

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of
The Champlain Society
Saturday, October 20, 2007
City of Toronto Archives, Toronto, Ontario**

Present: Michael Moir, in the Chair, Don McLeod, Secretary, and twenty-five members of the Society and their guests.

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

1. Report of the President: Michael Moir

The President reviewed the activities of the Society during 2006-07. Although the volume for 2006, Prof. Adam Crerar and Thomas Crerar's *The Letters of Adam Hope, 1834-1845*, has been delayed in publication, the Society was able to publish Conrad Heidenreich's *Champlain and The Champlain Society: An Early Expedition into Documentary Publishing* in 2006 as part of its Occasional Papers series. In addition, "From Manuscript to Printed Book: A Production Guide for Champlain Society Editors" was compiled by Don McLeod and published on the Society's website.

The coming year will see the publication of two or three volumes. The Hope volume is at the printer and will be published shortly. In addition, Prof. Donald Avery and Mark Eaton's volume *The Meaning of Life: The Scientific and Social Experiences of Everitt and Robert Murray, 1930-1964* will appear in 2008, as will the first volume of Dr William E. Moreau's new edition of *The Writings of David Thompson*. Finally, volume one of *The Writings of Samuel de Champlain*, edited by Prof. Conrad Heidenreich and Prof. Janet Ritch, is well advanced and we hope that it will appear as a highlight of the Champlain anniversary celebrations.

Although the Champlain Society has witnessed a decline in membership, from a high of 1,200 members during the 1970s to the present 621 members, efforts are being undertaken to enlarge and broaden the Society's membership. To this end, a survey of membership was conducted in partnership with Dr Wendy Duff of the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto. The results, based on 169 replies (eighty-three percent male) of 750 mailings, or slightly over twenty percent, were helpful in uncovering data about our membership. For example, fifty-two percent of our members are over sixty-five years old, forty-four percent are professors, and sixty-nine percent declared that Canadian Studies was their greatest area of interest.

The Champlain Society must strengthen its membership base and also attract new members. The regular publication of interesting and scholarly editions of Canadian documentary history will help to strengthen our base; lectures and historical field trips associated with these volumes might also attract new members. Another way to attract new members is through increased advocacy, and working with other associations and individuals to help preserve Canadian history and promote Canadian historical

scholarship. Current issues such as the reduction of staffing and hours of access at Library and Archives Canada, as well as the uncertain fate of the United Church of Canada Archives at Victoria University in the University of Toronto, provide examples of areas of advocacy in which the Society and its members should be involved.

Another way to keep the Society relevant in the twenty-first century is to embrace the power of World Wide Web. Many of the Champlain Society's publications have been digitized and are available in full text on the Society's website for free. This has been a great boon to promoting our work, and in enhancing access to Canada's documentary history. The Web is now an essential tool for promoting scholarship, and the Society's Council has approved the creation of an online journal to help increase our digital presence. The journal will focus on shorter Canadian historical documents, too small for book-length studies, and will include peer-reviewed scholarly commentary of high editorial quality. It is expected that the online journal will attract younger scholars, and perhaps even commentaries on interesting Canadian documents held in foreign collections.

The President ended his report by thanking Roger Hall for his hard work as General Editor to the Society, and Becker and Associates, particularly Christina Becker for her work with the Secretariat and Gwen Becker for coordinating the print brokerage of the Society's publications. He noted the departure of William Moreau as Secretary to the Society and from Council. Bryan Davies has also retired from Council after four terms. On behalf of the Society, the President thanked Bryan and William for their dedication and hard work. The President also thanked other members of Council, and particularly the Committee Chairs: Jeanne Beck (Chalmers Award); Patrice Dutil (Membership and Promotion); Allan Hoyle (Business Operations); and Germaine Warkentin (Publications). Finally, The President thanked all members of the Champlain Society for their support, and particularly those members who had joined the Order of Good Cheer.

2. Report from the Treasurer: John Pepall

The Treasurer discussed the Auditor's Report and The Champlain Society Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2006, copies of which were available at the meeting. He declared that the Society is solvent. The surplus of \$11,646 for the year 2006 was mostly due to the fact that the Society's volume for 2006 was delayed and not printed. Mr. Pepall noted that an accounting decision was made to write down the value of excess stock of the Society's volumes two years after publication. This accounts for the decline in the asset value of the back stock of the volumes from \$17,575 in fiscal 2005 to \$3,370 in fiscal 2006.

John Pepall moved that the Auditor's Report for the year ending 2006 be accepted as presented. Seconded by Roger Hall. *Carried.*

John Pepall moved that J. Michael Mulholland, chartered accountant, be appointed the Society's auditor to complete the audit for the year 2007. Seconded by Bryan Davies. *Carried.*

3. Committee Reports:

a) Membership and Promotion Committee: Patrice Dutil

Committee Members: Patrice Dutil, Chair, Michael Moir

Dr Dutil presented his report in a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- he thanked the supporters of the Order of Good Cheer and noted that their names would be listed in the Society's forthcoming volumes;
- The Society has become a member of Volunteer Canada, an umbrella group of Canadian charitable organizations. Volunteer Canada offers access to discounts on goods and services, including insurance for board members, which the Society has secured;
- Dr Dutil and Christina Becker met with members of La Clé d'la Baie, a grassroots group in Penetanguishene, Ontario, that is coordinating the 2015 Samuel de Champlain celebrations in the area. The group wishes to create a tourism route in the area around Penetanguishene that will follow Champlain's route. It is also keen on restoring the monument to Champlain in Penetanguishene. The Committee is interested in exploring partnership opportunities with this group;
- Dr Dutil outlined the findings of the membership survey conducted in partnership with Dr Wendy Duff, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto. The survey concluded that the Society is composed of mostly older, male historians who are most interested in cultural, military, political, social, and First Nations history. They exhibited some interest in participating in fundraising activities, such as evening lectures or a dinner. The conclusions to the survey point to a need to sponsor new events, and also to attract new and younger members. The Committee will attempt to do this, in part by cooperating with other organizations.

A member of the audience asked a question from the floor: of the current membership of 621, how many live in Toronto?

Michael Moir responded that the majority of our members live in the Toronto area. Although we do have members spread throughout Canada, and a few internationally, most live in Southern Ontario. In part this may be a reflection of the historical origins of the Society, and its early ties with the Toronto-based Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) and the University of Toronto. Mr. Moir said that he encouraged feedback from members on how to increase the Society's membership, and also invited them to contact The Society concerning ideas for new events that would help with reaching new audiences.

b) Publications Committee: Prof. Germaine Warkentin and Prof. Roger Hall

Committee Members: Germaine Warkentin, Chair, Sandra Alston, Colin Coates, Jane Errington, Don McLeod, Michael Moir, William Moreau, Carolyn Podruchny, David Wood, and Roger Hall, General Editor.

Prof. Warkentin thanked Prof. Roger Hall for his efforts as the General Editor of the Society's publications, as well as the members of the Publications Committee. She then reviewed the status and progress of the Society's forthcoming publications:

- the Society's publication for 2006, Prof. Adam Crerar and Thomas Crerar's *The Letters of Adam Hope, 1834-1845*, has been delayed due to several issues. It is currently at Coach House Printing and will likely be available before the end of 2007;
- Prof. Donald H. Avery and Mark Eaton's *The Meaning of Life: The Scientific and Social Experiences of Everitt and Robert Murray, 1930-1964* is well advanced. The manuscript is to be delivered in November, for printing in early 2008;
- Prof. Conrad Heidenreich and Prof. Janet Ritch's three-volume *The Writings of Samuel de Champlain* is well advanced, with the first volume scheduled for printing in 2008;
- Prof. Warkentin discussed the status of Dr William E. Moreau's *The Writings of David Thompson*. Volume one will be published in 2008. Dr Moreau is also arranging several speaking engagements to promote the work. Members are advised to check the Society's website for information on the upcoming Thompson celebrations;
- "The Champlain Society Guidelines for Editing Canadian Historical Texts," compiled by Prof. Germaine Warkentin, is available on the Society's website. It has been joined by "From Manuscript to Printed Book: A Production Guide for Champlain Society Editors," compiled by Don McLeod. The Society intends to compile additional practical guidelines in future relating to editing materials in the French language, as well as guidelines for the production of maps.

Prof. Warkentin mentioned the progress the Society has made in the digital realm, particularly by making full-text, digital versions of its publications available to the public, and praised Michael Moir's proposal for a peer-reviewed online journal for brief Canadian historical documents.

Prof. Warkentin concluded by noting that the Publications Committee has made great strides in helping to systematize the production of the Society's volumes and in revising their design to include a clearer typeface. The Society currently has volumes scheduled for publication to 2015 or so, including massive new scholarly editions of key texts by Champlain, Thompson, and Radisson.

Prof. Roger Hall made brief comments on the forthcoming Hope volume, and apologized to members for the delay in its delivery. Looking forward to 2008, though, he is optimistic that the publishing schedule will improve; several interesting volumes are already well advanced. He noted that we also continue to receive fascinating proposals,

and gave the example of a preliminary submission on a volume concerning the efforts of the Halifax Relief Commission in the aftermath of the Halifax Explosion in 1917.

c) Report of the Nominating Committee: Michael Moir

Committee Members: Michael Moir, Chair, Patrice Dutil, Robynne Rogers Healey.

At its meeting of October 20, 2007, Council approved the Committee's recommendation to appoint the following individuals to serve as Councillors for a three-year term to commence on January 1, 2008, and end on December 31, 2010:

Sarah Carson (her second term)
Jane Errington (her second term)
A. Ian Gillespie (his second term)
Roger Hall (his third term)
Bosko Loncarevic (his second term)
Nicole St-Onge (her first term; Dr St-Onge is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University of Ottawa)

Council also approved that Bill Harnum be appointed to serve as Councillor for a term to commence immediately and end on December 31, 2009 (nominated to complete the term of William Moreau). Mr. Harnum recently retired as Senior Vice-President, Scholarly Publishing, at the University of Toronto Press.

Council agreed that the following individuals be appointed Officers of the Society for 2008:

President:	Michael Moir
Vice-President:	Patrice Dutil
Vice-President:	Allan Hoyle
Vice-President:	Frits Pannekoek
Vice-President:	Germaine Warkentin
Treasurer:	John Pepall
Secretary:	Donald McLeod

Council agreed that the following individuals be appointed Chairs of the standing committees of Council, and be given the authority to appoint committee members as required:

Business Operations:	Allan Hoyle
Membership & Promotion:	Patrice Dutil
Nominating:	Michael Moir
Publications:	Germaine Warkentin
Chalmers Award:	Jeanne Beck

Council agreed that the Executive Committee consist of the Officers of the Society and Chairs of the standing committees of Council.

5. Presentation of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History for 2006: Dr Jeanne Beck

Dr Jeanne Beck paid tribute to the legacy of Floyd Chalmers and briefly reviewed the history of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History before announcing the winner for 2006. There were twenty submissions, and the winner was Dr Kerry Abel for her work *Changing Places: History, Community, and Identity in Northeastern Ontario*, published by McGill-Queen's University Press. The jury was chaired by Dr Jeanne Beck and consisted of Dr Ruth Compton Brouwer, Department of History, King's College, University of Western Ontario, Dr Terry Crowley, Department of History, University of Guelph, and Dr Francine Noel, Department of History, Nipissing University. Dr Beck noted that *Changing Places* had also won the Clio Award (Ontario), presented by the Canadian Historical Association.

Dr Abel was present, received the award of \$2,000 plus an Inuit carving, and made brief remarks and gave thanks to the Society for the award.

6) Presentation of the Speakers: Prof. Donald Avery and Mark Eaton

Prof. Roger Hall introduced the speakers for the event, Prof. Donald Avery and Mark Eaton, both from the Department of History, University of Western Ontario, who gave an illustrated talk on "The Meaning of Life: The Scientific and Social Experiences of Everitt and Robert Murray, 1930-1964," the Society's forthcoming volume for 2008.

Prof. Hall thanked Prof. Avery and Mark Eaton for their stimulating presentation.

7) Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by Michael Moir, seconded by David Wood. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m., and was followed by a reception to celebrate the winner of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History.