

Historical Overview

Doug Soo, Executive Director of Britannia put forward a recommendation on March 1992 to form a Honourary Board. The rationale for his position was to have Britannia formally recognize the involvement of those who had made a significant contribution to Britannia. The Honourary Board became a part of Britannia when the Board passed a motion in May of 1994.

Criteria for the Honourary Board is as follows:

- That it be an appointed body that is nominated and unanimously approved by the elected Board.
- Honourary Board members should be members of the society

Who should be considered for nomination?

- Past Board members (elected/appointed), past committee volunteers, past staff, past program volunteers and/or donors who have made extraordinary gifts to Britannia.

The qualifications for a Honourary Board member are as follows:

- A comprehensive understanding of Britannia history and purpose
- Knowledge, skills and abilities that can assist Britannia through changes.
- Passion and commitment to Britannia and what it stands for.

The duties of a Honourary Board member are as follows:

- Advisory role
- Sharing experience and expertise
- Networking to other resources
- Public relations ambassador to Britannia
- Provide a historical perspective of Britannia and its Constitution, by-laws, policies and procedures.
- Attendance and involvement in major events that promote Britannia

Review Process and recommendations

Honourary Board members were consulted in the review of the present Frame of Reference. Those whose ideas helped to form the following recommendations are, Michael Clague, Thelma Lindsay, Doug Soo, and John Minichello. Many thanks to these Honourary Board members for their perspective on this issue.

The terms of reference remain as relevant today as they were in 1994. There are two areas that the Board reconsidered:

Composition of Honourary Board Positions

- That there be a maximum number of Honourary Board members
- That there be two categories of Honourary Board positions

That there be eight to ten positions for active Honourary Board members. There be a recognition that Honourary Board members may encounter health or lifestyle issues that prevent them from maintaining the needed level of involvement. It is recommended that only Active members be voted on to the Honourary Board. In order to be an Inactive member you must have been an Active member.

Specific Date for Nominations

- Consideration of new nominations every January.

Nominations will be submitted to the Chair, Executive Committee or Board Development Committee in November or December. It would be useful when submitting a nomination to have an explanation of why this person is being recommended based on the agreed upon qualifications.

The Board at the January meeting votes on recommendations submitted names. In order to determine if the present Honourary Board members consider themselves to be Active or Inactive, the Chair or the Chairs delegate would contact Honourary Board members to see if they consider themselves to be Active or Inactive members at this point in their tenure.

Specific Involvement

The Honourary Board members who commented on these recommendations thought that the Honourary Board should have specific events that they are involved in. For example they could be issued a schedule similar to the Boards. This schedule would have events such as Volunteer Dinner, Canada Day and Scholarship presentations. It would be incumbent on the present day board to ensure that the Honourary Board was involved in meaningful participation.

Raising the awareness of the Elected Board as to who the Honourary Board members could be done by:

- Expanding Section 2 of the Board Manual. There could be a Honourary Board section that included the names, phone numbers and short bio of each member and their history with Britannia. Honourary Board members consulted consider their role to be mentors of Elected Members. Having this information readily available would make it easier to contact a Honourary member.
- Photographs of Honourary Board members displayed in the Board room.

Recommendations submitted to Chair of Board Development
November 26, 2001 by Joanne McLaughlin, board member

Approved by the Board as amended January 23, 2002.