

EANS Newsletter

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EANS Annual General Meeting a Success

The annual general meeting of the Exhibitions Association of Nova Scotia was held this year at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel in Halifax, on January 27 and January 28. EANS President Jeff Yuill introduced newcomers to the Association over the past year: **Elizabeth Crouse**, Superintendent of Exhibitions, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture; **Wayne Riley**, Federal Government Representative, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada; & **Glen Jefferson**, Executive Director, EANS.

On Friday, January 27, a Board of Directors meeting was held to address the administrative details of the Association. Subjects for discussion included administrative assignments, e-coli consumer protection, visitor safety at exhibitions, Tariff # 3, newsletters and by-laws of the Association. The Vice-President, **Brian Casey**, was assigned the role of Chair of the Resolutions Committee and **Burke Harris**, Director, was assigned the role of Chair of the Nominations Committee. Two items of the administration, financial statements and By-Laws, were to be referred to the general meeting for official vote of member delegates.

Decisions by the Board of Directors included a continuation of notice for random drug testing of livestock,

continuation of the quarterly newsletters, a rotational term of appointments of Directors to ensure an overlap of knowledge of the Association, continue to advise on the matter of visitor safety, support the evaluators and reporting efforts whenever possible, continue the status of the Association through the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks and continue membership with the Canadian Association of Fairs & Exhibitions and the International Association of Fairs & Expositions.

Also, on Friday evening, January 27, a meeting of delegates was held for establishing the official member voting requirements for the annual meeting. The delegates for official voting were named as follows:

Anthony VanBerkel - Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition

Suzanne Langmaid - Halifax County Exhibition

Bert Eagle - South Shore Exhibition

Frank Anderson - Western Nova Scotia Exhibition

Elaine Marshall - Annapolis Valley Exhibition

Denise Howatson - Cape Breton County Exhibition

Angela Masters - Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition

Jean Marshall - Digby County Exhibition

John Wilson - Hants County Exhibition

Richard Wambolt - Queens County Exhibition

Betty Lou Scott - Maritime Fall Fair

Jack Ferguson - Pictou/North Colchester Co. Exhibition

Kim Bacon - Cumberland County Exhibition

Burke Harris - Shelburne County Exhibition

George MacNeil - 4H Nova Scotia

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Report from the EANS Annual General Meeting *(continued from pg.1)*

The President briefed the delegates on details of the financial status of the Association and the proposed By-Laws that were to be addressed at the annual meeting on Saturday following presentations by keynote speakers.

Saturday, January 28, presented a full agenda with keynote speakers, various presentations, the evening events with the President's dinner, auction and dance. Wayne Crosby, Coordinator, Canadian Youth Talent Competition, outlined the current program for youth and encouraged more participation by member Associations throughout Nova Scotia.

Saturday presented a full day of information with the President, Jeff Yuill, outlining details of a workshop on development of fairs and exhibitions in the Province of Newfoundland & Labrador; the Atlantic Director of CAFE, John Longley, reported on a number of important issues including the challenge of Tariff # 3 and efforts to gain additional funding: Elizabeth Crouse, Superintendent of Exhibitions, reported on evaluations conducted by volunteers last year and the 4H Shows which were highly successful and served as a key attraction at fairs and exhibitions: Glen Jefferson, Executive Director, reported on the CAFÉ convention held in Quebec City and current efforts to secure funding for upgrading infrastructure at fair and exhibition sites.

David Grimm, General Manager, Champlain Valley Exhibition, was a keynote speaker providing a very informative presentation on the subject of "Ten Ways To Improve Your Fairs Now" which outlined many ways to implement events at local community fairs. Of great interest were the ways to present product displays and the administration of concession booths for increased revenues.

Stephen Neel, Technical Solutions International, presented a power point on the various ways that pathogens are passed to visitors at fairs and the serious health problems that could follow. His presentation included the potential for e-coli contamination, the risks that fairs and exhibitions take in livestock exhibits and preventative measures that could help local fairs and exhibitions combat this threat to visitation.

David Coombs, Angela Masters and David Grimm provided a description of activities during the off-season of exhibitions. Some of the activities included light horse shows, craft shows, soccer competitions, dog shows, weddings, dances, dairy shows, beef shows, beef cattle sales, racehorse sales, trailer storage, flower shows, etc. These activities provided the opportunity for added income for the site. A special feature at the NSPE site in Truro is the musical performance by celebrity personnel on an annual basis for significant revenues for the host location.

The Halifax location for the annual general meeting was deemed a success with a varied degree of presenters and information for Association membership. Attendance was recorded at over 125 attendees at the President's reception, dinner and dance. The Executive of the Association is very appreciative of the member Associations for their attendance and assistance in making the AGM a successful event.

Photos from the EANS AGM in Halifax



(left to right) Philip Milo, Liz Milo (back to camera), Jean Marshall, & Elaine Marshall



(left to right) Elaine Marshall, Liz Milo, Philip Milo and the guest speaker - David Grimm

2006 Census

Farmers get a chance to tell their story

On May 16, farmers across the country will help create an up-to-date picture of agriculture in Canada by completing their census questionnaire.

The profile of Canada's farmers is different than the general working population. Census information tells us that farm operators have a higher median age than the comparable labour force population of self-employed workers – 49 and 44 respectively. Moreover, the group of farmers under 35 years old poised to fill their boots is shrinking rapidly, representing only 12 % of all farmers. Nearly 20 % of self-employed workers in the general labour force are under 35. In the entire labour force, 40 % of all workers are less than 35 years old.

Agriculture is continually changing. The Census of Agriculture provides information on the many sides of this vital industry, from crop area to manure management to farm-related injuries. The data provided in the Census of Agriculture every five years highlights trends and new developments in agriculture. Although farms have been decreasing in number overall, down almost 11 % since 1996, farms have been getting bigger. The average farm in 2001 was 676 acres compared with 608 acres in 1996. Those with gross receipts of \$ 250,000.00 or more accounted for 13.8 % of all farms in 2001, compared with 9.4 % in 1996. The 2006 Census of Agriculture will give Statistics Canada more information on how, or if, this is changing.

The farm industry, as a whole, benefits from census data in many ways. For example, agricultural producer groups are guided by data from the census when informing their membership about industry trends and developments. Governments use the data to make decisions about crop insurance, agricultural credit policies, transportation, market services and international trade.

On May 16, 2006, tell your story by counting yourself in as part of Canada's farm community.

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<http://www.eans.ca>

About the EANS

The Exhibition Association of Nova Scotia is a non-profit organization that showcases the agriculture of the Province and relates the urban and rural communities through knowledge and awareness of farm activities while providing entertainment, community attraction for tourists and economic benefits for the Province of Nova Scotia.

Funding and services provided by the Province of Nova Scotia through the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, is greatly appreciated and adds support to the fairs and exhibitions in various parts of the Province from June to October each year.

The EANS Newsletter is published quarterly, relating events of the Nova Scotia Fairs & Exhibitions. Your contributions to the Newsletter would be appreciated. Please send all relevant material to:

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