



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

German Canadian Association of Nova Scotia

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GCA

Letter from the Board

February 1, 2017

**Dear friends of the German Canadian Association of Nova Scotia (GCA),
Liebe Freunde der Deutsch-Kanadischen Gesellschaft von Nova Scotia,**

Even though a little late, we wish you all a happy New Year! We hope that you enjoyed the events over the past year and we look forward to seeing many of you at the events in 2017. This past year the GCA has continued to fulfil its mandate by promoting cultural, educational and social gatherings for Nova Scotia's German-speaking community. The funds we raised helped us to organize a number of diverse events and support educational causes such as the GCA's annual scholarship for the German Heritage Language School.

We are happy to propose a significant change to our membership structure for 2017. We have the intention to make a move away from a membership fee-based system in order to be more inclusive of all German-speaking people in the province who stay connected with the GCA through our various (social) media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Meetup and our website. Our newsletter will be publicly available and therefore more broadly accessible. Such a change to the membership structure requires a special resolution to amend the association's by-laws at the annual general meeting. The **AGM** will be held on **Saturday, February 25, 2017** at 2.00 pm at the Lower Deck in Clayton Park. Anyone interested is welcome to join us for the AGM which will be followed by a social gettogether.

Our primary focus will shift to fundraising through donations, which will help to continue to support our mandate. Please consider continuing your support by making a donation. This can be done on our website at www.germancanadianassociation.ca or by sending cash or cheque to the address below:

German Canadian Association of Nova Scotia
c/o Suzanne I. Rix
Cox & Palmer
PO Box 2380, Halifax, NS B3J 3E5

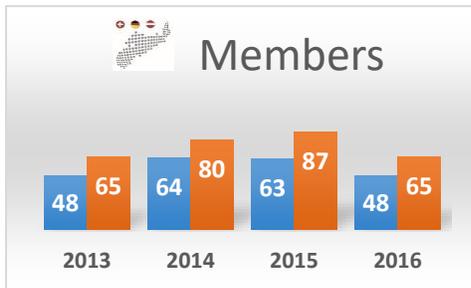
With warm regards,
Mit herzlichen Grüßen,

Your GCA Board

Alexander Strohmeier, André Trzebiatowski, Christine Hoehne, Jessica Kressebuch, Jessica Wyss, Julia Poertner, Katie Tanner, Laurie Woodward, René Botzenhardt, Sebastian Paeplow, Stefan Eisebraun, Suzanne Rix, and Yvonne Foertsch

connecting people - connecting cultures

Community Reach & Communication

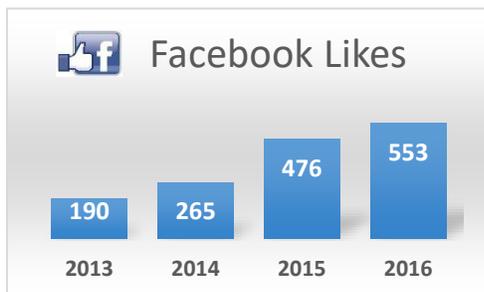
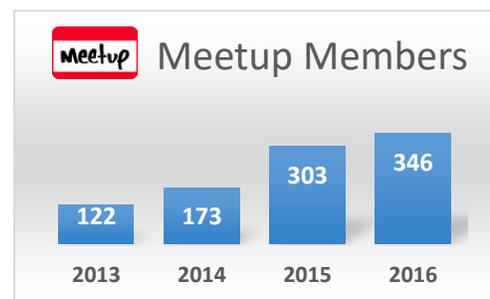


In 2016, the GCA had 48 **memberships** that included 65 individual **members**. Over the years, we have seen increased engagement through the GCA's various social media channels while membership itself has decreased in the most recent years. Based on feedback at last year's AGM and other events, we decided that it was time to reconsider the membership-based model.

Going forward, the GCA will fund its activities through donations that will be raised over the course of the year at our various events. We will report on these activities in our next annual report in 2018.

Meetup provides a platform for event attendees to RSVP to gatherings and chat with those they meet. With 43 new Meetup members in 2016, the group continues to experience steady growth. A main objective of the GCA is to provide opportunities for the German-speaking community to connect. Anyone within the German Speakers in Halifax Meetup group can create their own event too.

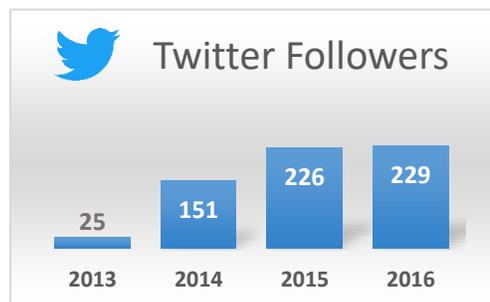
Check out our Meetup site: meetup.com



The GCA maintained its social media presence, with 77 new people liking its **Facebook** page, and with **Twitter** followers consistent with the last year's numbers.

Event updates, German news, and popular culture posts relevant to the German culture or language have received significant views and responses on Facebook. The GCA

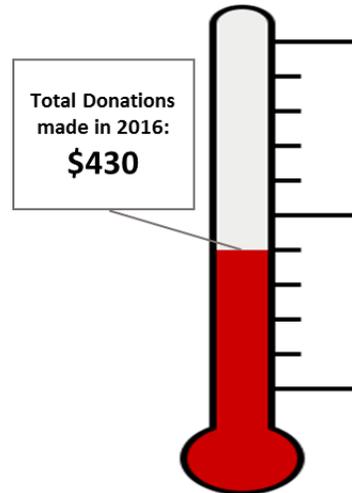
Facebook page is meant to be a place of engagement, as well as a first point of contact for many new to the province. Feel free to like our Facebook page (facebook.com/gcanovascotia) or follow us on Twitter @gca_ns.



Our **website** receives an average of nearly 1,000 visits per month. In 2016, the website underwent a major update to improve administration and responsiveness. It contains more background information about the GCA's objectives, the German heritage in Nova Scotia, information on current and past events, and a list of our supporters. Check it out at www.germancanadianassociation.ca.

Donations

Donations are made to support and promote the **understanding, teaching and appreciation of the German language** and cultures of German-speaking countries. Over the past 5 years the GCA has made donations of almost \$3,400 in the form of scholarships, literature prizes and event support that align with the GCA's language mandate.



German Heritage Language School Scholarship



Cora Fanning and Mike MacMillan are this year's recipients of the GCA Scholarship for one term each at the German Heritage Language School. The picture shows Cora Fanning with the GCA President Jessica Wyss. Congratulations!

Dalhousie Book Prize

The GCA, the Honorary Consul of Germany, and the Honorary Consul of Switzerland each recognized the work of three outstanding students at Dalhousie's Department of German. Charlotte Doane, Charlotte Scromeda, and Rebekka Corneil were awarded this year's book prizes. The picture shows Suzanne Rix, Honorary Consul of Germany, and Charlotte Doane, who received the GCA book prize. The GCA also supported the Dalhousie German Networking Initiative, which brings together German researchers and academics of all different faculties and disciplines at Dalhousie University.



Events

Events in 2016 included regular **Stammtisch** in both Halifax and Elmsdale, as well as a special Fussball Stammtisch during the UEFA Euro Championship, an **AGM** brunch, our annual **Sommerfest** barbecue, a **networking event** with German researchers at Dalhousie, participation in a language consortium at Saint Mary's University, a **reading** by German author Renate Behr, and **Laternenfest** in cooperation with the German Heritage Language School (GHLS). The GCA welcomes anyone who is interested in starting a regular event to contact us for more information.

On February 15, 2016, people met at the Lion's Head Tavern and Grill in Halifax for a belated **Rosenmontag** to celebrate Karneval after the first scheduled event was cancelled due to weather. The GCA provided a few shareable bites for the table, party favours and some extra Karneval attire. Simone and Richard were crowned Karneval Prince and Princess and received prizes for their costumes and for singing the traditional Rosenmontag song "Am Rosenmontag bin ich geboren."



On May 18, friends of the GCA experienced the excitement of **Bingo** at the Halifax Forum, supported the GCA, and even won some great cash prizes. This group bingo outing raised \$10 for the GCA for every \$15 bingo book that was sold to our group-- and one participant event won the largest



regular-game prize of the night!



On September 16 and 17, the GCA took part in Garrison Brewing's Halifax **Oktoberfest**, running fundraising activities and providing late-night games for Oktoberfest entertainment. The GCA sold pastries made by The Gingerbread Haus, had a cultural information table with German-themed merchandise, ran a successful Jaeger

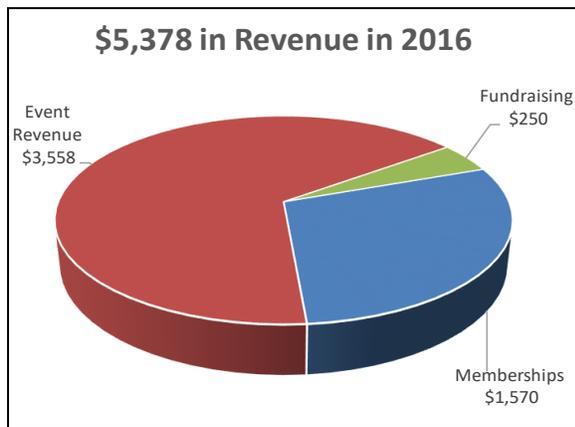


Chalet, and gave away close to \$500 in prizes donated by Nova Scotia businesses in our reverse draw. Members of the GCA board also organized games such as pretzel-plunger toss and dirndl/lederhosen dressing races.



On December 10, the GCA worked with the GHLS to bring **Nikolaus** to children for the annual Christmas event. This was a great family event for all ages that included festive presentations by German School classes, carol singing, and gifts from Nikolaus himself! The event was earlier this year and the new time was well received, as was the Kaffee und Kuchen reception!

Financial Accountability

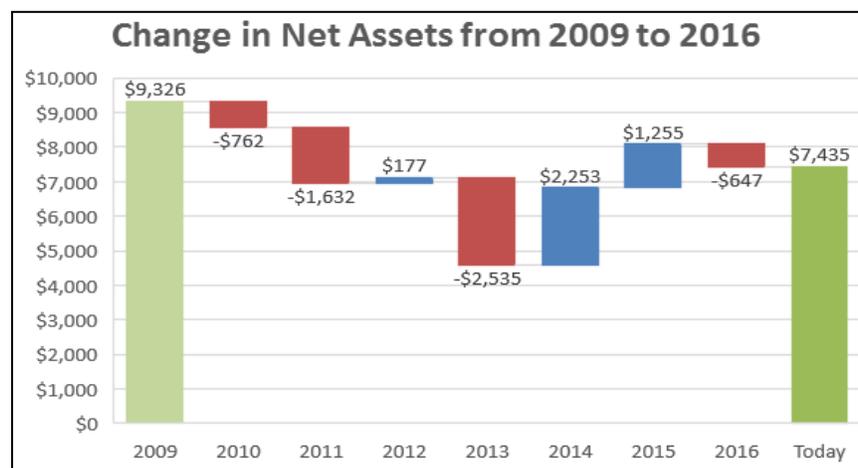
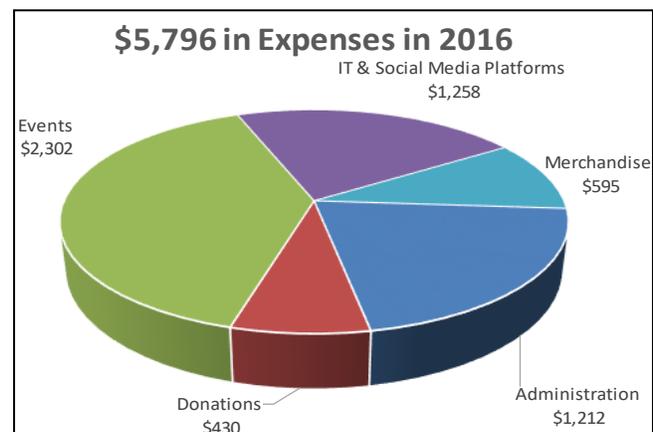


Revenue

The main revenue sources for the GCA have been the membership fees and revenue generated at events (which consists mostly of revenue from Oktoberfest). Membership revenue has decreased compared to the previous year (\$1,795). Fundraising revenue was generated through our first Bingo night. Focus going forward will be generating revenue through donations at our various events.

Expenses

The goal for the GCA is to break even every year in order to maintain a healthy cash balance for unforeseen expenses. This goal was not reached due to two one-time expenses. IT & Social Media expenses were higher than in previous years due to the migration of our website to another provider (cost \$500) allowing for easier administration. Merchandise expenses include a one-time purchase of rack cards for promotional purposes.



Net Assets include cash and inventory.