



# RECREATION

NOVA SCOTIA

## Annual Report 2017-18

**Annual General Meeting  
Friday October 26, 2018  
Oak Island Resort and Conference Centre**

## AT A GLANCE

Recreation Nova Scotia (RNS) is a not for profit organization dedicated to building and sustaining active healthy lifestyles and communities in Nova Scotia. RNS exists to lead, inspire and support Nova Scotians toward healthier futures through recreational experiences. Established in 1998, the Association is a central resource agency for members and stakeholders of the recreation industry. The Association provides leadership, training, and support to help meet national, provincial and local priorities. Through a diverse network of partners and extensive programs and services, RNS actively advocates accessibility and inclusiveness to recreation. RNS has a strong membership, which includes community leaders, practitioners, students, academics, elected officials, and voluntary sector organizations across Nova Scotia who are the direct providers of recreation and related opportunities at the community level.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- Champion, promote and advocate for recreation as an essential element in building healthy, caring and vibrant communities.
- Facilitate the education and development of recreation professionals & volunteers.
- Promote connectivity between recreation sector professionals, influencers and beneficiaries.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Recreation Nova Scotia inspires and supports a diverse and comprehensive network of partners committed to addressing the recreation needs of all Nova Scotians, through provision of leadership and a strong provincial voice.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Acting President/President Elect:

Vice President of Finance:

Vice President of Monitoring:

Recording Officer:

Director at Large (1 year):

Director at Large (2 years):

Director at Large (1 years):

Director at Large (2 years):

Director at Large (Student Rep):

Dept. of Communities, Culture and Rep (non-voting):

Recreation Nova Scotia Staff (non-voting):

Kerri Penney, *District of St. Mary's*  
Heather Kelday, *Nova Scotia Sea School*  
Justin Melnyk, *NS Department of Finance & Treasury Board (to 04-2018)*  
Misty James, *Yarmouth Recreation*  
Mike McIsaac, *Canada Games Centre*  
Cody Brown, *Town of Bible Hill*  
Julia Stephenson, *Town of Kentville*  
Levi Denny, *Eskasoni First Nation*  
Paul Corbin, *Town of Stellarton*  
Garvin Cius, *Acadia University*  
Aaron Nutting, *Community, Sport and Recreation Division*  
Crystal Watson, *Executive Director (Ex-officio)*

## **Message from President and Executive Director Kerri Penney, Heather Kelday, and Crystal Watson**

As we celebrate the 20-year milestone of Recreation Nova Scotia, once again we reflect on the numerous transitions that occurred in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. With both losses and additions, RNS has been steadily navigating through change. This year has brought so much positive change to our organization! A new logo, website, oh yeah and Kerri had a baby! It has been a growing year for RNS and there is more to come! A big shout out to Heather Kelday for stepping into the Acting President role to allow Kerri to spend time with her growing family. She has done an amazing job these past few months and will make a 'killer prez' next year.

There were a number of staff changes: the departure of Rhonda Lemire, from the Executive Director position as well as Colleen MacDonald from her Program Assistant position. We are grateful to Colleen for continuing to help out where needed from an administrative perspective. Justin Melnyk also stepped down as VP Finance. Justin's expertise and passion for recreation will be missed. We extend a sincere thanks to Rhonda, Colleen, and Justin for their invaluable contributions. Kerri personally extends a special thanks to the Board and Crystal for the crazy ride it has been as President. There is much excitement to see where our organization goes in the next year; there is lots to do!

You will see from our **Year in Review**, that the RNS staff have been working diligently over the last year to meet the needs of the members through the challenges along the way. Our board is always changing and evolving and moving forward we have a great group that will work on behalf of our members.

### **RECREATION NOVA SCOTIA FINANCIAL SUMMARY Fiscal year April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018**

- Collins Barrow Nova Scotia Inc. was engaged to perform an independent audit of the Financial Statements for the fourth consecutive year. A clean, unqualified audit opinion was signed on September 21, 2018.
- As detailed on the Statement of Operations, RNS ended fiscal 2018 with a surplus of \$23,420 (2017 - \$370);
- Revenues were lower than originally budgeted by \$155K and expenses were lower than originally budgeted by \$172K. The variances from budget are primarily attributed to the RPAC initiative and the Outdoor Network, as well as various other program and admin expenses that were lower than expected.
- As a not-for-profit organization, it is not our intent or objective to incur a yearly surplus, however our auditors have noted that it is not uncommon for comparable organizations to maintain a net asset balance of up to 12-18 months of yearly operating expenses for contingency purposes.
- Based on fiscal 2018 operating results, our acceptable net asset ceiling would be between \$781K and \$1.2M. Our current net asset balance is \$326K.
- Significant changes on the Statement of Financial Position from the prior year include cash (increase of \$100K) and deferred revenue (increase of \$97K), all of which can be explained primarily by; a) an increase in cash from overall operations and b) the changes in deferred revenue which are documented in note 5 of the Financial Statements. There were also certain timing differences which have impacted working capital (A/R, A/P, prepaids).

## Statement of Revenues and Expenses

For the Year Ended March 31, 2018  
(With Comparative Amounts March 31, 2017)

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Program (Schedule1)*	591,659	483,041
Core Funding – Communities, Culture and Heritage	156,680	106,680
Membership dues	28,885	29,580
Other	15,722	21,218
Lucky Duck Lottery	11,508	10,751
	<u>804,454</u>	651,270
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program (Schedule 2)*	563,816	447,400
Administration (Schedule 3)*	217,219	203,500
	<u>781,035</u>	650,900
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>23,419</b>	370

## Statement of Financial Position

For the Year Ended March 31, 2018  
(With Comparative Amounts March 31, 2017)

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Cash	283,898	184,189
Term deposits (note 3)	174,205	171,594
Accounts receivable (note 4)	49,183	16,585
Inventory	-	15,098
Prepays	3323	3548
	<u>510,609</u>	391,014
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	<u>275</u>	<u>392</u>
	<u>510,884</u>	391,406
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	16,967	14,344
Deferred revenue (note 5)	167,801	70,365
	<u>184,768</u>	84,709
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>INTERNALLY RESTRICTED (NOTE 6)</b>	2844	6844
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<u>323,272</u>	299,853
	<u>326,116</u>	306,697
	<u>510,884</u>	391,406

## **A YEAR IN REVIEW**

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The 20th Annual conference themed, Holistic Recreation: “Planting Seeds – Growing Together” was held September 27-29, 2017 at Membertou Trade and Convention Centre in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. The conference attracted 180 delegates from across the province. This conference provided an opportunity for the recreation sector to increase their awareness of and build relationships with our Indigenous community. It also called for a commitment to acknowledging that s located in Mi'kmaq, the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

### **RECREATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

The Recreation for Mental Health Project continues in the form of a new grant from Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness to develop and deliver a train the trainer model of expansion of the Recreation for Mental Health training. This training condenses and communicates the research findings of the Recreation for Mental Health project team at Dalhousie University about the benefits of recreation for recovery and maintenance of mental health, the barriers that people in mental health recovery may face to enjoying recreational experiences, and ways that recreation providers are finding success in removing some of those barriers. The train the trainer process will bring these findings and ways to help to recreation providers all over the province so that they can become inspired to do what they can to encourage and enable people in mental health recovery to attend and benefit from their programs. The training has a game component, which has been modified for use in clinical mental health settings as a recovery tool.

### **PHYSICAL LITERACY INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM**

The Physical Literacy Instructor Program is a set of training modules designed by Sport for Life to certify recreation leaders as physical literacy instructors. Recreation Nova Scotia together with support from Communities, Culture and Heritage: Sport and Recreation Division decided to pilot the training in Nova Scotia to determine its impact on program delivery and its value to recreation providers. RNS has trained four groups of participants so far including, NSCC: Truro Campus, the Canada Games Centre, Halifax County United Soccer Club and Millbrook First Nation. Training will continue into the fall of 2018 with three more groups including Dalhousie University, EXCEL After-school Program and Halifax Regional Municipality Recreation. An evaluation of the courses and the logistical fit of this program is currently underway with an expected completion date of January 2019. Results of the evaluation have been accepted for presentation at the Sport for Life Physical Literacy Conference late January 2019.

### **LUCKY DUCK LOTTO**

In 2017 we marked the final year of the Lucky Duck Lotto, distributing over 60,000 tickets to schools, daycares, clubs, and community groups. Recreation Nova Scotia would like to thank everyone who has participated in the lottery over the past 38 years! We are actively exploring other fundraisers that will help expand the reach of community groups.

### **NOVA SCOTIA OUTDOOR NETWORK**

In 2017-18, the Nova Scotia Outdoor Network (NSON) worked with partners across the province to hold six regional “collaboratories.” They brought together stakeholders from across the broad outdoor sector and served as a meeting place to support networking and building a community. Then the NSON Leadership Team, in partnership with Cape Breton University, conducted a follow-up survey of participants to inform and shape the future priorities and direction of the Network. The survey identified common themes in advance of the provincial NSON Summit, and helped shape that event held in April 2018 in the Valley region. Following the Summit, the NSON Leadership Team has settled on three priorities for the coming year: 1) hold another provincial Summit; 2) research and write a series of policy briefs or white papers that will inform policy-makers of some of the critical issues for the sector; and, 3) support regional efforts. These initiatives were supported by TD Bank, Cape Breton University, and the NS Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

## **NOVA SCOTIA CONNECT**

The management team has been working to promote the use of connect in their respective regions through social media campaigns, contests and other creative initiatives. An official launch of Fundy Connect was held in November, 2017, followed by a launch for Valley Connect on March 2, 2018. In the past year, improving search optimization has been a focus. Results of searches have become more applicable and useful to users accessing the site. As a part of this optimization, many outdated records were removed resulting in fewer actual records, yet an increased number of overall visits to Connect.

In partnership with Nova Scotia Trails Federation and the province of Nova Scotia, a 'Find a Trail' application was developed which will help the public identify information pertaining to trails across the province including access points, nearby amenities, terrain and more. Users will access this information, which will be drawn from the Connect.ca database, by visiting the NS Trails website. The purpose of this project was to replace the outdated information on the provincial *Find a Trail's* website. The last few adjustments are being made to the application before it goes live.

## **RECREATION NOVA SCOTIA AWARDS**

Last year, we were excited to distribute 9 awards celebrating the accomplishments of individuals and groups in the recreation sector. Thank you to Jeff Ward for hosting and NADACA Dance Troupe for entertaining the delegates. As a reminder, our award recipients last year were:

Professional Achievement – Janice Rand

Bluenose Award - Blaise MacEachern, Smokey MacNeil and Colchester Short Track

High FIVE® – Jill Jackson

Innovation – Walk with A Doc and Town of Amherst

Mayflower – The Unama'ki Surf Camp

Lifetime Achievement Award – Doug MacKenzie

## **HIGH FIVE NS**

HIGH FIVE continues to grow and flourish as the standard of quality for organizations serving children in Nova Scotia. During this past year we trained almost 900 frontline leaders and welcomed several new registered organizations. Schools Plus, the Waegwoltic Club and the Windsor Junction Community Centre are now all members of the HIGH FIVE family. Based on the changing demographic in Canada and the success of the HIGH FIVE Quality Standard for children's programs, Parks and Recreation Ontario completed a 3-year project to develop a framework for older adult recreation. RNS is excited to roll out the Principles of Healthy Aging (PHA) in the fall of 2018 and assure positive experiences for older adults through quality recreation and sport experiences.

## **CANADIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

RNS continues to partner with CPRA with regular attendance at staff and board meetings as well as committee involvement. Additionally, RNS supports the promotion of various national initiatives including the release of Parks for All and the extremely successful Youth Green Jobs initiative. Of the 1200 jobs across the county, Nova Scotia submitted 21 applications, 10 of which were funded.

## **2018 CONFERENCE SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS**

*Sponsors:* Province of Nova Scotia; Municipality of the District of Chester, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, Town of Bridgewater; Cobequid Consulting

*Contributors:* Mic Mac Mall; TD; Canadian Parks and Recreation Association

## **RNS Staff**

Crystal Watson/Rhonda Lemire, Executive Director  
Debbie Bauld, Program Manager  
Heather Hanlon, Shared Strategy Coordinator (to August 2018)  
Fawn Logan-Young, Communications Assistant  
Graham Mounsey, Program Manager (Shared Strategy)  
Christa Schaffhauser, Bookkeeper  
Colleen MacDonald, PT Administrative Assistant  
Kaleigh Chiasson (Physical Literacy Instructor Pilot Program Coordinator)  
Marisa Buchanan (Inclusion and Access Task Team)  
Emily LeGrand (Recreation for Mental Health Training Coordinator)

## **Volunteers\***

### **Shared Strategy Working Group**

Rick Gilbert  
Lana McMullen  
Trudy Payne  
Madeline Lawler

### **Nova Scotia Outdoor Network Leadership Team**

Janet Barlow  
Rick Gilbert  
Pat Maher  
Sandra Fraser

### **Inclusion and Access Task Team**

Rachel Bedingfield, Town of Kentville  
Krista Devoe (MPAL – Membertou; Women Active)  
Dr. Barb Hamilton-Hinch  
Brittany Hunter (RFANS)  
Dr. Susan Hutchinson  
Lani Poce (ISANS)  
Andrea Waters (IWK -Recreation Therapy)  
Sally O'Neil

### **Recreation Nova Scotia Awards**

Krista Dove  
Charlotte MacDonald  
Brendon Smithson

### **Awards Banquet Planning Committee**

Dawn Stegen  
Linda Atkinson  
Rae Gunn  
Paul D'eon  
Eric Lumsden

### **Conference Planning Committee**

Gord Tate, Municipality of Chester (Co Chair)  
Chad Haughn, Municipality of Chester  
Jody Conrad, Municipality of Chester,  
Laura Barkhouse, Municipality of Lunenburg  
Lisa Locke, Municipality of Shelburne  
Frank Grant, Municipality of Yarmouth  
Britt Veggund, Municipality of Lunenburg  
Sandy Mair Dodman, Municipality of Lunenburg  
Norm Amirault, Region of Queens  
Adam Dedrick, Municipality of Shelburne  
Misty James, Municipality of Yarmouth  
Natalie Surette d'Entremont, Municipality of Argyle  
Ginette d'Entremont, Municipality of Argyle  
Bob Powell, Digby Recreation  
Anna Haanstra (currently on leave)

**\*Please note that RNS staff and board members have representation on each committee**