

**Minutes of the  
Annual General Meeting of  
The Champlain Society  
Saturday, 2 November 2019  
John McKenzie House, North York, Ontario**



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

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm.

Michel Beaulieu first introduced himself and then thanked all for coming. He specifically acknowledged the Ontario Historical Society for allowing The Champlain Society to meet at the John McKenzie House. He noted that the Society was meeting in a different location this year given the cheaper cost. Somewhat romantically, he hoped that the first members of The Champlain Society met in a house like this! Either way, it was a perfect spot to discuss history.

**Item No. 1 – Adoption of the Agenda**

*Moved by Jamie Hunter, seconded by Peter Davis, that the agenda be amended with item # 4 reading December 31, 2019 rather than December 31, 2018, with all other items remaining as they are.  
Carried.*

**Item No. 2 – Approval of the 2018 AGM Minutes**

*Moved by Grant Hopcroft, seconded by Janet Friskney, that the minutes of the 2018 AGM be accepted as presented.  
Carried.*

## Item No. 3 – President’s Report: Michel Beaulieu

Michel began by stating the vision and mission of The Champlain Society. He noted that in 2018 the Society was busy trying to find new ways to do old things and reaching Canadians.

In terms of operations:

- They continue to be modernized;
- Costs are being streamlined (e.g., using video conferencing tools in place of in-person meetings);
- Given the move towards austerity, the Society is taking advantage of all opportunities as they arise; and
- The Society’s financial situation is improving and it is positioned well moving forward as compared to other organizations in the history and heritage field.

He reiterated his key objectives, which have not changed from last year, 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.

Michel also thanked UTP-J for its good work over the past year and all who are members and donors (specifically Alastair Gillespie, the Hudson's Bay Company History Foundation, the Wilson Institute, the Power Corporation and SSHRC).

In terms of membership, he noted that it was generally stable now, with the decline noticed over the past year having been stopped.

#### **Item No. 4 – Treasurer's Report: Patrice Dutil**

Patrice began by thanking Michel for his work as president.

He noted that in relation to fiscal year 2018, The Champlain Society's financial health was good owing to steady donations and a jump in revenue; despite expenditures being up (for instance, the uploading and management of podcasts), the Society experienced a good healthy net gain. He further observed that in 2018, sales of digital subscriptions to libraries, sales of hard-copy volumes and grants were all "up". In relation to the podcasts and *Findings / Trouvailles* specifically, he thanked UTP-J, especially Vesna Micic, for its work on both. Overall, it was "good news" for the Society, and although the business model has changed, he anticipated a similar financial result for 2020 with an anticipated \$20,000 surplus.

*Moved by Patrice Dutil, seconded by Peter Davis, that The Champlain Society forego the preparation of audited Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2019, 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 2019, subject to the conditions of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporation Act (2012).*

*Carried unanimously.*

In conclusion, Michel observed that The Champlain Society saved \$2,600 by holding the AGM at the Ontario Historical Society. He also spoke to the Prospectus, noting that it was an expense but a great method of advertisement.

## Item No. 5 – Committee Reports

### 5.1 – Publications: Don McLeod & Jane Errington

Don began by noting that Jane sent her regrets. He thanked the members of the publications committee for all of their work over the past year and also UTP-J for its work in producing the Society's volume. He congratulated Dr. James Gibson on the publication of his volume, *Opposition on the Coast*.

Don continued that in terms of upcoming volumes, the list has not changed much from that presented in 2018, namely:

**2020**

*A Hotly Contested Affair: Hockey in Canada.*

**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.*

In conclusion, he encouraged members to submit project proposals for future volumes.

**5.2 – *Findings/Trouvailles*: Michel Beaulieu & Patrice Dutil &  
5.3 – *Witness to Yesterday/Témoins d’hier*: Patrice Dutil & Greg  
Marchildon**

Both reports were combined into one.

Michel began his report by introducing Brian de Ruiters, the new editor of *Findings/Trouvailles*.

He next reviewed some statistics to demonstrate the growth of both initiatives:

In 2016, there were 236 views of *Findings/Trouvailles*, while in 2019 (January to July only), there were 5,123.

In 2017, there were 686 *Witness to Yesterday/Témoins d’hier* podcast downloads, while in 2019 (January to July only), there were 13,072. The podcasts were, in his opinion, “an astronomical success”.

He observed that both began as initiatives to increase membership, but have actually increased the Society’s exposure.

Patrice then remarked that podcasts have been scheduled to at least February 2020, so this undertaking is looking quite healthy. He took pains to thank the Radio and TV Arts Department at Ryerson University for its support of podcast development.

He also remarked that although *Findings/Trouvailles* had taken a bit of a hiatus last year, it has since picked up and is doing well.

Much like the Society’s financial position, Patrice noted that there was good news on this front too.

Before moving on, Michel observed that the number of chapter downloads, table of content views and website views were all very respectable as well.

## 5.4 – Promotions and Technology

Michel first thanked Steven Bright for his work thus far. He noted that engaging youth was difficult, but that the Society's IT strategy was informed with a view to reaching these individuals.

### **Item No. 6 – Resolution to Appoint Members of Council: Michel Beaulieu**

Michel reviewed the slate of 18 CS Council members, as below:

1. Michel Beaulieu (President)
2. Peter Davis (Vice-President)
3. Craig Mantle (Secretary)
4. Patrice Dutil (Past President, Treasurer)
5. Don McLeod (Chair, Publications)
6. Stephen Bright (Chair, Promotions and Technology Committee)
7. Janet Friskney (at Large)
8. Mairi Cowan
9. Paul Beck
10. Heidi Bohaker
11. Brian de Ruiten (new)
12. Jane Errington (General Editor)
13. Gregory Marchildon
14. Kathryn Labelle
15. P. Whitney Lackenbauer (new)
16. Jamie Paxton
17. Andrew Spears
18. Germaine Warkentin

*Moved by the Nominations Committee that the membership of the Council and Executive of the Champlain Society for the period beginning 1 January 2020 be as presented by the Nominations Committee, with some additional members to be named and approved by Council.*

***Carried.***

**Item No. 7 – Other Business**

Nil.

**Item No. 8 – Presentation by Dr. James R. Gibson, Professor Emeritus, York University, *"Opposition on the Coast": The Hudson's Bay Company, American Coasters, the Russian-American Company, and Native Traders on the Northwest Coast, 1825-1846.***

Michel introduced Dr. Gibson and the Society's 2019 volume. Gibson then presented with no questions following.

**Item No. 9 – Presentation by Jeremy Ward, Canadian Canoe Museum, "Waterways Connections: exploring our continent through the remarkable collection of the Canadian Canoe Museum."**

Michel introduced Mr. Ward. Ward then presented with some questions following.

**Item No. 10 – Presentation of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History for 2018**

**2018 Winner**

Dr. Jonathan Vance, *A Township at War*

After thanking the members of the jury, Patrice introduced Dr. Vance and his book. Vance then presented with some questions following.

## Closing Remarks and Adjournment

There being no further business, Michel Beaulieu offered some final, closing remarks. He thanked all who came to the AGM and everyone who was a member of The Champlain Society, whether present or not, since it was a members-based society and could not exist without them.

He then moved that the 2018 Annual General Meeting of The Champlain Society be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.



Craig Leslie Mantle,  
Secretary,  
2 November 2019.