



## Annual General Meeting Notice and Information

**A) AGM** - the 2025 Annual General Meeting will take place on *Tuesday, February 25, 2025* at the Elks Club Lodge 245, 19 Carpasian Road, St. John's. We have booked a room from 6 to 9 p.m. The formal meeting will commence around 7 p.m. From 6 to 7p.m. we will be there to assist members in renewing their membership, using the new online membership system. Coffee, tea and some snacks will be provided.

**B) Notice of revision of the by-laws** - the Board has approved a revision of the by-laws. A motion will be put forward at the AGM to accept the revision of the by-laws, *i.e.* "General Operating By-Law No. 1". The latter is a by-law relating generally to the conduct of the affairs of the St. John's Rod and Gun Club. The complete version of the new By-law will be available on the club website. It can also be requested for by email, by contacting the club general enquires email: [sgrgc2024@gmail.com](mailto:sgrgc2024@gmail.com). The new By-law in draft form is 17 pages in length, which makes it very costly to send out and provide as a hardcopy version.

Why the change? With adoption of a new online membership system and new methods of communicating with members, changes to the current by-laws would be required. The current by-laws were originally adopted in September of 1960 and have been amended 6 times since 2010. Considering the number of recent amendments, the need for more changes, and the need to bring the by-laws into compliance with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Corporations Act (Chapter C-36 An act to revise and reform the law respecting corporations), the Board determined the most effective option was a general revision of the existing by-laws.

The new By-law contains 12 sections: 1 Interpretation; 2 Financial and other matters; 3 Members and membership; 4 Meetings of members; 5 Elections and voting; 6 Directors; 7 Regular Meetings of Directors; 8 Officers; 9 Committees; 10 Notices; 11 Amendment of By-laws and Articles; and 12 Effective date.

We would encourage you to review the whole document; however, please pay special attention to: Section 3 - 3.05, 3.06, 3.14; Section 6 - 6.06; Section 8 - 8.04; and Section 10 - 10.01. The vast majority of the content of the current by-laws can be found in the proposed new By-law. Some content will be moved into the Club Operating Policies and become a direct Board responsibility.

LINKS - see new tabs on main navigation panel to "By-Laws" and "AGM". There is also a "Annual General Meeting Information" link just above Recent Updates on the home page.

**C) Reports from Club Groups** - Annual reports from club groups (Trap, Sporting Clays, Steel Challenge, Archery, Youth) will be available on the Club website under the new "AGM" tab.

**D) Report from the Board** - The past year has been a busy one for the Board with many new initiatives, follow through on the Chief Firearms Officers range inspection, and upgrade to ranges A, B and C. Updates from the Board, posted in the "Recent Updates" section of the club webpage, in June and November have detailed much of what has been achieved. The most significant of these are:

a) upgrades to the rifle range (Range A). We have received many positive comments from members on how much they appreciate the new range floor, target stands, new 50m backstop, and a new steel roof for the shooting stand area;

- b) upgrades to Range C. New floor for the whole range and improved drainage;
- c) training of a set of new Range Safety Officers by an expert from the NFA;
- d) new operating procedures for the Board, including Treasurer's reports at each Board Meeting, new reporting structure for club groups;
- e) hiring of a lawyer to draft a new contract for third party users, and new release and indemnity forms for all users of the club facilities;
- f) a marked increase in revenue from outside users by going to a competitive daily range fee;
- g) change to an online membership system;
- h) general revision of the by-laws; and
- i) adoption of a new Club logo that better reflects our activities and is compatible for use on merchandise.

**E) Message from the President** - it has been a steep learning curve for me this year and I am grateful for all the help and feedback I have received from members of the Board, Chairs of our club groups, and other members. I have also learned a great deal from my interactions with NL Wildlife, NL Hydro, the NFA (our insurer), the lawyer we hired, the RCMP and DFO. The contractors we hired to upgrade the ranges were a pleasure to work with and together we have learned a lot on how to finish the project. It would be remiss of me not to mention some individuals whose experience, knowledge and enthusiasm helped me immensely this year: Dave Reddin; Christian Winter; Dave Strowbridge; Mike Bugden; Gerry Carr; Blair Payne; Brad Leyte; Sandra Ryan and Evan Kearley.

**F) New membership system** - the new membership management system we have chosen is Jointit (<https://joinit.com>). There will be instructions posted on the club website (members info tab) on how to use the system and a link to get access to our club membership form. Adoption of this system is consistent with comments we have heard from many members who wish to apply, renew and pay online. It will also help us cut our administrative costs, for example, a single mailout to our 1000 to 1100 members now costs us ~\$2000 or more. Jointit also includes email service and all members will be on our list, thus, allowing for more efficient communication.

As with any new system there will be a learning curve, but we will be there to help members who encounter issues. And a heads-up to all of you - when you use the new system you will find that there is going to be HST on the membership fee, and a banking charge. Any of you who shop or join groups online will be familiar with these types of charges. There will also be a Release and Indemnity form that you will have to "sign". This is a requirement for many sporting groups and one our lawyer instructed us that we must have. As for the HST - CRA and our accountants have informed us we must charge this.