

# Nova Woodturners Guild

## Annual General Meeting

Date: June 14, 2026

The Annual General Meeting of the Nova Woodturners Guild was called to order by President Bob Earle at 2:04pm with 11 members and 1 visitor present and 3 attending online. Bob announced that a quorum (20%) had been reached

### 1. Agenda:

The Agenda for the AGM was presented and approved with no additions. Motion to accept: Gary Landry; Seconded David McLachlan – approved.

### 2. 2025 AGM Minutes:

The minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting were read. No additions or corrections were raised. Motion to Accept the 2025 AGM Minutes as presented: Gary Landry; Seconded Bill Maes – approved.

#### a. Business Arising from the Minutes:

##### i. Charitable Status

No action has been taken on this issue as yet. The Executive was encouraged to look into this as there are some members who would like to make donations to the Guild in future but would need tax receipts.

### 3. Reports:

#### a. President's Report

President Bob Earle presented his report on the 2025-26 year. Highlighted items:

All meetings, with the exception of our IRD meeting, were presented both in person and live-streamed online with steady online participation;

Demonstrations through the year included:

- Mastering the Skew with Stephen Zwerling
- Turning a Cell Phone Speaker with Bob Earle
- Turning and Designing Finials with Dave McLachlan
- Turning Acrylic Pens with Richard Ford
- Making Turned Tree Ornaments with Mark Hazen

- An IRD with Emma Cook, AKA The Tiny Turner, on turning a bowl with a textured and decorated band
- Bowl Savers and other Tools with Mark Hazen and Dave McLachlan
- Food-safe Finishing Techniques with Richard Ford

The major fundraiser event this year was a significant auction of tools. Special thanks to Chris Palmer, Mark Hazen and Calum Ewing for donation tools to this event. Thanks also to Stephen Parsons and the Atlantic Woodworkers' Association for hosting the auction on their web platform.

Bob Earle moved Acceptance of the President's Report; Seconded by Gary Landry – approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

David McLachlan presented his 2025-26 Financial Report for the Guild:

- Revenues:

- a..1. Membership now stands at only 25 paid members and 4 life members. This is down significantly from the 30 members budgeted. Dues revenue was \$1000.
- a..2. Fund raising efforts were also down:
  - a..2.a. Tool Auction brought in \$430.00
  - a..2.b. Sales and Raffles raised \$386.00
  - a..2.c. Donations fro FeedNS and the Competition fees brought in \$40 and \$130 respectively
- a..3. Total revenues raised were \$1,986.00

- Expenses:

- AAW Memberships were \$104.56 (\$100 budgeted for this)
- the Competition cost \$646.00 for judging and lunch/refreshments
- Costs for the social events were \$53.99 (Christmas gathering)
- Library costs were \$104.81 to continue the *American Woodturner* subscription
- Website costs were low with the new Canadian hosting service at \$189.93 which included for domain registration and hosting.

- There was one IRD with Emma Cook at \$471.19 after conversion to Canadian funds.
  - Miscellaneous costs were \$105.00 – a \$50 donation to the AWA for hosting the tool auction and a \$55 pay out for private member sales.
  - The \$40 was donated to FeedNS from the Competition donations.
  - Total expenses were \$1,763.48, leaving a net surplus of \$222.52 for the year.
- For cash assets, we have \$2,268.32 in the Savings account, \$5,540.23 in the chequing account and \$10 in the Credit Union Equity Shares account.

Acceptance of the 2025-26 Financial Report was moved by David McLachlan; Seconded by Brian Sharp – Approved.

David then presented the 2026-27 Budget:

- We are conservatively estimating an increase in membership at 30 members. Dues revenue set at \$1200.
- Total Revenues are budgeted at \$1850.00.
- For expenses:
- We are budgeting costs for one IRD at some point in the year at \$350.00
- Other expenses are consistent with previous years: Library acquisitions: \$250; Competition: \$600; Raffle expenses \$150
- Total expenses are budgeted at \$2,479.50
- We are projecting a loss of \$629.50 for 2026-27

A question was raised as to how members participating online could participate in the raffles. This would be possible as online participants could e-transfer funds to cover ticket costs to the Treasurer. The problem would remain, however, of how to get prizes to the winners if they were not present – postage would be too expensive to mail them.

David McLachlan moved acceptance of the Budget; seconded by Bob Earle – approved.

#### b. Appointment of Auditors

- Gary Landry and Mark Hazen have volunteered to continue to act as auditors for the coming year. Acceptance of Auditors moved by Dave McLachlan; seconded by Bob Earle – approved.

c. Library Report

- Jim Diamond gave his report for the library. There are roughly 1,270 items available for loan to members including 70 books, 90 DVD's and issues of various magazines.
- Brian Sharp stepped up this year to help out on the Library committee and circulation has greatly improved thanks to his efforts.
- Although the Library has a small budget for acquisitions, we are always open to suggestions from members of items that could be acquired for the library holdings.
- Acceptance of the Library report was moved by David McLachlan; seconded by Gary Landry – approved.

d. Website Report

- Richard Ford gave the Website report for the year. We have successfully migrated the website from the old Hostgator service to a Canadian service, Web Hosting Canada in January 2026 and things have worked well since then.
- Strong use of the website and its resources continues
- The projected cost for website hosting on the old service was \$470. The new costs for 3 years on WHC is \$160 as an introductory special and this cost includes the domain name registration. So we have realized a significant savings of \$310. Our next hosting renewal will be in 2029.
- Big thanks to Jim Diamond for his efforts keeping the old system functioning with work-arounds and his work in actually migrating the files to the new host service.

Acceptance Moved by Richard Ford; Seconded by David McLachlan – approved.

e. Nominations Committee

Bill Maes chaired the Nomination Committee and reported that the existing Executive had agreed to stay on for another year. No nominations were received in response to an email request for nominations. The slate is the same as 2024/25 with vacancies in Membership Chair and Fundraising Chair.

Bill called for nominations for any positions, making three calls for nominations:

- Gary Landry volunteered to take on the Fund-raising Chair role
- there were no other nominations were made

The slate of officers for 2025-26 is as follows:

### Directors

President	Bob Earle
Vice-President	Bill Maes
Treasurer	David McLachlan
Secretary	Calum Ewing
Director at Large	Mark Hazen

### Other positions

Library Chair	Jim Diamond
Newsletter	Jim Diamond
Competition Chair	Bill Maes
Membership Chair	vacant
Nominations Chair	Bill Maes
Website Chair	Richard Ford
Fundraising Chair(s)	Gary Landry
Photographer	Chris Palmer

Bill Maes moved acceptance of the slate officers as presented; seconded by Bob Earle – approved.

#### 4. Old Business

##### a. Action Items

- With all the things the Executive needs to keep track of, it is easy for things to fall through the cracks. The Executive needs to form a list of Action Items following the AGM so that progress can be made on issues and they stay on the radar.
- Also, committee reports from the AGM can be posted on the website for members to view.
- The Executive will look into this at the first meeting

##### b. Charitable Status

- In order for Charitable status to be pursued, the Guild status with the NS Registry of Joint Stocks need to be in good standing. Calum Ewing reported that significant progress has been made on this issue. He is now officially listed as the Agent of Record and has prepared all of the documents required for reinstatement. The final

documents needed are the new slate of officers and Financial statements from today's meeting.

- The Executive was cautioned that the pathway to achieving charitable status with CRA is long and complicated and may be more arduous for a small organization than it would be worth in terms of effort.

## 5. New Business

### a. Website Forum

- A question was raised about having a discussion forum on the website. Ideally, it would have three areas:
  - an Executive area for discussion of Board business
  - a Members only area for member discussions
  - a Public area where new turners or interested public could post questions or comments
- Our Webmaster reported that it would be a good idea, but setting it up and maintaining such a forum is beyond his abilities, so would need someone else with more technical expertise to take over.

### b. AAW Costs

- We could save on AAW membership costs if everyone had the electronic only membership. Only the Library needs the full membership to get the physical magazines.

### c. Library Holdings

- It would be helpful if we had a complete listing of the magazine holdings in the Library so that we could track down specific articles when needed by members. Brian Sharp and Jim Diamond are working on a full inventory of the library holdings that will incorporate earlier work by Richard Ford. When complete, this will be available in the Documents section of the website for all to access.

### d. Competition Judging

- During the competition, judges raised an issue concerning the "Difficulty" score on the judging form: does it relate to a) the difficulty of the shape chosen, or b) to assessing if the degree to which the difficult task was met?

- The Competition committee will need to examine the forms and report back to the membership at a future meeting.

## 6. Adjournment

Dianne Looker moved adjourning the AGM; seconded by David McLachlan; meeting adjourned at 3:07pm.

DRAFT

# President's Report

*2025-2026*

Our year started off with a meeting on September 7. It was held in the Seminar room at Lee Valley Tools. The meeting was streamed on line as well allowing for members who might have to travel long distance to participate. Meetings continued on the first Sunday of the month as long as the Seminar room was available to us.

Each session had a demonstration ranging from Mastering the Skew by life member Stephen Zwerling, the next was turning a cell phone speaker, then designing and turning finials. This took us up to the Christmas Social. The new year started with turning acrylic pens, then using scraps of wood to make trees. Next up was an IRD by Emma Cook, aka "The Tiny Turner" turning a bowl with an accent stripe of Chamaeleon Flakes. The April meeting was comprised of different tools and techniques, such as a bowl saver, leaving the last demo of the year was a video of finishing a project. Each of these demos showed techniques that hopefully inspired us to try new things.

A major fund raiser for the year was an online auction of various wood working tools donated to the guild to raise funds.

As with any organization the involvement of the membership is of utmost importance. So with this in mind any suggestions on how to improve the Guild is welcome.

Thank you for participation and keep the chips flying.

Yours truly

Bob Earle

## **Financial Report 2025-2026 completed by David McLachlan**

Our current paid membership stands at 25 members bringing in only **\$1000** in revenue, which is a few less than the 30 members that I had projected for this year. Since we have moved to a hybrid meeting model, we have less members in attendance at meetings and which means less raffle income. Fortunately, we had a great tool auction which made up for the lost revenue; (thanks to Chris Palmer, Calum Ewing and Mark Hazen for donating tools for the sale), which brought in **\$430.00** in addition to **\$386.00** from sales and raffles. Donations from the Annual Competition for FNS was **\$40,00** and entry fees brought in **\$130.00**. Our total revenue this year was **\$1,986.00**

We allowed \$100 for AAW Membership dues for executive members to maintain our AAW standing and **\$104.56** was paid out for one membership. Our banking service fees were \$48.00 as planned for.

Our Annual Turners' Competition had 26 entries from nine participants. The cost for judging was **\$600.00** and **\$46.00** for sandwiches/lunch. This was just slightly more than the \$600 allocated to the competition.

There was no Annual BBQ, so we did not use any of the \$100 allocated for it.

We had a smaller Xmas Social event at Lee Valley, thanks to everyone who participated, the Gift Exchange was interesting as usual with lots of ornaments on display. We also had a great Xmas Ornament Challenge with many interesting ornaments put on display in the Lee Valley Showroom, many of which ended up on the Christmas Wreath and part of the Ornament exchange. The total cost of the Xmas Social was **\$53.99** for food and drink.

We didn't run a Fun Turn event this year which meant we didn't use the \$50 allocated in the Projected budget.

Although we had projected \$150 for expenses for Raffle items purchase & supplies, we didn't have any expenditures for these supplies as we had many donated and previously acquired items for raffle.

Our Library expenses were only **\$104.81** for the AAW journal – American Woodturner.

I was surprised this year that I didn't receive any nametag reimbursement requests, possibly this is an oversight by someone not submitting a claim, but we should check in September with members to see if there are new members who do not have nametags and place an order. As well as ordering a new lot of business cards for the Guild.

We switched up our web hosting provider this year which was a substantial savings. The total cost for the Web Host Canada was **\$189.93** which also included the Domain name fee.

We held one IRD this year with Emma Cook from the UK on making an iridescent accented banded bowl. The total cost was 250 pounds which worked out to **\$471.19** which was slightly over the projected allocation but in line with the cost for the international stature of the presenter.

Our miscellaneous expenses were **\$105.00** associated with the tool auction payment to AWA for hosting the auction (\$50) and \$55 pay out for private member sales.

We had **\$40.00** donated to Feed Nova Scotia from the Annual Turners Competition to be paid out from monies collected.

Last year we put in a \$400 line item for Tool Acquisition, but we did not purchase any tool items this year.

In total our expenses were **\$1,763.48** significantly less than the \$2,879.50 we had projected as expenses for this year. This left us with a **\$222.52 Net Gain** for the year.

## Budget 2025-2026

	<i>(Projected)</i>	Actual
Membership Dues	\$1,200.00 30 members	\$1,000.00
Raffle and Miscellaneous Sales	\$600.00	\$816.00
Competition Entry Fees	\$150.00	\$130.00
Donations	\$100.00	\$40.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,050.00</b>	<b>\$1,986.00</b>
AAW Membership Fees	\$100.00	\$104.56
Bank Service Fees	\$48.00	\$48.00
Registry of Joint Stocks	\$31.50	
Competition expenses	\$600.00	\$646.00
Annual BBQ expenses	\$100.00	
Xmas Social	\$50.00	\$53.99
Fun Turn	\$50.00	
Raffle Prize expenses	\$150.00	
Library Additions	\$250.00	\$104.81
Name Tags and Business Cards	\$100.00	
Website Fees	\$200.00	\$189.93
IRD/Guest Demonstrator	\$350.00	\$471.19
miscellaneous expenses	\$300.00	\$105.00
Donations	\$150.00	\$40.00
Tool acquisition	\$400.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,879.50</b>	<b>\$1,763.48</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>-\$829.50</b>	<b>\$222.52</b>

## Nova WoodTurners Guild

**Balance Sheet**

	Open (Jun 1, 25)	Close (May 31, 26)
First Rate Savings Account	\$2,242.67	\$2,268.32
Business Chequing Account	\$4,647.29	\$5,540.23
Equity Shares Account	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,899.96</b>	<b>\$7,818.55</b>

## Library Report for 2025–26

The NWG library contains roughly 1,270 items available for loan to members. We have roughly 70 books, 90 DVDs, and a few tools; the rest of the library items are issues of a variety of magazines, most notably *Woodturning* and the *American Woodturner*. A list of available materials can be found on the NWG web site.

The library continues to subscribe to the following periodicals:

- (1) *Woodturning* (Guild of Master Craftsman)
- (2) *American Woodturner* (the journal of the American Association of Woodturners)

As always, we would like to remind all members that, although the library has a modest annual budget, we are open to suggestions for new books, videos, magazines and tools. Having said that, our “policy” for tools is that they should be items that the average turner either wants to use only rarely or might like to try out before purchasing one.

Since the beginning of Covid, I have rarely been able to attend meetings, and Richard (our former other librarian) has been in a similar situation. Fortunately, this year Brian has stepped up to take care of the at meeting library duties, so library materials are once again available for borrowing. Brian reports that the lack of space to put out library materials has been an issue, and that the relatively small number of people attending in-person has limited the demand. Nonetheless, things have taken a turn for the better with Brian handling those duties.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Diamond (chair)

# Nova Wood Turners Guild 2025-26 AGM Website Report.

Prepared by Richard Ford. June 11, 2026

## **Upgrade:**

I am pleased to report that we have successfully migrated our website from our original American host “Hostgator”, to a Canadian host WHC “Web Hosting Canada” The site was migrated to WHC in January 2026 and has worked well since then.

Our website is basically a simple notice board where we post things of interest to members like our current and past newsletters, Interesting links, Hint & Tips etc.

## **Why did we switch:**

Mail forwarding had many problems on Hostgator especially with gmail addresses. Thanks to Jim Diamond's workarounds it was mainly kept working. When looking for support. The main thing we heard from Hostgator was our website needs to be rewritten by a professional website programming service to work well on their site. ( An extra cost, Kind of like a tariff )

## **There are also some cost savings:**

The Projected 3 year cost for Hostgator was \$470 Cdn Based on past increases of roughly 5% a year.

The Actual 3 year cost for WHC is \$160 Cdn “An Introductory special.”

Saving \$ 310 Cdn

Renewal 2029

## **Special Recognition:**

I reported above “we successfully migrated our website”, that should read, Jim Diamond successfully migrated our website. Jim took on this project he also cleaned up a lot of outdated code. A big thank you to Jim.