

Guatemala Stove Project
Minutes Annual General Meeting for Fiscal Year
April 1/23 - March 31/24

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 5:30
Coutts Coffee Roastery & Café
57 Gore At. E., Perth ON K7H 1H6

Present: Tom Clarke, Janet Allan, Karen Clendenan, Ken Morin, Tim Wilson, Rob Bowyer, Blake Johnston. Livio Persi, Tammy Morrison, Elaine Scott, Paul Hauraney, John MacNeil, Liz Maltby, Norah Hall, Terri Henderson, Bob Klatt, Liz Ballantyne-Jackson, Nancy Maynard, Cecilia Brodie, Jim Brodie, Miles Howe, Madison Hainstock, Lorraine Ryan, Dustin Klock, Madison Hainstock, Anina Youngman
By Zoom: Rita Redner, Joni Seligman, Leslie Rowe, Judy Field
Chair: Janet Allan
Minutes: Norah Hall

1. 5:35 pm Janet Allan welcomed all and each person introduced themselves.
2. Janet introduced Coordinator Tom Clarke, and Board of Directors, Janet Allan, Rob Bowyer and Phill Brackenbury
3. Paul Hauraney did a presentation to recognize Eric Scheuneman's retirement after 23 years of volunteer work for the GSP. Paul explained the many tasks that Eric undertook and the meticulous care he brought to all tasks. Paul showed the congratulatory certificate that will be given to Eric.
4. Agenda was approved after the addition of 3 items. Acceptance motioned by Paul and seconded by Ken.
5. Minutes of last AGM on June 11, 2023 were reviewed and motion to approve made by Bob Klatt and seconded by Nancy Maynard
6. There was no Business arising from the minutes
7. Nancy Maynard presented the financial report for the fiscal year. There was some concern about amounts donated to microloans and bursaries not showing what was actually transferred for these programs.
A discussion followed with clarification that all donations from fundraisers are initially accounted for in the **General Funds** category even though they may have been donated for specific programs. These donations are then used to fund specific programs such as school cookstoves, microloans or bursaries according to the donors' wishes.

8. The Annual Report was distributed and notice was given that it will be posted on our website. Phill Brackenbury gave an oral summary of some of the reports highlights:

Thanks to Judy Field for her editing, formatting and printing of the Annual General Report. Her expertise and attention to detail elevate the final product beyond simply a record of the GSP's year. It's beautiful to look at and can be used as an introduction to our work and a promotional tool and thank you to sponsors. There are 3 small corrections from this printed copy. I take full ownership of these. The corrected report will be posted on our website.

I will leave reading the report to each of you, and I will talk about a couple of key aspects of this year's report that we would like to highlight.

Total GSP cookstoves built to date: **8170**

Our stoves help families in many ways – they alleviate highly toxic indoor air pollution which allows each family member to live a longer, healthier life. They also reduce the amount of wood burned which helps the family save money and reduces the rate of deforestation. As weather patterns change, another significant aspect of more efficient stoves is the **reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**. Carbon dioxide emissions of a family's cooking are reduced by over two tonnes per year. That is more than 20 tonnes of CO2 over a ten-year lifespan of a stove. These days, our planet needs all the help it can get.

COOKSTOVES CONSTRUCTED FROM APR.1/23 TO MAR. 31/24

AMMID	100 family stoves, 2 school stoves
CEDEC	75 family stoves, 2 school stoves
AMI	75 family stoves

Total family cookstoves built to date: **8,118**

Total school stoves built to date: **52**

School Stoves have been a bigger part of our funding lately. Having a large stove in a school operated by school staff and parent volunteers means these stoves can help feed a large number of the most vulnerable in any community, the children. We see this as a continuing part of our plan as we go forward with trying to help as many people as possible have a better life.

Bursaries are another important way that the GSP helps. In this case it focuses on rural girls and provides educational opportunities that would not exist for them without GSP financial aid. This year we supported 14 young women.

Liz Ballantyne Jackson and Janet Allan made home visits to four new bursary students. All 4 girls who are entering grade 7 come from families of single mothers who are surviving with minimal economic resources.

Jocelyn Salvador is the new AMMID community educator, replacing Jovita Guzman. She looks to be as capable as her predecessor. At the celebratory luncheon with the bursary students, Reyna Tomas Ramirez was the keynote speaker. A graduate of the bursary program, she gave a powerful talk about her struggles, the power of education and how she now has a small successful business.

Over the years GSP volunteers have come across individuals in remote villages who are suffering from debilitating medical conditions that could be remedied if they had access to financial and medical resources. The GSP has on occasion provided these funds, and our partners CEDEC and AMI have provided support. Lately we have been able to provide more help to needy individuals through a strengthening **relationship with HELPS** – a medical charity out of the US that comes to western Guatemala to provide surgeries for free. HELPS has been looking for connections to bring individuals needing surgery to them in order to fulfill their mission. GSP provides some funds to help individuals and their families with transportation to pre and post-surgery medical appointments as well as food and lodging if necessary. Our AMI contact Clara Colop provides very important liaison work in the local language to help families understand and accept the assistance and surgeries.

Finally, we would like to point out that **90% of the funds** we raise through events and donations **go directly to our Guatemalan partners to fund our projects**. That is an amazing testament to the work of all the GSP volunteers. They are incredibly giving of their time and labour, and as has been said by many volunteers over the years, they are a great group of people to work with. Thanks to all of you and your work on behalf of those who need help at times to meet their basic needs. Eastern Ontario has created an incredible bond and connection with the highlands of Western Guatemala. We believe the GSP is a model for those who have enough to share with those who don't.

9. Reports:

One of our NGO partners, Ishim Yac, who leads CEDEC, spoke via Zoom about conditions in Guatemala. She reported that there had been very little rain early in the growing season which was affecting crops. Farmers replanted their crops and now there is an excess of rain which is causing some flooding. Food has become very expensive. There are still issues with the government being unable to enact policies and help people. Ishim thanked the GSP for everything it does for Guatemalans.

Tom Clarke, the GSP coordinator spoke on climate change and how stoves are helping to reduce carbon in our atmosphere. He stressed that we need to not be complacent with our work and that every stove transfer is a reason for great celebration. He estimated 50,000 individuals have been helped by the stoves funded by the GSP. He thanked the Directors for their work and thanked outgoing Director Rob Bowyer for his efforts. He talked about the CBC radio program "What on Earth" which highlights solutions and environmental work being done to combat climate change. Tom asked if GSP volunteers could send letters to CBC recommending the GSP as a focus of an episode.

10. Call for nominations for one board member to replace Rob Bowyer.

Paul nominated Miles Howe. Miles accepted the nomination and this was seconded by Norah. Approved.

11. General business:

Upcoming events

Stewart Park Music Festival July 19 - 21. Paul passed out a volunteer sign up sheet to fill the remaining openings in the schedule.

Blue Skies Music Festival - GSP - cans and bottle pickup Aug 2- 4 Volunteers are in place and a schedule will be circulated soon by Phill.

Date of next board of directors meeting: September 10, 2024 7pm (Zoom)

Date of next volunteer meeting: Tues., September 17 5:30 pm Coutts Coffee Café in Perth or via Zoom.

12. Other business

Leslie Rowe spoke about a new book, "Then and Now - More Tales of a Lone Traveller", that she authored. It will be published in the fall and all proceeds will go to the GSP.

Bob Klatt donated 2 items (cedar planter and butternut birdhouse) for a door prize raffle. The raffle was held in the intermission of the meeting and the planter was won by Rob Bowyer and birdhouse won by John MacNeil.

Liz Ballantyne-Jackson asked for contributions of photos from past volunteer trips for the 2025 GSP calendar since there was no official volunteer trip in 2024.

Special thanks to Toby Shannon, owner of Coutt's Café, and his staff for the use of Coutt's Cafe as a meeting space for the AGM (and volunteer meetings) and for the coffee and snacks.

13. Date for GSP 2024-2025 Annual General Meeting: June 24, 2025 5:30pm at Coutt's Café

13. Adjournment: Moved by Janet Allan, seconded by Norah
Meeting ended at 7:30 pm