



The Royal St. George's Society of Halifax
Annual General Meeting
April 23, 2024
Saint Margaret of Scotland Church Hall
Halifax, N.S.

1. Aron Spidle called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **In attendance:** The following were present: President Carol Dodds, Treasurer Vera Schwartz, Secretary Peter Duffy, Members-at-large Sylvia McCleave and Aron Spidle, plus Colin Dodds, Andrew Doyle, Frank Metzger, Robert Younker and Margaret and Robert Ellison.
3. **President's report:** President Carol Dodds welcomed us and detailed the various challenges our Society has encountered during the last few years, not least of all the Covid epidemic. She listed some of the numerous efforts we have made to rally the membership, including a September 2022 celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee; a July 2023 gathering to mark the inauguration of King Charles, with good attendances at each; a well-attended get-together last Christmas at Carol's home; and a fish-and-chip lunch in February. Carol said that the emphasis was to hold events, where possible, outside and during the daytime, the better to accommodate our membership's aging demographic. She also noted a number of other positive steps forward, including the revival and revamping of both our web site and our social media presence. Carol encouraged members to come forward with other ideas to strengthen and grow our Society.

4. **In memoriam:** Secretary Peter Duffy listed the names of members who have passed in the years since our last AGM and asked for a moment's silence. Those honoured were: David Redmond (Dec. 29, 2020); Brian Penney (June 5, 2021), Capt. Tom Sellers (Aug. 11, 2021), John Yogis (Nov. 23, 2021) and Dot Kelly (Aug. 29, 2022). Peter also noted the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II (Sept. 8, 2022).
5. **Minutes:** The minutes of our 2019 AGM, (our last AGM, due to the Covid situation) were reviewed. Aron Spidle moved their adoption with Sylvia McCleave seconding. The motion was carried unanimously.
6. **Finances:** The 2019 and 2023 Treasurer's Reports were tabled. It was noted that there were no reports for the intervening years, due to the Society's Covid-induced inactivity. In 2019, the opening book balance was \$5,255.49 and the closing balance was \$5,113.84. Income was \$1,625 and expenses were \$1,766.65. Our Scotiabank Investments for the year totaled \$15,052.47. In 2023, the opening book balance was \$4,027.25 and the closing was \$3,459.26. Income was \$576.99 and expenses were \$1,766.65. Our Scotiabank investments for the year stood at \$15, 596.68. After some discussion about reintroducing and raising membership dues, Colin Dodds moved adoption of both financial reports, seconded by Aron. Carried unanimously.
7. **Election of officers:** Aron opened the floor for nominations for all positions. The following were reappointed by acclamation to the Executive for 2024/25:
President: Carol Dodds; **Treasurer:** Vera Schwartz; **Secretary:** Peter Duffy.
Members-at-large: Sylvia McCleave and Aron Spidle. Andrew Doyle and Frank Metzger volunteered to serve with Sylvia and Aron as members-at-large.

8. **Donations:** In 2019, a donation of \$50 was made to the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia and one of \$500 was made to the Society of Atlantic Heroes. In 2020, a donation of \$150 was made to Feed Nova Scotia. President Carol expressed gratitude for the \$5,000 bequest to our Society from the late Brian Penney, noting his many efforts to boost our ranks during his time with us. She said his generous gift was already being put to good use to this end by helping defray the costs associated with reviving and refreshing our web page and presence on social media. Carol also noted that some of the bequest has also been donated to Soul's Harbour Mission and Saint Margaret of Scotland Church community activities.
9. **Other business:** Robert Younker proposed a number of ways to strengthen our Society and expand its numbers. He advocated the reintroduction of membership fees and increasing them. He also listed a number of possible ways to boost our numbers, for example by contacting other local organizations – like the War Brides - that have historic ties to the UK. Carol thanked Robert and allowed that it might be time to consider bringing back membership fees. Margaret Ellison asked whether the price of tickets for that evening's annual dinner included a financial "buffer" for the Society. Carol allowed that there was a small one.
10. There being no further business, President Carol adjourned the meeting at 6 p.m.