

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive and Council of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society, 1 April 2015

Present:		Regrets:
Jerry Bannister	Bertrum MacDonald	Ross Langley
Rosemary Barbour	George Parker	John MacLeod
Sara Beanlands	Iris Shea	
Blake Brown	Corey Slumkoski	
John Cordes	Deborah Trask	
John Grant	Anjali Vohra	
James Morrison		

1. Welcome

The President welcomed the Executive and Council.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated on a motion of John Grant seconded by Sara Beanlands and approved unanimously.

3. Minutes of last Meeting, 21 January 2015

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 21 January 2015 were approved as circulated on a motion of Bertrum MacDonald seconded by Iris Shea and approved unanimously.

4. Business Arising

a. Website Follow-up

Jim Morrison, Bertrum MacDonald, John MacLeod, John Cordes and Sara Beanlands met with Alison Froese-Stoddard in late January. Alison is interested in continuing as our website manager <http://rnshs.ca/>. She would like more material for the website. Jim has given her the minutes of our last meeting and the descriptions of lectures that John MacLeod e-mailed to members. Jim suggested that we investigate having a university student do a blog. Alison has redesigned the first page of the website and added a Twitter feed.

b. Lieutenant-Governor's Patronage

Jim has been in touch with Dr. Chris McCreery, Private Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor. His Honour would like to hold two or three events at Government House next year. These may include a lecture before and after Christmas and a reception in the May.

c. Letter re Royal Society of Canada Report

Jim Morrison and Bertrum MacDonald have written to the Hon. Shelley Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages and to the Hon. Tony Ince, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, copied to the Hon Karen Casey, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Hon Diana Whalen, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board concerning

the Royal Society of Canada's expert panel report on the future of archives and libraries, *The Future Now: Canada's Libraries, Archives and Public Memory* (November 2014). They brought to the attention of the Ministers the importance of financial support for Nova Scotia's cultural institutions

d. Letter re Graduate Scholarships

Jim Morrison wrote to The Hon. Kelly Regan, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education copied to the Hon Tony Ince, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, and the Hon Karen Casey, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development concerning the Nova Scotia Government Graduate Fellowship Programme pointing out that graduate students studying in the tourism and heritage sectors are ineligible for funding and requesting that this be reviewed.

e. Clarification of Complimentary Memberships

Jim Morrison clarified that complimentary memberships given to the student presenters at the last meeting were for the current year only. John Grant mentioned that the students appreciated the membership and copies of the *Journal* as well as the letter from Jim Morrison. One of the presenters, Katherine Crooks, may prepare her paper for submission to the *Journal*.

5. President's Report (Jim Morrison)

a. Outreach

Sara has received e-mails requesting information on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's honorary lifetime membership in the Society and volunteer judges for the grade 5/6 Heritage Fair at Sycamore Lane Elementary School in Lower Sackville.

Rosemary has found that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was made an honorary member in about 1902 and will check our records for any correspondence about this. We are unable to provide judges for this year's Heritage Fair but Sara was asked to reply that the school should ask again next year and, in the meantime, suggest that Bob Harvey may be able to help.

b. Pier 21

Jim spoke with Monica MacDonald and Steve Schwingamer of the Canadian Museum of immigration at Pier 21 and then with Jerry Bannister and John Grant about the Society making a presentation at Pier 21 on 18 May 2016 as part of an immigration conference to be held there. [The Museum reopens in May 2016.] Pier 21 staff suggested that our May lecture could be the keynote lecture of the conference. There would be no financial commitment to the Society for participating in the conference. We may be able to request a reception at Government House for the Thursday following. Information about the *Journal* and possibly off-prints of Jim Morrison's, Grace Bell's and Albert Lee's *Chinese Migration to the Maritimes: The Early Years, 1890-1947* published in volume 16 of the *Journal* could be included in the conference package. Since the May meeting is our AGM, we would have to hold the AGM prior to the lecture or make other arrangements for it. The conference organizers have also been in touch with the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia.

6. Treasurer's Report (John Cordes)

John Cordes circulated a Statement of Revenue and Expenditures showing a net income of \$726.30. This includes an estimated HST rebate of \$1850.00. A \$5000 GIC for one year was transferred to RBC. A letter confirming our charitable status from the Canadian Revenue Agency is required to obtain reduced fees from PayPal. An HST refund request has not been filed for the first 6 months of 2014 due to discrepancies in the Dalhousie University Club's invoice for last year's annual dinner. John has been in touch with the University Club to clear this up. He also has requested the confidential information required from all members of the Executive and Council for the CRA return. He will finalize the books and contact Hugh Creighton, our auditor.

7. Vice Presidents' Reports

a. Publicity (Sara Beanlands)

Sara reported that she was pleased with the meeting with Alison Froese-Stoddard and that they have identified the direction in which they want the website to develop. Sara has sent Alison notices about heritage-related events and Alison decides on which platform to publish it (website, Facebook, Twitter). Rick Howe, Radio 95.7, has been setting aside a regular time for an interview with the RNSHS's upcoming lecturer, typically on the Monday before the meeting. Hilary MacKinlay spoke about the Pacific whaling journal of Thomas Creighton on 16 February, Creighton Barrett spoke about the American sponsorship of Helen Creighton's folk song collecting on 16th March and Ernie Dick will be interviewed on 13 April.

Sara will send out an e-mail about the annual banquet.

Atlantic News has contacted us to obtain more copies of the *Journal* for sale. Sara and Rosemary will investigate what the terms of sale were.

b. Publications (George Parker)

George reported that we are unable to collect our royalties, a small amount so far, until we provide them with an individual's name and address. They will not issue cheques to post office addresses. Several papers are being prepared for the upcoming *Journal*.

Ross Langley's daughter is working with him on his paper on "The Hon Allan J MacEachen in the creation and the passage of the Medical Care Act 1966". Kirrily Freeman's paper on "The Monuments Women: Captain Edith Standen and the Restitution of Looted Art" is with readers for review. Terrence Murphy's "The Irish Catholics in Halifax" has been approved by readers. Katherine Crooks, Creighton Barrett and Ernie Dick would like to submit papers and papers are expected from Josh Smith and Jim Frost.

c. Programme (John Grant)

John reported that he has speakers lined up for the next year:

September 2015	Sharon MacDonald "The Bell Family of Baddeck" (Blakeley Lecture)
October 2015	Todd Scott "Mi'kmaq and Acadian Armed Resistance to the British Empire"

November 2015	Carole MacDonald “Gordon Sidney Harrington”
December 2015	Meghann Jack [a topic on material culture]
January 2016	John Boileau “Canada and the Victoria Cross”
February 2016	Ken Donovan
March 2016	Paul Bennett
April 2016	Gwen Davies
May 2016	[Immigration conference at Pier 21]
September 2016	Julian Gwyn
October 2016	Barry Cahill

Others who have expressed an interest in speaking or have been recommended by others include Pat Townsend, Roger Prentice, Alan Marble, Bob Harvey, Gwen Davies, Margaret Conrad, Barry Moody, David Frank, Rusty Bitterman and Martha Wallace. Some preliminary discussion was held about the possibility of having a meeting in the Red Chamber at Legislature. The Society is the only one privileged to be able to hold meetings there although the Red Chamber is not available when the House is sitting.

8. Correspondence received by Secretaries

a. Membership Survey (Rosemary Barbour)

Rosemary reported that’s she has received 13 returned questionnaires. They contain suggestions for speakers and topics and requests that the microphone be used during meetings. Rosemary will send an electronic copy of the questionnaire to Sara so that it can be put on the website. Jim will write a covering letter so that they can be mailed to members as well.

9. New Business

a. Public Archives of Nova Scotia Board of Trustees

Bertrum has received a memo concerning the Society’s representative on the Public Archives of Nova Scotia Board of Trustees. Bertrum is chair of the Board and, during his tenure as President of the Society, John Grant represented the Society. John’s term ends in November 2015 and the Board requires a nominee from the Society. The vacancy is filled through an Order in Council. John Grant agreed to continue as the Society’s representative. Bertrum noted that John is serving on an important sub-committee of the Board that is working on investment practices for bequests. Money from bequests and a donation of from the Tory family has recently been used for the purchase of the daybooks and ledgers of Dr. George Edward Buckley who practiced in Guysborough county for 67 years.

Moton: On a motion of Bertrum Macdonald, seconded by George Parker and passed unanimously, the Executive and Council of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society submits the name of John Grant as our nominee to represent the Society on the Public Archives of Nova Scotia Board of Trustees.

A copy of this motion and John Grant’s updated curriculum vitae will be sent forwards.

b. The Healy Project

Jim has received a letter from the Healy Project <http://healyproject.org/> requesting information about Theron Potter Healy originally of Round Hill, Annapolis County. He resided in Halifax as a commission merchant and grocer leaving in approximately 1883 for Minneapolis where he became a master builder. The Project wants to know if there is a record of Healy being a shipbuilder in Nova Scotia. [Note: Garry Shutlak of Nova Scotia Archives has provided the Healy Project with a significant amount of information on Healy, none of which suggests that he was a ship builder.]

c. Annual Dinner

Jim asked for a volunteer quizmaster and receiving none, asked that members submit quiz questions to him. He reminded members to also bring along donations for the book table.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 on a motion of Corey Slumkoski and Iris Shea.

rvb/ 11 April 2015