



**Government House Historical Society  
2017 Annual General Meeting  
March 28, 2018**

*“To preserve, promote, and enhance Government House  
as a public heritage site.”*



# **Board of Directors, 2017–18**

## **Executive**

Sheila Carson President  
Dale Richardson Vice-President, Secretary  
Lorna Bingaman Treasurer

## **Directors**

Charlene Balion  
Elayne Bennett-Fox  
Donna Boyle  
Kevin Gooding  
Leona Howe  
Bonnie Racz  
Iris Sirke  
Nettie Uhren



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# Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome
3. Appointment of Recording Secretary
4. Introduction of Parliamentarians
5. Greetings from Government House - Monique Goffinet Miller
6. Greetings from Government House Foundation - Dr. Michael Jackson
7. Approval of the Minutes of the March 29, 2017 Annual General Meeting
8. Society Reports: These will not be read aloud. Questions from the Floor are welcome.
  - 8.1 Black Tie Auction Committee
  - 8.2 Bylaws and Policies Committee
  - 8.3 Collectibles Committee
  - 8.4 Dickens Yuletide Singers Committee
  - 8.5 Jocko's Friends Committee
  - 8.6 Membership Committee
  - 8.7 Society Times Newsletter Committee
  - 8.8 Victorian Tea Room Committee
  - 8.9 Volunteer Coordinator Report
  - 8.10 Volunteer Recognition Committee
  - 8.11 Website Committee
9. Financial Report
10. Board Elections
11. Other Business
12. Adjournment

*Light refreshments will be served. Please join us.*



**Minutes of the**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**March 29, 2017**

There were 33 members in attendance.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President, Iris Sirke, who would chair the meeting.

**3. Appointment of Secretary**

Kathy Weisbrod was appointed Secretary for the meeting.

**4. Introduction of Parliamentarians**

Lorna Bingaman and Reagan Reese Seidler would serve as our Parliamentarians. Ms. Bingaman outlined the role of the Parliamentarian.

**5. Carrie Ross, Executive Director of Government House, Guest Speaker**

Ms. Ross was introduced by President Iris Sirke. She will have served 8 years as Executive Director of Government House on April 1. Of those years, 2016 has been the most memorable, celebrating 125 years of the House. There was a royal visit, creation and sale of the Crown pin, participating in the History Vignettes, Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers presented to 4 past and the current GHHS president. This is the first time this has happened outside of Ottawa. The House is currently working in partnership with the Foundation regarding future developments. In September they hosted "Government at Home", with over 700 visitors attending. Thanks to Jocko's Club for assisting. There were over 37,000 visitors to the House in 2016. Thank you to GHHS for helping this happen. In 2017 we will be celebrating Canada 150 and promoting the House as a National Historical Site. Ms. Ross also extended a special thank you to Iris for all her time as president. Iris Sirke thanked Ms. Ross for her update on House activities.



## **6. Approval of the minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting held March 30, 2016.**

Time was allotted for those in attendance to review the 2015 AGM minutes. Call for questions, concerns, corrections. It was mentioned that the number of people in attendance should be recorded in the minutes. No other errors or omissions.

**MOTION: that we approve the minutes of the 2015 AGM as circulated.**

Routley/Grahame

**MSC**

## **7. Society reports**

The unedited Committee reports were circulated. Time was given for questions. The following errors were noted:

- Page 8, President's Report. The Victorian Teas have been in existence for 25 years, not 26.
- Page 10, Annual Antique & Collectibles Auction Report. Clarification was noted regarding the note at the bottom of the page. An audit was conducted 4 years ago by CRA, and at that time we were told that donation receipts could be given up to \$1,000 without an appraisal. With the auctions being discontinued, Janice Routley has declined giving receipts since she is not sure on fair market value. CRA has indicated that art, jewelry and antiques should have a certified appraiser value the merchandise if it is over \$1,000. Janice felt that if she was to issue a receipt on items over \$1,000, it could put the Society in a potentially criminal position. The Board is currently looking at getting someone to issue receipts on donations.
- Page 15, Government House History Book Report. The book launch was on October 26, 2016, not October 26, 2017.

**MOTION: that the reports of the Society be adopted as amended.**

Uhren/Schmalenberg

**MSC**



## **8. Financial Report – distributed**

Treasurer, Lorna Bingaman, presented the financial statements as prepared by Virtus Group. The statements were also available to view in the GHHS office prior to the meeting. This was the second year they have been prepared by Virtus Group, and it went very well. Time was given for members to review the statements and ask questions.

Some highlights of this year’s statements – Inventory was up, due in part to the history books that were produced, and also stock of Anniversary Tea. Investments are down, since a large certificate came due and was left in the account to cover costs. Donations in kind has decreased since this included donations of antiques for which we issue receipts, and the Society has stopped accepting donations since there will no longer be an antique auction. The Provincial contribution expense should be \$10,000 per year to assist in covering the cost of our volunteer coordinator, but due to timing of when it was received, it appears much higher in 2016 compared to 2015. Expenses for licenses and dues included computer training for some board members. Professional fees include our volunteer coordinator, auctioneers, bookkeeper and accounting fees. There was a question about what is covered in our insurance, whether it includes liability coverage for our directors. The Board will check into this and let the membership know.

**MOTION: that the financial report be adopted as circulated.**

Bingaman/Carson

**MSC**

**MOTION: that we retain Virtus Accounting Group as our Accounting firm.**

Bingaman/Golbey

**MSC**

## **9. Amendment of GHHS Bylaws**

Sheila Carson, chair of the Bylaws and Policy Committee, presented the proposed Bylaw changes to those in attendance. They were also circulated to the membership and available in the GHHS office prior to the meeting. Ms. Carson reviewed each proposed change, and the reason behind it. There was one omission that was noted, with the amended Bylaw not being properly noted. Article 2, 2.2 currently reads “To preserve, enhance and promote Government House as a public heritage site.” The proposed amendment should read “To preserve, promote and enhance Government House as a public heritage site.”

**MOTION: that we approve the proposed Bylaw amendments, with the one noted change to Article 2.**

Carson/Routley

**MSC**



## 10. Board nominations and election

The Bylaws of the Corporation, governed by the Non-Profit Corporations Act, allow for a minimum of ten, and a maximum of twelve, Board members. A Board member's term is two years. The Board is currently seeking three new Board members. President, Iris Sirke, thanked outgoing Board member, JoAnn Lupastin for her time and effort on the Board. Current Board members, Kevin Gooding and Nettie Uhren have allowed their name to stand for re-election to another two-year term. Donna Boyle has allowed her name to stand for her first two-year term.

Nominations were called for from the floor three times. No nominations were put forward from the floor.

**MOTION: that nominations called from the floor, cease.**

Grahame/Bedard

**MSC**

Members accepted the proposed slate of officers for 2017/18 – Charlene Balion, Elayne Bennett-Fox, Lorna Bingaman, Donna Boyle, Sheila Carson, Kevin Gooding, Leona Howe, Bonnie Racz, Reagan Reese Seidler, Iris Sirke, Dale Richardson.

## 11. Other business

In the Newsletter report, it is indicated there are approximately 111 members that receive their mailing through hard copy and Canada Post. The Board has decided that beginning January 2018, the newsletter will no longer be mailed to those people. They will either have to pick it up at the office or have it emailed. Dr. Ann Grahame suggested that perhaps an additional charge could be incurred to those people to help cover mailing costs. The Board will discuss this at their next meeting.

Upcoming events for GHHS include: Victorian Teas, going into its 26<sup>th</sup> year, will have Bonnie Racz as their new coordinator; thanks to Sheila Carson her past leadership. Collectible Sales Tables, held in conjunction with the teas, will be organized by Rhonda Schmalenberg; thanks to Janice Routley for her past leadership. The Provincial Capital Commission will be hosting their Volunteer luncheon on April 25. The annual Members Night will be held in May – date to be determined. July 1 is the Lieutenant Governor's Garden Party, celebrating Canada 150. Volunteer tea, Black Tie Auction, and 4 events planned for Jockos.



President, Iris Sirke, extended thanks to all the volunteers who make the events so successful. Also thanks to Lorna Bingaman & Reagan Reese Seidler as parliamentarians, Kathy Weisbrod as secretary, Kevin Gooding & Rebecca Otitoju at the registration table, Leona Howe & Elaine Giroux-Sylvestre for the lunch. History books and anniversary tea are also for sale.

There were draws for 3 door prizes. Anniversary tea won by Edith Angeloni and Linda Robertson. Pepito painting won by Louise Arndt.

## **12. Board announcements**

The Board of Directors for 2017/18 has chosen Sheila Carson for President, Lorna Bingaman for Treasurer, and Dale Richardson for Secretary.

## **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. President, Iris Sirke invited everyone to take time to socialize and enjoy the refreshments.

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President/Chair – Iris Sirke

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Recording Secretary – Kathy Weisbrod



## **7. President's Report**

Sheila Carson, GHHS President

If you are reading this, welcome either to the members only section of our website or to the annual general meeting of March 28, 2018. It has been my pleasure to serve as President of the Society for the past year.

There have been several changes at Government House. One which affects not only the House but the Society as well, was the resignation of Carrie Ross as Director of Government House when she assumed her new role as Executive Director of the Provincial Capital Commission. This is a new position which has Carrie overseeing Government House, Wascana Authority and the Territorial building. We wish her well in this new path.

Where there is a going there is a coming. It has been a pleasure to meet and work with Monique Goffinet Miller in her new role as Director of Government House.

As the president of GHHS I have recently been appointed a trustee of The Government House Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is to raise funds for capital projects at Government House. This would include such things as grounds development and major construction projects. The last collaboration the Society had with the Foundation was providing some of the funding for the construction of the new wing of Government House opened by Her Majesty in 2005.

Thanks to all of you for your support of the Society through your continuing membership. One of the goals of Rebecca Otitoju, our volunteer coordinator, was to have as many volunteers as possible become members of GHHS. I would have to say that she has been quite successful as there were almost no volunteers available to serve at the members' event with the Lieutenant Governor. Seems they were all attending the members only event!

We have had another successful year with our events. Though the August auction has been retired our other programs were successful in promoting Government House and entertaining our guests. Our 124 volunteers generously gave 6202 hours of their precious time to make these events happen. I cannot thank them enough for their wonderful gift.

Sheila Carson  
President -Government House Historical Society



## **8.1. Black Tie Auction Report**

Elayne Bennett Fox, Chair

On Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup>, the seventh annual Black Tie Auction was held. Government House provided a beautiful venue for a close to sell out event and provided an entertaining event to raise funds for GHHS. This year we were honoured to have Her Honour Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield attend as our Patron. Guests were greeted with Champagne and were able to view the Buy It Now Table, Silent Auction Table and Live Auction items while feasting on our wonderful appetizers. Throughout, we were being entertained by April Friars and Jessica Riley on piano and saxophone.

Ken McDonald and Jon Radcliffe, our auctioneers got the action off to a lively and entertaining start. Our featured guest artist, Andrew Meredith's piece was the highlight of the evening and we thank him for creating such a beautiful piece. Following the auction, coffee and dessert was served.

Thank you to the Black Tie committee, JoAnn Lupastin, Iris Sirke, Donna Boyle, Ronda Schmalenberg, Cyndy Findlay, Nettie Uhren, Kevin Gooding and Elayne Bennett Fox for their hard work on making this event a success. Year after year, we are blessed by the volunteers who continue to support and work at this event and we thank them. As well, we would like to thank Francis Kutarna for his many contributions to the Black Tie Auction and the many sponsors, supporters and businesses who are also very generous in contributing. We would also like to thank the people of Saskatchewan who have donated their family treasures. Lastly, thank you to the many guests who attended the event and supported GGHS in its mission to Preserve, Promote and Enhance Government House as a Public Heritage Site.

## **8.2. Bylaws/ Policies Committee Report**

Sheila Carson, Chair

The By-Laws/Policies Committee has continued to meet regularly. Since the presentation and approval of our newest by-laws at the last AGM, we have focused our efforts on policy development.

These new policies have been posted on the members only portion of our website for your information. As new policies are developed and approved they will be added to the website information. The new policies were presented at our annual workshop for volunteers in February 2018.

It is difficult to communicate changes effectively with so many people thus we hope you make frequent visits to our members only section of the web-site as we do our best to keep you up to date.

Any questions or concerns about the policies should be directed to the committee by sending an e-mail from the website. The contact form is found under "Contact Us".

Sheila Carson

Chair -By-Laws/Policies Committee



## 8.3. Collectibles Report

Ronda Schmalenberg, Co-chair

The Collectibles Committee said farewell to Janice Routley and Ann Grahame this past year. Each of them has been a wonderful inspiration to the new committee. We have learned from their experience and are a stronger committee because of them. The 2018 Committee is – Susan Hogarth (secretary and linen advisor), Gayle White (linen advisor), Elaine A. Miller (jewelry advisor), Iris Sirke (treasurer and collection pickups), Nettie Uhren and myself, Ronda Schmalenberg (co-chairs). We have worked to make this committee a valuable asset to GHHS. Numerous estate items have been donated to the committee, and the past year's sales have been record-breaking.

We strive to have a different theme each month on the weekend of the Victorian Teas. We love working with the Tea Committee; Bonnie and her volunteers are some of the best I have seen. We thank them for their awesome support.

We prepare the room on the Friday morning before each tea weekend, giving us more time to unpack the treasures for sale and to arrange them. As sales have increased over the year, we need to

always have a full volunteer staff for Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to Rebecca for sending able volunteers our way.

Our committee recently sorted out the donated items in the storage room. We discovered that we are in need of the following items: Table linens; embroidered pillowcases; men's and ladies' handkerchiefs; linen tray cloths and hand towels; and jewelry of all types welcome. If you have any items, please do not hesitate to give Iris a call. We cannot accept any doilies at this time.

I look forward to the next year, to the fun of volunteering and of meeting new people, and raising funds to preserve, promote and enhance Government House as a Public Heritage site.

*Ronda Schmalenberg, Co-chair*



## 8.4. Dickens Yuletide Singers Report

Gail Bradley, Connie Van Dusen, Lois Pinno,  
Elaine Giroux-Sylvestre & Janette Richardson

This was the seventeenth year that the Dickens Yuletide Singers have entertained in the beautifully decorated ballroom of Government House. The four concerts held on Dec. 9 and 10, 2017 were enthusiastically received by all those in attendance. The concerts featuring wonderful Christmas music were attended by 441 guests plus singers and volunteers.

Following the concerts, the Society hosted a reception in Sir Richard Lake Hall, where the guests enjoyed hot apple cider, tea, coffee, cold apple cider as well as Christmas baking. Thanks to Government House Historical Society President Sheila Carson and Past President Iris Sirke for acting as masters of ceremony. Other volunteers who helped with the event were greeters, Terry Howe and Dale Richardson; front desk hostesses, Connie Van Dusen, Elaine Giroux-Sylvestre, Bev Addie, Dianne Emmins, Ann Grahame and Gail Bradley. Servers were Lois Pinno, Lorna Bingaman, Joanne Deck, Barb Binnie, Janette Richardson, Bonnie Fladager, Trudy Natyshak and Carol Johnston.

Set-up volunteers on the morning of December 10 were Barb Binnie, Connie Van Dusen, Lois Pinno and Elaine Giroux-Sylvestre. Leona Howe, assisted by Bonnie Racz and Sheila Carson, provided service in the kitchen.

Long-time Committee member, Kathy Weisbrod has resigned from the Committee. Thank you to Kathy for her years of service. Elaine Giroux-Sylvestre and Janette Richardson have joined the committee.

Guests took advantage of the opportunity to view the beautifully decorated museum and conduct their own self-guided tours.

We send a big thank you to the Dickens Singers for their wonderful concerts for the 2017 Christmas event.

Concert	# attending	Silver collection
December 9, 2017 1pm	117	\$449.15
December 9, 2017 3pm	109	\$468.30
December 10, 2017 1pm	107	\$450.00
December 10, 2017 3pm	108	\$359.85
TOTAL	441	\$1727.30 + \$172.70=\$1900.00
		(\$172.70 from basket in Sir R.L. Room

Respectfully submitted

Lena Woolley, Co-ordinator

Committee members: Gail Bradley, Connie Van Dusen, Lois Pinno, Elaine Giroux-Sylvestre, Janette Richardson



## 8.5. Jocko's Friends Report

Karen Hamilton, Chair

**Committee Members:** Karen Hamilton - (outgoing) Chair, Terry Bedard, Ashmita Makwana, Mallory Coates, Wendy Breit. **Senior Jockos members:** Abigail and Emily.

The Committee members met regularly in 2017 to plan events for the upcoming year. In March, Rebecca attended a planning meeting and provided the committee with information coming forward from the Board of GHHS.

### Events

An **Amazing Easter Adventure** held on Sunday, April 9, 2017. In attendance were 24 Jocko members, accompanied by 17 parents or grandparents. The adventure was a scavenger hunt through the museum, which was led by Government House activity staff, Jackie. There were prizes (gift certificates for Menchie's Frozen Yogurt) for the most correct answers, and a turtle prize for the last person to complete the scavenger hunt

Two members of Jocko's Friends were presented with Jocko monkeys, having completely filled the youth membership punch cards that are given to new members. This has resulted in a number of inquiries from parents who were unaware of the intent of the punch cards. This would be reviewed by the Committee in the next meeting and communicated to parents.

On May 28, 2017 Jocko's Friends hosted a "**Once Upon a Time**" event at Government House. The museum went back into time and 17 of Jocko's young friends had a chance to meet and talk to characters who were part of the history of Government House. The characters included Queen Victoria, George Watt, LG Amedee Forget, Mme. Henriette Forget. Other characters included The Governess, The Maid and Howie, the ghost! In the museum the children were able to visit with actors or volunteers who were dressed in period costume. In small groups the children were able to hear about the roles of each of the characters, and then had the chance to ask questions of them. The children were provided a 'passport' where they were able to keep track of who they visited with

On Saturday October 21, 2017 the Sir Richard Lake Room and Education Room were transformed into spooky and eerie spaces where almost 30 goblins, witches, fairies, princesses and other imps gathered to celebrate **Batty over Halloween**. The parties were led through some spine tingling games and mysterious craft artistry. Many thanks to the creativity of the committee members for developing the games for the children. With 6 stations of activity the children were able to move around and try their skills at all of the games

On December 16th 2017 Jocko's Friends hosted 16 young members and their parents for the **Christmas Cheer** event. The children and parents were invited to make Christmas crackers, filled with small treats and trinkets. Arrangements had been made for the children to take some of the crackers to the senior home next door as a small Christmas gift to the residents. The children got some extra excitement from this walk as they got to see the expertise of the Regina Fire Department as they extinguished a garbage bin fire next to the home.



To celebrate **Canada's 150th birthday**, the children were presented with a special gift as they left for the day. A tiny stuffy of a capuchin monkey, very much like the original Jocko, was given to the children, who were delighted to receive this memento. The event was a success, the children and their families enjoyed themselves, celebrating the final event of the year for Jockos Friends.

### **Business**

The committee was pleased with the success of all of the events for 2017, there were about 87 Jockos Friends who attended the 4 events of the year. The committee also completed some administrative work, including completing the Jocko's Friends Process for Events document and updating the Registration Form to accurately reflect the current membership activities. With the assistance of Rebecca in obtaining volunteers to assist with the food preparation, the committee members are free to interact with the children, which has been very helpful.

### **Monkey Woes**

New members of Jockos are given a punch card with their membership. This card indicates that the member will be given a gift after attending 5 events at Government House. Over the past year the Jockos committee has given out 4 stuffed monkeys, which are part of existing inventory, to members that had their cards filled.

The committee received some complaints from parents regarding lost or expired punch cards that were included in their membership forms. The parents wanted the cards to be replaced so their children can receive a monkey. The committee did not feel they should accommodate requests for lost or expired punch cards. There are only 4 of the original monkeys left in Jockos inventory.

Despite a number of internet searches we have been unable to locate matching monkeys to the ones in our inventory. In the summer Karen found some that are smaller replicas of Jocko in a florist shop in Biggar. The committee met in August and was in agreement for the need to maintain positive relationships with parents of our members.

The committee came up with a proposal that the Jockos Christmas event would include a special gift to all of those members in attendance. This will be referenced as celebrating Canadas 150th birthday, and the gift will be one of the new monkeys. Our thought was that this may satisfy those parents that wanted new punch cards, this would be a one-time gift of a monkey, and the committee could then proceed with something different to gift following the 5 visit punch cards. The Board was made aware of this suggestion and was in agreement with this plan.

17 monkeys were given out at the Christmas Cheer event, there are about 5 left as well as the 4 original monkeys in inventory.

### **Criminal Record Check requirements.**

The committee will abide by the decision of the Policy Committee in regard to frequency of CRCs. Volunteers who are assisting with events, such as food prep, are not required to have CRCs as they do not have direct contact with children.



### **Registration Cards**

The committee has updated the Registration Cards to accurately reflect what the Jockos Youth Group is doing. A copy of the new card was provided to Rebecca and is now being provided to potential new members.

### **Web page update**

The committee had planned on inviting the webmaster to a planning meeting to discuss updates to the Jockos webpage. This will continue to be an agenda item.

### **Senior Jockos Training**

This agenda item has continued to be discussed with few outcomes. This will continue to be an agenda item.

### **Changes to Jockos Friends Committee**

2018 will begin with a number of changes to the committee. The Chair position remains vacant and a long term member has also submitted her resignation.

### **Message from outgoing Chair**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank GHHS for the opportunity to act as Chair for the Jocko's Friends Committee. Following my retirement, I was looking for an activity to do with one of my grandchildren. We have always enjoyed visiting Government House as a family, and this seemed like a good fit. I certainly didn't anticipate being asked to act as interim Chair when I attended a planning meeting over 2 years ago! There have been so many great activities and events since that time, and little Natalie has enjoyed being a very active Jocko's volunteer! We will both continue to be involved as members of Jockos Friends.

There will be a number of changes coming up in the next year and I look forward to what a new direction and leadership will include for Jocko's Friends. Again, thank you for the opportunity.

**Report prepared by: Karen Hamilton**



## 8.6. Membership Report

Kevin Gooding

I have been on the Membership Committee for over a year and a few months. I have figured out a routine and find that most people are good at completing memberships in a timely fashion. Membership has its challenges contacting people and making sure all the information is current and up to date. Currently memberships are valid for one calendar year. If your membership is due January 31<sup>st</sup>, then a notice will go out at the beginning of January. A second notice goes out at the beginning of February and a third and final notice is mailed out at the start of March with removal from roster by the end of March if no renewal is completed. If you pay your renewal with in January, you will be renewed to the following January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you do pay, but not until March, you are now a March 31<sup>st</sup> renewal, no longer in January.

Membership is also trying to be environmentally friendly and a bit cost effective to send out renewal notices from my email – [kgplanter@sasktel.net](mailto:kgplanter@sasktel.net) for those that have email. Please check your spam or junk email and allow me to be approved. Mailed versions are still completed for those without email or by request. Members may also renew through the website and we accept cash, cheque, credit card, PayPal and when Rebecca is in the office, one could arrange debit transaction. We have also had a number of donations and these are greatly appreciated which have been received from individuals, businesses, school tours and members.

A recent change to membership is the additional cost of \$10 dollars being added if the person wants the Society Times paper mailed out. The cost is to cover the mail-out which usually happens four times per year. Most people are adding the amount to their renewal to cover this growing cost. Some have sent in their \$10 ahead of time. Thank you to the members who realize the rising costs and supporting us in this.

While every year is similar in that the numbers are always changing a bit – there are always those who decide not to renew for whatever reason, those members who pass away or move as well always with the effort of trying to grow the membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Gooding



## 8.7. Society Times Newsletter Report

Ann Grahame, Editor

Our wonderful volunteer coordinator, Rebecca Otitoju and I have just finished the layout of the eighth issue of *The Society Times*, and are still enjoying the experience. Our Newsletter Committee seems to be evolving into a Communications Committee, as Rebecca and I discuss which material from *The Society Times* should be posted online, and she then does this too. We are delighted to learn that the website is soon to be re-designed and updated. Our website can be reached at [www.govhousesociety.ca](http://www.govhousesociety.ca)

Our team consists of Rebecca Otitoju and myself, Ann Grahame, as co-editors, and Gayle White as Assistant Editor, where her expertise is very much appreciated. Pastor Robert Thompson has been most helpful, attending various GHHS events at Rebecca's request, to take photographs, which are not only technically superb, but which often show a different viewpoint on the activities at the House. Ann Grahame usually takes some back-up photographs, and Eva Wasserle and Shirley Gerlock have also contributed. An important member of our team is Sarah Wood, who posts on our Government House Historical Society Facebook page. She has been working out of the city, but is returning to Regina in April, and has some innovative ideas which will be proposed to the GHHS Board. Sarah tries to post once a week, (but would like to post on alternate days), and often has to rely on material from the Government House website and Facebook page.

*The Society Times* is published once every 3 months with the deadline for submissions being the first Friday in January, April, July and October. The length of the President's Message is limited to 450 words, and other submissions covering events which have occurred in the preceding 3 months, to 250 words. The editors must be allowed to edit, without substantially altering the content of the submission. We reserve the right to correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, and to reduce word count if necessary, and this is where we really appreciate Gayle White's background. A submission for the GHHS Policy Manual is being developed.

The Newsletter Committee is very grateful to the GHHS Board of Directors for approving our request to charge an annual fee of \$10.00 to those members and volunteers who have indicated that they wish to receive a paper copy of *The Society Times* by mail. At the time that we made the request, there had been indications that everyone's Membership Renewal date was to be in January, but that didn't happen, so it will take longer to receive this income. At present, 176 members, volunteers, and the staff of the Provincial Capital Commission, Government House and Lieutenant Governor's Office receive the newsletter by e-mail, and 111 copies are mailed to members, volunteers, to Saskatchewan Archives and to the Protocol Office. The total annual budget is \$1,321.24, although this includes sufficient supplies to carry us well into the next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Grahame and Rebecca Otitoju, co-editors



## **8.8. Tea Room Report**

Bonnie Racz, Tea Room Coordinator

The Victorian Tea Room continues to be a successful event sponsored by the Government House Historical Society. Almost all our teas were fully sold out in 2017 and had waiting lists. The popularity of the teas is due to our wonderful group of Tea Room volunteers, be they upstairs, downstairs, the Friday set-up crew, the shoppers or the cashiers. We could not put on these fabulous events without the dedication and commitment of each and every one of you. Thank you so much for your invaluable contributions. (Our Tea Room Guests' visitor experience was further enhanced by the imaginative, creative, and delightful offerings in the Sir Richard Lake Room from the Collectibles Committee.)

The Tea Room Committee is proud that we are a significant source for bringing people to Government House and for contribution to our mandate to promote and enhance the House. By bringing the public to the House, we ensure its preservation for future generations, the third facet of our mandate.

2017 was the twenty-sixth year that the tea room has been operating. In 2017 we used china tea cups contributed by the Collectibles Committee for the May tea (held the week before the Mother's Day weekend). Guests of the tea could purchase any of the tea cups.

We believe that we have an excellent format and menu thanks to the research and dedication of the Tea Room volunteers in the prior 26 years. We look forward to seeing you at a tea in 2018.



## 8.9. Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Rebecca Otitoju

The year 2017 was as busy as other years, with the help and commitment of GHHS volunteers all events were successful even with unforeseen situations that prevented some volunteers from helping.

- Seventeen volunteers joined the Society, eight attended information session. New tea room volunteers are waiting to attend the orientation while some volunteers could not attend information session because of their work schedule.
- The second Annual General Volunteer Workshop was held on Tuesday February 21, 2017. Fifty-five volunteers attended the workshop. The purpose for this workshop was to create an avenue to inform volunteers of upcoming events in the year and it was also a time of interaction with other volunteers and GHHS leadership. Board members and committee chairs who attended presented their activities and some committees were able to recruit new volunteers. Chad Debert from Government House also attended and presented the upcoming events in the year to volunteers.
- I did not attend the Volunteer Fair at the University in 2017, instead I encouraged GHHS volunteers to help, through word of mouth and recommend GHHS as an organization they could volunteer with.
- Volunteer Recognition Committee held its meetings and organized the second Annual Volunteer Tea. (see my VRC report for details).
- In 2017, the total hours recorded for volunteering was lower than previous years because some events such as the annual summer auction, and Christmas market were not held. **Total volunteer hours recorded so far for 2017 is 7,206 compared to 10,615 hours in 2016.**
- Below is the summary of GHHS members and volunteers' information in our database:

- o Total (members & volunteers) = 271

- o Members = 228

- Members only = 119

- o Volunteers = 150

- Members who volunteer = 109
- Volunteers only = 41
- Inactive = 2

Respectfully submitted

Rebecca Otitoju

GHHS Volunteer Coordinator



## 8.10. Volunteer Recognition Committee Report

Rebecca Otitoju, Chair

Volunteer Recognition Committee (VRC) was formed with a mandate to research and recommend different volunteer awards for GHHS volunteers. New members joined the committee in 2017, they

The following were the VRC activities in 2017:

- Recruited new committee members.
- Received nominations for Marge Ewart and Betty Westmoreland's Volunteer Service Award. Reviewed and forwarded our recommendation to the Board. For the first time, the recipient of this award was notified and allowed to bring family members to the event.
- Organized Volunteer Tea to appreciate GHHS volunteers and their contributions about 80 volunteers attended the tea. Twenty-one volunteers received different awards.
- Many tea guests completed the Volunteer Recognition Card during the monthly Victorian teas complimenting the exceptional services they received from our volunteers.

I want to thank members of Volunteer Recognition Committee for their hard work and interest in the mandate of the Committee. Members of the VRC are: Gail Bradley, Elaine Giroux Sylvestre, JoAnn Lupastin (Board Representative), Doreen Patel, Iris Sirke, and Rebecca Otitoju (Chair).

If you have any questions or suggestions for the committee, please call me at 306-787-5363 or send me an email [rebecca@govhousesociety.ca](mailto:rebecca@govhousesociety.ca).

Respectfully submitted

Rebecca Otitoju

Chair, VRC

## 8.11. Web Report

Rebecca Otitoju, Chair

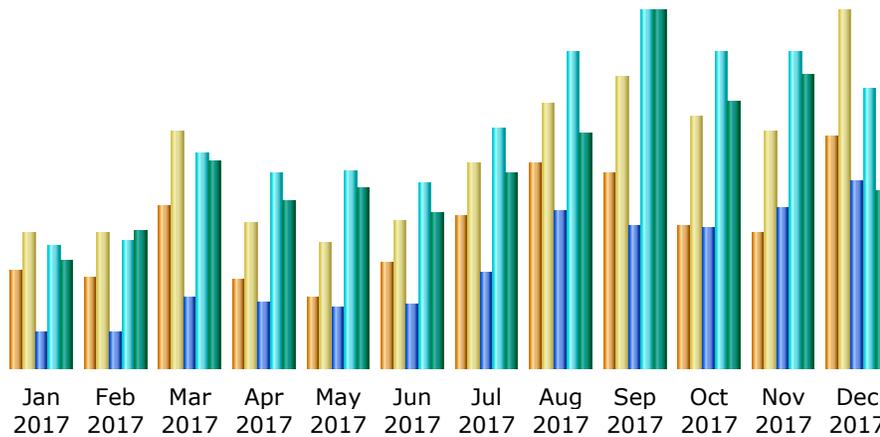
I assumed the responsibility to update the contents of the GHHS website middle of 2017 when Reagan who was the chair of the committee and helping in this capacity moved to another province. The purpose was to ensure that the website is updated regularly.

As part of the option on the home page, we now have "Members Only" tab as a spot to post information meant for members only. The password will be generated and given to members to access such information.



Please see below some stats that showed the flow of visitors to GHHS website in 2017.

### 2017 history



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2017	1,256	1,754	6,558	21,917	719.99 MB
Feb 2017	1,156	1,736	6,141	23,091	910.49 MB
Mar 2017	2,075	3,057	12,823	38,417	1.35 GB
Apr 2017	1,130	1,881	12,068	35,205	1.08 GB
May 2017	899	1,636	10,809	35,754	1.17 GB
Jun 2017	1,358	1,916	11,241	33,109	1022.94 MB
Jul 2017	1,965	2,636	16,838	43,087	1.25 GB
Aug 2017	2,635	3,415	28,382	56,709	1.51 GB
Sep 2017	2,502	3,757	25,974	64,426	2.31 GB
Oct 2017	1,837	3,227	25,106	56,644	1.72 GB
Nov 2017	1,721	3,072	28,935	57,004	1.90 GB
Dec 2017	2,976	4,609	33,782	50,286	1.16 GB
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,510</b>	<b>32,696</b>	<b>218,657</b>	<b>515,649</b>	<b>16.04 GB</b>

Respectively Submitted,

Rebecca Oritoju



## 9. Financial Report

Lorna Bingaman, Treasurer

Financials distributed under separate cover.

## 10. Board Elections

Gail Bradley, Nominations Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee searches for candidates to serve on the Board of the Government House Historical Society (GHHS). Current members of the Committee are: Iris Sirke (Past President of GHHS) and Gail Bradley (Chair). This year four new candidates have been nominated by the Committee to serve on the Board. The following people have submitted résumés and criminal record checks for approval for membership on the Board. Following is a list with a short summary of their background.

**Adrian Golbey** is a member of the Society and has volunteered in many capacities over the past number of years since returning to Regina. He has assisted with the summer auction, the Black Tie auction, the Christmas market and tea, and as a member of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. He is familiar with Word 7 and Excel. In his previous professional career, he became familiar with all stages of report preparation and presentation. He has worked in excess of 40 years with charity and volunteer groups in membership and executive positions and currently as treasurer of the Antique Auto Association of Regina.

**Gayle White** is a member and volunteer with Government House. She serves on the Collectibles Committee and is assistant editor of the Society Times. As a former educator she accompanied students on many trips to Government House. In the past she has served on a number of Boards and developed a number of projects related to literacy. She currently serves as a co-chair of a committee to assist a Syrian refugee family sponsored by two United Churches.

Gayle has a Master of Education degree and additional certificates related to education. She has been a resource/special education/classroom teacher. She has been a seasonal lecturer at the University of Regina as well as a number of other special educational endeavours and has a number of writing credits.



**Dr. Jennifer Thompson** is a member of the Society and has attended and volunteered at a number of events at Government House. Jennifer has a PhD in Archaeology (Wales), M.A. in Medieval Studies (Toronto), M. Cert in Public Management and is working on an MPA at the University of Regina. She is currently a Senior Policy Analyst with Strategic and Corporate Services Branch, Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport. Prior to 2016 she was employed with the same Ministry in the archaeology field. She has a number of publications and has presented papers internationally. Her experience and knowledge involves Microsoft Office programs, researching and writing reports. She has been on the Board of the Debate Society and is co-chair of her Ministry's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

**Ken Exner** is a member of the Society and currently is Program Head/Faculty Simulation Center-Technology Unit, Saskatchewan Polytechnic. He supervises and manages the day to day operation of the Simulation Learning Center. He has strong computer skills and is considered an advanced user in many applications in his profession. He has researched and compiled reports in many of his 17 key knowledge areas. Past professional experience includes: Emergency Medical Training Captain with the Regina Fire Department which involved liaising with RQHR EMS teams. Also he has served with the RQHR as a paramedic/Relief Operations Supervisor. He has served in varying capacities with a number of health organizations. Ken has a number of diplomas and certificates related to health care. He has recently become aware of the mandate of Government House and looks forward to serving on the Board and assisting with the various events.

The following members have agreed to return to the Board of the GHHS for another two-year term: **Sheila Carson, Bonnie Racz, Dale Richardson, Lorna Bingaman, and Charlene Balion.**

Respectfully submitted

Gail Bradley,

Chair, Nominating Committee