

The Green Book

*The Continuing History
of the
Charitable Irish Society of Halifax*





CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
of the
CHARITABLE IRISH SOCIETY

OF HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

AS REVISED AND AMENDED

2024

PREFACE

The Charitable Irish Society of Halifax is one of the oldest societies in the city. Founded in 1876 upon the broadest and noblest principles of charity, democracy and national feeling, at a time when class distinction, as well as racial and religious prejudices, were dominating the public mind. It can be said that members, to their best ability, have ever striven to have those principles honourably maintained.

Many of our city's ablest and greatest citizens prominent in civil and professional life – whose names are closely identified with the history of this province – have associated themselves, as members, with the aims of the Society.

A complete list of the different presidents, other officers and members from the date of foundation will be found in tabulated form, elsewhere in this booklet.

CHARITY

The work of charity caused the formation of this Society two centuries ago and has been the reason for its longevity. While it is a national Association, "Charitable" and "Irish" have equal prominence in the Society's name. Moreover, the charitable purpose of the Society dominated the original articles of association as it does the work of the Society two centuries later. From the beginning members have had a duty to "aid the poor and distressed" and while the mode of delivering that aid has changed with the years, the call of membership in the Society is directed still, as it was in 1786, to all "who are lovers. From the earliest times to 1970 a Committee of Charity directed the Society's resources to the needy. Often this charity was in the form of In the late 1960's a Committee on the Charitable Operation of the Society, chaired by James L. Ryan, brought forward recommendations which, in the words of Ronald J. Downie, the president of 1970, would 'bring the charity of the Society in line with contemporary life". Thus, in that year, our Charitable Grants Committee began its work of supporting worthwhile groups and associations which themselves exist for a variety of charitable causes. Here follows a list of the chairmen of that committee.

CHARITABLE GRANTS COMMITTEE

Dr. James L. Ryan	1970-1973
Ronald J. Downie, Q.C.	1973-1976
Charles J. McManus	1976-1977
George A. Healy	1977-1987
Clinton B. Harvey, Q.C.	1987-1992
Leo J. Murphy	1992-1995
Noreen Murphy R.N.	1995-1999
Edward O'Brien	1999-2002
Theresa Laffin	2002-2005
Mel Earley	2005-2006
Jack Hartnett	2006-2009
Brian Downie	2009 - 2015
Don Reardon	2015-2021
Sandy Phillips	2021 - 2022
Mel Earley	2022 - 2023
Sean Brownlow	2023 - 2025

RETROSPECTIVE

When the helpless state of man, if left in his natural condition, is considered, he, of all the animal creation, will be found most in want of society. By means of well-regulation society the weakness of man is protected, his wants are relieved, his misfortunes alleviated, and his moral nature improved.

Society at large is highly benefited by every institution which has a tendency to promote private friendship; the just observance of which gradually enlarges the mind and humanizes the heart. Friendship at first is confined within a very narrow compass; extending its care and attention to a few individuals. The sentiments of benevolence produced by such intercourse, soon beget a strong inclination in the societies of particular ranks and descriptions of men are formed; new sources of benevolence are discovered; the understanding is improved; and at length generous sentiments of friendship to all mankind arise amongst those who at first associated only to extend their friendship to the natives of some particular spot on the earth. Minds thus prepared, consider the human race but as one Society, and the wants and misfortunes of every individual equally entitled to compassion and relief.

Revised Constitution, C.I.S., 25 March, 1795

On the 17th day of January, in the year 1786, a number of natives of the Kingdom of Ireland, inhabitants of the Town of Halifax, in the Province of Nova Scotia, (sensibly feeling the obligation which they owed to society, and zealously wishing to promote and encourage friendship and good will amongst men), held a meeting at the house of Mr. John O'Brien, in Halifax, and signed Articles of Association for the purpose of relieving the wants and misfortunes of their countrymen, which association was styled The Charitable Irish Society.

The first regular meeting of the Charitable Irish Society was held on the seventeenth of February, 1786; a Constitution was adopted, and officers were elected.

Experience proving the utility of such a Society, its funds and numbers rapidly increased and the Society finding that the original Articles of Association were in many respects insufficient to govern the Society in its improved and enlarged state, Charles Hill and Richard John Uniacke, Esquires, were on the 17th day of May, in the year 1794, appointed to a Committee, to review and examine the former Articles, and to report on a new Constitution for the future regulation of the Society.

On the 17th day of February, in the year 1795, at the Anniversary meeting of the Society, at Mr. Gallagher's, in the Town of Halifax, the Committee made its report and a special meeting of the Society was ordered to be held on the 25th of March following for the consideration thereof; on which day the Society having met and considered the report of the Committee, a Constitution for the future regulation of the Charitable Irish Society was adopted and agreed to be observed by all its members.

In 1832 a committee, composed of Messrs. Bartholomew Hackett, Beamish Murdock, and Benjamin Slater, was appointed to revise the constitution and prepare a list of the members of the Society since its foundation, a duty which they performed to the satisfaction of the Society, and for which they received its thanks.

In 1836 the Society celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in an appropriate manner, and elected the late Honourable Joseph Howe to the presidency, an office which he filled for three successive years.

A committee was appointed on the seventeenth of May, 1852, to revise the constitution; and the report of the committee was adopted on the seventeenth of August 1853.

A committee to revise the constitution was appointed on the eighteenth of August 1862, whose report was adopted on the second of February, 1863.

In 1864 the Society was incorporated by an Act of the Legislature; and a silver seal, costing ten pounds was purchased.

The constitution was again revised in 1879.

On the eighteenth of January, 1886, the Society celebrated the centenary of its institution. There was an oration at the Academy of Music in the afternoon, delivered by the Honourable Thomas P. Gargan, of Boston, and a banquet at Masonic Hall in the evening, at which some two hundred guests were present, and a number of eloquent and appropriate speeches were delivered.

At the Society's quarterly meeting held on the seventeenth of May, 1887, the President, the Honourable James Butler, announced that the late Honourable Sir William Young had bequeathed ten thousand dollars to trustees who were to pay the income arising therefrom to the Society half-yearly, "to be applied to the general purposes of its benevolent and charitable work".

At the annual meeting held on the seventeenth of February, 1890, a letter from the executor of the late Honourable James Butler was read, announcing that their testator had bequeathed one thousand dollars to them in trust to pay the income therefrom to the Society half-year, so long as it should continue to exist.

A committee was appointed in November, 1888, to again revise the Constitution; and the report was adopted in February, 1892.

On the 17th of November 1911 the Executive appointed a committee to again revise the Constitution, and their report was submitted and adopted at a meeting held October 17, 1912.

On the 17th of November, 1924, on recommendation of the Executive a committee was appointed to reprint the constitution and bring same up to date.

On the 17th of November, 1945, the Society recommended that the Constitution be revised. The President was appointed to carry out this work. The 152nd celebration saw the stag tradition broken, and the ladies were privileged to attend the banquet which was followed by a dance. In 1949 the Society published *The Irish in Nova Scotia*, By Dr. H. L. Stewart, being the annals of the Society from 1786 to 1836.

In December 1960 the executive appointed a committee consisting of W. A. Ryan (Chairman), J. J. Powell and P. J. O'Hearn to study the Constitution with a view to possible revision. As a result of the work of this committee a number of amendments were approved at the regular quarterly meeting of November 17th, 1961 and these were incorporated in the revised printing of 1962.

On the 17th of November 1962, Dr. John P. Martin, the Society's historian, unveiled a plaque at the site of the Society's first meeting – Golden Ball Inn – Sackville and Hollis Streets.

In 1970 a Charitable Grants Committee replaced the former Committee of Charity.

On the 17th of May 1977 the Hon. Desmond Guinness of Dublin was elected an "honourary member".

In 1982 the Society began a five-year program to donate \$10,000.00 to Saint Mary's University to aid in the forming of a collection of Irish records in the university's library. In this year, Doreen M. Havey was elected the first woman member in the 196-year history of the Society.

In 1985 the Society formally sponsored a bid by Saint Mary's University to establish a "chair of Irish Studies".

On the 21st of May, of that year, the annual meeting adopted a revised constitution and bylaws as prepared by Clinton B. Havey, Q.C. and elected the Taoiseach, Dr. Garrett FitzGerald, TD an "honourary member".

In 1986 the Society marked the bicentennial of its funding with a Special Meeting held on the 16th of January. Nearly five hundred members and guests attended the Festival of Saint Patrick at the World Trade Convention Centre on the 17th of March, at which, the Hon. John Crosbie, Minister of Justice for Canada responded to the "Toast to Ireland and Canada". In June the Society attended, as a plaque was unveiled at Uniacke House, the country residence of the Hon. Richard John Uniacke, making it a provincial heritage building.

On 27th of September the president, Dr. Brian Craig Uniacke Cuthbertson, unveiled a plaque provided by the Society, at Glenbower Wood, Killeagh, Country Cork, in honour of the Society's founder.

On the 9th of November 1987 the Society voted to undertake the ambitious project of raising funds to acquire a copy of the Book of Kells to be placed with the Chair of Irish Studies at Saint Mary's University.

In 1988 the Society printed "the little Green Book" which included the Constitution and by-laws as amended 1985. The booklet contained the names of the executives and members listed by their year of joining from the beginning of the society in 1786. Robert (Bob) Harvey the Historian at the time was responsible for this remarkable publication.

In 1990 the replica of the Book of Kells was unveiled at the Patrick PowerLibrary at Saint Mary's University.

In 1992 President F.B William Kelly received the report from the Committee on the Recommendation for Change which ultimately resulted in an increase in the trust of cultural affairs in addition to its charitable focus. A Special Achievement Award was initiated and awarded to Clinton Havey.

Noreen Murphy RN was elected the first female President at the AGM in 1992 for the 92-93 term.

The estate of Lawrence Lynch bequeathed \$70,000.00 to the society in 1994 and the interest provided for a bursary at Saint Mary's University in his name.

The long-deliberated Renewal Committee recommendations were officially adopted with revised By-Laws during 1995-96.

Planning and fundraising for the Irish Settlers Memorial (Celtic Cross) under the leadership of Derm Dunphy took place over 1999 and 2000.

President of Ireland Mary MacAleese became an Honourary Member.

The Charitable Irish website was launched in 2002.

The Society was presented with a plaque from Saint Mary's University on March 17th, 2003 to acknowledge the close association of the Irish and the University over its 200-year history being celebrated in 2003.

On June 5, 2003, Mary Robinson, Past President of Ireland, was awarded an Honourary membership.

In September 2003 a replica of the Jeanie Johnston an Irish emigrant barque visited Halifax, and many members acted as guides to the general public over its weekend visit to the waterfront.


On March 17, 2004, the “Celtic Cross” Irish Settlers Memorial was officially dedicated and the surrounding land designated as Saint Patrick’s Green.

In 2007 the Holy Cross Cemetery Trust was formed from members of the Charitable Irish, (Dr. Brian O’Brien, Michael Nee and Lorraine Lafferty, Trustees) to ensure the restoration of the thousands of headstones and to record the detail on the headstones of those buried in this most Irish Place.

Membership categories in the Society were changed to allow for family and spousal memberships which resulted in a steady increase of members.

In 2009 the Charitable Irish Scholarship was initiated for Society members entering the first year of post-secondary education. The Saint Patrick’s Day parade was revived and the Society participated in this modest event with the hope to see it expand.

The estate of Doreen Havey bequeathed money to provide for the restoration of The O’Connell (Liberator Banner) in 2010. A replica of the restored banner was first carried in the Saint Patrick’s Day parade on March 17, 2012.



Celebrations to mark the 225th Anniversary of the Society included a fall outing at Uniacke House, the home of our first President Richard John Uniacke, the completion of the restoration of the Liberator banner, a resolution in the Nova Scotia Legislature to note the occasion and the designation of “Irishtown” in downtown Halifax.

The updating and reprinting of this booklet was approved as a 225th Anniversary Project.

This updated copy was approved to become the first fully digital copy of “The Green Book” dated December 15, 2024.

HON. R. J. UNIACKE



Richard John Uniacke, a picturesque figure in Nova Scotia's political history, was born in Ireland in 1753. His early life was concerned mainly with the study of law, and he was admitted to the bar both in Dublin and in Halifax. His fluency, striking appearance and sharp wit gave him an early fame and at the age of 28 was appointed solicitor-general for the province of Nova Scotia. His long political career was noted for several reforms, which he introduced, in the administration of government in the Province. His revision of the laws of Nova Scotia is only one of many accomplishments during a long period as Attorney General which office he held from 1797 until his death in 1830. He was an outstanding figure of his time and is the acknowledged founder of the Charitable Irish Society.

THE STATUTES OF NOVA SCOTIA

First Session A.D. 1864

Chapter 49

An Act to Incorporate the Charitable Irish Society of Halifax Passed on the 10th day of May, A.D., 1864

SECTION

1. Incorporation
2. Funds vested in corporation
3. May collect arrears

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows:

1. James Butler, John Pugh, Patrick Wallace, John T. Compton, John Meagher, James W. Flinn, John Finn, John Doran, and such other persons as now are or hereafter shall become members of the Charitable Irish Society, according to the rules and by-laws thereof, are hereby incorporated under the name of "The Charitable Irish Society of Halifax."

2. The funds and property of the society are vested in the corporation for charitable purposes, who are authorized to invest the same on mortgage or otherwise for the benefit of the corporation; and the corporation may purchase, take, and hold, real estate, to the value of twenty thousand dollars.

3. The corporation may collect all arrears to due to them under their bye-laws.

By-Laws of

The Charitable Irish Society of Halifax, which may be abbreviated herein as CIS.

Constitution:

Incorporated by an act of the Governing Council and Assembly of Nova Scotia, passed on the 10th day of May 1864, (as per Statutes of Nova Scotia, First session, May 10th 1864 Chapter 49).

Article 1 Membership

- a) Membership of the Charitable Irish Society of Halifax is open to natives of the whole island of Ireland and their descendants in the Irish diaspora anywhere in the world, and all those who have a keen interest in Ireland, its history, language, and culture and hold Ireland and the Irish dearly in their hearts.
- b) Members are enrolled in the Society by written application, upon acceptance by the Executive, and upon payment of the relevant membership dues in designated categories. Members in arrears for two or more years may be dropped from the membership roster.
- c) Life Member: This may be granted to any member who has been a continuous member for 50 years. On achieving this status, they are not required to pay annual membership dues.

- d) A Silver Pin will be presented to any member who has been a continuous member for 25 years.
- e) Honorary Member: The Executive may grant honorary membership to an individual, in recognition of their significant contribution, support or assistance to the Society, or their high achievement in civil or public affairs.

Article 2 Purpose and Objectives

- a) To continue the two great principles of charity and friendship that has been our practice and tradition since the foundation of the Society in 1786.
- b) To provide financial support to local grassroots charitable organizations and institutions, active in caring for the less fortunate and those in need in our home province of Nova Scotia.
- c) To be a patron of Irish culture and heritage, by providing financial support to Irish and Celtic groups and organizations involved in arts, culture, and heritage.
- d) To provide our members with opportunities to meet together in formal and informal surroundings to enjoy each other's company and build friendship and good fellowship.
- e) To honour and celebrate St. Patrick's Day "in fine style," recognizing the Feast of St. Patrick, our Patron Saint, as our most significant annual event for our members and their guests and friends.

- f)** To maintain bonds of friendship with our ancient sister societies, the Benevolent Irish Society of St. John's, Newfoundland, the Benevolent Irish Society of Prince Edward Island, and warm relations with Irish Canadian Cultural Associations in the Maritimes.
- g)** To honour the contributions that past generations of CIS members and volunteers have made to our communities.
- h)** To continue our tradition of remaining politically non-partisan and not divided along religious lines, and continue to support the peaceful achievement of civil and human rights, with respect and dignity for all humans through diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Article 3 The Executive

3.1 The Executive consists of the Officers of the Society and the chairs of the Standing Committees as stated in 5.2 nominated and elected as Directors at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

3.2 The officers of the Society shall consist of:

- President
- Past President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Historian
- Marshal

3.3 The role of the Executive is: to provide responsible management, support, and governance of the Society; to plan, implement, manage, and undertake the day-to-day administration of the Society; to take care, custody, and control of all the assets of the Society; and to preserve all copyrights and intellectual property.

3.4 Additional Officers and Directors may be appointed by the Executive and confirmed at the next AGM or Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Society. A SGM is held in the same manner as the AGM.

Article 4 Duties of officers

President

- a)** To provide leadership, support, and general direction to the Executive.
- b)** To convene and chair meetings of the Executive and the AGM or SGM.
- c)** To direct the contents of the agenda for meetings.
- d)** To present an annual report at the AGM.
- e)** To represent the Society at meetings, conventions, conferences etc. of other organizations.
- f)** To attend the annual dinners/banquets/celebrations of Sister Societies, when requested.
- g)** The President is an ex officio member of all committees.
- h)** The President shall not vote at Executive or AGM meetings except in the case of an equality of votes in which case they shall have a casting vote.

Past President

- a) To give general advice as needed and assist the President in fulfilling their duties.
- b) To chair the Nominating Committee and bring forward a slate of officers and directors to be elected at the AGM.

Vice President

- a) To assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in their absence.
- b) To assist the President when required and to carry out other duties as delegated by the President.
- c) To attend all Executive and AGM meetings of the Society.

Treasurer

- a) To take charge of all the accounts of the Society including, but not limited to, bank accounts, membership dues, investment accounts, trust accounts and similar.
- b) To maintain an accurate accounting of all financial transactions and present regular financial reports to the Executive.
- c) To provide guidance to the Executive and committee chairs as to the amount of funds available for disbursements.
- d) To monitor expiry and renewal dates of fixed-term investments and securities and bring to the attention of the Executive for renewal/reinvestment instructions.
- e) At year-end to prepare a budget forecast for the following year based on anticipated income, and expenses, and present same at an Executive meeting as soon as practicable.

- f) To prepare a full Annual Financial Report for presentation at the May AGM, and for inclusion in the Society's Annual Report. The report should represent a complete picture of the Society's finances.
- g) To meet with the members of the Audit and Finance Committee for the examination of books of accounts and financial statements from banks and financial institutions.

Secretary

- a) To attend all meetings of the Society and record and distribute the minutes of such meetings.
- b) To keep copies of Terms of Reference, Guideline etc. or other memoranda relating to committees and officer positions.
- c) To read minutes and correspondence as necessary at Society meetings.
- d) To give notice of Executive meetings, AGM, or SGM as prescribed in these bylaws under Article 7 Meetings of the Society.
- e) To assist the Historian in the collection of materials for the archives including, but not limited to, the minutes of meetings, annual reports, copies of event programs, copies of speeches given at the St. Patrick's Day dinner and banquet and other events of the Society.

Assistant Secretary

- a) To help the Secretary in the discharge of their duties.
- b) To perform the duties of the Secretary in the Secretary's absence.
- c) To assist the Secretary in organizing special events with tasks such as mailings, ticket sales, attendance lists etc. and to help with other similar tasks on request.

Membership Secretary

- a) To receive all applications for membership and approve and welcome them into the Society under the direction of the Executive and in accordance with accepted membership criteria.
- b) To collect membership dues and remit to the Treasurer or deposit in the Society's bank in accordance with prearranged procedures.
- c) To co-manage with the Treasurer the E-transfer system for the payment of membership dues.
- d) To keep an up-to-date list of members which includes members' names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers and make same available to the Executive when required.
- e) The Membership Secretary may, in their sole discretion, reinstate a member that was deleted because of non-payment of dues, upon payment of annual membership dues according to the relevant category of membership.
- f) To send out renewal notices to members and follow up with any who have not responded within 60 days.

Historian

- a) To keep safe all important and interesting records on matters relevant to the Society's history and ongoing work.
- b) To ensure the preservation of important records and archives and offer these to the Nova Scotia Archives to be added to the Charitable Irish collection.
- c) To write a short historical vignette for inclusion in the program for the St. Patrick's Day dinner or other events around Feast of St. Patrick celebrations.
- d) To provide interesting historical articles for the newsletter and the website, related to the Society or some of its former illustrious members in the context of the history and social conditions of the time.

Marshal

- a) To assist the Parade Committee in the preparation of the CIS entry/displays, in HRM parades and events held around St. Patrick's Day celebrations and festivities.
- b) To participate in parades and gatherings connected with the celebration of St. Patrick's Day and be prominent as part of the CIS entry/float /display.
- c) To lead-in VIP guests, the president, and other officers presiding at the St Patrick's Day event and to encourage members and guests to wear green.
- d) To ensure a supply of green ribbons, or emblems/badges or a spray of shamrockis available to members and guests, as they might like.

- e) To ensure that all officers wear their engraved officers' medallions and regalia, and to make sure a small supply of past presidents' medals are available in case some past presidents may have forgotten them.
- f) To know and have access to the location of all the all the Society's banners and display materials, medals, sashes, medallions, pins, and badges, etc. and to ensure that engraved officers' medallions are passed on to newly elected officers.

Article 5 Committees

5.1 The Executive is empowered to form committees by passing a minute and providing a general outline of the purpose and function of the said committee, and by appointing a chair who has permission to add members, as needed, from the membership roster. The committee chair shall provide the Executive with written Terms of Reference or Guidelines, for review and approval.

5.2 The Standing Committees of the Society are:

- a) Charitable Grants Committee
- b) Cultural Grants Committee
- c) Activities and Functions Committee
- d) Communications Committee

5.3 The chairs of Standing Committees shall be appointed as Directors of the Society at an AGM or SGM.

5.4 Special Purpose Committees

The Executive may form other committees as and when required such as: Parade Committee, St. Patrick's Day Dinner Committee, Bylaws Review Committee, Nominating Committee, Finance Committee, Scholarship Committee.

5.5 The Role, Purpose, and Duties of Standing Committees:

5.6 Charitable Grants

- a) To meet in person at least once a year as a committee and select charities and organizations eligible for grants according to written criteria approved by the Executive.
- b) To submit a budget to the Executive at year-end for the coming year.
- c) To provide the Treasurer with the details of each grantee on a prescribed form and assist in the distribution of approved grants and donations.
- d) To respond to requests for donations and grants.

5.7 Cultural Grants

To select organizations with Irish and Celtic connections that contribute to the cultural life of our community and bring them to the Executive for consideration of financial support.

5.8 Activities and Functions

The role of the Activities and Functions Committee is to organize events for the benefit, entertainment, and interest of the membership. This may involve arranging events or facilitating attendance at events such as concerts, shows, presentations by guest speakers, plays, movies, etc. The committee is encouraged to research events and activities that may be happening in our community and to arrange for tickets and bookings in advance. It may also be involved in arranging trips and tours for our membership and guests.

5.9 Communications

- a) To work as a team to manage the Society's communications to the membership and public.
- b) To publish and distribute notices, newsletters, and invitations by email, regular mail, the Society's website, and social media platforms.
- c) To work with the executive to create content and solicit content from the Society's membership and outside sources for all forms of media for publication and distribution.
- d) To ensure the Society's website is maintained with up-to-date information and security features and also maintain and monitor the Society's social media platforms.

- e) To keep a secure record of all passwords, log-in information and registrations for all websites, and social media platforms and make same available to the President or Treasurer if requested.
- f) To ensure, as far as possible, the highest level of security protection of the Society's on-line presence against malicious acts that risk harming the Society or its members.
- g) To request prior approval for all proposed expenses and submit all contracts for services to the President for approval and signature.
- h) To attend and report at meetings of the Executive (Chairperson of the committee or, if unavailable, another member of the committee)
- i) To place notices and announcements in local print media publications and radio stations.

5.10 Other

All Committees and Officers will draw up Terms of Reference and/or Guidelines to accomplish their work and submit them to the Executive for approval.

Article 6 Investments Finance and budget

- a) It is the duty of our Executive to preserve the capital of the Society, which has been contributed by the dues, contributions, and bequests of generations of former members. The current members and Executive are merely custodians of a trusted legacy. The financial assets of the Society must be invested carefully and wisely, prioritizing preservation of capital with steady income and modest growth.

- b) The Executive shall set the budget for the upcoming calendar year on the basis of budget requests from the standing committees, anticipated expenses for events and activities including the St. Patrick's Day event, and general administration and expenses.
- c) At the AGM in May each year the Treasurer, or in their absence the President or the Vice President, will present the financial report for the previous year and an update to the membership on a financial forecast for the current year.

6.1 Signing Officers

The President, Treasurer, Vice President, and other Officers designated by the Executive shall be signing officers. The signature of any two, one of whom must be the President or the Treasurer, shall be required to sign cheques or withdrawals or similar. The appointment of signing officers must be recorded in the minutes and must be updated at the bank. The current list of signing officers shall be maintained by the secretary.

Article 7 Meetings of the Society

7.0 The Society shall hold three (3) meetings per year, outside of the Annual General Meeting, for the general membership.

7.1 Executive meetings. These shall take place as often as necessary for the efficient administration of the Society. Executive meetings may take place “virtually” using internet technology, or in person, or as a combination of the two. A vote by a member of the Executive attending virtually has the same validity as a vote of a person attending in person. A quorum for Executive meetings shall be a majority of the officers’ and directors’ positions that are filled.

7.2 Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM shall take place in the month of May each year subject to 14 days notice, for the purpose of transacting the business of the Society and the election of officers and directors in the manner outlined below. A quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall be 15 members of the Society, 18 years of age or older, in good standing.

7.3 Special General Meeting (SGM). Where it is necessary to conduct the business of the Society outside of an AGM, a Special General Meeting (SGM) shall be convened consisting of the Executive and the membership. Notice, quorum and the conduct of business shall be the same as in an AGM.

7.4 Events and functions. Events and functions arranged by the Society are open to all members and their friends and guests. All waivers of liability and protocols for the safety of adults, seniors, youths, and children, must be acknowledged and complied with.

7.5 Nominations and Elections

- a) The election of officers and directors to form the Executive shall take place at the AGM to be held in the month of May each year.
- b) The chair of the nominations committee, or in their absence the President or Vice President, shall act as presiding officer and shall bring forward the slate of officers and directors to be elected. In addition, the presiding officer will call for any nominations from the floor in the customary manner.
- c) If more than one candidate per office is nominated, a vote will take place and be counted by a show of hands. The member receiving a majority of votes shall be declared elected.
- d) The service of elected officers and directors shall commence upon conclusion of the AGM.
- e) Vacancies occurring during the year may be filled by the Executive and be confirmed by a vote at the next AGM.

7.6 Notice Voting and Quorum of AGM

- a) Subject to 14 days notice the AGM shall take place in the month of May each year. Notice shall be given to the membership by Newsletters, ordinary mail, or email. Notice in social media or websites does not constitute sufficient notice of the AGM.
- b) Resolutions or motions coming before the meeting must be advised to the President or the Secretary 7 days in advance of the meeting.
- c) Every adult member, 18 years of age or older, in good standing, shall have one vote and no more. Proxy votes are not permitted.

- d) No business shall be transacted at an AGM unless a quorum of 15 members is present at the commencement of such business.
- e) Voting shall be in the customary manner and where a count is required, it will be done by a show of hands. Decisions shall be by majority vote, with the President voting only in the case of a tie.

7.7 Order of business of AGM

At each AGM, the following items of business shall be dealt with:

- a) Call to order and approval of the agenda
- b) Minutes of last AGM and SGM, if any since last AGM
- c) Acceptance of minutes
- d) Business arising from the minutes/old business
- e) Reports
- f) New business
- g) Election Of Officers and Directors
- h) Adjournment

Article 8 Anniversary Celebration

The Society will celebrate the annual Festival of St. Patrick on or about the seventeenth day of March. The mode of celebrating this Festival annually shall be decided by the Executive.

Article 9 Seal of the Society

The seal to be used by our Society shall be of silver, having engraved thereon the figure of a woman resting on a harp, and bearing in her right-hand a cross surrounded by a wreath, one-half shamrock, and the other half mayflower, with the motto “Ubique Patrium Reminisci,” the whole encircled with the name of the Society, the name of the city of Halifax and the date of the foundation of the Society, 1786.

Article 10 Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution of the Charitable Irish Society of Halifax may be made through an Order in Council of the Legislature of the Province of Nova Scotia.

Amendment to these bylaws may be made at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting convened by the Executive and consisting of the membership and the Executive and subject to a quorum of 15 members, 18 years of age or older, in good standing entitled to vote.

Article 11 Miscellaneous

In all cases not herein provided for, the rules which govern the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia shall prevail.

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# LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE CHARITABLE IRISH SOCIETY SINCE ITS FORMATION

SYMBOL:                      Italics - Names affixed to original articles of  
Association and  
By-laws. (136)

\* --Rejoin

H.M. Honourary members

While several obvious spelling errors in early printed lists of members have been corrected no attempt has been made to make spelling found in early lists of the Society conform to modern practice.

THE FOLLOWING APPEAR TO HAVE JOINED THE CHARITABLE IRISH SOCIETY BETWEEN 17 JANUARY 1786 AND 17 MAY 1788.

## Service Award

As part of the new direction following the adoption of the renewal recommendations, a Service Award was created to acknowledge extraordinary contributions to the Society and the community at large.

|                                                  |                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1992 - Clinton Havey                             | 2019 - Blair Beed                       |
| 1993 - Robert P. Harvey                          | 2020 - Not Awarded - Cancelled COVID 19 |
| 1994 - Hugh McManus                              | 2021 - Not awarded - Cancelled COVID 19 |
| 1995 - Archbishop James Hayes                    | 2022 - Not awarded - Cancelled COVID 19 |
| 1996 - Harold Shea                               | 2023 - Bridget Brownlow                 |
| 1998 - Noreen Murphy                             | - Ann Cosgrove -awarded at AGM          |
| 1999 - Frank "Tusker" O'Neil                     | 2024 - Pauline Scott                    |
| 2000 - Bob Green                                 | 2025 - Sandy Phillips                   |
| 2001 - Derm Dunphy                               |                                         |
| 2004 - Dr. Cyril Bryne                           |                                         |
| 2005 - Daniel Brownlow                           |                                         |
| 2006 - Dennis Ryan                               |                                         |
| 2007 - Paul O'Regan                              |                                         |
| 2008 - Ron Downie Q.C.                           |                                         |
| 2009 - Dr. Brian O'Brien                         |                                         |
| 2010 - Dr. John A.P. Sullivan                    |                                         |
| 2011 - Donahoe Family (225 Anniversary)          |                                         |
| 2012 - J Philip Vaughan                          |                                         |
| 2013 - D. Merlin Nunn Honourable Justice (ret'd) |                                         |
| 2014 - Judge Pat Curran                          |                                         |
| 2015 - Mayor Mike Savage                         |                                         |
| 2016 - Not Awarded                               |                                         |
| 2017 - Chief Justice Joseph P. Kennedy           |                                         |
| 2018 - Fr. Albert Cosgrove                       |                                         |
| - Dr Mary McAleese                               |                                         |

## Scholarship Recipients

It was announced at the 2008 AGM that the CIS scholarship was being established. The executive decided that for 2009 four scholarships would be awarded valued at \$1000.00 each: Two to go to students in their first year of university as well as two to graduation high school students.

|          |                                                                                                                 |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 2009 | Lauren Feindel & Drew Meade<br>(1st year students)<br>Daniel Feehan & Anthony Virgin<br>(high school graduates) |
| May 2010 | Meggie Reardon & Katie Tanner                                                                                   |
| May 2011 | Stephanie McEwan & Daniel Morris                                                                                |
| May 2012 | Hugh Layton & Siobhan Morris                                                                                    |
| May 2013 | Rachel Fogarty, Sarah Martin & Maria Wagner (3 awarded)                                                         |
| May 2014 | Conor Downie & Sandra Murphy                                                                                    |
| May 2015 | Ainsley MacKellar & Kathleen Underhill                                                                          |
| May 2016 | Darcy Brownlow & Michael O'Brien Morris                                                                         |
| May 2017 | Erin Connolly & Conor Savage                                                                                    |
| May 2018 | Ailie Sullivan & Rachel Murphy                                                                                  |
| May 2019 | Caitlin Barry & Laura Connolly                                                                                  |

## Scholarship Recipients

|          |                                    |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| May 2020 | Tom Barry & Quinn MacDonald        |
| May 2021 | Grayson Walker & Stuart White      |
| May 2022 | Lillian Hillyard & Reese MacDonald |
| May 2023 | Lauren Fitzgerald & Matthew O'Neil |
| May 2024 | Kyan Brownlow & Maggie Johnston    |