

**Minutes of the  
Annual General Meeting of  
the Champlain Society  
Saturday, September 24, 2016  
Heliconian Hall, 35 Hazelton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario**

Present: Patrice Dutil, in the Chair, Don McLeod, Secretary, and thirty members of the Society and their guests.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

*Moved by Jane Errington, seconded by Michel Beaulieu, that the minutes of the meeting of the AGM of November 7, 2015, be accepted as presented. Carried.*

### **1. Report of the President: Patrice Dutil**

Patrice D. gave a brief PowerPoint overview of the Society's key activities during 2015–16, and congratulated Pierre Anctil and Tõnu Onu on the publication of *“Do What You Must”: Selected Editorials from Le Devoir under Henri Bourassa, 1910–1932*. He also mentioned progress with the *Findings/Trouvailles* project and new book projects.

Objectives for 2016 included:

- a continued austerity plan;
- saving on publication costs through work with UTP-J;
- reinvesting in promotion;
- raising membership numbers;
- raising donations.

Looking forward, Patrice D. outlined objectives for 2017, which include:

- rejuvenation of the Council;

- rebuilding membership;
- continued innovation (such as with *Findings/Trouvailles* and the digital collection);
- marketing the 2017 volume “*We Harbor No Evil Design*”: *Rehabilitation Efforts after the Halifax Explosion of 1917*, edited by David A. Sutherland;
- increasing donations.

Patrice D. thanked members of the Society’s Council and also the Executive Committee (Michel Beaulieu, Peter Davis, Patrice Dutil, Jane Errington, Janet Friskney, and Don McLeod) for their work during the year, and also the staff at University of Toronto Press-Journals.

Patrice D. asked if there were any questions from the floor. There were none.

## **2. Report of the Treasurer: Peter Davis and Patrice Dutil**

Peter D. used PowerPoint to present a summary of the financial state of the Society for the year ended December 31, 2015, and subsequent financial reports.

The Society had a good year and posted a net gain of \$17,796 for 2015, up from a gain of \$9,905 in 2014. Revenues for fiscal 2015 were \$87,191, up from \$65,171 in fiscal 2014, but expenses were also higher in 2015, a total of \$69,395, up from \$55,266 in 2014.

The projection for fiscal 2016 was \$66,650 in revenues and \$47,223 for expenses, with a projected surplus of \$19,427. The financial report for the first seven months of fiscal 2016 shows revenue of \$51,015 and expenses of \$12,321. Printing and mailing expenses will be charged later in the year with the publication of the volume. It is expected that the actual revenues and expenses will be close to the projection.

Peter D. reviewed the Society's financial goals for fiscal 2016, which included:

- continuation of the austerity plan;
- raising membership numbers and revenue through additional promotion, particularly with cross-promotion ads with journals such as *Canadian Historical Review*;
- raising donations.

Peter D. asked if there were any questions from the floor. There were none.

Patrice D. noted that the Society's membership had unanimously supported a motion that the Champlain Society forego the preparation of audited financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2015, and that, in lieu of audited financial statements, the University of Toronto Press-Journals be asked to provide a review engagement of the state of the Champlain Society's accounts for the year ending December 31, 2015.

The Society's Council in its meeting this morning, September 24, 2016, unanimously supported the provision of a review engagement by UTP-J for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016, subject to the conditions of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporation Act (2012).

*Moved by Patrice Dutil, seconded by Michel Beaulieu, that the Champlain Society forego the preparation of audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2016, and that, in lieu of audited Financial Statements, Shawn O'Grady, Vice President of Finance, University of Toronto Press, be asked to provide a review engagement of the state of the Champlain Society's accounts for the year ending December 31, 2016, subject to the conditions of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporation Act (2012). Carried unanimously.*

### **3. Committee Reports**

#### **Report on Membership: Patrice Dutil**

Patrice D. noted that the Society at its peak in the 1990s had almost 1,100 members, which has fallen at present to slightly more than 400. Retirements and deaths have taken a toll, and we have not been able to attract enough new and younger members to fill the gap. Increasing the membership will be a key priority for the next years. Patrice D. mentioned that Council in its meeting this morning approved the striking of a committee (consisting of Patrice Dutil, Michel Beaulieu, Janet Friskney, and Stacy Nation-Knapper) to investigate ways to increase the Society's membership, target individuals who will champion the Society, and link with peer organizations that will help to promote the Society.

#### **Report of the Publications Committee and the General Editor: Don McLeod and Jane Errington**

Don M. thanked the members of the Publications Committee for their work during the year: Sandra Alston, Peter Davis, Jane Errington (general editor), Roger Hall, Don McLeod (chair), William Moreau, Carolyn Podruchny, Germaine Warkentin, David Wood.

Don M. noted the publication for 2016: *“Do What You Must”*: *Selected Editorials from Le Devoir under Henri Bourassa, 1910–1932*, edited by Pierre Anctil; translation by Tõnu Onu. It is due in November 2016. Copies will be mailed to members by the end of November, with a renewal notice.

Jane E. remarked on forthcoming volumes in preparation. We have signed contracts for the following projects; we will finalize production dates as they come in:

- *“We Harbor No Evil Design”*: Rehabilitation Efforts after the Halifax Explosion of 1917, edited by David A. Sutherland (scheduled for 2017);
- *The Hudson’s Bay Company and the Coast Trade, 1826–1846*, edited by James R. Gibson (scheduled for 2018);
- *Life and Death by the Frozen Sea: The York Factory Journals of Captain James Knight, Governor of Hudson Bay, 1714–1717*, edited by Arthur J. Ray (scheduled for 2019);
- *Hockey: A Canadian History in Documents*, edited by Andrew C. Holman (scheduled for 2020);
- *The Letters of James Wolfe, 1740–1759*, edited by D. Peter MacLeod (scheduled for 2021?);
- *The Daily Journal of Colin Robertson, May 22, 1814–August 17, 1817*, edited by S. Gregg Dahl (scheduled for 2022?);
- *The Moravians in Labrador*, edited by Linda Sabathy-Judd (scheduled for 2023?);
- *John Holmes: A Canadian in Foreign Affairs*, edited by Hector Mackenzie (scheduled for 2024?);
- *The Writings of David Thompson. Volume III*, edited by William E. Moreau, will be extra series and co-published with McGill-Queen’s University Press (MQUP) (publication date to be determined).

Don M. noted that a Call for Project Proposals continues to be distributed widely, through e-lists and our website. We have generated some talk about potential projects, and received one formal proposal

during the year. We will continue to distribute the Call to try to attract new formal proposals.

### **Report on *Findings/Trouvailles*: Stacy Nation-Knapper**

Stacy N-K reported that *Findings/Trouvailles* has a new, diverse board consisting of Stacy Nation-Knapper (chair), Tina Adcock, Mairi Cowan, Patrice Dutil, Travis Hay, Abril Liberatori, Andrew Nurse, and Donald Wetherell.

There has been a steady flow of new contributions for *Findings/Trouvailles*, and new articles are always welcome. Most recently, the September posting featured “Lost in Translation: The Michif French Diaries of William Davis,” by Émilie Pigeon. There will be two postings in October: “‘*Gens des Outaouais*,’ the First Designation of the *Coueurs de bois* in Denis Riverin’s *Memoire historique* (1705),” by Gilles Havard, and “The Final Days of Nicholas Melady Jr. as Witnessed by William Dickson,” by Don McLeod. December will feature the “12 Days of *Trouvailles*,” brief entries of 250 words relating to the holiday season.

Stacy N-K reported that a few requests to contribute to *Findings/Trouvailles* had to be turned down due to the requirement that contributors be members of the Society. Council discussed this in the meeting this morning and supported a motion that the membership requirement for submission to *Findings/Trouvailles* be removed and that people who make successful submissions who are not already members of the Society be awarded an honorary membership for one year. This will help to generate even more interest in contributing to *Findings/Trouvailles*, and will increase interest in the Society.

### **Resolution to Appoint Members of Council**

Patrice D. reviewed the membership of Council and the Executive Committee.

Roger Hall's term on Council ends on December 31, 2016; he is now an honorary vice-president.

Patrice D. reviewed the list of Council members and said they would remain the same for 2017. There would be no additions at the moment.

Returning members of Council are:

Michel S. Beaulieu (to December 31, 2019)  
Heidi Bohaker (to December 31, 2017)  
Danièle Caloz (to December 31, 2018)  
Peter Davis (to December 31, 2019)  
Patrice Dutil (to December 31, 2017)  
Jane Errington (to December 31, 2019)  
Janet Friskney (to December 31, 2017)  
Gregory P. Marchildon (to December 31, 2017)  
Donald W. McLeod (to December 31, 2018)  
Stacy Nation-Knapper (to December 31, 2018)  
James Paxton (to December 31, 2019)  
Nicole St-Onge (to December 31, 2017)  
Germaine Warkentin (to December 31, 2018)

Patrice D. presented the names of the proposed members of the Executive Committee, beginning January 1, 2017:

Patrice Dutil: President, and Chair, Nominations Committee  
Michel S. Beaulieu: Vice President and President-Elect, and Chair,  
Chalmers Award Committee  
Donald W. McLeod: Secretary, and Chair, Publications Committee  
Peter Davis: Treasurer  
Janet Friskney: Member-at-large  
Stacy Nation-Knapper: Editor, *Findings/Trouvailles*  
Jane Errington: General Editor

Patrice D. asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

*Moved by Roger Hall, seconded by Danièle Caloz, that the membership of the Council and Executive of the Champlain Society for the period beginning January 1, 2017, be as presented by the Nominations Committee, with some additional members to be named and approved by Council later. Carried.*

**4. Presentation by Prof Ross Fair (Ryerson University), “Toronto during the First World War”**

**5. Presentation by Prof Roger Hall (Western University), “The Ontario Military Hospital at Orpington in Kent: An Imperial Footnote”**

The two illustrated talks by Profs Fair and Hall were interesting and well received. There were questions from the floor after each. Patrice D. thanked them for the presentations. *Members of the audience applauded.*

**6. Presentation of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History for 2015**

Patrice D. acted as administrator of the award this year, replacing Michel B. temporarily. Members of the Chalmers Committee were: Prof Jan Noel (chair; University of Toronto), Prof Roger Hall (Western University), and Prof Brian Osborne (Queen’s University). Patrice D. offered thanks to members of the committee on behalf of the Society, and to Lauren Naus of UTP-J for her help.

Patrice D. noted that the Society received a record number of entries this year. The winner of the 2015 Floyd S. Chalmers Award for Ontario History is Dr William J. Smyth, president emeritus of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, for *Toronto, The Belfast of Canada:*



*The Orange Order and the Shaping of Municipal Culture* (University of Toronto Press).

Patrice D. presented the award citation, the prize of an Inuit sculpture, and a cheque for \$1,000 to Dr Smyth, who thanked the Society and made a brief presentation on the book. There were questions from the floor. *Members of the audience applauded.*

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. It was followed by a wine and cheese reception to celebrate the winner of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History.