

**SENIORS COLLEGE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ANNUAL MEETING**

Stratford Emergency Services Centre
November 22, 2025

Attendees: Peter Benson, Shirley Pierce, Tory Kennedy, Betty-Lynn Burdett, Ruth Thorne, Judy Rose, Karen Rose, Helen Bernstein, Alkarim Sachedina, Maureen Sinnott, Lisa Kessler, Valerie Robinson, Pat MacAulay, Allyson MacDonald, Rebecca Phillips, Marguerite Connolly, Steve Connolly, Kate Gordon, Simon Lloyd, Nancy Riley, Carol Horne, Mary MacPherson, Greg Peters, Ann Smith, Sinnika Dixon, Jean Staben-Bremner

1. **Call to Order and Welcome:** President Peter Benson called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and welcomed all those in attendance.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** It was moved by Maureen Sinnott and seconded by Rebecca Phillips to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Annual General Meeting dated November 16, 2024: It was moved by Shirley Pierce and seconded by Valerie Robinson to approve the minutes. **Motion carried.**
4. **Business Arising from Minutes:** None
5. **President's Report:** The President's Report for Seniors College, presented by Peter Benson, highlighted the College's activities from July 2024 to June 2025.

The College experienced a highly successful year (July 2024–June 2025), supported by an active working Board and the strong administrative work of Coordinator Tory Kennedy. Membership grew from 329 to 400, reversing a long-term decline. A total of 132 classes were offered in September 2024. Communications and administration improved through Zoom offerings and expanded use of Google Workspace. A new newsletter was launched, and outreach efforts grew through Facebook, mail campaigns, and sponsor relationships. Careful cost control resulted in a year-end surplus and a reserve of \$67,892 (approximately 78% of annual expenses). The College is well-positioned for the coming year.

Peter then provided a summary of each Committee's 2024-2025 work.

Program Committee: The Program Committee included Valerie Robinson, Shirley Pierce, Lisa Kessler, Helen Bernstein, Karen Rose, Ruth Thorne, Carol Horne, Judy Rose and Coordinator Tory Kennedy.

- The Committee delivered 132 classes in fall 2024, including 25% new offerings.
- Twenty-four courses were held in Kings County and seven in Prince County.
- Member surveys show high satisfaction and strong interest in in-person learning, with continuing appreciation for virtual options.
- Remote and recorded courses expanded, including five new “Empowering Seniors Through Exercise” videos.
- The collaboration with Tantramar Seniors College (New Brunswick) continues.
- Membership has grown by 25% (to 400), achieving the College’s target.

Website & Technology Committee: The Committee was chaired by Mary MacPherson and included Kate Gordon (until November), Ruth Thorne, Tory Kennedy, and Alkarim Sachedina (joined the Board in November) who co-chaired the committee with Mary.

- The website performed reliably during September registration.
- A PEI Seniors Secretariat grant enabled production of five exercise videos now available online.
- WSA Solutions, previously planning to withdraw support, agreed to continue maintaining the website until at least April 2026.
- Hybrid course delivery was tested successfully using Zoom.
- Implementation of Google Workspace improved Board communications, storage, and operational efficiency; the nonprofit license is provided at no cost (approx. \$3,000 annual value).

Marketing/Communications Committee: The Marketing and Communications Committee, led by Shirley Pierce, included Steve Connolly, Mary McPherson, Judy Rose, Carol Horne, Alkarim Sachedina, Helen Bernstein, and Lisa Kessler.

- The committee focused on raising visibility, improving communication, and strengthening sponsorships.
- Online outreach via email, website updates, and Facebook postings was substantial, supported by two paid Facebook campaigns targeting Islanders 55+.
- A new newsletter launched in March achieved strong engagement.
- Postal campaigns and presentations to various senior and community groups expanded awareness.

- Sponsorships included one new Bronze sponsor (Audiology PEI) and continued support from Gold, Silver, and other Bronze sponsors.
- Media coverage was strong, including features in *The Guardian* and interviews on CBC Radio and Compass.
- Member engagement activities included social events, promotional videos, grant applications, and outreach across multiple communities.

Organizational Development Committee: The Committee, led by Maureen Sinnott, included Betty-Lynn Burdett, Peter Benson, and Karen Rose.

- The committee continued implementing the 2024–2029 Strategic Plan, providing regular updates to the Board.
- Two key policies, Privacy and Information Sharing, were developed and approved.
- A full slate of Board members was secured for 2024–2025 through reappointments and recruitment.
- The committee managed the annual nominations process and election at the AGM.
- Work continues on policy development and monitoring progress on the Strategic Plan.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee was chaired by Treasurer, Sandy Anderson, who resigned just after June 30, 2025 year end, following which Peter Benson acted as Interim Treasurer.

- Seniors College of PEI engaged Arsenault Best Cameron Ellis, Chartered Professional Accountants to prepare our annual financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025, under a “Compilation Engagement Report”.

Treasurer’s Report: The Financial Report, was presented by Interim Treasurer, Peter Benson, for the year ending June 30, 2025.

- Following the year-end, Treasurer Sandy Anderson resigned, and Peter Benson acted as interim Treasurer.
- Financial statements were prepared under a Compilation Engagement (not an audit).
- Revenues fell by \$6,419, mainly due to lower membership earlier in the year, but expenses were well managed, especially website costs.
- The College achieved a surplus, helping build the reserve toward the target of approximately one year’s operating costs.
- The feasibility of applying for non-profit organization (charitable) status will be investigated as the College cannot currently recover HST.

6. **Governance Report/Elections:** Maureen Sinnott presented the report for the Governance Committee.

- The Board of Directors of Seniors College of PEI consists of a minimum of nine Directors and a maximum of 15 Directors who are all elected for a term of two years on a staggered basis.
- Board members must be fully paid members of Seniors College and any member in good standing is eligible to stand for election to the Board of Directors.
- In addition to the elected Directors, the Board also has ex-officio Directors including the Provincial Coordinator and a representative from the University of Prince Edward Island.
- The current Board at the time of preparation of this report consists of 13 members including the following officers:
 - Peter Benson – President
 - Shirley Pierce – Past President
 - Betty-Lynn Burdett – Secretary, and
 - Peter Benson – Interim Treasurer
- Sandy Anderson (Treasurer) resigned from the Board during the year.
- The term of the following Board members expires this year:
 - Peter Benson – Current President – served two years on the Board and completed the first year of a two-year term as President
 - Sandy Anderson – first term expired
 - Steve Connolly – second term expired
 - Mary MacPherson – third term expired
 - Ruth Thorne – first term expired
- The following members elected last year for a two year term will continue on the Board of Directors this year:
 - Shirley Pierce – Past President
 - Betty-Lynn Burdett - Secretary
 - Valerie Robinson
 - Judy Rose
 - Alkarim Sachedina
 - Carol Horne
 - Karen Rose
 - Lisa Kessler
- The following members have put their names forward for election to the Board of Directors for a two year term beginning immediately after the Annual General Meeting:
 - Peter Benson
 - Maureen Sinnott

- Helen Bernstein
- Greg Peters
- Charles Keliher
- Nancy Riley
- Maureen read short bios for the three new nominees (Greg, Charles and Nancy) and then called for further nominations from the floor. As there were no new nominations, the individuals were declared elected by acclamation following three calls to the floor for further nominations.
- The following is the list of the Board of Directors of Seniors College of PEI for the 2025 - 2026 year:

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Peter Benson - President | 2 nd Term expires Nov 2027 |
| Shirley Pierce - Past President | 3 rd Term expires Nov 2026 |
| Greg Peters - Treasurer | 1 st Term expires Nov 2027 |
| Betty-Lynn Burdett - Secretary | 2 nd Term expires Nov 2026 |
| Charles Keliher | 1 st Term expires Nov 2027 |
| Nancy Riley | 1 st Term expires Nov 2027 |
| Maureen Sinnott | 3 rd Term expires Nov 2027 |
| Judy Rose | 2 nd Term expires Nov 2026 |
| Valerie Robinson | 2 nd Term expires Nov 2026 |
| Helen Bernstein | 2 nd Term expires Nov 2027 |
| Karen Rose | 1 st Term expires Nov 2026 |
| Lisa Kessler | 1 st Term expires Nov 2026 |
| Carol Horne | 1 st Term expires Nov 2026 |
| Alkarim Sachedina | 1 st Term expires Nov 2026 |
| Tory Kennedy (Ex- Officio) | Provincial Coordinator |
| Simon Lloyd (Ex-Officio) | UPEI Librarian |

It was moved by Maureen and seconded by Karen to accept the President's Report, Committee Reports, Treasurer's Report and the Governance Report. **Motion carried**

It was moved by Greg and seconded by Al to accept Arsenault Best Cameron Ellis as the Seniors College of PEI accountants. **Motion carried**

7. New Business: The Christmas Social will be held on December 6th at the Belvedere Golf Club. There will be a winter Lunch and Learn on February 3rd.

8. Awards and Presentations: Shirley recognized the work of the retiring Board members, Sandy Anderson, Ruth Thorne, Steve Connolly, Donald Moses and Mary MacPherson.

9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:55am.