Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science (2025)
Volume 54, Part 2, pp. 649-669

NSIS COUNCIL REPORTS

Reports from the Annual General Meeting
June 1, 2026 - 7:30 pm

AGENDA

165th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting held in Sobeys Building Room 255,
Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS, and via Zoom

1. **Welcome (**Jillian Phillips)
2. **Minutes of Previous AGM:** (Tanner George)
3. **Annual Reports:**
   President (Jillian Phillips)
   Treasurer (Angelica Silva)
   PNSIS Editor (David Richardson for Peter Wells)
   Membership (Barb Zielinski)
   Publicity (Eli LeDrew)
   Website (Ailish Sullivan)
   2025/6 Lecture Programme Recap and Upcoming 2026/7 Lecture Programme (Alana Pindar)
   Excursions (Hank Bird)
   Student Science & Technology Writing Competition for 2026 (Connor Smith)
   Motion and Vote to accept the 9 reports.
4. **Awards:**
   Recognition of new Hall of Fame Member Dr. Axel Becke (Dr. Mary Anne White)
   Writing Competition Awards (Connor Smith)
   Words from Writing Competition Participants
   Travel Awards for 2026 (Brent Robicheau)
5. **Council for 2026-2027:** (Jillian Phillips)
   Nomination of 2026-2027 Council.
   Motion and Vote to approve the new Council.
6. **Other Business:** (Jillian Phillips)
   Any Other Business?
7. **Adjournment:** (Jillan Phillips)

Council Members & Observers Present: Jillian Phillips (President), Tanner George (Secretary), Angelica Silva (Treasurer), Hank Bird (Excursions), Bruce Hatcher (Councillor), Barbara Zielinski (Membership Officer), Sean Haughian (Observer, NS Museum), Ailish Sullivan (Webmaster), Helga Guderley (Councillor), Eli LeDrew (Publicity Officer), David Richardson (Associate Editor), Peter Wells (PNSIS Editor), Brent Robicheau (Vice President), Connor Smith (SSTWC).

Regrets & Absent (Council Members & Observers): Derick Lee (Councillor), Judy MacInnis (Councillor), Stephanie MacQuarrie (Past President), Alana Pindar (Speaker Series Chair), Jinshan Xu (Councillor), Shannon Ezzat (Councillor).

Members and Guests Present: John Young, Valeria Montes, Samuel Sequeira, Dayle Sirko, Grace Ogrady, Hsiang Yu Chang, Olivia Murphy, Kelly Murphy, Adunola Oyenola, Olaitan Oyetola, Adunola Oyenola's younger sibling, Michelle Paon, John Macneil, James Anderson, Cherif Matta, Judy Bird, four whose names weren't marked down.

Online: Islam K. Mater, Tehya Mohammad, Michael Casey, Nicole Wright, Jim Elliot

1. **Welcome (Jillian Philips)**
   Jill begins with a general introduction to the crowd for the 165th NSIS AGM.

2. **Minutes of Previous AGM: (Tanner George)**
   Minutes of the 164th AGM from 5 May 2025.
   Motion and Vote to accept last years Minutes of the 164th AGM.
   Motion by Bruce Hatcher, Second David Richardson.
   10 votes in favor, none against.

3. **Annual Reports**

4. **President (Jillian Phillips)**
   NSIS 2025–2026 Highlights

   Comprised of a dedicated group of member-volunteers, the NSIS Council continues to promote science in NS and actively seeks new members and funding to support our initiatives. I sincerely thank everyone serving on this year's council for their dedication and invite others with a passion for science to join us, share the responsibilities, and contribute to advancing our mission.

During the 2025/26 year, NSIS council and editorial board continued our mission to promote science in Nova Scotia through:

Public Engagement

- Hybrid Public Lecture Series with a Diversity of speakers
- Thank you to Alana Pindar for your continued speaker reach out and organization contributing to a successful lecture series and secretary Tanner George for organizing rooms on campus at SMU and DAL
- Social posts acknowledging current science initiatives and days of scientific interest/importance

Scholarly Publishing

- PNSIS volume 54-1 is currently available, open access; new issue 54-2 is in progress
- Thank you to the ongoing work of Editor Peter Wells, Assoc. Editor David Richardson, and our editorial board

Student Opportunities

- Student Science and Tech Writing Competition (thank you to Competition Coordinator Connor Smith and all our judges)

Community Outreach And Excursions

- Financial support for school science fairs, and youth science fair judging
- Excursions with a scientific element for members and guests

Scientific Recognition

- New NSIS Hall of fame inductee for 2026

5. Treasurer (Angelica Silva)

Report available, not going through all details explicitly. Roughly 10K out, less then 10K in, mostly due to donations. Biggest expense includes PNSIS publication, and awards to students along with donations to other educational institutions.

NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE **1862-2026**
2025 -2026 – NSIS AGM – FINANCIAL REPORT
April 1st, 2025-March 31st, 2026
Halifax, Nova Scotia-June 1st, 2026

ASSETS 2025-2026

BMO account as of March 31,2026	$20,665.03
BMO GIC (January 2027)	$10,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS AS OF MARCH 31, 2026	**$30,665.03**

REVENUE (April 1st, 2025-March 31st, 2026)

NSIS Membership regular	$2,370.00
NSIS Membership Life	$1,200.00
NSIS Students	$400.00
NSIS Membership Institutions	$180.00
PNSIS sales	$35.00
Income/ACCESS Copyright Royalties	$403.71
Donations:	$6,152.00
GIC Income investment interest 2025 (BMO)	$562.50
AGM dinner	$1,600.00
TOTAL REVENUE 2025-2026	**$12,903.21**

EXPENSES (April 1st, 2025-March 31st, 2026)

NSIS Proceedings PNSIS /Printing	$951.59
NSIS Proceedings PNSIS/Layout	$2,964.00
AGM Lecture costs	$2,035.00
NSIS 2025 Writing Science Competition	$2,300.00
NSIS 2025 Science Sponsorships / Student Travel Awards	$1,900.00
NS Regional Science Fairs (3)	$300.00
Postage (Dalhousie, Members)	$238.91
NSIS Excursion guide miscellaneaous	$170.00
NSIS refund to member	$40.00
NSIS website Annual fee (3 years) - due 2027)	$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES 2025-2026	**$10,899.70**

NSIS FINANCES 2025-2026

This is the Nova Scotian Institute of Science (NSIS) 2025-2026 year-end financial status report to be presented at the NSIS 2026 AGM on May 4th, 2026. This report contains all income and expenses from April 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2026. This NSIS report will be attached to CRA Charities submission and it will posted within the Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science (PNSIS) 2026 edition.

NSIS 2025-2026 total assets as of March 31, 2026 are $30,665.03, which includes BMO account at $20,665.03, plus a BMO GIC $10,000 renewed on January 2026 (due January 2027).

The NSIS 2025-2026 total income was $12,903.21 (p. 1) that included $4,150 received from all Membership Categories: Regular Members $2,370, Students $400, Life Members $1,200 and Institutional Members $180. Other income of $6,152 was obtained from: PNSIS sales $35; ACCESS Copyright Royalties $403.71; and mostly from DONATIONS $6,152 received from: University of Cape Breton $200; Genome Atlantic $500; Gud-erley $5,000; Daborn, Melville and Rawlings – each $100, Bird $2; BMO GIC interest $562.50, and 2025 NSIS AGM Dinner registrations $1,600.

NSIS Total Expenses for 2025 – 2026 were $10,899.70, (p. 2) and these resulted from costs of publishing the NSIS Scientific Journal "Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science (PNSIS)" of $3,915.59, derived from printing costs at RAPIDO BOOKS $951.59 and Editing/Layout services by G. LeBlanc for $2,964.

The 2025-2026 NSIS Scientific Writing Competition awarded a total of $2,300 to student winners on the following categories: Graduate $800 J. Pedersen, Undergraduate $600 J Ryuzala, Hon. Mention Undergraduate $300 A. Jalal, Highschool Winner $300 S. Rimbert, and three High School Honorable Mentions of $150 each to F. Jefferies, A. Rashid and A. Kamp, later yet to clear.

The 2025-2026 NSIS Graduate Student Travel Awards for a total of $1,200 were awarded based on student applications for funding towards travel to scientific conferences to presented their work. There were 2 winners that received $500 each: A. Sergio and K. Tang and three other awards of $100 were given to J. Campbell, S. Hawkins and A. Noussis, later yet to cleared.

NSIS contributed $300 to Regional Science Fairs and did send $100 each to: Halifax Science and Technology Expo (HSTE), South Shore Regional Science Fair (SSRCF) and Annapolis Valley Regional Science Fair (AVRSF). NSIS did also contribute a total of $700 to two upcoming Science organizations, Terranaut $200 and Impoteh's Legacy Academy $500 to support Science accessibility to all. Other NSIS expenses were $40 as a refund to a member, $170 for excursions related miscellaneous and Postage for $238.91 paid to Dalhousie University.

The Nova Scotian Institute of Science had a total of 176 active members for the period 2025-2026, from the following categories: 57 regular members, 65 student members, 12 complimentary (Lecturers), 5 Honorary members and 37 LIFE Members and 6 Institutional members.

The Nova Scotian Institute of Science is a not-for-profit and Charitable membership organization that continues to dedicate all of its resources towards communication and support of scientific relevance to all Nova Scotians by publishing a Scientific Journal PNSIS, organizes an Annual NSIS Lecture series (October to May), free and now accessible live via zoom. NSIS continues its support to NSIS Student science writing competitions, NSIS Travel Awards, Nova Scotia Regional Science Fairs and other Science Events/organizations that reach out to young people.

Many thanks to Carol Richardson from Dalhousie University for continuing support and to Hank Bird for his multiple roles contributing to finance, membership updates.

Respectfully submitted
Angelica Silva, NSIS Treasurer Volunteer

6. PNSIS Editor (David Richardson for Peter Wells)

The PNSIS, Vol. 54, Part 1, 2025, was completed in Fall, 2025, and distributed to members, as well as being placed on the NSIS website.

Preparation of PNSIS, Vol. 54, Part 2, 2026, is moving ahead smoothly, thanks to the work of the Associate Editor and members of the Editorial Board. Reviews of incoming submissions are coordinated by the Associate Editor. Our monthly meeting helps to keep track of progress for the new issue, find reviewers, and encourage submissions.

To date, for PNSIS 54-2, we have accepted one commentary (two more promised), two papers (four more in review), two student papers (more expected from the 2026 student writing competition), two book reviews (two more promised), and one excursion report (one more expected). The deadline for all submissions is June 30th. We will be working hard during the summer months to complete the new Issue in time for the first NSIS Fall meeting.

We are also addressing several outstanding items of importance – the inclusion of the DOI for each contribution; possibly adding a PFL (Publication Facts Label) to the journal; publication of a large MS on lakes and climate change that has been sent to us; introducing page charges again to cover increasing costs; and continuing to strengthen the editorial board and having a succession plan for the Editors, i.e. recruitment.

Finally, we once again thank the authors, reviewers, and especially our Layout and Production Editor, Gail LeBlanc, for contributions and continued hard work on behalf of the NSIS and PNSIS.

Respectfully submitted
Peter G. Wells, Editor
David H.S. Richardson, Assoc. Editor

7. Membership (Barb Zielinski)

Jill on behalf of Barb as she had to step out. Detail provided regarding our vision to spearhead the emphasis on reciprocal donation options for institutions centered around sharing membership and our other initiatives.

Overall membership as of Apr. 30.

Category	Number AGM 2026	Number AGM 2025
Honorary	5	5
Life	37	35
Regular	60	64
Stud	65	65
Free	12	20
Total Active =	179	189

Current NSIS membership categories

- Individual Membership – honorary, life, regular, student
- Institutional Membership is $40/yr (9 institutional members in 2025)

NSIS Membership workgroup: Hank Bird, Tanner George, Bruce Hatcher, Derrick Lee, Jinshan Xu, Barb Zielinski. Follow up on report presented by Jinshan Xu at the 2025 annual meeting.

The opening of an NSIS donor/sponsor category

Goals:

- Redefine the Institutional Membership category
- Introduce - Donor (Sponsor) category (not necessarily a membership) to include secondary schools, university departments or faculties, scientific associations and nongovernmental organizations, government laboratories and agencies, corporations and companies selling science-based products and services, entrepreneurs developing science-based innovations, science related clubs and community groups.

We propose that the NSIS shift focus from actively seeking Institutional Members to seeking organizations as Donors/Sponsors to whom we offer an institutional membership as part of their benefits. We could also include an offer of free student or regular memberships for students/scientists/employees, the number depending on the size of the donation. Say, 1 to 5 for donations from $100 to $1,000+.) Provide a template spreadsheet with the membership application, to communicate the desired benefits, such as individuals within an organization.

Possible scenario

Ask institutions, companies if they would contribute a donation on the grounds of supporting the NSIS, and as a give back, we will donate individual memberships (amount per $ to be determined) that last one year. Institutions and contributing donors may also have their information listed as an advertisement/thank you for contributing to the NSIS on the website and other things they choose to support, as their donation can be tailored to our various efforts.

What the Committee Needs from the Council at this time:
Agreement that the Committee will also present how Sponsors (Institutes) will be signed up, their contributions accepted, and what new and changed webpages are recommended. Agreement that this should be coordinated with the Strategic Planning Committee.

The Benefits of Being an NSIS Sponsor

NSIS is the Original Scientific Institution in Nova Scotia with a 164-year history

- All can recognize the importance, depth, and breadth of the scientific capacity of our province.

Maintain the Archives and History of Scientific endeavour in the province

- The NSIS roots can be used as a resource for understanding the history of science within our province.

Maintain NS Science Hall of Fame, highlighting contributions of past NS scientists

- We are intent on recognizing, capturing, and maintaining a list of scientists in Nova Scotia who have made significant contributions to their field. Members submit names to be considered for distinction.

Award Honorary Memberships to active NS scientists

- We are intent on recognizing, capturing and maintaining a list of scientists in Nova Scotia who have, and continue to make significant contributions to their field.
- All members can submit names for scientists to be considered for this distinction.

Maintain an Active Membership of Practicing Scientists & Students

This list is for those in our community who wish to pay membership fees ($10-40) to be a part of our membership mailing list. Members may attend meetings and participate to the extent they wish within the mission of the NSIS.

Publish a peer-reviewed journal focused on science relevant to the province

We host the Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, a peer-reviewed, general science journal dedicated to research work conducted here and in the other Maritime provinces.

Present Public Lectures by high-profile N.S. scientists

Notification of each lecture, as well as the opportunity to submit requests for speakers.

Maintain the NSIS Website

- Our website features a number of resources, and opportunities for sponsorship/advertising.

Maintain Social Media Presence [LinkedIn, Twitter, ce-Book, Instagram,]

- Includes all relevant information on our activities such as public lectures, and we also are intent on sharing more information such as councillor bio's, interviews, and shared science news.

Conduct Science-centered Excursions to Nova Scotian ecosystems

- These activities include guided/organized outings to a number of locations around the province.

Conduct Student Science & Technology Writing Contest

- Ability to participate, sponsor, support, judge, or engage with un and coming scientists. Recognition of sponsors will be done for those who allow us to award students for their work.

Support & Judge Youth Science Fairs

- We provide financial support for science fairs and students, while also mediating sponsors to support Nova Scotian science fairs broadly.

Provide student Travel Awards and Support for local Conferences & Associations

- We provide opportunities for students and sponsors to support them as well, featuring advertising.

Complimentary 1-year NSIS Membership(s)*

- For sponsors wishing to support NSIS, we will offer free memberships for the donor institution that wish to participate in the NSIS, distributed based on the sponsors needs/interested people.

Attendance at our Annual General Meeting, Seminar (or Symposium) & Dinner

- This is a great opportunity for scientists in training all the way to retired experts from across the province to come together and celebrate the Science and our pursuits within the NSIS in advancing community.

8. Publicity (Eli LeDrew)

Eli details all of the social media impacts across all platforms. Helga asks about BlueSky, and suggests lower usage of the platform may be why there is less engagement.

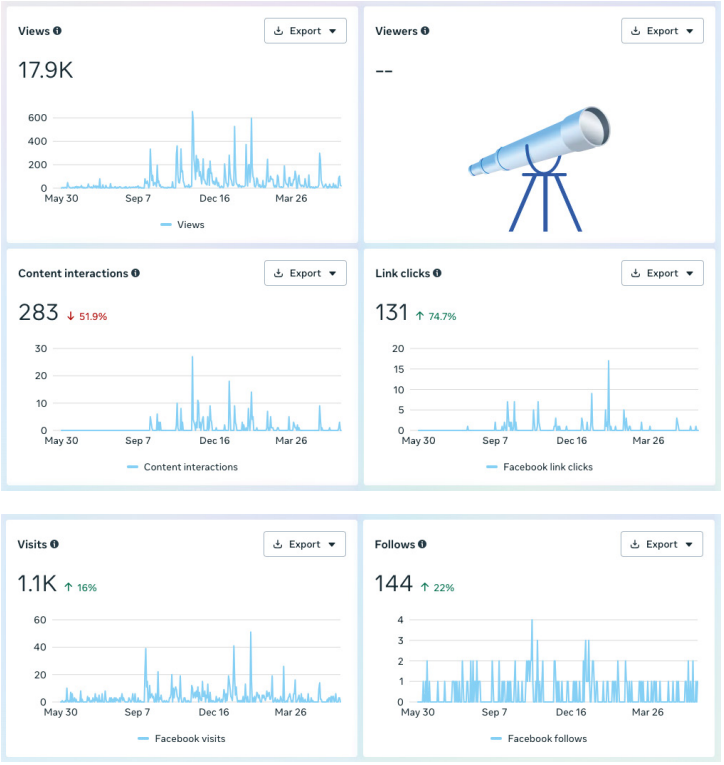
Created annual promotional material for lecture series including monthly printable posters, monthly social media banners, and annual NSIS brochure

1. Created monthly Facebook events for each lecture, advertised monthly about lecture series on Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky, and LinkedIn, as well as posted informational posts on writing competition and other relevant events
2. Emailed NSIS members, science administrators, and media outlets about upcoming lectures each month
3. Setup new BlueSky and LinkedIn accounts for NSIS
4. Assisted with judging writing competition
5. Working on creating member spotlights and other NSIS advertisements about membership and journal
   - These posts will continue to roll out into the summer months to keep engagement

Social Media Updates:

FACEBOOK (Past year 2025-2026)

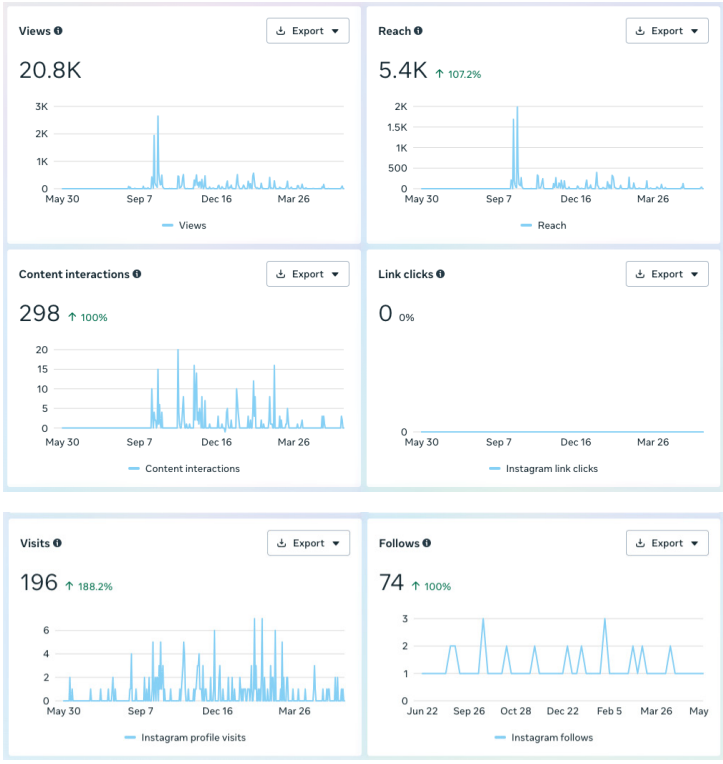




Assessment: This year (2025/2026) by the AGM we had a net gain of 129 followers on Facebook. In the 2023/2024 year by the AGM, we had gained 58 followers and in the 2024/2025 year we gained 99.

We are down 51.9% in content interactions from the 2024/2025 year but are up in Link clicks (74.7%), page visits (16%), and follows (22%).

INSTAGRAM (Past year 2025-2026)



Assessment: This year (2025/2026) by the AGM we had a net gain of 74 followers on Instagram.

We are up 107.2% in reach, up 100% in content interactions, up 188.2% in profile visits, and up 100% in followers from the 2024/2025 year by the AGM.

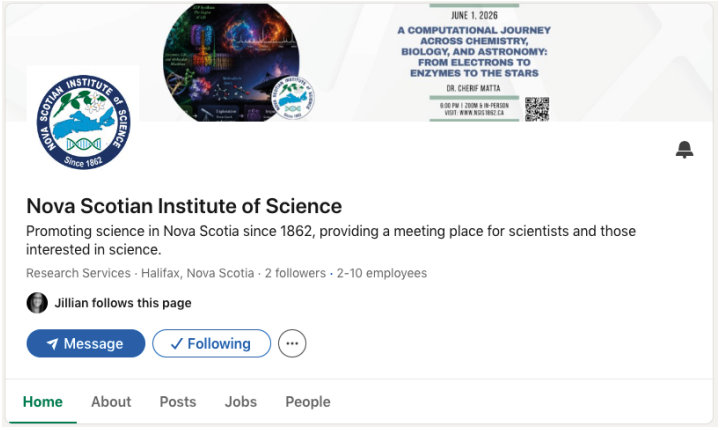
BLUESKY (October 2025-May 2026)



Assessment: Since creating the account in October, we have gained 8 followers.

Go give us a follow!

LinkedIn (March 2026 - May 2026)



Assessment: Very new account only created in March. So far, we only have 2 followers.

Go give us a follow and engage!

9. **Website (Ailish Sullivan)**
   Ailish details all of the various key updates and changes with the website, highlighting a significant streamlining done to the presentation of all content.

10. **2025/2026 Lecture Programme Recap and Upcoming 2026/2027 Lecture Programme (Alana Pindar)**
    Jill on behalf of Alana presented on the lectures, topics, future plans, and YouTube channel related to NSIS public lectures.

NSIS Speaker Series Annual Report
2025-2026 Public Lecture Series

The 2025-026 Nova Scotian Institute of Science Public Lecture Series continued to showcase the breadth and diversity of scientific research occurring across Atlantic Canada. Held monthly from October through May, the series featured speakers from several universities and research institutions and attracted both in-person and virtual audiences from across the province. Lectures were hosted at multiple locations throughout Nova Scotia, supporting NSIS's goal of making science accessible to a broad audience.

The 2025-2026 NSIS Public Lecture Series featured an exceptionally diverse collection of speakers whose research spanned ecology, evolution, entomology, climate adaptation, Indigenous knowledge systems, chemistry, sustainable materials, nanotechnology, biomedical sciences, and mathematics, highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of modern scientific inquiry and the breadth of scientific expertise across Atlantic Canada.

Reach and Engagement

The NSIS Public Lecture Series continues to attract strong engagement through both in-person and online participation. Attendance at in-person lectures remained steady throughout the year, typically drawing between 20 and 40 attendees per event. Online participation was similarly consistent, with approximately 40 individuals attending virtually for most lectures.

The NSIS YouTube channel remains one of the Society's most effective tools for extending the reach of its programming beyond the live audience. Recorded lectures from the 2025-2026 series received between 70 and 253 views, allowing presentations to remain accessible to students, researchers, educators, and members of the public long after the live events concluded. The

continued use of the YouTube archive demonstrates the value of maintaining a hybrid delivery model and highlights the importance of digital platforms in supporting NSIS's mandate of promoting scientific knowledge throughout Nova Scotia and beyond.

A significant achievement of the year was the continued geographic expansion of the seminar series, with lectures hosted outside the Halifax Regional Municipality, including events at Cape Breton University and St. Francis Xavier University. These efforts support NSIS's strategic objective of serving the entire province and increasing opportunities for participation in scientific discussions.

An additional success this year was the implementation of the "Recommend a Speaker" feature on the NSIS website. The tool has generated valuable suggestions from members and the broader scientific community, helping to identify potential speakers from a diverse range of disciplines and institutions. Several speakers confirmed for the 2026-2027 lecture series were identified through recommendations submitted using this feature, demonstrating its effectiveness as a mechanism for community engagement and program development. NSIS encourages members to continue submitting suggestions as the Society works to maintain a diverse and high-quality lecture series.

Looking Ahead: 2026–2027 Public Lecture Series

Planning for the 2026–2027 lecture series is complete, with eight confirmed speakers representing universities, museums, and research institutions across Atlantic Canada.

The upcoming series will feature:

- Dr. Paola Marignani (Dalhousie University)
- Dr. Kirk Hillier (Acadia University)
- Dr. Ryan Lukeman (St. Francis Xavier University)
- Dr. Nicoletta Faraone (Acadia University)
- Dr. Dawn Kellett (Saint Mary's University)
- Dr. Sean Haughian (Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History)
- Dr. Carlie Charron (Dalhousie University)
- Dr. Brenna Frasier (Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History)

The 2026–2027 program will continue the tradition of interdisciplinary scientific engagement, with expertise spanning plant ecology, conservation biology, biodiversity science, entomology,

pollinator ecology, marine ecology, wildlife conservation, animal behaviour, mathematical biology, natural history, and science communication. The inclusion of speakers from both academic institutions and provincial museums provides a valuable balance between fundamental research, applied conservation, and public engagement.

Acknowledgements
I would like to thank the NSIS Council, host institutions, speakers, and attendees for their continued support of the Public Lecture Series. Their contributions ensure that NSIS remains a vibrant forum for scientific discussion, knowledge exchange, and public engagement with science throughout Nova Scotia.

Best Wishes
Alana

11. Student Science & Technology Writing Competition for 2026 (Connor Smith)

Connor presented the scope of our writing contest, covering the awards, and logistics involved in organizing the competition for his first time.

SSTWC Report for the 2026 AGM

First of all, I would like to thank the judges for their help with the essays. This year, we had a successful writing competition. We received 29 submissions to the competition. Four of these submissions were for the post-secondary division, while the remaining 25 were for the high-school division. We provided three $600 prizes, one $300 prize, and two $150 prizes. The allocation of these prizes is as follows:

- 1 x $600 for the Postgraduate winner.
- 1 x $600 for the Undergraduate winner.
- 1 x $600 for the High-School winner.
- 1 x $300 for the High-School first place runner-up.
- 2 x $150 for the High-School second place runner-up, which we deemed to be a tie.

The majority of this funding came from council, while some of the prize money was graciously donated to us from outside sources.

As of writing this report, I am still working on sending out essay feedback to all of the students. I have also started a list of the students who have accepted the free one-year membership to the NSIS. I will confirm this list and send it to the council before the start of the membership period.

I hope to be able to organize this wonderful competition again next year.

Sincerely
Connor Smith, SSTWC Coordinator

12. Excursions (Hank Bird)

Hank gives a broad overview of the past excursions since Covid prevented the ability to this. Bruce is speaking on the prospects of NSIS sable island visits intended for doing active science, not just tourism. It is expensive, and challenging to get to, but they approached us to see if we (NSIS) would like to participate in active science on the island. The intent with this collaborative work would be to propose a wide range of science to actively do, and this would cost roughly 2-2.5K dollars for a round trip. The goal is to genuinely contribute to the understanding of Sable Island across all science, and all queries can be transmitted to an attending member to do collaborative work for those who cannot attend due to finances. Bruce also proposes those attending pay extra, such that an eager young poor scientist can come as well. Cherif asks if an overnight trip is possible, and Bruce clarifies it is likely a day trip only.

We did 20 excursions between 2016 and 2026, with a break from 2020-2022 due to Covid-19. We organized an excursion to Bon Portage Island in July of 2025.

We had a complement of seventeen members and guests. Bon Portage Island is currently owned by Acadia University which operates a research station there, and is also under a conservation easement with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. It is noted for its ecological values and abundance of waterfowl. It was a perfect day, and the party explored several parts of the island. There is a description with photos of this excursion is in the latest copy of the *Proceedings of the NSIS*.

In September 2025, fifteen NSIS members and guests participated in an excursion to Waverly to learn about Legacy

Gold Mining in Nova Scotia. Historically, gold mining in NS took place in between 1860 and 1942, with a total of about 1.2 million ounces of gold being recovered. The process left large amounts of contaminated waste, about 3 million tons of tailings in the Waverly region. We started at the Waverly Heritage Museum. Pat Clahane, a volunteer at the Museum gave us a good rundown on gold mining history and processes in the area. Bradley Knockwood, a student in Dr. Linda Campbell's group at SMU (which is working on remediation issues at these sites) cartographically illustrated the legacy activities in the Waverly area, and took us to two nearby sites to see the current situation where one has been successfully capped and the other is still contaminated. There will be a description with photos of this excursion is in the next copy of the *Proceedings of the NSIS*.

In 2024 we canvassed the NSIS Membership about 10 possible excursions that we have been considering. The two excursions above were in the top 3 choices. The respondents also contributed 12 other suggestions for outings, which were added to the list, and the next three choices are being planned for 2026:

1. Geology and Fossils at Blue Beach and Clifton Museu, Park. (scheduled for June 6th)
2. Hope for Wildlife. (in progress)
3. Kejimkujik Petroglyphs and Nature Walk. (in progress)

Also, Bruce Hatcher is working with Parks Canada to see if it is possible to set up a citizen-science activity on Sable Island for a few NSIS members each year.

For the record, these are the 20 excursions we had in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2024, and 2025:

- Natural History of McNab's Island
- Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens (twice)
- The Science and Art of Making Beer (one at the Garrison Brewery, another at Two Crows Brewing Company)
- Burke-Gaffney Observatory at SMU
- 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
  - 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
- Kejimkujik Petroglyphs and Nature Walk
- Scatarie Island
- Bon Portage Island
- Legacy Nova Scotia Gold Mining

Hank Bird, Excursions Coordinator

13. **Motion and Vote to accept the 9 reports.**
Motion by Hank Bird, Seconder Bruce Hatcher. 16 vote for, none against.

14. **Awards:**
Recognition of new Hall of Fame Member Dr. Axel Becke (Tanner)
Tanner Spoke on behalf of the nomination of Axel into our Hall of Fame.

Writing Competition Awards (Connor Smith)
Connor thanks our sponsors for allowing us to host this work.

Words from Writing Competition Participants
Awards were each received (most in person) and words were shared from each award winner, clearly touching the audience with their thoughtful and careful focus on choosing their topic from a personal perspective.

Travel Awards for 2026 (Brent Robicheau)
Awards include 2x 500$ and 3x 100$. Applications due July 3rd. Judges needed, let Brent know.

15. Council for 2026-2027: (Jillian Phillips)

Nomination of 2026-2027 Council

President	Tanner George
Past President	Jillian Phillips
Vice President (& Special Projects)	Brent Robicheau
Treasurer	Angelica Silva
Editor	Peter Wells
Associate Editor	David Richardson
Secretary	Tehya Mohammed
Membership Officer	Barbara Zielinski
Speaker Series Chair	Sarah Boudreau
Publicity Officer	Eli Ledrew
Web Manager	Ailish Sullivan
Library Liaison	(Vacant)

Councillors: Hank Bird (Excursions), Shannon Ezzat, Helga Guderley (SSTWC), Bruce Hatcher, Derrick Lee, Judy MacInnis, Jinshan Xu

Student Representative: Vacant (Acadia, CBU, MSVU, SMU, SSTWC)

Observers: Sean Haughian (Nova Scotia Museum), Vacant (Schools), Vacant (Discovery Centre)

16. Motion and Vote to approve the new Council.
Motion Connor, Seconded by Helga. 16 votes for, none against.

17. Other Business: (Jillian Phillips)
Any Other Business?

18. Adjournment: (Jillian Phillips)