

## **NSIS COUNCIL**

### **Reports from the Annual General Meeting, May 2017**

#### **AGENDA**

#### **156<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**5 pm - 1 May 2017**

**The Great Hall, University Club  
Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS**

1. Minutes of 155<sup>th</sup> AGM, 2016
2. President's Annual Report (Sherry Niven)
3. Treasurer's Annual Report (Angelica Silva)
4. Editor's Annual Report (Peter Wells)
5. Librarian's Annual Report (Michelle Paon)
6. Lecture Programme for 2017-2018 (Tamara Franz-Odendaal)
7. Proposed Excursions for 2017-2018 (Hank Bird)
8. Science Writing Competition Annual Report (Hank Bird)
9. Publicity Report (Nicole LeBlanc)
10. Webmaster's report (Suzette Soomai)
11. Nominating Committee for 2017-2018 (Sherry Niven)
12. Any Other Business
13. Adjournment

## NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

### MINUTES OF THE 155<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2 May, 2016

Dalhousie University Faculty Club

Council Members present: Patrick Ryall (President), Michelle Paon (Librarian), Angelica Silva (Treasurer), Ron MacKay, Linda Marks (Secretary), Peter Wells (Editor), Hank Bird (Excursions and Student Science Writing Competition Coordinator), Zoe Kirste (Student Representative, Dalhousie University), Ilya Kovalko (Membership Officer), Richard Singer, John Young

Members present: Tamara Franz-Odendaal, Judy Bird, Carol Morrison, David Richardson, Mike Sinclair, Robert Cook, Martin Willison, Ian Stewart

Others present: Peter Hennigar, Patricia Hinch

Regrets (Council Members): Sherry Niven (Vice President), Suzette Soomai (Webmaster), Nicole LeBlanc (Publicity Officer)

The President welcomed members and called the 155th Annual General Meeting (AGM) to order. It was noted that the reports, excluding the minutes from last year's AGM, would be passed as a unit at the end of the presentations.

#### 1. **Approval of the Minutes of the 154th Annual General Meeting of 4 May, 2015**

Motion to accept the minutes of the 154th AGM with one correction and no comments:

Moved: Richard Singer

Seconded: John Young

All in favour: Carried

#### 2. **President's Annual Report (Patrick Ryall):**

The President referred to the attached report and noted that he would keep his remarks brief.

The President described a successful series of Public Lectures in 2015 2016. The President, as Chair of Lecture Committee,

thanked the other members of the committee: Jason Clyburn, Carol Morrison, Ron MacKay, Michelle Paon, Tom Rand and John Young.

The President thanked all Council members for their contributions in 2015-2016. The President noted that in his report he thanked several people individually but he forgot to include Hank Bird for his work on the Student Writing Contest and the NSIS Excursions.

The President reported that \$5000 of Dr. Alan Taylor's bequest has been allotted to seven regional libraries. Book plates and cheques have been mailed to six of the libraries. The President will personally deliver a cheque and book plates to the Halifax Regional Library. The libraries are to use the money to purchase popular scientific books and the book plates will recognize the NSIS and Dr. Taylor's contribution. A thank you has already been received from the Cape Breton Regional Library.

The President called on members of Council to present their reports.

### **3. Treasurer's Annual Report (Angelica Silva):**

The Treasurer referred to the attached report.

The NSIS has 68 regular, 12 life, 5 student and 16 institutional members. Dues received in 2015-2016 totalled \$2,660.

As of 31 March 2016, the net worth of the NSIS was \$69,365.24 with \$6,588.15 in cash and as of 29 February 2016 \$62,777.09 in savings and investments. Details on investments are provided in the Treasurer's report. One investment will mature 15 July 2016.

In 2015 2016, expenses of \$7000.82 exceeded revenue of \$5002.06. Revenue included memberships (\$2660); the 2015 AGM dinner fees (\$1035); sales of publications (\$890.91) and a royalty payment from Access Copyright (\$476.15). The largest expenditures incurred to support, science fairs, the writing competition and lectures/conference sponsorships (\$2000); the AGM dinner (\$1307.21) and printing costs for the Proceedings, lecture posters and the brochure (\$3109.46).

The maturing investment was discussed.

Motion to reinvest \$7000 of the \$10,000 maturing (July 2016) investment and retain \$3000 in cash to cover extra expenses (website and printing):

Moved: Tamara Franz-Odendaal

Seconded: Angelica Silva

All in favour: Carried

The Treasurer's report included a budget projection for 2016 and noted that the projected expenses for 2016-2017 will be higher as the prizes (increased prize money) for the Student Writing Contest were paid after the 2015-2016 fiscal (31 March 2016) year was over. Gifts to nine regional libraries (Dr. Alan Taylor's bequest) will also be paid in 2016-2017 as will expenses to cover a planned website update.

Michelle Paon noted that the budget should also include an expense to print the very popular issue of the Proceedings, the Flora of Nova Scotia. A digital issue is readily available but students in the field require a transportable paper copy. Carol Morrison asked about the journals availability online. Michelle Paon described how to view issues of the Proceedings via Dal-Space.

Discussion arose over declining membership numbers and the payment, and non-payment, of dues among those considered members.

It was suggested that a Treasurer's Committee be formed.

#### **4. Editor's Annual Report (Peter Wells):**

Editor referred to the attached report.

*Volume 48 (2) 2016* of the *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science* was published in April 2016. This volume includes papers on the lives of two distinguished scientists and former NSIS members, Dr. Leo Vining and Dr. Bill Ford. Dr. Vining was a Past President of the NSIS. This issue includes papers presented at the *Sable Island Conference 2015* that was held at Kings College, Halifax, 1-2 May 2015. Peter Wells worked with the conference chair, Dr. Martin Willison (Dalhousie University), and others to produce the section on the

conference. The Friends of Sable Island have agreed to purchase copies of this issue for their membership.

The Editor thanked Gail LeBlanc, the staff at the Killam Library and authors for their work.

Members of the NSIS and scientists in the region are encouraged to submit articles of original research, reviews of Maritime scientific accomplishments and viewpoints on current scientific issues to the Editor.

Discussion ensued concerning the production of hard vs. digital copies of the *Proceedings*. The Editor has heard from members that there is still a demand for paper copies of the journal. Carol Morrison noted that other societies ask members which version they would like to receive. Michelle Paon reported that they can request a user name and password to enable them to access the most recent issue of the *Proceedings*. Six months after its publication, the most recent issue becomes freely available online, as are all other past issues.

#### **5. Librarian's Annual Report (Michelle Paon):**

The Librarian referred to the attached report.

The Librarian reported that in 2015 2016, sales of the *Proceedings* yielded \$916.46 with 18 copies of the *Birds of Brier Island* and 15 copies of the *Flora of Nova Scotia* sold. The NSIS currently 16 institutional members (one less than last year) and has 85 exchange partners, some of whom still receive print copies of the *Proceedings* (this number of partners is unchanged from last year).

The Librarian reported that she submitted the required forms to Access Copyright and received the 2015 repertoire payment to publishers for \$642.37. Editor, Peter Wells, has signed a new Access Copyright agreement which now reflects the nature and online usage of the *Proceedings*.

The Librarian noted that the NSIS receives journals from exchange partners around the world. For example, between May 2015 and March 2016 118 publications were received.

The Librarian acknowledged and thanked Carol Richardson and the Serials Department staff at the Killam Library who process these materials and make them shelf-ready.

Ron MacKay asked if the NSIS exchange partner publications are generally available at the Killam Library. The Librarian responded that the materials are listed in Nova Net and available on the library shelves.

**6. Lecture Program for 2016-2017 – Report of the organizing committee (Sherry Niven):**

In the absence of the Vice-President the President presented the report of the Lecture Committee. The lectures for 2016-2017 cover biological and health topics and the lecturers are equally split with regards to gender. In recent years the Council has been endeavouring to increase the profile of the NSIS outside the Halifax area. The November lecture will be held at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro or at Acadia University in Wolfville. As well the date for the November lecture has been changed, from the first Monday of the month, to accommodate university reading week.

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 3 October 2016   | <b>Jock Murray</b> , Dalhousie University -<br>Multiple sclerosis   |
| 14 November 2016 | <b>Stephanie MacQuarrie</b> , University of<br>Cape Breton - Agricultural use of<br>charcoal or “biochar” |
| 5 December 2016  | <b>John Archibald</b> , Dalhousie University -<br>The Evolution of cells                                  |
| 9 January 2017   | <b>Hilary Moors Murphy</b> ,<br>Bedford Institute of Oceanography -<br>Whale communication                |
| 6 February 2017  | <b>Graham Dellaire</b> ,<br>Dalhousie University - Editing genomes  |
| 6 March 2017     | <b>Danielle Cox</b> , Mount Saint Vincent<br>University- Mathematics in the everyday<br>world             |
| 3 April 2017     | <b>Shashi Gujar</b> , Dalhousie University -<br>Oncolytic viruses   |

1 May 2017

**Tara Imlay**, Dalhousie University -  
Declining bird populations

**7. Proposed Excursions for 2016 2017 (Hank Bird):**

Hank Bird reported that the membership was surveyed as to their interest in 19-20 excursions with eight selected as possible excursions during the summer and fall of 2016. Hank Bird thanked Laura Bennett, Ron Mackay, Michelle Paon, Patrick Ryall, Peter Wells for volunteering to assist in setting up and conducting the excursions.

**8. Student Science Writing Competition Annual Report (Hank Bird):**

Hank Bird reported that the 2016 contest drew a record number of expressions of intent (47), to submit manuscripts, with a subsequent record of 22 submitted papers (14 undergraduate and 8 graduate). Hank Bird credited the increased interest in the contest to higher awards (\$500 undergraduate prize and \$750 graduate prize) and the assistance of the student representatives and the Publicity officers who help spread word of the contest.

Hank Bird thanked Stuart Grossert, Ilya Kovalko, Tom Rand, John Rutherford, Patrick Ryall, Richard Singer, Don Stoltz, Peter Wells and John Young who assisted him in judging the papers. Each judge read between 8 and 22 manuscripts.

Hank Bird reported that improvements will be made the “Information to Authors” and in the judging process.

Motion to accept the Annual Reports:

Moved: Ron MacKay

Seconded: Tamara Franz-Odendaal

All in favour: Carried

**9. Webmaster’s Report (Suzette Soomai):**

In the absence of the Webmaster, Patrick Ryall reported that at the April Council meeting \$1200 was approved for the redesign of the Institute’s website. The current website was designed in 2013 and a redesign, using the latest WordPress software, will improve the look and function of the site and also enhance security.

**10. Change to NSIS By-law 6 regarding Honorary Membership:**

The President reported that at the last Council meeting in April, Council approved of a revision of By-Law 6 to allow for the election of non-members to honorary membership in the NSIS. This motion is subject to the approval of the AGM. This change to the by-law is sought so that the NSIS may award an honorary membership to Nobel Prize laureate and Nova Scotia born Dr. Arthur MacDonald.

The current By Law 6:

Any member distinguished in some branch of science or who has rendered conspicuous service to the advancement of science in Nova Scotia, or to the affairs of the Institute, is eligible for nomination and election as an honorary member. Nominations must be submitted to the Council in writing, be signed by three (3) members in good standing, and be accompanied by a document presenting the reasons for awarding the honour. Election of candidates shall require the support of a majority of Council members.

The proposed revision of By-Law 6:

Any Nova Scotian distinguished in some branch of science or who has rendered conspicuous service to the advancement of science, or to the affairs of the Institute, is eligible for nomination and election as an honorary member. For the purposes of this by law, a Nova Scotian is defined as someone who was either born in Nova Scotia or who conducted a substantial part of the work for which the honour is being conferred while resident in Nova Scotia. Nominations must be submitted to the Council in writing, be signed by three (3) members in good standing, and be accompanied by a document presenting the reasons for awarding the honour. Election of candidates shall require the support of a majority of Council members.

Motion to approve a change to By-law 6:

Moved: Hank Bird

Seconded: Richard Singer

All in favour: Carried

Mike Sinclair asked about the process. Patrick Ryall referred to the by-law and noted that there are some criteria, which will



change with this revision to the by-law, but the process of approval by Council will remain the same.

Council has approved an Honorary Membership to Dr. Mary Anne White.

### **11. NSIS Sponsorship of Local Scientific Events:**

The President noted that this item of business was a carry over from last year's agenda but did report that on the 2 May Council 2016 received a sponsorship request from the Canadian Network for Ocean Education (CaNOE) for \$500. CaNOE will host an ocean literacy conference in Halifax in June.

### **12. Report of the Nominating Committee for the 2016-2017 Council (Patrick Ryall):**

The President noted that Zoe Kirste will be leaving Council and thanked her for her work as co-Publicity Officer

The President (as Chair of the Nominating Committee) referred to the attached report.

The Nominating Committee asked the AGM to elect the following to NSIS Council for 2016 2017:

President	Sherry Niven
Vice President	Tamara Franz-Odendaal
Past President	Patrick Ryall
Secretary	Linda Marks
Treasurer	Angelica Silva
Publicity Officers	Nicole LeBlanc
Membership Officer	Ilya Kovalko
Librarian	Michelle Paon
Editor	Peter Wells
Webmaster	Suzette Soomai
Councillor	Hank Bird
Councillor	Victoria Turpin
Councillor	Ron MacKay
Councillor	Donald Stoltz
Councillor	John Young
Councillor	Rick Singer

There were three calls for additional nominations from the floor. As there was “no contest” to the proposed slate of officers it was declared that the nominations be elected by acclamation.

Patrick Ryall noted that Tamara Franz-Odendaal will be new to Council and has kindly agreed to serve as Vice-President. Two student representatives are currently interested in serving on Council as Observers.

Michelle Paon noted that this was Patrick Ryall’s second year serving as President.

**13. Any Other Business:**

Patrick Ryall invited all present to enjoy the Public Lecture at 7:30 PM, following the dinner.

There was no other business.

**14. Adjournment:**

Motion by Peter Wells to adjourn the 155th Annual General Meeting of the NSIS at 5:55 PM.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Linda Marks*  
*Secretary*

## REPORTS FROM THE NSIS COUNCIL NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016-2017

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting for the 156<sup>th</sup> year of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science! I would like to start the meeting by thanking the 2016-17 Council:

**Officers:** Patrick Ryall (Past-President); Tamara Franz-Odendaal (Vice-President); Linda Marks (Secretary); Angelica Silva (Treasurer); Nicole LeBlanc (Publicity Officer); Dylan Miller (Membership Officer); Michelle Paon (Librarian); Peter Wells (Editor); and Suzuette Soomai (Webmaster)

**Councillors:** Hank Bird (lead for Excursions and the Student Science Writing Competition); Ron MacKay; Richard Singer; Donald Stoltz; and Victoria Turpin

**Observers:** Laura Bennet (Nova Scotia Museum); Alexa Kirste (Student Representative); and Kara MacPhee (Discovery Centre)

It has been an exceedingly busy year for me at work and I very much appreciate Council's understanding and support! I feel honoured to have served as President of one of the oldest learned societies in Canada as the country enters its 150th year.

#### Public Lectures

We had a very successful public lecture series this year. A sincere thank-you to all of the speakers for their contribution to the Institute's goal of communicating and celebrating science in Nova Scotia:

Oct 3, 2016: Jock Murray (Professor Emeritus, Dalhousie University)  
*Changing knowledge about Multiple Sclerosis over two centuries:  
From leeches to the human genome*

Nov 14, 2016: Stephanie MacQuarrie (Cape Breton University)  
*Reaping Unsown Rewards from Biochar*

Dec 5, 2016: John Archibald (Dalhousie University) *Molecular  
clocks: Using DNA to infer evolution*

Jan 9, 2017: Hilary Moors-Murphy (Bedford Institute of Oceanography)  
*Listening in on the deep: the story that whale sounds can tell*

Feb 6, 2017: Graham Dellaire (Dalhousie University) *How to edit a genome*

March 6, 2017: Danielle Cox (Mount Saint Vincent University) *That's Math?!*

April 3, 2017: Shashi Gujar (Dalhousie University) *Oncolytic viruses*

May 1, 2017: Tara Imlay (Dalhousie University) *Where have all the swallows gone?*

Council extends thanks as well to the Museum of Natural History for hosting the October, December, February, March, and April lectures; the Agricultural Campus of Dalhousie University in Truro for hosting the November lecture; Mount Saint Vincent University for hosting the January lecture, and Dalhousie's University Club for hosting the AGM lecture and dinner this evening.

The Institute also co-hosted a lecture at the Halifax Central Library on Jan 5th, by Dr. Ken Johnson (Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute) entitled "A global array of robots observing the ocean".

### **Excursions:**

Council organized excursions for NSIS members this past year to McNab's Island, the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, to Garrison Brewery (The Science and Art of Making Beer), and the Burke-Gaffney Observatory at Saint Mary's University. Many thanks to Hank, Michelle, and Ron!

### **Sponsorships and Donations:**

NSIS provided financial support for a number of activities and events this past year:

- \$250 sponsorship of the reception following the Dalhousie Huntsman lecture November 18, 2016 by Dr. Benjamin Halpern (University of California Santa Barbara);
- \$250 sponsorship of the best student poster at the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society Conference (February 23, 2017);

- Cash prizes in our Student Science Writing Competition:

***Undergrad Winner:*** Zachary Sherker (SFX) “*Predator-induced Shell Plasticity in Mussels Hinders Predation by Drilling Snails*”. (\$500 Prize)

***Postgrad Winner:*** Molly LeBlanc (SMU) “*A Literature Review on the Ecotoxicology and Species-Specific Effects of Contaminated Historical Gold Mine Sites Within Nova Scotia*”. (\$750 Prize);

- Contributions to nine Nova Scotia Regional Libraries (for a total of \$5,000) from Dr. Alan Taylor’s bequest to NSIS; and
- \$200 contributions to three Regional Science Fairs: South Shore, Halifax, and Mi’kmaq.

### **Honourary Membership:**

Council had the honour of granting Dr. Arthur Macdonald an Honorary Membership to NSIS at the ceremony when he was invested into the Order of Nova Scotia in October 2016.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry Niven  
2016-17 NSIS President*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE**  
**April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017**

**ASSETS** as March 31, 2017

Bank Account BMO (as of March 31, 2017)	22,993.44(*)
Investments (as of March 31, 2017)	36,389.84

**TOTAL ASSETS: \$59,383.28**

**INVESTMENTS** (as of March 31, 2017)

Renaissance High Interest Savings Account (March 31, 2017) @1.0%	10,389.84
Manulife Bank Investment Certificate @2.45% due February 1, 2018	21,000.00
Equitable Trust Company GTD investment @2.15% due May 16, 2017	5,000.00

**TOTAL INVESTMENTS**  
as of March 31, 2017 **\$36,389.84\*\***

(\*) Transferred \$10,665.91 to BMO account on March 30, 2017

Cash and cash equivalents (GTD Feb 2, 2017 \$10,000+\$515.91+\$150)

**NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE  
REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES 2016-2017**

**REVENUE** as of March 31, 2016

Membership dues Regular	\$ 1,950.00
Membership Students	110.00
Membership Institutions	270.00
AGM Dinner (May 2016)	990.00
Sales NSIS Proceedings, Birds of Brier Island, Flora NS	845.00
Donations	20.00
Income/Royalties ACCESS Copyright Royalty	369.24
Field trip/Excursion	391.00

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$ 4,945.24**

**EXPENSES** as of March 31, 2017

Proceedings printing/ layout PNSIS	\$ 2,878.75
NSIS Annual Brochure Lectures	1,202.28
NSIS monthly posters	347.44
Mail PNSIS to members	526.52
AGM Dinner (2016)	1,320.66
NSIS Dr. Taylor's bequest to NS libraries	4,999.99
Lecture Sponsorships	1,570.09
Nova Scotia Science Fairs	1,000.00
NSIS Writing Competition	1,250.00
Rent cost MNHNS, Dalhousie	133.72
Supplies office, postage (membership, CRA)	53.00
Website	140.00
Field trip/ excursion	560.00
Bank charges	17.40

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$ 15,998.86**

### **Finances**

The net worth of NSIS is \$ 59,383.28 as of March 31, 2017 from a total of \$ 22,993.44 at BMO account plus current Investments of \$ 36,389.84.

For this past 2016-2017 period, NSIS had a total income of \$ 4,945.24 that resulted from Membership regular, students, and institutions (\$2,330); plus revenue from AGM dinner (\$990), Sales of Proceedings PNSIS, Flora of Nova Scotia, Birds of Brier Island (\$ 845), donations (\$20), Royalties ACCESS (\$369.24), Excursions (\$ 391). Transference from Investments for a total of \$27,464.91 were moved into BMO account after maturity to covers expenses as planned.

Total expenditures of \$ 15,998.86 did result from costs associated to Printing of Proceedings of Nova Scotian Institute of Science (PNSIS) (\$ 2,878.75); plus expenses related to communications and publicity that included Annual NSIS Brochures, Monthly posters, Bookplates for Donation to NS regional libraries (\$1549.72), mailing PNSIS to members (\$ 526.52), AGM dinner (\$1,320.66), 1st year (2016) of NSIS Dr. Taylor's bequest to NS Regional Libraries (\$4,999), Lecture Sponsorships (\$ 1570.09), Regional Science Fairs (\$ 1,000), NSIS Student Writing Competition (Molly Leblanc \$ 750 and Zachary T. Sherker \$500), Space rent (\$ 133,72), Supplies and postage office (\$ 53), website (\$140), Field trip/excursion (\$ 560), Bank charges (\$17.40).

### **Membership 2016/2017 and Projected Budget 2017/2018**

NSIS had a total of n= 100 individual members (n=79 regular members; n=9 student members and n=12 Life Members) and n=16 Institutional members.

A projected budget for 2017/2018 shows a projected revenue of \$ 17,704. 91 and it does already include transfer of \$ 10,665.91 from investments to BMO account.

Projected Expenses of \$ 15,161 will include costs of printing and production of The Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science (PNSIS); NSIS writing Awards to University Undergraduate and Graduate Students (\$1,250), Regional Science Fairs (n=10 x \$200- \$2000); contributions to Science Lectures and Conferences in the Province; costs associated with publicity of Annual NSIS



Brochure with lectures and Membership form; publicity costs of Monthly NSIS lecture posters; Mailing costs to Institutions and NSIS members. Updates to website will also be considered at ~\$ 1,500.

It is recommended that investments are maintained by renewing investments at time of maturity to maintain a minimum of \$ 25,000 or greater level of savings.

*Respectfully submitted to NSIS AGM 2016-2017 on May 1st, 2017*

*Angelica Silva PhD*

*NSIS Treasurer*

*Angelica.Silva@dal.ca*

*Angelica.silva@dfo-mpo.gc.ca*

## EDITOR'S REPORT 2017

**Prepared for AGM May 1, 2017**

The 2017 Issue of the PNSIS (Volume 49, Part 1) has been published and is available in hard copy (limited printing) and on the websites of the NSIS and Dalhousie University. For the first time, it has a number of Commentaries, and two book reviews, along with regular contributions and selected student papers.

Input is continuing for the next *Proceedings*, to be produced by end of this calendar year or early in 2018.

We are also revisiting and strengthening the Instructions to Authors, and suggesting an Authors Check list, that must be filled in so as to reduce the time required at the final editing and proofing stage of production. We are also checking on the Copyright and determining whether or not to have a signed form for every contributor, to clarify ownership of the articles; the Killam Library is helping with this task.

Producing this journal is largely a volunteer operation; it takes concerted effort over a two month period to produce an issue, once enough papers and other contributions have been reviewed and accepted. We need to reduce this time commitment. As well, we do need more contributions that reflect the annual NSIS lecture program, and the work and concerns of members of the NSIS.

We rarely get feedback on the papers and especially on the Editorials, such as on the points made on the role of the *Proceedings* in the life of the Society, and the importance of the science enterprise to society in the Maritimes. The *Proceedings* are one voice piece of the Society; it would be nice to receive feedback from members and interested members of the public who attend the monthly lectures.

That said, I would like to thank everyone involved in the enterprise - the authors, the Editorial Board, and especially Gail LeBlanc, Production and Layout Editor, and Associate Editor, Dr. David Richardson.

*Respectfully submitted by:*

*Peter G. Wells, Dalhousie University, Editor*

*April 12, 2017*

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT 2016-2017

Prepared for AGM May 1, 2017

It has been a pleasure to serve as the NSIS Librarian during the past year. In this role, I oversee the receipt of journals from NSIS exchange partners around the world. I also work with Killam Library staff members who prepare these journals for the shelves and facilitate access to the online *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science*.

### *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science*

During 2016/2017, sales of the *Proceedings* from the Killam Library's Reference & Research Services office generated \$675.00 in revenue (see Appendix A). Of note, 18 copies of the *Flora of Nova Scotia* were sold to university students in a summer course. NSIS Council has decided to reprint this publication because the stock is close to depletion.

The fall of 2016 marked the five-year publication mark for *Birds of Brier Island*. While there remain more than 490 copies in inventory, sales have slowed in the past year. NSIS Council has reduced the price of the book from \$25 to \$15 to help increase turnover and will give a free print copy of the publication with each new membership. During the fall of 2016, a query from the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) international data project prompted NSIS Council to add the *Birds of Brier Island* to the online *Proceedings*, where it can be accessed by bird researchers and enthusiasts from around the world. The electronic PDF link to the publication can be found at the following URL: <https://ojs.library.dal.ca/nsis/issue/view/402/showToc>

The Killam Library serves as the storage space for unsold issues of the *Proceedings*. A large overstock has accumulated, and most print issues of the journal have experienced no turnover in the past seven years. The potential for future sales of older print copies is slim because all issues of the journal are available online through the DalSpace institutional repository. Because the library is experiencing a shortage of space for its academic collections, the inventory of the *Proceedings* needs to be reduced. Since it appears that an inventory reduction would have very little impact on NSIS revenue, the NSIS Librarian will prepare a plan to address the overstock.

In the spring of 2017, the online Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), based at Harvard University, contacted NSIS and asked permission to redigitize the *Proceedings of the NSIS*. The goal would be to provide researchers with additional ways to search the *Proceedings* along with other publications on the BHL electronic platform. NSIS Council is interested in the BHL project and has requested further information. While discussing this opportunity, NSIS Council became aware that it may be time to revisit the Institute's publishing arrangements with its authors. The NSIS Librarian has arranged a June meeting between the Dalhousie Libraries' Copyright Librarian and the NSIS Editor and colleagues to discuss copyright, author rights and the development of a publisher agreement document for the *Proceedings*.

### **Institutional Members and Exchange Partners**

Renewal notices were sent to institutional members in February 2017. With regard to exchange partners, in June 2016 the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals of the Polish Academy of Sciences cancelled its exchange with NSIS. There are currently 16 institutional members and 84 NSIS exchange partners.

### **NSIS Exchange Journal Collection**

NSIS receives journal issues from exchange partners around the world. As an example, from May 2016 to March 2017, 126 journal issues and society publications were delivered to the Killam Library from the Institute's exchange partners. Languages of publication include English, French, German, Italian, and Japanese. These items have been processed and added to the NSIS collection in the Killam Library. On behalf of NSIS, I would like to thank Carol Richardson and the Serials Department staff in the Killam Library who process the exchange journals and make them shelf-ready.

### **Access Copyright**

The NSIS Librarian submitted the required forms to Access Copyright for the 2016 repertoire payment to publishers. NSIS subsequently received a payment of \$369.24. Over the past three years, the royalty payment has decreased, partly due to fewer sales of the *Proceedings* and a drop in membership revenue. However Access Copyright licensing revenues have declined as well, which results in less money to distribute to publishers and affiliates. Access Copyright has projected

that royalties will drop significantly in the coming year due to the decrease in licensing revenue from educational institutions.

**Appendix A: Sales of Proceedings May 2016 – April 2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Volume/Issue of <i>Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science</i></b>	<b># Sold</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Amount Received (\$)</b>
July 2016	Flora of Nova Scotia	18	\$35.00	\$630.00
September 2016	Proceedings (v.48, pt. 2, 2016)	1	\$15.00	\$ 15.00
November 2016	Proceedings (v.48, pt. 2, 2016)	1	\$15.00	\$ 15.00
January 2017	Proceedings (v.48, pt. 2, 2016)	1	\$15.00	\$ 15.00
Total		21	-----	\$675.00

*Respectfully submitted by:*

*Michelle Paon*

*NSIS Librarian*

*May 1, 2017*

## **WEBMASTER'S REPORT MAY 2017**

Work completed for the month of April 2017 include:

1. General maintenance of the NSIS website.
2. New postings of the monthly lectures.
3. Website redesign:

A notice for hiring a web designer to redesign the NSIS website was prepared. This process was agreed to at the NSIS Council meeting in March 2017. The notice will be circulated to NSIS members by the NSIS Secretary and posted on the Facebook page by the NSIS Publicity Officer.

Pending the selection of a suitable candidate, the NSIS website will be redesigned over the summer months and a new website is expected to be available for the start of the 2017/2018 NSIS meetings and lectures.

The NSIS Webmaster will oversee the redesigning of the website. It is anticipated that the new and dynamic website will require routine technical support to maintain its functions and ensure its security. To this end, the services of a new Webmaster will be sought after the new website is completed.

*Submitted by  
Suzette Soomai, Webmaster*

**STUDENT SCIENCE  
WRITING COMPETITION 2017  
May 2017 Report for the AGM**

This year we had 32 students (25 undergrad, 7 postgrad) who expressed interest in participating, and 16 students (12 undergrad, 4 postgrad) submitted manuscripts. These were the second-highest levels of interest and submission in the history of the competition. Thanks to Nicole LeBlanc for help with publicizing the competition to students.

In March the six judges assessed the manuscripts and selected the following:

**Undergrad Winner:**

Zachary Sherker (SFX) “*Predator-induced Shell Plasticity in Mussels Hinders Predation by Drilling Snails*”. (\$500 Prize)

**Undergrad Hon.Mention:**

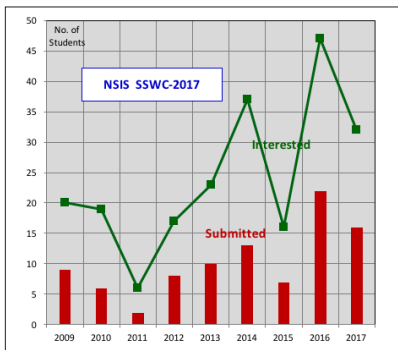
Amélie Paulin (Dal) “*A Melting World: Consequences of Sea Ice Melt for Arctic Cetaceans*”.

**Postgrad Winner:**

Molly LeBlanc (SMU) “*A Literature Review on the Ecotoxicology and Species-Specific Effects of Contaminated Historical Gold Mine Sites Within Nova Scotia*”. (\$750 Prize)

Certificates and cheques were awarded at the beginning of the April 3<sup>rd</sup> NSIS public lecture.

The judges also discussed constructive feedback which was given to each contestant, and ways to improve the competition in future years. Thanks to Tom Rand, John Rutherford, Pat Ryall, Rick Singer and Don Stoltz for their hard work.



Univ.	Interest	Submitted
Acadia	2	0
CBU	0	0
Dalhousie	20	9
MSVU	1	0
SFX	3	3
SMU	6	4
<b>Total =</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>16</b>

*Hank Bird*  
*SSWC Coordinator*



## NSIS EXCURSIONS 2017 REPORT FOR AGM, MAY 2017

We did 4 excursions in late 2016 and Jan. 2017:

- Natural History of McNab's Island
- Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens
- The Science and Art of Making Beer
- Burke-Gaffney Observatory

Based on a survey of the membership, we selected 5 of the more popular excursions (from a list of 14) to do in the Spring, Summer and Fall of this year. They are:

Petroglyphs and Nature Hike	(Kejimkujik)	Peter Wells
Halifax Planetarium	(Dalhousie)	Hank Bird
Joggins Fossil Cliffs	(Joggins)	Pat Ryall
Shubenacadie Canal	(Shubie Park)	Kara MacPhee
Bedford Institute of Oceanography	(Dartmouth)	Sherry Niven

Thanks to Linda Marks and Nicole LeBlanc for canvassing the membership and the student community.

Each excursion will be set up and organized separately by the person listed. Announcements and details should begin to appear soon.

*Hank Bird*  
*Excursions Coordinator*

## **PUBLICITY REPORT YEAR IN REVIEW**

NSIS goals to increase publicity this year toward our monthly lectures, membership program, excursions, website, and the organization in general were achieved through printed posters and social media site, Facebook.

### **Promotional Material**

In addition to our annual lecture series brochure, each of the eight talks for the year were promoted through an events section on Facebook, and newly designed event posters which were distributed throughout HRM and via email to members.

This year, we also promoted excursions through a similarly designed poster.

### **Facebook**

Since last May (2016), we saw an increase of 57 "likes" on our page. More recently, many of our "followers" are engaging with our posts related to community events and psychology. We celebrated our 200th like last month; our total likes is now 208.

Engagement is also enhanced by live coverage at each monthly lecture on the event page.

### **EventBright**

A new website to promote our monthly lectures, EventBrite, has been successful in promoting NSIS and our talks while also increasing attendance at lecture events.

### **To Come in 2017-18**

NSIS Council has started the conversation on the re-vamp of the NSIS logo, and offering a Student Ambassador Program to follow with our mission to enhance our relationship with educational institutions within HRM, and to accept volunteers to assist with publicity tasks.

The following are new additions discussed for the 2017-18 year:

1. Membership Cards for paid-members
2. Business Cards for Council Members
3. NSIS Pop-Up Banner
4. Membership Form (Brochure Insert)
5. Live video recordings at NSIS lectures

*Submitted by  
Nicole Marie LeBlanc  
Publicity Officer*

## NSIS 2017 PUBLIC LECTURES



### WHERE HAVE ALL THE SWALLOWS GONE?

Speaker | Tara Imlay

Department of Biology  
Dalhousie University



NSIS Free Public  
Lecture

May 1, 2017

7:30 PM

University Club  
Dalhousie University

6259 Alumni Crescent  
(Off South Street)  
Halifax, NS

Over the past 40 years, Breeding Bird Surveys have documented severe and widespread declines among species of aerial insectivores (birds that feed in flight on flying insects). The cause of this decline is unknown, but two likely drivers include changes in the availability of aerial insects during the breeding season, and/or changes in conditions on the wintering grounds and migration routes. Imlay's research focuses on understanding how these potential drivers have impacted four species of swallows that breed in the Maritimes.

Imlay discovered her passion for biodiversity conservation while completing her BSc in Zoology at the University of Guelph. The 20th recipient of the Canadian New Noah training program, Imlay received a course in Endangered Species Recovery at the International Training Centre of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, and an internship in Mauritius, working with some of the world's rarest species.



NSIS – Nova Scotian Institute of Science



nsis@chebucto.ns.ca



www.nsis.chebucto.org

## NOMINATIONS FOR NSIS COUNCIL 2017/2018

President	Sherry Niven
Vice-President	Tana Worcester
Past-President	Patrick Ryall
Secretary	Linda Marks
Treasurer	Angelica Silva
Publicity Officer	Nicole LeBlanc
Membership Officer	Dylan Miller
Librarian	Michelle Paon
Editor	Peter Wells
Webmaster	Suzette Soomai
Councillor	Tamara Franz-Odendaal
Councillor	Hank Bird
Councillor	Donald Stoltz
Councillor	Richard Singer
Student Representative	Alexa Kirste

### **Observers:**

Discovery Centre	Kara MacPhee
Nova Scotia Museum	Laura Bennet

**NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE  
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2018-2019**

Please fill out and make copy, then forward in mail together with membership fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: H \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Memberships (please check one):**

Regular member      \$30    \_\_\_\_\_

Student member      \$10    \_\_\_\_\_

Life membership      \$300    \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ to cover dues for \_\_\_\_ years.

Voluntary Donation (Tax receipt will be issued): \_\_\_\_\_

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c/o Reference and Research Services  
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