

Membership

New Ross and District Museum Society,

The Board of the New Ross and District Museum Society is holding a Special Meeting of the Society on Sept. 11, 2025 at 6:30 in the evening at Ross Farm Museum. There is much to discuss and if you are a voting member or someone thinking of joining NRDMS or an interested citizen please attend. I have included the NRDMS Foundation Statements describing the Ross Farm Mission, Mandate, Vision and Values as well as a membership form.

It is the Boards intention that because of ongoing challenges with NSM and CCTH, 3 members of our Executive will resign at this special meeting and new members will be brought on. It is the Boards expectation that this move will allow our Board to return to a management role.

We recently held a well attended public information session and barbeque at Ross Farm. The Board of the NRDMS is a group of nine volunteers working to maintain and improve Ross Farm Museum. We have hired Marc Tasse' as Ross Farms full time Executive Director. Your Board of Directors sets policy, working with Nova Scotia Museums and the Dept of Communities Culture Tourism and Heritage. Our Executive Director is responsible for staff.

In order to better understand and define our relationship with NSM and CCTH we recently hired baker tilly to do an independent process audit for the Museum including analysing policy or the lack thereof from NSM. We hired the same firm to do a financial audit. The NRDMS Board with our ED handles a budget in excess of 1.2 million dollars and to our knowledge there has never been a complete financial audit done. CCTH Deputy Minister Chris Shore recently removed those audits from Board control.

The only way to maintain a strong Board is to maintain a strong Membership. A strong membership represents strong citizen input and without this we do not have a partnership with CCTH. Please read the Mission Statement and fill out the enclosed membership form.

Despite ongoing challenges the New Ross and District Museum Board has continued to advocate and work to improve Ross Farm Museum. Some of these accomplishments are listed below.

1. Previously only Ross Farm management were eligible for the farm's pension plan. The Board changed this so now all employees are eligible to join if they wish and Ross farm matches their contribution to a maximum annual amount.
2. Last fall when it came to the Board's attention that the farm's winter staff had been laid off without our knowledge, the Board voted unanimously to spend retained earnings to hire them back. This allowed the farm to continue its winter program.
3. We formed a Heritage Breed committee improving herd health, establishing proper turnouts for the horses, implementing proper record keeping and improved animal husbandry practices. This included registering heritage animals with Canadian Livestock Records and also resulted in an on demand watering system being installed.
4. One of our Board Volunteers did an energy audit for the farm which saved the farm thousands of dollars and we are working on putting in a charging station for electric vehicles. Currently there is no EV charging station between Chester Basin and Kentville.
5. We established the Cafe' and working with staff have improved the Pedlars Shop. Community members visit the farm more often and the overall visitor experience has been enhanced.
6. The Learning Centre is hosting more exhibits and displays. These continue to improve the farm experience and provide an interesting venue for visitors and New Ross citizens.
7. We hired an independent third party, baker tilly, to examine the Boards role and all processes from governance to NSM policies.
8. We hired baker tilly to do a proper financial audit for Ross Farm.
9. We hired a headhunting firm to find a new Executive Director and this resulted in hiring Marc Tasse'. All of these contracts were properly managed RFP contracts resulting in independent third party contracts.

Sincerely
Gerald Keddy
Chair
New Ross and District Museum Society.