

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa

Annual General Meeting

8 June 2024

Hybrid – in person/via zoom

42 present, in person – 46 present via Zoom

Call to Order 9:03 am (quorum established)

Welcome:

- Original BIFHSGO members Robert Lamoureux, Patricia Roberts-Pichette, Kathleen Mitchell and Doug Hoddinott, who joined in 1995 and are still members were acknowledged by those in attendance.
- Six Hall of Fame inductees who were present were also acknowledged for their long years of service to the organization.

Motion 2024-01 AGM: Approval of the Agenda (as distributed). Proposed by Jennifer Hill and seconded by Susan Smart. Passed.

- BIFHSGO Land Acknowledgement was read.

Motion 2024-02 AGM: Motion to approve the minutes of the 9 June 2023 Annual General Meeting. Proposed by Marianne Rasmus and seconded by Sue Lambeth. Passed. One abstention.

1. Annual Report (Dianne Brydon, President)

- This has been a very successful year, with an average of 137 people attending online, and the in-person attendance steadily increasing. It is good to see some people who have not been in attendance for four years return to in-person meetings.
- Thank you to Marianne Rasmus, David Jeanes and Barbara Tose, for continuing to fine-tune the technical aspects of the hybrid monthly meetings and conference to run smoothly and successfully.
- The 2023 conference was a success; making a healthy profit.
- Thanks to the BIFHSGO Board who have led activities over the year and strived to make BIFHSGO a leading family history society. Preparing for the 30th anniversary has been a big part of the work of the Board over the past year.
- The Vision, Mission and Values were reviewed by the Board along with developing strategic goals for the upcoming year. Feedback from members is appreciated. The Annual Report prepared by the Directors and posted online

summarized our progress to date.

- Thank you to our retiring Directors Marianne Rasmus and Jennifer Hill.
Jennifer is leaving after three years in which she resolved some outstanding issues. Jennifer is leaving after three years in which she resolved some outstanding financial issues. Marianne served on the Board for eight years, first as Treasurer and for three years as Program Director. Marianne has built the entire 30th anniversary program year for 2025 and will now become co-chair of the conference committee along with Mary Lou Simac.
- Beth Adams is moving from Director-at-large to the Program Director. All other board members and volunteer webmaster Sheila Faure were introduced and thanked for their contributions.
- Thanks were also extended to all the volunteers that help in various areas; Program, Special Interest Group Leaders, Conference, Production, Event assistance, Communications, Print and Web content, Research Projects and the Library.

2. 2023 Financial Report (Jennifer Hill, Treasurer)

- Revenue: donations were higher than in previous years due to one large donation, while membership fees were down slightly. Total \$34,687 · Expenses were higher than previous year \$35,143 with a net loss of \$456 (better than last year). Amortization is for our website only.
- Financial situation for 2023: Total Assets \$117,792 - Total Liabilities \$15,526 = Total Net Assets: \$102,266 (compared to \$102,992 for 2022)
- Statement by McCay Duff LLP was read indicating that our financial statements were in accordance with standards for not-for-profit organizations.
- Questions were taken from the floor:
 - Question – Mary-Lou Simac questioned a line item that had nothing recorded for donations to outside organizations; a traditional practice for BIFHSGO. Jennifer explained that the Board made a decision to not make donations to other organizations since we are not required to do so under the law and that we are not in a financial position this year to donate to others. Dianne explained that the Board deliberated about what criteria might be for making donations and couldn't come to an agreement. Also, the Board felt that the \$500.00 donation that is made to each of the Ottawa Public Library and the OGS Ottawa Branch Library was better focused on supporting members' family history research.
 - Question – As a follow-up to the previous questions, Jeanette Logan wondered what we are saving money for, as currently we have approx. 52 K in locked-in investments. Jennifer stated that our bank balance is decreasing. Dianne reported that the amount invested is equivalent to approximately one year in operating expenses and if we are showing a deficit in any given year, it is not appropriate to give money to other organizations.

- Question – Suzanne Lesage wanted to know what expenses are covered under General & Admin. Jennifer explained that things like paper, printing cartridges, zoom and other office expenses are included but that the majority is used to pay for the annual financial review by McCay Duff. Suzanne asked if we are obliged under the law to have the review done by professional accountants. Marianne Rasmus explained that there were three options available to us as a not-for-profit organization. The Board decided several years ago to go with the middle cost option of a general review by an accounting firm which was the best value for the money and would ensure that we were adequately protected.

Motion 2023-03 AGM: Motion to appoint the accounting firm of McCay Duff to conduct a review engagement of the Society's books and records for the 2024 fiscal year. Proposed by Jennifer Hill and seconded by Marnie McCall. Passed.

3. Amendments to Bylaws (Dianne Brydon, President)

- Bylaw 7 - was changed to reflect retirement of family membership which took place two years ago.

Motion 2023-04 AGM: Motion to approve the amendment to Bylaw 7 to delete clause 7b Family Member (class B) and re-number clause 7 c Institutional Member to 7b. Proposed by Jennifer Hill and seconded by Mary-Lou Simac. Passed.

- Bylaw 23 was changed to allow meetings via zoom.

Motion 2023-05 AGM: Motion to approve the amendment to Bylaw 23 to Meetings of members may be held entirely by telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility. Proposed by Marianne Rasmus and seconded by Laurie Dougherty. Passed.

- Dianne thanked Marnie McCall for her help with reviewing the Bylaws.

4. Elections to the Board for 2024-2025 (Duncan Monkhouse, Past President)

- Dianne Brydon was acclaimed to serve her second term as President
- Caroline Smallman was acclaimed to serve as Treasurer
- Anne Coulter and Patricia Grainger were acclaimed to serve as Directors
- There are two vacancies on the board for Directors-at-large
- Duncan called for nominations from the floor (and on-line) twice to fill those vacancies. No nominations were received. Nominations were closed.
- Thanks to Duncan Monkhouse for his work on nominations and to Caroline

Smallman who started working with Jennifer Hill and attending Board meetings in February.

5. In Memoriam (Dianne Brydon President)

We remember the following people for their dedication and support of the Society:

John Sayers
Margaret Caughey
Jim Neelin
Stuart Tait

Thanks specifically to John Sayers whose legacy will be highlighted in our program next year.

6. No questions from the floor about the business portion of the AGM.

7. Member Awards

- Best *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Article by a Member 2023-2024, "Stories From the War: Part 1" by Carol Annett, published in the Winter 2023 issue of *Anglo Celtic Roots*.
- Best Feature Talk by a Member 2023-2024, "From Derry to the Pontiac: The Dales of Clarendon" by Nancy Dale Conroy.
- Certificates of Recognition were presented to Ken McKinlay for his comprehensive Education Series "British Isles Back to Basics" and Maureen Amey for leadership in the London Special Interest Group.
- Hall of Fame Award presented to Ken McKinlay.

Adjournment: Moved by Marianne Rasmus. Approved.

AGM closed, 9:37 am.