommendations one-by-one, revise their wording if/as appropriate, then vote on them as a bundle, rather than individually; **majority approval** for this approach, after which the floor was opened for discussion.

**RECOMMENDATION #1:**

**Original wording:**

*Council receive, review and vote on the Draft Report and Recommendations, but defer any further action until a meeting open to all RNSHS Members, in-person and online, has been held in order to enable full discussion, followed by a Members’ vote on the proposed Recommendations.*

**Facilitator:** This does not require further action; it was a Council matter and was approved by them.

**RECOMMENDATION #2:**

**Original wording:**

*Review and refresh **Objectives and By-laws.***

Discussion regarding overly broad wording and comment that considerable work was needed on by-laws (**Facilitator:** small Working Group or Groups will identify and explore specifics); otherwise, wording retained.

**RECOMMENDATION #3:**

**Original wording:**

*Review other foundation documents or similar statements, including a ‘touchstone statement,’ and refresh as appropriate.*

No comment from participants; wording retained.

**RECOMMENDATIONS #4 AND #5:**

Lengthy discussion and recognition of the need to discuss these two Recommendations further, led to a **Motion:** to defer consideration of Recommendations #4 and #5 in favour of continuing with the remaining Recommendations (#6 to #15), followed by a return to #4 and #5. **Moved** by Bennett McNutt; **seconded** by Raymond Lennark; **majority approval.**

*[For the sake of clarity and continuity: deferred discussion of Recommendations #4 and #5; addition of a NEW Recommendation #6; and Motion to approve all three have been inserted here, followed by renumbering former Recommendations #6-#15 as Recommendations #7-#16.]*

**RECOMMENDATION #4:**

**Original wording:**

*Develop **Diversity and Inclusion** commitment statement as part of or immediately following **Objectives** statement in the **by-laws**.*

Observation that this is introducing a value within a statement of purpose; no objection to this, but **Diversity** and **Inclusion** also do not cover all the values the Society would hold to – there are other equally important ones and the statement therefore needs to be broader.

Discussion over what values and which communities: **Diversity** and **Inclusion** are of central importance in the present-day context, especially given the need for the Society to acknowledge historical contributions from other communities, attract them as members, and offer value to them going forward. **Facilitator:** Working Group would further explore these aspects. Wording of recommendation was finally adjusted to:

*Develop **Diversity and Inclusion** commitment statement as part of a larger statement of **Values** for the Society*

**RECOMMENDATION #5:**

**Original wording:**

*Review and refresh wording for current statement acknowledging ancestral territory, and the use of this statement, after consultation with recognized Mi'kmaw representatives.*

.../

Wording retained, but further discussion regarding **Diversity** and **Inclusion**, and specifically the need to acknowledge the African Nova Scotian community which has historically been overlooked (with the understanding that many other communities will require the Society's attention as well), led to development of a new Recommendation [added here as NEW #6].

**[NEW] RECOMMENDATION #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.*

**Motion:** To approve: **1)** adjusted wording for Recommendation #4; **2)** original wording for Recommendation #5; and **3)** NEW Recommendation #6. **Moved:** Bennett McNutt; **seconded:** Stephanie Slaunwhite; **majority approval.**

**RECOMMENDATION #7:**

**Original wording:**

*Schedule a lecture within the next two calendar years, looking at early content featured in the Collections from an historiographical perspective.*

Clarification provided for query regarding intent and goal of this Recommendation: it will be a look-back exercise to identify, explore and acknowledge themes and past history. No further comment from participants; wording retained.

**RECOMMENDATION #8:**

**Original wording:**

*Explore and seek funding for a legacy project/research tool, to encourage improved access to and analysis of Collections/Journal content since 1878.*

Clarification provided for query regarding possibility of censorship; none intended. No further comment from participants; wording retained.

**RECOMMENDATION #9:**

**Original wording:**

*Continue hybrid delivery model for monthly lecture meetings (onsite, online, YouTube).*

See Recommendation #10 for comments; otherwise, wording retained.

**RECOMMENDATION #10:**

**Original wording:**

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

See Recommendation #11 for comments; otherwise, wording retained.

**RECOMMENDATION #11:**

**Original wording:**

*Move one monthly lecture meeting per year outside HRM, such meeting to be held with a local museum, like-minded organization or place of historical/cultural interest, with thought given to pairing the lecture subject and location.*

Concerns expressed regarding Recommendations #9, #10 and #11: matching content to venue might be constraining; Zoom works well for lectures but not for business portion of meeting (the need for which also should be acknowledged and accommodated); otherwise, wording retained.

**RECOMMENDATION #12:**

**Original wording:**

*Council and all VPs to continue encouraging and working with younger presenters and emerging scholars.*

No comment from participants; wording retained.

**RECOMMENDATION #13:**

**Original wording:**

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

No comment from participants; wording retained.

**RECOMMENDATION #14:**

**Original wording:**

*Review monthly meeting structure, including process for introducing new members, and make appropriate changes.*

General agreement (see comments re Recommendations #9, #10 and #11); wording retained.

**RECOMMENDATION #15:**

**Original wording:**

*Review current fee structure and make appropriate changes.*

General agreement, plus need to determine when fees are due; otherwise, wording retained.



## **RECOMMENDATION #16:**

### **Original wording:**

*Review framework and best-practices for RNSHS Fellows.*

No comment from participants; wording retained.

**Motion:** to rescind original motion (p.1) and replace it with a new one to approve Recommendations #1 to #3 and #6 - #15 [**the latter now re-numbered as #7-#16**]. **Moved** by Bennett McNutt; **seconded** by Raymond Lennark; **majority approval**.

[**Recommendations #4, #5 and NEW #6 approved separately; see above, p.4**].

All 16 Recommendations have therefore been voted upon and approved.

**Final comment from Allan Marble**, identifying a significant omission from the original Recommendations, namely the need to improve the Society's visibility, especially with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary approaching in 2028. Various opportunities were identified (including in comments received via email before the meeting), such as: essay contest at high-school level; distribution of *Journal* to high schools; involvement in student conferences, heritage fairs, etc.; involvement of prominent guests; and retail opportunities (branded merchandise).

### **Next Steps:**

- Some Recommendations have already begun moving forward as part of the Society's natural evolution, or as necessitated by pandemic delays.
- Other Recommendations may require reappraisal or adjustment due to altered circumstances since mid-2021, when the renewal exercise began.
- An Action Plan will be needed for work on remaining Recommendations, beginning with what can reasonably be accomplished during the Society's 2023-24 year.
- It is proposed that activities will be carried out gradually, by volunteers drawn from the Executive, Councillors and General Membership, likely beginning in fall 2023; groups will be small and focused, with reasonable objectives, time commitments, reporting arrangements and deadlines.
- None of this can be accomplished without the willingness of Society members to step forward and participate, leading to the Society's healthy renewal.

05-05-23

N. Neatby, recorder

L. Yorke, collator

### President's Annual Report – May 2023

This report marks the end of my three years as Society president, and is the first to note our post-pandemic activities. It is a time of transition. COVID-19 brought many challenges but limited opportunities; we now have many opportunities....and a host of new challenges. The only constant is change, of course, which is necessary in the life of any society. My comments here, and what you will see in the attached reports, describe our 'new normal' -- somewhat altered, still evolving, but looking ahead to a healthy future.

During the past year, your Executive and Council have worked to balance continuity and consistency within the Society against the inevitable march towards modernity and the calls for refresh and renewal. Despite delays incurred by pandemic restrictions, we have been able to host two consultations with members and interested observers, in October and April, concerning 'The Way Forward.' They were held in-person and via Zoom, and resulted in 16 approved Recommendations to begin moving the Society onward. Exploration of colonialism in our past will be addressed in a lecture already taking shape, designed to review early content in the *Collections* from an historiographical perspective. A searchable online database has also been proposed for the Society's website, in order to provide expanded public access to, and encourage fresh analysis of, content in the *Collections* and *Journal*. A final report on 'The Way Forward' and its Recommendations is included in this AGM package, while suggested priorities are being developed for the incoming Council. Throughout this two-year exercise, we have depended on the interest and support of members across the Society; we thank all of you who have demonstrated this.

Our most visible change over the past year has been moving to Halifax Central Library for our lecture series, within their community programming. Sara Hollett Rimmer (VP-Programme) led on negotiating this move, and we thank the Library for the opportunity to meet in a venue that fairly bursts with energy. Altered hours at the NS Archives necessitated the change – which has in turn led to another new, unanticipated challenge: the monthly agenda has had to be altered and foreshortened to meet the Library's firm closing time. We are now exploring how to build a larger business and social portion into the monthly meetings.

Over the past year a full series of nine lectures was offered, in-person and virtually (Zoom, YouTube, Eastlink Podium TV); this hybrid model will continue. The challenge now is translating new visitors – in-person or virtual -- into paid-up Society members, while offering them demonstrable value for their money. One way will be through the variety of topics and presenters we can develop and attract – especially younger and emerging scholars -- a direction already being explored by the VP-Programme.

After the monthly lectures, the Society's website is our next most important service, which Tanja Harrison (VP-Publicity) manages, including information posting and managing incoming inquiries – everything from media

and film production requests to family history queries. As anyone responsible for a live website knows, ingenuity and technical skills beyond the ordinary are required. This year, in addition to identifying ways to revitalize the site, Tanja has continued leading us into real-time delivery, distance participation and the mysteries of YouTube – all lecture-related services we had never even considered five years ago.

Our most visible legacy product remains the *Journal*; it too has experienced change and challenge over the past year. Volume 25, the last under Anne Marie Lane Jonah's direction, appeared in December and reflected once again her expert editorial guidance. Mathias Rodorff has transitioned into the Editor's chair, but his successor as Managing Editor remains elusive; the opportunity was advertised twice, with no applicants. Designed primarily for post-graduate students interested in the fundamentals of scholarly publishing, the Managing Editor has traditionally been an unpaid volunteer. Gaining experience is fine, but the time has come to acknowledge that a modest stipend is required to attract anyone.

This will be explored in the Society's coming year, and a solution may appear within our move to *Érudit*, the electronic publishing collective we have now joined. As Bennett McNutt (VP-Publications) reports, the transition to digital is progressing well, with support from Mathias; Volume 27 will be our debut, late in 2024. A benefit of participating in *Érudit* is that we will be eligible to apply for grants to support publishing activities.

Mathias has also chaired over the last two years a small ad hoc committee struck to administer the Society's Community Support Grants. An anonymous donation enabled us to test this initiative; over the trial period four grants of \$250 each have been awarded to community heritage organizations or individuals undertaking historical research. We believe the initiative is making a small difference and increasing our profile. Hope Beanlands (Treasurer), in managing our fiscal resources, has encouraged us to continue investing in small but strategic activities like this that benefit the Society; it is my hope the incoming Council will do so.

Grace McNutt (Membership Secretary) reports that membership levels have remained consistent from year-to-year at just over 200, including through the pandemic. Moving forward, and in order to retain current members and attract new ones, we have acknowledged the need to review the Society's fee structure and to explore new products and services that will add more value to membership.

This AGM will see various Council members complete their terms in key positions – Hope Beanlands (Treasurer), Tanja Harrison (VP-Publicity), Nicole Neatby and Stefanie Slaunwhite (Councillors). They have all demonstrated strong commitment to their respective roles and have added valuable perspective to our deliberations. In closing, it has been an honour – and a journey! -- to work with the Executive, Councillors and Members over the last three years. I thank you for the opportunity and wish my successor well – while I now replace Sara Beanlands as your new Past President. Fresh challenges and new opportunities lie ahead in the life of our Society – it is now 145 years old and much changed from what it was even ten years ago, but it remains strong and if the past is any indication, it will continue so into the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Yorke/President  
24 May 2023

**ROYAL NOVA SCOTIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
*preserving and promoting the history of nova scotia*

Treasurer's Report 2022 - 2023  
 Balance Sheet (Unaudited)  
 Prepared by Hope Beanlands, Treasurer

**March 31, 2023**

**ASSETS**

Current	
Cash	\$ 36,485.55
HST Receivable	\$ 318.18
	<u>\$ 36,803.73</u>
Inventory	\$ 4,020.00
Investments	\$ 0.00
	<u>\$ 40,823.73</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 40,823.73</u></b>

Statement of Operation and Net Assets (Unaudited)

**March 31, 2023**

Revenue	
Membership Dues	\$ 4,147.32
Donations	\$ 1,874.00
Journal Sales and Royalties	\$ 874.61
Conference Refund Mount Saint Vincent University	\$ 250.00
Interest Income	<u>\$ 308.31</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 7,454.24</b>
Expenses	
Bank Charges and Interest	\$ 103.34
Fees: PayPal	\$ 134.16
RNSHS Journal Production	\$ 3,787.42
Office Expenses	\$ 3,225.85
Community Grants	\$ 500.00
Speaker Expenses	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,750.34</b>
Liability: Uncashed cheque #000071	\$ 247.95
Expenditures exceeded Revenue by	\$ 296.10
Net Assets Beginning of Year	<u>\$ 41,214.00</u>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 40,823.73</b>



## Annual Report of the Vice-President, Programmes

May 24, 2023

During the 2022-23 programme season, the Society was pleased to once again be able to offer its public lecture series in-person as well as continuing in an online format via Zoom. This year, sharing the history of Nova Scotia went even more broadly with a new in person venue, in partnership with the Halifax Central Library. Many thanks to contact Local and Family History Specialist, Amy LeMoine, the Society was able to offer all 9 lectures in a hybrid format. Those presentations delivered between September 2022 and May 2023 were as follows:

1. *Activating the Archives: Margaret Perry's Nova Scotia Promotional Films (1945-1969)*, Jennifer VanderBurgh
2. *Maligomish: Roman Catholicism and the Persistence of Mi'kmaw Culture*, Colin Osmond
3. *Early White Audience Reactions to Blackface Performances on Halifax Stages (1830s-1860s)*, Nicole Neatby
4. *"The students are getting very restless": Student Power at the Provincial Normal School, 1869-1879*, John N. Grant
5. *A Park in the City: Debating the Public Gardens*, Peter L. Twohig
6. *The Marshall Indecision*, Brady Paul
7. *"He who is reluctant to recognize me opposes me": Self-Determination, Recognition, and Revolution Between the Black United Front and the Canadian State*, Evan Jennex
8. *Top of the Table Living Archives: Interrupting the Erasure of Black Being*, Lynn Jones
9. *"Marking" Identity and Respectability: Halifax's African School and Scholars of the Needle*, Lisa Bower

Participant numbers ranged from 25 to 60+ attending in-person and online. All speakers were able to be in-person at the Halifax Central Library where the lectures were also live-streamed. We had the opportunity to hear several young, new scholars present during this lecture programme series. Eastlink Podium TV aired a selection of talks, including those by Colin Osmond and Evan Jennex highlighting topics of Indigenous and African Nova Scotian history. Most lectures will be available soon via the RNSHS YouTube channel when editing and processing of videos is complete.

Sara Hollett Rimmer has been integral in her role as Vice-President, Programmes. We thank Sara, now on leave, who has prepared some exciting additions for the upcoming lecture series. Appreciation also goes out to fellow lecture team and Council members Lois Yorke, Sara Beanlands, Grace McNutt, and John MacLeod as well as Council and Community members for their support.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanja Harrison, Vice-President, Publicity  
on behalf of Sara Hollett Rimmer, VP Programmes (on leave)



**Vice-President Publications Report for the 2022-2023 Year**  
**Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society**  
**Bennett McNutt**

I would like to take this opportunity to again express all of our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Anne Marie Lane Jonah, who has stepped down as Editor following the publication of Volume 25 of the Journal. Her contributions have been instrumental in advancing the scholarship of the Journal. Thank you, Anne Marie, for your valuable service.

I am pleased to note that Mathias Rodorff has stepped-in as the new Editor of the Journal, and that the upcoming Volume 26 is well underway. Mathias has also been serving in his previous role as the Managing Editor in the interim and I would like to thank him for dedicating his expertise to maintaining the high standards of the Journal in both roles. Interested potential candidates for the Managing Editor position are encouraged to submit an application package as laid out in Appendix I. Members are also encouraged to welcome non-members in the early stages of an academic or History-related career, with substantive familiarity with Nova Scotia history, to apply for the position.

Volume 25 of the Journal was published in late 2022. I would like to express my gratitude to Anne Marie Lane Jonah as Editor, Mathias Rodorff as Managing Editor, Robert Bérard as Book Review Editor, Kenneth Paulsen as Genealogical Editor, and Elizabeth Eve as Copy Editor. Furthermore, I would like to thank the Advisory Board for their commitment to producing another strong issue, including John Reid, Shirley Tillotson, Deborah Trask, Jay White, Stephen Henderson, Joanne Collins-Gonsalves, James Morrison, Tanja Harrison, and Sara Hollett Rimmer. Lastly, I would like to again thank John Reid for his service as Vice-President Publications and for his assistance as I took over the role in July 2022.

Following up on the Statement on Distribution of the Journal included in John Reid's report for 2021-2022, I am pleased to inform members the Journal is positioned to publish our upcoming Volume 26 on the Érudit online platform. I am enthusiastic about the enhanced reach and availability of our content that this partnership will bring, as well as opportunities for further funding that will help us take our research to a wider audience, including scholars, researchers, and a broader academic community. Alongside the normal full print run, members can expect access to an electronic copy of the Volume through Érudit this fall.

Lastly, I will be working with the members of the Editorial Board and Council to better define the positions that make up the Editorial Board over the coming year. This work will aim to leave a clear set of defined roles that can effectively communicate the commitment entailed in each position. This will be done in an effort to support future searches for candidates to fill positions on the Editorial Board and to support future Editors and Managing Editors coming in from outside the organization in learning how the Editorial Board functions.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing Volume 26 with you in the fall.

Sincerely,  
Bennett McNutt

Appendix I: Position of Managing Editor, *Journal of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society*

The *Journal* of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society has advanced scholarship on the history of Nova Scotia since 1998 (and in previous forms going back another 120 years), making articles on a wide spectrum of important and pertinent subjects available to our members, and to the broader community. The Society plans to appoint, as an unpaid volunteer position, a Managing Editor for the *Journal*. The Managing Editor will assist the Editor, on the following basis:

The Editor will continue to determine (with peer review) the acceptability or otherwise of submitted manuscripts, will evaluate necessary revisions to the submissions, will initiate policy for the *Journal* (in consultation with the Editorial Board and subject when necessary to confirmation by the Society's Council), and will be the leading decision-maker in any other matters concerning the *Journal*.

The Managing Editor will have an administrative role, coordinating the peer review process in consultation with the Editor (including locating appropriate peer reviewers, conducting correspondence with them, and encouraging them to report in a full and timely manner), maintaining communication with the Copy Editor, supervising printing and distribution, and generally supporting the publication process of the *Journal* in all respects in collaboration with the Editor, the Genealogy Editor, and the Book Review Editor.

The position of Managing Editor will be suitable for a person in the early stages of an academic or History-related career, who has a substantive familiarity with Nova Scotia history. While current graduate students may be considered, a completed graduate degree (ideally at doctoral level) will be an asset. Because there may be a possibility (though subject to a selection process to be determined when the eventuality arises) of ultimately moving into the role of Editor, preference will be given to candidates who have a reasonable expectation of remaining in Nova Scotia for an extended time. The person appointed must be, or be willing to become, a member of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society.

In order to be considered, applications or nominations (accompanied by a *curriculum vitae* and covering letter) must be received by the Society's Vice-President, Publications, Bennett McNutt, at [Bennett.McNutt@dal.ca](mailto:Bennett.McNutt@dal.ca).

## **Annual Report of the Vice-President, Publicity**

**May 24, 2023**

The following are highlights since the last AGM, summarizing the 2022-23 year. The hybrid public lectures, with the online and in-person options hosted by the Society and the Halifax Central Library, were promoted throughout the year via the community listerv and social media accounts. Over the past year, the Society's Facebook account followers grew once again and is now at 3384 (up from 2939 this time last year). Twitter has seen a slight increase to 680 (from 648). The Society's YouTube channel subscription base, where recorded lectures are posted after editing, has a total of 88 subscribers at this writing (up from 62 last year).

Thanks to a new in-person venue, in partnership with the Halifax Central Library, the Society was able to work with Local and Family History Specialist, Amy LeMoine to further its reach and promote its lectures to the public library community under the series title *History Matters*.

The [info@rnshs.ca](mailto:info@rnshs.ca) central email account continues to be active, receiving research queries and increasingly, media requests for interviews or referral advice to find experts to take part in films and documentaries. It's an exciting time for the RNSHS in this regard. The Community Events section of the Society's website is actively being used to post community events upon request. The 'NS History Links' section of the website has grown over the past year, and historical societies and other related collectives have been reaching out to be included as they discover the listing opportunity. We've also fielded questions from three other historical groups enjoying our online lecture series, sharing tips on equipment purchases and best practices for hybrid events. The Society's website host was purchased by a new company; we're now navigating the new ticketing system to receive technical advice and submit other systems requests.

It has been a pleasure and formative learning experience to have worked with the Society and its Council over the past 5 years, 4 of these in the role of Vice-President Publicity. I want to thank our outgoing President Lois Yorke for her fine leadership and professionalism throughout her tenure. She and outgoing Past President Sara Beanlands, as well as the Executive team and Council members, have been a wonderful support network for the work of this role and I have benefitted from their excellent good humour, and patience. I look forward to staying closely connected in the future as an active member of the Society.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tanja Harrison  
Vice-President, Publicity





Report of the Membership Secretary to the Annual General Meeting, 24 May 2023

Membership as of May 24, 2023

Type of Membership	2021-22 (year end)	2022-23 (year end)	2023-24 (so far)
Life Members	15	15	15
Individual Member - Canada	137	84	29
Individual Member - USA	13	8	2
Individual Member - International	0	0	0
Institutional Member - Canada	29	20	21
Institutional Member - USA	6	6	5
Institutional Member - International	2	1	1
Family Members	3	2	0
Student Members	3	4	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>73</b>

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

New members added in 2022-23 = 17

**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 2023



## RNSHS Community Support Grants - Report from the Sub-Committee

Members: Raymond Lennark, Nicole Neatby and Mathias Rodorff

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 two recipients received a cheque and were asked to submit a follow-up report within three months of completing their funded activity. For 2022 the two recipients were the St. John's Anglican Church Heritage Committee (Lunenburg) and Laurie Glenn Norris.

The St. John's Anglican Church Heritage Committee was granted our support for their conservation efforts by producing a bound book of photographs of the engravings in the John Baskett, 1717, King James Bible (known as the "Vinegar Bible"), owned by St. John's Anglican Church, which is located at Lunenburg. Once completed this bound book will be available to members of the public and researchers to view the engravings in this historic Bible, without touching the Bible and thereby reducing the risk of damage.

The second community support grant was awarded to Laurie Glenn Norris to support her research of the Seaman family, Minudie (Nova Scotia). This research is part of an ongoing project (working title: Paper Remains: The Documented Life of a Nova Scotia Family) of writing a biographical micro-history of this Seaman family. The grant supported her research at the Acadia University Archives in Wolfville and the West Hants Historical Society Museum and Archives in Windsor. Both sides offered useful information and archival material that had not been located elsewhere.

On behalf of the Sub-Committee and the Society I sincerely thank all the people who had applied in 2022 and congratulate the two recipients. In the fall of this year, we are looking forward to receiving the next applications for these two annual grants.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mathias Rodorff  
19 May 2023

ROYAL NOVA SCOTIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
*preserving and promoting the history of nova scotia*

**Nominating Committee  
May 2023**

<b>POSITION:</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</b>
PRESIDENT	Stefanie Slaunwhite	2023
PAST PRESIDENT	Lois Yorke	2023
VICE PRESIDENT- PROGRAMMES	Sara Hollett Rimmer	2021 (need 1-year replacement)
VICE PRESIDENT- PUBLICITY	Courtney Mrazek	2023
VICE PRESIDENT- PUBLICATIONS	Bennett McNutt	2022
SECRETARY	John MacLeod	2001
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Mathias Rodorff	2022
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Grace McNutt	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