



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
28 MAY 2025, ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

- 1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Deceased Members – Moment of Silence**
- 3. Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting (22 May 2024)**
- 4. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 5. President's Report**
- 6. Treasurer's Report**
- 7. Appointment of Auditor for 2025-2026**
- 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 the *Journal* Editor**
- 11. Report of the Community Grants Committee**
- 12. Report of the Website Working Group**
- 13. Motion – Land Acknowledgement Working Group**
- 14. Motion – Donation in Memory of Tanja Harrison**
- 15. Report of Nomination Committee**
- 16. New Business**
- 17. Adjournment**



Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society

Minutes of Annual Meeting, held in the Zoom-a-verse, 22 May 2024.

1. **Opening.** The Society's President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with 23 members present.
2. **Agenda:** Additions to the agenda, which had been circulated prior to the start of the meeting were solicited from those present. With no additions or changes requested the agenda was adopted as circulated on the motion of Wayne Slaunwhite 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 Gordon Beanlands, Brian Cuthbertson, Philip Bagnell and Alan Wilson to the life of the Society and the understanding of our Province.
4. **Minutes of Annual Meeting 2023.** The minutes of this meeting, held 24 May 2023, were accepted on the motion of John Macleod and Lois Yorke.
5. **Business arising from the minutes:** Business as required, will be included under relevant headings already included on the Agenda.
6. **President:** The President reviewed some of the highlights that were included in her written report. During the year Alex Myrick had joined the Council, and the nominations report would welcome John Langley to the Council and see Dawn Caldwell as Treasurer following a shadowing period with Hope Beanlands. She thanked Hope Beanlands for her extended term as Treasurer. She indicated work on the *Way Forward* report had continued and the Society hoped to soon resume a social event like the annual dinner. The Society awarded one 250-dollar community grant during the year to Sandi Stewart of UNB.
7. **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 \$6,600 and expenses of \$4,590. While the Balance Sheet showed \$44,751 in assets on March 31 2024 with only \$4,020 being attributed to inventory.

On her successful motion, seconded by Stefanie Slaunwhite these draft statements were received and the firm of Smith and Touesnard was continued as our auditors to review the statements and to prepare any compliance statements necessary for the Canadian Revenue Agency.

8. Reports of Vice Presidents;
 - a. **Program:** Sara Rimmer reviewed the program of the past year which had attracted an average in person attendance of 30 with an additional 55 online. Four of the lectures were recorded by EastLink. Our microphones had sometimes not met our expectations and we would be looking at this for the future.
 - b. **Publicity:** Courtney Mrazek reviewed the activities to promote the Society and its events which were more fully covered in her report. She noted a high open rate of 65% for our mailing and that are FaceBook reach continued to grow. She also indicted that the WordPress website interface was challenging to update.
 - c. **Publications:** Although Bennett McNutt also had a written report in the meeting package he wanted to thank the contributors to the next volume of the *Journal* and those who had worked on it. Specific thanks were directed to our editor, Mathias Rodorff. He expected the *Journal* would soon be at the printers.
9. **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. She also had often been the keeper of the microphones for our online meetings.
10. **Community Support Grants:** Mathias Rodorff, the Chair of this committee which also included Raymond Lennark and Wayne Slaunwhite, thanked all who had applied or expressed interest in our grants. As mentioned earlier one award had been made to Sandi Stewart of UNB.

On the motion of Wayne Slaunwhite and Bennett McNutt all of the circulated reports of committees and officers were accepted as presented.

11. **Nominations Committee:** Lois Yorke then presented the report of the nominating committee. The in-term additions to the Council and Dawn's arrival as Treasurer meant there were few changes in the actual report of suggested nominees. John Langley of Baddeck, who had been a Council member a number of years ago, was nominated as a member of Council.

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
Vice-President (Publicity)	Courtney Mrazek	2023
Vice-President (Publications)	Bennett McNutt	2022
Secretary	John Macleod	2001
Secretary (Membership)	Grace McNutt	2022
Assistant Secretary	Mathias Rodorff	2022
Treasurer	Dawn Caldwell	2024
Councillor	Brian Tennyson	2023
Councillor	John Langley	2024
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 Bennett McNutt that nominations cease and that the slate of officers and councilors be adopted as presented. This was accepted by all present.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:46



President's Annual Report – May 2025

This report covers the activities of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society for the 2024-2025 year. Our Council met every two months between September 2024 and May 2025 to discuss new and ongoing matters related to the Society. As the second year of my term draws to close, I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have supported the RNSHS this year. This includes the Council and Executive of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society and The Halifax Public Library.

The Nominating Committee has made the following recommendation to fill our one vacant position for the 2025-2026 year. Our current VP Programme, Sara Hollett Rimmer, will oversee the transition and continue to help with technology and the monthly lecture delivery. I would also like to thank Jay White for joining us mid-way through the year in the position of VP Publications, and to Alex Myrick for taking on the position of Managing Editor for the *Journal*.

The double-edition of the *Journal* is underway, and I would like to thank Mathias Rodorff for his continued attention to producing a fine publication. Without Mathias, alongside the dedication of Jay and Alex, we would not have been able to produce our long-awaited double-edition of the *Journal*, and their continued efforts will ensure the longevity of the publication. More information about online accessibility via Erudit to follow, and we will continue to update membership as we progress to paperless publication.

Our Community Grant information has been somewhat delayed this year, but with the intention of offering one, larger grant, as opposed to two, smaller grants. At our March council meeting, it was moved that instead of two grants of \$250 each, we would instead award one grant annually in the amount of \$500. This decision was made to reflect the rising costs facing all those pursuing historical research and preservation, and we hope to continue to offer this grant in the years to come. The grant was recently advertised with a deadline of June 30, and we welcome applications from individuals and institutions.

Our Lecture Series was successful this year, with one lecture remaining in June. We offered monthly lectures from September to April, with a special lecture taking place on 25 June 2025. In lieu of the Annual Banquet, we be hosting a Meet & Greet before our June Lecture. The Annual Banquet continues to be on hiatus until further notice. This will be revisited by the again 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 continue to make progress with the “The Way Forward” Report (completed April 2023) and have implemented or continued with several recommendations this year.

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

Consultation has been completed via a small sub-committee, with appropriate consultation. Revised draft wording is presented elsewhere in this AGM package for members' consideration, discussion and ratification.

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.

Discussion was included within review of #5. It was decided and subsequently agreed to by RNSHS Council, that acknowledgement of *ancestral territory* focuses on those who were here when others (African Nova Scotians, Acadians, Germans, etc.) arrived. No further action is therefore indicated at present, regarding this.

Recommendations #10 and #11: One-time partnership locations for special theme-based monthly meetings within and outside HRM have either been tested and/or remain under active consideration.

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

Reference to the VP Programme's Report for 2024-25 is evidence of continued activities and success in this commitment.

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

VP Programme's Report for 2024-25 demonstrates continuing commitment.

Recommendation #14: Review monthly meeting structure, including process for introducing new members, and make appropriate changes.

Council has agreed, moving forward, to: identify and welcome new members at each monthly meeting; use this opportunity for others to provide items of general heritage interest; and on a trial basis, to begin monthly meetings, Central Library, at 6:00 or 6:30 p.m., thus providing time for complimentary refreshments and conversation.

Respectfully submitted,

Stefanie Slaunwhite

15 May 2025



Treasurer's Report

Assets	2024	2025
Current		
Cash	11411.32	17541.06
HST receivable	257.66	434.05
Other receivables	2562.74	*1414.00
Inventory	4020.00	4020.00
Investments	<u>26500.00</u>	<u>28,000.00</u>
Total Assets	44,751.72	51409.11

*interest on GICs pending April 30, 2025

Statement of operations and Net Assets March 31, 2035

	2024	2025
Revenue		
Membership dues/donations	5171.12	4460.97
Journal sales and royalties	152.11	5863.57
Interest income	<u>1121.25</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total revenue	6444.48	10324.54
Expenses		
Bank charges	108.12	137.77
Paypal charges	96.33	90.78
RNSHS journal production	576.47	2332.59
Office Expense	1774.23	1621.25
Community grants	250.00	0.00
Speaker expenses	250.00	0.00
Room rental	431.25	0.00
The way forward consultation	1122.68	0.00
Zoom subscription	230.00	173.00
Donation	<u>0.00</u>	<u>72.00</u>
Total expenses	4589.08	4677.39

Liabilities (outstanding invoice)	0.00	352.00
Net Assets Beginning of year	40823.73	44751.22
Net Assets End of Year	<u>44751.72</u>	<u>51409.11</u>

Revenue vs expenditure	3927.99	6305.89
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Notes:

1. GICs totalling \$28,000.00 were purchased in April 2024 and will yield \$1414.00 when they mature on April 29, 2025. Reinvestment will occur after consultation with council

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 2023-4 expenditures exceeded revenue by \$ 3927.99. In 2024-5, revenue exceeded expenditures by \$6657.39

4. The value of the journal inventory (previous issues) has not changed in the last four years. A process to review the inventory and assign a value needs to be developed/adopted in the coming year.

Prepared by Dawn Caldwell
Treasurer



Report of the Vice-President, Programmes May 28, 2025

We had another successful lecture season in 2024-2025:

1. September 18, 2024: "The War on Tuberculosis: The Nova Scotia Sanatorium and Patient Trends," Courtney Mrazek
2. October 16, 2024: "Bluenose Bluebirds: Nova Scotia's Military Nurses in the Great War," Brian Tennyson
3. November 20, 2024: "Life and Work on Sable Island: the early federal record of island operations," Anne Marie Lane Jonah
4. December 11, 2024: "The Painter, His Muse and Their Marriage: George Harvey and Priscilla Wells in Late Victorian Halifax," Lois Yorke
5. January 15, 2025: "'An Unspeakable Crime': The Divisive Reaction of the Halifax Press toward the July Crisis and Outbreak of the First World War," Liam Caswell
6. February 19, 2025: "The Tides of History: Exhibit Renewal at Halifax Citadel National Historic Site," Keith Mercer and Michael Kilfoil
7. March 19, 2025: "Nova Scotia's first public servant: the Governor's Secretary," Christopher McCreery
8. April 16, 2025: "*Not Just Nice Guys*: Uncovering the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union," Alex Robben
9. June 25, 2025: "Ireland, Atlantic Canada and the Crimean War: imperial connectivity and shared experiences?" Paul Huddie (guest lecturer from University College Dublin, research supported by the Ireland Canada University Foundation's Craig Dobbin Legacy Programme)

All of our lectures this year were held at the Halifax Central Library (the December 2024 lecture was in Paul O'Regan Hall). The June 25 lecture is upcoming and will include refreshments. We had some great and engaging speakers this year, including very talented young scholars (Liam Caswell and Alex Robben).

Participant numbers were high again in 2024-2025. The library keeps detailed numbers of in person participants and Zoom participants, but our average in-person was around 25 people and average on Zoom was 20 people. All lectures were livestream and recorded for later uploading on the RNSHS YouTube channel. We continued to have complaints about one of our microphones not working at the beginning of the year, but temporarily fixed the problem by livestreaming on one channel only (ideally, the mics operate on 2 different channels).

Looking to 2025-2026, 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 2025-2026 year and dates are currently being booked. Our main contact at HPL, Amy LeMoine, will be away from the library next year and there will be a replacement for her position (TBD). We worked with Eastlink Podium TV again this year. They filmed the December lecture, the November lecture, and the February lecture. None have aired yet on Eastlink Podium TV, as far as I know.

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

Lastly, this is my last year as VP Programmes. Thanks to everyone for their help finding lecturers over the past couple years. I plan to organize the Fall lectures and will be available to help whoever takes over as VP Programmes.

Respectfully submitted

Sara Hollett

Vice-President, Programmes

May 28, 2025



Report of Vice President of Publications

In October 2024 I agreed to take on the role of VP Publications for the JRNSHS, succeeding Bennett McNutt. In December 2024 I met via Zoom with Editor Mathias Rodorff to discuss my duties and responsibilities, as well as progress on the forthcoming double volume. Both Bennett McNutt and John Reid have kindly offered their assistance as advisors on an as-needed basis.

My primary responsibility is supporting the Journal's relations with Érudit, following on groundwork laid by John Reid and Bennett McNutt. This involves submission of digital production files to Érudit for publishing online editions of the Journal on their website.

In February 2025 I met via Zoom with our new contact at Érudit, Chloë Marshall. This meeting was helpful in outlining requirements for digital publication of the Journal. I was glad to know that the cost of preparing the double issue for online access will not exceed the cost for a single issue. I also learned that the current subscription fee is \$79, based on 5% annual increases over the past two years.

Subject to Council's approval, matters that will need attention going forward include offering individual subscriptions to the digital edition of the Journal via Érudit, providing access to the JRNSHS from the Journal's own website, and keeping ProQuest + EBSCO indexes up to date upon publication of latest issues.

Respectfully submitted,

James White

May 2025



Annual Report of the Vice-President, Publicity 15 May 2025

The following are highlights since the last AGM, summarizing the 2024-2025 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 (Mailchimp), Facebook, Twitter, and on the RNSHS website.

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:

- Our mailing list has grown over the last year. At the last AGM we had 410 email subscribers. We are currently at 482.
- 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 59-68% range. While this may seem low, there are a lot of older emails subscribed to the account that may no longer be active.

Facebook:

- The Society's Facebook account followers has continued to grow. It was at 3.3K at the 2022-2023 AGM, 3.4K at the 2023-2024 AGM, and is at 3.5K followers currently.
- Our average reach (accounts that saw posts) across the 2024-2025 year was 450 people through Facebook.
- Our average likes/reactions was 5 per post, down from 7 last year. If we want to boost engagement, it would help if members should share the RNSHS posts on their Facebook to reach a larger audience.

Twitter:

- On Twitter/X we currently have 606 followers, this is down from last year's 674 followers. This is likely due to many people leaving the platform in favour of one's like Bluesky. The society should consider expanding platforms – possibly to Instagram and Bluesky.

WordPress (RNSHS Website Platform):

- As of right now, there is no data/statistical reports telling us engagement levels from people using our website. There is an ongoing Website Working Group project looking into hiring a web design consultant/company to redesign the society's website, and a budget to do so will be voted on at the AGM.

YouTube:

- I have not been using YouTube this year. My predecessor in this position gave me the password, but someone else had been editing recorded videos and sending them to post. I intend to look into editing recorded videos this summer and hopefully post recorded lectures in the 2025-2026 year.

Email correspondence:

The info@rnshs.ca central email account continues to be active, receiving research and journal article queries. To 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



Report of the Membership Secretary to the Annual General Meeting, 28 May 2025
Membership as of May 14, 2025

Type of Membership	2023-24	2024-25
Life Members	14	14
Individual Member - Canada	116	83
Individual Member - USA	9	5
Individual Member - International	0	0
Institutional Member - Canada	31	27
Institutional Member - USA	6	5
Institutional Member - International	1	3
Family Members	1	2
Student Members	5	2
TOTAL	183	141

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
Mrs. Joan Dawson, FRNSHS
Dr. Judith Fingard, FRNSHS
Dr John N Grant, FRNSHS
Dr. Alan E Marble, FRNSHS
Dr. Henry Roper, FRNSHS
Ms. Karen Smith, FRNSHS

Grace McNutt
Membership Secretary

May 2025



Report from the *Journal* Editors

Members: Alex Myrick and Mathias Rodorff

Dear members,

The past two years have been challenging for the *Journal*-Team. Due to the delays of publishing Vol. 26 (2023) and a low number of submissions for Vol. 27 (2024) the Council has approved the following exception:

Both volumes will be published as one “Double-Volume.” This means that both volumes will be put together and the table of contents will distinguish between the contents of Vol. 26 and Vol. 27. This will allow us to avoid any further delays and will also save printing costs.

This decision was not made lightly and will remain a one-time exception. The expected publication will be in June 2025. Volume 28 (2025) will be back on schedule and is planned to be published in October 2025.

On behalf of the editorial team, we are truly sorry for the delay and any inconveniences that this delay may have caused.

Respectfully submitted,

Mathias Rodorff (*Journal* Editor)

Alex Myrick (Managing Editor)

16 May 2025



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. As announced in the “RNSHS Community Support Grants report” for the AGM 2024 the sub-community reviewed the grant description, eligibilities, and advertisement. As a result of this review process the Sub-Committee presented its recommendations at the Council on 18 March 2018. The recommendations included clarifying the eligibility criteria and decreases the numbers of the grants to one, but, at the same time, to increase this one grant to \$500. The Committee concurs that while the idea of separate grants for individuals and groups was rooted in a good idea, the experiences of the past years showed that two distinct applications streams resulted in receiving multiple and supportable applications for one stream and nothing for the other. The Committee also emphasized that the effort to complete an application was disproportionate to the \$250 size of the potential award.

On 18 March 2025 the Council discussed these recommendations and unanimously approved the motion to merge the two annual grants into one grant worth of \$500. Furthermore, it was decided to launch the call for applications for this one grant with an extended deadline until 30 June 2025. On behalf of the Sub-Committee and the Society I sincerely thank all Council members for their support and consideration and we are looking forward to receiving applications no later than 30. June 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Mathias Rodorff

16 May 2025



**Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society
Website Working Group Annual Report
May 13, 2025**

Overview

Over the past several years, members of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society have expressed increasing frustration with our existing website. It is, by all measures, outdated: key pages are difficult to navigate, there are many broken or inactive links within the site, and the overall design is not responsive to mobile or tablet screens, making it inconvenient for users accessing the site on different devices. Moreover, much of the content remains stale or redundant, including outdated announcements, duplicated menus, and archived materials that are neither searchable nor consistently formatted. These issues not only diminish the society's online presence but also hinder our ability to reach new audiences, engage current members, and promote upcoming programming in a clear and accessible manner.

In addition to these usability concerns, the website's back-end infrastructure is no longer adequate for the evolving needs of the Society. Our current e-commerce features are minimal and poorly integrated, making it cumbersome for members to pay dues or register for events. There is also no clear pathway to link or embed the new digital version of our journal, which we are aiming to host externally in the near future. Our current site also lacks robust search functionality, analytics to track visitor activity, and a content management system that would allow board members or administrative staff to update pages without needing to understand HTML or web development. These deficiencies underscore the need for a professionally redesigned site that is user-friendly, mobile-optimized, and reflective of the Society's longstanding commitment to excellence in historical scholarship and public outreach.

Over the past year, the Website Working Group has worked to identify the main problems with our current website, determine which content we should preserve and transfer to a new platform, and consult with both local Nova Scotian and other Canadian web design companies to assess the scope of work required and to obtain cost estimates for the redesign. Initially we contacted Hop Creative, a local web design firm led by Trevor Delaney, to inquire about website redesign pricing and update options for the society's page. We also made contact with two other Canadian-based web design companies (Apex Web Studios and Potens Digital). The following information was gleaned from our correspondences with these groups;

Detailed Discussion with Hop Creative's Trevor Delaney

- **Trevor's Experience:**
He mentioned he has over 20 years of experience, has built nearly 1,000 websites, and

was once the lead web designer at the *Chronicle Herald* for 8 years. He has also worked with major clients like Macy's, the New York Rangers, and Saputo Cheese.

- **Project Details:**

Trevor asked if we planned to keep the same number of pages from our current website or if we wanted to add or remove pages. He also inquired about our e-commerce needs beyond the existing PayPal component for membership fees. I responded that we intended to keep most of the pages, although we might remove some content, but have not yet finalized what content we will be removing and what other changes we may make to the layout of the website's pages. I also clarified that, to the best of my knowledge, our e-commerce requirement is limited to the membership fee payment system.

- **Quote:**

Trevor estimated the work would cover 12–15 pages (depending on how many pages we will want to keep and how many we will want to remove) and one e-commerce area, using Squarespace (with an extra hosting fee of about \$25/month), along with mobile design, and a training video to inform the council as to how we maintain the site for years to come. The total cost was estimated at 45 hours of work at \$60 per hour, which equals \$2,700.00 (plus taxes).

Responses from other Web Designers

- **Apex Web Studios (Ontario office - <https://apexwebstudios.net/pricing/>):**
They estimated our project would cost between \$1500 and \$2500 USD.

- **Potens Digital (Ontario - <https://potensdigital.com/>):**
Representative Michel Saba explained their different service options. Their bronze package (about \$2000) seems to meet our needs, while the silver package (around \$4000) would include additional services. Saba also sent me a list of the different services offered by his company in their packages. This list, included below, should provide further insight into the services and features we will want to consider keeping and adding to our new site.

- **Number of Pages** – How many pages the website has.
- **Style of Design** – How simple or advanced the design is.
- **Website Copywriting** – Writing text for the website pages.
- **Responsive Design** – Website adjusts to different screen sizes (desktop, mobile, tablet, etc.)
- **Database Integration** – Connecting website to store and manage data (this is mainly for companies that sell products).
- **Content Management Software (CMS)** – Allows easy website updates without coding (this makes it easier for your team to make the changes directly on the website - i.e., upcoming lectures).
- **E-Commerce Functionality** – Ability to sell products/services online.
- **Initial SEO Setup** – Basic setup to improve search rankings (showing up on the first page of Google).
- **End of Project Document** – Summary of work done on website.

- **Site Map Submission** – Helping search engines (i.e., Google, Yahoo, Bing) find website pages.
- **Post Launch One Month Support** – Fixes and support after website launch.
- **Analytics & Pixel Setup** – Tracking website visitors and their behaviour.
- **Visual Chat Bots** – Automated chat assistant for website visitors.
- **Select Industry Plugins** – Extra features tailored for specific industries.
- **CRM Integrations** – Connecting website to customer management tools.

Council's Provisional Decision

At the most recent council meeting on 12 Monday, 2025, the Website Working Group presented our findings and council provisionally approved that;

1. The website renewal project expenses do not exceed a budget of \$4000.00.
2. That we acquire the services of a preferably local web designer in the price range of \$3000.00.
3. That these expenses will **not** cover the ongoing costs of maintaining and hosting our website through a website hosting service such as Squarespace, or Wix.

Conclusion

In light of the clear and persistent limitations of our current website, Council recognizes the importance of communicating transparently with members about our efforts to modernize and improve the Society's digital presence. The work undertaken by the Website Working Group over the past year reflects both a commitment to due diligence and a strong desire to ensure that any redesign remains responsive to the Society's longstanding goals: to engage our membership, share our scholarship, and uphold our public outreach mandate.

By provisionally approving a budget and exploring multiple design options—particularly from local professionals—Council is seeking to ensure that the final product meets our functional needs while remaining financially responsible. As we move toward a formal vote at the Annual General Meeting, it is essential that all members understand the rationale, scope, and benefits of the proposed redesign. We look forward to presenting these findings to the full membership and to advancing a project that will serve the Society well into its next chapter.

Prepared by Alex Myrick



**DRAFT MOTION FOR RATIFICATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 28 MAY 2025**

Land Acknowledgement

The Land Acknowledgement Working Group, comprised of Councillors Christopher McCreery and Alex Myrick, and President Stefanie Slaunwhite, have produced a revised Land Acknowledgement for ratification by membership. This Land Acknowledgement was created in consultation with Tuma Young and reflects the importance of the Peace and Friendship Treaties in our society today.

Current:

I will begin by acknowledging that we are on the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people in what is today Nova Scotia. This land is bound by the spirit and intent of the 1725 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and subsequent treaties that remain foundational to today's relationship shared by the Mi'kmaq, their allied indigenous nations, and Canadians everywhere. 'We are all Treaty People.'

Revised:

We acknowledge that this land is covered by the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed with the Wabanaki people* after 1693, when the British first came to them. Nowhere in the treaties was the land ceded, nor did the Wabanaki give up their way of life. These Treaties of Peace and Friendship are still valid and followed today. This is why we say: "We are all Treaty People."

*Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, Passamaquoddy, Abenaki and Penobscot tribes.

MOTION:

Members of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society approve the revised Land Acknowledgement.

Moved

Seconded

Date – 28 May 2025



**DRAFT MOTION FOR RATIFICATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 28 MAY 2025**

[The following motion was tabled, discussed and approved unanimously but provisionally, subject to ratification by the Society's general membership, at the RNSHS Council Meeting of 12 May 2025. It is presented here for formal ratification.]

DRAFT:

Tanja Harrison, a valued member of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society, died in Dartmouth NS on December 2nd 2024, after a courageous battle with metastatic breast cancer. She was at the very centre of the Society's most recent activities, serving two consecutive terms as Vice President (Publicity), 2018-2024. She helped guide us through the pandemic, kept us focused on carrying on, and offered wise guidance for our endeavours, large and small. She was a bright and shining light, and we will miss her greatly.

Tanja was an advocate for Dense Breasts Canada, a non-profit organization, and believed strongly that Nova Scotia Health has an obligation to provide improved access to ultrasound screening for women with dense breasts. Therefore,

MOTION:

Members of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society approve that a donation of \$500.00 be made to Dense Breasts Canada in memory of Tanja Harrison.

Moved

Seconded

Date – 28 May 2025



Proposed Executive and Council 2025-2026

President	Stefanie Slaunwhite	2023
Past President	Lois Yorke	2023
Vice President Programs	vacant	
Vice President Publications	Jay White	2024
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,
Nomination Committee
14-05-25