



**HFN HISTORY MINUTES:
Part of the 40th Anniversary Celebrations**

**Compilation by
Grace Beazley
Chair, HFN 40th Anniversary Committee**

May 2016

HFN History Minutes
presented during the 40th Anniversary year

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Introduction

The Chair of the HFN 40th Anniversary Committee, Grace Beazley, proposed a new program item for the 40th anniversary year: HFN History Minutes. It was deemed a way to remind and/or inform older and newer members about tidbits of HFN's history at each meeting. Most of the information was researched in a review of all the HFN Newsletters, some available quarterly programmes, and the website. Grace prepared all the scripts except one and different members, on request, read the various 'Minutes.' Past President Michael Downey volunteered to write a 'History Minute' about the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists (now known as Nature Nova Scotia) and he read it at the December 2015 meeting.

HFN History Minute # 1 *The History of HFN's first 30 years (1975 - 2005)*

The first HFN History Minute, as presented on 04 December 2014, was about the written history of the Halifax Field Naturalists (HFN). It came about because a few Dalhousie graduate students wanted more field experiences than they were getting! At the beginning the group's name was Dalhousie Field Naturalists but not long afterwards, the name was changed to the Halifax Field Naturalists. The executive thought this name would be less intimidating to the non-university people they wanted to attract.

The history of HFN's three decades was written and published in HFN Newsletters which are now archived on the HFN website. Also, there are a number of "reminiscences" written by members from the early days of HFN, and they were published in the 30th Anniversary Issue of the HFN Newsletter (in two parts). Again, the issues are archived on the website.

Addendum: Since this History Minute was presented, the history of the fourth decade was compiled and published in HFN Newsletters. These newsletters are now available on the website. Life Member Ursula Grigg and Stephanie Robertson wrote Part I: 2005 - 2007, and it was published in Newsletter Issue # 157 (December 2014 - February 2015). Stephanie Robertson wrote Part I: 2007 - 2010 (published in Issue # 158, March - May 2015). Shirley McIntyre wrote Part II: 2010 - 2012 (published in Issue # 129, June - August 2015), and Part II: 2012 - 2015 (published in Issue # 160, September - November 2015). There are also some members' writings/poems penned in celebration of the 40th Anniversary (see Issues No. 157, 158 and 159).

*To access any of the above, go to the website, click on History, and see the link for "THE FIRST 40 YEARS (1975 - 2015)." Click on the link and you will see the cover page with the names of the writers to whom we are indebted for these histories! (See **Image 1** of the 'cover page' on the next page.) Then read on!*

An interesting historical tidbit about charitable status is mentioned here 'for the record.' HFN became a registered charity in 1989 (under paragraph 149 (1) (f) of the Income Tax; Newsletter Issue # 56, September -November 1989).

The following closing was used at end of each Minute: That's all for this HFN History Minute!

HFN History Minute # 2 *The "Memorandum of Association" Subscribers and the First Executive*

This HFN History Minute, presented on 07 January 2015, was about the people who formed HFN. The first meeting was held on 21 October 1975 at the Biology Building of Dalhousie University.



THE FIRST 40 YEARS (1975-2015)

A History of the Halifax Field Naturalists
as recorded in the pages of
THE HALIFAX FIELD NATURALIST

FIRST DECADE (by Doris Butters)

Part 1 History Issue No. 80, pp 4-7
Part 2 Community Projects Issue No. 82, pp 6-9

SECOND DECADE (by Ursula Grigg)

Part 1 People/Activities Issue No. 84, pp 6-7
Part 2 People/Activities Issue No. 87, pp 8-9

THIRD DECADE (by Stephanie Robertson)

Part I 1995-1997 Issue No. 118, pp 18-20
Part II 1998-2001 Issue No. 119, pp 12-15
Part III 2002-2005 Issue No. 120, pp 10-12

30th ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Members' Reminiscences Issue No. 122, pp 9-16
Issue No. 123, pp 6-7

FOURTH DECADE

Part I 2005-2007 Issue No. 157, pp 8-12 (by U. Grigg and S. Robertson)
2007-2010 Issue No. 158, pp 8-12 (by Stephanie Robertson)
Part II 2010-2012 Issue No. 159, pp 10-14 (by Shirley McIntyre)
2012-2015 Issue No. 160, pp 6-13 (by Shirley McIntyre)

40th ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Members' Offerings/Poems Issue No. 157, pp 4-6
Issue No. 158, pp 7-9
Issue No. 159, pp 7-10

Image 1

When trying to find the names of HFN's Charter Members, it became apparent that there was no list! The best possible "list" is the names of the subscribers who signed the "Memorandum of Association" which was granted on 29 December 1976. That is the date HFN became incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act. **Image 2** on the next page shows a photocopy of the original "Memorandum of Association," with the names, addresses and occupations of the subscribers, but it is somewhat difficult

to read the handwriting. However, you can easily read the names of the subscribers in **Image 3** (on the following page). Note the variety in their occupations!

NAMES ADDRESSES AND OCCUPATIONS
OF SUBSCRIBERS

Paul Keddy
Paul Keddy, Apt 4, 6172 South Street
A. E. of ~~HALIFAX~~ HALIFAX, in the County of HALIFAX,
Nova Scotia: (occupation) (Student)
Winnie Cairns
Winnie Cairns, 1648 Robie Street, Halifax (Student)
Q. D. etc.
Donald MacDougall
Donald MacDougall, 6 Arlington Avenue, Halifax (Chaplain)
P. F. etc.
Scott Cunningham
Scott Cunningham, Biochemistry Dept, Tupper Building, Dalhousie University
G. E. etc. HALIFAX (Student)
Mary Primrose
Mary Primrose, 6511 South St. Apt 22, Halifax, (Photographer)
I. J. etc.
Debbie Burkson
Debbie Burkson, Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax (Assistant Curator of Education)
Nan Hennessy
Nan Hennessy, 6060 Cherry St. Halifax, (Teacher)

Image 2

The first Executive of HFN was composed of all seven subscribers plus one other member and they served from 21 October 1975 to 22 January 1977. See their names in **Image 4** on the next page; note they had five Program members!

Another tidbit: You can read more about some of these people in the 30th Anniversary Issue of the Newsletter which has a number of Reminiscences written by some members from the early years. Check Issues # 122 and 123 among the archived newsletters on the HFN website.

That's all for this HFN History Minute!

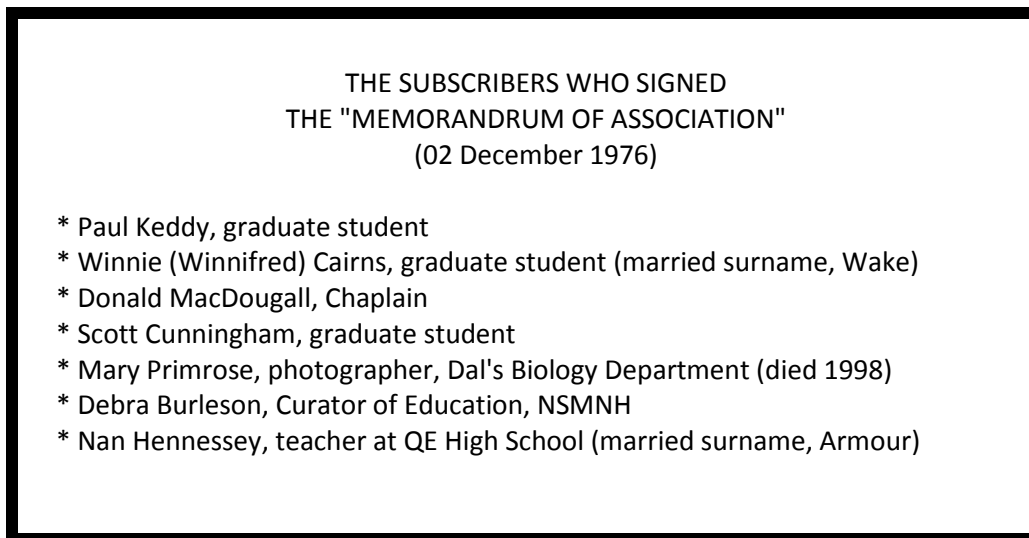


Image 3

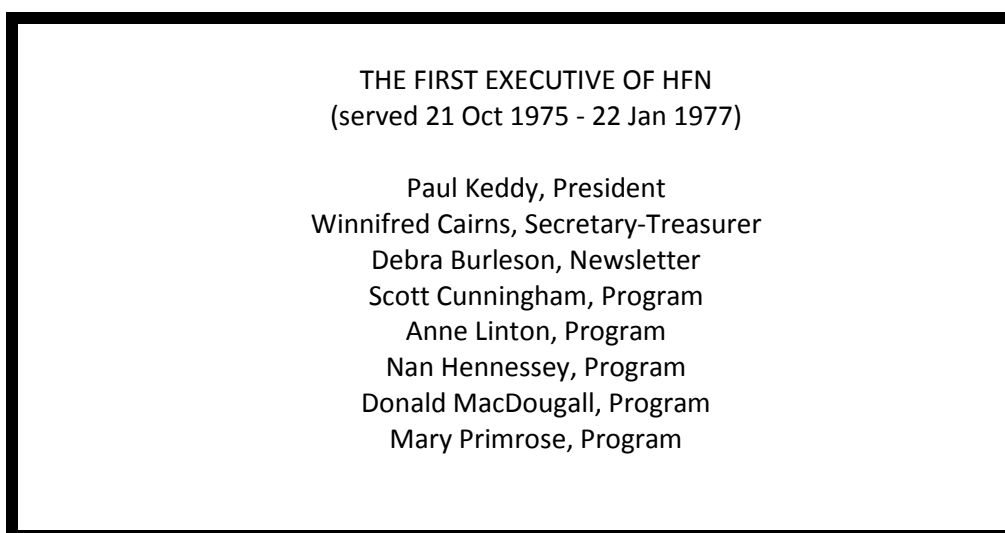


Image 4

HFN History Minute # 3 *Presidents and Meeting Places*

This HFN History Minute, presented on 05 February 2015, was about the members who served as Presidents during the 40 years and the places where HFN held its meetings.

A list of the members who served as HFN Presidents was published in Newsletter Issue # 149, (Winter 2012/13, p. 3). It was compiled by Richard Beazley, Bernice Moores, Bob McDonald, and Stephanie Robertson. Then, in preparing this History Minute, the information in this list was edited and enlarged by the compiler of these Minutes.

There were 19 presidents in the 40 years, and two people served twice (see **Image 5** below). Note those names with an asterisk are still HFN members--for a total of 10! A record to celebrate indeed! We salute all those who served as President of HFN and Janet Dalton, the current President!

Only two past presidents are deceased: (1) Doris Butters who was also a Honorary Life Member, and (2) Colin Stewart, in whose memory we now have the Colin Stewart Conservation Award. He was the first recipient of the award in 2004.

HFN PRESIDENTS
Paul Keddy - 1975 to 1977
Heather Harbord - 1977 (part year)
Kathy (Brawn) Aldous - 1978 (part year)
Joe Harvey - 1978 to 1980
Anne (Linton) Greene - 1980 to 1982 (part year)
+ Doris Butters - Co-President 1982 (part year)
John van der Meer - Co-President 1982 (part year)
+ Doris Butters - 1982 to 1983
John van der Meer - 1984 to 1985
*Michael Downing - 1986 to 1991 (part year)
+ Colin Stewart - 1991 (part year) to 1994
Roy John - 1994 to 1996 (part year)
*Stephanie Robertson - 1996 (part year) to 1997
*Peter Payzant - 1997 to 1999
*Ursula Grigg - 1999 to 2001
*Bob McDonald - 2001 to 2004
*Elliott Hayes - 2004 to 2005 (part year)
*Bernice Moores - 2004 to 2005 (part year)
*Allan Robertson - 2005 (part year) to 2009
*David Patriquin - 2009 to 2011 (part year)
*Janet Dalton - 2011 (part year) to present
 Note + indicates deceased; * still a HFN member

Image 5

The first meetings of HFN were held in the fifth floor lounge of the then new Biology Building at Dalhousie University. About one year later, HFN moved to the Auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum, as it was called then, for the 21 September 1976 meeting. At that time, the meeting night was the third Tuesday of the month (Newsletter Issue # 6, July - August 1976). Another year later, in September 1977, HFN changed to the first Thursday of the month for its 10 meetings per year (Issue # 11, May - June 1977). Meetings are still at the same time at the Museum which over time became known as the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.

HFN met at the Museum for free for some 26 years until the winter of 2002, when a \$20 monthly rental fee was instituted. Paid vehicle parking came into being as well! Some 12 years later, in 2014-2015, the rental fee is still very nominal, at \$29.50, including HST!

That's all for this HFN History Minute!

HFN History Minute # 4 *Membership totals/fees, Annual General Meetings, and Members' Slide/Photo Night*

This HFN History Minute, presented on 05 March 2015, was about the number of HFN members during the 40 years, membership fees, Annual General Meetings, and Members' Slide/Photo Night.

HFN membership totals: Information about the number of members at different times during the 40 years was collated into a graph for the overall picture! View the graph below, **Image 6**, and note:

- More than 40 people attended the first organizational meeting on 21 October 1975.
- The number of members ↑ to a high of 300 by February 1978.
- Thereafter, the numbers ↓ but held around 145 - 150 from 1985 - 2000 (no total for 1990 was found).
- There was another ↓ in the 2000 - 2014 period and the total wavered around the mid-to-high 120s.

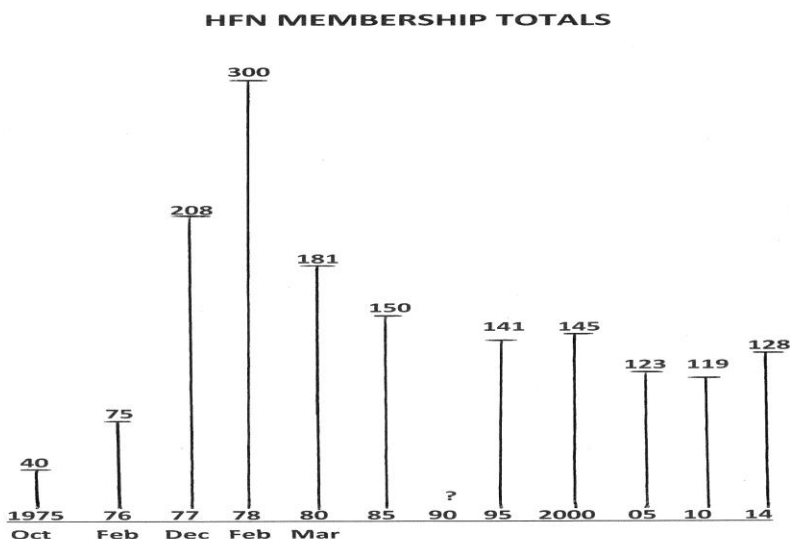


Image 6

Postscript: By the HFN AGM on 03 March 2016, the total membership had grown to 145.

Two interesting tidbits about communicating with members:

- (1) The first time new members were listed in the Newsletter, with a welcome to HFN, was in 1982 in Issue # 29 (September - November 1982).
- (2) In 2007 the Membership Secretary compiled an emailing list of those members who wished to be on it. It is a very convenient way to post notices, new program items, or cancellations. In 2014 the list had 101 members .

HFN membership fees: As above for membership numbers, the information about membership fees was collated to summarize the overall picture! Thus, looking at the graph below, **Image 7**, note:

- In the beginning the fee for an individual was \$2 per year.
- In 1976, the family membership category was added, with a \$3 fee.
- Thereafter, fees ↑ until the individual fee was \$20 in 2014 and the family fee was \$25.
- The Supporting membership category started in 1983, with a \$15 fee, and has ↑ to \$30 in 2014.
- The Student membership category started in 2009, with a \$15 fee, and is still the same.

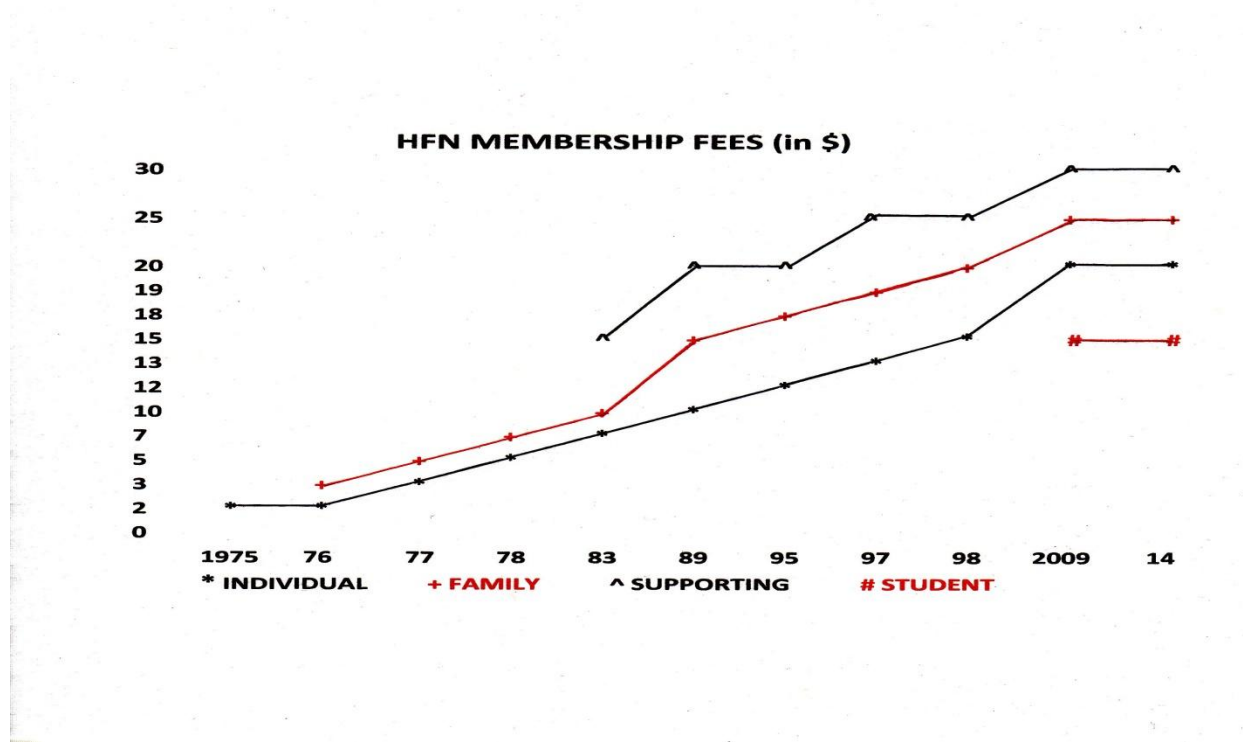


Image 7

The first Annual General Meeting or AGM was held on 22 January 1977 (Newsletter Issue # 80, September - November 1995, p. 5), with a potluck supper and HFN's first birthday cake. Eighty out of the 208 members attended. The new Executive took over after the AGM and held its first meeting that same evening! Over the years, March became the month to hold HFN's AGM but it is not known what year that started.

Members' Slide Night became an annual program after the AGM but again, there is no record of the year it started. During the research for this history minute, the first mention of Members' Slide Night

was found in a list of programs for 1983. Over time, Peter Webster became the coordinator and emcee of Members' Slide Night; he served for 5 years (2009 to 2013). Richard Beazley took over the task in 2014.

As members changed to using digital images and even videos, Members' Slide Night needed a new name! In 2013 it became Members' Photo Night!

That's all for this HFN History Minute!

HFN History Minute # 5 HFN "stick" and Logo

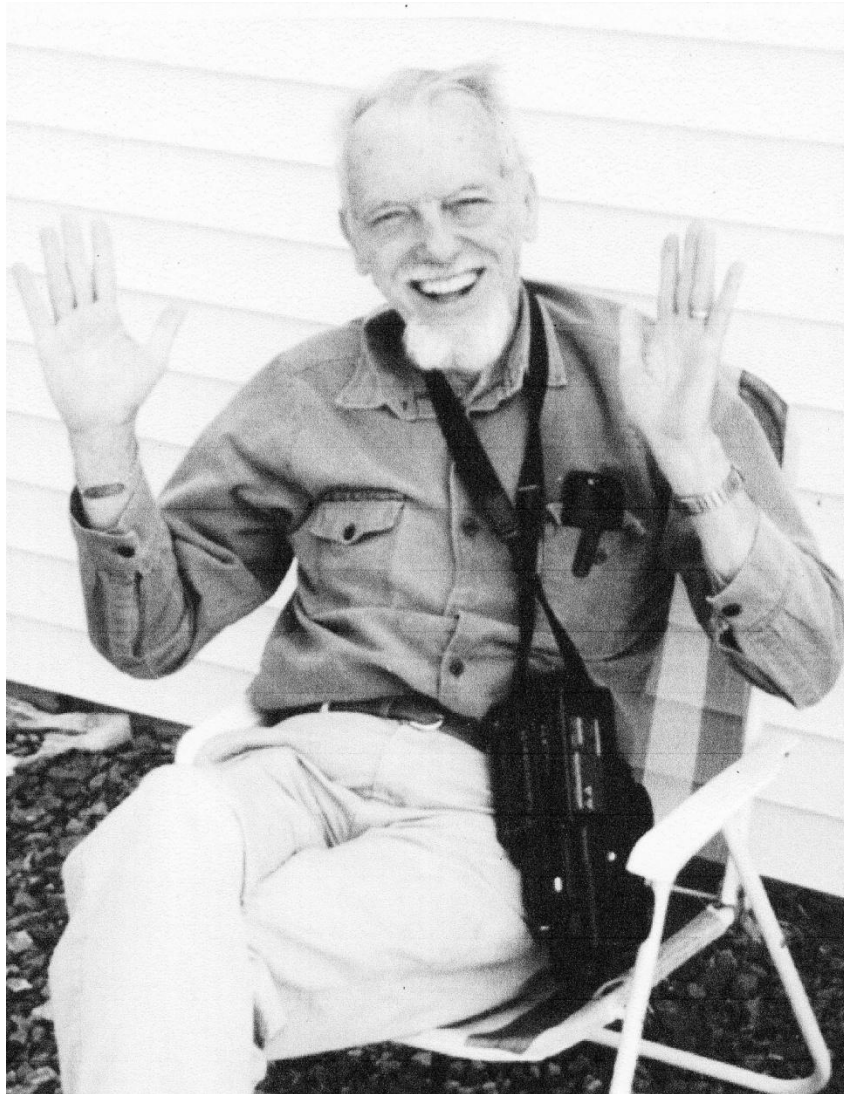
This HFN History Minute, presented on 02 April 2015, was about HFN's name-piece that some members call the 'stick' and about the logo.

The words, HALIFAX FIELD NATURALISTS, are carved on the 'stick', and there is a tree at one end. The 'stick' is placed on the display table at most meetings, and it will be in the first Members' Art Exhibit. Dr. Murray Cunningham (see his photograph on the next page) carved the 'stick.' For the 40th Anniversary, a credit plaque with his name and years of birth and death (1923 - 1998) was affixed to it to commemorate his donation.

Murray and his wife were among the early members of HFN. Their names as "Dr. and Mrs. R. M. Cunningham" were found on the "Supplementary Membership List of January 31st, 1977." He was a medical doctor, a graduate of the University of Toronto in 1947, and a radiation oncologist. He had a lifelong interest in and passion for astronomy. He was the honorary president of the Halifax Center of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, and a life member of the Society. He had many interests and hobbies, one of which was woodworking! (Source: Nova Notes, The Newsletter of the Halifax Centre of the RASC [Royal Astronomical Society of Canada], Volume 29 - Number 3 - June 1998, p. 7. Also this archived newsletter was the source of the photograph on the next page.)

Murray was described as one of our "loyal and supportive members" in HFN's Third Decade of History, Part II, 1998 - 2001, and as "one of our most enthusiastic supporters" in the announcement of his death in Newsletter Issue # 92. Long-time HFN member Bernice Moores recalled: "I remember him well. He was a regular attendee at our meetings and on many field trips."

Now to the story behind HFN's logo: A contest to design a logo was held in 1984 and the cover of Newsletter Issue # 35 (March - May 1984) showed the call about the "HFN Logo Contest." Several entries were received. HFN Member Bernice Moores and a Dalhousie graduate student composed the committee that chose the logo design. A last-minute entry became the winner! But the long-awaited logo winner was not announced until 1988 when it appeared on the cover of Issue # 51 (March - May 1988), and the winner was Stephanie Robertson! The logo was first published, rather insignificantly, at the top of the back cover of Issue # 52 (June - August 1988). A year later the HFN logo was placed on the front cover of Issue # 56 (September - November 1989), just above Return Address for HFN. Then, in 1997, the logo was placed on the top left-hand corner of each newsletter front cover and its position remains to the present (Issue # 86, March - May 1997).



Dr. Murray Cunningham (1923 - 1998)

Stephanie was asked to explain the logo's components and this is what she wrote (March 2015 email):

"People always suspect that lots more goes on in the artist's mind than usually occurs. I liked the circle idea as the basic shape, you could say it was the circle of life but I didn't think of it at the time. I think mainly I wanted sunshine, water, a field of green, a tree for the balancing of the "rule of thirds," the provincial flower, and hills in the background representing space and views. I put them together as I saw best and so that it looked good to me, and hand-coloured the design to my liking. The "Halifax Field Naturalists" letters were placed by hand around the circle; that was fiddly."

Moreover, interesting remarks about the logo-creation process were found in Colin Stewart's 1991 President's report (Newsletter Issue # 64, September - November '91, p. 64):

"I remember the great logo search, the appeal to members -nothing quite right; the contest - good design but not quite it. Then Stephanie's rough sketch, and suggestions at Board meetings to get it right: Larger mayflowers! small mayflowers! move them left! change the sun! smaller trees! larger trees! ... and I suspect that the final version wasn't all that different from the original sketch."

A related tidbit: The first mention of lapel pins featuring the new HFN logo was found in Issue # 53 (December 1988 - February 1989). The price was \$5.00 each and the pins were suggested as Christmas gifts! Pins are still available in 2015 and the price is still \$5.00 (with no HST tax either)!

That's all for this HFN History Minute!

HFN History Minute # 6 *Honorary Life Members*

This HFN History Minute, presented on 07 May 2015, was about HFN's Honorary Life Members. This honor has been bestowed on only two members during the 40 years.

Doris Butters was HFN's first Honorary Life Member. The presentation was made to her at the May 1987 meeting. President Michael Downing wrote the following citation which was published in Newsletter Issue # 48 (June - August 1987, p. 3):

"Since she joined the club in 1977, Doris has always been active. Formally, she has been on the editorial staff of the newsletter since 1978 and held the office of editor since 1982 - not even setting it aside when serving as president during a time when no one else would do that job. Informally, she has picked up the slack, whenever anyone was needed, over many years. Other people have contributed heavily to the Halifax Field Naturalists for a time, and then moved on to other interests, but no one has given such a constant effort, over such a long period, as has Doris. During the relatively short time of my own membership I have moved from my first impression of her as the backbone of HFN to my current notion that she is something more like its heart - the single bright-coloured thread which runs along the entire warp of our fabric of time and events, and gives it artistic unity.

Doris' Honorary Life Membership was awarded in recognition of her great contribution to HFN over most of its life. It is our sincere hope that this gesture will cost the club heavily in membership revenues over the future years."

Several additional notes:

- 1) Some of you know, but others might not, that Lesley Jane Butters is Doris' daughter. She loaned the photo of her Mum on the next page ; it was taken in 1997 when Doris was 82 years of age.
- 2) Doris served as the Newsletter Editor from 1982 until the summer of 1989--for 25 issues.
- 3) Doris died on January 25th, 2013, at one month shy of 98 years of age. Thus, she had been an honorary life member for 26 years! Quite a cost in membership revenues!
- 4) Also, if you would like to read more about Doris, the Editorial in Newsletter Issue # 150 is dedicated to her and there is an article about her life in the same issue (see p. 8).



Doris Butters (1915 - 2013)

Ursula Grigg became the second HFN Honorary Life Member when she was awarded an Honorary Life Membership at the March 2004 meeting. Thanks to Stephanie Robertson for obtaining a picture of Ursula from daughter Rosemary Drisdelle. It was taken in 2006; see the picture of Ursula doing something she loves on the next page.



Ursula Grigg

This is the citation that Bob McDonald penned and it was part of his 2004 President's report (Newsletter Issue # 114, March - May 2004, p. 5):

"... Ursula Grigg has stepped down after many years of service as editor of [the HFN Newsletter] I have read newsletters of many other societies similar to ours and can honestly say that ours is second to none! I feel that this excellence is due in large part to Ursula's unique editorial style. Of course, Ursula has also served on the Board as President and Past-President, and currently serves as the HFN representative on the Federation [of Nova Scotia Naturalists] board. To acknowledge Ursula's loyal service in many capacities, and to express our thanks to her, we presented her with a copy of The New Field Book of Freshwater Life, by Elsie B. Klots, and offered her a[n honorary] life membership in the Society, with all due rights and privileges."

Two additional notes:

- 1) Ursula served as the Newsletter Editor from Summer 1989 to Fall 2003--for 58 issues! That's the most of any Editor yet! Also she started publishing the Halifax Tide Tables.
- 2) Now in her 80s, Ursula co-wrote part of the first half of HFN's Fourth Decade of History with Stephanie Robertson. She also wrote Part 2: HFN's Second Decade of History. Both histories are archived on the HFN website.

That's all for this HFN History Minute!

HFN History Minute # 7 *Socializing at Meetings and Social Media*

This HFN History Minute, presented on 04 June 2015, was about the members' tradition of socializing at meetings and as well, about three aspects of social media.

As far as could be determined, the tradition of members socializing at HFN meetings began in 1976 and thereafter, light refreshments have been served after 'talks.' There was a very interesting mention about "Post-meeting teatime" in Newsletter Issue # 7 (September - October 1976): "Now that we have real mugs for our post-meeting teatime, we need mug washers. Just stick around after the meeting--we'll supply the dish towels."

The first mention of a "Refreshment Committee and helpers" was in Doris Butters' 1983 Presidential Report; the members were: Lesley Jane Butters, Murray Cunningham, Marjorie Dunbar, Aileen Meagher, and Bernice Moores. Lesley Jane and Bernice still volunteer in a number of ways! In addition, there was a lovely quote from President Doris: Teatime is a "time for socializing with kindred spirits" (Issue # 30, December 1982 - February 1983).

Also, "Refreshments" was first listed as an HFN Committee in the HFN newsletter in 1996 (Issue # 83, June to August). Then the Committee was listed as "Tea Break" in 2006 (Issue # 124, September - November 2006, to Issue # 150, March - May 2013), and in 2013 the name was changed back to "Refreshments" (Issue # 151, June - July)!

There is one HFN member who has volunteered to the nth degree, in a very quiet and unassuming way, and we want to salute her! Regine Maass has been orchestrating light refreshments for many years since she joined HFN in the late 1970s, and according to Newsletter Issue # 65 (December '91 - February '92), when there was a call for volunteers in 1992, she again "kindly offered to coordinate the tea tray at meetings." Regine still looks after refreshments 20 plus years later! Also, as some of you know, she makes the best apple cider for the Christmas Socials! So, many, many thanks, Regine! Postscript: To honour Regine's contribution to HFN, she was presented with a purple Clematis plant for her garden at this June meeting.

A very popular addition to HFN's Programme was started on 05 December 2002 when Patricia Leader suggested having a Christmas Social after the December speaker. She purchased red plaid fabric for less than a dollar per meter and her neighbor sewed the tablecloths! Most often Pat makes a winter table arrangement or sometimes Lesley Jane Butters does. Pat and Bernice Moores, and sometimes Shirley McIntyre, usually do the set-up, and many hands help with the clean-up! Members bring savory or sweet treats to enjoy with Regine's cider. Many thanks to Pat, Lesley Jane, Bernice and Shirley too! In recent years, the name has been updated to Holiday Social to be politically correct in today's society.

HFN evolved as social media evolved and three aspects are discussed briefly.

- 1) Internet: Peter and Linda Payzant set up a Home Page for HFN on the Chebucto Community Net in 1995 (Issue # 79, June - August 1995, p. 3) and maintained it for about 15 years. The page described the Club, its activities, and listed contact numbers.
- 2) Website: David Patriquin launched the website when he was President during 2009 to 2011, and he is still the HFN webmaster. Burkhard Plache is one of David's helpers. There is a great deal of information on the website, halifaxfieldnaturalists.ca, and members are encouraged to check it regularly.
- 3) Facebook: Clarence Stevens Jr., HFN Vice-President, launched an HFN Facebook page in October 2014 as part of the 40th Anniversary events. He acts as the administrator with help from the current President, Janet Dalton. The Facebook page achieved permanent status in May 2015, because 250+ people have accessed the page, and that means its name is now locked in.

That's all for this HFN History minute!

HFN History Minute # 8 HFN Newsletter

This HFN History Minute, presented on 08 September 2015, was about the HFN Newsletter. There has been a newsletter since HFN began in 1975; published more or less four times per year. The name of the newsletter evolved over time until Issue # 85 and to what it is today--THE HALIFAX FIELD NATURALIST. **Image 8** below shows the name variations over the years.

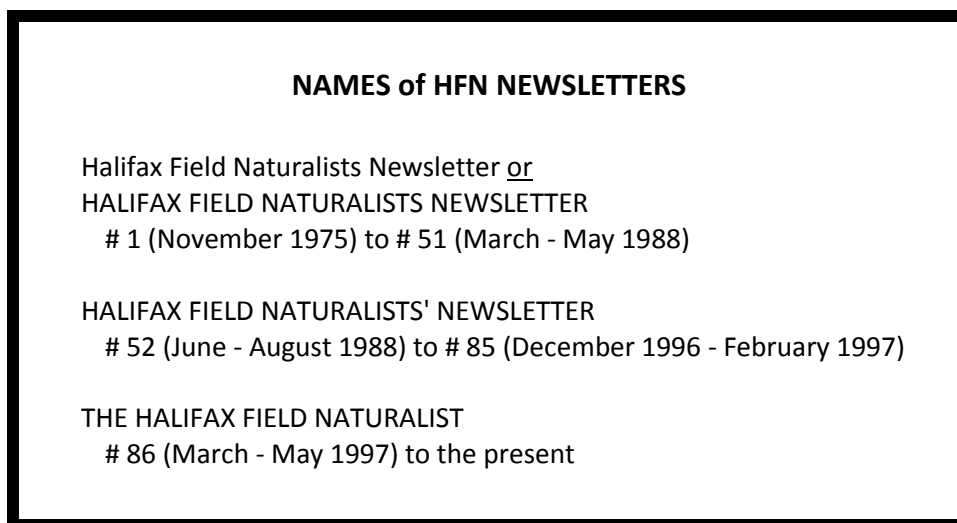


Image 8

The covers of the early issues were just plain white, or sometimes coloured yellow, blue or green paper was used. After 1977, there were often pen-and-ink drawings on the covers, for example, Issue # 49 in 1986 had a drawing by Mike Almon. The drawings were often original or copied from field guides or other sources. The first cover with a photo, that of Melmerby Beach in Pictou County, was in 1997 (Issue # 88, September - November). The beautiful colored covers began with the 30th Anniversary issue in 2006 (# 122, March - May). Another feature on the cover was the HFN logo which was the subject of History Minute # 5.

Each issue includes News and Announcements, Special Reports, summaries of 'talks,' reports on 'walks,' an Almanac and Halifax Tide Tables, and Nature Notes from recent HFN meetings. A few historical tidbits highlight the evolution of the newsletter:

- a) *Nature Notes* were first reported in 1983 (Issue # 31, March - May).
- b) The *Halifax Tide Tables* were started by Ursula Grigg in 1989 (# 54, March - May).
- c) The *Almanac* was started by Ursula in 1991 (# 63, June - August). The next almanac was compiled by Patricia Chalmers in Issue # 65 as have all other Almanacs to date.
- d) *Organisational Events* first appeared in the Almanac in 1994 (# 74, March - May). Hats off to Patricia for her 20+ years commitment to the Almanac!

This next part is about the members who served as Editors of HFN's Newsletters (see **Image 9** below). Debra Burleson was the first and served until 1977, for a total of 13 issues. For awhile some people/management/work issues affected the editorship of the Newsletter, so Jim Reid acted as editor for Issue # 13, and Andrew McLaren, for Issues # 15 to # 17. Anne (Linton) Greene was the second editor for 10 issues; also she served as the 5th President from 1980 to part of 1982. Edna Staples was the acting-editor for issues, # 28 and 29. The third editor was Doris Butters, for 25 issues, and she was the President during some of this time. The fourth Editor was Ursula Grigg, for 58 issues, and she too was President, from 1999 to 2001. Stephanie Robertson became the fifth Editor in 2004, and she has been the Editor ever since, for 44 issues and counting! She also was President for part of the year in 1976 to 1977. We salute the amazing contributions of all the Editors!

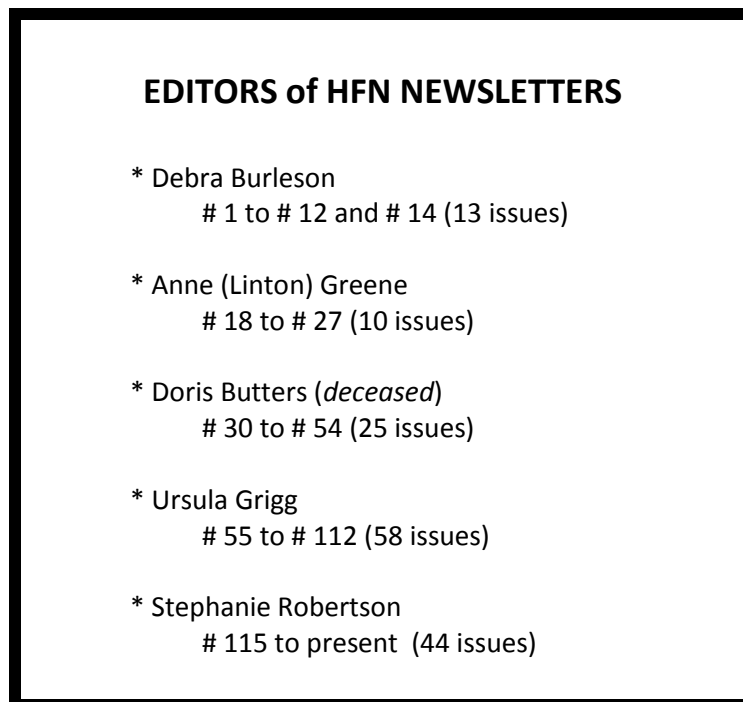


Image 9

Postscript: To honour Stephanie's contribution to HFN, she was presented with a pink Weigela plant for her garden at the June meeting and a plaque for her office at the September meeting.

Reminder: Nature-related contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome!

Several aspects related to producing HFN's Newsletters are briefly described below.

- 1) Layout, design and production: Stephanie did this job continuously from Issue # 54 to # 63. Then she was away for three years, and resumed this job with Issue # 77 to the present.
- 2) Printing: At first newsletters were printed courtesy of the Nova Scotia Museum on their paper. However, in 1983 HFN had to supply the paper due to government cutbacks but still received free printing! By 1991, the Museum changed to the Queen's Printer and HFN had to seek its own printer. This is a responsibility of the Editor and the Newsletter Committee, and a number of different printers have been used over the years.
- 3) HFN programmes: In the beginning, programmes were part of the newsletter. Since the mid-to-late 1980s, programmes have been printed on legal-size paper, colored coded for the seasons, and inserted in the newsletters. Now, programmes are usually posted on HFN's website before newsletters are distributed to members.
- 4) Distribution/circulation: Doug Linzey produces the mailing labels for the newsletters. Bernice Moores prepares them for mailing and to save postage, hand-delivers newsletters at HFN meetings and to some strategic places in Halifax, like libraries, universities, and The Trail Shop. Hats off to Doug and Bernice for their long-time commitment!
- 5) Archival Newsletters: Upon publication, every issue of the Newsletter is sent free of charge to the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, the Nova Scotia Archives, and Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa by Bernice Moores. The Editor also keeps an archival set.

Lastly, the Newsletters have been archived on the HFN Website. David Patriquin, the HFN Webmaster, completed the electronic archiving of past issues in October of 2015 as his contribution to the celebration of HFN's 40th Anniversary. All issues except those for the most recent three years are available. This time limit was an HFN Board decision so that the most recent newsletters could not be accessed without paying the membership fee. (Note: Some societies have a five-year limit.) Hats off to David for this huge and important undertaking!

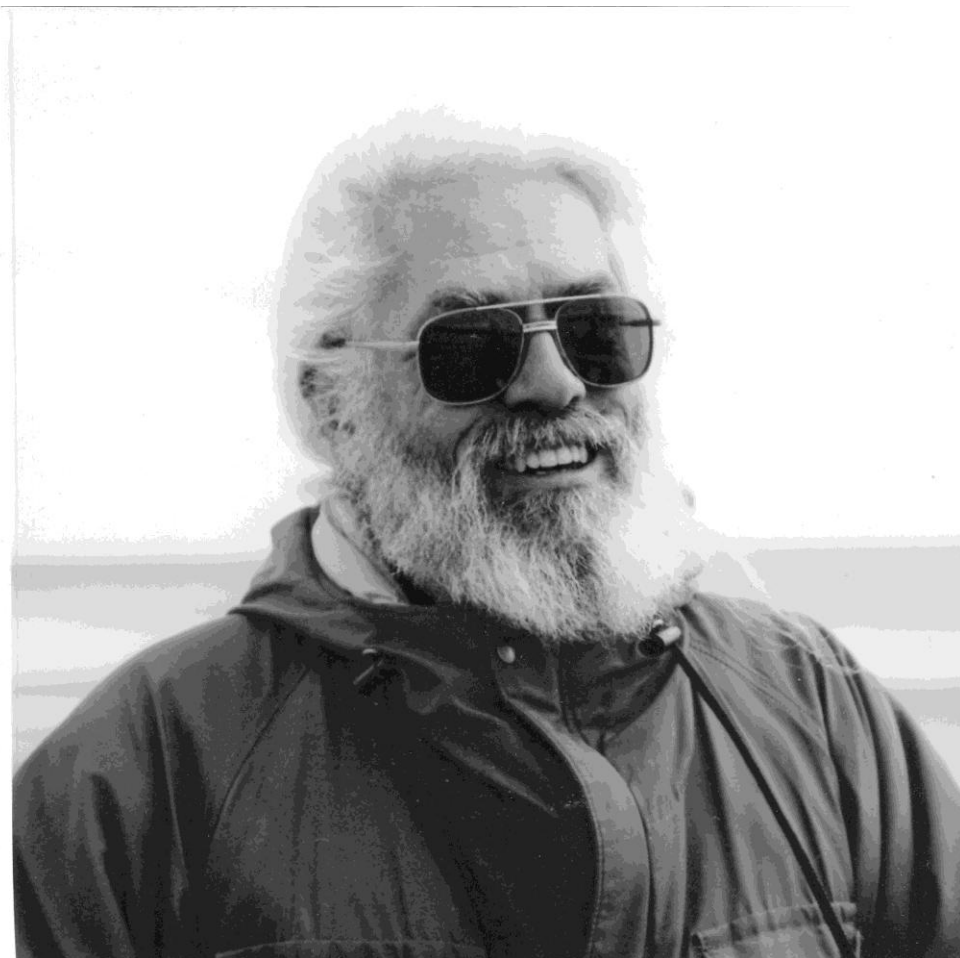
Postscript: In 2016, David has another project in the works, to prepare a comprehensive index for the HFN Newsletters, with volunteer help.

That's all for this HFN History Minute!

HFN History Minute # 9 *Colin Stewart Conservation Award*

This HFN History Minute, presented on 01 October 2015, was about the Colin Stewart Conservation Award (CSCA). The Halifax Field Naturalists established this award in 2004 to honour Colin Stewart's lifetime of contributions towards conservation initiatives in Nova Scotia.

Colin served on the HFN Board for over 20 years and was essentially a one-person Conservation Committee. He was instrumental in getting The Halifax Public Gardens' significant trees identified and then signed, and in establishing the Piping Plover Guardian Program, the Nova Scotia Trails Federation, and the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists (now Nature Nova Scotia). He was the World Wildlife Fund Endangered Spaces Coordinator for the Province. Colin helped to set aside Nova Scotia's 31 new Protected Areas and developed management plans for several parks and other natural areas. He was a founding member of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. Colin was a spokesperson for the naturalist community in dealing with various levels of government.



Colin Stewart (1953 - 2004)

'Thank you' to Colin's wife, Betty Hodgson, for supplying the above favorite photograph of her husband upon request for this 'Minute.'

Colin himself was the first recipient of the award before he passed away prematurely in 2004. The Award is given annually to an individual or group for significant conservation efforts in Nova Scotia when appropriate nominations are forthcoming. This award is usually given out in March after the AGM but this year it was given out as part of the October meeting to coincide with HFN's 40 anniversary! (See the website for details about the award nominating process.)

The members of the CSCA Committee for 2015 were: Dennis Hippert, Betty Hodgson, and Doug Linzey. The winner of the Colin Stewart Conservation Award in 2015 was the Nova Scotia Nature Trust (NSNT), a 20-year-old private land conservation organization. It was especially poignant for the NSNT because Colin was a very important person in the creation and establishment of the Nature Trust in its early years, in fact, for about its first 10 years.

That's all for this HFN History Minute!

HFN History Minute # 10 *How the Halifax Field Naturalists started the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists*

There was a slight change when this HFN History Minute was presented on 03 December 2015. It was composed by Past President Michael Downey who volunteered to write about this part of HFN's involvement with forming the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists which is now known as Nature Nova Scotia. Below is the history as written and presented by Michael.

Back in the mid 1980s, when both Colin Stewart and myself were very active on the HFN Board of Directors, Nova Scotia was the last Canadian province where field naturalists were not organized on a provincial level. In my many conversations with Colin, the desirability of a provincial organization had come up a number of times, but it had never got farther than talk. In those days, when a provincial issue just too important to neglect came up, the HFN was most commonly the organization which picked up the slack so to speak, and produced some sort of response, but we had no mandate as such to speak on a provincial level. The last such occasion took place in 1987. At that time a Lands and Forests steering committee was set up to advise the provincial government on, among other things, a major rewrite of the Nova Scotia Provincial Parks Act, and public input was being sought. Over the winter, an HFN committee hammered out a presentation at a series of meetings held at the home of Stephanie Robertson. A number of us were sufficiently dissatisfied with the legislation that eventually followed this exercise to consider some sort of protest. We thought that, considering this was a provincial issue of unusual importance, such a protest might better be made by natural history enthusiasts from around the province instead of just from Halifax. The job of establishing initial contacts to try to get this started went to me, and so I proceeded to try identify every society in the province whose primary interest was natural history, and to find the live bodies with whom we could speak.

I remind you that there was no internet in 1988, and no email either. I started by talking with people in HFN, the Blomidon Field Naturalists, and the Museum of Natural History for possibilities, and branched out from there. I checked every group I could find for other possibilities, contacted museums, checked phone books, and followed trails of suggestions until they produced results or petered out. Finding contacts was often the problem; some groups were not set up to communicate outside their own membership, and a few didn't even have officers. There were groups which no longer existed, groups which had become dormant, and groups down in numbers to two or three people. It was a long, slow process, involving a lot of chasing and a lot of waiting for replies. In the end, I was able to establish live contact with about 15 active organizations among whom it seemed hopeful that a discussion of the issue could begin. No discussion at all as yet--just a list of contacts to start one, and just this had taken many letters, hours on the phone, and a lot of waiting on the mail, during which time the issue had had at least three months to get stale. At this point I came to one observation--mounting a response to an environmental issue on a provincial level in Nova Scotia under the prevailing circumstances was a lot of work and far too much time and effort to be practical for any but the very occasional, absolutely critical matter.

So I went to Colin Stewart, with the idea that our lack of organization on the provincial level was a more pressing problem than the one which had got us started on this exercise in the first place. I suggested that now that we were sitting on the other side of this hurdle for the moment, and saw clearly what a huge hurdle it was. Therefore, we should let the Parks Act matter rest for the time being and instead use this hard-won occasion to get rid of the hurdle itself, permanently, by founding a provincial organization. Colin was game of course; it was just a matter of time before one or the other of us was going to say: "OK, let's stop talking about it and do it." The other directors liked the idea. So now we had my list of currently active contacts, Colin's organizational experience, and the HFN Directors behind the project. At this point, The Blomidon Field Naturalists also came on board through Jim Wolford, and they provided a venue. We were ready to go. (By then we were well into 1989.)

Then I started writing more letters and making more phone calls. The interest was there, and a meeting was set for 22 October 1989, at Acadia University in Wolfville. The following organizations were represented:

Annapolis Field Naturalists	Kings Environmental Group
Blomidon Naturalists' Society	Department of Lands and Forests (Parks Division)
Brier Island Ocean Study	Les Amis du Plein Air
Canadian Wildflower Society	Nova Scotia Bird Society
Chignetco Naturalists' Club	Spryfield Long Lake Provincial Park Association
Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society	Tusket River Environmental Protection Association
Halifax Field Naturalists	

Another HFN Director, Doug Linzey, served as secretary. As convener, I called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m., introduced the business of the day, and put the question: "Is there the will, here and now, to create a provincial voice for the naturalist movement in Nova Scotia?" There

was, and I quote from the minutes: “Moved by A. White, seconded by R. L. MacDonald-May, that the meeting form a provincial natural history federation. Carried.”

Discussion then moved on to the details. A flip chart was produced, various organizational options were discussed, and agreement was reached in a general way on how the new federation was to be set up. A Constitutional Committee was formed to draft by-laws and address general organizational business, in accordance with the decisions made. The meeting adjourned and the committee went to work. (I particularly remember many hours spent with Colin writing and rewriting bylaws, starting out from an existing set with which he was already familiar from another organization.) Meanwhile in Wolfville, Jim Wolford and the Blomidon Naturalists were hard at work on the venue.

The inaugural meeting was held on 09 June 1990 at Acadia University. The bylaws were presented by Colin Stewart and approved. Officers were elected. The founding organizational members were Annapolis, Blomidon, Cole Harbour, Halifax, Les Amis, the Wildflower Society, and Tusket from the above list, plus the Eastern Mainland Field Naturalists. And so the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, more recently known as Nature Nova Scotia, came to be.

That's all for this HFN History Minute!

Concluding note from the Chair of the 40th Anniversary Committee:

It is hoped that you have enjoyed these HFN History Minutes!

Also, credit and many thanks are offered to HFN member, Richard Beazley, who helped immensely with the production of the images and photographs in this document. Plus he improved the first nine 'Minutes' with his sharp eye for clarity and conciseness, and he was a diligent reader of this document.