

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of
the Champlain Society
Saturday, October 13, 2012
City of Toronto Archives, Toronto, Ontario**

Present: Patrice Dutil, 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

Patrice D. asked for a motion to approve the agenda. *Moved by Jane Errington, seconded by Roger Hall, that the agenda be approved as presented.* Carried.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of October 15, 2011

Patrice D. asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the AGM of October 15, 2011. As there were no changes noted, the President called for a motion to approve the minutes. *Moved by Roger Hall, seconded by John Pepall, that the minutes be adopted as presented.* Carried.

3. Report of the President: Patrice Dutil

The year 2011–12 has been an eventful one for the Society. We ended fiscal 2011 with a deficit of \$19,710, the fourth year in a row in which the Society had a considerable loss. This led members of the Executive Committee to review the 2012 budget line-by-line, with the goal of reducing expenditures. It was felt that the Society must address its structural deficit, which has been running at about \$20,000 per year. The Executive Committee met almost every month since March 2012 to discuss this issue. After engaging competing bids, it recommended to

Council on August 15, 2012, that the contract with Becker Associates not be renewed upon its termination, and that the Champlain Society enter into a contract with the Journals Division of the University of Toronto Press (UTP). The recommendation was subsequently approved by Council by a vote by e-mail. Becker Associates was informed of the decision, and was asked to help in the transition leading up to the end of the contract, November 12, 2012.

On behalf of the Society, Patrice D. thanked Becker Associates for their years of service as the Secretariat, and particularly the late John Becker, who lent considerable structure to our affairs.

We are looking forward to working with UTP Journals, and hope that the new arrangement will help the Society to maintain its financial integrity, with the aim of eliminating its yearly deficit. There will be a period of adjustment in changing the Secretariat. We will be restricting costs, and hope to have a balanced budget in 2013.

Our membership is currently steady at about 500 individuals and organizations combined. The Society will have to work on attracting new members. This will be aided through the development of a new website with UTP, plus increased exposure and cross-promotional opportunities offered through UTP's book catalogues, journals (such as *Canadian Historical Review*), and website.

Donations to the Society were healthy throughout the year, and the donation of the John Warkentin Challenge Fund, in particular, has been a great support.

Patrice D. thanked the Society's executive for the year: Jane Errington, Vice President; Don McLeod, Secretary and Chair, Publications Committee; John Pepall, Treasurer; Bill Harnum, Member-at-Large; and Roger Hall, General Editor. Patrice also thanked John Warkentin, Honorary President of the Society, for his support and advice.

Members of the audience applauded.

Patrice D. asked if there were any questions from the floor. There were none.

4. Report of the Treasurer: John Pepall

The Society lost \$19,710 in the year ended December 31, 2011. This was less than in 2010 (a loss of \$22,886), and we are hopeful that the new arrangement with UTP Journals will lead to reduced costs.

John P. mentioned the addition of a separate note to the financial statements concerning the John Warkentin Challenge Fund (note 5).

There were questions from the floor.

James O'Reilly noted that general and administrative expenditures were up during 2011, a total of \$29,509 compared to \$23,292 in 2010. Will this trend continue? John P. replied that we will have our new Secretariat arrangement with the UTP Journals, which will help to control administrative costs, and should bring them under control by 2013.

James O'Reilly asked if we knew the reason for the rise in general and administrative expenditures of more than \$6,000 between the two years. John P. stated that most of it was due to increased mailing costs, and additional mailings. In future the Society intends to have fewer mailings (beyond the annual volume) and have more electronic contact with members.

Moved by John Pepall, seconded by Roger Hall, that the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2011, be accepted. Carried.

Moved by John Pepall, seconded by James O'Reilly, that J. Michael Mulholland, chartered accountant, be appointed auditor for the Champlain Society for the year ending December 31, 2012. Carried.

5. Committee Reports

Report of the Publications Committee and the General Editor: Don McLeod and Roger Hall

Don M. thanked the members of the Publications Committee for their hard work during the year: Sandra Alston, Peter Davis, Jane Errington, Roger Hall (General Editor), Bill Harnum, Don McLeod (Chair), Bill Moreau, Roberto Perin, Carolyn Podruchny, Germaine Warkentin, David Wood

The Journal of Major John Norton, 1816, was published in December 2011. There was considerable demand for copies beyond our membership, and the volume is almost out of print.

Germaine Warkentin's edition of *The Collected Writings of Pierre-Esprit Radisson: Volume I: The Voyages* has just been published, and volumes will be delivered to the membership shortly. It is a co-publication with McGill-Queen's University Press. *Volume II: The Port Nelson Relations, Miscellaneous Writings, and Related Documents* will be published in 2014.

Norman Hillmer has submitted the manuscript of *O.D. Skelton: The Work of the World, 1923–1941*, and it will be published in October 2013. Roger H. remarked that it is an impressive work. McGill-Queen's University Press is interested in doing a co-publication.

Roger H. reviewed other volumes in preparation:

- *William Ord Mackenzie: The Canadas during the 1830s*, edited by Sandra Alston and Cicely Blackstock (scheduled for publication in 2015);

- *John Holmes: A Canadian in Foreign Affairs*, edited by Hector Mackenzie (scheduled for 2016);
- *Papers from the Halifax Relief Commission*, edited by David Sutherland, Shirley Tillotson, and Peter Twohig (scheduled for 2017);
- *The Moravians in Labrador*, edited by Linda Sabathy-Judd (scheduled for 2018);
- *The Hudson's Bay Company and the Coast Trade, 1826–1846*, edited by James R. Gibson (scheduled for 2019).

Other volumes in development include volume two of *The Writings of David Thompson* (edited by Bill Moreau); the manuscript is almost finished.

The reprinting of the *Donnelly Documents* in 2010 as the first volume in the Champlain Society Reprint Series was a success. The second volume of the reprint series, *The Town of York, 1793–1815*, edited by Edith G. Firth, was printed in July 2012.

Report of the Nominations Committee: Jane Errington

Jane E. reviewed the membership of Council and the Executive Committee. John Pepall is at the end of his third three-year term on Council and will not be renewing; he will be leaving as Council member, Treasurer, and member of the Executive Committee as of December 31, 2012. Jane thanked John P. for his outstanding contribution to the Society.

Patrice Dutil will be stepping down as President of the Society after a two-year term, effective December 31, 2012. He will still be on Council, and on the Executive Committee as Treasurer. As Past President he will

also chair the Nominations Committee. Jane thanked Patrice for his service.

Bill Harnum has completed two terms on Council and will be stepping down from Council, as a Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee, and as a member of the Publications Committee, effective December 31, 2012. Jane thanked Bill H. for his outstanding work for the Society.

Other members of Council have reached the end of their terms. Carl Benn has resigned from Council. Frits Pannekoek and Carolyn Podruchny will not be returning to Council. Don McLeod has accepted another three-year term on Council, and will remain as Secretary and as Chair, Publications Committee. Bill Waiser has accepted another three-year term on Council. Jane thanked all for their contributions to the Society.

The Council of the Champlain Society may have a maximum of twenty-four members; as of December 31, 2012, it will have fifteen members. At the Council meeting held the morning of October 13, 2012, Council agreed to accept the slate presented by the Nominations Committee, and agreed that a few additional members would be named and approved by Council later in 2012 and early 2013.

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

Moved by Jane Errington, seconded by Roger Hall, that nominations be closed, and that the proposed slate of members of Council for the period January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2015, 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 13, 2012. The officers of the Executive Committee of the Champlain Society for the year 2013 are:

President: Jane Errington
Past President, Treasurer, and Chair, Nominations Committee: Patrice
Dutil
Secretary, and Chair, Publications Committee: Don McLeod
Member-at-Large: Peter Davis
General Editor: Roger Hall

Members of the audience applauded.

Germaine Warkentin made a comment from the floor about how pleased she was to have Jane Errington as president-elect. She will be the first female president in the history of the Champlain Society. *Members of the audience applauded.*

6. Presentation of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History for 2011

Jane Errington served as administrator of the Chalmers Award committee for 2011. Members of the jury were: Prof. Brian S. Osborne (chair; Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, Queen's University, and Adjunct Research Professor, Carleton University), Prof. Sarah Carter (Henry Marshall Tory Chair and Professor, Department of History and Classics and Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta), and Prof. Jan Noel (Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Toronto at Mississauga). Jane E. offered thanks to members of the jury on behalf of the Society.

There were seventeen books submitted for 2011; the winner was Dr. Stuart Henderson for *Making the Scene: Yorkville and Hip Toronto in the 1960s* (University of Toronto Press). Jane E. also announced that the jury decided to award an honorable mention to John Bacher for *Two Billion Trees and Counting: The Legacy of Edmund Zavitz* (Natural Heritage/Dundurn Press).

Jane E. welcomed Dr. Henderson, read the award citation, and presented the prize of an Inuit sculpture and a cheque for \$1,000. *Members of the audience applauded.*

Dr. Henderson thanked the Society for the award, and presented a stimulating, illustrated talk about his book. There were several questions from the floor. Jane E. thanked Dr. Henderson for his presentation. *Members of the audience applauded.*

7. Presentation by Prof. Germaine Warkentin on the *Collected Writings of Pierre-Esprit Radisson: Volume I: The Voyages*

Prof. Warkentin delivered an interesting talk on Radisson and his voyages, based on the Society's publication for 2012. There were several questions from the audience. Patrice D. thanked Prof. Warkentin for her presentation. *Members of the audience applauded.*

8. Presentation by Joe Berridge, Urbanist, on "Champlain and the Harbours of the French Atlantic Coast"

Joe Berridge presented an illustrated travelogue of the harbours of the French Atlantic coast that would have been known to Champlain. The presentation was fascinating, and drew several questions from the floor. Patrice D. thanked Joe Berridge for his talk. *Members of the audience applauded.*

9. Adjournment

Roger Hall moved adjournment at 4:15 p.m.

The meeting was followed by a wine and cheese reception to celebrate the winner of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History, held in the Atrium.