



Nova Scotia Regional Meeting: Report



Left to right: Susan Simms, Roger & Jane Gallaway, Catherine Callbeck, Mary Collins, Francis LeBlanc, Vim Kochhar, Pat Binns, Dorothy Price, Julia Murphy, Sylvia Castonguay, John Murphy, Jeannot Castonguay, Jean Augustine.
Not in photo: Carol Binns, Mary Clancy, Paul & Francis Cosgrove, Gerald & Carole Regan, Derek & Alison Wells.

The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians held its 2016 regional meeting in Nova Scotia from September 18 to 20. In addition to holding the traditional meetings in the Provincial Legislature, our participants got to learn about important events in the province's past, to view leading edge research work at one of Canada's premier universities, and to debate the economic challenges facing the province and to learn from a distinguished panel, how these challenges are being met.

We began on Sunday evening, September 18th, with our President's reception at which we were joined by a sizeable delegation of former provincial members from the Nova Scotia legislature. The Speaker of the House of Commons, Hon. Geoff Regan and his wife, the Hon. Kelly Regan, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education for the Government of Nova Scotia, were on hand to welcome our group. Following the reception, many of us dined at Salty's, (www.saltys.ca) one of Halifax's top Seafood restaurants.

The following morning we wandered down on foot in the rain from our hotel to Province House for a tour of the historic building and our meetings in the legislature. Our guide for the day, Carolyn Mont of Atlantic Tours

(www.atlantictours.com) was a wealth of knowledge on many aspects of Nova Scotia history.

In the afternoon, a motor coach carried us to Grand Pré, the epicentre of the seismic event in Acadian history, their expulsion by the English, beginning in 1755. The museum is a beautiful and moving depiction of this event and the unique way of life that Acadians had developed in this part of Canada. It has now been designated as a UN World heritage site.

Returning through the Annapolis Valley, we stopped at two of Nova Scotia's many successful wineries, which are rapidly putting this region on the world map of premier destinations for fine wine. At Lockett Vineyards (<http://lockettvineyards.com>) we got to taste such appellations as l'Acadie, Triumphe, Phone Bar, and Black Cab.

At Domaine de Grand Pré (<http://grandprewines.ns.ca>) founder, Hanspeter Stutz personally guided us through the vineyard and helped us appreciate their award winning products such as Tidal Bay, l'Acadie Blanc, Tribute & Maréchal Foch. Dinner was at the winery's restaurant, Le Caveau, one of the top restaurants in Nova Scotia. Over dinner, our group collaborated on the following group poem to describe their experience:

*A foggy day
In La-ka-dy
A foggy day
Not much to see
A winery day*

*Nova Scotia blooms
Forty dollar rooms
No sign of tombs
The fog it looms
The day is gloom*

*Cheers to Grand Pré
Hip-hip-hooray
Non, j'en ai pas assez
Le vin délicieux et
compagnie aussi*

*It does not rime
Have more wine
Thank God for the rain
We are feeling no pain!*



From left to right: Jean Augustine, Frances & Paul Cosgrove, Dorothy Price & Vim Kochhar.

On Tuesday morning, we toured Dalhousie's International Oceans Institute (<http://internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca>) to witness and hear about the leading edge and multifaceted work in ocean science, the tracking of the movement of ocean species, maritime law, policy, and global governance being carried out at this exciting teaching and research facility.

Our program concluded at the Dalhousie University Club with a luncheon co-sponsored by the newly created MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance (www.dal.ca/dept/maceachen-institute.html).

The luncheon was accompanied by a panel discussion on the future of the Nova Scotia economy, flowing from the report of a provincial Commission of Nova Scotia's future entitled, *Now or Never: An Urgent Call to Action for Nova Scotians*. Our panellists were Elizabeth Beale, former CEO of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council and one of the regions leading policy thinkers, Dan Christmas, a Member of the NS Commission and a driving force behind Membertou (www.membertou.ca) one of Canada's First nations' success stories, Danny Graham, former NS Liberal Party leader, and of the leaders of Engage Nova Scotia (www.engagenovascotia.ca) charged with turning the recommendations of the NS Commission to reality. Moderator for the Panel was Dr. Camille Cameron, Dean of Law at Dalhousie University and member of the Governing Council at the MacEachen Institute.



CAFP Secretary, the Hon. Mary Collins

Our group was joined for the lunch by forty graduate students in public policy and administration and their professor, Dr. Kevin Quigley, who is the MacEachen Institute's Scholarly Director.

The general consensus from our group was that the program was informative, varied, and interesting and gave our participants the chance to renew and extend friendships and to learn about this part of Canada. For those who would like to see photos of the Nova Scotia Regional Meetings should click [here](#) or visit our website at www.exparl.ca.

As well, we are interested in your views on where our 2017 Regional Meeting should be and how we can make this part of our Annual Program of Activities more appealing to you. Please complete the attach survey and send it back to us with your comments.



CAFP participants and panelists at MacEachen Institute.

Francis LeBlanc
Executive Director