



RECREATION

NOVA SCOTIA

Annual Report 2018-19

**Annual General Meeting
Thursday October 24, 2018
Best Western Glengarry Hotel**

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

Heather Kelday, Nova Scotia Sea School

Vice President of Finance

Mark Muise, Director of Finance, Mountains and Meadows Care Group

Vice President of Monitoring

Misty James, Yarmouth Recreation

Recording Officer

Mike McIsaac, Canada Games Centre

Pat President

Kerri Penney, District of St. Mary's

Director at Large (1 year)

Cody Brown, Town of Bible Hill (resigned May 2019)

Director at Large (2 years)

Julia Stephenson, Town of Kentville

Director at Large (1 year)

Jeannine Faye Denny, Eskasoni First Nation

Director at Large (2 years)

Clare Steele,

Director at Large (Student Rep)

Kevin Waters, Dalhousie University

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

Michelle Aucoin, Provincial Services Director & Robin Norrie, Recreation Manager

Recreation Nova Scotia Staff (non-voting)

Crystal Watson, Executive Director (Ex-officio)

Message from President and Executive Director Heather Kelday and Crystal Watson

Another year has passed with more to reflect upon and celebrate. A number of our initiatives have grown and we are working hard to advance the work of the sector. While there is still so much work to do, we are excited to identify key sector priorities and continued strategic partnerships and we will achieve so much in the years to come.

Indeed, it has been an exciting year for Recreation Nova Scotia! New board members joined the organization bringing a fresh perspective however we did say goodbye to Cody Brown as he began his journey into law enforcement. As well, we added new staff, Fawn Logan Young as Communications Assistant and Graham Mounsey as Program Manager (Shared Strategy) and said goodbye to Heather Hanlon and Colleen MacDonald. Operationally, RNS is continuing to experience change as we work to create an organization prepared and poised to be a stronger voice for the sector.

This past year the focus was on building a strong communication platform. Monthly e-newsletters and social media communications have increased exponentially. Using these platforms to share what is happening in Nova Scotia but across the country has received much traction. We still have much work to do in developing content that can support practitioners in advocating for their work.

You will see from our Year in Review, that the RNS staff and board members have been working diligently over the last year to enhance the established initiatives with much on the radar to address yet. Our commitment remains to continue to work with you to identify those areas where support is needed. And with strategic planning soon to be underway, your voice will be integral in this process.

RECREATION NOVA SCOTIA FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fiscal year April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 **WAITING FOR AUDITORS REPORT**

- 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)

REVENUES	2018	2017
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
	804,454	651,270
EXPENSES		
Program (Schedule 2)*	563,816	447,400
Administration (Schedule 3)*	217,219	203,500
	781,035	650,900
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	23,419	370

Statement of Financial Position

For the Year Ended March 31, 2018

(With Comparative Amounts March 31, 2017)

CURRENT ASSETS	2018	2017
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
	510,609	391,014
CAPITAL ASSETS	275	392
	510,884	391,406
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	16,967	14,344
Deferred revenue (note 5)	167,801	70,365
	184,768	84,709
NET ASSETS		
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED (NOTE 6)	2844	6844
UNRESTRICTED	323,272	299,853
	326,116	306,697
	510,884	391,406

A YEAR IN REVIEW

RECREATION NOVA SCOTIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AWARDS

The 21st Annual conference themed, “The Next Generation and Beyond” was held in the beautiful South Shore October 25-26 at Oak Island Resort and Conference Centre in Western Shore, Nova Scotia. The conference attracted 145 delegates from across the province. 2018 CONFERENCE SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS included: Sponsors: Province of Nova Scotia; Municipality of the District of Chester, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, Town of Bridgewater; and Cobequid Consulting & Contributors: Mic Mac Mall; TD; and Canadian Parks and Recreation Association.

We enjoyed a wonderful awards celebration reflecting on 20 years of significant milestones for RNS! Also celebrated were professionals that continue to ensure that recreation programs, facilities and of course the people last year at Oak Island Resort and Conference Centre.

- President's Award - Dawn Stegen
- Bluenose Award - Bud Brown & Dodie Goodwin
- Bluenose Award - Guysborough County 55+ Games
- High FIVE[®] Trainer Excellence - Damion Stapledon
- Innovation – Canadian Association for Community Living & Royal Canadian Legion Branch 59
- Mayflower – Valley Recreation
- The Natural Environment Award - Flying Squirrel Adventures
- The Natural Environment Award - Oakdene Park, Town of Kentville

Special thanks to our 2018 Awards Adjudication Committee for their recent review of the awards process. The committee included:

Brendon Smithson, Sport Consultant, NS Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage; Krista Dove, Recreation Area Coordinator, Cape Breton Regional Municipality; and Charlotte MacDonald, Recreation Area Coordinator, Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGES OF ACCESS

Occurring the day before the RNS Conference, this summit brought together thought and action leaders to discuss current and promising practices in the area of Access and Inclusion. Facilitated by Dr. Barb Hamilton-Hinch and Max Chauvin, this full day included provoking and challenging discussions about how we can ensure better opportunities for those undervalued communities that also experience challenges accessing recreation places, spaces and by extension, programs. Multiple examples of when an access and inclusion mindset can work in our communities were highlighted as well. This summit reinforced that when we think about and plan for universal design and delivery, then we can begin to address the challenges of access and achieve the realization of recreation for all.

RECREATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Over the past year the Recreation for Mental Health training was revised, updated and delivered to about 60 people including recreation practitioners, parks staff, recreation therapists, and other members from a variety of community organizations. The Rec4Mental Health Game was also updated with a new fresh look. More activity cards were added to appeal to a broader audience in both urban and rural communities. We also added additional barrier cards and strategy/support cards to enhance the relevance of the game in clinical settings.

We also confirmed a process for interested candidates to become facilitators and currently have eight Trainers who can deliver this workshop.

Plans for this year include the development of a promotional plan for the workshop increasing numbers of trainers who can deliver the course delivery of at least one workshop per region

PHYSICAL LITERACY INSTRUCTOR PILOT

Physical literacy is a federal priority and as such, Nova Scotia plays a role in providing recreation-based opportunities that support the development of physical literacy skills. In partnership with CCH, RNS engaged in a pilot project that provided feedback through structured evaluation to the four-module Physical Literacy Instructor Program and more specifically, how the training was received by leaders and organizations chosen for the pilot. Final reports indicate that the pilot was the workshops did provide front line recreation leaders with a greater understanding of the physical literacy and the importance of inclusion and diversity in programming with children. Reception of the program, QPLE specifically was positive though format changes are recommended for success in NS. Before the end of the year, a follow-up survey will be sent to those that participated in the QPLE workshop to discuss any further impact in their programming/work.

NOVA SCOTIA OUTDOOR NETWORK

In 2018-19, the Nova Scotia Outdoor Network (NSON) worked to deliver another provincial Summit in April 2019 at Cabot Shores, Cape Breton. The NSON Leadership Team worked with a local organising committee and partners to plan the 2-day Summit with the theme of 'Outdoors For All'. With policy papers an ongoing priority the NSON Leadership Team are looking to advance this in 19-20 as well as bring on new people to the Leadership Team to help guide the direction of the NS Outdoor Network.

NOVA SCOTIA CONNECT

The NS Connect Management Team had a few key priorities last year that included developing mechanisms to provide technical support to members of the management team to help better maintain the quality of the records in the NS Connect database. An IT specialist was contracted for 6 months to create "how to" guides, to support training, to develop a ticketing system to manage any help requests, and other priorities as per the designed workplan. A successful social media campaign was launched with promotion of the site and remains an ongoing priority. Increasing awareness of the site to other governmental divisions, organizations and businesses is key moving forward. Inclusion and Access is also a priority. Vanessa Robertson, Fundy Region's Accessibility Coordinator, assisted in creating a better "All Abilities Welcome" definition to ensure that users of the site receive an accurate representation of the accessibility feature of facilities and programs. The new Nova Scotia Trails Connect site will be online soon and The Nova Scotia Trails Federation has now formally joined the NS Connect Management Team under one common Terms of Reference. Across all Connect Platforms (provincial and regional), 185,163 users viewed 406,596 pages last year (October, 1 2018 to September 30, 2019).

SHARED STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

In light of recent data from the Municipal Recreation Study (July 2018) as well as publication of new provincial and national strategies the Shared Strategy Working Group began to take steps to share this information with the sector and consider how these fit with the Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia.

THE 'SHARING TOUR': PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT

In partnership with CCH, we started planning for the Sharing Tour, an opportunity for us to engage with the individuals involved in many capacities within the recreation sector with an intentional effort to engage Mi'kmaq communities as they were not involved in the initial iteration of the Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia. Preliminary results will be shared at the conference however a formal report with priorities, recommendations and timelines is forthcoming and it is expected that the information shared with us will be used to inform our work and lay the foundation for forthcoming strategic planning.

INCLUSION & ACCESS TASK TEAM

The Inclusion & Access Task Team took an active role in the planning and delivery of the 'Confronting the Challenges of Access' Pre-conference at the 2018 RNS Conference which was well attended with upwards of 60 in attendance. As well as this, the group took steps towards a draft of a 'Framework for Recreation'. Aiming to help guide the training, audit tools and resources necessary for inclusive recreation in Nova Scotia, the group are working towards gathering feedback from the sector on progress so far.

HIGH FIVE NS

Last year Parks and Recreation Ontario officially launched HIGH FIVE Healthy Aging - Canada's first comprehensive training program dedicated to enhancing the quality of older adult recreation programs. In Nova Scotia it was an exciting year as we introduced HIGH FIVE for Older Adults in this province. After conducting several Lunch and Learn sessions to spread the word, we trained and certified 20 Principles of Healthy Aging Trainers and 80 leaders of older adult programs. The HIGH FIVE Standard of Quality for children's program also continued to flourish in Nova Scotia with 10 new Trainers certified and 54 frontline workshops hosted across Nova Scotia. We also welcomed three new Registered Organizations to HIGH FIVE - Soccer Nova Scotia, Family SOS and the Eastern College. HIGH FIVE continues to be the recognized industry standard of quality for children's program in Nova Scotia and is supported by a growing number of provider organizations.

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 Green Jobs in Green Spaces initiative. You can find the annual report for the Green Jobs initiative at <https://greenjobsinitiative.ca>. CPRA has established two task teams with expertise from across Canada, namely the Parks Task Force and the Infrastructure Task Force. Both committees have contributed to identifying priorities that CPRA can address in those specific areas. A key priority for the Board and Staff has been understanding the organization's role in reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Peoples in Canada. This national coalition is committed to reconciliation and has been providing the Board and Staff with the opportunity to learn about the impact of residential schools and other traumas on Indigenous Peoples through regular educational sessions. RNS also participated with other PT partners in providing input to ALACD with their strategic plan as one of their key provincial partners. Their strategic plan will be shared with RNS members as soon as it is available.

RNS Staff

Crystal Watson, Executive Director
Debbie Bauld, Program Manager
Graham Mounsey, Program Manager
Fawn Logan-Young, Communications Assistant
Jacqueline Sommerfeld, Communications Assistant
Christa Schaffhauser, Bookkeeper
Colleen MacDonald, Program Assistant
Christy MacDonald, Clearview Corp
Jared Goad, Administrative Support Manager
Anjeanette LeMay, Training and Development Manager

Volunteers (Please note that RNS staff and Board members have representation on each committee)

Shared Strategy Working Group

Rick Gilbert
Lana McMullen

Nova Scotia Outdoor Network Leadership Team

Janet Barlow
Rick Gilbert
Pat Maher
Sandra Fraser

Inclusion and Access Task Team

Rachel Bedingfield (Town of Kentville)
Dr. Barb Hamilton-Hinch (Dalhousie)
Brittany Hunter (RFANS)
Dr. Susan Hutchinson (Dalhousie)
Lani Poce (ISANS)
Andrea Waters (IWK -Recreation Therapy)
Sally O'Neill (Active Pictou County)
Courtney Nicholson-Patriquin (Sport NS)

RNS Awards Adjudication Committee (2019-2021)

Rae Gunn (CCH – Communities, Sport & Recreation Div.)
Joshua Rivera Nicholson (Potlotek First Nation)
Cara Sunderland (Digby Area Recreation Commission)

Conference Planning Committee

Conference Chairs

Shannon Jarvis & Joel Dawe

Program Chairs

Vicki Weaver & Corey Skinner

Sponsorship/RecreAuction Chairs

Craig Burgess & Megan Burgess

Entertainment Chairs

Peter McCracken & Vanessa Robertson

Student Engagement Chair

Abby Brothers

Registration

Teresa McNutt

*Special thanks to **NSCC students** for organizing the
Regional Games and hosting conference session*