

CRAIGDARROCH CASTLE®

Craigdarroch Castle Historical Museum Society

**Annual General Meeting
Wednesday June 11, 2025, at 6pm
Minutes**

Present: Moira Dann, (President), Stephen Lyons (Vice President)
Kevan King, (Treasurer), Kelly Somogyi (Secretary)
Patricia Foster, Nancy Reason

Members: Monica Reekie, Mary Kennedy, Sandra Hudson, Sean Murry,
Sheila Smedley, Don Lovell, Kathy Harris, Van Williams, Angel Starr,
Rhiannon Murphy, Amy Hinrichs, Karen Aitken

Guests:

Agenda / Decisions	Action Required and Motions
<p>Moira called the meeting to order and noted that we have quorum. She then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from last year's AGM</p>	<p>Motion to approve the minutes from the 2024 AGM Moved: Kevan King Seconded: Sandra Hudson Carried</p>
<p>Presidents Report: Moira Dann</p> <p>As we lurched back into the 'normal' lane after surviving a pandemic, our world saw some political and economic uncertainty, provincially and nationally. But we carried on. We continue to do well at Craigdarroch Castle. Our visitor numbers keep increasing as tourism improves. Our staffing levels have increased, as have our volunteer numbers. New staff-generated programming, such as the Curiosities of Craigdarroch tour, sold out quickly and generated both increased interest and revenue. This tour addresses oft-asked questions about the Castle's "spooky" past without imposing any answers. Look for this tour to make a</p>	



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comeback. Several things (such as the kitchen) initiated and nurtured through tough times are now full-fledged visitor attractions. The kitchen's expanded setting and its interpretive tools – the plywood version of a 19th century cast-iron cooking range, the strange-yet-familiar kitchen utensils, the revelations of kitchen ritual and servants' roles, a recipe to take home – keep visitors mightily engaged and on-site ... and the kitchen is at the end of their Castle tour! Performances at the Castle continued to draw audiences, including Jason Stevens in his one-man version of A Christmas Carol when the Castle was replete with beautiful Victorian seasonal décor. At a governance level, we maintain our support of the National Trust with membership and participation in a Federal Issues Working Group, helping us to better stay engaged and top-of-mind with other heritage professional across Canada.

We continue supporting a new book by Jim Wolf, Craigdarroch Reconstructed: The Story of the Castle's Architects and Builders. Look for that book in our gift shop later this year. Craigdarroch Castle has so much to offer the Victoria, Vancouver Island, and BC communities. The Castle also has much to offer the world, and we continue to do this, with inspired aplomb.

My thanks are immeasurable for the initiative, dedication, and hard work of the Castle's staff, led by Executive Director John Hughes. I would also like to thank Curator Bruce Davies, Assistant Curator Jenny Seeman, Operations and Development Manager André Garneau, Restoration and Maintenance Manager, Frank Toszczak, and Gift Shop Manager Catriona Wilson. I'm also extremely grateful for the care and attention given to the progress of the Castle's affairs by my fellow board members. My friends Kevan King and Patricia Foster are wrapping up their terms on the board, and I can't thank them enough for their help, particularly Kevan for his astute guidance as Treasurer during the pandemic upheaval. I know both departing board members remain friends of Craigdarroch, and that's a big gift. I'm also grateful to all our volunteers, both experienced and new, who continue to join us in sharing the Castle's story. It's always thrilling to see new people come aboard. Finally, I thank Craigdarroch Castle, and the Historical Museum Society formed to support its mission. The Castle inspires us to continue our work making the past accessible, interesting, and relevant to people today, encouraging us to tell a wide variety of stories connected to Craigdarroch as we move ahead in the 21st century. It's



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invigorating to consider all that is possible and all that is propelling Craigdarroch Castle forward. With a regime change recently in the U.S., we may well face new challenges, but we will adapt and carry on maintaining our status as a lynchpin in Canadian heritage stewardship, tourism -- and finding new ways to tell cool stories from our history. As always, I thank you for the opportunity to participate in everything Craigdarroch, and for your support.

President Dann asked for a motion to approve her report then invited Society Treasurer Kevan King to speak.

Treasurer's Report – Kevan King

Mr. King noted that the Society's operations have returned to pre pandemic levels. He explained that we've seen an increase in advertising and staffing expenses and revenues from visitors also increased, but overall revenue remained flat as we didn't have the large bequests and government grants.

Mr. King said he was pleased that we have been able to return to regular maintenance activities that are necessary to keep the building sound.

Finally, he said that the Society did not appreciate the impact COVID would have on the operation and that he was grateful to all staff and volunteers who stepped up to maintain our presence and return the organization to its current level of success. Mr. King commended John Hughes and all Society staff for their very dedicated service noting that it is amazing how serious everyone is about their obligations.

Mr. King thanked members and said he'd enjoyed his time on the Board and learned a lot over the last six years.

Ms. Dann asked for a motion to approve the treasurer's report. She then invited John to give his report

Executive Director and Staff reports

Mr. Hughes said he agreed with Mr. King's comments on the improvement in our ability to improve earnings without the need for grants. He said that staff are attempting to address the need to generate additional revenue as tourism visits were flat last year and remain so

Motion to approve the President's Report

Moved: Stephen Lyons

Seconded: Nancy Reason

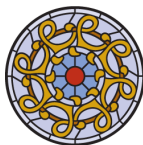
Carried

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report.

Moved: Patricia Foster

Seconded: Kelly Somogyi

Carried



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this year. John said he and Andre Garneau were looking into our ability to deliver a few evening tours as our cruise tour partners have been asking if we would consider opening. He said it may not be feasible in 2025 and may be something we implement in 2026.

Mr. Huges then informed members that Curator Bruce Davies has submitted his retirement letter. He said that Bruce will reach a milestone of 50 years working for the Castle Society on July 15 and that his last day will be July 18, 2025. John said that Jenny is ready to assume the curator role and that he is currently planning a celebration for Bruce. John said details of the retirement event will be in the next member newsletter at the beginning of July and that there will be an opportunity for members to attend.

President Dann thanked John and asked for a motion to approve the executive director's report.

Nominating Committee/Election of Directors

President Dann reminded everyone that the details of the nominees were in the AGM package and that their information is also on the screen behind her. A request from the floor asked any nominees present to take a moment to introduce themselves so Amy Hirichs and Karen Aitken did so.

Ms. Dann called for a vote to affirm the nominees.

New Business - Approval 'in principle' of the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Dann explained that the minutes from this meeting needed to be approved "in principle" so the board could review and approve them at the next board meeting.

President Dann adjourned the meeting at 6:25 and thanked everyone for their contributions. She said refreshments were available in the dining room on the first floor.

Motion to approve the Executive Director's report

Moved: Monica Reekie
Seconded: Karen Aitken

Carried

Motion to Affirm nominees Julie Murtha, Amy Hirichs, and Karen L. Aitken as directors.

Moved: Mary Kenedy
Seconded: Nancy Reason

Motion to approve "in principle" the minutes of this meeting.

Moved: Sandra Hudson
Seconded: Kevan King

Carried