



President's Report

Nova Scotia Band Association – Annual General Meeting 2023

NSBA activities in 2022-2023 include the following:

Newsletters

The NSBA newsletter continues to be a valuable source of information for our members. A new feature of the newsletter is the periodic inclusion of NSBA Life Member profiles. The first life member featured was Jim Ford. NSBA Managing Director Hope Gendron has done excellent work publishing a newsletter at least once a week.

Atlantic Community Band Meetings

Virtual meetings of community band directors from the Atlantic Region have continued this year. Although the frequency of these meetings has decreased they continue to provide a valuable opportunity for collaboration, effective distribution of information and mutual support that is invaluable to the community band directors in our region. Thank you to NSBA Community Band representative Chris Ward for hosting these meetings.

Professional Development/Program Support

The NSBA collaborated with the Newfoundland & Labrador Band Association and the New Brunswick Band Association to present the inaugural Atlantic Wind Band Symposium at the end of March 2022. This event was very well attended and was a great opportunity to work with our fellow Atlantic Band Associations.

The NSBA offered the second annual Winter Band Challenge to help motivate Nova Scotia Band students to keep practicing at home. There were over 100 entries again this year.

Conference

The NSBA was a contributing partner to the Nova Scotia Music Educators Association conference this October. Conference was in-person for the first time since COVID, taking place at Avon View High School in Windsor. The band specific clinicians were Dina Burt, Paul Hutton, Gale Lohnes and Laurie Gorman. They each presented excellent sessions that were very relevant, timely and well received by the conference delegates.

The NSBA is continuing its partnership with the NSMEA and planning for Conference 2023 is well underway.

Awards

The NSBA awarded the 2022 Distinguished Band Director Award to Allison Penwell. This award is the preeminent award presented by the NSBA. Allison is very deserving recipients of this year's award.



The NSBA was pleased to award Gale Lohnes and Laurie Gorman with our Master Teacher Designation for 2022. This award was presented as part of the NSMEA conference in October. Our goal continues to be to encourage our members to take advantage of the mentorship offered by these outstanding educators throughout the school year.



The NSBA was also pleased to award the James Hargreaves Memorial Bursary to Ethan Walter (Glace Bay High School)



The NSBA was very pleased to successfully nominate two of our members for Canadian Band Association national awards. Ardith Haley was awarded the CBA National Band Award and Stephen Muise was awarded a CBA Community Builder Award.



The NSBA was pleased to present four Platinum Jubilee medals in the fall. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Nova Scotia) was created in 2022 by an Order-in-Council and Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the Province, approved by His Honour the Arthur J. LeBlanc, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, representative of The Queen in the Province. The medal was awarded to 5,000 deserving Nova Scotians through collaboration with MLAs, the Canadian Armed Forces, protective services and provincial partners (of which the Nova Scotia Band Association was one) to ensure equitable representation of all regions and all fields of endeavor. The Platinum Jubilee Medal is a tangible way to publicly acknowledge the work of those, who are actively contributing to our province and country and who exhibit similar qualities of dedication and service that were so amply displayed by the late Her Majesty. The four very deserving recipients were Ardith Haley, Keli Brewer, Hope Gendron and Jim Ford.



Honour Ensembles

Nova Scotia Youth Wind Ensemble

The NSYWE had successful rehearsal weekends and in-person concerts in the fall of 2022 and the winter of 2023. There were 55 students in the group this year. Details about the NSYWE season can be found in the NSYWE report.

The NSBA thanks Hope Gendron and the NSYWE committee as well as artistic director Dr. Mark Hopkins for their outstanding work. You can read the full NSYWE report [here](#).



Nova Scotia Junior Wind Ensemble

The NSJWE had a successful season with two rehearsal/performance weekends held in November and March. The ensemble was under the very capable direction of guest conductor Christine Blanchard. Band membership this year was 74 – up dramatically from last year. The NSBA thanks Katelyn Gillis and her executive team for their excellent work as administrators of the Nova Scotia Junior Wind Ensemble.

You can read the full NSJWE report [here](#).



Nova Scotia Honour Jazz

The NSHJ program has had two of its three weekend sessions planned for this year with the third to be held this spring. Enrollement has double this year to over 50 participants. Thank you to Nick Fisher and the NSHJ committee for their great work administering the honour jazz program. You can read the NSHJ report [here](#).



Rural Youth Band Summit

The NSBA is very pleased to see the return of the Rural Youth Band Summit which is scheduled to take place this spring. This event brings together smaller band programs from around the province so that they can combine forces to play repertoire that they may not have been able to otherwise. This is the first time this event will be held since before COVID. It is great to see it back.



Beginner Band Spark

On May 13 five beginner band workshops will be held concurrently in five different locations around Nova Scotia. (Halifax, Dartmouth, Wolfville, New Glasgow and Glace Bay) These events will feature full band workshops lead by one of the NSBA master teacher designates as well as instrument specific sectionals. The goal is to reinforce essential skills and generate enthusiasm.



NSBA 360

The NSBA undertook a comprehensive review of the roles and responsibilities of each executive position as well as a review of the operations and management of all NSBA projects and honour ensembles. The goal of this project is to provide clarity, consistency and continuity to the organization as it looks to the future. The bulk of this project has been completed and will be fully completed in the coming months.

The project tasks include the following:

1) Managing Director Contract

The NSBA executive (President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary) developed a contract that defines the roles and responsibilities of the managing director. The contract will also include the proposed remuneration for the ED and the effective dates of the contract. The NSBA was pleased to offer this contract to Hope Gendron who we are happy to report accepted the contract.

2) Executive Briefing Documents

The NSBA president and executive director will collaborate with each of the individuals currently occupying one of the executive offices. The goal will be to create a document that clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of each office. This will facilitate the proper execution of the responsibilities of each office and ensure continuity when a new person assumes each office.

As of now all of these documents have been completed except the secretary and president documents. Those should be completed by this coming fall.

3) Honour Ensembles Management Review

The management team of each honour ensemble (NSYWE, NSJWE & NSHJ) will collaborate with the NSBA president to conduct a thorough review of their management structure. The goal will be to establish clear roles and responsibilities for honour ensemble committee members, expectations regarding reporting of financials and the development of a contract for each honour ensemble manager.

This task is underway and should be completed later this year.

4) NSBA Special Projects Review and Assignment of Responsibilities

A director or team of directors for each of the following NSBA programs has been established. These directors have the responsibility to execute the function of each project independent of the NSBA executive but with collaboration/support from the President and Executive Director as needed. Project

directors report to the NSBA executive at regular executive meetings. If necessary directors may need to be recruited from outside of the NSBA executive and members at large.

- a) Communications
- b) Awards
- c) Honouring Dale Lonis Project
- d) Beginner Band Spark
- e) Master Teacher Project
- f) Rural Youth Band Summit
- f) NSBA Mini Camps/Workshops
- g) Remedial Method Courses
- h) Conference Coordinator/NSMEA liason
- i) Nova Scotia Music Education Council Representative
- j) Socials and Sharing
- k) Membership
- l) Atlantic Community Band Leaders Cohort
- m) National Youth Band 2024

The objective of establishing project teams is to spread the work load. Project teams are encouraged to recruit help from other NSBA members. NSBA members who are interested in serving on a project team are welcome to do so. If you are interested please let the President or Managing Director know.

National Youth Band 2024

The 2024 National Youth Band will be held in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia – April 28 to May 4, 2024. Planning for this event is well underway. The NYB will be rehearsing and performing two concerts in PEI before moving on to Nova Scotia where five more performances will take place.

Respectfully submitted by:
Steve Hartlen
NSBA President