

CNS Annual Report

2025/2026



22 March, 2025

Year in Review

Internal Processes and Sport NS Collaboration

This year, the Board worked diligently to clean up internal processes to streamline activities and requests while meeting requirements set by Sport NS. In this, mechanisms were put in place for redundancy of information and organization of both historical and current data. These processes provide credibility and timely remittance of reports to Sport NS which directly affects our funding. Confirmation from our Sport NS representative has confirmed that these processes align with the increases in funding we will see annually over the next few years. More work is to be done, but we are on the right path.

Woods Ban - 5 August to 15 October

The 2025 Woods ban was a very unexpected and restrictive time for climbers. We understand the frustration and in some cases, confusion in what was, or wasn't allowed. The information was not received in a timely manner to allow us to inform the public on what areas were still open and with the vagueness from the Province, the liability was too high for us to say whether an area was open or closed. This left the onus on the individual to either abide by the provincial laws, or manage that risk for themselves.

Community Survey

Not enough data was collected prior to the issue of this report. Results to be promulgated and distributed to the community once completed

Website Update

Great strides were taken this year to make our website more functional and user friendly. Cleaning up historical and legacy items was a priority for the website team and making the membership and calendar up to date and reflective of what was happening during the year.



Messaging/Announcements

When taking on the role of President for CNS, one of my main priorities was clear, concise, and transparent communication to the community. We want you to know what your Board is doing to meet our mandate as Climb Nova Scotia. Expect this trend to continue in the future as we move forward with our goals and objectives.

Storage Locker

A decision was made by the Board in November 2025 to remove the cost of the storage locker and divest the equipment that was not usable and relocate anything worth keeping to another location. East Peak volunteered to offer a small section of space which can accommodate what we need at this time. This removes a monthly fee that was being incurred and puts this money back into the community.

Community Engagements

There were six events that happened over the past year, two of those not CNS lead, but are worth mentioning here. Unfortunately, our largest event of the year; Boulderfest, was not conducted. The information getting out to the community was not quick enough and was not clear enough as to why this decision was made. Ultimately, it came down to unresolved questions about our insurance, and further, the provincial fire ban. The delay in communicating the cancellation was merely hope that things would align to make this happen. The lack of communication on this event was unacceptable and will not be our standard practice in the future.

Beyond Boulderfest, the Reel Rock Film Festival, the Clean and Climb, and Columbus Wall outing all had amazing community presence. Two events outside of CNS were organized and run by volunteers who opened the date and location for the community to join in and share their passion outdoors. The continuing success of these annual events really shows the commitment of our volunteers and the energy and excitement that the community has to get out to a crag and share stories and catches.

We look forward to putting more events on like these in the upcoming year.

Board Composition

Incoming

Will Sarty

Outgoing

Heather Reynolds, Nathan Benjamin, Ben Lengeek, Alyson Duffy, Tato' Crisanto

Current Directors

1. President - Will Sarty
2. Treasurer - Justin Curry
3. PSO - VACANT - ***Karen Schindeler tentative while vacant***
4. Access Chair - Jamie Simpson
5. Communications - VACANT - ***Chris Ginou tentative while vacant***
6. Development Chair - VACANT
7. Web Development - Karen Schindeler
8. Memberships - Chris Ginou
9. Secretary - Christie Hagerman
10. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility - VACANT

Current Members at Large

1. Jackie Turner
2. VACANT (2)


Financial Report

Climb Nova Scotia					
Statement of Accounts					
Financial Year: 2025/26					
Prepared by CNS Treasurer J. Currie					
Current to Feb 28, 2026 (Omit March 2026)					
Income statement				2025/26	Notes
	INCOME	EXPENSES	TOTAL		
CEC Membership	\$0.00	\$4,500.00	-\$4,500.00		Paid Previous and Current. Price Increase (+\$500)
Insurance	\$0.00	\$4,730.00	-\$4,730.00		New Provider, General Liability + Board Liability
Storage Fees	\$0.00	\$2,163.35	-\$2,163.35		Ended Storage Use October 2025
Website/Hosting	\$0.00	\$544.89	-\$544.89		Paid 2 Years Forward
Sport NS Dues	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		Paid Previous Year for this Year
Admin Total	\$0.00	\$11,938.24	-\$11,938.24		
Bank fees	\$0.00	\$88.91	-\$88.91		
Interbank Transfer	\$2,098.31	\$2,098.31	\$0.00		Moving Money Between Accounts
Interest Payment	\$135.68	\$0.00	\$135.68		
Banking Total	\$2,233.99	\$2,187.22	\$46.77		
Course Sponsorship	\$2,000.00	\$945.61	\$1,054.39		Mental Health Clinic
General Sponsorship	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00		Podcast Sponsorship
Route Development	\$0.00	\$1,468.32	-\$1,468.32		Legacy Wall
Community Total	\$2,000.00	\$3,413.93	-\$1,413.93		
Reel Rock	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		Delayed until Fall
Boulder Fest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		Did Not Run
Ice Fest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		Did Not Run
Clean/Climb	\$0.00	\$110.31	-\$110.31		2024/25
Events Total	\$0.00	\$110.31	-\$110.31		
Membership Dues	\$2,854.92	\$40.00	\$2,814.92		
Other	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$850.00		Previous Year Uncashed Cheques for BFest
SportNS General	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00		Sport/Rec NS block Funding + Extra Funding
Funding Total	\$15,704.92	\$40.00	\$15,664.92		
Other	\$279.97	\$289.27	-\$9.30		Sold + Refunded Merchandise (No Inventory)
Sales Total	\$279.97	\$289.27	-\$9.30		
2024/25 Totals					
Grand Total	\$20,218.88	\$17,978.97	\$2,239.91		\$3,204.00
Opening Balance			\$13,006.00		\$9,802.00
Closing Balance			\$15,245.91		\$13,006.00
Net Cashflow			\$2,239.91		\$3,204.00

Memberships

To better serve our community, we are revitalizing the CNS membership structure. Beginning this year, all memberships will follow a new annual cycle running from **September 1 to August 31**. This change will help us plan more effectively, deliver programming consistently, and ensure that services and benefits are accessible year-round.

Additionally, **a current CNS membership will be required to attend any CNS ticketed climbing event**. This ensures consistent liability coverage for CNS, and will allow us to reinvest directly in the climbers, spaces, and initiatives that make our community vibrant.



For CNS to succeed in supporting climbers across Nova Scotia, we depend on the strength of our membership. By renewing your membership, you help build a more sustainable, inclusive, and engaged climbing community - one that reflects the passion and dedication we see every day on our cliffs, trails, and boulders.

Current membership numbers:

Individual - 49 / Athlete - 32 / Total - 81

Demographic of climbers by style:

Indoor - 66 (82%) / Outdoor - 55 (68%)

Boulder - 57 (70%) / Sport - 45 (56%) / Trad - 22 (27%) / Ice - 15 (19%)

Access and Development

List of new routes and crags

Over the past year, over 22 rope routes were put up by a number of climbers. This is a very exhausting and dirty job that requires a lot of time, effort, and dedication to the community. Both Adam and Nathan Benjamin as examples, should be commended for their efforts to bring both accessible and engaging routes to our cliffs.

A new addition to the province, and of great excitement as this region had no climbing at all, is the opening of Legacy Walls with over 56 new routes! Chris and Cole Hayes spent a year in developing both the trails, and the cliffs, and commemorating influential climbers in our area. CNS was grateful to be able to support in some capacity this endeavor and will continue to do so as the development there continues.

Todd Foster delivers again this year adding significant bouldering routes across the region.

Development has slowed significantly in the Digby area after the release of the guidebook. But there is still much more potential in the area. Todd has been exploring a couple areas further down the Digby neck and started to catalog their potential for a future volume of Bouldering Digby Neck.

A group of Halifax locals have added some excellent problems at Tomorrow Land, Whites Cove and surprisingly we have been able to find a few more new gems at Planet of Apes, Sandy Cove. One new problem put up by Paul Hubble is a unique variation around Stick To Your Guns, it is the hardest known problem on the Digby Neck. Visitation is high with many people coming from Ontario, Quebec and even as far as Europe thanks to the wide distribution of the guidebook.

In Halifax, Shaw Wilderness continues to be a much visited area after the release of Bouldering Metro Halifax. Development has also slowed but still several new lines have been added, mostly at High Fantasy. We anticipate more will be added in the coming years as people get off the beaten track deeper in.

This fall, Todd started diving into the next guidebook project for the eastern shore bouldering. Beginning in Gibraltar, we have been re-cleaning and climbing many of the problems listed in the Buxton guide. We have also opened many new problems in that area. We are working through cleaning up many long forgotten problems at Jessie's Diner while also adding several completely new climbs. It's difficult to pin down a solid number of problems in the eastern shore but we will likely open up and share several hundred new problems in the next few years as we work on this new guidebook.

List of New Routes (Ropes)

Railway Crag		
	24h Ty Potato	5.7G
	Tenacious Undaunted Rob Daaaauuuuuuton	5.11a/b
Gibraltar	Arete Acadienne	5.12a/b
	Gibraltar Stretch	5.12c/d
Chebucto Head		
	Ernie's Journey	5.7
The Skapper		
	Scouts Honour	5.7+G
	The Protege	5.9
Castle		
	Fire Trail	5.5
	Combustible Hikers	5.7
	Fishing for Forest Fires	5.8
	Friction Addiction	5.8
	Hall of the Serpent	5.4G
Columbus		
	Socks, Squirrels, and Dragonflies	5.6PG
Howe Crag		
	Restless Gravity	5.11d
Main Face		
	Bodacious Cowboys	5.11a
	Starburst	5.11c (2 pitches)
	Tyranny	5.10aG
	Joysquirts	5.11b/c
	Maud' dib	5.12b/c
	Spice	5.12.b
	Flyboys	5.12c
Sorrows		

	Fern Salad	5.10a
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Mountain Project Update

A venture to make Mountain Project reflective of the current routes and cliffs in the area was taken on. Over the past year, 5 new cliffs, 168 trad routes, 92 sport routes, and 29 top rope routes have been added. This gives some accessibility to folks in the community who do not have a Guide Book, or folks that live outside our area to see what Nova Scotia has to offer for climbing. Currently, there are 772 routes under Nova Scotia which still doesn't reflect the total. Further progress will happen in the next year. Current Admin for the region are Will Sarty and Will Bland. If you have any additions or corrections that need to happen, please contact them accordingly.

Development Ethics Guidelines

We are working to develop an easy way to request development cost reimbursement along with a set of guidelines to follow for the ethic of development in Nova Scotia. It is important for new developers to understand our ethics and provide a set of guidelines to shape their project. Further to these guidelines, is a request for a reimbursement page for CNS to help support your project. We may not be able to fund all of the projects in Nova Scotia but we will make every effort to support new routes outdoors up to our financial capacity.

Community Outreach

Icebox Sessions Podcast - Sean Cassidy

Local climber, former CNS Board Member, guide book developer, advocate of all things stoke, Sean Cassidy put forth a request for sponsorship for the 2026 delivery of 10 podcast interviews with local climbers.

Scope of Project

- 2026 Season of podcast: 10 episodes (released every 4-6 weeks)
- Informal interviews with a wide cast of Nova Scotia characters involved in all styles of climbing: indoor, trad, bouldering, sport, ice.
- Discussions about training, favourite Nova Scotia routes, memorable climbing moments, learning experiences, etc.

Project Goals

- Celebrate our community by capturing stories from active and former contributors to climbing in Nova Scotia
- Support integration and inclusion in our growing community of diverse interests
- Share stoke, passion, and excitement for diverse styles and approaches to climbing.

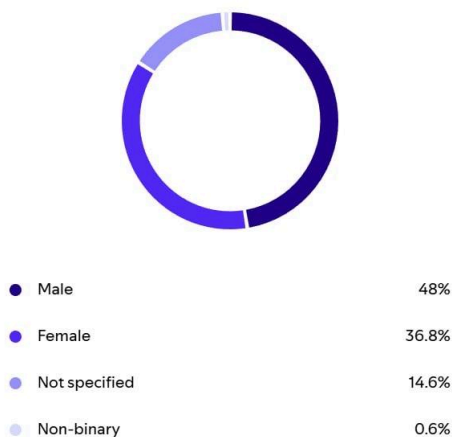
We, as a Board, saw great value in what Sean Cassidy was trying to accomplish and felt that it was important for CNS to provide financial support. This is a great opportunity for new and old climbers to listen and learn about others in our community and provide a historical background on where CNS came from, what drives the fuel in climbers to get out there, what training they take on, and what they love about our community. This is a way to bring us closer together and share our experiences and stories and bring that stoke to the crag. We took diligence in approving this Podcast to ensure inclusivity, diversity, and value to CNS members and after listening and seeing the outreach that Sean is delivering on, we felt confident in our decision.

Current Listening Demographics

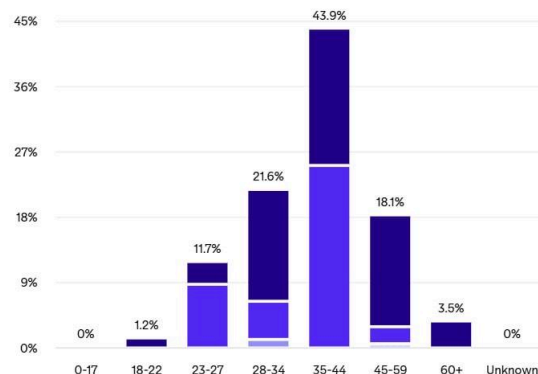
Spotify audience demographics

Last 30 days

Gender



Age



2025-2026 Events

Reel Rock Film Festival

Due to the filming crew working on another project, Reel Rock 20 was not held in the 2025/2026 season and will be later in the fall (October/November).

Columbus Wall Day

A fantastic day out at Columbus with approximately 25 climbers of all ages. This was a zero cost event and just focused on a date, and a location for people to add to their schedules. Nate B. did a fantastic job getting people together and the weather was perfect. Some new development from anchors to routes even took place.

Kamouraska, QC (Non CNS event)

This was organized by Will Sarty during the fire ban. The intent was to set a date and location and climbers at their own accord could join in for a socialized climb. There was no cost to CNS nor was any funding requested. This event was well represented with over eight from NS and one from NB.

Main Face Rendezvous (Non CNS event)

The second annual Rendezvous was led by Nate Benjamin. The community joined in for a weekend of climbing and despite the rain, was well represented. A guest speaker; Greg Hughes from NB came to speak about seven things you should know about climbing outdoors.

Boulderfest (CANCELLED)

Boulderfest was cancelled for 2025. Ultimately, it came down to unresolved questions about our insurance, and further, the provincial fire ban that was in place and with the time left when information was known to the Board, it was too late to host an event.

Clean and Climb (Bouldering)

This was held at the Cheesecake Factory in the LOC. We had 8 volunteers come out to do some trail maintenance from the road to the boulder area. A lot of hard work went into this and we plan to continue this momentum adding a second event in the year so that we get one boulder area and one rope area.

Ice Fest

Without a volunteer team in place, and given the significant financial and logistical costs associated with running Ice Fest at the scale we have in the past, the Board could not responsibly justify or support delivering the event this year.

2026/2027 Tentatively Planned Events

As part of our renewed commitment to community, we're excited to offer an expanded lineup of events throughout the year, including:

- Spring Clean and Climb (Rope area) ***Let us know the area you want us to focus on***
- Fall Clean and Climb (Bouldering area)
- Spring Community Climb & Camp (Castle Crag)
- Boulderfest
- Ice Fest
- Reel Rock Film Fest

PSO

Events

This past year has been a busy one for the Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) division of CNS.


We had another successful local Fall Senior Boulder qualifying series hosted at Seven Bays (Halifax), Fit Rocks (Saint John) and FBC (Fredericton). The Senior Nationals for both Boulder and Lead were held in Calgary, AB in February and we had 5 athletes represent Nova Scotia for Boulder and 2 for Lead. Based on continued low numbers of Senior Lead athletes, there are still no qualifying events for Senior Lead Nationals; however we are seeing an increase in youth athletes who are just below the senior category and who are Lead certified. We hope to see this trend continue and hope to have enough Lead athletes to arrange a qualifying competition within the next few years.

Our Youth Lead qualifier was hosted by East Peak again this year. The event was an open scramble format with Lead finals. We had a great showing with many of the spots in the finals being occupied by our youth athletes.

The 2025-2026 Spring Youth Boulder series is currently underway with competitions already completed at Fit Rocks and Seven Bays. The final Youth Qualifier is set to take place at FBC on March 21.

Youth Regionals and Youth Nationals are both set to take place in Quebec this season, with Boulder Regionals being held April 18-19 in Quebec City and Boulder and Lead Nationals being held in May 14-19 in the Montreal area. With our recent status change to becoming a full PSO member of Climbing Escalade Canada (CEC), we now have access to many more spots for our athletes, allowing Nova Scotia to have a greater presence at these events. Specifically, we now have a total of 8 direct to national spots (2 male and 2 female in A and B categories) and 6 spots for our athletes in the Junior category. We also have a total of 30 spots available for Eastern Regionals (5 male and 5 female in A, B and C categories). Although we may not fill all of those spots this year, our athlete numbers have been growing significantly and with sport climbing now being an Olympic sport and part of the Canada Games, we expect this trend to continue.

Road to the Canada Games



Sport Climbing will be making its debut at the 2027 Winter Canada Games in Quebec City. The games will take place February 27-March 14, 2027 and it will have a combined Lead and Boulder format. And as your CNS PSO representatives, we have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure your PSO meets all of the requirements necessary to take part in the games.

Coach selection has taken place and we are proud to announce the selection of Dominique Hurst as Team Head Coach and Ian Downie as Team Manager. Both of these individuals are well known and respected in the climbing and coaching world and we are excited to have them both on board! We are also proud to announce that Kenzie Morrison has been selected by Sport Nova Scotia to represent our Canada Games Team as an Apprentice Coach, through the Women in Coaching program, and we know that Kenzie will make a great addition to our team staff!

Working with our team coaches and manager, we have overseen the development of selection criteria for the Canada Games training squad and final athlete selection. The training squad formation is expected in early June and will consist of approximately 4 male and 4 female athletes. Final team selection (2 male and 2 female athletes) will take place in early December 2026, approximately 3 months before the games.

Funding

Lastly, we recently completed our four year funding cycle review with Sport Nova Scotia and we were able to showcase all of the CNS sanctioned events that have taken place, as well as the EDIA events that have taken place over the past 4 years. We will find out more information in the fall about what the impact this review will have on our 2027-2030 funding and future budgets.

Elections

There are two named positions that are currently vacant that need to be filled. Terms of Reference and a call out for nominations will happen before the AGM. Two additional Member at Large positions are also vacant and we would love to see at least one of these positions filled by someone who has an interest in helping out our PSO team.

Further, the President position was vacant during the 2025/2026 season and Will Sarty volunteered and was appointed into the position. I, Will, would like to see this go to the community to vote for complete transparency.

President - Will Sarty

Development Chair - VACANT

Communications Chair - VACANT

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility- VACANT

Provincial Sport Organization Chair (PSO) - Indoor Athlete - VACANT

Member at Large (2) -VACANT

Will Sarty

President, Climb Nova Scotia