

# **MAHONE BAY CENTRE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

May 28, 2018  
Ralph Hennigar Room

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Total attendance was 34 members as per sign-in sheet.

Michael Saker, Chairman, welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

**Present:** Mike Saker- Chairman, Bryan Palfreyman - Vice-Chairman, Teresa Patterson-Secretary, Chris Heide - Treasurer, Roxanne Lindsay, Moira Devereax, Veryan Haysom

**Regrets:** John Merchant

## **I. MINUTES of 2017 AGM (covering events of 2016)**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of May 29, 2017 were presented.

MOVED by Lynn Hennigar to dispense with the reading of the May 29, 2017 minutes.

Seconded by Charles Otter.

Motion Carried

MOVED by Roxanne Lindsay that the minutes be accepted as presented. Seconded by Anne Harrison.

Motion Carried

## **II. ANNUAL REPORT (covering events of 2017)**

The chairman presented an Annual Report for 2017 in the form of a slide presentation that provided a broad overview of our annual operations and key events and issues of the year.

### **1. Major Events of 2017**

In February, South Shore Players, in partnership with the Centre, held a first ever Valentines Cabaret in our gymnasium. This highly successful evening of entertainment was inspired and directed by Teresa Patterson, who was a board member of both organizations.

In the spring, Suttles and Seawinds, along with the Mahone Bay Chamber of Commerce, presented a first-class fashion show in the gym, complete with an elevated runway, great fashions, local models, wine, sweets and prizes. It was a raucous evening, lots of fun.

In August, the Centre sponsored a concert by the band, Prairie Sea, in the gym. Our thanks to John Merchant for organizing this event.

Scare Crow weekend saw our gym once again occupied by a portion of the vendors of the Antique Fair, and our Large Conference room the scene of our most-successful-ever Annual Book Sale. Led by our office staff of Kelly Bent and Laurel Darnell, their loyal band of energetic volunteers, spent many weeks of sorting thousands of books, each one handled at least three times before being available for sale. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year.

Later in the Fall, we launched a fundraising campaign to honour Heather and David Abriel who were tragically killed in a car accident earlier in the year. This campaign was to raise funds to support the renovation and renaming of the Seniors' Room in honour of the Abriels who had been great ambassadors of the Mahone Bay community.

The year ended with a series of events surrounding the Father Christmas Festival: a reception in the gym following the Friday evening Tree Lighting Ceremony with refreshments provided by the Mug and Anchor; a Cookie Walk the next afternoon led by Susan Seltzer and supported by many volunteer bakers; and the second One Size Fits All Art Sale led by Sally Warren and her art committee.

## **2. Rentals**

In total, rental income of \$140,098 (\$99,980 for leases; \$30,118 for Short Term rentals) represented a 6.5% increase over the previous year, and was 1% greater than our best-ever performance to date, in 2014. Rentals are our major source of income: 80% of our operating income, and 68% of our total income (that includes a depreciated amount of Deferred Contributions from prior capital donations and grants).

## **3. Seniors Project**

The Centre continues to provide educational opportunities to enliven our community life in the Mahone Bay area, under two programs: **Conversations With...** informally focused on community activity and personal experiences; and a **Lecture Series** presenting topics of interest beyond our community. These had their origins under the auspices of our "Seniors' Project" but in reality are open to anyone, Eight Conversations events occurred in 2017, and seven Lectures. Two very dedicated committees of volunteers organize these programs.

Seven of the very popular SCANS (Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia) courses were held during 2017. Participants pay an annual fee to attend SCANS courses anywhere they are offered. SCANS rents space at the Centre to run its courses in Mahone Bay.

Eight monthly Seniors' Luncheons were staged by our dedicated crew of volunteers, led by Gail Saker, who provide the food and serve participants.

Other activities included walkers and badminton (weekly, in the gym).

The recently formed Café activities continue, with an enthusiastic (fun) bridge club, a mums and tots group, and a monthly Sing Along for fun.

## **4. Centre Fit**

Centre Fit is in its sixth year with membership ranging from 40-66 over the year (an average of 51). Net revenue remains largely unchanged (\$13,733); this can be viewed as additional rental income (Centre Fit does not pay rent for its space).

Planning is underway to expand Centre Fit to include the room across the hall. This will allow the two spaces to focus on different equipment and exercises. We expect that this will increase interest and membership.

## 5. Property

2017 was a relatively slack year for property projects following our very active 2016.

In January, a new replacement boiler was installed --- at a total project cost of \$31,138 --- to replace the very old #2 boiler that failed in 2016. We received a \$12,500 grant from ACOA to enable us to purchase a more efficient and longer-life cast-iron boiler, over a less costly steel boiler.

New six-inch wide gutters and downspouts, fitted with leaf protection, were installed around the entire periphery of the old school; this will greatly reduce the amount of rainwater that over the years has otherwise washed down the sides of the building.

By year's end, planning for the Abriel room renovations was complete; implementation is scheduled for 2018 (now, almost fully completed at the end of May 2018).

## 6. Grants

Three grants were received in 2017:

- i) A provincial grant of \$4,500 to enable us to run an After the Bell program (an after school program aimed at junior high students who do not participate in formal sports activities;
- ii) Operating grants from MODL totaling \$8,544 in recognition of the services that the Centre provides for MODL residents in our area; and
- iii) The ACOA \$12,500 capital grant noted above.

In lieu of an annual grant, the Town of Mahone Bay does not charge the Centre a property tax --- an estimated annual value of \$11,000.

## 7. Donations

While the Centre is able to support its operations and basic maintenance through its rentals and programs, we rely on grants and donations to fund capital improvements. This year we received \$14,504 in operating donations from our supporters and a further \$36,554 in capital donations for the Abriel project. Many thanks to our generous supporters!

At year-end we placed \$45,641 of these donations into Deferred Revenue, pending the start of the Abriel project in January of this year.

## 8. Fundraising

Each year, an important part of our revenue comes from a wide variety of fundraising events put on by the Centre. 2017 was no exception. The table below recaps these key events, most of which were mentioned earlier.

Scarecrow Book Sale (Kelly Bent, Laurel Darnell, committee)	8,905
Christmas Book Sale (Anne Harrison)	1,743
One Size Fits All Art Sale (Sally Warren, committee)	1,625

Valentine Cabaret (South Shore Players, Teresa Patterson)	1,138
Cookie Walk (Susan Seltzer, committee)	1,109
Tidal Women Performance (Laurel Darnell, Sue Evans and Cynthia Myers)	717
Prairie Sea Concert (John Merchant)	481
<b>Total (Net)</b>	<b>15,718</b>

The chairman thanked the many volunteers who annually put on events like these that bring joy and entertainment to the many hundreds and thousands who participate.

**9. South Shore Helping Hands**

At last year’s AGM we reported our growing concerns over the sustainability of the Centre’s Helping Hands Initiative and our decision to migrate the operation to the VON, an organization that has this activity as part of its primary mission. The migration occurred in early June and \$6,316.59 of our HHI remaining funds were passed over in January of this year. A majority of our HHI volunteers continue to serve under the VON.

At the conclusion of this summary of major events, the chairman read out a message of thanks from member, Sharon Driscoll, on behalf of the South Shore Tai Chi Academy. It explained that from a humble beginning four years ago, with four members, their group has grown to the point that they had just completed a two-day workshop with an international Tai Chi master that was attended by 16 participants. The use of the gym and kitchen allowed participants to stay together and strengthen the camaraderie that has emerged from their weekly classes. She wanted to thank the Centre and staff for all of their support over the years.

The chairman concluded this report by thanking the volunteers, staff (Kelly Bent, Laurel Darnell, Carol Pearse and Wayne Whynot) and the many hundreds of MBC regular participants, who through their efforts make the Centre the success that it is.

**III. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The treasurer, Chris Heide, presented the 2017 Financial Statements. Copies were on hand for members to review. He noted the following highlights:

- 2017 concluded with a healthy operating surplus of \$6,759 thereby improving our overall Equity by that amount (although it still remains negative at \$18,942)
- Once again, our “core” MBC revenues exceeded our non-discretionary expenses. As explained earlier, grants and donations allowed us to take on additional projects.
- Our overall financial picture continues to be stable at this stage in 2018.

After responding to a few questions, Chris MOVED that the financial statement report be accepted as presented. Seconded by Paul Seltzer. Motion Carried

#### **IV. LOOKING AHEAD – Renovations**

The chairman reviewed the current status of renovations underway at the Centre:

- Abriel Room: This total renovation of the former Senior's room has also involved renovation of the washrooms above on the 200 level (including replacing all plumbing that passes through the Abriel Room), extending the washroom walls to the ceiling (hurray!), installing new vinyl flooring and exhaust fans, and replacing all fixtures. We also took the opportunity to re-floor the Food Bank adjacent to the Abriel room and to paint out that entire space (long overdue). The Abriel Room is expected to return to service in July.
- The former chemistry lab renovation is complete with its new occupant, Birdsall Worthington Pottery, in the process of moving in.

Special thanks was offered to a small team of volunteers who helped with some of the demolition and patching and painting the ceilings and walls of the Abriel room, Food Bank and washrooms (Bryan Palfreyman, Dick Green, Fred Wentz, John Perry, Brom Hart, and Ina Allen). We were particularly pleased to have the help of Shelagh Abriel whenever she was in town. The opportunity to be part of this renovation was special for her.

#### **V. LOOKING AHEAD – Short Term**

The chairman reported that he is delighted to welcome a new Board of Directors that will include nine new members bringing the total to 14, including a new chairperson. Over the course of the coming year this new team will conduct an overdue strategic planning process.

#### **VI. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The chairman spoke briefly about the retiring directors and their (years) of service. Roxanne Lindsay (7), Bryan Palfreyman (7), Teresa Patterson (2) and Sandra Conrad (1). He particularly thanked Bryan for being a very involved vice chair, active member of the property committee and a daily volunteer. Without Bryan's regular support and involvement, Mike claimed he could not have survived.

Moira Devereaux conducted the election of officers. Five directors reoffered for another term. All board members were introduced and a list of directors and brief bios were available as a handout. :

Reoffering: Mike Saker (7), John Merchant (4), Moira Devereaux (2), Vervan Haysom (2) and Chris Heide (1)

New nominees are: Lynn Hennigar, Meg Craig, Peter Hall, Mary Anne Hiltz, Dave Laskey, Don Mader, Lettie Maloney, Lisa Rhuland and Kelly Wilson

Moira Devereaux called for further nominations from the floor. One nomination came from Jeff Philips to be the tenant representative.

Given that the number of candidates was within the number allowed by our By Laws, Moira then asked for an acclamation unless there was an objection from any member present. There being no objection, all new and reoffering directors were elected by acclamation.

She then stated that the nominating committee is proposing that Lynn Hennigar be the new Chairman and John Merchant be the new Vice Chairman. Motions for these recommendations were passed.

Lynn Hennigar spoke briefly about her new position as board chairman and asked for patience during the learning process. The first meeting of the new board will take place on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

MOVED by Kelly Wilson that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Jeff Philips.  
Motion Carried

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.