

**NSIS COUNCIL REPORTS**  
**Reports from the Annual General Meeting**  
**May 29, 2023 - 5:45 pm**

**AGENDA**

**162nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*Meeting held in McNally Auditorium,  
Saint Mary's University and via Zoom.com*

1. Minutes of the 161st AGM, 3 May 2021
2. Vote to accept Minutes of the 161st AGM
3. President's Annual Report (Stephanie MacQuarrie)
4. Treasurer's Annual Report (Angelica Silva)
5. Editor's Annual Report (Peter Wells)
6. Librarian's Annual Report (Stephanie MacQuarrie for M. Paon)
7. Membership Annual Report (Stephanie MacQuarrie for S. McInnis)
8. Webmanager's Annual Report (Romman Muntzar)
9. Publicity Annual Report (Brent Robicheau)
10. Excursions Annual Report (Hank Bird)
11. Vote to accept the 8 Reports
12. Student Science Communication Competition for 2023  
(Jillian Phillips)
13. Lecture Programme for 2023-2024 (Anne Dalziel)
14. Revisions to the By-Laws (Stephanie MacQuarrie)
15. Vote to accept the New By-Laws
16. Nomination of 2023-2024 Council (Stephanie MacQuarrie)
17. Vote to approve the new Council
18. Any Other Business
19. Adjournment

**Note:** Following the AGM, at 7:30 pm there was a Public Lecture in the Auditorium and via a separate Zoom Call. Dr. Jantina Toxopeus (St. Francis Xavier University) presented "Winter: A Bug's-Eye View. How Animals Survive the Winter".

*Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal*  
*NSIS President*

## MINUTES OF THE 162<sup>ND</sup> NSIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Council Members & Observers Present:** Stephanie MacQuarrie (President), Anne Dalziel (Vice-President), Tamara Franz-Odendaal (Past President), Angelica Silva (Treasurer), Peter Wells (Editor), Michelle Paon (Librarian), Brent Robicheau (Publicity Officer), Hank Bird (Secretary and Excursions), Jinshan Xu (Councillor and SSTCC), Jillian Phillips (Observer, Discovery Centre Observer and SSTCC), Chenille Callendar (Discovery Centre Observer), Carol Morrison (Observer), Ale Torres (MSVU Student Representative), David Richardson (Associate Editor).

**Members Present:** Patrick Ryall, Sheila Crain, Sherry Niven, Paivi Torkelli, Andrew French, Jeff Turner, John Young, Barbara Zielinski, Jantina Toxopeus,

**Regrets & Absent (Council Members & Observers):** Shea McInnis (Membership Officer), Romman Muntzar (Webmanager), Nicoletta Farone (Councillor), Youyu Lu (Councillor and STCC), Tim Fedak (Nova Scotia Museum Observer), Alina Pindar (Observer), Ali Shafiee (Observer).

**Welcome:** The President welcomed members and called the 162nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) to order. The President noted that presentations would be kept short and informal and that the reports, excluding the minutes from last year's AGM, would be approved as a unit at the end of the presentations.

### 1. **Approval of the Minutes of the 161st Annual General Meeting of 2 May 2022:**

There were no revisions to those Minutes.

### 2. **Motion to accept the minutes of the 161st AGM:**

Moved: A. Dalziel

Seconded: A. Torres

All in favour: Approved unanimously.

### 3. **President's Annual Report (Stephanie MacQuarrie):**

S. MacQuarrie thanked the Council for its hard work and its support during her first year as President, with special thanks to:

- A. Dalziel for her VP support and for organizing the Public Lectures series.

- T. Franz-Odendaal and R. Muntzar for managing the revamping of the NSIS website.
- B. Robicheau for promoting the NSIS online via social media.
- J. Phillips, Y. Lu, and J. Xu for co-coordinating the Student Science and Technology Communications Competition (SSTCC).
- H. Bird for his support at Secretary.

The President noted that our new website has been designed and is up and running with a new service provider. It has new features and content, and it is easier to navigate. She noted that we welcome suggestions for content, appearance and improvements.

She also noted that we plan to start a short periodic NSIS Newsletter in the fall of this year. The newsletter needs a name, and we may run a competition to select one.

Our Librarian, Michelle Paon, has retired after many years of outstanding service to the NSIS. We are still working on a replacement. The NSIS By-laws have required that our Librarian must be a Science Librarian at Dalhousie University, but the Dalhousie Killam Library currently has staffing limitations. We propose to change the By-Laws to allow our Librarian to be any Librarian with access to the collections at the Killam Library (see item #14).

This year we were active in our Strategic Planning and have several actions that will carry into the 2023-2024 year. Among them are:

- Increasing the number of members.
- Encouraging corporate partnerships and financial support.
- Starting a periodic NSIS Newsletter. It will need a name, and we may run a competition to select one.
- Starting an Awards Committee to recognize (1) significant work by Nova Scotian scientists, and (2) significant contributions to the work of the NSIS.
- Obtaining “swag” or NSIS-identified items such as t-shirts, coffee mugs, pens, etc. that can be sold (or given as tokens).

The following Public Lectures (hybrid: in-person and Zoom) took place over the 2022-2023 NSIS year:

- **Oct. 3rd, 2022: “How the Black Soldier Fly Can Help Turn the Global Protein Crisis Around”.**  
Dr. Greg Wanger (Oberland Agriscience).
- **Nov. 2nd, 2022: “Drawing on Science: Mastodons of Nova Scotia”.**  
Dr. Tim Fedak (NS Museum of Natural History).
- **Dec. 6th, 2022: “New Lessons from Old Mountains: What Are Our Rocks Trying to Tell Us?”.**  
Dr. Deanne van Rooyen (Acadia University).
- **Jan. 9th, 2023: “Getting Nova Scotia Off Oil, Off Coal, and Off Gas”.**  
Dr. Kathlyne Nelson (NS Dept. of Natural Resources)
- **Feb. 6th, 2023: “Student Symposium: Climate Science in Nova Scotia”.**  
Several student scientists (from nearby NS research institutions).
- **March 6th, 2023: “Accelerating Natural Ocean CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration as a Climate Change Solution?”**  
Dr. William Burt (Planetary Technologies). POSTPONED to 2023-2024 year due to scheduling conflicts.
- **Apr. 3rd, 2023: “How to Stop Global Warming”.**  
Dr. Andrew MacDougall (St. Francis Xavier University).
- **May 29th, 2023: “Winter: A Bug’s-Eye View; How Animals Survive the Winter”.**  
Dr. Jantina Toxopeus (St. Francis Xavier University).

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

#### 4. **Treasurer’s Annual Report (Angelica Silva):**

As of March 31st, 2023, the net worth of the NSIS was \$32,902.38, held in our BMO bank account. Of this, \$17,902.38 is in cash, and \$15,000.00 is in an 18-month GIC paying 4.15% per year.

Revenue from all sources were \$4,543.73 (\$3,023.01 as individual memberships). Other revenue was \$150.00 in Institutional Memberships and \$370.72 in Income/Access Copyright Royalties. There was also a contribution of \$1,000.00 from the NS Bird Society, to be applied to a reprinting of *The Birds of Brier Island*.

Expenditures amounted to \$6,340.95 (including \$4,535.08 of for production of the *ProcNSIS*). Other expenditures included \$907.45 for the *ProcNSIS* mail-out, \$41.86 for Publicity and Advertising, \$644.10 partial payment for our new website design, and \$212.46 for the website domain. (NOTE: in a normal year we would also contribute \$1,000.00 to support school Science Fairs in the province, but there were none in 2022 due to Covid. Also, we would normally spend \$1,500.00 on SSTCC prizes, but the competition was not completed in 2022.)

The Treasurer noted that, as of May 2nd, 2022, the NSIS currently has a total of 127 active members and 10 institutional members. (See item #7.)

We thank Carol Richardson (Dalhousie Killam Library) for her continuing contribution with NSIS mail at Dalhousie University, and for library services. Many thanks to graduate student Shea McInnis (SMU) for his contribution as a Membership officer and to Romman Muntzar for compiling and transference of membership payments. Many thanks to NSIS Secretary Hank Bird for multiple roles and contributions with mail and banking.

D. Richardson suggested that we stop using PayPal as a payment method and move to direct bank transfers. A. Silva and H. Bird reported that they have begun to look into making this change.

Finally, the Treasurer noted the passing in March of Elaine McCullough, who served the NSIS as an outstanding Treasurer for many years. D. Richardson noted her service to Saint Mary's University Retirees in the same capacity.

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

The PNSIS continues successfully, thanks to the hard work of the Editorial Board and the widening interest across Nova Scotia and the Maritimes in contributing relevant papers to our regional, peer-reviewed science journal.

The latest issue, PNSIS Vol. 52, Part Two, published in October 2022, is on the NSIS website. As with all previous issues, it is open access for readers. Printed copies were sent out to NSIS members upon request, as well as to exchange libraries and institutes. The print run of 150 copies is now exhausted.

Contributions for PNSIS Vol. 53, Part One, 2023, are still being sought, with a deadline of June 30th and completion date of late summer. To date, we have three confirmed Commentaries, two Research papers (one in review), two student submissions, and two Book Reviews. We will include the AGM Minutes, the program of talks and other activities planned for 2023-24, and an Editorial.

During the winter, the Editorial Board was reminded to actively solicit research contributions, commentaries and book reviews from their colleagues and students. The Institute's members can also help to spread the word about NSIS and its journal through social media and personal contacts.

On that note, two of us attended the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society (FSRS) Annual Conference (fsrs.conference@gmail.com) on March 21st, in Dartmouth. We set up a display table with BoFEP (Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership), sharing the space and cost and distributing the latest NSIS brochure, membership form, and some past Proceedings. The conference was well attended; lots of people stopped by and showed interest. It was a great way to network between our societies and help build NSIS membership!

We will participate in Ocean Day next week on the Halifax waterfront and distribute the NSIS brochure – all part of building NSIS membership and interest in the PNSIS and regional science!

## **6. Librarian's Annual Report (Carol Richardson for Michelle Paon):**

The NSIS Librarian serves as a liaison between the Dalhousie University Libraries and the Nova Scotian Institute of Science. The Administrative Assistant, Carol Richardson, works with the Librarian to communicate with NSIS journal exchange partners from around the world and oversees the receipt of partner journals. They both work with Dalhousie Libraries' staff members in the Killam Memorial Library 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 June 2022-April 2023, there were no sales of the *Proceedings* from the Killam Library's Reference & Research Services office. The Reference & Research Services Administrative Assistant packaged and mailed 61 copies of the new issue (vol. 52, pt.2, 2022) to NSIS members (59 externally and 2 internally to Dalhousie). An invoice for \$665.02 was received for charges incurred by the Dalhousie Libraries for the mailing of the *Proceedings*.

*Indexing and Abstracting Services*

NSIS also sent complimentary copies of the most recent issue of the *Proceedings* to the National Library of Canada (2 copies) & the Library of Congress.

*Access Copyright*

Any payments received from Access Copyright was sent directly to the NSIS treasurer.

*Institutional Members and Exchange Partners*

NSIS sent renewal invoices to its institutional partners of which 9 have renewed their subscriptions. There are currently 14 Institutional members and 81 Exchange partners.

*NSIS Exchange Journal Collection*

NSIS receives journal issues from exchange partners around the world. As an example, from June 2022 to April 2023, NSIS received 28 journal issues and society publications from the Institute's exchange partners. These items were delivered to the Dalhousie Libraries (Killam Memorial Library location), where they are processed and added to the NSIS collection in the library.

S. MacQuarrie thanked Carol Richardson and Michelle Paon for their librarian support over a large number of years. D. Richardson noted that the *ProcNSIS*'s circulation to other libraries and institutions stimulates contributions of journals to the Killam Library's collections. Finally, M. Paon noted that while many institutions no longer produce print copies of their journals (they are open access only), there is value in providing limited print runs of *ProcNSIS*.

## 7. Membership Annual Report (Hank Bird for Shea MacInnis):

### *Membership Overview:*

To date, there are currently 127 active members of the NSIS, plus 10 institutional members. This is slightly higher than a year ago.

Type of Mbrshp.	AGM 2023	AGM 2022
Honorary	2	2
Life		
26	25	
Regular	76	74
Student	6	15
Complimentary	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>
(Lecturers, SSTCC)		
	127	122
Institutional	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
	137	133

### *Membership Drive:*

We held a Membership Drive in September-December of 2022. There were two prizes awarded – each prize was 3 signed copies of books by Soren Bondrup-Nielsen.

## 8. Webmanager's Annual Report (Romman Muntzar):

This year, the main tasks that were done were updating the NSIS website with the upcoming talks on the Public Lectures page, the Student Science and Technology Communication Competition winners results and miscellaneous edits needed occasionally for the website.

Money from the PayPal account continued to be transferred to the BMO account and the PayPal Membership update excel sheet was also updated as the money would be sent. The document is also sent to Angelica Silva and Hank Bird every month.

A whole new page on the website was set up for the AGM meeting and the PayPal account was set up to receive a fixed amount of money so that it was more convenient for people to purchase the AGM buffet dinner, as well as renew their membership for the coming year.



Lastly, the NSIS website had an ongoing server issue (for the last month and a half) that became quite hard to fix. Our web designer, Abe Omorogbe, was contacted and he fixed the issue for a nominal price. Once the website was back up, additional last-minute edits were made and pictures of the competition winners were added.

## 9. **Publicity Annual Report (Brent Robichaud):**

### *Highlights:*

1. Early in the year the Publicity Officer generated annual promotional material for the lecture series. This included:
  - i. Our annual NSIS brochure featuring the list of all seminar speakers for the year, a President's message, and additional general information about the NSIS and how to become a member,
  - ii. Lecture speaker posters for distribution each month,
  - iii. Monthly lecture ads/graphics for social media posts.

Additionally, Facebook events were generated for all forthcoming lectures. The lecture series was also advertised monthly on Twitter typically 1-2 weeks prior to the event. Other ads posted to FB and Twitter as requested (for e.g., membership drive & writing competition).

Also, this year university science administrators were notified of upcoming lectures via email each month.

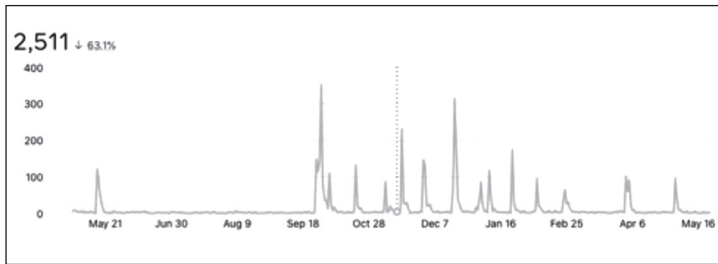
2. The Publicity Officer continued to work on refining our list of potential action points for increasing graduate student engagement. A small committee was formed (including J. Phillips and H. Bird) to work on presenting ideas to the executive that may be worth pursuing (considering things such as resources of the NSIS and potential time-commitments for each action point relative to their potential for success), and then gathering further feedback from the executive committee. This is an ongoing topic that will continue to be worked on into 2023-2024.
3. The Publicity Officer worked alongside President and VP to conduct an NSIS membership drive, including securing signed books from local author Dr. Soren Bondrup-Nielsen for prizes.

4. The Publicity Officer assisted the VP with the student symposium with respect to establishing and monitoring the abstract submission portal.

*Facebook: (past year; 1-May-2022 to 23-May-2023)*

Page Reach values are shown. (Page Reach = “the number of people who saw any content from your Page or about your Page, including posts, stories, ads, social information from people who interact with your Page and more.”)

*Assessment:* In 2021/22 we had 435 page visits, this year 2022/23 we had 491 page visits, so about the same as the prior year.



*Twitter: (Note that Twitter does not provide graphics for entire year)*

*Assessment:* based on the number of followers we had 136 followers in May 2022, and in May 2023 we have 187 followers. Hence, a net gain of 51 followers this past year.

## 10. Excursions Annual Report (Hank Bird):

For the record, we did 13 excursions in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Due to Covid-19, no NSIS Excursions were conducted from the Spring of 2020 until May 2022.

In May 2022, we teamed with the Halifax Field Naturalists who provided a guided nature walk in the Purcell’s Cove Backlands. It was a glorious day, and we learned a lot about the flora, fauna, and ecology of this dramatic and unique area in our midst.

In April 2023 we had a pop-up excursion co-sponsored with the NS Museum of Natural History. Tim Fedak led a group of about 20 people on an urban geology walk on the Halifax Citadel drumlin. It was a pleasant and educational outing, and we learned

quite a lot about the geological aspects of this feature right in the centre of our city.

At the moment two excursions will take place later in 2023.

- We have set up an excursion at Kejimikujik National Park in July for a guided outing to include the petroglyphs and a nature hike.
- Dr. Linda Campbell of SMU has agreed to lead an outing to the Montague Gold Mines in October.

Other possibilities include:

- Waterfalls of Nova Scotia  
(various sites)
- Shubenacadie Wildlife Park  
(Shubenacadie)
- Cape Split Nature Hike (Scots Bay)
- NS Museum of Industry (New Glasgow)
- Canadian Geological Association (joint excursion)  
(TBD)

We welcome additional suggestions and possibilities.

These are the 15 excursions we had in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, and early 2023:

- Natural History of McNab's Island
- Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens (twice)
- The Science and Art of Making Beer,  
at the Garrison Brewery.
- Burke-Gaffney Observatory
- Joggins Fossil Cliffs
- Shubenacadie Canal
- Bedford Institute of Oceanography
- Dalhousie Planetarium
- Habits and Habitats of NS Birds  
(in association with the NS Birding Society)
- Otter Ponds Demonstration Forest
- The Science and Art of Making Beer,  
at the 2 Crows Brewing Company
- Fundy Geological Museum, Ottawa House,  
and the Tidal Power Exhibit.
- Discovery Centre (including “behind the scenes”)

- Purcell’s Cove Backlands (in association with Halifax Field Naturalists)
- Halifax Citadel Drumlin Geological Walk

### **11. Motion to Accept the Annual Reports:**

Moved: A. Dalziel

Seconded: A. Silva

All in favour: Approved unanimously.

### **12. Student Science Communications Competition for 2023**

#### **(Jillian Phillips):**

This year the competition was co-coordinated by J. Phillips, Y. Lu and J. Xu, with some support from H. Bird. The co-coordinators recommend that subsequent competitions continue to be managed by 2 or 3 persons, rather than a single individual.

This year the “essay” category was introduced across all categories, replacing the “research” paper category with the hope to make the competition more accessible to undergraduate and college students. We also dropped the requirement for a short video synopsis about a submission’s topic, focussing on writing skills.

The overall goals were to:

- Promote the communication of science and technology in NS.
- Provide students an opportunity to practice their STEM communication skills and receive meaningful feedback on their writing.
- Generate interest in and submission for publication in the Proceedings of the NSIS.

#### *Judges:*

- Hank Bird
- Anne Dalziel
- Tim Fedak
- Youyu Lu
- Romman Muntzar
- Jinshan Xu

*Submissions:* 9 papers from 4 NS Universities and from NSCC.

- Dalhousie University (5)
- Acadia University (1)
- Cape Breton University (1)
- Mount St. Vincent University (1)
- Nova Scotia Community College (1)

*Results:*

- Undergraduate Winner: Aliya Seward (Human Nutrition, MSVU)
- Undergraduate Honorable Mention: Kiya Heneke-Flindall (Environ. Sci., Dal.)
- Postgraduate Winner: Rebecca Mader (Mycology, Acadia U.)
- Postgraduate Honorable Mention: Reid Sutherland (Marine Management, Dal.)

### **13. Lecture Program for 2023-2024 (Anne Dalziel):**

Alana Pindar and Anne Dalziel propose the following 8 speakers/events for next year, based upon suggestions:

1. Dr. William Burt, Planetary Technologies. “Accelerating natural ocean CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration as a climate change solution? Testing the safety and viability of Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement”. (Hybrid, in Halifax).
2. Student Symposium. “TBA”. (3 speakers, Hybrid, in Halifax; give prize for crowd favorite). This is a key student event. We will ask for feedback on the topic, especially from our student members!
3. Student Event: “Career Q&A”. (4-5 speakers, hybrid, in Halifax).
4. Kathleen Aikens, Executive Director ACAP CB: “Trash-formers”.
5. Dr. Allison Mackie, CBU. “Treatment of industrial wastewater”. (Hybrid, In Sydney).
6. Confederation of Mainland Mikmaq (speaker TBA): Ongoing research in Aquatic Resources & Fisheries Management and Environment & Natural Resources programs.

7. Dr. Paul Manning, Dalhousie Agriculture. “The importance of biodiversity (specifically insects) to the health and functioning of agricultural ecosystems”.
8. Dr. Linda Campbell, SMU ENVIS: “Contamination from historical goldmines in NS”.

#### **14. Revisions to the By-Laws (Stephanie MacQuarrie)**

The Council has recommended a number of small changes to the NSIS By-laws. The vote in Council was 9 in favour plus 1 abstention. Copies were e-mailed to the NSIS members prior to this meeting. Most of the changes were cosmetic or for clarification. Highlights include:

- Updating language, e.g.: “Webmaster” to “Webmanager”, “Lecture Series” to “Speaker Series”, etc.
- Updating the responsibilities of the Vice-President position.
- Updating Librarian position so that it can be a Librarian with access to Killiam Library.
- Adding a Speaker Series Chair position, responsible for managing the yearly series of public lectures and events.
- Removing the requirement that membership cards be issued.
- Noting that all councillors are expected to participate and contribute..

#### **15. Motion to Approve the New By-laws:**

Moved: T. Franz-Odendaal

Seconded: H. Bird

All in favour: Approved unanimously.

#### **16. Report of the Nominating Committee for the 2019-2020 Council (S. MacQuarrie):**

The President thanked the outgoing Council and remarked that S. MacQuarrie and the Nominating Committee made efforts to increase the Council’s diversity for institutions represented, disciplines, age, gender, and geographic location. The AGM was asked to elect the following to NSIS Council for 2023-2024:

*Officers:*

President	Stephanie McQuarrie
Vice-President	Jillian Phillips
Past President	Tamara Franz-Odendaal
Treasurer	Angelica Silva
Editor	Peter Wells
Librarian	(vacant)
Membership Officer	Jinshan Xu
Webmaster	Romman Muntzar
Publicity Officer	Brent Robicheau
Speaker Series Chair	Alana Pindar
Secretary	Hank Bird
Councillors:	
Councillor	Ann Dalziel
Councillor	Shannon Ezzat
Councillor	Bruce Hatcher
Councillor	Judy MacInnis
Councillor	Ali Shafiee
Councillor	Jeffrey Turner

*Observers:*

Nova Scotia Museum	Tim Fedak
Discovery Centre	Adam Brown
Schools	(vacant)

*Student Representative:*

MSVU	Ale Torres
SMU	Audrey Sanger

*Associate Editor:* David Richardson

**17. Motion to Approve the Nominations:**

Moved: P. Ryall

Seconded: A. Dalziel

All in favour: Approved unanimously via online poll.

**18. Any Other Business:**

There was no other business to conduct. The meeting acknowledged A. Dalziel for setting up the hybrid (live & Zoom) meetings for this AGM and the following Public Lecture. David Richardson was thanked for his efforts to obtain the venue at SMU and set up the buffet dinner and refreshments. And the meeting expressed appreciation to the President of Saint Mary's University for the favorable rates we were granted for the facilities.

**19. Adjournment:**

Motion by S. MacQuarrie to adjourn the 162nd Annual General Meeting of the NSIS at 7:31pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Hank Bird, Secretary*