



Footprints

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President's Message

Mel Earley

Greetings and best wishes to all DVC members and volunteers. I was elected president in absentia at the AGM in Nov 2023 and took up official duties at the start of this year. I was worried that there might be contenders for the position of president at the AGM and would miss the opportunity to serve. I am still learning the ropes and it is a steep learning curve. There are many tasks and duties that were done quietly and seamlessly by Lionel Lily and others which have revealed themselves and which I am now coming to grips with. I am reminded of the "Peter principle". (Prof Laurence J. Peter) which observes that people in a hierarchy tend to rise to "a level of respective incompetence". I also think there is a tradition of gentleness with a Vice Presidents that shields them for from the true responsibilities of their next position, lest they should be shield away. I feel an obligation as a custodian to do my best to continue the club in the spirit and tradition that it has come to be known by; because I have met so many members who believe and feel that the club is worth continuing.



On the plus side we have a full executive of experienced and talented officers which gives me confidence that I can provide competent leadership to the team, for my term of two years. I have also had tremendous support and encouragement from David Hall our national president of the Canadian Volkssport Federation (CVF) and our executive director Michelle Bell in Ottawa. The Dartmouth Volksmarch Club is alive and well after 40 years of continuous operation. We are getting good numbers on our walks even in winter conditions. We are getting new members joining on a regular basis.

Because we are a long-standing club, we have an older demographic and some of our longest and best beloved members are acting their age and taking strolls in the park instead of the vigorous walks and sadly some have passed away. Many of members appreciate the challenges and rewards program and the national and international scope of the club. Elsewhere in this newsletter there is a notice for the Walking Festival in Kingston Ontario in may this year and the Olympiad in Finland in 2025 followed by a coach tour of Scandinavian countries

I recommend our national CVF website www.walks.ca to members. It has a wealth of information including our DVC walks listed month by month. You will find them under the **calendar** tab. There is also a page of PT (permanent walks) which includes all of the PT trails in the Maritimes - including the 4 that we look after locally. There is also online registration for the PT trails in The three maritime provinces Click on this page <https://www.walks.ca/atlantic-online-registration-walks/> You can download instructions and a map and register and do the walk. This is really a neat way to do walks when you're travelling in the Maritimes the walks are designed and take you past notable places of culture and history.

I want to express my appreciation to Lily and Lionel. I like the reverse saying "behind every good woman is a good man" Lionel and Lily perform numerous tasks quietly and competently on behalf of the club. For many years Lily has collected refunds/recyclables which has contributed funds to the Trans Canada Trail and the Cole Harbor Heritage Park. I would also like to express my appreciation to Lionel for stepping back into President's position for the past two years to bring us to this point. This time we have to say "behind every good man is a good woman" for his tireless work on behalf of the club and his dedicated attendance at the registrations of the weekly walks.

Mel

DVC Website: www.dartmouthvolksmarchclub.com

Member Profile - Anthony Scoggins

Anthony joined DVC shortly after moving to Dartmouth in 2016. "After wandering across the country and around the world for many years, largely driven by *my* career, Martha and I agreed that we would retire to her hometown, - Dartmouth", Anthony explained. "But I had never spent any time here, so once we unpacked and got settled, I was looking for a way to get to know the area. I saw a notice for a DVC hike in a local paper and it sounded like just the thing I was looking for. There is something about walking through a neighbourhood that grounds you so much more in the geography and community than you can ever get from driving through in a car. Then, once I had gotten a handle on the urban and suburban parts of HRM, I was delighted to start exploring through the Club all the different trails and parks along the coast and into the interior."



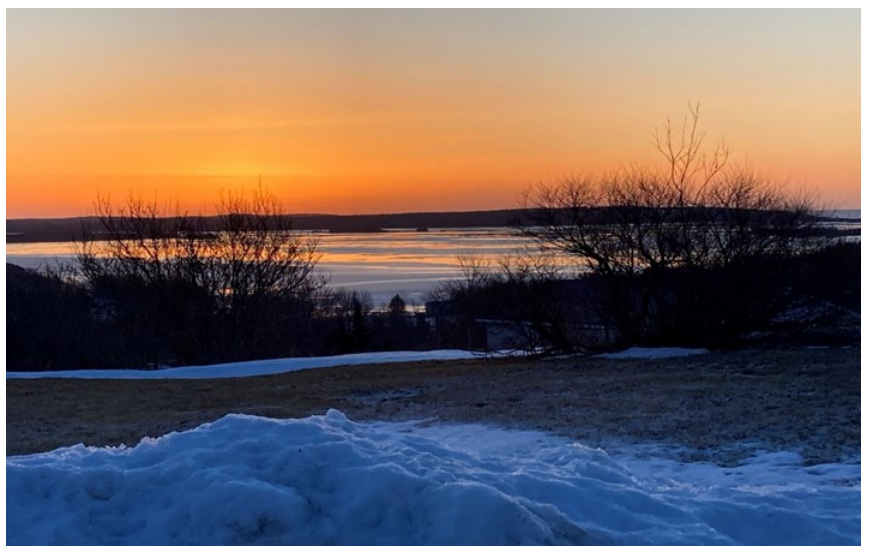
Anthony acknowledges that he has been a life-long hiker. "My family is from England, where there is a long tradition of "rambling", - just walking individually or in groups across the countryside, - along coasts and river banks, and often across private property and farms. With an occasional stop for a cup of tea from a thermos flask or pint of warm beer from a pub. So we were a little shocked when the family emigrated to Canada and discovered that despite the huge, open landscape, there was not actually a lot of hiking infrastructure and certainly little appreciation for "walkers rights". So our favourite places to hike soon became the Green Mountains of Vermont and the White Mountains of New Hampshire".

Anthony arrived in Nova Scotia in 1979 to pursue studies at StFX. "Again, I was disappointed to see that despite miles of lovely country-side and shoreline, hiking trails in Nova Scotia seemed limited to the confines of national parks such as Cape Breton Highlands and Kejimikujik. Only in rare cases, such as Cape Split, was the public allowed to walk on private lands."

But after 20 years away from Nova Scotia, Anthony feels like he has returned to a province transformed. "The number, scope and quality of public trails around the province nowadays is remarkable! And most of these trails have been built, funded and maintained by volunteer groups, - its such an impressive achievement of ordinary Nova Scotians for their neighbours and future generations. And this important work continues today with such great initiatives as the Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes reserve."

This new reality prompted Anthony to get more involved with DVC. In 2021, he completed a weekend training course with the Outdoor Council of Canada to become a certified hike leader, and he has joined the DVC roster of walk leaders. This past year, he joined the DVC Executive as Communications Director, ensuring regular outreach to members and the hiking community.

"I have been very fortunate in my life. My work in international development enabled me to work - and walk - in many different countries and terrains. Indeed, our family lived in Nepal for three years, - where we graduated from walking to hiking to trekking. But it is hard to beat the wonder of a quick Sunday morning drive from your own home to join friends setting out on a trail along the beautiful Nova Scotian shoreline. We are truly fortunate."



Sunrise over Cole Harbour February 2024 by Dwight Perkins 2

National and International Walking Festivals and Tours CANADA

Kingston, Ontario, Canada May/Mai 24-26, 2024

[3 days of walks and activities](#)

2024 CVF Kingston Walking Festival—[Pre-Festival Activities](#) And [Post Festival activities](#)

INTERNATIONAL: IVV Olympiad Finland 2025

IVV Volkssports Festival and Coach Tour of Scandinavian Countries

[IVV OLYMPIAD 2025](#) The next IVV Olympiad will take place in [Tampere, Finland 14 – 17 August 2025](#).

In addition to the traditional IVV Olympiad disciplines, walking, cycling and swimming, you are welcome to take part in canoeing and orienteering

The *IVV Olympiad* is held every second year in the country of an *IVV* member. It is a celebration of Volkssports and everyone is invited to participate.

Marilyn BOWLBY (Hue) —



Born in Middleton, NS, She lived most of her early years in Halifax but graduated from Middleton High School. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount St.

Vincent University. She was a member of the Atlantic Spinners and Hand Weavers Guild, The Volksmarch Club, and a former Halifax Concert Band flutist. Marilyn loved to travel. She is predeceased by her parents, Lewis and Frances Hue. She is survived by her sons, Christopher and Graham; daughter-in-law, Mahta; granddaughters, Hannah, and Chloe; brother, David Hue; sister-in-law, Norma and nephews, Scott and Nicholas. A celebration of life and burial will occur in the spring at Melvern Square. Please email Celebrationformarilyn@gmail.com for the date when secured.



At our AGM on November 23, 2023, Dale Leeson won the door prize that was donated by Marilyn Bowlby. Shown above is Lionel, and Marilyn presenting the ceremonial cane to Dale.

- Photo by Peter Steeper

Pictures of the February 25th walk in Dartmouth led by Dwight Perkins. Photos by Mel Earley



Margaret, Judy, and Elaine – enjoying the sunshine on a Snowy Winter Walk



Jim Hoyle a constant walker, hiker and skier 90 years young. About 200 of Jim's friends gathered at the Lions Head Tavern Halifax on Feb 6th 2024 to Celebrate Jim's birthday



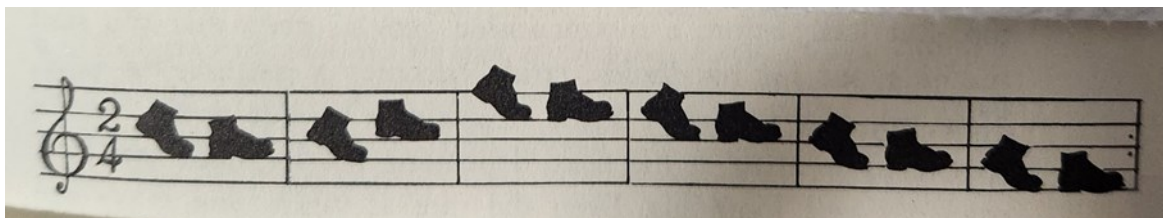
Cole Harbour Walkabout and Old Lawrencetown Road

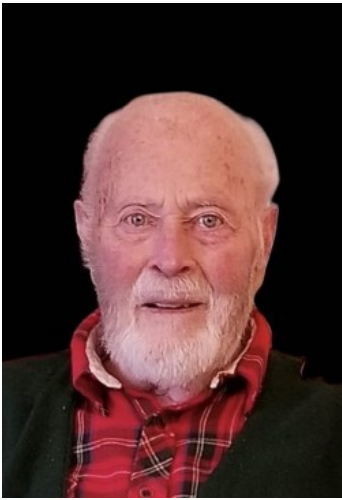
Secretary's Report Margaret Odell

As club secretary, one of my duties is to record and retain meeting minutes. The DVC has its custom of recognizing occasions in the lives of our DVC members, whether it's an anniversary or the occasion for a get-well card or for a card of condolence to show support in challenging times.

In 2023 our 40th anniversary celebration was a success, including walking and socializing with Volkssporters from other parts of Canada and with local walkers we hadn't seen for a while.

Group walking has the benefit of physical health as well as emotional health through socializing. Our club offers a schedule of eclectic routes, from paved city sidewalks to safe group walking along wilderness paths, a breath of fresh air in our high-tech world.





Wendell Bruce Robbins – 93, of Truro, passed away on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 with his family by his side at Cedarstone Enhanced Care, Truro. Born in Waldec East, Annapolis County, Wendell was the second child of the late James and May (Chute) Robbins. He is survived by his son, James Robbins, Fox Harbour; daughters, Anita Wilson (Jack), North River and Laura Gorman (Allen), Truro; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by son, Marty Robbins; daughter-in-law, Dawn Robbins; brother, Charles Robbins; and sister, Vera Stewart. He was a member of Valley United Church, and he was baptised at Clementsvalle Baptist Church in an outdoor stream.

He had a strong work ethic that began young as a paperboy with the Chronicle Herald and later working at AD Picketts Fruit Farm in Deep Brook. He began his career as truck driver salesman with the American News Company and, when they closed their division in Canada, he moved to Halifax to work for HH Marshall Limited. He moved to Truro in the late 50s and continued his career with HH Marshall Limited until his retirement in 1993. He enjoyed several passions including swimming, beachcombing, hiking, reading and written correspondence with friends and family, camping, travelling, flower, and vegetable gardens. He loved to cut and pile wood and continued to do so until he was 92.

He kept current with news and political events and enjoyed reading the newspaper from beginning to end. There was always a little stack of clippings and notes from articles that he found interesting and wanted to pass along. He loved music and enjoyed a good sing along and, although he never considered himself much of a singer or dancer, that never stopped him from enjoying it. He loved to paint and write poems. He was a lover of the sun and the beach and, despite living in Canada, he never lost his tan. His favorite place to vacation was Old Orchard Beach, US, but, after his retirement, he found joy at his little cottage on the beach in Advocate Harbour. He spent countless hours combing the beach, cleaning up the garbage and finding treasures. He met many 'friends' during his beach walks and often found notes in bottles; sometimes, even corresponded with the letter writer. Later in life, he was able to visit New York, and met one of the note writers in person and they developed a long friendship – all from a note in a bottle.

He remained very active and loved to walk and hike and was a long-time member of the Central Nova Volkssport Club. Counted among his achievements, he walked across the Confederation Bridge (twice), completed the Nasty Nuttby as a senior and at the age of 83 fulfilled a dream to complete The Not Since Moses Run and to zipline with his family. His children remember how he often remarked that he was both surprised and grateful for his good health and longevity. He received several Canadian Blood Service milestone awards, and he was an avid supporter of many charities including the Terry Fox Foundation including completing the Terry Fox Run every year until he was 89.

He will be remembered for his ice blue eyes, his love of ketchup, and his collection of buoys. He was affectionately known as the "Buoy Man" due to the vast number he had collected and displayed over the years. He was a man who enjoyed the simple pleasures in life and treasured the gift of his family. He will be deeply missed by all his family and friends; however, we know his presence will never be far away.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Blaauwendraat and the staff of Cedarstone Enhanced Care, Victoria Way for their care and support of Dad and our family during his time with them. Also, a very special thank you to our amazing family and good friends for your kind support, encouragement, and prayers. You made a difficult time more bearable.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Mattatall-Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young Street, Truro where a funeral service will be held 11 am on Friday, December 29, 2023, Reverend April Hart officiating. Webcasting of the service will available at 10:55 am. Interment will be held in Crossroads Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia are welcomed. Private messages of condolence may be sent to the family by viewing Wendell's obituary online and by selecting "Send a Condolence" at www.mattatallvarnerfh.com

Membership Report

Elaine Dawson

Last year (2023) we had a total membership of 91 members. So far this year (2024) we have a membership of 64. We have 55 that have renewed, 7 who have rejoined and 2 new members. We have some members who have not renewed as yet. This year we accept cash, cheques or E-transfer. Our dues are still \$15.00 per year. E-transfer is: membership.dvc@gmail.com

Our mailing address is: Dartmouth Volksmarch Club, Attn: Elaine Dawson,
P O Box 28082 Dartmouth, NS B2W3E0

Atlantic Directors report, 2024

-John A Carter

This past year we, in Atlantic Canada, had a pretty good year. We had the 40th anniversary of the Dartmouth Volksmarch Club in August. They were very gracious and hosted a weekend of excellent walking. Most people who attended, seemed to have a positive experience. Both the Valley Trekkers and the Dartmouth Volksmarch clubs are starting the new year under new leadership, who we look forward to working with in the coming years.

One thing that has been changing over the last few years is the permanent trails; both clubs in Atlantic Canada are struggling to keep the permanent trails economically feasible as their attendances has been dropping over the last five years. Some permanent trails have been made seasonal or dropped completely.

The Valley Trekkers have an exciting line up of walks for 2024. In addition to the PTs in Wolfville, Kentville and Kingston, the VTVC will also be doing urban walks in Berwick, Windsor, and historic Annapolis Royal, Canada's first French/English settlement. Getting out of the urban core is also important to us. We will be walking in Blomidon and Cape Split, two of Nova Scotia's most popular Provincial Parks overlooking the Minas Basin and the Bay of Fundy. A visit to Roxbury, a NS ghost town and a bird sanctuary will round out the year. Everyone is invited to join us.

The Dartmouth club is walking most Sundays over the coming year and some evening walks in the summer. Each walk will have a different route and which should have something for everyone. Some current plans are in the heart of urban Halifax, parks, lakes and wilderness areas, where you could see the Ocean, lakes, rivers, streams, and waterfalls. We hope you have a chance to join us on a walk.



With the coming year, I'm hoping the both clubs will have strong growth in the memberships who enjoy the pleasure of walking and there are a lots of walking events, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally for all members of the Volksmarch clubs could attend. The national website is a great resource. See you on the trails

President Mel Earley is shown presenting Elaine Ryan her 2023 CVF Volunteer Award for five years of service with the Dartmouth Volksmarch Club. Congratulations Elaine.

New Years Day 2024 Walk and Levee



Some of the walkers doing the 6 km walk on New Years Day. *Photo by Nancy MacLean*



A group of walkers doing the 10 km walk on New Years Day. *Photo by Margaret Odell*



We had a great turnout for the walks on New Years Day. Following the walks 35 participants gathered in Lily and Lionel's apartment for a New Years Day Levee. Everyone had a delicious lunch including a wide verity of appetizers, sandwiches, and deserts. Our club has been sponsoring this type of New Years celebration for approximately 30 years. We used to have the party in a hotel until it got too expensive holding them there.



IVV AWARDS



Please turn in your completed IVV Record Books to Lily Conrod, in order to receive your IVV awards.

New IVV Distance & Event Record books, and club coupons are available before the start of the walks from Lily. They cost \$5 each.

Heather MacLeod	650 events	Elaine Ryan	3500 kms
Edith Ward	650 events	Edith Ward	7500 kms
Lily Conrod	3400 events	Barb Thistle	8000 kms
Wands Bonk	500 kms	Cal Thistle	9000 kms
Elaine Ryan	3000 kms	Beth Moore	17000 kms
Marilyn Bowlby	3500 kms	Sheila West	32000 kms

Congratulations to one and all!

15% Discount at Mountain Equipment Coop (MEC)

The club has negotiated a 15% discount at Mountain Equipment Coop (MEC) for paid up /members in good standing. A membership discount card has been sent to all members who are paid up for the current year. Elaine Dawson will send one with her usual welcoming letter to anybody who signs up for the rest of the year. Please let Elaine know if you **have not** received yours emdantz@gmail.com - This is another good reason to renew your membership!

All the Very Best

Mel

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