

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of
The Champlain Society
Saturday, October 24, 2009
City of Toronto Archives, Toronto, Ontario**

Present: Michael Moir, in the Chair, Don McLeod, Secretary, and twenty 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 asked for a motion to approve the agenda. *Moved by Jane Errington, seconded by James O'Reilly, that the agenda be approved as presented.* Carried.

The President asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of October 25, 2008. As there were no changes noted, the President called for a motion to approve the minutes. *Moved by Patrice Dutil, seconded by Roger Hall, that the minutes be adopted as presented.* Carried.

During his review of the work of the Society, the President noted that the last two years had seen a great revival in the Society's affairs, and that 2009 had been a banner year. In January, Donald H. Avery and Mark Eaton's edition of *The Meaning of Life: The Scientific and Social Experiences of Everitt and Robert Murray, 1930–1964*, was published. Its launch in February at the University of Western Ontario was very successful, and resulted in fourteen new members joining the Society. After ten years of planning, William E. Moreau's *The Writings of David Thompson: The 1850 Travels* was published in July. A launch held for McGill-Queen's University Press's trade edition of the Thompson volume at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library on September 23, 2009, was well attended, and generated excitement. We were fortunate to launch the volume in the presence of a small display of original Thompson manuscripts, held by the Fisher Library. A third volume was published in 2009, Keith Walden's edition of *The Papers of Harry Cassidy and Beatrice Pearce: The Courtship Years, 1917–1925*, which appeared in September.

The Society's Digital Collection, hosted by the University of Toronto Library, continues to grow. In October, an additional eighteen volumes were added to the online collection, bringing the total number of volumes there to 101, with a total of almost 50,000 printed pages. The collection now includes all volumes published up to the end of 2004. More than 7,500 users have visited the Digital Collection site so far during 2009, and they downloaded 271,000 pages of material. Users located in the United States visited the site most often, but visitors from many other countries were represented as well: from Taiwan and Germany to the Slovak Republic and Russia. There is no question that the site is of increasing and enduring value to researchers interested in Canada's documentary heritage, bringing a continuous return on the Members' investment in the Society and its publications.

The President thanked Don McLeod for his work as Secretary and for his work with the Digital Collection. He also thanked Roger Hall, the Society's General Editor. New projects are moving ahead steadily, and in future we hope to have two projects ready in any one year so that publication of the Society's volumes will proceed without delay.

The President expressed his deepest thanks to Germaine Warkentin, who will step down from Council and the Publications Committee at the end of 2009. Germaine was chair of the Publications Committee for the past six years, and was instrumental in improving the efficiency of the Committee and in promoting and improving the professional editorial standards of the Society's publications. [Members applauded.]

Negotiations concerning the proposed on-line, collaborative editing project of the John A. Macdonald Papers, with Library and Archives Canada/Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, continue. Allan Hoyle has been representing the Society in the planning stages, and we hope to make additional progress in 2010. The project will be based on the editorial expertise of the Society, and will greatly increase accessibility to primary documentation on Canada's first prime minister.

The President thanked Becker Associates for their work as the Secretariat, in particular Christina Becker for her work in coordinating meetings, Bob Fletcher for working with the membership, Adam Becker for coordinating the Society's website, and Gwen Becker for her work as the Society's print broker. The Society has entered into a new three-year contact with Becker Associates, which will ensure continuing administrative stability.

The upcoming year, 2010, promises to be a busy one for the Society. We will be publishing *The Life and Times of Samuel de Champlain: Des Sauvages and Other Documents Related to the Period before 1604*, edited by Conrad Heidenreich and Janet Ritch. This will be a co-publication with McGill-Queen's University Press (as was the David Thompson volume), which should ensure a wider audience for the material. The President thanked Bill Harnum, the incoming chair of the Publications Committee, for working with McGill-Queen's on this project.

First Person: Studies in Canada's Documentary Heritage, the Society's electronic journal, will be launched in 2010. The journal will present briefer documents relating to Canada's history, and will allow for multimedia content. This should be an exciting new venture for the Society, one which, we hope, will generate contributions from young scholars.

Becker Associates will be launching a drive in 2010 to try to increase the Society's membership. We intend to have increased contact with members, not only through *Pen & Paddle*, the Society's newsletter edited by Patrice Dutil, but through other measures as well.

Finally, the President thanked the members of the Society for their ongoing support, and particularly those members who have made donations to the Society's Order of Good Cheer.

2. Report from the Treasurer: John Pepall

a) Auditor's Report and Financial Statements, 2008

Copies of the Report and Statements were distributed at the meeting.

The Treasurer noted that expenses were \$31,298 over revenue for 2008. This was due to the timing of publications, and the particularly large printing expenses associated with the publication of *The Meaning of Life*. Now that the production schedule has been regularized and the Society is up to date in its publications, this imbalance should not occur again. The Treasurer noted that in its current position, the Society is financially viable and will continue to be so as long as the current level of membership is maintained or increased.

Moved by John Pepall, seconded by Roger Hall, that the Auditor's Report and Financial Statements be accepted as presented.

There was a question from the floor. James O'Reilly noted that at the Society's 2008 Annual General Meeting, a suggestion had been made that "a copy of the Auditor's Report and The Champlain Society Financial Statements be mailed to Members with the announcement of the Society's annual general meeting," as was recorded in the minutes for the 2008 AGM. This was not done for the Society's 2009 AGM.

The Treasurer replied that at present the Society's Council meets three times per year, and has not met since the audit was completed until earlier today [October 24, 2009]. The Auditor's Report and The Champlain Society Financial Statements cannot be posted to Members before they are approved by Council. The Treasurer said that Council had agreed in its meeting of October 24, 2009, that it would be possible to post the Report and Statements as soon as they were completed and approved by the Society's Executive Committee. Member James O'Reilly replied that this would be fine, as long as they are available with the notice of the AGM.

The motion was called to question. Carried.

Moved by John Pepall, seconded by Roger Hall, that J. Michael Mulholland, chartered accountant, be appointed the Society's auditor to complete the audit for the year 2009. Carried.

3. Committee Reports

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

Committee Members: Germaine Warkentin (Chair), Sandra Alston, Colin Coates, Jane Errington, Bill Harnum, Allan Hoyle, Don McLeod, Michael Moir (ex officio), William Moreau, Carolyn Podruchny, David Wood, and Roger Hall, General Editor

Prof. Germaine Warkentin presented the annual report as chair of the Society's Publications Committee. She thanked the President and the members of the Publications Committee for their support during her six years as chair. She is stepping down as chair and as a member of Council

to concentrate on completing research for her edition of *The Writings of Pierre-Esprit Radisson*, which will be published in 2011. Prof. Warkentin noted that plenty of new initiatives have come forward, and that the Committee has lots of work to do. She gave thanks to Roger Hall, the Society's General Editor, who was a delight to work with.

Prof. Warkentin reviewed the progress of publications during 2009, in particular the publication of the volumes edited by Donald H. Avery and Mark Eaton (*The Meaning of Life*), William E. Moreau (*The Writings of David Thompson*), and Keith Walden (*The Papers of Harry Cassidy and Beatrice Pearce*). She congratulated William Moreau, her former student, for doing such fine work on the Thompson volume. It was published extra series, and yet almost 500 members bought it and the Society's edition sold out quickly. Prof. Warkentin noted that the co-publication arrangement with McGill-Queen's University Press for the Thompson volume worked well, and she hoped that the Society will continue to seek out similar co-publication opportunities in the future.

At present, the Society's publication schedule is filled until 2017. These forthcoming publications are strong on exploration literature, and will include additional volumes of David Thompson and Samuel de Champlain, plus the Radisson volume. In addition, with the recent examples of *The Meaning of Life* and *The Papers of Harry Cassidy and Beatrice Pearce*, the Society's publications have moved into the twentieth century, a period of enormously deep and interesting documentary resources that promise to broaden the themes of the Society's publications.

Prof. Warkentin concluded by thanking by name the members of the Publications Committee, for their support, and particularly Bill Harnum as her successor as Chair of the Committee.

Prof. Roger Hall thanked Prof. Warkentin for her kind comments, and said that she had been a pleasure to work with. He commented on the importance of the publication of primary documents, and the ongoing vitality of the Society's publication program. Not only are classic works by pioneers such as Champlain, Radisson, and Thompson forthcoming, but so are volumes that will expand documentary coverage in new directions. Prof. Hall mentioned the forthcoming volumes on John Holmes (edited by Hector McKenzie) and on the Halifax Relief Commission (David Sutherland leads the editorial team, with publication planned for 2017, the centenary of the explosion) as being obvious examples.

Prof. Hall concluded on a note of optimism. The publications schedule has been regularized, there are exciting projects being planned for publication, the membership of the Society is increasing, and the Society's website and Digital Collection are both experiencing steady use.

b) Nominating Committee: Prof. Jane Errington

Committee Members: Jane Errington (Chair), Patrice Dutil

At its meeting of October 24, 2009, Council approved the Committee's recommendations to appoint the following individuals to serve as Councilors for an additional three-year term to commence on January 1, 2010, and end on December 31, 2012:

Sarah Carter (her second term)
Bill Harnum (his first full term)
Allan Hoyle (his fifth term)
Donald McLeod (his second term)
Michael Moir (his fourth term)
John Pepall (his third term)
Carolyn Podruchny (her third term)
William Waiser (his second term)

In addition, Michael Eamon was appointed to fill one of the vacancies on Council, for the period January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010.

Council agreed that the following individuals be appointed Officers of the Society for 2010:

President:	Michael Moir
Vice-President:	Patrice Dutil
Vice-President:	Frits Pannekoek
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:	Jane Errington
Publications:	Bill Harnum
Chalmers Award:	Lutzen Riedstra

Council agreed that the Executive Council consist of the officers of the Society and chairs of the standing committees of Council.

Prof. Errington noted that the Council has one vacancy for the period December 21, 2009, to December 31, 2010, and two vacancies for the period 2008–2011. Members of the Society are encouraged to send nominations to the Nominating Committee.

Moved by Jane Errington, seconded by Roger Hall, that the nominations as presented in the report of the Nominating Committee be approved.

There were no nominations from the floor.

The motion was called to question. Carried.

4. Presentation of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History for 2008: Lutzen Riedstra

Lutzen Riedstra briefly outlined the history of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History before announcing the winner for 2008. There were nine submissions, and the winner was Catharine Anne Wilson for her work *Tenants in Time: Family Strategies, Land, and Liberalism in Upper Canada, 1799–1871*, published by McGill-Queen’s University Press. Prof. Wilson teaches history at the University of Guelph.

Dr Françoise Noël of the Department of History, Nipissing University, chaired the jury, which consisted of Dr Terry Crowley, Department of History, University of Guelph, and Dr Brian Osborne, emeritus professor, Department of History, Queen’s University, and adjunct research professor, Carleton University. The jury lauded Prof. Wilson’s “groundbreaking” focus on tenant farmers, which “transforms historical thought about rural settlement in nineteenth-century Ontario.”

Lutzen Riedstra noted that the jury also voted to bring to the Society’s attention the extraordinary strengths of David Hackett Fischer’s book *Champlain’s Dream*, published by Random House. Although the book did not fit into the criteria for the Chalmers Award, the jury commented that “it is a brilliant biography of the Society’s namesake and deserves to receive recognition from the Society for its contribution to our understanding of Champlain as an historical figure.” The Chalmers Committee will write a letter of commendation to the author.

Prof. Catharine Anne Wilson was present to receive the Inuit carving and cash award, and responded with brief remarks that thanked the Society for this honour. She noted her strong interest in rural history and the history of everyday life, and her plans to pursue additional projects in these areas. Prof. Wilson noted that she has found the Society’s volumes valuable while teaching a course on pre-Confederation Canadian history, and thanked the Society for making the volumes widely available through the Digital Collection website.

5. Presentation of the Speaker: Prof. Keith Walden

The President introduced the speaker for the event, Prof. Keith Walden, who spoke on his newly published work *The Papers of Harry Cassidy and Beatrice Pearce: The Courtship Years, 1917–1925*. He thanked the Society for the opportunity to publish the volume, and particularly Roger Hall, Germaine Warkentin, Barbara Tryfos, Patrice Dutil, and Becker Associates for helping to see it through publication. Prof. Walden’s talk was followed by several questions from the floor.

The President thanked Prof. Walden for his stimulating presentation.

6. Adjournment

Roger Hall made a motion to adjourn, which was accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m., and was followed by a reception to celebrate the winner of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History.