



# AGM MINUTES

**LOCATION:**

Zoom conferencing: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, each participant connected by telephone at their respective homes. Please see participant list attached.



**COASTERS 27TH GENERAL  
MEETING & 32ND  
ANNIVERSARY**

*Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021*

*9:30am – 1:00 am*



**COASTERS  
ASSOCIATION**  
UNITED FOR A BETTER FUTURE

**Approval of date for General Meeting - Shannon Keats, Executive Assistant**

**Motion 1:**

WHEREAS the Coasters Association by-laws stipulate that the auditor’s report must be completed and approved by the board of directors before being presented to the annual general meeting within three (3) to six (6) months after the end of the fiscal year (March 31st);

WHEREAS the auditor’s report was only completed and approved by the board of directors at the January 2021 meeting (4 months late) due to the difficulties in completing documentation within the six-month period under the current pandemic circumstances.

ON A MOTION duly proposed by Dale Keats and seconded by Juel Chouinard, the annual general meeting of the Coasters Association agrees to receive the 2019-2020 audited financial statements for the purposes of review and approval at the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Coasters Association held on Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021. All in favor

**Motion Carried**

**Opening Prayer – Shannon Keats, Executive Assistant**

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Dear Lord, we are meeting today to conduct matters of business. Send us Your Spirit and be present among us in the mouths of all who speak, in the ears of all who listen, and in we all say or do. Help us to make decisions that are for the good of all and guard us from self-interest.

Guide us in the importance of working together for the betterment of the Lower North Shore. Give us the insight to lead with integrity that our decisions may reflect what is right and good and help us to honour one another in a courteous manner.

We thank you for the successful outcomes of our organization, for our staff and for our amazing partners. We ask you to bless them abundantly as well all continue to seek your wisdom, guidance, courage, and strength.

Help us to be wise in the decisions we make for the good of all those who have placed their trust and confidence in our leadership. Thank you for being our continued source of guidance.

Amen

**Opening Remarks - Eileen Schofield, President, Coasters Association**

Ms. Schofield welcomed the guests and thanked them for giving of their time to be present. She noted that it was nice to see so many faces and hear so many voices in these challenging times. Zoom has been a blessing and thanks to Telus high speed internet, which enables everyone to participate in the AGM. Having so many participants is a testament to all the work that the Coasters do. She noted that the prayer was beautiful and words that we all should live by.

**Encouraging words from Christopher Skeete, Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers**

Mr. Skeete noted how pleased he was to participate in the meeting. That after his last visit, he spoke with his colleges about the needs of the region and have been working hard to ensure that we get the infrastructures that are needed in the region. He mentioned that seeing what the Coasters has accomplished thus far and what Kimberly had done with modest funding, he can only imagine what the organization could do with proper access. His job as an elected official is to see that the region acquires what it needs to succeed. He ensure all participants that he would return to the coast again once the pandemic is over and travel is allowable. He concluded his speech by wishing all a successful meeting.

**Words from Randy Jones, MRC Prefet, & Mayor of the Municipality of Gros Macatina**

Mr. Jones asked everyone to take a moment of silence for all those who have died from the Covid-19 pandemic this past year and how it changed everyone’s life. He noted that he was pleased to be present and can only stay for a while because he had an upcoming meeting with the federal government regarding the food supply on the Lower North Shore, specifically to address why it is not getting to the region and the high cost. He noted that he has been working with and for the Coasters since its inception and has been to almost all the Coasters Associations’ Annual General Meetings. He closed by wishing everyone a successful meeting.

**Introduction of Guests** – Priscilla Griffin introduced participating guest. (Attached participant list)

**Business Meeting (February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021)**

**Chair - Hugh Maynard**

**Secretary of Meeting – Priscilla Griffin**

Mr. Maynard called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION 2:**

It was proposed by Juel Chouinard and seconded by Tony Roberts,

THAT the agenda of the Business meeting of the Coasters Association’s Annual General meeting of Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021 be approved. All in favor

***Motion Carried***

**Approval of Annual General Meeting minutes (March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020)**

**MOTION 3:**

It was proposed by Juel Chouinard and seconded by Eileen Scofield,

THAT the Coasters Association Annual General Meeting minutes of March 19th, 2020 be approved. All in favor

***Motion Carried***

**Business Arising**

There was no questions or comments.

**Approval of Annual Report (2019-2020)**

Cornella Maurice, Priscilla Griffin and Shannon Keats gave a summary of the Executive Director’s Annual report. (Report on file)

**MOTION 4:**

It was proposed by Juel Chouinard and seconded by Mickael Lambert.

THAT the Annual Report (2019-2020) of the Coasters Association be approved. All in favor

**Motion Carried**

**Follow-up to report (2019 – 2020)**

The follow-up to the report was summarized by the Executive Director and staff. (Report on file)

**Questions & Answer Period**

There were no questions or comments.

**Approval of Auditor’s report (March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020)**

The auditor could not participate in the Annual General Meeting, therefore, he recommended that James Buckle, Director of Finance read the Auditor’s Report.

**MOTION 5:**

It was proposed by Tony Roberts and seconded by Juel Chouinard

THAT the Auditor’s Report (March 31, 2020) of the Coasters Association be approved. All in favor

**Motion Carried**

**Questions & Answer period**

There were no questions regarding the Auditor’s report.

**No items under Varia**

Business meeting ended at 11:21

**Launch of the Coastal/Leadership/Partnership Summits report**

Kayla and Kimberly presented a brief overview of the Leadership/ Partnership Summits. Kimberly noted that Priscilla will be forwarding the PowerPoint presentation following the assembly. She explained that they are providing a brief overview, however, a more in-depth report is being completed and will be available in both languages later in March.

It was noted that all the summits went extremely well and there was great participation. Nine

community sessions were held, twenty-three (23) hours of consultations and twenty-five (25) plus participants at each session. The Leadership Summit consisted of two (2) day sessions, plus two (2) hours of community building and seventy-two (72) participants at each session. The partnership summits consisted of two (2) day sessions, ten (10) plus partnerships highlighted, ten (10) local panelist and eight-two (82) participants at each session. An overview of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats was completed with each community. A few key documents and reports were shared during the summit such as the social development framework, community profiles, etc... The documents will be forwarded to all the participants as soon as the report is finalized. (Power point on file) Kimberly expressed thanks to the team who were crucial in the planning, preparation, and implementation of the sessions and thanks to Shelley who was crucial in taking care of the logistics and presenting.

### **Next steps**

Focus on the Community Wellness Strategy for participating communities /municipalities:

### **Priorities identified:**

**LEARN:** Increase understanding of how policy and planning impact the community and population health, and the wellbeing and the current state of their community. Also, increase understanding of how to better promote favorable environments through policy and planning.

**ENGAGE & COLLABORATE:** Convene, engage, and develop shared leadership and action between local governments, Lower North Shore Coalition for Health partners, and other sectors that influence public policy and the development of community wellness strategies.

**TAKE ACTION:** Develop and implement healthy community policies or plans, or review official community plans or other strategic plans, using a favorable environment and equity lens to promote positive community well-being and development. Share these strategies (and the lessons learned) with other communities around the Lower North Shore so it works better together to develop a thriving region.

### **Comments:**

- Eileen wanted to thank the team for a great job.
- Hugh noted that he took part in the session and he was impressed and felt that it is a model to be shared.

### **Message from Marilène Gill, MP for Manicouagan**

Ms. Gill sent a video that was shown to all. She sent greetings to all the communities of the Lower North Shore and noted that she is always happy to follow-up with the region and its leaders. She apologized for not being able to be present, but her colleague, James Blanchette, will be participating on her behalf. She wished the Coasters a very productive AGM.

### **Centre d' experimentation et de developpement en forest boreale (CEDFOB)**

Mr. Cosgrove noted that they are incredibly happy with their working partnership on the Lower North Shore and with Coasters, and that this partnership will evolve. Shae-Lynn provided an overview of the organization. They have been active on the Lower North Shore since 2014 and have full time staff on the Lower North Shore since 2017. In 2020, they had three staff in the region, a

researcher (herself), a technician and a student in Gros Mecatina. Over the past few years, they have invested over forty thousand dollars in the lab infrastructure in Gros Macatina. And northern research center

Thanks to funding from the MRGSLC and CRSNG they will be able to invest twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in a laboratory in Bonne Esperance which will help advance some of the files they are working on and will be available to enterprises across the Lower North Shore. Thirty thousand (\$30,000) to the Coasters to help with their engagement in the research. The Coasters is a key partner when it comes to the development in the region and CEDFOB is happy to continue this partnership. Also, they secured two hundred and seventy-seven thousand (\$277,000) dollars from CRNSG from 2020 to 2022 to support enterprises across the Lower North Shore. Funding will extend past 2022, but it is the budget they must work with at this time.

Another big announcement is the infrastructure project in Baie Comeau, which will benefit the entire region. They have many partners and estimate that the building will be running by 2022. They noted that they are planning on hiring six new staff for 2021-2022 on the Lower North Shore, continue with new developments in Northern Quebec, and Ferme Rigolet and continue to work in Gros Mecatina and Bonne Esperance.

#### **Place aux Jeunes - Latesha Fequet, Migration Agent**

Latesha gave a brief overview of the project that the Place aux Jeunes is currently working on. She thanked the H.O.M.E. committee which consists of the Centre de Service Scolaire du Littoral (CSSL), CEDEC, MRC, CISSSCN and the Coasters Association for their efforts in establishing the Place aux Jeunes on the Lower North Shore, a lot has been accomplished since she started in September 2020.

They have been working on a youth hub (for ages 15 to 35) and a project was submitted to the Secretariat a la Jeunesse, to build an infrastructure on the Lower North Shore. It will be a center where youth can gather around innovation, technology, entrepreneurship, education, and training, with a focus on mental health and wellness. It will connect Anglophone, French and Aboriginal youth in the region. Many support letters were provided by partners, MRC, Municipality of Bonne Esperance, CISSSCN, CSSL, CEDEC, and the Steel River Group. Ten (10%) percent was required and through the partners nineteen (19%) percent was received. Still not sure if the project will be accepted.

Another project was a request to Place aux Jeunes to obtain some surplus funds to be able to develop some promotional material. Through this they are hoping to get some photography and video of the region, to help in the promotion, retaining and enticing people to come to the region. Steel River Group and CEDEC supported this project with both in kind and monetary contribution.

#### **CHSSN - Russ Keuber**

Russ provided a brief overview of programs that are funded through CHSSN.

- He noted that the youth program Bright Beginnings has another two years of funding, however, there will be a decrease in the funding. Russ shared that the Early Childhood program (PACE), funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, will be refunded for a few more years.
- For wellness centers an announcement was made a year ago of funding, and its still in the

works, not sure how it will be distributed.

- The NPI program still has another two years of funding through our road map and official languages, it will keep going.
- Mental Health project was applied for to the Le Secrétariat de la Jeunesse, to support young adults, 15 to 29. CHSSN is hoping to hear soon.

### **Annalise Jensen, Anglophone Secretariat**

Ms. Jensen was unable to participate at the last minute due to another important commitment.

### **Recommendations and/or remarks from participants.**

- Val Clarke, Lions international, thanked Cornella for providing her an opportunity to speak. She noted that the Coasters Association is all about partnership and so is Lions International. She noted that there is a Lions club in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance and Blanc Sablon. The club in Bonne Esperance has only four members and requires support. Because of Covid-19 they have not been able to come to assist them to get their club up and running. She noted that they have applied to Lions International and have the club under a protective status until they can come help.
- Charles Taker, from the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, noted that a white paper came out around the modernization of the Official Languages act, he suggested that everyone should read it.
- Darlene Rowsell Roberts, Administrator, Municipalité of the Côte-Nord-du-Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent, thanked the Coasters Association and the partners around the table for all the hard work being done for the wellbeing and development of the region.
- Peter Stastny, CEDEC, noted that they have been working with the Coasters for many years and he is amaze at all the work that is being done by a group dedicated people and they are proud to help and support in any way they can.
- Kathleen Blanchard, President, Intervale Associates Inc., is hoping that the Coasters Association can help spread the word on the importance of the sea bird sanctuary. She has some tools they can share, one of which is a poster, and partners can have their logo on the poster, they have copies of the Home of the Birds, video clips and presentation that are recorded. She also expressed how please she was to see the growth of the Coasters association and the work they have done and are doing.
- Trent Fequet, CEO of Steel River Group had to leave the meeting prior to the recommendations and remarks of participants, however, he informed following the AGM, that the Steel River Group will continue to support the Coasters Association in a number of capacities.

### **Tribute to Lenora Keats - Office Secretary**

In December, the Coasters lost one of its treasured employees, Lenora Keats, office Secretary of 29 years, to Cancer. Followed messages from the Coasters Association's Executive Director and the president was a video remembering and honoring her and what she meant to the Association, board, and staff. (Video on file)

### **Cornella Maurice, Executive Director**

Lenora has been my right arm for 28 years (1992), and there have been times that I don't know what I would have done without her. The endless days and nights of trying to meet deadlines were

made easier - having her by my side. We have accomplished more together than anyone could have ever imagined.

Back in 1993 we lost everything to a fire, relocated our office 5 times over the years, tragedies within the board and staff, employees going out on maternity leave, but we have had more laughter than tears.

Lenora was the pleasant voice behind the phone “when Medrick Maurice, would call to speak to Band number 780345, she would say I guess you want to speak to Cornella. We could hear her loud laughter when Randy Jones would call or leave a message or ask to speak to Nellie.

I would hear her singing at the office when I arrived in the morning – the Coasters had their very own band (Lenora, Shannon, Shelley, Heidi & Faye). We were like the Waltons, one big happy Coaster family.

In the last two years, either in the office or by phone, she would say “What did you just tell me to do” I can’t remember – my answer was I can’t remember either. She said two of us don’t make one anymore”. Every time the phone rings I think of her. Lenora wasn’t just a co-worker, she was a dear friend, like a younger sister or an older daughter. She was so strong, touched so many lives, an inspiration to us all. We loved her dearly!

#### **Eileen Schofield, President**

It is with extremely heavy hearts we announce that on December 12th, 2020, the Coasters Association and our community lost a treasured individual within our organization to cancer, our Office Secretary, Lenora Keats.

Lenora was an employee of the Coasters for almost 29 years. She was dedicated to her job, hardworking, friendly, considerate, and supportive not only to the organization but to the residents of the communities we serve. So many people were touched by her kindness and generosity. Always with a smile, and always the first one to help when asked. Lenora was not only an employee but a member of the Coasters family. She was a gifted singer, funny, charismatic, a true Montreal Canadians fan and had such a love for not only her family but for the Coasters family as well.

Lenora battled brain cancer like the fighter she was, never giving up and never giving in. She truly was an inspiration as she soldiered through some of the toughest times a person can experience. She is survived by her husband, Bobby and her children, Jordan and Jerzie as well as her family.

Lenora “Norrie” Keats will be missed beyond measure; however, she will live on in her children and in the stories, we tell and memories we share.

On behalf Board of Directors and staff of the Coasters Association

#### **Words from the Mayor- Roderick Fequet Municipality of Bonne Esperance**

Mr. Fequet reflected on the fact that a significant amount of work has been done over the last several decades to address the economic and social well-being of the isolated and vulnerable communities on the Lower North Shore, however, there is a lot that still needs to be done. He felt that the Lower North Shore is well positioned to move forward with solutions that are tailored to



meet its reality, solutions that in large part, are the results of innovative and forward-thinking organizations such as the Coasters Association and its partners.

He noted that the future of the Lower North Shore will not be created by one person or one organization, but one person or one organization can be the catalyst to move us all forward to a more successful and prosperous future and he felt that the Coasters Association and its staff are that catalyst. Their ongoing efforts to build strategic partnerships with government as well as the private and non-profit sectors is yielding results, results that have the potential of exponential growth for our region. Additionally, the Coasters Association approach to attracting and retaining talented individuals is the glue holding it all together.

He shared that if we wish to reverse the decades long decline in the population and economy, one must be open to adjusting the ways in which we work and live, and we must be able to question each other's policies and practices without prejudice to ensure that the efforts are tailored to meet the realities. Change is not just a good idea; it is a necessity. He was pleased to say that the Coasters Association and its partners continue to make great strides in changing and shaping the future of the Lower North Shore into a region that is becoming increasingly more vibrant, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable place in which to live.

As Mayor of the Municipality of Bonne-Espérance he was proud of the efforts the Coasters Association and its partners have made to unite the Lower North Shore for a better future, and he felt excited about the continued positive impact they will have going forward. He Congratulated the Coasters Association on all that has accomplished over the last thirty-two years and on what they are about to do.

#### **Wrap-up - Hugh Maynard**

Coasters has shown once again that they can mobilize the community despite the challenges posed by geography and distance. Even under regular circumstances it takes a lot of effort to ensure good governance and active participation from the members and community. The work that has been done over the last few years has been remarkable. Zoom has been another tool and a way to connect, especially when dealing with weather and travel, and he suggested that even when we get back to a normal to continue using these tools.

#### **Closing Remarks - Eileen Schofield –**

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for participating in the 27 AGM of the Coasters Association. Over these 32 years, the Coasters has worked tirelessly for the improvement of quality of life of the citizens living on the Lower North Shore of Quebec.

I believe one of the many factors in their success is their ability to work so synergistically with their many partners. Their partnership with the Littoral School Center, The CISSSCN, MRC, CEDEC, QCGN, Cedfob, CHSSN, the five municipality, and the Steel River Group. And this list does not include the organizations and Government Departments already highlighted today, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Heritage, and the Anglophone Secretariat. Each partner plays a different role in achieving successful initiatives on the territory. I also want to express my thanks to the many people who volunteer their time to help promote the Coasters Association, and I would like to give a special mention such as Hugh Maynard and Juel Chouinard who are so generous with their time and expertise. Thank-You so much.

Under the strong leadership of the Executive Director, Cornella Maurice, the many strengths of the team have brought about innovative approaches to the social and economic challenges that the Coast faces. Kimberly Buffitt worked tirelessly, or as she calls it “dated” many universities to pilot the first distance master’s program on the territory. The Coasters spearheaded many internship programs again with the intent to bring educated youth back home, this strategy of bringing youth back to the territory to work in their fields of study has brought new sense of hope for the villages who has experienced “brain drain” for so many years. I want to pick up on something Cornella said, “Never Give Up and Never give in”, this is the modus operandi of the Coasters Association. Their perseverance and with the continued support of the many partners I believe we will continue to see many more successful initiatives in the near future. Thank you very much, have a nice day and stay well.

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Eileen Schofield

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Date

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Priscilla Fequet Griffin, Secretary

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Date



**Coasters 27<sup>th</sup> General Meeting & 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary**  
**February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 ∞ 9:30 am-1:00 am (LNS time)**

**AGM Participants**

**Zoom: Off Territory**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Organization</b>	<b>City/Province</b>
Christopher Skeete	Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers	Quebec City, QC
David Johnson	Commissioner of Official Languages	Montreal, Qc
Charles Taker	Senior Regional Engagement Officer, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages	Montreal, Qc
James Blanchette	Constituency Assistant, Marilène Gill, M.P. for Manicouagan	Baie-Comeau, Qc
Helen Merdith	Canadian Heritage	Montreal, Qc
Hugh Maynard	Qu'anglo Communications & Consulting	Ormstown, Qc
Russel Kueber	Program Manager, CHSSN	Montreal, Qc
Marie-Claire Gervais	Researcher, CEDFOB	Baie Comeau, Qc
Michael Cosgrove	General Director, CEDFOB	Baie Comeau, Qc
Adam Desbiens	Directeur FJCN et coordonnateur Pôle d'économie sociale Côte-Nord	Baie-Comeau, Qc
Brian Rock	Director, Quebec Community Groups Network	Gatineau, QC
Patrick Donovan	Research Associate, (QUESCREN), Concordia University	Montreal, Qc
Gabrielle Guérault	Business Development Officer, SADC Cote Nord	Sept-Iles, Qc
Juel Chouinard	Consultant, JCW Education Consulting Inc.	Saint-Amand, Qc
Peter Stastny	Project Manager, CEDEC	Sherbrooke, QC
Trent Fequet	Chief Executive Officer, Steel River Group	Calgary, Alberta
Kathleen Blanchard	President, Intervale Associates Inc.	Doyles, NL
Valarie Clarke	Lions Club	Port aux Basque, Newfoundland

Total: 18

**Zoom: On territory**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Organization</b>	<b>City/Province</b>
Lorette Gallibois	CJAS Radio	St. Augustine, Qc
Darlene Rowsell-Roberts	Municipalité of the Côte-Nord-du-Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent	Chevery, Qc
Randy Jones	Mayor of Gros Mecatina	La Tabatiere

Roderick Fequet	Mayor of Bonne Esperance	Old Fort Bay
Gladys Martin	Mayor of St. Augustine	Saint Augustine, Qc
Wanda Beaudoin	Mayor, Blanc Sablon	Blanc Sablon, Qc
Ana Osborne	Coordinator, Adult and Vocational Education Services, Commission Scolaire du Littoral	Blanc Sablon, Qc
Serena Etheridge	Serena Etheridge Development Agent, Service to Businesses, Commission Scolaire du Littoral	Blanc Sablon, Qc
Ashley Babin-Duguay	Community Organizer, CISSS Côte-Nord	Blanc Sablon, Qc
Karen Fequet	Commission Scolaire du Littoral	Old Fort Bay, Qc
Marie Geneva Jones	Co-directrice générale par intérim, MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent	Chevery, Qc
Jackie Gallibois	Co-directrice générale par intérim, MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent	Saint Augustine
Katie Dumaresque-Roberts	Administrative agent, MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent	Chevery, Quebec
Kristopher Fequet	Project Manager, Steel River Group	St. Paul's River, Qc
Raymonde Jones	Organisatrice Communautaire, CISSS Côte-Nord	Blanc Sablon, Qc

Total: 15

### On Coast:

<b>Board of Directors</b>		
Eileen Schofield	President	St. Paul's River, Qc
Mikael Lambert	Francophone Communities	Tête à Baleine, Qc
Tony Roberts	Economic Development	St. Paul's River, Qc
Dale Keats	Youth and Employability	St. Paul's River, Qc
Gloria Bobbitt	Cote Nord du Gôlfe St. Laurent	Chevery, Qc

Total: 5

<b>Coasters Staff</b>		
Cornella Maurice	Executive Director Coasters Association	St. Paul's River, Qc
Shannon Keats	Executive Assistant Coasters Association	St. Paul's River, Qc
Priscilla Griffin	Office Manager Coasters Association	St. Paul's River, Qc
James Buckle	Director of Finance Coasters Association	St. Paul's River, Qc
Kimberly Buffitt	Director of Operations and	St. Paul's River, Qc

*In loving*  
**MEMORY**  
*of* L E N O R A K E A T S



07.20.69 - 12.12.20

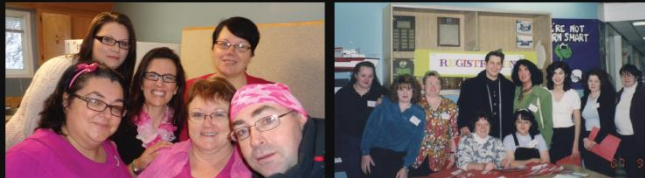


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*The Board & Staff*

