



2025-2026



# COLCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## ANNUAL REPORT

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**Colchester Historical Society**

**Annual General Meeting - AGENDA**

***Year of April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026, at the Colchester Historeum***

***7:00 p.m. – Thursday, June 18, 2026***

**1. Welcome**

**2. Roll Call**

please make sure that you have added your name to the Roll Call sheet

**3. Call to Order**

this meeting is called to order in order to conduct the annual business of the Society in accordance with Article 4 of our by-laws.

**4. Land Acknowledgement**

The Colchester Historeum is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory in mutual respect and gratitude.

People of African descent have shared these lands, in what is now called Nova Scotia, for more than 400 years; over 50 strong resourceful African Nova Scotian Communities exist here today.

**5. Moment of Silence in Honour of those members who passed away during the 2025/2026 year:**

Charlotte MacQuarrie May 24, 2025

Mike Boulton August 10, 2025

Frances Langille December 30, 2025

*and any others that we may have missed.*

**6. Introduce Board Members and Staff**

***Board Members***

*Amy Atkinson, Leslie Burrows, Frank Cassidy, Stacey Culgin, Pam Grace, Ken Henderson, Patti Miller, Steve Newson, Terry White, Valerie Tucker, Thalia Smith*

***Staff***

*Shannon Berry – Events/Communications Coordinator*

*Joanne Hunt, Archives Researcher*

*Ryan McLellan – Archivist/Curator*

*Doreen LeBlanc-Walker – Office Administrator*

**7. Agenda with motion to accept**

**8. Minutes from the June 25, 2025, AGM with motion to accept**

**9. President's Report with motion to accept**

**10. Staff Annual Reports with motion to accept**

- A. Event and Communication Coordinator – Shannon Berry
- B. Archivist and Curator – Ryan McLellan
- C. Office Administrator – Doreen LeBlanc Walker

**11. Treasurer's Report with motion to accept – Amy Atkinson**

**12. The Financial Review from Atkinson's Accounting**

**13. Budget presentation – Amy Atkinson**

**14. Committee Reports with motion to accept**

- A. Building and Maintenance
- B. Collections
- C. Heritage
- D. Human Resources

15. **The Nominating Committee brings forth the following names for a two-year term:**

Amy Atkinson (2020)

Stacey Culgin (2024)

Pam Grace (2024)

Thalia Smith (2025)

Valerie Tucker (2025)

For Office of President, the Nominating Committee brings forth the following name:

Leslie Burrows

Note: Board Members with one year left in term:

Ken Henderson (2017)

Leslie Burrows (2019)

Frank Cassidy (2023)

Patti Miller (2025)

Steve Newson (2025)

Terry White (2025)

16. **2026– 2027 Appointment for Review Engagement**

The Board recommends that Atkinson's Accounting Ltd. be hired to do the year-end review.

17. **Other Business**

- *Volunteers needed*
  - *help on committee work*

- *help to set up for special events and act as door greeters*
- *... if you would like to volunteer, we will find a job for you*

**18. Thanks are extended to all staff, volunteers, Board members and to our membership for their support.**

**19. Meeting Adjournment**

## **Colchester Historical Society**

### **Annual General Meeting Minutes (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025)**

**Wednesday, June 25, 2025 @7:00 PM, Colchester Historeum**

#### **1. Welcome**

Leslie Burrows, President welcomed the membership to the Annual General Meeting.

#### **2 Roll Call**

20 Society members in attendance.

#### **3. Call to Order**

Leslie Burrows, President called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in order to conduct the annual business of the Society in accordance with Article 14 of the by-laws.

#### **4. Land Acknowledgement**

The Colchester Historeum is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory in mutual respect and gratitude.

People of African descent have shared these lands, in what is now called Nova Scotia, for more than 400 years; over 50 strong resourceful African Nova Scotia Communities exist here today.

#### **5. Moment of Silence in Honour of those members who passed away during the 2024/2025 year:**

Dr. Malcolm MacLeod (April 24, 2024)

Marilyn Ells (August 23, 2024)

Jean Soper (106 – September 26, 2024)

Pam Tonary (October 9, 2024)

Dale Ells (December 18, 2024)

Heather Dau (January 17, 2025)

Gladys Otterson (February 1, 2025)

Leslie Blackburn (March 31, 2025)

And any others that we may have missed

Special mention regarding the recent passing of Charlotte MacQuarrie (May 24, 2025 ), who was a long-time supporter of the Colchester Historical Society.

#### **6. Introduce Board Members and Staff**

Board members: Karen Archibald-Waugh, Amy Atkinson, Leslie Burrows, Frank Cassidy, Stacy Culgin, Daniel Doroshenko, Pam Grace, Ken Henderson, Patti Miller, Steve Newson, Bill Thomas, Terry White

Staff:

Shannon Berry – Events/Communications Coordinator

Joanne Hunt – Archives Researcher

Ryan McLellan – Archivist/ Curator

Doreen LeBlanc-Walker – Office Administrator

Janica MacKenzie – DHCP Grant

**7. Agenda (See attached)**

Frank Cassidy moved for the acceptance of the agenda as circulated. Seconded by Steve Newson. All in favour. Motion carried.

**8. Minutes from the June 6, 2024, AGM (See attached)**

Stacey Culgin moved for the acceptance of the minutes as circulated. Seconded by Patti Miller. All in favour. Motion carried.

**9. President's Report (See attached)**

Leslie Burrows, President presented the President's Report. Amy Atkinson moved for the acceptance of the President's Report. Seconded by Karen Archibald-Waugh. All in favour. Motion carried.

**10. Staff Annual Reports (See attached)**

A. Event & Communication Coordinators Report – Shannon Barry

B. Archivist and Curator Report – Ryan McLellan

C. Office Administrator Report – Doreen LeBlanc-Walker

Patti Miller moved for the acceptance of the Staff Annual Reports. Seconded by Steve Newson. All in favour. Motion carried.

**11. Treasurer's Report (See attached)**

Amy Atkinson, Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report. Daniel Doroshenko moved for the acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Karen Archibald-Waugh. All in favour. Motion carried.

**12. The Financial Review from Atkinson's Accounting (See Balance Sheet as of 2025-03-31 and Income Statement 2024-04-01 to 2025-03-31 attached)**

Amy Atkinson presented the Financial Review. She noted that two changes had been made in the Balance Sheet under Capital Assets: Under Accumulated Amortization for Furniture and Equipment, \$20,278.13 was cleared off the books. In 2013, a donation of \$30,000 to go towards maintenance was received. This should have been deferred annually but was only depreciated in the first year and the number was carried over every year since. After 12 years the amortization would currently be at zero. The Accumulated Amortization for the Core Exhibit Plan was also reduced to reflect where the depreciation should be to date. Revenue in 2024-2025 was increased by \$22,000 due to the efforts of the Annual Appeal. Expenditures decreased by \$29,000 due to the movement of the \$30,000 depreciation.

**13. Budget Presentation (See Operational Budget submitted by Doreen LeBlanc-Walker for April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, attached)**

Amy Atkinson presented the report. She indicated that Doreen has entered all financial data in the Sage Accounting Program and therefore, next year the Society will have a full year of input.

**14. Committee Reports (See attached)**

- A. Building and Maintenance
- B. Collections
- C. Heritage
- D. Human Resources

Elinor Maher moved for the acceptance of the Committee Reports. Seconded by Stacey Culgin. All in favour. Motion carried.

**15. Special Resolution which was circulated with the Notice of Meeting 30 days in advance. (See attached motion).**

It is moved and seconded by Ken Henderson and Amy Atkinson, respectively, as recommended by the Colchester Historical Society Board of Directors, the following Special Resolution. All in favor. Motion carried.

**16. The Nominating Committee brings forth the following names for a two-year term:**

Ken Henderson (2017)  
Leslie Burrows (2019)  
Frank Cassidy (2023)  
Patti Miller (2025)  
Steve Newson (2025)  
Terry White (2025)

The Nominating Committee brings forth the following name for a one-year term:

Valerie Tucker (2025)

For Office of the President, The Nominating Committee brings forth the following name:

Leslie Burrows

Leslie Burrows called three times for nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received. Leslie welcomed new members to the Board.

Note: Board Members with one year left in term:

Amy Atkinson (2020)

Stacy Culgin (2024)

Pam Grace (2024)

It was noted that Bill Thomas resigned from the Board due to other commitments. The Board would like to thank Karen Archibald-Waugh, Daniel Doroshenko and Bill Thomas for their years of service on the Board.

**17. 2025-2026 Appointment for Review Engagement**

Based on the Board's recommendation, Steve Newson moved that Atkinson's Accounting Ltd. be hired to provide the year-end review for 2025-2026. Seconded by Frank Cassidy. All in favour. Motion carried.

**18. Other Business**

**Door prize winners:**

Dave Clarke won a one-year membership to the Colchester Historical Society.

Ryan MacLellan won a Colchester Historeum stemless wine glass.

Volunteers needed:

- Help on committee work
- Help to set up for special events and act as door greeters
- If you would like to volunteer, we will find a job for you

**19. Thanks are extended to all staff, volunteers, Board members and to our membership for their support.**

**20. Meeting Adjourned at 7:41 PM.**

X

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Leslie Burrows  
President

X

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Pam Grace  
Secretary

## **Board President's Annual Report**

***April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026***

***Submitted by Leslie Burrows, Board President***

We have had a busy year event-wise. Many thanks to Shannon for the variety of speakers and events that were on offer.

Many thanks also need to go out to Ryan and Joanne. We have a top-notch Archives assisting people from around the world.

Doreen keeps us on track financially, cutting every place she can to try to keep us within our budget. We are very thankful to have her on the team.

The Historeum is very lucky to have these three staff who are diligent in all they do, going above and beyond their mandate. Our appreciation goes out to them all.

You will have seen the scaffolding on the building for the past several months. The Province, who owns the building, have been replacing the roof and making repairs around the dormers. This will help to eliminate the fear of leaks onto our collections.

Our biggest trial each year has been to stay within our budget which is thin at best. It did not make things any easier when the Provincial Government cut our funding by 20%. This has presented us with a very big challenge to overcome in order to stay open and operational.

We appreciate every dollar received in the donation box but know that we need even more. Presently, we need new heat pumps. Some are not working at all and others are inefficient. They are at the end of their life. We would appreciate any ideas from our membership that might help in fundraising to replace these items as there is no money in the budget for this expense.

We are having talks with the Province as to what we and they are responsible for inside the building envelope. We have an agreement signed by them that they are now declaring invalid. We disagree and continue to try to be heard. It is a very frustrating process.

We thank the Town of Truro and the County of Colchester who continue to support the Historeum through their annual contributions.

I also need to say thank you to the Board members who all bring different strengths. We are working diligently to maintain the legacy started 72 years ago.

And to repeat what I stated last year: Thank you to all Society Members for whatever you do to enable us to survive and thrive. YOU are the Historeum. YOU are needed to help to continually make the Historeum a quality place to visit and learn about Colchester County's people and past.

## **EVENT COORDINATOR REPORT**

*This report covers April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026*

*Submitted by Shannon Berry*

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Colchester Historeum event programming attempts to deliver balanced activities for Colchester Historical Society members and Colchester residents in general. Except for dedicated fundraisers, programming is offered on an admission-by-donation basis or free to CHS members.

On average, the Historeum hosts up to a dozen programming events per month. Standards include Lunch & Learn presentations, allowing history enthusiasts to take in an interesting program while enjoying their lunch; Evening Lectures, making programming more accessible to everyone; History Hub gatherings, an appreciated afternoon block of local history storytelling; and social cards twice a week.

### **2025-26 LUNCH & LEARN EVENTS**

#### ***APRIL 2025***

- The evolution of farming technology, from horse-drawn plows to modern machinery and how these innovations shaped agriculture and the lives of those who work the land, with Farm Equipment Museum volunteers Don Conrod and Lisa Patton

#### ***MAY 2025***

- A brief history of the Little White Schoolhouse Museum building, highlights of its artifacts and display, and information about the archives, with David McKillop

#### ***SEPTEMBER 2025***

- Part Two of Louise Trotter's modern-day adventure following Karl Creelman's journey as he became the first Canadian to bicycle around the world in 1902

#### ***OCTOBER 2025***

- The legend of the fiery ghost ship of the Northumberland Strait with Shelley LeFresne of Tatamagouche

#### ***NOVEMBER 2025***

- A history of the Christmas Bird Count – the world's longest-running citizen wildlife survey recruiting the annual participation of observers around the world, with Ross Hall

#### ***FEBRUARY 2026***

- A personal journey into genetic genealogy with Steve Newson, who examined the use of DNA matches and genealogy matches, while addressing some of the practical and ethical questions surrounding the use of DNA

## **MARCH 2026**

- Placing women's stories in the historical landscape by using a different lens on well-known stories, with Anne Marie Lane Jonah

## **2025-26 EVENING LECTURES**

### **APRIL 17, 2025**

- *"One Hundred Candles: Centenarians of Colchester County"* with archivist Ryan McLellan An exploration into extreme longevity, highlighting some of the oldest people in Colchester County history

### **May 22, 2025**

- *"A History of the Gaels in Nova Scotia"* with Cory Matheson, Gaelic Flock of Truro founder An introduction to the Gaels of Scotland, their history in Nova Scotia, and the unique language and culture they brought with them

### **NOVEMBER 5, 2025**

- *"Rediscovering Lyell: Unearthing a Lost Fossil Site in the Cliffs of Fundy"* with Dr. Tim Fedak Curator of Geology of the Nova Scotia Museum. Drawing on famed geologist Charles Lyell's notes and historic maps, Fedak reviewed new fieldwork to uncover a lost site near the Folly and Debert River and its 300-million-year-old marine fossils

### **FEBRUARY 25, 2026**

- *"Roots of the Present"* with Nevin Jackson  
Exploring some of Truro's early black settlers in honour of African Heritage Month

### **MARCH 4, 2026**

- *"Truro:1858: The Coming of the Railway"* with Elinor Maher

Detailed background on the efforts to build a railway in Nova Scotia and the resulting transformation of Truro as the "Hub" of Nova Scotia

### **MARCH 18, 2025**

- *"Building the Hub: Expanding Infrastructure"* with Andrew Blackburn

Reviewing the railway facilities built to serve the public, maintain the equipment, and handle commerce at the height of the railway industry in Truro

## **2025-26 COLCHESTER ROOTS**

*Spring and fall discovery sessions hosted by archives staff at the Truro Library*

April 23, May 7, May 21, 2025 – A three-session general introduction to local history and genealogy

Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Nov. 25, 2025 – Births, marriages and deaths; maps from different time periods and how they are useful; the use of Census records, directories, deeds, wills, Bibles, taxes, ledgers, business and school records, yearbooks and other resources

### **GUIDED WALKING TOURS**

*Conducted by archives staff at the request of the Town of Truro to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Incorporation*

Sept. 13, Sept. 15, 2025 – Downtown Truro Walking Tour

Sept. 27, Sept. 29, 2025 – Robie Street Cemetery Walking Tour

### **2024-25 HISTORY HUB SESSIONS**

#### **October 15, 2025**

The history of Folly Lake, including properties and their owners, the impact from railways, and ice harvesting, with Elinor Maher

#### **October 29, 2025**

The history of Folly Lake, focusing on the Stevens family, with Valerie Tucker

#### **March 25, 2026**

History of Colchester County's ice-making industry, including Arnold Crowe's operation on Farnham Pond in Bible Hill, with Kim McCallum

### **OPEN HOUSE EVENTS**

May 23, 2025 – Downtown Truro Days Open House, with free museum and archives admission and half-price CHS memberships

July 17, 2025 – An Open House event, in conjunction with six other Colchester community museums, offering free museum and archives admission

February 16, 2026 – Free museum and archives admission to observe Heritage Day, along with a cake-cutting celebration marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Historeum as a museum

### **2025 HERITAGE AWARDS April 15, 2025**

Contributions to preserve and promote local heritage were celebrated during the Colchester Historical Society's annual Heritage Awards Night. Recognition was extended to:

*Ashley Sutherland*, a former Colchester Historeum archivist for countless research endeavours, most notably focused on African Nova Scotian history;

*CHS member Terry White*, for more than 50 years of society commitment in many capacities;

*Walker Lofts*, represented by Matthew MacQuarrie, Jon Keddy and Jill Linqvist, winner of the Town of Truro 2024 Robert Hilchey Memorial Heritage Award for the redevelopment of 880 Prince Street;

*Verna Lowden*, for her many contributions as a long-time member of the Sunrise Trail Museum and the North Shore Archives Society; and

*Willow Church Cemetery Society*, for upkeep and preservation of the Waughs River grounds located at the site of the area's first church built in 1820 by Scottish settler, Wellwood Waugh.

## **WEEKLY SOCIAL CARDS**

Cribbage plays on Tuesdays and Canasta on Thursdays have seen fluctuating numbers throughout the year, but both maintain consistent weekly players. Canasta draws our largest attendance.

## **FUNDRAISING**

### *HISTORIC COLCHESTER COUNTY CALENDAR*

The 2026 CHS calendar highlighted historic stores of Colchester County with a "Shop Local" theme. The calendar was well-supported through local business advertising support and community purchases. In addition to gift shop sales, calendars were sold at the Truro Farmers Market community table, MacQuarries Pharmasave on Esplanade and by board members.

### *CHS ANNUAL APPEAL FALL 2025*

The annual appeal was led by Historeum staff in 2025. Long-standing and active CHS member Elinor Maher was selected and accepted the position as honorary chair.

### *2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL JIGSAW PUZZLE RACE FEBRUARY 2026*

Co-hosted with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colchester East Hants, this year's event featured morning and afternoon races with 25 teams competing to complete a 500-piece puzzle within a two-hour allotted time. Puzzles and prizes were donated by Cobble Hill and MacQuarries Pharmasave. A third annual race will be hosted in 2027.

## **HISTOREUM TOURS**

Canadian Mental Health Association

École Acadienne

2<sup>nd</sup> Truro Guides

CEC IB History Class

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Facebook remains the strongest platform with fiscal year growth to 5.8K followers, up from 5.1K in 2025; with Instagram remaining at 1.4K with no change.

We continue to create new followers through popular weekly "Throwback Thursday" posts of nostalgic Colchester County photographs, programming, events, archives education/information and gift shop wares.

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Six digital issues were distributed to members and interested parties, promoting upcoming events and celebrating Colchester Historeum accomplishments.

#### **WEBSITE**

Virtual visitors were supplied with updated general information about the Historeum, along with *upcoming events*

#### **EXTERNAL COVERAGE**

Historeum events regularly appear in the County of Colchester's What's Happening in Central Nova and Truro Buzz digital event listings, and coverage was provided by Truro News throughout the fiscal year. Several presentations were also recorded for broadcast on Eastlink's Podium TV.

#### **SUMMARY**

The Historeum continues to offer interesting events and opportunities to encourage new community engagement. Our standing-room-only presentations and generous door donations suggest we are moving in the right direction and giving the community the history stories it wants to hear.

Fundraising events such as the fashion show, historic calendar, and jigsaw puzzle race were well-supported, and we will continue to offer these mainstays as we explore additional opportunities to grow financial and membership support.

Building deficiencies facing the CHS, coupled with the temporary loss of reliable elevator service and access to the third floor, affected long-term programming considerations and necessitated accommodations. Despite these continued challenges, we hope to carry our growth momentum forward in the 2026-27 fiscal year.

## Archives and Collections Annual Report

*This report covers April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026*

*Submitted by Ryan McLellan, Archivist & Curator*

Archives and Joanne Hunt, Archives Researcher  
Collections staff: Janica MacKenzie, Archives Digitization Assistant (DHCP)

### Archives Research and Visitors:

We received and answered 375 research inquiries during the 2025-26 year, a 12% increase over the last fiscal year. 45% of inquiries were made in person, 44% by email, and 11% over the phone.

The increase in research requests can be partly explained by the influx of Americans seeking Canadian citizenship by descent, and the necessary genealogical documents to apply.

In addition to many Colchester County residents, we answered inquiries from **every Canadian province, 22 U.S. states** (California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin), as well as **Australia, England, France, Japan, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.**

We gave special group tours of the archives to the CEC Grade 11 IB History class and Dalhousie School of Architecture students.

### Collections Work:

Accessioning—the work of formally processing new acquisitions into our permanent collection—has continued as we have time. 7 lots of artifacts and 85 lots of archival material were accessioned, including 419 photographs, all of which have been digitized.

Large collections accessioned this year include the Kennedy Memorial Residence fonds, Onslow Island Cemetery fonds, Garth Staples Collection, and Edith “Bunny” Patterson Collection (partially complete).

A high-level inventory/reappraisal of our archival holdings was conducted. The goals were to confirm the location of materials, locate missing items, standardize box lists, and identify items for deaccession.

*For a list of new acquisitions in the 2025-26 year, see the Collections Committee Annual Report.*

### Exhibits:

Instead of infrequent, large exhibits, we have focused on making more frequent, smaller changes to our museum gallery. These are some changes made in the 2025-26 year:

- *Hotels:* photos and artifacts related to Truro hotels.

- *Planter-era headstone*: a headstone from 1792 along with information about the Putnam family of Upper Stewiacke.
- *Leapper spinning wheel*: a spinning wheel made by Alexander Leapper (or Lepper) of Truro (1822-1911).
- *Truro 150 photo display*: a photo display at the Truro Farmers' Market to coincide with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Conference.
- *Remembrance Day*: our annual Remembrance Day display was exhibited at the Truro Library. This year the centerpiece was a portrait of George Enslow Talbot (1894-1979).
- *50th anniversary*: a photo exhibit prepared for the Historeum's 50th anniversary.
- *African Nova Scotian communities*: a photo exhibit celebrating African Nova Scotian communities and individuals in Truro and Colchester.
- *The archives wall* featured recycled photo displays for Truro 150 and the Historeum's 50th anniversary.
- *Large artifacts*: several large artifacts were exhibited around the gallery including a school desk, a hitching post, a G.B. Crowe pump, a McLean's Bakery crate, and a tree stump with rings marked by important events in Colchester history.

### **Truro 150 Walking Tours:**

In July 2025, the Town of Truro approached us to design and deliver two walking tours for the town's 150th anniversary year. The Town offered to fund this project.

Joanne and Ryan developed a downtown walking tour (centered around the downtown core) and a cemetery tour (at Robie Street Cemetery). The downtown walking tours were held on September 13, 15, 17, and 19. They were a success, with about 80 people in total attending the four tours. The two cemetery tours were held on September 27 and 29, with about 50 people in total attending.

### **DHCP (Documentary Heritage Communities Program) School Register Project:**

Our three-year project, "Increasing Access to the Colchester Historeum's School Records," is now complete. The project was funded by a Documentary Heritage Communities grant from Library and Archives Canada.

On March 31, Janica MacKenzie wrapped up two years of work on the project. She spent that time sorting, recording, researching, describing, rehousing, and digitizing our vast collection of Colchester County school registers. To date over 10,000 individual registers have been processed. A new database will make these records more accessible to archives staff and to the public.

Registers 100 years or older have been digitized, and these scans have now been uploaded to novamuse.ca. You can find a full list of registers that have been processed, along with instructions on how to access digitized records here: <https://colchesterhistoreum.ca/cmsb/uploads/school-registers.pdf>.

Thank you, Janica!

### **Social Media:**

“Throwback Thursdays” featuring historic photos from our archival collection were posted every week. Subject matter is loosely curated to the time of year, including commemorative occasions such as Mi’kmaq History Month (October) and African Heritage Month (February).

#### **Media and Outreach:**

Interviews with Historeum staff appeared in the *Casket*, the *Truro News*, and on CBC radio. A film crew from *Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse* interviewed Ryan on local Acadian history.

Ryan gave a presentation to the Golden K Club in February 2026. The group was informed about collections and archival practices at the Historeum, as well as some recent acquisitions.

The second iteration of our “Colchester Roots” introduction to genealogy program was held at the Truro Library in October and November 2025, with 10-20 participants attending each session.

#### **Professional Development:**

Archives staff attended monthly TRACK training sessions offered by the Association of Nova Scotia Museums (ANSM) from June to August 2025. These sessions focused on the “pillars” of Interpretation and Communications. In September 2025, Ryan attended an ANSM group training session on inventory optimization using new tools in CollectiveAccess.

Janica attended all six of the Council of Nova Scotia Archives’ (CNSA) archival education courses.

#### **Volunteers and Placements:**

Sandra Gittens has continued indexing marriage notices from the *Truro Daily News* every week. We also had two students on work placements who helped out in the archives: Paula Olsen, a student in the Co-op 12 program at CEC, and Joe MacLean, a student in the Achieve program at NSCC. Thank you Sandra, Paula, and Joe!

## **OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

***This report covers April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026***

***Submitted by Doreen LeBlanc Walker***

This past year has been another busy and productive one for the staff at CHS. In addition to our regular day-to-day operations, staff have been actively involved in organizing and supporting fundraising initiatives and special events. These activities not only help promote our organization within the community but also play an important role in generating much-needed revenue.

The most significant challenge we faced this year was the 20% reduction in provincial funding. This funding cut required us to make difficult decisions in order to maintain our services while managing our budget responsibly.

One of the areas impacted was staffing. My position was reduced by 50%, and our Assistant Researcher position was reduced to two days per week. Despite these reductions, staff have remained committed to ensuring that essential work continues to be completed efficiently and effectively.

Throughout the year, the CHS staff have continuously looked for innovative ways to increase revenue and reduce expenses. We remain focused on identifying new funding opportunities, strengthening community partnerships, and finding cost-saving measures that will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization.

I would like to thank our staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, and supporters for their ongoing dedication and commitment. Their hard work and support have helped us navigate a challenging year while continuing to serve our members and community.

## **Treasurer AGM Report**

***This report covers April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026***

***Submitted by Amy Atkinson***

The year end has been reviewed by Atkinson's Accounting Ltd. In preparing the year end there were only minor adjusting entries required and seeing this is the second full year that Atkinson's has prepared the year end we now have a comparative income statement to look at. We have also completed the Charity Return and the HST returns for the year.

We ended the year with a profit of \$5,852. Our revenues were up this year by \$12,000, most of which was due to fundraising efforts. In other revenues, our grant money stayed relatively the same. The big difference in the other revenue is the difference reported for our investments, the Gain/Loss when invoiced amount of \$12,392 is just the difference in the market value of our investments from the previous year end. As we all know markets fluctuate, and this was a good year for our investments. Over the last three fiscal years our average market value has gone from \$174,529 to \$187,454. We have not added or taken anything out of the investments, so it is nice to see our value growing.

On the expense side of things, Doreen did a good job of cutting expenses where she could. Our accounting bill was significantly lower, advertising, wages, office supplies and utilities were also lower.

Overall, I feel like we had a good year. We have had some challenges to deal with in regards to the building and maintenance as well as some uncertainty with future funding from CMAP upon all the museum cutbacks by the province. These two items are going to shape what the upcoming year looks like. Doreen and the staff have been working on budget adjustments since the funding cutback announcement and have been working on more fundraising ideas.

**Colchester Historical Society**  
**Balance Sheet As at 2026-03-31**

**ASSET**

<b>Current Assets</b>		
Petty Cash	200.00	
Investment Trust	191,037.11	
Bank CIBC Wood Gundy	272.16	
Chequing - CCU	108,492.03	
Total Cash		300,001.30
Accounts Receivable	2,394.13	
Total Receivable		2,394.13
Prepaid Expenses		2,201.67
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>304,597.10</b>
<b>Inventory Assets</b>		
Museum Shop Inventory		8,040.88
<b>Total Inventory Assets</b>		<b>8,040.88</b>
<b>Capital Assets</b>		
Office Furniture & Equipment	26,649.44	
Accum. Amort. -Furn. & Equip.	-21,552.39	
Net - Furniture & Equipment		5,097.05
Library Equipment	43,857.66	
Accum. Amort Library Equipment	-37,169.29	
Net - Library Equipment		6,688.37
Core Exhibit Plan	469,941.49	
Accum. Amort. - Core Exhibit Plan	-234,970.54	
Net - Building		234,970.95
Archives		131,021.32
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>		<b>377,777.69</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSET</b>		<b>690,415.67</b>

**LIABILITY**

<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable		9,920.26
Visa Payable	614.91	
Total Credit Card Payables		614.91
GST/HST Paid on Purchases	-2,553.11	
GST/HST Owing (Refund)		-2,553.11
Deferred Historeum Revitalization		241,455.12
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>249,437.18</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITY</b>		<b>249,437.18</b>

**EQUITY**

<b>Owners Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings - Previous Year		435,125.78
Current Earnings		5,852.71
<b>Total Owners Equity</b>		<b>440,978.49</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>440,978.49</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		<b>690,415.67</b>

# Colchester Historical Society

## Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 2025-04-01 to 2026-03-31	Actual 2024-04-01 to 2025-03-31	Percent
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>Sales Revenue</b>			
Donations: Corporations	0.00	350.00	-100.00
Donation: Individuals	28,454.97	34,790.83	-18.21
Donations: Memorial	1,079.00	1,863.60	-42.10
Donations: Unreceipted	375.00	630.55	-40.53
Fundraising	27,653.10	11,110.55	148.89
General Revenue: Admissions	3,431.00	3,129.10	9.65
General Revenue: Membership ...	4,361.00	5,050.42	-13.65
General Revenue: Historeum Shop	5,291.29	4,219.71	25.39
General Revenue: Interest	73.69	81.95	-10.08
General Revenue: Fees for Servi...	3,452.50	2,008.50	71.89
General Revenue: Other	1,161.31	22.95	4,960.17
<b>Net Sales</b>	<b>75,332.86</b>	<b>63,258.16</b>	<b>19.09</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>			
Public Funding: Federal	32,862.00	47,135.18	-30.28
Public Funding: Municipal	40,000.00	30,000.00	33.33
Public Funding: Provincial	66,457.00	61,829.00	7.49
Gain/Loss when Invoiced: GRN	12,392.47	4,155.15	198.24
Investment Income	4,540.94	4,354.60	4.28
Amortization of Deferred Cont	23,497.80	23,497.80	0.00
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>179,750.21</b>	<b>170,971.73</b>	<b>5.13</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>255,083.07</b>	<b>234,229.89</b>	<b>8.90</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>			
Wages & Salaries	165,276.03	175,065.81	-5.59
EI Expense	3,833.45	4,313.07	-11.12
CPP Expense	8,328.84	9,485.37	-12.19
WCB Expense	1,184.40	1,827.36	-35.19
<b>Total Payroll Expense</b>	<b>178,622.72</b>	<b>190,691.61</b>	<b>-6.33</b>
<b>General &amp; Administrative Expe...</b>			
Accounting & Legal	2,454.90	8,779.50	-72.04
Advertising & Promotions	298.42	2,217.65	-86.54
Fundraising costs	1,024.83	0.00	0.00
Training & Education	165.00	570.00	-71.05
Cash Short/Over	0.00	833.92	-100.00
Supplies	407.11	1,181.84	-65.55
Courier & Postage	539.22	164.23	228.33
Amortization Expense	25,514.49	26,059.38	-2.09
GST/HST not recoverable	2,212.64	6,957.92	-68.20
Insurance	2,878.66	2,812.92	2.34
Interest & Bank Charges	1,764.97	2,499.00	-29.37
Office Supplies	515.22	1,619.69	-68.19
Membership & Professional Fees	5,633.67	6,235.03	-9.64
Historeum Shop Goods	846.09	917.76	-7.81
Miscellaneous Expenses	61.00	2,127.08	-97.13
Collection & Exhibits: Categor Su...	870.67	1,123.95	-22.53
Collection & Exhibits: Programmi...	424.11	122.64	245.82
Collection & Exhibits: Temporary...	194.40	225.38	-13.75
Repair & Maintenance	3,964.96	-18,982.96	-120.89
Telephone	3,043.45	4,010.73	-24.12
Cleaning Contract	2,035.00	0.00	0.00
Printing	1,091.35	762.61	43.11
Utilities	14,235.66	19,827.84	-28.20
Annual Appeal Expenses	431.82	240.97	79.20
<b>Total General &amp; Admin. Expen...</b>	<b>70,607.64</b>	<b>70,307.08</b>	<b>0.43</b>

# Colchester Historical Society Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 2025-04-01 to 2026-03-31	Actual 2024-04-01 to 2025-03-31	Percent
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>249,230.36</u>	<u>260,998.69</u>	-4.51
NET INCOME	<u><u>5,852.71</u></u>	<u><u>-26,768.80</u></u>	-121.86

## Operational Budget

*This report covers April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026*

*Submitted by Doreen LeBlanc Walker*

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>2026-2027 BUDGET</b>
Admission Fees	\$3,000
Membership Dues	\$4,000
Gift Shop / Retail Services	\$3,000
Fees for Services	\$2,000
Interest / Investment Earned	\$2,500
Donation from Individuals	\$12,500
Donation from Corporation / Foundations	\$1,000
Fundraising Activities	\$18,000
CMAP Grant	\$49,440
Summer Student Grant	\$19,000
Town of Truro Grant	\$25,000
Municipality of Colchester Grant	\$15,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$154,440</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
Exhibition Costs	\$800
Programming Costs	\$550
Cataloguing Supplies	\$800
Advertising / Promotions	\$210
Fundraising Costs	\$1,950
Historeum Gift Shop – Purchase for Resale	\$1,200
Snow Removal Wages	\$225
Cleaning Supplies	\$600
Insurance	\$3,125
Repairs and Maintenance	\$15,150
Printing	\$880
Misc	\$150
NS Power	\$19,000
Water – Town of Truro	\$930
Full-Time Employee Events/Archivist	\$85,907
Part-Time Employee Admin/Research Assistant	\$29,443
Summer Students	\$19,000
5 Week JM Contract	\$2,765
Postage/Delivery	\$250
Office Supplies	\$1,000
Telephone / Internet	\$3,660
Memberships/Professional Fees	\$4,853
Training	\$150
Accounting / Legal	\$2,485
Cleaning Contract	\$3,720

Annual Appeal	\$480
Bank Fees	\$2,080
<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$201,363</b>
NET PROFIT / (LOSS)	(\$46,923)

## **Building & Maintenance AGM Report**

***This report covers April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026***

***Submitted by Joanne Hunt***

Committee Members: Ken Henderson, Steve Newson, Thalia Smith, & Joanne Hunt (staff)

In April 2025, Terry's Sprinkler performed their annual inspection and found deficiencies with our compressor pump used to keep pressure for the sprinkler system. The Truro Fire Prevention Officer, Josh Chisling, also completed an inspection and was pleased how CHS has been addressing fire and safety requirements, but took note of the outdated compressor as well. Consequently, the compressor replacement was presented to the province, but they advised that they would not be replacing it and it would be the responsibility and expense of the CHS. No further action was taken.

A similar request and answer were received concerning two of the seven heat pumps which are not functioning.

On April 22, Troy Fire & Safety conducted their annual inspection, and all was satisfactory. It should be noted that all annual building inspections are the responsibility and expense of the Society, not the province, even though they own the building.

Mike MacDoanld from MLA Dave Ritcey's office toured the building with Board and staff on April 22. Mike left the meeting with a commitment to talk with Minister Ritcey about our buildings' status and next steps, mainly the sprinkler compressor first as it is a fire safety issue.

It should be noted that the province did not complete the comprehensive building assessment started in May 2024. No further information was shared with CHS.

Before the summer of 2025, a new dehumidifier was purchased and installed in the basement with hose attached to a drain so that staff did not have to dump the water several times per day. It maintained a dry basement, which helps protect our artifacts.

In September, we acquired a new elevator maintenance company, ATTA Elevators. They were hired by the province for monthly inspections and maintenance which is paid for by CHS. No further upgrades have been made to the elevator, although the telephone and alarm were repaired.

In October 2025 the province started the process of renewing the roof shingles and repairing the dormers, soffit, fascia and gutters. The scaffolding all around our building was installed in October 2025 and is still standing as of this month (June 2026) as work has not yet been completed. The disruption has no doubt cost the CHS some visitors, as many have thought we were closed, despite our best efforts to advertise and be open.

In January 2026, the heat pump in the gift shop needed repair and this makes 3 of 7 heat pumps working marginally or not at all.

Monthly building checks were performed by Joanne Hunt for the year, with Steve Newson taking over this task for the next year.

Thanks for all committee members and volunteers for input and assistance throughout the year.

## **Collections Committee Annual Report, 2025-26**

***This report covers April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026***

***Submitted by Ryan McLellan, Archivist & Curator***

**Members:** Sarah Campbell, Bill Canning, Stacey Culgin, Sandra Gittens, Sandra Guinan, Elinor Maher, Donna Meese

During the 2025-26 year the Collections Committee met on only one occasion: 9 September 2025. In total the committee considered 21 lots of artifacts and archival material for prospective donation.

The following items have been accepted and will form part of our museum and archival collections:

### **Museum:**

- 1 cow bell which belonged to William Yuill (1883-1951) of Old Barns
- 1 cross-stitch with Union Jack, locally made
- 1 set of Stanfield's long underwear
- 3 Truro Chief of Police uniforms which belonged to Alonzo Lester "Lonnie" Murray (1933-2014)

### **Archives:**

- Collection of Colchester County photos by Norman Munroe (1953-2024)
- 1 notice of insolvency re: John Delaney, 1876
- 14 photos of Glenholme and the McCully family
- 1 poster from the Belmont Loyal Orange Lodge No. 1668
- 2 photos of G.C. Stevens' store in Masstown, 1898
- 6 school registers and other school-related material from Clifton
- 1 account book of Thomas Wilson, Black Rock, Clifton, 1831-1834
- 2 scrapbooks of news clippings re: Truro Board of Trade
- Collection of records of the Wynn Park Residential Association
- Collection of records of the Colchester Anti-Poverty Network
- 1 Certificate of Queen's Counsel for Hugh McKay Ferguson, Truro, 1973
- 7 surveys drawn by David C. Clark
- Collection of photos and letters of the McCully/Annand family of Truro
- 1 painting of Robert Stanfield by Hazel McDonald, 1968
- 1 photo of Lola Jean McCallum (1909-1936) by J.E. Sponagle
- 1 photo of Wilbur Johnston (1854-1945) in handmade wooden frame
- Collection of records of the Truro Curling Club

We extend our gratitude to all donors.

## **Heritage Report**

***This report covers April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026***

***Submitted by Ken Henderson***

The major activity of the committee continues to be the supervision of the annual Heritage Awards. This work is carried out largely by the events coordinator and other staff.

As in the past, in addition to a very successful Heritage Night in May, some support was provided to the Truro Heritage office, and communication was maintained with the NS Provincial Heritage Fair Society in support of their work revitalizing the Provincial Heritage Fair program, including encouraging the re-establishment of the Chignecto-Central Heritage Fair.

## **Human Resources Report**

***This report covers April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026***

***Submitted by Ken Henderson***

The HR committee continued in its usual work of maintaining liaison with staff in their various roles in the work of the Society.

Periodic performance review interviews were conducted with staff members.

The committee is appreciative of the creativity and support of staff members in cooperating with changes in their work environment occasioned by the financial stresses the society is currently experiencing.

The committee acts as a conduit of information between the staff and the board and is continuously available to either to hear suggestions and concerns.