

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of
the Champlain Society
Saturday, November 9, 2013
City of Toronto Archives, Toronto, Ontario**

Present: Patrice Dutil, in the Chair, Don McLeod, Secretary, and fifty members of the Society and their guests.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of October 13, 2012

Patrice D. asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the AGM of October 13, 2012. There were no changes noted, and the President called for a motion to approve the minutes. *Moved by Roger Hall, seconded by Jane Errington, that the minutes be adopted as presented.* Carried.

3. Report of the President: Patrice Dutil

The year 2013 has been one of transition for the Champlain Society. We ended fiscal 2011 with a deficit of almost \$20,000. This was turned around in 2012, which saw a surplus of almost \$3,000. We will continue our conservative approach to budgeting and hope for a small surplus in fiscal 2013 as well.

The transition of our secretariat from Becker Associates to University of Toronto Press – Journals has been successful. This involved a lot of

work, including transitioning and updating the website, bringing in the membership, improving communications, working on the *Pen & Paddle* blog, and introducing *Findings/Trouvailles*. Our operations are running smoothly, and we have an excellent relationship with our new secretariat.

We have collaborated with University of Toronto Press – Journals to revamp our Digital Collection. This project was initiated by Becker Associates with funding provided through the Museums and Technologies Fund, Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture (we had to provide matching funds, about \$20,000). The project will be finished by the end of March 2014 and will provide an enhanced benefit to membership. The final version of the new Digital Collection will provide improved access to our works and will be well used. The return to our membership will justify our investment.

Our volume for 2013, *O.D. Skelton: The Work of the World, 1923–1941*, edited by Norman Hillmer, was published at the end of October. Patrice D. thanked Roger Hall, Don McLeod, and the members of the Publications Committee for their work on this project.

The Society's total membership stood at 488 at the end of December 2012, which is a decline of twelve from the previous year. We hope that our revamped Digital Collection, available only to members, and new innovations such as the *Findings/Trouvailles* blog, to which all members may contribute, will help to attract new, and especially younger, members to the Society.

Patrice D. concluded his report by presenting a PowerPoint presentation, outlining the Society's objectives for 2013–14, which include:

- restoring balance between the Society's revenue and expenses. Streamlining of our operations, including having one in-person meeting of the Council per year (on the same day as the AGM), has helped to reduce expenses;

- promoting value for money;
- encouraging innovation. Our new monthly blog, *Findings/Trouvailles*, invites all members of the Society to contribute and share stories of discoveries made during their own studies of Canadian history.

Patrice D. thanked members of the Society's Executive Committee (Peter Davis, Jane Errington, Roger Hall, and Don McLeod) for their work during the year, and also the staff at University of Toronto – Journals. He also thanked Château de Charmes winery for their generous donation of wine for the Chalmers Award reception, and staff of University of Toronto Press – Journals for coordinating the reception.

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

4. Report of the Treasurer: Peter Davis and Patrice Dutil

Peter D. used PowerPoint to present a summary of the audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2012, and subsequent financial report.

The financial state of the Society improved between 2011 and 2012 through implementing various streamlining and cost-cutting measures. The Society had a loss of \$19,710 in fiscal 2011, but showed a surplus of \$2,904 for fiscal 2012. Revenues increased from fiscal year 2011 to 2012. Membership fees were up, as were book sales. Donations have been holding steady. Volume production costs were reduced, as were general and administrative costs.

Peter D. reviewed the Society's goals for fiscal 2013, which involve continuing to try to raise revenue by enlisting new members while at the same time streamlining and cutting costs where possible to restore balance between our revenue and expenditures.

Peter D. asked if there were any questions from the floor. A member asked if the Society had thought about perhaps sponsoring a prize for historical work by students, which might attract more student interest and membership in the Society. He mentioned as an example the Andrew Hunter Award, presented annually for historical research on Simcoe County by an undergraduate student, and sponsored by the Simcoe County Historical Association. Peter D. replied that this is a good suggestion, and that it will be discussed by the Membership Committee and Council.

Auditor's Report and Financial Statements, 2012

Moved by Sandra Alston, seconded by Roger Hall, that the Champlain Society's Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2012, including the independent auditor's report, prepared by J. Michael Mulholland, C.A., be accepted as presented. Carried unanimously.

Patrice D. discussed the Society's annual audited statements. The preparation of these statements cost the Society more than \$2,600 in 2012. The audit is a low priority for the Society. It is also expensive. The Society has excellent representation through our new secretariat, University of Toronto Press – Journals, which has experienced bookkeepers and a solid financial reputation. The Society issues few cheques per year, and this can be handled by our secretariat as well. Council has discussed this matter, and has agreed unanimously that the Society should not appoint an auditor for fiscal 2013.

Patrice D. stressed that the Society would still submit financial information to the government annually, and that a review engagement of the state of the Champlain Society's accounts, prepared by University of Toronto Press – Journals, would be sufficient. The new Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (available at <http://charitytax.imaginecanada.ca>) declares:

The Act specifies financial reporting requirements for not-for-profit corporations, depending on their status as either a soliciting or non-soliciting corporation and on the amount of revenue they earn.

The Champlain Society is a soliciting corporation in that it solicits donations from the public. According to the new Act,

Soliciting corporations with gross annual revenues higher than \$250,000 must be audited; where revenues are between \$50,000 and \$250,000, an audit is required, unless the members resolve to have a review engagement

The Champlain Society's total audited gross revenue for fiscal 2012 was \$91,370.

Moved by Patrice Dutil, seconded by John McMillan, that the Champlain Society forego the preparation of audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2013, and that, in lieu of audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2013, the University of Toronto Press – Journals be asked to provide a review engagement of the state of the Champlain Society's accounts for the year ending December 31, 2013. Carried unanimously.

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 work during the year: Sandra Alston, Peter Davis, Jane Errington, Roger Hall (General Editor), Don McLeod (Chair), Bill Moreau, Roberto Perin, Carolyn Podruchny, Germaine Warkentin, David Wood.

Norman Hillmer's volume *O.D. Skelton: The Work of the World, 1923–1941* was published in October 2013; mailing commenced on Thursday, October 31. Members should be receiving their volume and renewal notice shortly. This was a co-publication with McGill-Queen's University Press (MQUP), and their edition is also available.

Roger H. reviewed other volumes in preparation:

- Germaine Warkentin's edition of *The Collected Writings of Pierre-Esprit Radisson: Volume II: The Port Nelson Relations, Miscellaneous Writings, and Related Documents* will be published in August 2014. It will be a co-publication with MQUP; the completed manuscript has been submitted to them.

We have signed contracts for the following projects; we will finalize production dates as they come in:

- *William Ord Mackenzie: The Canadas during the 1830s*, edited by Sandra Alston and Cicely Blackstock (scheduled for publication in 2015);
- *The Writings of David Thompson. Volume II*, edited by William Moreau (this will be published extra series; Moreau has finished the manuscript and is in the process of submitting it to MQUP, our co-publisher for this title. Publication may occur 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).

Call for Project Proposals

Don M. noted that we currently have no projects signed for publication after 2019. A Call for Project Proposals was released widely in May 2013 through e-lists and our website. We have generated some talk about potential projects, but there have been no formal proposals submitted. We will redistribute the Call to try to drum up interest in new project proposals. All members of the Society are also encouraged to submit proposals or ideas, and to ask friends and colleagues to do the same.

Call for a New General Editor

We have issued a call for the new General Editor to succeed Roger Hall, who has held the position for ten years. A notice has been placed on the Society's website, and has been distributed widely. Qualified members of the Society are encouraged to apply, or to make suggestions.

Report of the Nominations Committee: Patrice Dutil

Patrice D. reviewed the membership of Council and the Executive Committee.

Bosko Loncarevic, James McKillip, and Lutzen Riedstra will be leaving Council at the end of 2013; Patrice thanked them for their service to the Society.

The following members of Council have agreed to be re-appointed for another three-year term, ending December 31, 2016: Michel Beaulieu, Peter Davis, E. Jane Errington, Roger Hall, and James Paxton.

The Council of the Champlain Society may have a maximum of twenty-four members; as of December 31, 2013, it will have fifteen members. At the Council meeting held the morning of November 9, 2013, 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 2013 and early 2014.

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

Moved by Douglas Hunter, seconded by Ian Wilson, that nominations be closed, and that the proposed slate of members of Council for the period January 1, 2014, to December 31, 2016, be accepted. Carried.

Patrice D. noted that the Society's by-laws state that officers of the Champlain Society are to be elected by Council, which was done at the meeting of Council on November 9, 2013. The officers of the Executive Committee of the Champlain Society for the year 2014 are:

Patrice Dutil: President, and Chair, Nominations Committee

Jane Errington: Vice-President, President-Elect

Don McLeod: Secretary, and Chair, Publications Committee

Peter Davis: Treasurer

Roger Hall: General Editor

Michel Beaulieu: Chair, Chalmers Award Committee

Members of the audience applauded.

6. Presentation on the New Digitization Initiative: Antonia Pop

Antonia P. of University of Toronto Press – Journals presented a PowerPoint summary of a beta version of the new digital collection, accompanied with a print-out of the display pages. Highlights included searching strategies and results, display options, marking text, and e-mail alerts for new volumes.

The final version should be available by March 2014. The launch rollout will include a press release to members and to institutions. User names and passwords will be supplied to members. Suggestions for improvements to the site are encouraged, and should be sent to Patrice D.

Sandra Alston asked if works from the collection will be in different formats, or will be able to be viewed on different devices, such as a Kindle. Antonia replied that this will be available, eventually.

Members of the audience applauded the University of Toronto Press – Journals team for all of their work on this project, and for the interesting presentation.

7. Presentation of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History for 2012

Michel Beaulieu served as administrator of the Chalmers Award committee for 2012. Members of the jury were: Prof. Sarah Carter (Henry Marshall Tory Chair and Professor, Department of History and Classics and Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta), Prof. Jan Noel (Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Toronto at Mississauga), and Prof. Brian S. Osborne (chair; Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, Queen's University, and Adjunct Research Professor, Carleton University). Michel B. offered thanks to members of the jury on behalf of the Society, and to Lauren Mitchell for her help.

There were twelve books submitted for 2012; the winner was Gillian McCann's *Vanguard of the New Age: The Toronto Theosophical Society, 1891–1945*, published by McGill-Queen's University Press.

Michel B. welcomed Prof. McCann, read the award citation, and presented the prize of an Inuit sculpture and a cheque for \$1,000. *Members of the audience applauded.*

Prof. McCann thanked the Society for the award, and presented an interesting talk on her book. There were several questions from the floor. Michel B. thanked Prof. McCann for her presentation. *Members of the audience applauded.*

8. Presentation by Prof. Norman Hillmer on *O.D. Skelton: The Work of the World, 1923–1941*

Prof. Hillmer delivered an illustrated talk on Skelton and his career, based on the Society's publication for 2013. There were several questions from the audience. Patrice D. thanked Prof. Hillmer for his presentation. *Members of the audience applauded.*

9. Presentation by Douglas Hunter, "Remembering the 400th Anniversary of Champlain's Trek on the Ottawa River"

Douglas Hunter, a historian and member of the Society's Council, presented an illustrated talk on Samuel de Champlain's trek to the Ottawa River in 1613. The lively presentation drew several questions from the floor. Patrice D. thanked Douglas Hunter for his talk. *Members of the audience applauded.*

10. Adjournment

Roger Hall moved adjournment at 4:00 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.