

Ottawa New Horizons Band

Annual General Meeting

November 27, 2022

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting starting, ONHB members were invited to a special performance by Dr. Christine Carter, acclaimed clarinetist and assistant professor at Memorial University. Dr. Carter presented two excerpts of her performing with the [Iris Trio](#) and shared her research findings on performance psychology. She presented strategies to achieve peak performance, including shifting one's thinking about pre-performance jitters that occur for everyone and modulating one's breathing to calm oneself during performances.

On behalf of ONHB, Cathy Wilcox thanked Dr. Carter for her interesting presentation.

Subsequently, Anne Adair, Vice-Chair, explained how the meeting would proceed over Zoom: members would be muted but could unmute to pose questions or submit questions via the chat function of Zoom.

1. Call to order, introductions, quorum

- Jackie called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and welcomed attendees.
- Jackie highlighted that this was the 6th Annual General Meeting since ONHB had incorporated and an AGM was the means for the board to be accountable to members.
- Jackie introduced the other board members: Anne Adair- Vice Chair; Leslie Scott- Treasurer; Cathy Wilcox – Band Leader Representative; and Sue Christian- Secretary.
- She explained the results of the nomination process held in the fall. Jackie had been the only member to put forward a statement of interest and receive ten nominations, such that she was acclaimed to the board. With one position outstanding, the board approached a few members and Louise Lefort agreed to serve a one-year appointment.
- Jackie also thanked Sue Christian, the outgoing Secretary, for her contributions over the past two years.
- Under the bylaw, 20 members are required for quorum. Danielle Zion confirmed that quorum had been achieved, with 50 voting members present.

2. Approval of the agenda

- There were no requests for changes, the agenda was adopted
- Motion to approve by Anne Adair, seconded by Tony Horava. Carried.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last AGM, held November 21, 2021

- There were no additions or corrections regarding the minutes.
- Motion to approve by Leslie Carlin, seconded by Anne Adair. Carried.

4. Remarks by the chair – Jackie Scheffel

- Jackie provided her reflections over the last year and how significant it had been in returning to in-person rehearsals. This was in large part due to the hard work and dedication of the board and the team of volunteers.
- She highlighted that in 2018-2019 ONHB offered 21 bands and in 2021-2022 the program was back to 17 bands. We were able to meet the demand for in-person seats.
- One challenge for the in-person program was the competition for rehearsal space. Prior to the pandemic, 7 of 9 bands had been in held in high schools. In 2021, ONHB was able to rent space at Woodroffe United Church.
- Developing the protocols was another challenge. ONHB's goal was to be as safe as possible and also fun. ONHB used a variety of sources to develop the protocols - other music groups, public health advice. We have continued to review and update them as the situation evolved.
- The strategy for in-person bands was to start small, with no leveling between bands. The initial 7-week program was well received.
- The virtual program was another good experience and ONHB had participation from across the country. This past year we were able to enhance the zoom experience by adding a Jamulus component.
- A second video compilation was produced, with 50 members participating.
- Jackie closed her remarks by reinforcing ONHB's goal to create a fun, supportive environment, free of competition and intimidation, and the philosophy of "your best is good enough" will continue to be the focus for the year ahead.
- You will find a copy of Jackie's full remarks at [AGM-2022- Remarks-from-the-Chair.pdf \(ottawanewhorizons.com\)](https://ottawanewhorizons.com/AGM-2022-Remarks-from-the-Chair.pdf).

5. Report on the Fall 2022 Session

- Cathy Wilcox provided an update on the virtual program which includes one intermediate jazz band and one intermediate concert band with a Jamulus component.
- The virtual program provides a means for members to continue to meet and play music, and see friends from the comfort of their home.
- Many musicians have expressed gratitude for this option and if there is continued demand, it may be possible to continue with this format.
- Colin Williamson provided an update on the 3rd in-person program held this fall, which consists of five in-person bands: one easy-intermediate concert band, two intermediate concert bands and two intermediate jazz bands.
- He reported this session has been very successful - everyone is enjoying being able to play together again, the Covid-19 protocols have been running smoothly and members have

adapted. The band leaders select a wide range of music and adjust the repertoire based on the abilities and interests of their musicians.

- You will find a copy of Cathy's and Colin's full remarks at [Microsoft Word - AGM 2022 Remarks on Fall 2022 Session.docx \(ottawanewhorizons.com\)](#)

6. Winter 2023 – Anne Adair

- Anne outlined the preliminary plans for Winter 2023. Building on the success of the fall program, the board is looking at a similar winter program: five in-person bands (one easy-intermediate concert, two intermediate concert and two intermediate jazz bands) and two virtual bands (one jazz and one concert).
 - Rehearsals will start the third week of January, with a 10-11 week session.
 - Fees will remain the same at \$190 for in-person and \$90 for virtual.
 - The board will review the covid protocols but we expect them to be very similar.
 - Two changes to highlight: Rocco Romeo's Tuesday night jazz band will move to Brookfield High School. Peter Archibald will be taking a leave and his band will be led by Nick Roy.
 - New this winter session, members will be allowed to register for a second in-person band depending on space and balance after an initial registration period.
 - Virtual bands can have unlimited number of musicians and members are encouraged to invite friends to join.
- Anne concluded by saying that final details would become available in a couple of weeks.

7. Treasurer's report and motion to approve the appointment of the public accountant - Leslie Scott

- Leslie presented three reports: the ONHB 2021-2022 Profit and Loss Statement, ONHB Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2022 and the ONHB 2022-2023 Budget.
- ONHB's revenues in 2021-2022 were approximately \$52K, and expenses were approximately \$51k, for an end of year surplus of around \$1K.
- As of July 31, 2021, ONHB's equity was \$32.5K. Of that, \$32K held in cash allows ONHB the flexibility to pay upfront to reserve accommodations if ever required.
- In terms of the budget for 2022-2023, the projected surplus is \$5k. Planning considerations assume that costs for accommodations are expected to rise. In the event that ONHB runs a shorter session in the spring, we will also reduce fees – these reductions quickly impact ONHB revenues.
- Leslie closed her remarks by stating that ONHB has a good solid financial foundation. Although we had a loss in 2020-2021 and a small profit in 2021-2022, we can still afford to do things.
- Motion to approve the Public Accountant by Leslie Scott. Seconded by Harry Turner. Carried.
- Copies of the Profit and Loss statement for 2021-2022 and the Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2022 are available at [AGM November 2021 :: Ottawa New Horizons Band](#) .

8. Acknowledgements – Cathy Wilcox

- Cathy thanked the many ONHB members who volunteer their time and effort to ONHB.
- She recognized Daphne Picklyk who was very involved at the beginning of ONHB at Dominion Chalmers as the registrar, treasurer, chair of the Steering Committee.
- Cathy thanked ONHB's volunteer coordinator Sarah Meyer and the website team of Peter Garneau, Tomas Hansson, as well as the Library team, led by Jacqueline Pouillet Thompson, with the assistance of Michel Marinier and a team of scanners.
- Cathy recognized the board members – Jackie, Anne, Leslie, Sue, and the newest member – Louise, and her co-band leader rep – Colin Williamson, for their work behind the scenes.
- Cathy acknowledged the team of band leaders: Felicia Persaud, Sheila White, Colin Williamson, Rocco Romeo, with a special thank-you to Peter Archibald for sharing his enthusiastic leadership and many skills during our “reboot” of in-person bands.
- Cathy acknowledged that many ONHB members volunteer their time to make ONHB a success, including the band reps and the volunteers who set up, pack up, and offer support each rehearsal.

9. Questions and Answers

- A question was raised about clinics. A: Clinics are limited to the easy-intermediate band to offer support for a repertoire of 5-6 pieces. ONHB is hoping to restart a beginner band in the fall 2023.
- A question was raised as to why the two virtual bands were on the same night. A: There were various scheduling conflicts and unfortunately it was not possible.
- A question was raised about future concerts. A: ONHB has been taking small steps to move back to performing. Individual bands have held “open rehearsals” for family and friends. In terms of holding larger performances, there are several challenges: finding a venue, hesitancy of large group gatherings still given the ongoing pandemic, the expense and the effort. Moreover, band size is still limited.
- A question was raised about moving Rocco's jazz band Brookfield. A: Brookfield is not as expensive a venue to rent and given the competition for venues, ONHB wanted to reclaim this space.

10. Other business

- There was no other business.

11. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm
- Jackie Scheffel moved to adjourn, seconded by Cathy Wilcox. Carried.