

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING March 15, 2018 7:30 p.m. Agenda

- Minutes of 2017 Annual General Meeting Douglas Ballam
- 2. Annual Report Douglas Ballam
- 3. Treasurer's Report Marjorie Evans
- 4. Resolutions Douglas Ballam
- 5. Motions from the floor Douglas Ballam
- 6. Nominations and Election of Board
- 7. Call for volunteers
- 8. Any other business



16 March 2017, 7:31 pm

Present: 28 members

Minutes of 24 March 2016 AGM: Moved Carolyn Walsh, seconded Marjorie Evans, all approved.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT:

President (Rita Anderson): Highlights: PROGRAMMING – EDUCATION/OUTREACH

- We reached 1056+ people this year!
- September to June: Well-attended, entertaining and informative public lectures on natural history, including one Engaging Evening session at The Rooms, thanks to the efforts of Michael Collins (Rooms Coordinator), Rita Anderson, suggestions from the Board members, and help with announcements from Justin So, Paul Regular and Len Zedel.
- The Osprey: In 2016, Justin So and Sarah Penney-Belbin (Editors) produced two gorgeous issues and have a tribute issue in the works. Reflecting changes in the use of various forms of media, 2017 will see an alternative (tbd) format for The Osprey.



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PROGRAMMING – EDUCATION/OUTREACH

- Field trips to appreciate our plant, fish, marine, mammal and bird life, past and present, variously led by Jared Clarke, Catherine Barrett, Alvan Buckley, Allan Stein, Michael Collins, Megan Boucher, Mac Pitcher, John Jacobs, Lori Fleming, Liz Andres, Justin So, and James Shewmake.
- Nature Nook: Five 2-3-hour sessions (usually on a Sunday) in The Museum at The Rooms provided visitors the opportunity to touch and examine specimens and to ask questions about our provincial wild plants, animals and spaces. (Organizer: Michael Collins; Docents: Rita Anderson, Allan Stein, Anne Storey, Jocelyn Tucker, Megan Boucher, Laura King and others, as available).
- The Wild Things Scholarship recognizing volunteer efforts to promote the wellbeing of nature by a student who is or will be attending a post-secondary institution was awarded to Leanne Guzzwell. (Funded by Dave Snow and an anonymous donor; online application, Paul Regular; committee members: Rita Anderson, Doug Ballam, Chantelle Burke, Allan Stein).
- Printing and distribution of the newly updated "Checklist (2016) of the Birds of Insular Newfoundland" by B. Mactavish, J. Clarke, J. Wells, A. Buckley & D. Fifield.



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PROGRAMMING – EDUCATION/OUTREACH

- "Guide to Common Winter Gull Species of Quidi Vidi Lake (Adults in Winter)", prepared by Lancy Cheng and Andrea Dicks
- NatureNL t-shirts (Sharon Ormiston, Rita Anderson)
- "Connecting New Canadians with Nature: A Pilot Project". (Funded by WWF). Liz Andres, the project director, organized collaboration with the Association for New Canadians and the Grand Concourse Authority and the assistance of many volunteers to put on successful fall and winter sessions.



16 March 2017, 7:31 pm

Present: 28 members

PROTECTING AND CONSERVING OUR NATURAL HERITAGE PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS; WILDLIFE

- Feb. Participant: DFO Stakeholders Workshop on Fisheries Protection. (R. John Gibson)
- March. Submission to the Species at Risk Program, Gulf Region, supporting a federal SAR designation of "Threatened" for the American Eel (Anguilla rostrata). (John Jacobs)
- March. Submission to pre-budget consultations, "Conservation and Protected Areas in the 2016 Provincial Budget". (Doug Ballam)
- May. Participant: Parks Canada 8th Province-Wide Stakeholders Consultation on Forest Health. (Lois Bateman)
- May. Submission to Canadian Wildlife Service supporting the listing of Griscom's Arnica (Arnica griscomli) as "Threatened" and the Yellow-banded Bumble Bee (Bombus terricola) as "Special Concern" on SARA Schedule 1. (John Jacobs)
- Aug. Meeting with the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Perry Trimper. (Elizabeth Andres, Rita Anderson, Doug Ballam).



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PROTECTING AND CONSERVING OUR NATURAL HERITAGE PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS; WILDLIFE

- Aug. Letter to The Telegram "More land protection needed, not less" in response to the NL Prospectors Association call for a moratorium on new parks and wildlife areas. (Doug Ballam).
- Oct. Submission to Canadian Wildlife Service supporting the listing of the Newfoundland caribou as "Special Concern" on SARA Schedule 1. (John Jacobs)

COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGISTRATIONS

- March. Review of "Proposed Bay D'Espoir to Western Avalon Transmission Line (TW267) additional Project Description" to Support the Environmental Assessment of Reg. 1803 (July 2015) expressing concerns about how construction of the transmission line through the Bay Du Nord Wilderness Reserve will affect its ecological integrity. (Doug Ballam)
- March. Submission supporting the formal appeal by cabin owners and recreational users of the Salmonier area regarding the minister's decision to release the "Big Triangle Pond Minerals Exploration Access Road" and asking that the review process resume (John Jacobs, Rita Anderson)



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COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGISTRATIONS

- March. Comments on the "Placentia Bay Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture Project" (Reg 1834) proposal expressing concerns about a large sea farming of salmon in Placentia Bay (R. John Gibson, Rita Anderson)
- April. Submission regarding the Addendum to the EPR for the Fermeuse Offshore Maine Base Project (Reg. 1773, see below). (Allan Stein, Rita Anderson)

OTHER

- Meetings/consultations: Oil and Gas (Len Zedel, Doug Ballam; Rita Anderson)
- Member of the Forest Management Planning Committee for Forest Management District 1 (Avalon) tasked with the development of each of the past four (or more) five-year operating plans for FMD1 (John Jacobs, Allan Stein, Rita Anderson).
- Member of the ENGO Caucus for DFO Eco-management Initiatives (Liz Andres)
- Collaborations: Nature Canada, The Rooms, NLEN, CPAWS-NL
- Letters of support for NLEN and East Coast Environmental Law (ECELAW) proposals



16 March 2017, 7:31 pm

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ORGANIZATION

- Membership numbers stable
- Welcoming and nurturing volunteers (Megan Boucher, Laura King)
- Board Strategic Planning session (January, 2016). We confirmed our role as a generalist organization, dedicated to promoting an appreciation for and conservation of the natural heritage of the province. We also recognized the need to seek funding to continue to function effectively, provided proposals are consistent with our mandate and goals.
- Developing effective communication with our members and the public about the value of donations, bequests and other gifts to our organization.



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PUBLIC LECTURES

*January: Dr. Duncan McIlroy (MUN, Earth Sciences) and Jack Matthews (University of Oxford). "New perspectives on the Ediacaran Mistaken Point biota of Newfoundland: Palaeobiology, palaeoecology and geoconservation of a candidate UNESCO World Heritage Site"

February: Michelle Fitzsimmons, Marie Wilkins, and Emilie Novaczek (MUN Graduate Students). "The Birds and The Bees (and the Wolffish)"

March: Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Members'/Friends' Photo Show

April: Alvan Buckley (MUN medical student, keen birder). "Birding with eBird"

May: Lanna Campbell (NL Program Director, Nature Conservancy of Canada). "NCC's

Salmonier River Conservation Project"

June: Megan Boucher (Naturalist). "Walk around Mundy Pond"

September: Brittany Palm-Flawd (MUN, Biology, Doctoral Student) "Atlantic Salmon

Conservation in St John's"

October: Ken Knowles (Avid Birder and Naturalist). "The Next New Birds"

November: Laura King (Biologist, Wildlife Preservation Canada). "Indian Ocean to Atlantic

Ocean: Conservation from Mauritius to Newfoundland"

December: Holiday Naturalists' Party at the Gathering Place



16 March 2017, 7:31 pm

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FIELD TRIPS/OUTDOOR EVENTS/OUTREACH

February. Winter Gull Workshop at Quidi Vidi Lake (Jared Clarke)

February. Snowshoe Outing (Allan Stein, Michael Collins)

April. Interactive Earth Day Display at the Fluvarium (Rita Anderson, Doug Ballam, Michael Collins, R John Gibson, Laura King, Allan Stein)

Display table at the Portugal Cove – St. Philips Environmental Fair (Rita Anderson, Chantelle Burke)

May. Annual NatureNL Long Pond Clean-up (Rita Anderson)

June. Annual Charlie Horwood Memorial Pink Lady Slipper Orchid Walk (Allan Stein)

Birding around Bidgood's Park (Catherine Barrett, Alvan Buckley)

Display table at the Whale Festival at Cape Spear, organized by Parks Canada (Rita Anderson, Margie McMillan).

July. Nature information table for the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution conference (Rita Anderson, Margie McMillan, Anne Storey)

August. NatureNL Lichen Field Trip to Sir Robert Bond Park, Whitbourne, NL (Mac Pitcher, John Jacobs)

October. Bioblitz (Lori Fleming, Liz Andres, Megan Boucher, Justin So, James Shewmake)



16 March 2017, 7:31 pm

Present: 28 members

Financial Statement as of 31 December 2015

Assets (Note 1)	2015	2014
Bank balance	\$ 7,286.16	\$ 7,726.61
Cheques written not yet cashed	- 450.00	
PayPal balance (fees deducted)	491.70	98.03
Total assets	\$ 7,327.86	\$ 7,824.64
Liabilities		
Wild Things scholarship donation	0.00	500.00
Growing Health (Note 2)	_0.00	225.77
Total liabilities	\$ 0.00	\$ 725.77
Net Assets at end of financial year	\$ 7,327.86	\$ 7,098.87
Revenue	\$ 4,833.71	\$ 3,551.53
Expenses	<u>4,604.72</u>	3,447.73
Surplus or (Deficit)	228.99	103.80



16 March 2017, 7:31 pm

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REVENUES

2	015	2014
Memberships	\$ 1,425.00	\$ 982.06
Donations; personal, receipted	1,850.00	1,135.00
Donations, not receipted	195.93	70.00
Donations; United Way	416.00	312.00
Subscriptions: printed "The Osprey"	335.32	454.50
Interest	.00	.37
Bird Studies Canada	360.69	297.60
The Rooms presentation fee	225.00	225.00
Sale of books, old Ospreys, crests, etc	c00	75.00
Growing Health liability forgiven	25.77	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 4.833.71	\$ 3,551.53



16 March 2017, 7:31 pm

Present: 28 members

PAYMENTS	2015	2014
Rent	440.00+	220.00+
Insurance	1,400.00	1,400.00
Bank charges	43.05	49.08
PayPal commission	28.06	1.97
P.O. Box rental	169.50	169.50
Registry of companies	10.00	20.00 *
NLEN membership	60.00	60.00
Printing advertising cards	312.67	
The Osprey print & post: Feb. 202.30		
Apr. 193.26		
June 195.88	591.44	527.18
Wild Things Scholarship	1,000.00	1,000.00
Donations: CPAWS Protected Areas For plus cheques written not yet cashed	orum	800.00
200 Growing Health final payment	200.00	
250 Nature Conservancy Salmonier F	250.00	g
TOTAL PAYMENTS	\$5,304.72	\$3,447.73

Payment of past liabilities: Growing Health - 200.00
Wild Things scholarship donation 500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,604.72

^{*}Non-receipted cash donation did not go through bank or account book.

⁺January 2015 rent of \$10.00 was paid in advance.

Minutes continued:



Financial Report: Appendix B; little change from last year except 'Connecting New Canadians with Nature' project. Moved Marjorie Evans, seconded Michael Collins, all approved.

Osprey: Jason So reported articles are now on the website or blog with a selection of the best to be printed in one annual magazine. Fees may have to be adjusted for one larger issue and any tribute issues.

Election of Board: Nominated Doug Ballam, President

Rita Anderson, Past President

Laura King, Vice President

Elizabeth Andres, Secretary

Marjorie Evans, Treasurer

Emma Bocking, at large

Megan Boucher, at large

Michael Collins, at large

Justin So, Osprey

Anne Storey, at large

Whole slate acclaimed.

Minutes continued:



Special Volunteers acknowledged: Carolyn Walsh, Membership

Len Zedel, Petroleum and email

Lois Bateman, Humber Natural History

Society

Paul Regular, Website, etc.

David Fifield, Website

Aaron O'Brien, Website, etc.

John Jacobs, Forestry

John Gibson, Fish habitat

Vote of thanks to Rita Anderson for many years of service.

Adjourn business meeting: Moved Michael Collins, seconded Allan Stein

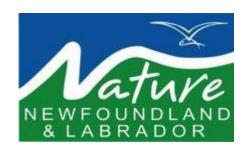
Liz Andres described the 'Connecting New Canadians to Nature' project, conducted in cooperation with the Association for New Canadians and Grand Concourse. Seven young adults with 5 volunteers went to The Rooms, where one of the young people recognized the gannet as also being in their home in North Africa. Perry Trimper, Environment Minister was there to speak briefly. A slightly different group went to Salmonier Nature Park where the importance of wetlands was emphasized. The winter Fun Day in Bannerman Park was almost blown away, but a dozen new Canadians including children enjoyed snowshoeing, crafts and building a snowman. A classroom presentation at the language school discussed winter activities and safety, and a later focus group asked about outdoor interests and obstacles faced by newcomers.

Minutes continued:



Doug Ballam and Bill Montevecchi spoke against recent provincial government job cuts which particularly hit environment divisions, removing front line experts and leaving no capacity for science. Parks are now under Tourism, ecological reserves in Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries and the Protected Areas Plan 20 years behind schedule. It suggests an unspoken agenda that sees environment concerns as impeding economic development. Everyone needs to speak out. Bill suggested a project to bring the Government to Nature.

Slide show included many spectacular photos. Many thanks to the contributors.



15 March 2017 PROGRAMMING

41 events with 1595 participants

Outdoor Events

- 12 events
- Highlights include:
 - Winter Gull Workshop (Megan)
 - Long Pond Clean-up (Emma, Laura)
 - Hike with New Canadians (Doug)
 - Learn to Camp with Parks Canada (Doug)

Indoor Events

- 29 events
- Highlights include:
 - Air, Land and Sea Grad Student Research Talks (Rita, Laura)
 - Methylmercury talk with Trevor Bell (Rita, Laura)
 - Marine Protected Areas (Laura)



15 March 2017 PROGRAMMING

41 events with 1595 participants

Nature Nook at the Rooms

- 16 events
- Hundreds of people reached
- Mostly tourists
- Demanding on volunteers
- Special thanks to the many, many volunteers who contributed!

Summary

As measured by participants, indoor and outdoor programs strong. Nature Nook actually reaches the most people but very labour intensive. Conducted two/month during summer at the request of Rooms, but may scale back in 2018. Working to improve "quality of life" associated with all our events.



15 March 2017 **Protecting Our Environment**

Protecting our environment (continued)

- Synod West /Penney Crescent microbog
- Partnership Agreement with Parks Canada
- Frontier and Offshore Regulatory Renewal Initiative (CNLOPB)
- Exxon Mobil Hebron Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan
- Cuts to Wildlife and Parks (letters, meeting, calls)
- Call for release of Provincial protected areas strategy
- Municipal Stewardship Program (letter to editor)
- Introduction of non-native bees (*Bombus impatiens*)
- Call for environmental assessment of Grieg Aquaculture
- Rooms Natural History Collection consultations
- Budget 2017 submission

Summary

Some success but often, especially with Provincial Government, utterly ignored. With few voices in NL, we must speak where we can.



15 March 2017

Wild Things Scholarship

Our community was saddened by the passing of **Dave Snow** on April 15, 2018. A kind soul who initiated the Wild Things Scholarship.

- Brendan Kelly, from Paradise, NL, was the 2017 scholarship winner.
 Brendan completed his Fish and Wildlife Technician program at the
 College of the North Atlantic in Corner Brook this spring. He intends to
 pursue a Bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation at the University of
 Prince Edward Island starting this September, with future plans for
 graduate work in ornithology.
- Dave's family directed bereavement gifts to Nature NL for the scholarship

Summary

- Scholarship healthy for the next couple years
- Must identify means to make the scholarship sustainable



15 March 2017

Osprey

- Volume 47 (no 2) published in May 2017
- Less than 70 "subscribers"
- Four issues a year not achievable
- Board decided to take a different approach and share original content electronically with one full issue of The Osprey a year (just published)
- Letter to membership in June 2017
- Metrics of new approach
 - 14 articles/posts
 - 10,061 people reached
 - 738 comments and shares

Summary

- More effective ways to reach people than through paper
- Going forward aim to share more original content (~one/month)
- Membership newsletter (quarterly) to highlight original content available



15 March 2017

Tuck-Walters Award and Governance

Tuck-Walters Award

- Presented to Dr. Luise Hermanutz on Thursday January 18 by Dr. Bill
 Montevecchi
- Well attended and we're happy for Luise but sad to see her leave the province for warmer climes!

Governance

- Much Board discussion on Board structure, role of executive positions, etc.
- Training with Community Sector Council
- Retreat on January 27, 2018
- Board decided not to propose widespread changes but instead propose a couple priorities

Space!



15 March 2017 **Priorities**

Priorities for the next year

- 1. Deliver a high quality outdoor and indoor program, including Nature Nook at the Rooms.
- 2. Recruit new board members for available board seats.
- 3. Support Nature NL efforts by raising \$5000 for a 20 hr/month position or equivalent in-kind/volunteer effort.
- 4. Identify and implement tactics to make the Wild Things Scholarship sustainable.
- 5. Establish a quarterly electronic newsletter that will direct members to original articles on the Nature NL website, share original articles monthly and produce the annual Osprey.
- 6. Find free, permanent storage/event preparation space.



3. Treasurer's Report

15 March 2017

NATURE NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Financial Statement as of 31 December 2017

Assets (Note 1)	2017	2016
Bank balance	\$ 13,738.61	\$10,811.36
Cheques written not yet cashed	0.00	- 441.95
Coin on hand	3.85	3.50
PayPal balance (fees deducted)	0.00	783.03
Total assets	\$ 13,742.46	\$11,155.94
Liabilities zero		
Scholarship Fund	1,862.16	
Money available for other uses	8,880.00	
Net Assets at end of financial year	\$ 13,742.46	\$ 11,155.94
Revenue	\$ 10,081.63	\$ 11,118.96
Expenses	7,492.56	7,290.88
Total Surplus or (Deficit)	2,589.07	3,828.08
Surplus or (Deficit) for general uses	(2,273.39)	3,828.08

Note 1: Dave Snow, founder and sponsor of the Wild Things Scholarship, died in April 2017 and donations in his memory are set aside to continue the scholarship.

Note 2: The Society owns a number of back issues of the Osprey, a spotting telescope, a pair of binoculars and a display board. It also owns a display tripod lent to NL Environment Network.



3. Treasurer's Report

15 March 2017

NATURE NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR Statement of Revenues and Expenditures 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016

REVENUES	2017	2016
Memberships	\$ 1,425.00	\$ 2,175.00
Donations; receipted general	1,885.00	2,520.00
receipted Wild Things scholarship fund	4,862.46	
Donations, not receipted	10.00	76.46
Donations; United Way	151.55	312.00
Subscriptions to printed copies of The Osprey	202.00	377.00
Bird Studies Canada	446.88	447.00
The Rooms presentation fee	0.00	0.00
WWF/New Canadians project grant	0.00	4,200.00
Sale of T-shirts, bird checklists	93.85	885.50
Trivia night	70.00	
Misc.; HST rebate, job credit, Nat. Can refund	934.89	_126.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 10,081.63	\$ 11,118.96



3. Treasurer's Report

15 March 2017

PAYMENTS	2017	2016
Rent	\$ 569.70+	\$ 480.00
Insurance	1,223.60	1,064.00
Bank charges	73.63	67.18
PayPal commission	67.31	35.02
P.O. Box rental	189.35	176.28
Registry of companies	10.00 *	30.00 *
NLEN membership	60.00	60.00
Printing advertising cards, signs	294.15	101.70
T-shirts, bird check lists	48.30	704.28
CSC courses, Nature Canada meeting	775.00	
The Osprey print & post	175.53	576.38
Wild Things Scholarship	1,000.00	1,000.00
WWF/New Canadians project	3,005.99	2,996.04
TOTAL PAYMENTS	\$ 7,492.56	\$ 7,290.88

^{*}Non-receipted cash donations did not go through bank, but listed in revenue and account book.



4. Resolutions

15 March 2017

RESOLUTION #1: REVISE THE BY-LAWS TO CREATE A NEW OFFICER POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING

WHEREAS Nature NL requires modest funding to deliver quality indoor and outdoor programs, and

WHEREAS there is a need for a dedicated position on the Board to oversee fundraising efforts.

BE IT RESOLVED that the by-laws will be revised to establish a new Officer position of Director of Fundraising



4. Resolutions

15 March 2017

RESOLUTION #2: REVISE THE BY-LAWS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERSHIP TYPES WHEREAS the by-laws of Nature NL has several membership definitions that are outdated or repetitive, and

WHEREAS there is a need to clarify the membership definition.

BE IT RESOLVED that the membership definitions in the by-laws will be revised as follows:

Membership Category	Membership Rate
Individual Annual	\$25
Family Annual	\$50
Nonprofit/Institutional Subscription	\$25
Corporate Supporter	\$100
Lifetime Individual	\$375
Lifetime Family	\$500



4. Resolutions

15 March 2017

RESOLUTION #3: REVISE THE BY-LAWS TO ELIMINATE REFERENCES TO SUBSCRIPTION

WHEREAS The by-laws discuss "members" and "subscribers" interchangeably, and

WHEREAS Nature NL is moving towards a different model of content delivery.

BE IT RESOLVED that the by-laws will be revised to eliminate reference to subscribers.



5. Motions from the floor

15 March 2017



6. Nominations and Election of Board

15 March 2017

- Many organizations across NL struggle to find volunteers
- Organizations must recognize when change is necessary and be prepared to adapt to changing times
- Many recent members of the Board of Nature NL have literally dedicated decades to the organization
- New members will be "standing on the shoulders of giants"
- An unqualified and heartfelt thanks to our departing board members and special volunteers – Anne Storey, Emma Bocking, Elizabeth Andres and Carolyn Walsh.



6. Nominations and Election of Board

15 March 2017

BOARD SLATE (minimum 10, target 13)

OFFICERS

President: Douglas Ballam (returning)

Vice-president: Laura King (returning)

Past-President: Rita Anderson (returning)

Treasurer: Marjorie Evans (returning)

Secretary: Vacant

Osprey Editor: Justin So (returning)

Director of Fundraising: Vacant

GENERAL MEMBERS

Director: Michael Collins (returning)

Director: Megan Boucher (returning)

Director: Sara Jenkins (NEW)

Director: Jen Sullivan (NEW)

Director: Nicholas White (NEW)
Director: Tara Stuckless (NEW)

Process:

- Ask any new candidates if they wish to say a word about themselves
- Any additional nominations from the floor?
- If so, for what position?
- If vote necessary, see Robert's Rules
- If vote unnecessary, call for a motion to accept the slate of candidates. Must be seconded. "All in favour? Any opposed?"
- New Board installed



7. Call for Volunteers

15 March 2017

- Need for interested volunteers
- As little as three hours a month
- Presenter at a lecture?
- Hike leader?
- Have your own idea for an event?
- Committees
 - Communication Committee (find original content, assist with management of website, Face Book, assist with Osprey)
 - **Programming Committee** (assist with set up and delivery of indoor and outdoor events)
 - **Fundraising Committee** (assist the Director of Fundraising with funding applications, identifying potential donors, visiting donors)
 - Assistant Treasurer



8. Any other business?

15 March 2017

Motion required to close meeting. Must be seconded. "All in favour? Any opposed? Motion carried."





