

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of
the Champlain Society
Saturday, October 28, 2017
City of Toronto Archives, Toronto, Ontario**

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Moved by Jane Errington, seconded by Peter Davis, that the minutes of the meeting of the AGM of September 24, 2016, 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 2016–17, and congratulated David A. Sutherland on the publication of *"We Harbor No Evil Design": Rehabilitation Efforts after the Halifax Explosion of 1917* as the Society's 2017 volume. He also mentioned progress with other objectives for 2017 including:

- the expansion of the *Findings/Trouvailles* project, coordinated by Stacy Knapper-Nation, which now includes more than fifty postings;
- a new podcast initiative called *Witness to Yesterday*, coordinated by Patrice Dutil and Greg Marchildon, and using the production facilities of Ryerson University;
- a redesign of the Society's website, coordinated by University of Toronto Press-Journals;
- fundraising for book projects, including securing a major grant from the Hudson's Bay Company History Foundation in support of publications relating to the history of Hudson's Bay, and also a

successful Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences Awards to Scholarly Publications Program (ASPP) grant in support of publication of the Halifax volume;

- reinvesting in promotion, including partnering with Historica.ca to showcase publications of the Society;
- developing new book projects.

Looking forward, Patrice D. outlined objectives for 2018, which include:

- rejuvenation of the Council;
- rebuilding membership;
- continued innovation (such as with *Findings/Trouvailles*, *Witness to Yesterday*, 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;
- preparing the Society’s 2018 volume, *Life and Death by the Frozen Sea: The York Fort Journals of Captain James Knight, Governor of Hudson Bay, 1714–1717*, edited by Arthur J. Ray.

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, 2016, and subsequent financial reports.

The Society had a good year and posted a net gain of \$19,193 for 2016, up from a gain of \$17,796 in 2015. Revenues for fiscal 2016 were \$68,600, down from \$87,191 in fiscal 2015 (during which we published two books), but expenditures were also lower in 2016, a total of \$49,408, down from \$69,395 in 2015. Donations were also up in fiscal 2016 for a total of \$10,682, compared to \$8,894 for 2015.

The projection for fiscal 2017 was \$70,750 in revenues and \$56,213 for expenses, with a projected surplus of \$14,537. The financial report for the first six months of fiscal 2017 shows revenue of \$62,666 and expenses of \$11,190. 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 2017, which included:

- continuation of the austerity plan;
- trying to raise membership numbers and revenue;
- 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, 2016, 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, 2016.

The Society's Council in its meeting this morning, October 28, 2017, unanimously supported the provision of a review engagement by UTP-J

for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, subject to the conditions of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporation Act (2012).

Moved by Patrice Dutil, seconded by Peter Davis, that the Champlain Society forego the preparation of audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2017, and that, in lieu of audited Financial Statements, Mr. 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, 2017, subject to the conditions of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporation Act (2012).

Peter D. asked if there were any questions. A member asked how long these review engagements would continue. Peter D. explained that it was a matter of the level of the Society’s revenue, and that unless the revenue greatly increased the review engagement will suffice in lieu of audited financial statements.

The motion was called to vote. Carried unanimously.

3. Committee Reports

Report on Membership: Patrice Dutil

Patrice D. reported that total membership has been falling almost every year, and stands at 356 in 2017. We must seek a new business model, extend partnerships, and increase donations. A membership subcommittee has been struck to investigate ways to increase the Society’s membership, such as targeting individuals who will champion the Society and linking with peer organizations that will help to promote the Society. The subcommittee includes: Patrice Dutil, Michel Beaulieu, Janet Friskney, and Stacy Nation-Knapper. In addition, a membership survey will be distributed to all members. It will ask specific questions about the value of the Society, what changes members would like to see, what the Society should do to improve value for members, and how to

promote the Society. The questionnaire will also try to gauge the age, profession, and geographic spread of the membership.

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, Germaine Warkentin.

Carolyn Podruchny and David Wood have retired from the Committee. We thank them for their service.

Don M. noted the publication for 2017, “*We Harbor No Evil Design*”: *Rehabilitation Efforts after the Halifax Explosion of 1917*, edited by David A. Sutherland. The volume was published in September 2017 and was mailed with the renewal notice and other material.

Jane E. remarked on forthcoming volumes in preparation. Two new projects have been signed up during the year:

- *A Brief but Accurate Record, 1858–1921: The Edited and Annotated Diaries of Edward Marion Chadwick*, edited by Jonathan S. Lofft;
- *Jewish Life in Canada: A History in Documents. Volume I: Origins to 1923*, edited by Pierre Anctil and Richard Menkis.

In addition, we have signed contracts for the following projects and will finalize production dates as they come in:

- *Life and Death by the Frozen Sea: The York Fort Journals of Captain James Knight, Governor of Hudson Bay, 1714–1717*, edited by Arthur J. Ray (scheduled for 2018);

- *The Hudson's Bay Company and the Coast Trade, 1826–1846*, edited by James R. Gibson (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?);
- *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 was released widely throughout 2016–17, through e-lists and our website. We have also received informal inquiries about potential projects, which we will pursue, and will continue to distribute the Call to try to attract new formal proposals.

Patrice D. thanked the members of the Publications Committee for their work.

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

Stacy N-K reported that we now have more than fifty postings on *Findings/Trouvailles*. There is also a solid schedule for 2018 and a nice backlog of entries. There is a good selection of editors, though Tina

Adcock has resigned. The updated site looks great, though it is still a generation behind in design. They are working to improve it.

Stacy wants to do a series on family holiday traditions for Christmas, and asked for contributions.

A member asked if the contents of *Findings/Trouvailles* go out only to members. Stacy replied that all entries are posted on the Society's website and may be viewed by anyone. She also stated that contributions from non-members are welcome.

Patrice D. congratulated Stacy and the *Findings/Trouvailles* team for their outstanding work.

Resolution to Appoint Members of Council

Patrice D. noted that Nicole St-Onge would be leaving Council and thanked her for her service.

At the meeting of Council this morning, Kathryn Claire Labelle was approved as a new member of Council, with a term ending December 31, 2020.

There are no other additions to Council. Returning members of Council are:

Michel S. Beaulieu (to December 31, 2019)

Heidi Bohaker (to December 31, 2020)

Steve Bright (to December 31, 2020)

Danièle Caloz (to December 31, 2018)

Mairi Cowan (to December 31, 2019)

Peter Davis (to December 31, 2019)

Patrice Dutil (to December 31, 2020)

E. Jane Errington (to December 31, 2019)

Janet Friskney (to December 31, 2020)

Alex E. Graham (to December 31, 2019)
Craig L. Mantle (to December 31, 2020)
Gregory P. Marchildon (to December 31, 2020)
Donald W. McLeod (to December 31, 2018)
Stacy Nation-Knapper (to December 31, 2018)
James Paxton (to December 31, 2019)
Andy Spears (to December 31, 2019)
Germaine Warkentin (to December 31, 2018)

Patrice D. presented the names of the proposed members of the Executive Committee, beginning January 1, 2018:

President, and Chair, Nominations Committee: Michel S. Beaulieu
Vice President: Peter Davis
Vice President-at-large: Janet Friskney
Treasurer, and Past President: Patrice Dutil
Secretary, and Chair, Publications Committee: Donald W. McLeod
Deputy Secretary: Craig L. Mantle
Editor, *Findings/Trouvailles*: Stacy Nation-Knapper
General Editor: E. Jane Errington

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

Moved by Patrice Dutil, seconded by Sandra Alston, that the membership of the Council and Executive of the Champlain Society for the period beginning January 1, 2018, be as presented by the Nominations Committee, with some additional members to be named and approved by Council later. Carried.

4. Presentation by Dr. Craig L. Mantle, “Canada’s Military Experience in 1917.”

5. Presentation by Drs. Patrice Dutil and David MacKenzie, “Democracy on Trial: The 1917 Election.”

6. Presentation by Dr. David A. Sutherland, “The Halifax Relief Commission after the 1917 Explosion.”

The talks by Drs. Mantle, Dutil, MacKenzie, and Sutherland 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.*

7. Presentation of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History for 2016

Patrice D. reported on the results of the Chalmers competition. Members of the Chalmers Committee were Dr. Jan Noel (chair; University of Toronto), Dr. Roger Hall (Western University), and Dr. Brian Osborne (Queen’s University), with Patrice Dutil acting as administrator for the year. Patrice D. offered thanks to members of the committee on behalf of the Society, and to UTP-J for its help.

There were nineteen titles submitted. The Committee awarded a special commendation to *This Colossal Project: Building the Welland Ship Canal, 1913–1932*, by Roberta M. Stryan and Robert R. Taylor (McGill-Queen’s University Press). The winner of the Chalmers Award was *SickKids: The History of the Hospital for Sick Children*, by David Wright (University of Toronto Press). Dr. Wright is associate professor of history at McGill University.

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

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. It was followed by a wine and cheese reception in the lobby to celebrate the winner of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History.