

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of
The Champlain Society
Saturday, October 23, 2010
City of Toronto Archives, Toronto, Ontario**

Present: Michael Moir, in the Chair, Don McLeod, Secretary, and forty Members of the Society and their guests.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The President asked for a motion to approve the agenda. *Moved by Roger Hall, seconded by David Wood, that the agenda be approved as presented.* Carried.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of October 24, 2009

The President asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the AGM of October 24, 2009. As there were no changes noted, the President called for a motion to approve the minutes. *Moved by Michael Eamon, seconded by Lutzen Riedstra, that the minutes be adopted as presented.* Carried.

3. Report of the President: Michael Moir

Michael M. reported that the Society gained strength during 2010. It is an organization with energy, momentum, and initiatives that will redefine the manner by which it achieves its mission of promoting the public's awareness and use of Canada's rich store of historical documents.

Work is well underway on this year's publication, *Samuel de Champlain before 1604: Des Sauvages and Other Documents Related to the Period*. The new edition of Champlain's account of his first trip to North America received excellent reviews from external readers after many years of dedicated toil by its editors, Conrad Heidenreich and Janet Ritch. In order to ensure that their rigorous scholarship finds the widest possible market, the Society entered into a co-publishing agreement with McGill-Queen's University Press. This arrangement produced economies of scale that allowed the Society to contain production costs for the members' edition (thereby contributing toward a much stronger financial position in 2010), as well as a trade edition that will introduce the Society's brand to a larger international readership.

The *Champlain* volume brings the Society's publication program for the opening decade of the twenty-first century to a close on a strong, bright note. The next decade holds the promise of a steady stream of interesting and important volumes that range from explorers of the early seventeenth century to external affairs in the twentieth century, as outlined by Roger Hall, our General Editor, in the last number of *Pen & Paddle*. Moreover, it will be a decade when the Society leverages new technology to pursue its century-old mission of improving access to

Canada's documentary heritage. Plans are in the works to launch an open-access online journal in 2011 that will feature editorial articles not only about textual documents, but also about photographs, maps, architectural drawings, sound and moving image recordings, and other media. Members will also see major developments in the Macdonald Wiki Project, an initiative proposed by Allan Hoyle, a former Vice-President of the Society, in 2009 to enhance access to the correspondence of Canada's first Prime Minister through Web 2.0 applications. Patrice Dutil reported significant progress in discussions with Library and Archives Canada on this project during 2010, as well as considerable interest from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Nurturing Canada's documentary heritage may soon become a participatory process engaging hundreds, if not thousands, of Canadians.

Not everyone agrees with these new directions in content and delivery. Some question the significance of our recent forays into microbiology, courtship, and the twentieth century. Others are alarmed at the growing focus upon the Web and electronic documents, and possibly fear for the fate of the red-bound books. Several Members have declined to renew their memberships, and Conrad Heidenreich — a stalwart champion of the Society whose ties go back to Sir Edmund Walker, his great-grandfather, and the Society's founder — resigned his position as Honorary Vice-President. Council is very concerned by these decisions, particularly since the motivation for new editorial and publishing directions is not to alienate long-term supporters, but to broaden the scope of activities so that the Society is relevant to new generations of readers. These changes will allow new voices to be heard in Canada's history, and are undertaken because Council believes that people want to hear them. The result has been a significant turnover in membership; while more than a hundred people did not renew their memberships in 2010, the number of individual members has increased from 2009.

This meeting marks the close of Michael Moir's seven-year tenure as President of the Society. He expressed appreciation for the support of Becker Associates in its role of Secretariat, and in particular remembered the outstanding contributions of John Becker, who died in September 2010 after a long battle with cancer. John brought energy, enthusiasm, and a penchant for detail and process that placed the Society on a very solid footing. His pursuit of excellence is carried on by his wife, Gwenne, the Society's print broker in recent years, and by his children, Adam and Christina, who now lead Becker Associates.

Michael also thanked his colleagues on Council. John Warkentin, the Society's Honorary President, has been a constant source of encouragement and sage advice. Bill Harnum has given freely of his extensive experience in scholarly publishing to drive forward important initiatives in co-publishing and the Reprint Series. Patrice Dutil has championed the adoption of web-based technologies and the production of *Pen & Paddle* with vigour and determination. Don McLeod spent many hours over the preparation of minutes that kept Councillors scattered across the country informed of our deliberations, and shared his rich editorial expertise with Council and the Publications Committee. Roger Hall approached his editorial duties with considerable patience, erudition, and good humour as he shepherded a diverse group of volume editors toward publications that maintain the Society's long tradition of the highest scholarly standards. Michael thanked the rest of Council for their many contributions to discussions that were often wide-ranging and provocative, and always helpful.

Michael thanked in particular the members of the Society. He recalled joining the Society in the early 1980s, when discussion often dwelt on issues that seem foreign to today's publishing environment; the policy of whether or not to cut the tops of pages before distributing the books was a particularly vexing topic of debate. The members' vision for the Society has largely moved from the priorities of book collectors to the objectives of those who wish to participate in grand initiatives to share the evidence of Canada's rich past, and to allow the voices of those who came before us to be heard by our children. In view of the very limited assistance available through government grants or corporate donations, this work is possible only through the support of the members. Your loyalty and generosity ensures an exciting future for The Champlain Society, and the international community of readers who come to appreciate Canada's unique heritage through the Society's publications.

Members of the audience applauded.

4. Report of the Publications Committee: Bill Harnum and Roger Hall

Bill H. reported that the Society's first paperback reprint — *The Donnelly Documents*, edited by James C. Reaney — is now available.

We are planning the second volume in the reprint series — *The Journal of Major John Norton*, edited by Carl F. Klinck and James J. Talman — for which we have solicited a new introduction by Carl Benn. The volume will be popular due to the upcoming War of 1812 bicentenary. In future, we intend to produce approximately one paperback reprint every year.

Production of the Society's 2010 volume, *Samuel de Champlain before 1604: Des Sauvages and Other Documents Related to the Period*, edited by Conrad Heidenreich and Janet Ritch, proceeds. All work is completed and the volume is at the printer, with delivery expected in late November or early December. Roger H. mentioned that he was pleased with the co-publication relationship we have with McGill-Queen's University Press for the volume, and praised their professionalism. Roger H. also thanked the co-editors of the volume, Conrad Heidenreich and Janet Ritch, for their many years of work on the project.

Roger H. reported that all other projects are moving ahead. Germaine Warkentin's volume on Radisson will be published in fall 2011. Norman Hillmer's volume on O.D. Skelton volume will likely be the 2012 publication. The Publications Committee has been active, and has signed up volumes for publication through 2017 that are interesting, and in some cases timely (such as the volume on the Halifax Explosion, scheduled for publication during the centenary year 2017). Roger H. concluded by thanking Bill Harnum and members of the Publications Committee for their hard work.

5. Report of the Membership and Promotion Committee: Patrice Dutil

The Society currently has 651 paid members, including 372 individual members.

Two issues of the newsletter, *Pen & Paddle*, will be mailed to members in 2010, in June and December. The publication has settled into a twice-annual publication schedule. Forthcoming

issues will promote the Radisson volume, Linda Sabathy-Judd's volume on the Moravians, O.D. Skelton, etc.

The Society has also been actively promoted at the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as individual conferences such as the recent meeting of the American Association of Ethnohistory, where we had a successful display table.

Patrice D. concluded that we will continue to build the membership of the Society, and that interesting forthcoming volumes, as well as the Macdonald Project and the forthcoming on-line journal *First Person – Première Personne* will help to generate ongoing and renewed interest in the Society.

6. Report on the Macdonald Wiki Project: Patrice Dutil

Patrice D. outlined the Macdonald project, which had been first presented at the Society's AGM in 2008. He discussed the four facets of the project: the scanning and loading of the documents to a website (done by Library and Archives Canada); transcription of the documents; annotations or commentaries on the documents; translation into French of the documents. The last three aspects will be open to participation by volunteers. Patrice has met with Daniel Caron, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, and has had other meetings with staff at LAC/BNC. Everyone is enthusiastic. We hope the beta version of the site will be ready for testing by summer 2011. The overall challenge will be to transcribe as many documents as possible before the Macdonald bicentenary, January 15, 2015.

There was a question from the floor. Who will supervise the transcription, annotations, and translation? Patrice D. replied that the Champlain Society will provide the editorial expertise in this project, and will ensure scholarly oversight. Patrice remarked that a conference planned to be held at Ryerson University in December 2010 will invite leading experts on Macdonald to discuss just these issues: workflow; levels of editing; scholarly supervision; etc. The project will also include multimedia elements, and will grow and build over a period of years.

There was another question from the floor. Do we welcome public involvement in this project? Patrice D. replied that public involvement will be essential to make the project a success. Public volunteers will be essential in doing the first level of transcription. LAC/BNC is keen to encourage public involvement. They have hired a social media expert to imagine ways to engage citizens in the project. Public involvement will be heavily promoted once the site is operational.

Roger Hall remarked that although this project will use cutting-edge computer technology, the basis for compilation is very much in the spirit of the compilation of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, which relied on massive, public volunteer contributions over many years.

Germaine Warkentin noted that we will be in close contact with the Association for Documentary Editing, which is heavily involved in these sorts of projects and issues. She also noted other similar initiatives that use crowd sourcing to transcribe documents, such as the Jeremy Bentham Papers project at University College London.

7. Report of the Nominations Committee: Jane Errington

On behalf of the Committee, Jane E. expressed thanks to the following individuals who are leaving Council after having made a significant contribution to the governance of the Society:

- Jeanne Beck, member of Council, 1995–2010; Chair, Chalmers Award Committee, 2006–09.
- Sarah Carson, member of Council, 2005–10.
- Ian Gillespie, member of Council, 2005–10.
- Allan Hoyle, member of Council, 1999–2009; Vice-President and Chair, Business Operations.
- Roy MacLaren, member of Council, 2005–10.
- Michael Moir, member of Council, 2001–10; President, 2004–10.
- Germaine Warkentin, member of Council, 1999–2010; Vice-President and Chair, Publications Committee, 2006–09.

She also thanked Conrad Heidenreich, Honorary Vice-President of the Society, for his lifetime of devotion to the Society.

The Nominations Committee presented the following slate of candidates to serve as members of Council for the period January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2013:

Renewing Members:

Jane Errington
Roger Hall
Bosko Loncarevic
Lutzen Riedstra

New Members:

Dr. Michel Beaulieu, Department of History, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario.
Particular interest: twentieth-century Canadian political and labour history, Northern Canada.

Dr. Carl Benn, chair of the Department of History, Ryerson University, Toronto. Particular interest: War of 1812, First Nations history, and military history.

Major James McKillip, Directorate of History, Ottawa. Particular interest: the fur trade, Northern Canada.

Dr. Jamie Paxton, Department of History, Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA.
Particular interest: Ethnohistory, nineteenth-century British North America and the United States.

In addition to the new slate of Council members, there are two vacancies on Council. The full list of members of Council will be published in *Pen & Paddle*.

Jane E. asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

Moved by Jane Errington, seconded by John Warkentin, that nominations be closed, and that the proposed slate of members of Council for the period January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2013, be accepted. Carried.

Jane E. noted that the Society's by-laws state that the officers of the Champlain Society are to be elected by Council, which was done at the meeting of Council on October 23, 2010. The officers of the Executive Committee of the Champlain Society for the year 2011 are:

President: Patrice Dutil
Vice President: Jane Errington
Secretary: Donald McLeod
Treasurer: John Pepall
Chair, Publications Committee: Bill Harnum

In addition, officers for the following positions will be named later:

Chair, Membership and Promotion Committee
Member at large

John Warkentin thanked Michael Moir for his service on Council, and for his hard work as President of the Society from 2004 to 2010, and also welcomed Patrice Dutil as the Society's incoming President.

Members of the audience applauded.

8. Report of the Treasurer: John Pepall

John P. noted that the Society had an operating loss of \$7,722 during fiscal 2009, which is an improvement over 2008 but is still a loss. We need to increase our membership in order to address the deficit, which is becoming an annual problem. John P. remarked that our agreement with McGill-Queen's University Press to co-publish volumes has helped to control costs.

Moved by Bill Harnum, seconded by Roger Hall, that the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009, be accepted.

There were several questions from the floor.

James O'Reilly asked about the Chalmers Award, and whether it was meant to last in perpetuity. What is the attitude of Council on this question? John P. replied that this was an excellent question. Interest rates have been higher in the past, and provided more income on the fund, in fact more than enough for the award. This year, the award was fully funded by income, by only just. Mr. Chalmers thought that the award would be perpetual, and the Society wishes to keep it going despite the dip in the annual return. This is a policy decision for the Society's Council, which will be discussed in the next year.

Does the Society accept donations directed to the Chalmers Award fund? John P. replied that we do accept donations for this fund.

James O'Reilly asked about note 2 (e) to the Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2009, concerning marketable securities. Are these currently in a high-interest fund? John P. said that he would inquire, but that interest is now quite low for these sorts of secure investments (such as government-backed bonds). James O'Reilly suggested that we add a more detailed description about marketable securities to the note. John P. replied that he would check this.

The motion was called to question. Carried.

Moved by John Pepall, seconded by Bill Harnum, that J. Michael Mulholland, chartered accountant, be appointed auditor for the Society for the year ending December 31, 2010. Carried.

9. Revision of the By-laws: John Pepall

John P. discussed the revisions to the by-laws that had been discussed and approved by Council. These involved housekeeping matters, mostly, and updates. For example, obsolete language was updated, such as the title of positions on the Executive. There were also updates necessitated by changing technology, such as allowing for notice of meetings to be sent by e-mail, and to be posted on the Society's website.

Moved by John Warkentin, seconded by Jane Errington, that the proposed revision of the by-laws be accepted as presented. Carried.

10. Presentation of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History for 2009: Lutzen Riedstra

Lutzen R. discussed the background of the Chalmers Award, and announced that the jury members for the 2009 award had been Prof. Terry Crowley, University of Guelph, Prof. Franca Iacovetta, University of Toronto, and Prof. Brian Osborne, Queen's University (emeritus). Publishers submitted nine titles to the competition. The winner was Prof. Sharon Wall, for her book *The Nurture of Nature: Childhood, Antimodernism, and Ontario Summer Camps, 1920–1955* (UBC Press). Lutzen R. introduced Prof. Wall, and presented her with an Inuit sculpture and a cheque for \$1,200. *Members of the audience applauded.*

11. Presentation by Prof. Sharon Wall

Prof. Wall thanked the Committee and the Society for the Chalmers Award, which she was delighted to receive. She then presented a stimulating, illustrated talk on her book, entitled “So They’ll Give You a PhD for That? Ruminations on Writing a History of Ontario Summer Camps”. Lutzen R. thanked Prof. Wall for her presentation, and the audience applauded.

12. Adjournment

Roger Hall moved adjournment at 4:05 p.m.

The meeting was followed by a wine and cheese reception, held in the Atrium.