



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Orillia Museum of Art and History

Date 25 June, 2025

Present: Ninette Gyorody (ED), Matt Jenkins, Don Philip (Secretary), J-L Durnford, Jessica Allen, Doug Frost, Steph Dunn, Abby Sirisegaram-Cole

Regrets:

Guests: Nicholas Jennings, guest speaker.

Others: Museum members, Staff

Agenda item	• Details	• Comments
Welcome/Chair	• 6:08 p.m.	•
Agenda	• Speaker • Election of new Directors	•
Guest Speaker	• Nicholas Jennings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is Canada's top music journalist and bestselling author of <i>Lightfoot</i>, the ultimate biography of Gordon Lightfoot. • He discussed his relationship with Gordon Lightfoot, and his book. • He discussed his use of photographs to elicit memories and stories from Gordon Lightfoot., and how Lightfoot turned the book over to Jennings to complete. • He turned the session over to the audience for questions.
	• Questions	• He was asked how Lightfoot resisted the pressure to move to the US. Jennings noted that he was spending so

		<p>much time touring in the US, that he didn't feel the need to move.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was there a time when he didn't come back to Orillia for a reason? • No, not really. He loved the anonymity Toronto provided, and that wasn't present in Orillia, but otherwise, he was just too busy. • Did he realize how unique and talented he was? • Jennings replied that he asked him that, and he really didn't understand how famous and influential he was. He was also very shy, and drinking played a role in relieving this, but it did become a problem. He also had affairs on the road, but this changed later on. • Lightfoot later talked about being in a state of repentance for the problems drink and affairs caused. • Lightfoot also talked about how whisky was a tool for his writing. • His former band members were at the exhibit opening, and they said that if Lightfoot could get a piece right, he would rip it up. Jennings agreed, and said that there were perhaps thousands of these. Lightfoot also took a sledgehammer to a set of records that displeased him. • It was noted that Lightfoot could actually write out his own music (in musical notation). (NOTE: Often in this period, songwriters could only write out their lyrics, but could not notate the music). • There was a question about why Lightfoot did not donate more of his effects to the city or Museum? He planned to send many of his effects to the National Archives in Ottawa, but his health problems got in the way. Fortunately, people stepped up and many of the artefacts were donated to various archives, etc. (including OMAH).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved to adopt the Agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M/S: Jessica/Scott

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved to adopt the minutes of the June 2024 meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M/S: ?/Jessica
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the year/Chair's report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trish thanked various members and discussed the events of the past year. Trish thanked the ED and Staff for their hard and effective work. We have returned a large number of items from our collection to the Chippewas of Rama First Nation, as we believe that this is where they belong.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doug Frost, Treasurer's Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The audit has been completed as normal. We have received a significant donation to acquire Lightfoot artefacts and to create a permanent Lightfoot exhibit. Doug discussed pour balance sheet. The large Lightfoot donation affected our balance sheet, that money was spent as per and the donor's wishes. Discussion of the financial report. We have some grants receivable that we will not get until next year. We are in a deficit in our Operating Fund due to emerging from Covid. This is expected and will take time. Our donation numbers are up, thanks to efforts from Vanessa and Ninette. Grant Revenue is significant (≈\$300,000). This has proceeded from 2023 to the present. Program revenues are doing very well. We thank the City for their support, without which we could not continue. Discussion. Motion to accept the Financial Statement: M/S: Ted/Scott Moved that we reapply: M/S: ?/Deb.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Report: Abby Sirisegaram-Cole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key changes: We've adjusted our number of directors. • We added our Director formally for the bank • We clarified that our City Rep is a non-voting member. • We adjusted Membership classes. • She thanks the Governance committee • Motion to approve the Membership By-Law: M/S: ?/Steph. • Motion to accept our Articles of Incorporation: M/S: Janet/? • Board Nominees: Abby presented information about each. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kyle Peacock ○ Daniel Greaves ○ Joanne Warren • Moved to accept the new applicants to the Board: M/S: Ted/Steph • All accepted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trish thanked the outgoing Board members for their valuable contributions: Scott Allington, Deb Burrell, Shannon Jackman, and Doug Frost. They will be missed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ED Report: Ninette Gyorody 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report's focus is 2024, but just touches on the highlights. There is much more. • Infographic • Discussion. • Ninette discussed some of the exhibits from 2024. • ORAH Awards: Trish presented the music award to ? Boscoe. • Museum in a Box program: Telus funded this, and we have been using it. • Art Kits for Children, funded by the County of Simcoe: We have sent 60 out at this time. • Discussion. • We had OMAH's 25th Anniversary Celebration.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ninette is proud and grateful for the work done and how it has come out. • She praised the team, supporters and donors. •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Business: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The History Committee wish to recognize the Founders of OMAH. They interviewed these founders and published these on the OMAH website. The current Mariposa Gallery will be renamed the Founders' Gallery. •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trish moved to adjourn the meeting: 7:58 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion carried.
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June, 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •