

Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of
The Champlain Society
Thursday, 12 November 2020
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM



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

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Michel Beaulieu, in his welcoming remarks, noted that today was an historic first for the CS – the AGM was being held virtually and people from across the country were in attendance! He concluded with some general “housekeeping” points.

Item No. 1 – Adoption of the Agenda

A proposed amendment to the Agenda was tabled, that the Chalmers Award be presented prior to the presentation by Andrew Holman on the 2020 Champlain Society volume.

Moved by P. Whitney Lackenbauer, seconded by Carolyn Podruchny, that the agenda be amended as above, with all other items remaining as they are.

Carried.

Item No. 2 – Approval of the 2018 AGM Minutes

Moved by Peter Davis, seconded by Andrew Spears, that the minutes of the 2019 AGM be accepted as presented.

Carried.

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

Michel began by stating that the vision and mission of The Champlain Society have not changed. He noted further that:

- Operations continue to be modernized;
- The Society’s financial situation continues to improve; and,
- The Society is well positioned moving forward (although membership is falling a bit, the CS is moving toward a new business model).

He noted further that The Champlain Society will:

- Pursue all avenues of potential funding;
- Promote itself through new technology;
- Identify organizations for potential partnerships;
- Create a sustainable governance structure; and,
- Create a book sub-committee for each CS volume.

Michel concluded by reviewing some statistics concerning membership (falling); the public’s engagement and interaction with the CS (increasing); and social media presence and reach (increasing).

There were no questions.

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

Patrice started by reiterating the CS’s financial goals: continued austerity; savings on publications; and seeking new avenues of funding.

Next, he noted that a downward trend in 2019 with respect to revenue, expenditures, donations and net gain is observable in the CS’s financial statement.

Patrice next discussed the Review Engagement.

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 2020, 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 2020, subject to the conditions of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporation Act (2012).

Carried unanimously.

It was reinforced that although the financial statements present “good news” overall, “dark clouds” are on the horizon. In conclusion, Patrice and Michel offered further comments re: finding additional support for CS products.

There were no questions.

5.1 – Publications: Don McLeod & Jane Errington

Don began by thanking 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 noted that the hockey book had been released and he then thanked the members of the book sub-committee.

He proceeded to review the upcoming publication schedule for the next five or so years:

- *The Letters of James Wolfe, 1740–1759;*
- *Jewish Life in Canada: A History in Documents. Volume I: Origins to 1923;*
- *The Daily Journal of Colin Robertson, May 22, 1814–August 17, 1817;*
- *A Brief but Accurate Record, 1858–1921: The Edited and Annotated Diaries of Edward Marion Chadwick;*
- *The Last of the Old Northwesters: The Autobiographical Notes of John McDonald of Garth;* and,
- *The Writings of David Thompson. Volume III.*

He concluded by thanking Germaine Warkentin for her work in producing guidelines for the editing of Canadian texts.

Jane next took the floor. Likewise, she thanked Don and the Publications Committee for all of their hard work.

5.2 – *Findings/Trouvailles*: Brian de Ruiter

Brian began his report by thanking those on the editorial board. He observed that the number of views had increased and that people are making use of the *Findings/Trouvailles* archive. He concluded by noting that a diverse range of issues are being discussed in this forum.

5.3 – *Witness to Yesterday/Témoins d’hier*: Patrice Dutil & Greg Marchildon

Patrice remarked that production of the podcasts was going very well, with lots of recordings in hand. Thus far, over 100 episodes have been produced and broadcast in both French and English.

Greg noted that COVID has thrown off-balance somewhat the recording of podcasts by the CS. The Society’s audience, he believed, expects a new podcast every week and the CS is able to offer that!

5.4 – Teaching Resources: Mairi Cowan

Mairi began by thanking those involved in the production of the Teaching Resources. She recapped the purpose of the CS’s TRs and noted that two on the founding of Quebec in 1608 are now available.

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

Michel reviewed the slate of CS Council members. He noted that there was a new addition in the person of Dr. Afua Cooper; he welcomed her and provided a brief synopsis of her career to date.

Moved by the Nominations Committee that the membership of the Council and Executive of the Champlain Society for the period beginning 1 January 2021 be as presented by the Nominations Committee, with some additional members to be named and approved by Council.

Carried.

Continuing

Returning / New

1. Michel Beaulieu (President)	12. Stephen Bright
2. Paul Beck	13. Patrice Dutil (Past President, Treasurer)
3. Mairi Cowan	14. Janet Friskney
4. Peter Davis (Vice-President)	15. Kathryn Labelle
5. Brian de Ruiter	16. Craig Mantle (Secretary)
6. Jane Errington (General Editor)	17. Gregory Marchildon
7. P. Whitney Lackenbauer	18. Afua Cooper (New)
8. Don Macleod (Chair, Publications)	
9. Jamie Paxton	
10. Andrew Spears	
11. Germain Warkentin	

Item No. 7 – Other Business

Nil.

A motion was introduced by Patrice Dutil, seconded by Peter Davis, to adjourn the business portion of the AGM.

Carried.

Item No. 8 – Presentation of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History for 2019: Craig Leslie Mantle

2019 Winner

Peter Graham and Ian McKay,

Radical Ambition: The New Left in Toronto.

Craig introduced the Chalmers Award jury and winners for 2019. Michel then proceeded to read a prepared statement since neither Peter nor Ian could attend the virtual AGM.

Item No. 9 – Presentation by Dr. Andrew Holman, *A Hotly Contested Affair: Hockey in Canada: The National Game in Documents.*

Michel introduced Dr. Holman and the Society's 2020 volume. Holman then presented with questions following.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

There being no further business, Michel Beaulieu offered some final, closing remarks. He thanked all who had attended and participated in this virtual AGM. He mused that The Champlain Society might consider this format for future AGMs in order to better engage members.

He then moved that the 2020 Annual General Meeting of The Champlain Society be adjourned.



Craig Leslie Mantle,
Secretary,
12 November 2020.