

Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of
The Champlain Society
Wednesday, 24 November 2021
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM



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

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm.

Michel Beaulieu, in his welcoming remarks, offered an Indigenous acknowledgement. He concluded with some general “housekeeping” points.

Item No. 1 – Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Peter Davis, seconded by Don McLeod, that the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried.

Item No. 2 – Approval of the 2020 AGM Minutes

Moved by Greg Marchildon, seconded by Peter Davis ... BIRT the Minutes of the 2020 Champlain Society AGM be accepted as circulated.

Carried.

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

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

- Operations continue to be modernized (i.e, that Council meetings now occur by Zoom more frequently);
- A database clean-up by UTP-J led to greater accuracy with respect to membership; and
- The Society’s financial situation remains stable, but membership is an ongoing concern.

He then noted some key objectives of The Champlain Society, being:

- Revenue;
- Promotion and technology;
- Partnerships; and,
- Sustainable governance.

Michel then reviewed the membership numbers, noting that they were “relatively stable”.

Of note, he reviewed The Champlain Society’s digital usage numbers, observing that it was a “fantastic year” when all the metrics are viewed *in toto*. Podcast plays, Findings views, and webpage visits were all exceptionally strong, with chapter downloads, table of content views and Teaching Resources lagging not that far behind.

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

Patrice started by stating that he was reporting on 2020 numbers. The goals for the 2020 fiscal year included a slight increase to the Witness to Yesterday budget; continued experimentation with the softcover volume; and continuing to seek new funds. In regards to the last point, he specifically thanked Greg Marchildon for securing funds from University of Regina Press and McGill-Queen’s University Press.

He next spoke about the importance of finding alternate sources of funding and the need to change the business model for 2021.

Following this, he reviewed the Society’s net assets (which keep growing) and trends with respect to donations, total revenue and expenditures (all of which are moving in a positive direction).

Finally, Patrice discussed the Review Engagement, essentially explaining its purpose.

*Moved by Patrice Dutil, seconded by Andrew Spears, that The Champlain Society forego the preparation of audited Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2021, and that, in lieu of audited Financial Statements, Jason Riley, 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 2021, subject to the conditions of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporation Act (2012).
Carried unanimously.*

There were no questions.

5.1 – Publications: Don McLeod & Jane Errington

Don began by thanking all those who attended the AGM, the members of the publications committee for all of their work over the past year, UTP-J for its work in producing the Society's volume and Larry Ostola for his excellent volume on James Wolfe. He noted that the next two volumes would be:

2022: *From the Frozen Sea to Buffalo Country: The Life and Times of Henry Kelsey of the Hudson's Bay Company, 1667–1724*
2023: *Jewish Life in Canada: A History in Documents. Volume I: Origins to 1923*

Subsequent volumes beyond this would depend on the order in which they were completed and submitted to the Society.

Jane next took the floor. She had nothing to add, but she thanked Don for his work as the Publications Committee Chair, UTP-J and, of course, the various editors that contribute text for publication.

5.2 – *Findings/Trouvailles*: Brian de Ruiter

Brian was unfortunately absent, but Michel read some prepared notes. First, he thanked the editorial board for its work over the past year. Next, he noted that usage was very strong (upwards of 1400 views / month). And lastly, he was attempting to solicit more submissions by placing a call on H-NET, touching base with Fulbright Scholars and reaching out to various historical societies.

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

Patrice remarked that usage statistics were impressive, with the audience doubling year over year. Thus far, 165 episodes have been recorded, making it the largest and most comprehensive podcast collection in the country with respect to Canadian history. Finally, Patrice thanked Jessica Schmidt for her excellent work in producing the podcasts for the Society.

Next, Greg encouraged all members of The Champlain Society to engage with social media and forward / retweet podcasts to expand reach.

Patrice ended by noting the Society's gratitude to its sponsors ... HBC, Power Corp, Red Wilson and the consortium of publishers.

5.4 – Teaching Resources: Mairi Cowan

Mairi was likewise absent. Michel noted that the committee was developing Teaching Resources around the latest volume on Wolfe.

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

Michel reviewed the slate of CS Council members, noting specifically the changes that had occurred. He proceeded to thank Jamie Paxton for his years on Council, as well as Don McLeod for his stellar contribution.

In reply, Don provided a few words. At this point, Germaine Warkentin also thanked Don for all of his efforts, comments that Michel echoed.

Moved by the Nominations Committee that the membership of the Council and Executive of the Champlain Society for the period beginning 1 January 2022 be as presented by the Nominations Committee, with some additional members to be named and approved by Council.

Officers:

Michel Beaulieu (President)

Andrew Spears (Vice-President)

Craig Mantle (Secretary)

Patrice Dutil (Past President, Treasurer)

Janet Friskney (at-large)

Returning and New Council Members:

Paul Beck

Trish McMahon

Michael D. Stevenson

Germain Warkentin

Carried.

In conclusion, Michel welcomed Trish McMahon and Michael Stevenson to Council.

Item No. 7 – Other Business

Nil.

Item No. 8 – Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Peter Davis, seconded by Greg Marchildon, that the business portion of the AGM be adjourned.

Carried @ 6:48 p.m.

Item No. 9 – Presentation of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History for 2020: Craig Leslie Mantle

2020 Winner

Brittany Luby,

Dammed: The Politics of Loss and Survival in Anishinaabe Territory

Craig introduced and thanked the Chalmers Award jury and the winner for 2020. He proceeded to read a short biography of Dr. Luby and invited her to offer a few remarks about her award-winning book. Her presentation followed.

Item No. 10 – Presentation by Dr. Lawrence Ostola on The Champlain Society’s 2021 volume, “Your Most Obedient and Affectionate Son”: James Wolfe’s Letters to His Parents, 1740–1759.

Michel introduced Dr. Ostola, who then presented with questions following.

Item No. 11 – Closing Remarks

Michel had few words to offer in his closing remarks, other than to thank Drs. Luby and Ostola, the various members of Council, The Champlain Society’s donors and sponsors, and of course, its members.

Item No. 12 – Adjournment

The AGM concluded at 7:48 p.m.



Craig Leslie Mantle,
Secretary,
24 November 2021.