

## 2026 AGM YEAR END REPORT

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am writing this, my final President's Report one year earlier than I had planned, however plans change so here I am. Late last fall I had let the board know that I would be resigning effective, March 17, 2026 and that we had to start searching for a replacement. Fortunately, we did extremely well in that regard, Don Flemming came forward as a candidate for President, Jennifer Hahn as Vice-president, Gillian Webster as Secretary and Angela Miller as Membership Committee Chair. Gillian and Angela are already installed as per HFN By-Law #33 until the March AGM election. All four are on tonight's election slate. Angela taking on the Membership Committee Chair responsibilities will take a load off of Don Flemming as he was fulfilling that position along with several other duties. This new board makeup will give HFN a decidedly lower median board age going forward.

Losing Doug Linzey a spell ago created a wide and gaping hole in our Membership Program that persisted for some time, one we have just recently climbed out of. Now, mainly due to Don Flemming's efforts, coupled with those of Jennifer Hahn and Ingrid Plache, the program is in very good shape. NOTE: a word here to all new and renewing members, the following complete and current information: name, mailing address, phone number and email address is necessary for the program's continued success.

The most anticipated event of 2025 was easily the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration which was so professionally organized by Anniversary Committee Chair, Janet Dalton and members Stephanie Robertson and Lesley-Jane Butters. Every aspect of the event from venue, catering, audio/video and guest speaker (Andrew Hebda) was first rate in every way and made it a memorable evening. The highlight of the evening was having founding members Anne Greene (Linton) and Scott Cunningham both present to do the Anniversary Cake cutting. Another notable event was the publishing of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary HFN Newsletter by editor Stephanie Robertson. It's extensive reading and memory provoking content was assembled by Stephanie with the help of a small number of committed members. Stephanie is to be commended for producing this wonderful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Newsletter. The outing of the year was definitely the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary MacCormack's Beach event, which was planned and organized, start to finish, by Clarence Stevens, and pulled off with the able help of a number of volunteers. He had an event to interest everyone, snorkelling, birdwatching, a viewing aquarium and a nature walk were just some of the ventures. It should be noted this was initially planned as a Martinique Beach event however, the province dashed that with the closure of Martinique Beach Park for major upgrades.

This report and the Treasurer Report will be the only two presented this evening. However, the membership and program reports are posted on the website.

Finally, in closing I want to express my sincere gratitude for having the opportunity of being president these past two years. It has been a wonderful experience from day one. It was made so by the generous sharing of expertise, time and knowledge of the Board, numerous individuals, and both member and non-member walk leaders and presenters. Two folks I have to specifically thank are Melanie Bedgood, Coordinator of Visitor Services and Gift Shop, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History for her willing assistance, and my wife Heather for her constant support and patience.

Respectfully submitted

Bernie McKenna, President