

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of
the Champlain Society
Saturday, 27 October 2018
City of Toronto Archives, Toronto, Ontario**



Present: Michel Beaulieu, in the Chair, Craig Leslie Mantle, Secretary, and numerous members of the Society and their guests.

Michel Beaulieu called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m., after which he acknowledged the Society's presence on Indigenous lands and then quickly reviewed the AGM's agenda.

Item No. 1 – Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Jane Errington, seconded by Andy Spears, that the agenda be modified with the addition of a new item, being "9. Ontario Volunteer Service Awards presentation (Craig Leslie Mantle)", with all remaining items renumbered accordingly. Carried.

Item No. 2 – Approval of the 2017 AGM Minutes

Moved by Peter Davis, seconded by Sandra Allston, that the minutes of the last AGM, held on 28 October 2017, be accepted as presented. Carried.

Item No. 3 – President's Report: Michel Beaulieu

Michel welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He articulated his commitment to brevity and reassured the audience that he would speak only to the highlights of the past year, to wit:

1. That operations have been modernized
2. That the Society's financial situation has improved
3. That it is positioned well for the future

He recognized Patrice Dutil and Don McLeod for their past service on Council, as well as three outgoing Council members for their efforts.

He began his Report by noting that:

- The Society had been very busy over the past year, which was a period of transition, in that it was becoming more flexible, adaptable and responsive to both members and the external environment
- He has in place a plan to ensure medium- to long-term success
- MASS has been engaged through Paul Beck
- In terms of CS "products", the yearly volume will soon be released; podcasts are doing very well, with more than 33 being completed at Ryerson University; and that Findings remains popular

Michel then spoke to his Key Objectives for 2018/2019, being:

1. Revenue
 - Pursue all avenues of potential funding.
2. Promotion and Technology
 - Promoting the Champlain Society and all its work by exploring, adapting and using new technologies.
3. Partnerships
 - Identify organizations for potential partnerships.
4. Sustainable Governance
 - Create a governance structure that ensures accountability and long-term success/effectiveness
5. Book Subcommittees
 - Each book will be the focus of a separate "adoption-publication-promotion" sub-committee in charge of its sponsorship, publication and promotion.

Item No. 4 – Treasurer’s Report: Patrice Dutil

Patrice began his Report by presenting the 2017 CS Financial Statement that had been printed and made available to all.

His goals for the upcoming CS fiscal year included:

- Continued austerity
- Continued savings on publications
- Continue to seek new funds for publication, such as those available through ASPP, the Wilson Institute for Canadian History, and Hudson’s Bay Foundation

He noted that the Society could continue operations for another three to five years with the assets now in hand should closure be required immediately.

With respect to the Review Engagement, he explained its purpose and why the CS adopted this accounting practice.

Moved by Patrice Dutil, seconded by Jamie Hunter, that the Champlain Society forego the preparation of audited Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2018, 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 31 December 2018, subject to the conditions of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporation Act (2012). Carried.

Item No. 5 – Committee Reports

5.1 – Membership: Michel Beaulieu

Michel noted that because of a changing demographic, the number of individual membership declined by approximately 100 over the period 2013 to 2018. He asserted that additional avenues of revenue might mitigate the financial impact thus caused. Michel was optimistic, however, that the Society’s digital collection might lead to an increase in institutional memberships. Concluding his report, he noted that life

members have been constant over the period in question and that the overall number of members might possibly increase in 2019 because of the volume that is due to be released, on hockey!

5.2 – Publications: Don McLeod & Jane Errington

Don began his report by thanking the members of the committee for their efforts over the past year. Next, he outlined the various CS volumes that have either been just released or are forthcoming in subsequent years, to wit:

2018

Life and Death by the Frozen Sea: The York Fort Journals of Hudson's Bay Company Governor James Knight, 1714–1717.

2019

“Opposition on the Coast”: The Hudson's Bay Company, American Coasters, the Russian-American Company, and Native Traders on the Northwest Coast, 1825-1846.

2020

Hockey: History Written on Ice.

2021

The Letters of James Wolfe, 1740–1759.

2022

Jewish Life in Canada: A History in Documents. Volume I: Origins to 1923.

2023

The Daily Journal of Colin Robertson, May 22, 1814–August 17, 1817.

2024

A Brief but Accurate Record, 1858–1921: The Edited and Annotated Diaries of Edward Marion Chadwick.

(in due course)

The Last of the Old Northwesters: The Autobiographical Notes of John McDonald of Garth.

The Writings of David Thompson. Volume III.

He concluded his report with a call for proposals, asking the membership of the CS to submit via email to Jane Errington ideas for future volumes.

5.3 – Findings/Trouvailles: Michel Beaulieu & Patrice Dutil

5.4 – Witness to Yesterday: Patrice Dutil & Greg Marchildon

Both of these committee reports were combined into one.

The principals reviewed a statistical PowerPoint slide offering chapter downloads, table of content views, podcast plays, Findings/Trouvailles views and website page views over the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The main “takeaway” messages from their combined report were:

- These forms of digital outreach are effective in helping to share Canada’s documentary heritage
- 60 Findings/Trouvailles have been published to date (the outgoing editor, Stacey Nation-Knapper, was thanked for her commitment to this initiative)
- The podcasts have been a great success, even though they are not necessarily easy to find

Item No. 6 – Presentation of Council’s New Structure: Michel Beaulieu

Michel then introduced Council’s new structure, noting that the change was intended to improve accountability. Using two PowerPoint slides, he observed that the new structure was “fall out” from a review of Council’s existing structure, as well as from the results of a membership survey. The vision and mission of the Champlain Society, he reassured the audience, were tightened somewhat, but not fundamentally changed.

He then proceeded to describe how Council was now comprised of four separate yet interconnected committees, to wit:

- **Executive:** to see to governance, revenue generation and partnerships
- **Publications:** to see to CS volumes, podcasts and *Findings/Trouvailles*
- **Promotions and Technology:** to better promote the Society and better engage with technology for a diversity of internal and external purposes
- **Education:** to reach educators using CS “products”

He concluded by noting that each CS volume would have its own sub-committee that would be responsible for soliciting support (financial and in-kind), marketing and promotion of the volume, and generally increasing the public’s awareness of its forthcoming release.

Item No. 7 – Resolution to Appoint Members of Council: Michel Beaulieu

Michel began by reviewing the slate of CS Council members, as below; he noted that there could be a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 19.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Michel Beaulieu
(President) | 10. Janet Friskney
(at large) |
| 2. Paul Beck (new) | 11. Don Macleod
(Publications) |
| 3. Heidi Bohaker | 12. Greg Marchildon |
| 4. Stephen Bright | 13. Kathryn Labelle |
| 5. Paul Beck | 14. Craig Leslie Mantle
(Secretary) |
| 6. Mairi Cowan | 15. Jamie Paxton |
| 7. Peter Davis (Vice-
President) | 16. Andy Spears |
| 8. Patrice Dutil (Past
President, Treasurer) | 17. Germaine Warkentin
(returning) |
| 9. Jane Errington (General
Editor) | |

*Moved by the Nominations Committee, seconded by Patrice Dutil, that the membership of the Council and Executive of the Champlain Society for the period beginning 1 January 2019 be as presented by the Nominations Committee, with some additional members to be named and approved by Council. **Carried.***

Item No. 8 – By-Laws: Michel Beaulieu

First, Michel thanked Janet Friskney for her work on the By-Laws. He proceeded to note where changes had been made, to wit:

- p. 3, item 9
- p. 5, item 22
- p. 8, item 33

*Moved by Council, seconded by Robert Saunders, that the amendments of the By-Laws of the Champlain Society as circulated be approved. **Carried.***

Item No. 9 – Ontario Volunteer Service Awards presentation: Craig Leslie Mantle

An organization that does not recognize its members for their accomplishments runs the risk of losing them. To this end, Craig, upon joining Council, nominated four long-serving individuals for an Ontario Volunteer Service Award, an honour from the Government of Ontario that is intended to acknowledge sustained voluntary commitment. The following individuals were recognized for their years of service to the Champlain Society:

- **Don McLeod:** 10 years
- **Patrice Dutil:** 15 years
- **Germaine Warkentin:** 20 years
- **John Warkentin:** 50 years

Craig called each recipient to the front of the meeting room and presented each with their certificate, as well as an OVSA lapel pin. Dr. Warkentin received a prolonged standing ovation from the audience in

light of his outstanding commitment of time. It is interesting to note that these four individuals have collectively volunteered with the Champlain Society for 95 years!

Item No. 10 – Other Business

Nil.

Item No. 11 – Presentation by Dr. Arthur Ray on the Champlain Society's 2018 volume, "Life and Death by the Frozen Sea": The York Fort Journals of Hudson's Bay Company Governor James Knight, 1714–1717.

Following the business at hand, Dr. Ray provided a very informative talk concerning the 2018 CS volume that he edited. Michel Beaulieu read his impressive biography at the outset and questions followed after the lecture.

Item No. 12 – Presentation by Dr. Colin McCullough, “Peacekeepers are Like a Family Friend”: Canadian High School Textbook Depictions of United Nations Peacekeepers, 1959-2001.”

Afterwards, Dr. McCullough provided an insightful discussion of his recent work. As before, Michel Beaulieu began by reading his biography and questions followed the presentation.

Item No. 13 – Presentation of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History for 2017

2017 Winner

Nick Eyles, ed., *Georgian Bay: Discovering A Unique North American Ecosystem* (Markham: Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 2017).

Michel Beaulieu next introduced Patrice Dutil, the secretary of the Chalmers Committee. The latter offered some introductory remarks, making special note of the fact that this year, for the first time in 40 years, an edited book had won the Chalmers. Patrice listed the various jury members upon whose shoulders fell the responsibility of evaluating

the various nominations and then read the citation that briefly explained the merits of the winning book.

With the stage thus set, Nick Eyles provided some appropriate comments and a short presentation followed that generated considerable interest amongst the members of the audience.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Michel Beaulieu offered some final, closing remarks.

Moved by Frank Triff, seconded by Peter Davis, that the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Champlain Society be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.



Craig Leslie Mantle,
Secretary,
28 October 2018.