



**Southwest Arm Historical Society**  
**AGM Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 26, 2025**

The AGM was held at the Lion's Club, Hodge's Cove, NL starting at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was chaired by Elaine Spurrell.

Present: Georgi Drover, Wanda Garrett, Lester Green, Alma Jayne, Donna Robichaud, Elaine Spurrell, and John Spurrell

1. **Minutes** from annual meeting of November 27, 2024, were read by Elaine Spurrell. No errors or omissions noted. It was moved by Georgi Drover and seconded by Lester Green that the minutes to be adopted as read. Motion carried.

2. **Treasurer's Report** – presented by Georgi Drover

- 2025 YTD net loss (\$555.53)
- Bank balance as of November 26, 2025 – \$13,857.61
- Income received in 2025 - \$9,905.00
  - i. \$6,600 grant received for the Remembrance Day ceremony
  - ii. \$1,905 in donations received – banners and booklets
  - iii. \$200 in donations towards Butter Cove Storyboard
  - iv. \$1,200 received at point of report for membership dues.
- Expenses for 2024 - \$14,606.88.
  - i. \$482.84 – war memorial and grounds
  - ii. \$500 – donation to Random Trails
  - iii. \$508.29 – website annual fee
  - iv. \$106.80 – office supplies
  - v. \$1,619.30 – Butter Cove storyboard expenses
  - vi. \$7,243.30 – Remembrance / Memorial Day expenses
- It was moved Georgi Drover and seconded by John Spurrell to accept the financial statement as presented. Motion carried.

3. **Website Report** – presented by Wanda Garrett

- Our website was launched on December 1, 2014. After 11 years, it continues to slowly grow. There are now 1,943 pages of information with 365 galleries of photo and 66 videos.
- We are always looking for new items. If you have anything you would like to see added, just get in touch with me. You might have some photos of people, communities, older homes that still or no longer exist, occupations such as fishing and logging, former post offices, former stores, schooners and other vessels, former teachers – and just about anything you can think of. We would love to receive these items. We recently received some wonderful old photos of The Point, Little Heart's Ease from Lillian (Spurrell) Peddle.

- We also love to post stories about our communities, ancestors, and any aspect of life in the Southwest Arm. Maybe you would like to do a profile about one of your ancestors – tell us their special story. Greg Morgan recently sent us a wonderful profile on his great-great-great grandfather, George Vardy.

#### 4. Overview of Remembrance Day and Military Projects – presented by Lester Green

- A very successful event.
- Probably the most people we have ever had at our Remembrance Day service
- It was noted that a couple of ladies from the Clarenville Legion were in attendance. They came to our service as we were honouring women in the military this year.
- Having a theme and special program is a great draw for people and it is wonderful that we are reaching so many people
- Thanks to Darryl Drover for arranging and setting up the sound system. A donation will be made to the Lion's Club for the use of their sound system from the Remembrance Day grant.
- Thanks also go out to Wayne Butt for providing us with video he took during service.
- Crystal Martin, once again, did a fabulous job putting together a video of the service from all the video she received. She will be paid \$600 for her work from the Remembrance Day grant.
- Next year's theme for Remembrance Day will be 'Honouring the Cadets, 30 Years of Involvement.'
- Lester will apply for a grant for next year's service. We hope to produce a booklet and storyboard as well as provide a lunch following the services.

#### 5. Membership and Donations Update – Elaine Spurrell presented for Maria Drover

- Membership collection has been successful this year.
- We collected \$1200 as of November 23rd with many members opting to pay for multiple years.
- Current membership is 295. However, 63 of these have expired in 2024 or prior.
- We will make more attempts to contact these members and if unsuccessful, we will remove those that expired prior to 2023 from the membership list.
- There are 39 that will expire in 2025 and those will be contacted in December as a reminder.
- We do have 193 members that are paid through 2026 or later. Many members have chosen to pay for multiple years which is much appreciated.
- We thank all members for their continued support of the SWAHS.

#### 6. War Memorial Site

- There was a post on the website about the standard protocol of the position of the flags at a war memorial. This person felt we had the Newfoundland flag and the Union Jack in the wrong positions and asked that we switch them. He said, "For me it is a [an] insult to the members who Service our Province and Country and give there [their] life for our freedom."
- We checked the position of the flags at other war memorials, including the National War Memorial at St. John's, and noted we have our flags placed the same as theirs.
- As most people are aware, we have worked extremely hard to have our war memorial installed to honour all those veterans from our area who have served. We would do nothing to insult those who have served our country. We have the utmost respect for them.
- There was a discussion on whether we should have sods at the war memorial. It is a challenge to keep the weeds out of the grounds currently and even with sods, this will be an issue. We will ask the Lions Club if they could have their summer students assist with the weeding.
- There has been an issue with local teens leaning on the rope around the war memorial site. As a result, the pillars moved and had to be repaired. To avoid this expense in the future, it has been

suggested we replace the rope at the front of the site with a metal fence, like the fencing at the Shoal Harbour War Memorial.

- The manager at the Clarenville Co-Op suggested we apply for their 50/50 draw and have this money go towards the cost of the fencing. Lester will put in the application.
- Max Peddle received a verbal quote of \$1600 for eight feet of this fencing. Lester will obtain a written quote to have this fencing across the front of our war memorial site.
- We will also advertise that we welcome donations towards the cost of this fencing.
- It was moved by Elaine Spurrell and seconded by Donna Robichaud that we move ahead with the metal fencing (from Coastal Mechanical, Clarenville) for the front of the war memorial. Motion carried.

## 7. New Business

- Headstone cleaning was completed at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery in Gooseberry Cove.
- Random Trails plan to work on the Island Cove trail next spring. Once the trail is complete, an Island Cove storyboard will be done.
- We haven't had any updates about storyboards for St. Jones Within or Hatchet Cove.
- The Butter Cove storyboard was unveiled on July 12<sup>th</sup>
- There is always interest in a Hodge's Cove storyboard. Della Gagnon is following up with the boat basin.
- Lester is currently working on an article on women in the military for the Down Home magazine.
- John Spurrell will remove the lights on the post from the war memorial and store them for the winter.
- Lester will store the new storyboard on women in the military for the winter and have it installed next spring.
- The Union Jack flag needs some repairs, and Lester will look after this.

Meeting moved to adjourn by John Spurrel. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.