

# SENIORS COLLEGE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

December 3, 2022, Beaconsfield, Carriage House

## Annual General Meeting

**Attendees:** Pat MacAulay, Shirley Pierce, Steve Connolly, Kate Gordon, Luanne Gallant, Mary Lou Turner, Mary MacPherson, Donald Moses, Maureen Sinnott, Betty-Lynn Burdett, Diane Griffin, Valerie Robinson, Judy Rose, Tory Kennedy, Teresa Murphy, Olive Bryanton, Debra Bryanton, Sarah MacDonald, Mark Nicoll, Lisa Kessler, and Brenda Campbell.

**Call to Order:** President Pat MacAulay called the meeting to order at 10:12 and welcomed all those in attendance.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion M/S Shirley Pierce/Kate Gordon to approve the agenda. Carried

**Minutes of November 27, 2021 AGM:** A motion M/S Steve Connolly/Betty-Lynn Burdett to approve the minutes. Carried

**Business Arising:** None

**Presidents Report:** Pat reported that the July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, fiscal year was again shaped by Covid and the challenges of offering programming while adhering to public health policy directives. Pat acknowledged that without the hard work and dedication of the Board members, its' Working Committees, and the part-time Provincial Coordinator, Seniors College would not be thriving as evidenced by the loyal membership and rich course offerings during the past year. Pat then provided a summary of each Committees' 2021-22 work.

**Programs:** The Programs Committee chaired by Vice President Shirley Pierce included Janet Ellis, Luanne Gallant, Maureen Sinnott, Brenda Campbell, Steve Connolly, Brenda Campbell, and Michele Dorsey. Registrations for 2021-22 exceeded pre-Covid levels at 500 plus members, but public health guidelines restricted class numbers, required proof of vaccination, social distancing, etc. To offset waitlists created by the restrictions, extra classes and tours were added. In

addition, the in-person Winter session had to be canceled due to Covid; however, the Committee was able to pivot and organize the provision of 16 courses online via Zoom during February and March. The year also saw the departure of the new Provincial Coordinator and hiring of the current incumbent, the very talented Tory Kennedy. During spring/early summer, the Committee worked diligently to confirm the 2022/23 courses, covering a wide variety of interests and with approximately 20% new content. In the face of a tumultuous year, the Committees' tenacity, and willingness to adjust to the circumstances is to be commended.

**Information Technology:** The Information Technology Committee, chaired by Mary MacPherson, included Luanne Gallant, Mary Lou Turner, and Tory Kennedy. The past year was extremely busy with addressing and solving technical issues with the online registration system. System fixes and enhancements have resulted in simplifying the end-user course registration process, standardizing user accounts, implementing end-user testing and adding administrator responsibilities that aim to verify system fixes/enhancements and better control the system on registration day. Along with intermittent technical support, the Committee assisted in training the new Provincial Coordinator and provided support to Facilitators who delivered online courses during the Winter session.

**Marketing:** The Marketing Committee chaired by Pat MacAulay, included Shirley Pierce, Stephen Connolly, Mary MacPherson, and Mary Lou Turner. Most of the Committees work centered on updating members on return/suspension of classes in the fall/winter and the online course launches in the winter. With the help of news stories and interviews on CBC, local radio stations, and the Guardian; and social media, the Committee was able to keep members as up to date as possible.

In August of 2021, Gary MacDougall, former editor of the Guardian, wrote two articles about the return of Seniors College after the abrupt closure in March of 2020. These were extremely well received when they appeared in the Guardian and were also cross listed on our social media platforms. This effort was part of a broader strategy for the continued use of social media, and "free publicity" wherever possible.

**Finance:** The Finance Committee is chaired by Treasurer, Kate Gordon and includes President, Pat MacAulay, and Secretary, Brenda Campbell. While the previous two years were financially challenging, Pat reported that the 2021/22 year ended with a surplus of \$6,212 versus a \$22,245 deficit the previous year. Our Treasurer, Kate Gordon, will present a more detailed explanation in her report.

**Concluding Comments:** Pat thanked the Board for their hard work and dedication through what has been another very challenging time. She also thanked members who maintained contact and returned this fall. Pat reported that this is her last year as President, and she will be serving her 6<sup>th</sup> year on the Board as Past President. She thanked again those who have served, and continue to serve, for their hard work and dedication and their support during her tenure as President during such unprecedented times. Pat also expressed her confidence that the work of Seniors College is in very good hands given the returning members as well as the slate of new candidates.

**A motion M/S Maureen Sinnott/Luanne Gallant to approve the Presidents report. Carried**

**Treasurer's Report:** Kate reviewed the financial reports for the Year ending June 30, 2022. On the Balance Sheet Kate pointed out the cash reserve that is dedicated to projects. She noted that some of the cash on hand is invested in 90-day redeemable term deposits, where it is earning a higher interest rate than in our savings account (following a suggestion at a prior AGM). With the rise in interest rates this year and this investment strategy, there was a substantial increase in interest income. On the income statement, Kate noted the significant increase in memberships, budget forecast was 350 while actual membership was more than 500.

A question from the floor queried the minimal funding (\$3,400) received from the Province. Pat MacAulay explained that the funding comes through the Provincial Department of Social Development and Housing and there are many organizations like Seniors College vying for a limited supply of funds. Having said that, the Department has been more than generous with Seniors College when surplus funds become available by occasionally offering additional grant money.

Pat also indicated the working relationship with Department staff is quite open and supportive.

Kate reported that the year ended with total net assets of \$44,575 (vs. \$38,363 in 2021) and total liabilities of \$52,191 (vs. \$12,175). Total assets were \$96,766 (vs. \$50,539) of which \$96,553 was in cash. We recorded a surplus of \$6,212

And to conclude the year, the Seniors College Financial Records for the year were compiled by Arsenault Best Cameron Ellis and no adjusting entries were made.

**A motion M/S Kate Gordon/Teresa Murphy to accept Treasurer’s report. Carried**

**Governance Report:** Pat MacAulay presented the report from the Governance Committee. The following Directors are stepping down: Janet Ellis and Michele Dorsey.

The following members have put their names forward for election to the board for a two-year term: Shirley Pierce and Kate Gordon for another two-year term; and Diane Griffin, Judy Rose, Betty-Lynn Burdett, and Val Robinson as new nominees. Pat read a short bio of each of the new nominees and then called three times for further nominations from the floor. Since there were no further nominations the above individuals were declared elected by acclamation.

The following is the list of the Board of Directors and Officers of Seniors College for the next year.

Shirley Pierce – President	Term expires November 2024
Steve Connolly – Vice President	Term expires November 2023
Kate Gordon – Treasurer	Term expires November 2024
Pat MacAulay – Past President	Term expires November 2023
Brenda Campbell – Secretary	Term expires November 2023
Mary MacPherson	Term expires November 2023
Luanne Gallant	Term expires November 2023
Maureen Sinnott	Term expires November 2023
Betty-Lynn Burdett	Term expires November 2024

Diane Griffin	Term expires November 2024
Valerie Robinson	Term expires November 2024
Judy Rose	Term expires November 2024
Mary Lou Turner	Director of Membership Ex-Officio
Tory Kennedy	Provincial Coordinator Ex-Officio
Donald Moses	UPEI Librarian Ex-Officio

**A motion M/S Steve Connolly/Olive Bryanton to accept Governance report.  
Carried**

**New Business:** None

**Awards and Presentations:** Pat recognized the work of the retiring Board Members. Janet Ellis has fulfilled 6 years with the Board in a variety of roles including Vice-President, President & Past President. Her assistance to Pat in taking on the President's role was invaluable. Pat also recognized Michele Dorsey whose 2-year term with the Board was cut short when she was asked by the Province to come out of retirement to coordinate a project. Pat also recognized Tory Kennedy, the new part-time Provincial Coordinator, for the terrific resource she has become in this important role. Janet Ellis and Michele Dorsey were not available to receive their awards at the meeting.

Pat also recognized that one of our founders and only life-time member, Olive Bryanton, was in attendance. Pat thanked Olive for the foundational work that made Seniors College possible and meeting participants recognized Olive with a round of applause.

**Other Business:** Pat shared that at our next Board meeting a draw will be held for a free Seniors College membership in the 2023/24 year, in honor of Gary MacDougall. Gary has written excellent stories for Seniors College free of charge, so offering this free membership in his name is our way of thanking him. The lucky winner will be announced on the Seniors College website.

He also offered his latest book about Don MacDougall as a door prize for today's meeting and Mark Nicholl was selected as the lucky winner.

In closing, Pat thanked everyone who contributed to the continued operations of Seniors College, particularly the Board and Committees.

**Adjournment:** 10:55 am

**A motion M/S Marylou Turner/Mark Nicholl to adjourn** **Carried**

DRAFT