

Proposed Bylaws Parksville & District Historical Society

- The proposed bylaws have been simplified and streamlined to align with the new *Societies Act*.
- A number of provisions found in the current bylaws have been removed, as they deal with matters that are now addressed in the *Societies Act*, or matters that are more appropriately dealt with in policy.
- The substantive changes in the bylaws are explained in the following table.

Current bylaws	Proposed bylaws	Rationale
<p><u>Membership</u></p> <p>There are currently 5 classes of membership: active, student, corporate, honorary, and life. (s.1, current bylaws)</p>	<p>There will be only 2 classes of membership: individual and honorary. Any life memberships that have been conferred under the current bylaws will be deemed to be honorary memberships under the new bylaws. All members in good standing will have voting rights (ss. 2.1 – 2.3, proposed bylaws)</p>	<p>These 2 classes of membership best reflect the needs of our members.</p> <p>Reduced rates for student members can be handled through our fee structure, as opposed to creating a separate membership category.</p> <p>The life membership and honorary membership are designed to do the same thing; that is, to acknowledge individuals who have contributed significantly to the Society. Collapsing the two classes into one will simplify and streamline our membership process. Individuals who hold a life membership will continue as honorary members, with the same rights as they had previously.</p>

Current bylaws	Proposed bylaws	Rationale
<p><u>Youth Directors</u></p> <p>There is no provision allowing for the election or appointment of directors under the age of 18.</p>	<p>Individuals who are 16 and 17 years of age will be eligible to be elected or appointed as directors at large. (s.4.5)</p>	<p>The new <i>Act</i> provides that 16 and 17 year olds may sit as Board members if allowed by the bylaws. However, the majority of Board members must be 18 years of age or older.</p> <p>Allowing for youth directors will benefit the Society by encouraging a youth perspective in our governance activities, and facilitating succession planning. Youth directors may sit as directors at large only - they will not be eligible for the executive positions on the Board.</p>
<p><u>Board Structure</u></p> <p>The Board is comprised of Officers (President, Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer), the Past President, and 4 Trustees. (Current by-laws, s.19)</p>	<p>The positions of Second Vice-President and Past President will be eliminated. There will be no requirement for a specific number of directors at large (currently referred to as “trustees”). (Proposed by-laws, s.4.1- 4.2)</p>	<p>The position of Second Vice-President is unnecessary.</p> <p>The requirement of a Past President on the Board is problematic, as the individual may be unwilling or unable to continue serving on the Board. There is, however, nothing preventing a Board from drawing on the experience of the individual who previously held the position of President. This will be left to the discretion of the Board.</p>

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<u>Board Structure (cont...)</u>		The requirement for 4 directors at large may be problematic for the Society, as there may be occasions where it is difficult to find 4 individuals to serve. As the new by-laws will not require a specific number, the membership will have the flexibility to elect or appoint as few or as many directors at large as circumstances dictate.
<u>Directors' Terms</u> The term of office is 1 year for Officers, 2 years for two trustees, and 1 year for two trustees. (Current by-laws, s.5 of the November 2014 amending document.)	The term of office for all directors (executive positions as well as directors at large) will be one year. (Proposed by-laws, s.4.4)	A one-year term for all directors eliminates inconsistency, and enhances accountability to the membership. Continuity can be achieved by re-electing a director or directors for an additional term or terms.
<u>Transitional</u> The Constitution of the Society contains provisions that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out the geographical region in which the Society is to operate, and • deal with the winding up and dissolution of the Society. 	These provisions will be moved from the Constitution into the by-laws. Further, the by-laws will identify which of these provisions was previously unalterable under the Constitution. (Proposed by-laws, s.9.3 – 9.5)	These transitional changes are a requirement under the new <i>Act</i> . The Constitution can only contain the name of the Society, and the purposes of the Society.