



PRIDE SOCIETY OF THE COMOX VALLEY

Annual General Meeting
Monday, March 25, 2024
6PM via Zoom

1. Welcome
2. Territory Acknowledgment
3. Confirmation of Quorum
 - a. 3 members or 5% of total membership, whichever is greater (per Pride Comox Valley Bylaws, 19.c.).
 - b. Current Society membership is 28. 5% of 28 is 1.4.
 - c. Three members are required to proceed with the AGM.
4. Introductions
5. Approval of Minutes from November 28, 2022 AGM
 - a. Explanation of AGM delay from November 2023 to March 2024.
6. Facilitator's Report
7. Chair's Report
8. Finance Report
9. Election of Board Slate
 - a. Bate, Christopher
 - b. Kentfield, Kerry
 - c. Savard, Patti
 - d. Sokil, Kazimea
 - e. Stevenson, Damien
 - f. Taylor, Marusha
 - g. Valentine, Sharie
10. Questions from the Floor
11. Adjournment



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Annual General Meeting
Monday, November 28, 2022
6PM

Minutes

Attending: Andrea Cupelli, Christopher Bate, Marush Taylor, Richard Kerton.

Guests: James Steck, Mel Cassidy, Kathleen Pitt, Leanne Lawson.

1. Call to Order at 18:04
2. Welcome by Andrea.
3. Land Acknowledgment by Andrea.
4. Co-Chair's Report
 - a. As attached.
 - b. Consensus to accept.
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. As attached.
 - b. Motion to accept the financial report for 2021-2022 by Chris, seconded by Richard. AIF/C.
6. Election of Directors for 2022/2023
 - a. Motion to elect Marusha Taylor, Andrea Cupelli, Leanne Lawson, and Christopher Bate to the Board of Directors for 2022-2023 by Richard, Andrea seconded. AIF/C.
 - b. Nominations from the floor? None



PRIDE SOCIETY OF THE COMOX VALLEY

7. Questions from the Floor

- a. Mel: How do I pay my membership? Will be up and ready to go by January or February 2023.
- b. Mel: Date for Pride Parade? Queer Culture is working with the city on routes and a date.
- c. Richard: Will the parade go over the bridge? Kitty from Queer Culture hopes so!
- d. Richard: Will there be a presence at the Christmas Parade? Kitty from Queer Culture: unknown.
- e. James: What are the plans for 2023? James would like to be a part of the planning the events for Pride.

8. Adjournment at 18:31



PRIDE SOCIETY OF THE COMOX VALLEY

Facilitator's AGM Report 2024.03.25

I'm grateful and honoured to fulfill the Facilitator role with Pride Comox Valley.

It has been inspiring to meet incredible community leaders and organizations who have intersecting work in terms of supporting youth and seniors, reducing poverty, and celebrating Trans and Queer joy. Thank you all for being so welcoming!

In this role, I hope to strengthen existing partnerships and create new relationships with businesses to support our growing 2SLGBTQIA+ community. I'll continue to engage with our community by facilitating group and individual needs assessments to understand the experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ folx and organizations in the Comox Valley. The goal is to determine gaps and strengths for program and resource development.

Additional work involves expanding the Pride Society's operations and capacity to continue its mission of increasing visibility and resiliency in the Comox Valley.

I want to acknowledge and thank the Two-Spirit individuals, Trans and Queer activists, and advocates who have had to work to regain their voice and power as a result of colonization. My position would not have been possible otherwise. I also want to thank the board members for their time and energy writing the grant for this role and keeping the Pride Society of the Comox Valley thriving!

As I'm only a few months into a two-year contract, this is a short overview of what's to come. I'm looking forward to next year's AGM to share the impact of this opportunity.

Janine Scheffler

Facilitator, Pride Society of the Comox Valley



PRIDE SOCIETY OF THE COMOX VALLEY

Chairperson's AGM Report 2024.03.25

Thank you for attending Pride Comox Valley's AGM this year.

2023 proved to be a very active year for Pride and, after a brief period of relative inactivity, we are ready to take on 2024.

In 2023, Pride in the Park was our first major activity. The small Pride Board, supported kindly by our friends at Queer Culture, set about to create a stellar afternoon for the community and, after months of planning, the community responded positively!

In the months leading up to Pride in the Park, it felt like the pieces were moving constantly. Licenses, volunteers, vendors, tents, water, a small crisis or two...

Board Director Marusha Taylor facilitated so much of the work done for the event, to say thank you feels almost inadequate. On behalf of the Board who organized last year's event, I do extend our deepest gratitude to this powerhouse who handled so much, so adeptly.

I'd like to note the assistance of Weird Church in representing Pride Comox Valley in the Parade. Reverend Ingrid graciously took in youth we sent their way as well, ensuring everyone was supported and welcomed. Weird Church has generously agreed to carry the Pride banner in 2024's parade as well.

The Board chose to instill some strong values in Pride in the Park 2023:

- With the sole exception of one donor, funds raised to support the event were raised here in the Comox Valley. As you will see on the income statement for the event, \$9450 was raised through sponsors. \$7950 of that figure came from merchants, businesses, and community members here in the Valley. Most of the



PRIDE SOCIETY OF THE COMOX VALLEY

vendors were Valley based, and all of the volunteers were local. The power of community support cannot, should not, be understated.

- We made a commitment to pay every single entertainer and to ensure every volunteer was offered food and water during their shift. This fundamental value is imperative when seeking the support, and the labor, of those who are systematically excluded. Not every entertainer or service provider took pay, or they requested only a very small amount, but it was vital to us to ensure the offer was made.
- As the hatred towards Trans people flared last year, we made a commitment to highlight all Trans and Drag performers. The Comox Valley responded. The hillside where the audience was located was full for the afternoon's performances. Thank you to our amazing performers and to the people who supported them.

There was a moment, for me, that made the day a bit more special. As I was on the stage, about to welcome everyone to the event, I glanced over to my right and saw two young teens holding hands while walking. I felt my throat catch as I realized that, for a moment in time, at the event that so many people had come together to create, a space of safety for a couple of young queerlings had materialized for at least an instant. There was so much to bear witness to on this day, but this moment, with these two teens whom I never met, will stay with me forever.

Less than four weeks later, hatred reared in the Comox Valley when some local individuals elected to hold an anti-SOGI protest inline with Action4Canada's anti-Trans protests across Canada on the same day. Pride mobilized and decided to hold a lunch time counter-protest. We pulled together speakers, informed the RCMP of our plans, found a volunteer photographer, rented a sound system and braced for uncertainty.



PRIDE SOCIETY OF THE COMOX VALLEY

And then the people started to show up. So many people. Old people, young people, people with dogs. A local workshop facilitator added 20 minutes to a planned lunch break so all the people attending his workshop could attend the counter-protest. School trustees arrived. Political candidates were there. The mayors of Courtenay, Comox, and Cumberland, out of town at a Union of BC Municipalities conference, all sent best wishes. In the end, our community supported its queer people. It's hard to know exactly how many people showed up for the counter protest, but the police had to direct traffic for us as we walked around the School Board office and the people who led the walk from Harmston Park were arriving back at the starting point while the people at the end of the crowd were only steps outside the park.

In 2023, Pride supported a review of the permissive property tax exemption programs in Courtenay and Comox to ensure those receiving exemptions were not infringing upon the legal rights of systematically excluded people. Pride supported a Baby Drag event and showed up for Pride Prom and, late in the year, a youth resource fair. By invite, representatives from Pride attended a district wide Queer Straight Alliance gathering organized at the LINC.

Early in 2023, we were notified of funding available from the federal government through Women And Gender Equality Canada. Pride in the Park was coming up, the Board was very small, and federal government grants are not the simplest things to work with (if you know, you know). We decided to use some funds on hand to hire a grant writer and, three days before Pride in the Park, we were informed that our application had been successful - but we could not tell anyone. There were some excruciating moments when we knew what lay ahead for Pride and the Comox Valley, but could not share. After some additional paperwork, and a few months of discussion, and a bit behind schedule we were able to interview for a Facilitator and, on February 1, Janine Scheffler joined Pride.



PRIDE SOCIETY OF THE COMOX VALLEY

Finally, after considerable dedication and work on behalf of Pride, Richard Kerton and Andrea Cuppelli stepped back from the Board during this last term. We thank them both for the work and commitment to the Pride community in the Comox Valley.

Pride in the Park brought us several new Board members, all who have been incredibly helpful and thoughtful in their work with us. We look forward to the year ahead with our larger, and rebuilt Pride team.

Thank you, again, for being part of the 2024 Pride Comox Valley AGM. We hope you are as optimistic and as excited about the year ahead as we are!

Christopher Bate
Chairperson

PRIDE COMOX VALLEY

Balance Sheet December 31 2023

	ASSETS		
	Bank Balance	27,257.84	
	TOTAL ASSETS	27,257.84	
	LIABILITIES		
	WAGE funds	21,530.00	
	EQUITY		
	Retained Earnings 2023	158.45	
	Prev Retained Earnings	5569.39	
	LIABILITIES + EQUITY	27,257.84	

PRIDE COMOX VALLEY			
Profit and Loss Ending December 31 2023			
		2023	2022
ADMINISTRATION			
REVENUE	Membership	440.00	345.00
	Donations	430.00	0.00
	Total	870.00	345.00
EXPENSES	Bank charges	37.50	4.50
	Consulting	1100.00	
	Dues-Memberships	150.00	40.00
	Insurance	1242.00	
	Website	395.64	251.37
	Sponsorship	300.00	400.00
		3225.14	695.87
	Net Profit/Loss Admin	-2355.14	-350.87
PRIDE IN PARK			
REVENUE	Sponsors	9450.00	
	Vendors	750.00	
	In Kind Donations	773.00	
	Total	10973.00	
EXPENSES	Advertising	841.77	
	Entertainment	3050.00	
	Medix	622.02	
	Misc	199.50	
	Security	892.08	
	Supplies	1622.62	
	Venue	458.42	
	In Kind Donations	773.00	
	Total	8459.41	
	Net Profit Park	2513.59	
	Net Profit/Loss	158.45	-350.87