

Mackenzie Printery & Newspaper Museum

2020 Annual General Meeting

Opening Remarks:

Louise Rowe – as you are all aware, with this year being considerably different, we were not in the position to host our AGM in June and with recent numbers of Covid-19 cases on the rise, our hopes of rescheduling the meeting for some time in October have also been dashed.

This document is being issued in place of an AGM and contains a summary of the 2019 season, along with some updates from 2020. Copies of AGM minutes from previous years are available upon request.

Chairman's Thoughts:

One would normally expect that any movement forward during this Covid 19 pandemic would be extremely difficult. Following the success of our efforts during 2019, it would be easy to assume that 2020 might seriously halt our group's efforts. Although we were restricted from physically being at the Printery for four months, a dedicated group has persisted through subsequent sign-ins, masks & health declarations in recent months to continue the forward motion of the goals listed below. My sincere thanks to those who make the consistent effort to help advance these goals and whose attainment are so very close for the first time in our organization's history.

Times and personal goals evolve and you will note the changing of a few names on our Directorships below. To those retiring: our thanks. To those new names: welcome. I can assure all members that these changes well serve our common purpose. I look forward to the next two years leading such a dedicated group during what will likely be my last term as your Chairman.

Board Election:

This year would have been an election year for all Executive and Directorship positions. However, due to the fact that we are not currently in a position to hold an in person vote, please accept the following positions as "elected":

Executive Directors:

- Chairman – Ron Schroder
- Vice Chairman/Treasurer – Art Ellis
- Collections – John Hunt
- Webmaster – Marvyn Rivett
- Secretary – Louise Rowe

Directors:

- Denis Cahill
- Art Seto
- Nick Howard
- George Henry
- Kim Watson
- Carl White
- Tim Stevens

The term for each Executive and Director is two years and as such the next vote will be at the June 2022 AGM. Should anyone have any major concerns over any of the above appointments, please contact our Chairman as soon as possible.

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge the past contributions of both Sara Young and Neil Stewart. They have decided to retire from their Directorship positions this year and we would like to thank them for all their efforts over the years. We look forward to seeing them at future events when the world is back to normal.

Financial Report 2019:

2019 was another financially successful year, with the majority of revenue coming from the sale of surplus equipment at various shows.

Total Income:	\$6980.30
Total Expenses:	\$5,862.04
Net Income:	\$1,118.26

A full financial statement has been compiled by the Treasurer and follows within this document.

Update from Niagara Parks

Melissa Bottomley, Manager of Queenston Heritage Properties, has provided the following:

2019 season

We had a great 2019 season with 4,460 people coming through the Printery. That puts us up 577 people over the 2018 season. Our school group count was down to 19 groups, but the numbers were made up by the amount of "Pass Plus" visitors we had. The Pass Plus is a pass sold by the Parks that includes everything the Niagara Parks has to offer. We see much less revenue from it, but get many more visitors through because of it. It is not available this season and the WeGo (the NPC transportation) is not coming down to Queenston this season either.

2019 Print Sales

We had 262 print sales this past season. Which is down to about half of what it was the previous year. We are currently brainstorming some ways to better display our prints and other prints to make that consider current trends/popular culture to increase sales in this category including the possibility of online sales.

2020 season.

We opened the Printery 5 days a week starting July 15th. We have added precautionary Covid 19 measures like the sneeze guard at the counter and limited capacity. School groups were cancelled, and we are currently not on any passes. It has been very slow, but has allowed us to work on projects.

Working on this season

We have sorted and organized all type as well as made impressions, and conditioning reports for each case. We are in the process of creating inventory sheets and will be putting back type that is in the trays currently behind the Minerva Press. Once that is

complete we will be taking pictures of each type case assigning an accession number and inputting all information together digitally.

We finished cataloguing the library and have included the extra box that was dropped off during the off season. The Google document was sent to Ron in July and will be easy enough to add or subtract from in the future. We do have to be cognizant that books added to the collection may impact the list as we only have so much shelf space and books following what is added may have to be shifted to other shelves or cases as space permits.

We went through the black cabinet and inventoried the contents. Once the Print Group has decided what they would like to keep, we will start to add contents to acid free tissue paper or plastic sleeves to protect the contents.

We have been wiping down the type on the Albion after each impression, we also took apart the poster and reset it at the end of last season to give type an additional deep clean. We will be starting to clean more type and type cases throughout the off season and making it a priority to do a certain number of rotating cases each year. This will allow us to update condition reports, hydrate cases to reduce cracking and prevent mould/mildew and keep typefaces clean/dusted.

Lastly, we organized and digitized the inventory sheets for the boxes in the closet. Once the Print Group decides what they would like to keep from here, we can go in again and properly label and wrap contents.

Future plans

We have been approached by the Niagara Parks Weddings department who would like to start pushing wedding invites and save the dates printed at MHP. We would like to move forward with this, as it would be a great way to bring in more income for the site and the Print Group. The only press we have access to at the moment is the proofing press and we were hoping that the Print Group would allow access to an additional press that we could use to pursue projects like the invites.

Closing Remarks:

2020 was set to be the year that the curation of the museum was completed, the workshop finished and seminars were trialled on our members and NPC Staff. However, a few things have come to light since the pandemic hit:

- Curation – over the last three seasons NPC has been cataloguing the main floor of the museum and the library. Although they have made huge progress, we still have a lot of work to complete the accession register. This includes:
 - Identifying almost all typefaces and fonts within all cabinets
 - Cataloguing all presses and equipment
 - Adding any known item provenance
 - Sorting through boxes in upstairs closet
 - Sorting through items in black cabinet in library
 - Finalising library catalogue

We are aiming to get as many of the above tasks completed as possible over the winter months.

- Finishing workshop – this project is currently on hold. However, huge progress has been made in creating a functional workshop area and in sorting through the Bunker to create an overflow workspace. Once the main floor of the museum has been properly archived, we can turn our attentions back to the workshop.
- New members – we are still unable to provide any physical membership benefits. That being said, we always welcome new members, especially those with the patience to sort type! We currently have 25 members.
- Running seminars – this is another goal that we did not meet this year and one that we must place on hold. We will revisit this next year once the pandemic subsides.