

**Okanagan Historical Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
20 September 2025
Okanagan Regional Library,
1380 Ellis St., Kelowna, BC**

AGENDA

1. "Notice of Call". 50 members attended.
2. **MOTION:** That the minutes of the April 21, 2024, annual general meeting be adopted as displayed on the Okanagan Historical Society website.
Moved: Neil Woolliams. Seconded David Gregory. Carried
3. Business arising from the minutes. None
4. Correspondence. None
5. Reports of Table Officers. Read as submitted.
 - a) President - Lois Marshall.
 - b) Secretary – Karen Collins / Maggie Ricciardi.
 - c) Treasurer – Lois Marshall for Bob Cowan. Verbal.

In Bob's absence Lois presented highlights of report. Giovana De Bruin respectfully expressed concerns about discrepancies in Financial Report.

Lois asked John and Anya of ITS Accounting to stand. They will work with Amrita, previously Treasurer and CA for OHS, to return financials to QuickBooks. There will be new statements next year.

- d) Editor - Ken Mather.

Ken read brief bio for and introduced Gwyneth Evans as the as the next editor of the Annual Report.

Branch Reports. Read as submitted.

- e) Oliver / Osoyoos - Larry Shannon.
- f) Penticton - Karen Collins.
- g) Summerland – David Gregory.
- h) Kelowna - Margot Pridham.
- i) Vernon – Clint Evans.
- j) Armstrong / Enderby – Lois Marshall for Bob Cowan.
- k) Salmon Arm -Barbara Raynor for Linda Painchaud.

6. Committee Reports. Read as submitted.
 - a) Father Pandosy – Lois Marshall for Domenic Rampone.
 - b) Essay Contest – Lois Marshall for Kaitlyn Dhesi.
 - c) Website - Lois Marshall. Verbal.

Updates to website include the new OHS logo, Alix Hawley's Two Lives podcasts and the Centennial Map Project by Barbara Raynor. Still to be worked on are online donations and book payments.

d) Index – Lois Marshall for Joan Cowan.
Joan Cowan and Faith Hudson will continue as Index Committee.

e) Membership – Lois Marshall for Carmen Kirkland.
Question: Now many members does OHS have?
306 – not all members are listed in 89th Report. Includes regular members, Life Members and Institutions.

MOTION: Motion to accept all reports as presented.
Moved: Lois Marshall. Seconded Larry Shannon.
Giovana De Bruin opposed the Financial Report.

8. Unfinished Business
a) None

9. New Business
a) Father Pandosy Mission
Father Pandosy Motion Background: The Diocese of Nelson owns the land that the Father Pandosy Mission is located on. OHS holds a lease. Governance of the Father Pandosy Mission site has been an issue for many years as OHS' mandate is preserving historical stories. Other organizations like the Central Okanagan Heritage Society (COHS) have a mandate to preserve heritage buildings. OHS received a grant from the City of Kelowna to review the governance of the Father Pandosy Mission. This report was prepared by Wayne Wilson, August 31, 2019.
A meeting of the Father Pandosy Committee was called September 12, 2019, to discuss the Father Pandosy Mission, Governance Review and Recommendations ("The Review"), written by Wayne Wilson, dated August 31, 2019, and commissioned by the OHS Executive Council.

Recommendation 1

That the Okanagan Historical Society work with the current owner of the Father Pandosy Mission site, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nelson (through Bishop Gregory Bittman), to have the site transferred to the City of Kelowna and have the site operated by the Kelowna Museums Society

Recommendation 2

That the Okanagan Historical Society work with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nelson, through Bishop Gregory Bittman, to terminate the lease on the Father Pandosy Mission site and wind up any and all responsibility for the operation of the Father Pandosy Mission

Motion: Moved by Bob Hayes and Seconded by Chris Jennens that "The Review" be accepted as prepared, and that the OHS Executive Council move forward with Recommendation No. 1. Discussion about the two recommendations. Domenic Rampone offered and agreed to facilitate the discussions between all concerned parties, in particular the Bishop for the Dioceses of Nelson, the City of Kelowna, and the OHS Executive Council. Motion Carried.

Domenic Rampone, as OHS Director and facilitator for OHS has been trying to move this recommendation forward since the report was presented, but without success. Bob Cowan, Treasurer for OHS, presented a motion to the Executive at the Feb 23, 2025, Executive Council meeting that the site be returned to the Church. This motion

carried.

The motion is now being presented to the membership for a final vote before notice to end the lease is given to the church. (**Recommendation No. 2**)

February 23, 2025:

Committee Reports - (Directors at Large)

a) Father Pandosy - Domenic Rampone. Submitted

There are only enough funds left in the Father Pandosy account to last one to two months. The only source of revenue is donations. The cost of managing the site is approximately \$8000 per year. The motions are to be taken to the AGM.

MOTION: That we turn the Father Pandosy Mission site over to the Church, giving them the required six months' notice.

Moved: Bob Cowan. Seconded, Domenic Rampone. Carried.

Discussion on history of relationship with Caretaker of about 15-20 years and what would be considered adequate formal notice. Dom said that the Caretaker is aware of what OHS decision might be but this was not a formal notice. The Church will have to decide what to do and may consider keeping him on but that is not up to OHS.

MOTION: In the interim, the OHS picks up all bills for Father Pandosy Mission until the AGM Motion.

Moved: Bob Cowan. Seconded, Domenic Rampone. Carried.

9. **MOTION:** To terminate the Father Pandosy Mission lease and provide six months' notice returning responsibility back to the church.

Moved: David Gregory. Seconded Mary Trainer. Carried.

Question: Does the OHS insurance have any ties to the Father Pandosy Mission? No, it does not.

10. Election of the Board. Larry Shannon conducted the election of officers. Lois called for any additional candidates three times.

MOTION: To accept the names presented as our new board. Larry Shannon. Seconded Gwyneth Evans. Carried.

The following officers were elected.

Chris Hive

Craig Jones

Dale Kermode

Karen Collins

Lois Marshall

7. Complimentary Resolutions.

Thank you to Bob Cowan especially for his decades of service, but also Carmen Kirkland for her contributions to the OHS. (both from Armstrong-Enderby Branch) To recognize Ken Mather for his contribution as Book Editor. Gwyn Evans was asked to stand as the incoming Editor. Gwyneth made a presentation to Ken on behalf of OHS.

Thank you Faith Hudson for her ongoing work with Joan Cowan on the Index.

Thank you to Eric Hudson for his work on our website.

8. Announcements

a) Life memberships:

Larry Shannon vice-president of the Oliver-Osoyoos Branch and Maggie Ricciardi Director of the Penticton Branch presented Karen Collins with her April 2024 Life Membership.

b) 2026 AGM

10:00 am, Sunday, April 26, 2026

Summerland Waterfront Resort

13011 Lakeshore Drive Summerland

9. Adjournment 4:11 pm

Okanagan Historical Society - Annual General Meeting
Kelowna Okanagan Regional Library, Ellis St.
Saturday, Sept 20, 2025, 2 pm

President's Message

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting, hosted by the Kelowna Branch.

Thank you to our membership, for your support and continued contributions to the Okanagan Historical Society (OHS) and to your communities. And thank you to all our dedicated Executive Council members who have spent countless hours (most over decades of service), contributing to OHS; your communities, and OHS value your contributions in keeping Okanagan history alive.

We have some Executive Council members who are retiring. I would specifically like to highlight Bob Cowan, who has held many roles over the years, including Armstrong-Enderby Branch president, OHS Report Editor, and most recently Treasurer. Bob, with Joan at his side, has stewarded OHS finances to our current balance. Thank you, Bob, for your years of service to OHS.

Thank you to Ken Mather, our "Okanagan History" report editor. Even though he moved to the coast, he continued with OHS to produce our commemorative 100th Anniversary (89th report) and, as guest Editor for BC History Magazine, he highlighted Okanagan history for our province. Sales of the report are going well, so don't wait too long if you haven't already picked one up from your local branch. Ken also spent this year mentoring Gwyneth Evans, who will take on the role of OHS Editor next year.

2025 marks the Okanagan Historical Society's 100th anniversary - a momentous occasion. Centennial activities include a valley-wide celebration event tonight, at the Mary Irwin Theater in Kelowna, featuring Chief Clarence Louie; a commemorative "Okanagan History" book for our 89th report with colour photos courtesy of a generous donation by Oliver-Osoyoos member, Joanne Emery; a centennial map project led by the Salmon Arm branch; various local branch speaker events, and new and updated digital initiatives including the new logo. Most recently Alix Hawley, novelist and librarian, partnered with OHS on her MLIS project, a publicly accessible podcast series titled "Two Lives". Each of the episodes looks at two people, one Syilx or Metis and one settler, in the Okanagan during the 1800s. The podcast will be available on our OHS website as well as other audio sites like Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

The Father Pandosy Mission site governance is important for OHS. Domenic Rampone, as OHS representative, has been working to facilitate the transition of the site to the City of Kelowna, but progression continues to remain very slow in 2025. Conservation work began on the site as a result of funding OHS received from the federal government through the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) grant (\$78,158). That work is now complete. This federal grant was important for the preservation of the site, but funding general operations continues to be a great burden for OHS. OHS no longer has the volunteers or the operating budget

to maintain this heritage property through its lease with the Diocese of Nelson.

As you are aware, our branch health has been suffering these last few years. Our membership and branch leadership have been aging. We've taken the last few years to review our governance, our mission and goals, and our bylaws. We believe these governance changes will allow the OHS to continue to function in today's evolving landscape, and I look forward to helping OHS grow membership and remain relevant to our communities.

Respectfully submitted,
K. Lois Marshall