

NSIS COUNCIL REPORTS
Reports from the Annual General Meeting
September 14, 2020 - 6 pm

AGENDA

159TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
(This meeting will be virtual, via Zoom)

1. Minutes of the 158th AGM, 6 May 2019
2. Vote to accept Minutes of the 158th AGM
3. President's Annual Report (Tana Worcester)
4. Treasurer's Annual Report (Angelica Silva)
5. Editor's Annual Report (Peter Wells)
6. Librarian's Annual Report (Michelle Paon)
7. Lecture Programme for 2020-2021 Report
(Tamara Franz-Odendaal)
8. Excursions Annual Report (Hank Bird)
9. Student Science Writing Competition Annual Report (Hank Bird)
10. Publicity Annual Report (Nicole LeBlanc)
11. Webmaster's Annual Report (Patrick Upson)
12. Membership Annual Report (Dylan Miller)
13. Vote to accept the 10 Reports
14. Nomination of 2020-2021 Council (Sherry Niven)
15. Vote to approve the new Council
16. Any Other Business
17. Adjournment

Note: Following the AGM, at 7:30 pm, there will be a Public Lecture via a separate Zoom Call. The Zoom address will be posted on the NSIS Website (www.nsis1862.ca) prior to the Lecture.

Dr. Anne Dalziel of SMU will present "Diversity Through a Minnow Trap".

Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal
NSIS President

**MINUTES OF THE 158TH
NSIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**May 6, 2019
Dalhousie University Club**

Council Members present: Tana Worcester (President), Sherry Niven (Past President), Michelle Paon (Librarian), Angelica Silva (Treasurer), Lorraine Hamilton (Secretary), Dylan Miller (Membership Officer), Hank Bird (Excursions and Student Science Writing Competition Co-ordinator), Patrick Upson (Webmaster), David Richardson (Associate Editor), Tim Fedak (Nova Scotia Museum), Tamara Franz-Odendaal (Councillor), Carol Morrison (Councillor)

Members present: Michael Sinclair, Alan Ruffman, Judy Bird, Patrick Ryall, David Richardson

Regrets (Council Members): Darlene Smith (Vice President), Nicole LeBlanc (Publicity Officer), Peter Wells (Editor), Richard Singer (Councillor), Donald Stoltz (Councillor), Alexa Kirste (Student Representative)

The President welcomed members and called the 158th 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 passed as a unit at the end of the presentations.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 157th Annual General Meeting of 5 May, 2018:

Motion to accept the minutes of the 157th AGM

Moved: Alan Ruffman

Seconded: Michael Sinclair

All in favour: Carried

2. President's Annual Report (Tana Worcester):

The President thanked the 2018-2019 Council for their work, the public lecture speakers for sharing their work and knowledge, the Nova Scotia Museum and the Halifax Convention Centre for hosting the NSIS lectures.

Overall the report indicated that it was a successful public lecture series, despite some weather and/or unexpected circumstances that affected a couple of the lectures.

The President reported that in addition to the public lectures, the Institute supported other public lectures notably panel discussions in the Science in Public Life series, a lecture by the A.G. Huntsman Award recipient for 2018, Dr. Terry Hugues, and a lecture by Dr. Scott of the hit children's TV series "The Dinosaur Train".

The President's report described the Strategic Planning Meeting that was held February 16, 2019. She highlighted that:

- Members are encouraged to volunteer for items in the action plan or put names forward for people that may be able to volunteer for items on the action plan.
- There aren't that many young people involved so there is a need to focus on young faculty.
- There has been a decline in membership. To help address this it has been suggested to pinpoint people from each facility and carry around a copy of the *Proceedings* to encourage joining.
- This may be a way to capture new faculty as the information is not passed along when new staff are hired.
- Young retirees are a good demographic to target for membership as they may have time to join.

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

3. Logo Renewal (Tim Fedak)

Tim Fedak's report summarized the history of the current and previous logos as well as the three new logos.

4. Editor's Annual Report (David Richardson on behalf of Peter Wells)

The Editor reported that Volume 50, Part 1 of the *Proceedings* has been published in hard copy and will be digitally available (6 months following publication). Volume 50, Part 2 of the *Proceedings* is in progress.

The Editor thanked the Editorial Board and especially Associate Editor, David Richardson and Production and Layout Editor, Gail LeBlanc, for their work.

For future editions, one suggestion for content is write-ups from the public lecture speakers on their presentations, at a minimum, an extended abstract on their presentation (300-500 words).

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

The Librarian reported that in 2018-2019, sales of the *Proceedings*, from the Reference and Research Services office of the Killam Library, yielded \$195.00. The Librarian thanked Eric Mills (member) and Killam Library Administrative Assistant Carol Richardson for bringing copies of *Birds of Brier Island* (v. 46.1) to Wally DeVries (R.E. Robicheau Ltd.) who has been selling the publication to island visitors.

Other results of note were that digital object identifiers (DOIs) have now been assigned to all of the online issues of the *Proceedings* of the NSIS that have been published on the Open Journal System (OJS) platform (the DOIs will be automatically assigned to new issues of the *Proceedings*); during the year, 294 complimentary copies of the *Proceedings* (from the overstock inventory) were distributed; the required forms to Access Copyright for the repertoire payment to publishers were submitted and NSIS received a payment of \$344.78; 11 institutional partners renewed their subscriptions, currently there are 15 institutional members and 85 NSIS exchange partners; and 104 journal issues and society publications were delivered to Dalhousie's Killam Library from the Institute's exchange partners.

6. Treasurer's Annual Report (Angelica Silva):

As of 31 March 2019, the net worth of the NSIS was \$41,812.09 with \$ 8,910.26 at BMO account plus current Investments of \$32,901.83. There was a revenue from all sources of \$4,383.61 and expenditures of \$12,997.43. This past year was the 3rd and last year of support to Nova Scotia Regional Libraries as per Dr. Alan Taylor's bequest to NSIS.

The Treasurer noted that her reporting period was 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2019 and reported that the NSIS has 63 regular, 13 life, 4 student and 14 institutional members

Once balance in the BMO account decreases below \$25K, there will be service charges (estimated as \$300-400).

Motion to cash in investment (maturing in June) to the BMO account

Moved: Tana Worcester

Seconded: Sherry Niven

All in favour: Carried

7. Lecture Program for 2019-2020 – Report of the organizing committee (Tana Worcester on behalf of Darlene Smith):

Oct 7, 2019 – To Be Determined

Nov 4, 2019 – Jonathan Ferrier (Native Science and Medicine Laboratory, Department of Biology, Dalhousie University). Indigenous Food Security, Conservation, Native Medicine and Ethnobiology

Dec 2, 2019 – Sean Haughian. Lichens

Jan 6, 2020 – To Be Determined

Feb 3, 2020 – Maryanne Fisher (Maryanne Fisher). Human Sexuality

March 2, 2020 – Craig Brown (Nova Scotia Community College Applied Oceans Research Group). Sea-floor imaging and its applications

April 6, 2020 – To Be Determined

May 4, 2020 – To Be Determined

Potential speakers:

Sarah Wells (School of Biomedical Engineering, Dalhousie University) – Strength and Potential of Women’s Hearts

Andrew Wright (NSERC Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Fisheries and Oceans Canada) – North Atlantic Right Whale

Kevin Hewitt (Department of Physics & Atmospheric Science, Dalhousie University) – Science outreach including Imhotep’s Legacy Academy

Anne-Marie Ryan (Department of Earth Sciences, Dalhousie University) – Socially Responsible Research – Ethics in Geoscience

8. Proposed Excursions for 2019-2020 (Hank Bird):

Hank Bird reported that successful excursions took place in 2018-19:

- Habits and Habitats of NS Birds in June 2018 in association with the NS Birding Society
- Otter Ponds Demonstration Forest in October 2018
- 2 crows Brewing Company April 2019

The following excursions are in the works 2019-2020:

- Petroglyphs and Guided Nature Hike (Kejimikujik N.P.)
- Discovery Centre (incl. behind the scenes) (Halifax)
- Geological Museum + Tidal Power Exhibit (Parrsboro)

The following excursions are being held in reserve (likely to take place in 2020):

- Cape Split Nature Hike (Scots Bay)
- Waterfalls of Nova Scotia (various sites)
- NS Museum of Industry (New Glasgow)

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

Hank Bird reported that the overall quality of the papers was quite high. He thanked the judges (Sally Marchand, Tom Rand, Pat Ryall, Rick Singer) for their diligence, insights, and assessments.

There was a single winner for each of the undergraduate and post-graduate categories. There were no honourable mentions this year. As the NSIS Public Lecture on April 1st was cancelled due to bad weather, the awards were mailed to the winners.

10. Membership Report (Dylan Miller)

By the end of the 2018-2019 year, we had:

- 89 total members (up 11 from last year)
 - 8 from the student writing competition (up 3 from last year)
 - 5 from speakers (down 3 from last year-several were already members)
 - 2 Honorary members (no change from last year)
 - 11 lifetime members (no change from last year)
 - 63 paid members (up 12 from last year)

11. Webmaster's Report (Patrick Upson):

The Webmaster reported numerous updates to the content on the website. One of the new initiatives for the website is inclusion of a PayPal option for paying for membership; this work is underway and will continue into the next year.

12. Publicity Report (Nicole LeBlanc):

The publicity report summarized the results for NSIS in 2018-19:

- Facebook: Increase of 124 followers (to 389)
- Writing competition: Redesigned poster; boosted the post for students 18-25 in HRM which reached 1,252 people (up from 340 in 2018), 12 post likes (up from 3 in 2018)
- Lecture events on Social media: 100 Wild Islands on the Eastern Shore talk resulted in increased interest for NSIS resulting in likes, post engagements, and event interest
- Eventbrite was used to promote lectures
- Print promotion continued for the lectures and the writing contest
- Email requests to promote lectures continued to be sent monthly to *Metro News*, *The Coast*, and *The Chronicle Herald*

Motion to accept the Annual Reports:

Moved: Tamara Franz-Odendaal

Seconded: Hank Bird

All in favour: Carried

13. Report of the Nominating Committee for the 2018-2019 Council (Sherry Niven):

The President, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, asked the AGM to elect the following to NSIS Council for 2019-20:

President	Tana Worcester
Vice-President	Vacant
Past-President	Sherry Niven
Secretary	Lorraine Hamilton
Treasurer	Angelica Silva
Publicity Officer	Nicole LeBlanc
Membership Officer	Dylan Miller
Librarian	Michelle Paon
Editor	Peter Wells

Webmaster	Patrick Upson
Councillor	Tamara Franz-Odendaal
Councillor	Hank Bird
Councillor	Donald Stoltz
Councillor	Richard Singer
Councillor	Darlene Smith

There was a call for additional nominations from the floor, including the vacant position for Vice President; Tamara Franz-Odendaal nominated for Vice President; Alan Ruffman nominated for Councillor.

Motion to accept the Nominations

Moved: Pat Ryall

Seconded: Angelica Silva

All in favour: Carried

14. Any Other Business:

Is a new location required for the AGM? This issue could not be fully addressed at the AGM, the issues to be considered include:

- Is it cheaper to rent downstairs?
- Can it be flexible in the date for the AGM?
- History of medicine is not happy with the downstairs
- SMU is an option (via Tamara Franz-Odendaal)
- This location is not accessible.

Sherry Niven invited all present to enjoy the food prior to the lecture.

15. Adjournment:

Motion by Tana Worcester to adjourn the 158th Annual General Meeting of the NSIS.

Respectfully submitted

Lorraine Hamilton

Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019-2020

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting for the 159th year of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science. What a memorable year it has been! It started off so well with our first meeting in October followed by a lovely lecture on the *Drawings of the Sighted and the Blind* by Dr. John Kennedy, up in the gallery of the Natural History Museum, and ended with having to cancel our final lecture and AGM in May due to COVID. Despite various challenges, the 2019-2020 Council did an excellent job of working together on common goals, and getting some productive work done. Thanks so much to Council members for all their hard work:

Officers: Sherry Niven (Past President); Tamara Franz-Odendaal (Vice President); Lorraine Hamilton (Secretary); Angelica Silva (Treasurer); Nicole LeBlanc (Publicity Officer); Dylan Miller (Membership Officer); Michelle Paon (Librarian); Peter Wells (Editor); and Patrick Upson (Webmaster). Councillors: Hank Bird (Excursions and the Student Writing Competition); Alan Ruffman; Richard Singer; and Darlene Smith. Observers: Jilian Philips (Discovery Centre); Tim Fedak (Nova Scotia Museum); Sarah Kuehm (Schools); Sally Marchand (Schools); Shea McInnes (Student Representative). And thank-you also to David Richardson, Associate Editor of the NSIS Proceedings, Gail LeBlanc, and all members of the editorial board.

We have many achievements to celebrate this year, including the addition of a PayPal option to the NSIS website, for those who wish to donate electronically; the development of a beautiful publicity pop-up banner; several great excursions, including a behind-the-scenes tour of the Discovery Centre; the production of the Proceedings of the NSIS Volume 50, Part 2, which came out just before COVID did; and others that will be detailed in reports we review during this AGM.

Public Lectures

I would like to thank Darlene Smith and Nicole LeBlanc for organizing the Public Lecture Series this year. I would also like to thank all the lectures for sharing their knowledge, experience, and time on such diverse and wide-ranging topics.

Oct 7, 2019: Dr. John Kennedy (University of Toronto) *Drawings of the Blind and Sighted*.

Nov 4, 2019: Jonathan Ferrier (Dalhousie University) Ethnobiology of Northern Turtle Island Food, Medicine & Material Security.

Dec 2, 2019: Sean Haughian (Nova Scotia Museum) Lichens in Nova Scotia: An overview of lichen diversity, conservation & current research.

Jan 15, 2020: Dr. Kevin Hewitt (Dalhousie University) Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics success for African Nova Scotian Learners: The Imhotep's Legacy Academy model.

Feb 3, 2020: Dr. Maryanne Fisher (Saint Mary's Univeristy) How do Women Compete for Mates?

Mar 2, 2020: Dr. Andrew Wright (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) RoboScientist: Whale Research in Collaboration with Machines.

Council extends our thanks to the Museum of Natural History for hosting our lectures again this year, and to Nicole LeBlanc for making some of these available to a virtual audience through live streaming.

Strategic Planning

In August, 2020, there was a strategic planning session that I was unable to attend, but which I understand was quite productive. Efforts are underway to update the strategic planning document that was presented at the AGM last year, with updated priorities for action. All are welcome to provide input and set the direction of the NSIS for the years to come!

Respectfully submitted

Tana Worcester

2019-2020 NSIS President

TREASURER'S REPORT 2019-2020**April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020***AGM NSIS delayed due to COVID 19 directives
until September/October 2020***ASSETS 2019-2020 as of March 31, 2020**

Bank Account BMO (as of March 31, 2020)	16,973.08
Investments (as of March 31, 2020)	20,853.21

Total Assets as of March 31, 2020	\$37,826.29
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INVESTMENTS as of March 31, 2020

Renaissance High Interest Savings Account @1.0%	4,225.32
Equitable Bank GTD Investment Cert A (due March 9, 2021 @ 1.91%)	5,000.00
Equitable Bank GTD Investment Cert A (due March 8, 2021 @ 2.72%)	11,627.89

Total Investments as of September 30, 2020	\$20,853.21
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REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES 2019-2020**REVENUE 2019-2020 as of March 31, 2020**

Membership dues Regular	\$ 597.66
Membership Life	610.83
Membership Institutions	270.00
AGM Dinner	140.00
Sales NSIS Proceedings, Birds of Brier Island, Flora Nova Scotia	190.00
Income/ACCESS Copyright Royalties	473.59
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 2,282.08

EXPENSES 2019-2020 as of March 31, 2020

Proceedings PNSIS /Printing-Layout	\$ 3,547.75
NSIS Brochures	40.25
PNSIS Mailing postage to members	282.62
Lecture Sponsorships	250.00
Nova Scotia Regional Science Fairs contributions	1,400.00
NSIS 2019 Writing Science Competition (Undergraduate/Graduate)	1,250.00
NSIS website Chebucto Community Net	70.00
MNHNS Lecture space rental	206.50
Bank BMO charges	5.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,052.12

Finances

The net worth of Nova Scotian Institute of Science as of March 31, 2020 is **\$37,826.29** from a total of \$16,973.08 at BMO account plus current Investments of \$20,853.21.

Fort this past 2019-2020 period, NSIS had a total income of \$2,282.08 that resulted from all paid NSIS Memberships of \$1478.49 (regular, Life Memberships and institutions), Sales of \$190 from PNSIS Proceedings, Birds of Brier Island and Flora of Nova Scotia, Access Copyright Royalties of \$473.59.

Total Expenditures of \$ 7,052.12 did result from costs associated to Printing of Proceedings of Nova Scotia Institute of Science (PNSIS) for \$3,547.75, plus expenses related to Publicity brochures of \$40.25, maintaining a NSIS website with Chebucto Community Net for \$70, mailing costs to NSIS Members of \$ 282.62, NSIS lecture Sponsorships \$250, Contribution to Nova Scotia Regional Science Fairs of \$1,400, Contribution to NSIS Student writing Competition of \$1,250, rental space at MNHNS of \$ 206.50 and BMO Bank charges of \$5.

NSIS will maintain its current \$20,853.21 investments with CIBC Wood Gundy and at their suggestion, these funds might be transferred to Investors Edge in the fall of 2020 if confirmed.

Membership

2019/2020: NSIS had a total of 74 paid members that include 40 regular memberships, 4 student memberships, 16 Life Memberships (3 New) and 14 Institutional memberships paid during the year. Additional NSIS memberships were awarded to NSIS lecturers and University students. New this year is that with Patrick Upson's assistance NSIS CURRENT and NEW NSIS Members are now able to pay NSIS dues using paypal directly from the website nsis.chebucto.org

The Nova Scotian Institute of Science continues to dedicate all its resources towards communication and support of scientific issues relevant to all Nova Scotians. Historically NSIS continues to support science lectures, conferences, student science writing competitions, printing and producing the Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science (PNSIS) that it is distributed to all members. Another important NSIS contribution has been the funding support to all ten Regional Science Fairs in the Province of Nova Scotia.

I recommend that we ask Dr. Robert Cook for his availability to conduct an audit of the 2019-2020 Financial Report.

Respectfully submitted in anticipation of the 2020 NSIS AGM to take place in the Fall of 2020, TBD

*Angelica Silva PhD
NSIS Treasurer
Angelica.Silva@dal.ca*

EDITOR'S REPORT 2019-2020

Production of the *Proceedings* continues to run smoothly, thanks to having an excellent Editorial team and continued interest in the NSIS from across the Province. The PNSIS 50(2) was completed in February 2020, with some of the printed Issues distributed at the March meeting. The remaining printed Issues are with Carol Richardson at the Killam Library, awaiting distribution, once the Covid-19 virus situation is contained.

The new Issue is up on the website, for members only for six months, then open access at end of August. Many thanks are due to Gail LeBlanc, who once again did a splendid job working with me to copy edit and complete the Issue, and to get it to the Printers in late February (before life became very complicated!). Many thanks are once again due to Dr. David Richardson, Assoc. Editor, and the Editorial Board and external reviewers, for their work moving papers along for this issue.

Work continues on the next Issue – PNSIS 51(1) 2020-21. To date, we have a line-up of five Commentaries; four Research Articles, including a major one on Fishes of Minas Basin, Bay of Fundy; four student papers; and two book reviews. Thanks are due to Hank Bird for encouraging the students to submit papers for this Issue. As well, there will be an Editorial and a complete set of May 2019 Council Reports.

All members of Council are encouraged to either write articles, especially Commentaries, or to help seek articles for the PNSIS. This includes obtaining articles from past and present speakers, and from current members – a constant plea! In this prolonged period of pandemic shutdown and uncertainty, we all have lots of time to think and write, or to encourage people whom you know could contribute an article.

Suggestions for Editorials are welcomed too. Of interest - the Editorial penned for Vol. 50(2) blossomed into a full paper on the Nova Scotia *Arrow* oil spill, by three of us associated with the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, and is now published in the journal *Marine Pollution Bulletin* (Lee, K., Wells, P.G., Gordon, D.C., August 2020).

The Editor's report is respectfully submitted to the 2020 AGM.

Peter G. Wells,
Editor, PNSIS

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT 2019 / 2020

(submitted June 13, 2020 for the 2020 AGM)

The NSIS Librarian serves as a liaison between the Dalhousie University Libraries and the Nova Scotian Institute of Science. The Librarian communicates with NSIS journal exchange partners from around the world and oversees the receipt of partner journals. She also works 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 2019/2020, sales of the *Proceedings* from the Killam Library's Reference & Research Services office generated \$30.00 in revenue (see Appendix A). The office's Administrative Assistant Carol Richardson packaged and mailed copies of the new issue (vol. 50.1) to NSIS members.

Indexing and Abstracting Services

NSIS also sent complimentary copies of the most recent issue of the *Proceedings* to Library & Archives Canada, the Library of Congress, and several indexing services. In July 2019 the NSIS Librarian noticed that Biological Abstracts database provided incorrect bibliographic information (typographical errors) related to five PNSIS articles (in issues 47.2 and 49.1). She alerted the company (Clarivate Analytics), and their staff corrected the errors.

Distribution of Overstock Issues of the Proceedings

During the year, NSIS distributed 210 complimentary copies of the *Proceedings* from the overstock inventory stored in the Killam Library. Distribution details for the year are provided in Appendix B. Plans to provide additional free issues at the library during the month of March were put on hold when the Dalhousie University campus closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Access Copyright

During the summer of 2019, the NSIS Librarian submitted the required forms to Access Copyright for the repertoire payment to publishers. NSIS subsequently received a payment of \$473.59.

Institutional Members and Exchange Partners

NSIS sent renewal invoices to its institutional partners, 11 of which have renewed their subscriptions. During the year, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County cancelled their exchange program. There are currently 15 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

April 2019 to mid-March 2020, NSIS received 76 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. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dalhousie University campus, including its libraries, closed on March 18th. When the Libraries reopen, receipt and processing of print exchange journals will resume.

On behalf of NSIS, I would like to thank the Killam Library's Administrative Assistant Carol Richardson and the Dalhousie Libraries' Resources staff, who process the exchange journals and make them shelf-ready.

*Report respectfully submitted by
Michelle Paon, NSIS Librarian
June 13, 2020*

APPENDIX A

**Proceedings sold by Killam Library Reference & Research Services Office
(April 2019 – March 2020)**

Date (2019-20)	Volume/Issue of <i>Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Science Journal</i>	# Sold	Price	Amount Received (\$)
April-October 2019	Birds of Brier Island (v.46.1)	2	\$15.00	\$30.00
Total				\$30.00

APPENDIX B

Distribution of Complimentary Copies of the Proceedings (April 2019 – March 2020)

Date	Event	# Copies distributed
May 8	At sponsored lecture: "How to Raise a Wild Child"	18
May 30-June 8	Oceans Week - Killam Library	36
Sept. 16-22	Science Literacy Week	74
Oct. 23	At Sable Island Update event: PNSIS 2016 issue (20 copies), and Birds of Sable Island (6 copies)	26
Jan. 2020	Killam Library display	56
Total distributed during April 2019 to March 2020:		210

WEBMASTER'S REPORT 2019-2020

Work completed:

1. General maintenance of the NSIS website:
 - a. Added PayPal feature to Members website
 - b. Bought and Setup nsis1862.ca
 - c. Updated Executive Page
 - d. Add all 2019-2020 lectures to the website

Work in progress:

1. Re-organized NS Hall of Fame index to use persons last name, then first name.

*Submitted by
Patrick Upson
Webmaster*

STUDENT SCIENCE WRITING COMPETITION 2020

In this year's competition a total of 22 students (13 undergrad and 9 postgrad) said they planned to compete. By the submission deadline 11 students (7 undergrad and 4 postgrad) actually sent in manuscripts. (See chart below.) This is a typical ratio for submissions-to-interest.

The 5 Judges – Tim Fedak, Sally Marchand, Pat Ryall, Antony Simpson, and I – reviewed the papers and met in the latter part of March and made our final collective decisions. There was one Winner in the undergraduate category (which has a \$500 award), and two co-Winners (for the first time) in the postgraduate category. With Council's approval, rather than just splitting the \$750 postgrad award between the two, we awarded each of them \$500. Due to the coronavirus shutdown the winners received their cheques and certificates via postal mail.

The winners were:

Undergraduate: Danielle Knott of Dalhousie University, for the paper *“Abdominal Imaging for the Emergency Department Patient”*. Danielle's paper describes a study of high significance and which could have a major impact on diagnosis and treatment of certain emergency abdominal issues. It showed that in many cases a standard X-ray, usually the first diagnostic step, may provide little information of value, while a subsequent CT scan may have better diagnostic accuracy. Going directly to a CT scan could result in lower total radiation exposure while improving the diagnostic results significantly.

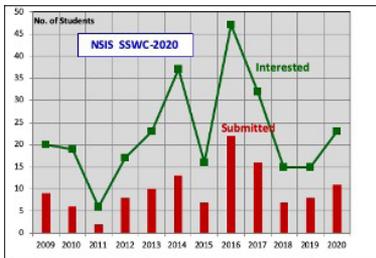
1st Postgraduate: Michael Smith of Saint Mary's University, for the paper *“The Silent Sirens – The Importance of Lichens as Environmental Health Indicators in Nova Scotia”*. Michael's essay is of significance to maintaining the environmental health of Nova Scotia. It described how lichens are very useful in assessing air quality, determining ecological hotspots in the environment, monitoring climate change, and the identifying presence of invasive species in the province. He showed how lichens can be sirens, which tell us about the health of our environment.

2nd Postgraduate: Jennifer Kolwich of Saint Mary’s University, for the paper “*Fighting Fungus with Fungus: A Microbe-Based Solution to Bat White-nose Syndrome*”. Jennifer’s paper relates to an issue of ecological concern to Nova Scotia, as well as the rest of eastern North America. This is white-nose syndrome, caused by a fungus. It has led to the decline, endangerment and extinction of many bat populations. This study describes experiments that have identified other fungi which can inhibit the growth of the particular fungus that causes the disease.

I have enjoyed serving as the Coordinator of the competition for the past eight years, since 2013. But I believe that it’s time for someone else to take over and bring some new ideas. Two post-doctoral fellows from Dalhousie – Yashar Monfared and Evans Monyoncho – offered to take over as co-Coordiators. I met with them to explain the responsibilities and I have begun to transfer files and templates to them. I’ll be available to support them as the SSWC activity begins again (not before October 2020).

My thanks and appreciation to the judges, and to all others who have helped with various aspects of the competition in this and previous years, particularly Nicole Leblanc.

Hank Bird
SSWC Coordinator



Univ.	Interest	Submitted
Acadia	3	1
CBU	1	1
Dalhousie	15	7
MSVU	0	0
SFX	1	0
SMU	3	2
NSSC	0	0
Total =	23	11

NSIS EXCURSIONS 2020

In 2019 we had three excursions:

April – (Halifax) *The Science and Art of Making Beer*,
at the 2 Crows Brewing Company.

July – (Parrsboro area) *Fundy Geological Museum*,
Ottawa House, and the Tidal Power Exhibit.

December – (Halifax) *Discovery Centre*
(including “behind the scenes”).

We had started to plan the following excursions for early in 2020, but had to put them on hold due to the coronavirus shutdown.

Petroglyphs and Guided Nature Hike (Kejimikujik N.P.)
Jillian Phillips

Waterfalls of Nova Scotia (various sites)
Carol Morrison

If the shutdown is lifted sufficiently early, we hope to be able to have them later in the year. We will also keep the following in reserve for late 2020 or early 2021:

Cape Split Nature Hike (Scots Bay)
Jillian Phillips

NS Museum of Industry (New Glasgow)
Hank Bird

Shubenacadie Wildlife Park (Shubenacadie)
Carol Morrison?

We welcome additional suggestions and possibilities.

For the record, we did ten excursions in late 2016, in 2017, and 2018:

Natural History of McNab’s Island
Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens
The Science and Art of Making Beer
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

Hank Bird
Excursions Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER REPORT 2019-2020

By the end of the 2019-2020 year, we had:

101 total members (up 12 from last year) including:

- 14 free members from the writing competition and speakers (up 1 from last year)
- 2 Honorary members (no change from last year)
- 13 lifetime members (up 2 from last year)
- 72 other paid members including regular and students (up 9 from last year)

We continued our policy of offering free 1-term memberships to both speakers and the students who submit for the writing competition.

We tested and implemented a system for online applying and paying for membership-primarily done by our Webmaster, Patrick Upson. This will make the process of advertising for membership, applying for membership, and record keeping all significantly easier-especially considering the current pandemic.

Shea McInnis

**NOMINATIONS FOR NSIS COUNCIL
2020-2021**

President	Tamara Franz-Odendaal
Vice-President	Vacant
Past-President	Tana Worcester
Secretary	Hank Bird
Treasurer	Angelica Silva
Publicity Officer	Nicole LeBlanc
Membership Officer	Shea McInnes
Librarian	Michelle Paon
Editor	Peter Wells
Webmaster	Patrick Upson
Councillor	Sherry Niven
Councillor	Tamara Franklin
Councillor	Stephanie McQuarrie
Councillor	Anne Dalziel

NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2021-2022

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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