

Bell Heritage Trust

Report to the Annual General Meeting

Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society

March 21, 2023

Submitted by: Jon Stone, Chair, Bell Heritage Trust

The 2022-2023 year has been both an eventful and challenging year for the Bell Heritage Trust.

We have seen some major accomplishments during the year including the appointment of a full slate of Trustees. Each of the new Trustees brings a wealth of experience.

We have also established a full set of bylaws, thanks to the work of past chair Alan Mitchel. Prior to these new bylaws, none had existed for. We now have clear rules and guidelines which cover the operations and accountability of the Trust and its operation.

Following is the Board of Trustees of the Bell Heritage Trust as appointed by the Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society:

- Jon Stone (Chair)
- Susan Corser
- Elizabeth Cushing
- Mary Angela Munroe

In addition to Trustees, the Trust is also supported by an advisory board consisting of the following:

- Alan Mitchell (past Chair and Trustee)
- Kevin Thomas
- Terry Eyland
- Chris Mont

During the past year, the Trust has entered into a formal administrative services agreement with the Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society. This provides us with monthly support services enabling for better management of the Trust and our functional duties with respect to maintaining and operating the Bell House and associated properties.

Challenges we continue to face include a significant increase in costs of insurance and in municipal property taxation. For the coming year, we will be exploring ways of possibly reducing the tax burden. We will also have to increase rental fees for the property, however we are committed to maintaining the Bell House as affordable housing. Our current tenants have been excellent and we are hoping to continue to work with our current tenant to ensure we have a sustainable property.

In addition to the monthly fees being paid to the Society for Administration, we were able to fulfil the wishes of the Estate of Barbara Bell and provide a small capital grant to the Society of \$3,000 to assist with maintenance and improvements to one of the principle heritage buildings on the Farm. In future years we hope to be able to continue some level of similar support.