

Minutes of the 2018 British Columbia Historical Federation (BCHF) Annual General Meeting

May 26, 2018, 8:30-9:45 a.m., PST, Senior Citizen's Hall, Nakusp, BC

1. Welcome and recognition of Societies represented

President Jane Watt called the meeting to order at 8: 43 a.m. and welcomed attendees.

The following Council members in attendance introduced themselves:

- K. Jane Watt (President)
 - Barry Gough (Honorary President)
 - Maurice Guibord (First Vice President)
 - Shannon Bettles (Second Vice President)
 - Ken Welwood (Treasurer)
 - Mark Forsythe (Director)
 - Michael Gibbs (Director),
 - Ron Hyde (Director)
 - Caroline Ross (Director)
 - Andrea Lister (Ex-Officio)
- Absent: Gary Mitchell (Past President), Sandra Martins (Secretary), Sharanjit Sandhra (Director)

The following Federation members and/or delegates in attendance signed the register:

Member Name, Society Represented	Delegate?	Voting Card
Brenda L. Smith, Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission	Y	1
Rob Gresko, Surrey Historical Society	Y	2
Jacqueline Gresko, Vancouver Historical Society	Y	3
Ron Hyde, Richmond Museum Society	Y	4
Pricilla Lowe, Cowichan Historical Society	Y	5
David Lowe, Cowichan Historical Society	Y	6
Ron Welwood, Touchstones Nelson	Y	7
Frances Welwood, Touchstones Nelson	Y	8
Ronald Greene, Victoria Historical Society	Y	9
Erica Williams, Maple Ridge Historical Society	Y	10
Maurice Guibord, La Société historique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique	Y	11
Marilyn Taylor, Arrow Lakes Historical Society	Y	12
Kyle Kusch, Arrow Lakes Historical Society	Y	13
Gloria Currie, Salmo Valley Historical Society	N	-
Ellen Edwards, Surrey Historical Society	Y	14
Michael Gibbs, Surrey Historical Society	Y	15
Greg Nesteroff, Arrow Lakes Historical Society	Y	16
Anna Tremere, Riverview Historical Society	Y	17
Ross Tremere, Riverview Historical Society	N	-
Nan Martin, BC History of Nursing Society	Y	18
Tom Lymbery, Gray Creek Historical Society	Y	19
Yvonne Van Ruskenveld, Old Cemeteries Society	Y	20
Michael Gurney	N	-
Melanie Riley, North Shuswap Historical Society	Y	21
Loretta Greenough, North Shuswap Historical Society	Y	22
Frank Riley, North Shuswap Historical Society	Y	23
John Azar, Western Front Association, Pacific Coast Branch	Y	24
K. Mary Watt, VGHSON	Y	25
Naomi Miller, BCHF Honorary Life Member	Y	26
Heather Cooper, Bamfield Historical Society	Y	27
Mark Forsythe, Langley Heritage Society	Y	28
Viive Daniels, Vancouver Historical Society	N	-
Judith Phillips, Bamfield Historical Society	Y	29
Ken Williams, Arrow Lakes Historical Society	Y	30
Michael Kluckner, Vancouver Historical Society	N	-

Marcus Phillips, Bamfield Historical Society	Y	31
Parker Williams, Nanaimo Historical Society	Y	32
Matilda Williams, Nanaimo Historical Society	Y	33
Trelle Morrow, Prince George	N	-

2. In Memoriam

Andrea Lister played a slide show, prepared by Sandra Martins, in memoriam of BCHF members and friends who passed away in the last year.

3. Welcome to New BCHF Members

Jane Watt welcomed all new members to the Federation. A list of members as of March 31, 2018 is archived with these minutes. The list of current member societies is also available on the BCHF website at <http://www.bchistory.ca/members/membership-directory/> and is updated monthly.

4. Report on attendance and voting delegates

Signees on the AGM register: 39 individuals, representing 20 Member Societies/Affiliates.
 Council members in attendance: 10 (including one ex-officio and two who also signed the AGM register).
 Total number of attendees: 47
 Total number of accredited delegates: 33
 Total number of non-voting attendees: 6
 Total voting members present: 41

5. Minutes of 2017 AGM – corrections and approval

No corrections noted.

Motion that the minutes of the 2017 British Columbia Historical Federation Annual General Meeting, held May 27, 2017, at the Coast Hotel in Chilliwack, BC, be approved as written. Moved by Maurice Guibord. Seconded by Rob Gresko. Carried unanimously.

6. Treasurer's Report

Ken Welwood spoke to the Treasurer's report on pages 22-26 of the BCHF 2018 Annual Report, including financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2018: Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Net Assets, Statement of Operations and Notes to Financial Statement.

Correction: The Statement of Financial Position (page 22 of the 2018 Annual Report) includes misaligned information. The section LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS should read as follows:

	LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS	
	2018	2017
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$687
Deferred Conference Income	7,273	5,546
	<u>7,273</u>	<u>6,233</u>

Ken made the following observations about the Statement of Operations:

- The BCHF is once again in receipt of a Canadian Periodical Fund Grant (missed in 2017).
- Membership revenue figures for 2018 are incomplete due to the process of transitioning to a new membership management system.
- Expenses for magazine subscription services have decreased since the BCHF terminated its external contract for these services and brought the work in-house.
- Expenses for the web site increased to enable a series of necessary security upgrades.

Motion to approve the 2018 Financial Statements, with the correction noted above. Moved by Ken Welwood. Seconded by John Azar. Carried unanimously.

7. President's Report

Jane Watt spoke to the President's report on pages 3-5 of the 2018 Annual Report. Council has undertaken significant work to review and streamline Federation policies, procedures and work plans, with the goal of ensuring best practices in all areas of the organization.

8. Committee Reports

Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA) of BC

Jacqueline Gresko spoke to the LTSA report on page 12 of the 2018 Annual Report. Persons wishing to access information held by the Land Titles Office must go through an agent, but BCHF members can ask Jacqueline for a form to waive some fees. The LTSA web site is <https://ltsa.ca>.

Website

Shannon Bettles spoke to the Website report on page 27 of the 2018 Annual Report. Site security was significantly enhanced this year. The number of site visitors has increased by 30 per cent.

Membership and Subscriptions

Jane Watt spoke to the Membership and Subscriptions report on page 13 of the 2018 Annual Report. As of March 31, 2018, the Federation had 94 Member Societies, 30 Affiliated Members, 319 Associate (Individual) Members and 6 Corporate Members.

Membership and subscription services has been moved in-house using a software called Wild Apricot. Having membership/subscription data in a single location will improve cross-province coordination, reduce costs and allow for new opportunities in the future.

Magazine

Andrea Lister spoke to the Magazine report on pages 14-15 of the 2018 Annual Report. The BCHF is preparing to launch a digital version of *British Columbia History*, available in libraries, schools and universities across the province. The goal is to get the magazine into all schools in BC.

Jane Watt noted that digitization of back issues of *British Columbia History* is now complete up to 2015. The online repository (which dates to 2007) will be updated shortly. The BCHF will continue to digitize the magazine annually and maintain a two-year lapse with the print version.

It was requested that the Federation a) publish an article in *British Columbia History* when the digitization is complete, and b) acknowledge the partnership with UBC. Andrea Lister noted that future issues of the magazine will include advertisements about UBC digitization projects.

Recognition

Jane Watt spoke to the Recognition report on pages 17-19 of the 2018 Annual Report. Council has broadened the scope of the W. Kaye Lamb Scholarship to include media-based submissions such as websites, videos, podcasts, performance pieces and artwork. Jane acknowledged the dedicated work of Marie Elliot, who has retired as long-time chair of the Scholarship Committee.

Trails and Sites

Tom Lymbury spoke to the Trails and Sites report on page 20 of the 2018 Annual Report. Tom requested volunteers to help update historic trail information and asked societies to complete the questionnaire at <http://www.bchistory.ca/about-the-bchf/committees/historic-trails-and-sites/>. The Committee is considering a potential new monument at Mount Warburton Pike on Saturna Island.

Motion to approve all Committee Reports, as presented in the BCHF 2018 Annual Report. Moved by Michael Gibbs. Seconded by Ronald Greene. Carried unanimously.

9. New Business

a. Plans for BCHF Centennial (2022)

Gary Mitchell is working on two initiatives for the BCHF centennial in 2022: a commemorative stamp and a provincial day of acknowledgement for historical societies.

For BC150, the BCHF is looking for ways to celebrate our membership. One idea is a brochure (print and online) profiling sites, monuments and member societies across the province.

b. Centennial Legacy Fund

This fund is intended to support innovative/proof-of-concept projects related to BC history. Seed money comes thanks to a \$10,000 bequest from former member Len McCann. Council is working to develop policy for the administration, management and promotion of the fund.

Barry Gough proposed that a fitting first disbursement from the fund would be a \$2,000 grant to the Ormsby Review, an initiative by Richard Mackie of BC BookWorld. The Review consists of over 100 online articles that energetically promote BC history in the spirit of BC historian Margaret Ormsby.

Motion that the BCHF extend financial support through the Centennial Legacy Fund to worthy candidates engaged in innovative/proof-of-concept projects related to history in BC. Moved by Barry Gough. Seconded by Ron Hyde. Carried unanimously.

c. Advocacy Recommendation re. Regional Support for Heritage Fairs Program

Michael Gurney (past president and current director of BC Heritage Fairs) introduced the Heritage Fairs Program. It provides a venue for students in grades 3-9 to research historical topics of their choice and enter projects in one of 13 independently-organized regional fairs throughout the province. Selected students from each region attend a provincial fair. Many students return annually and find their voice/passion in the Heritage Fairs Program.

Motion to provide a \$100 grant to each of 13 BC Regional Heritage Fair Committees (\$1,300 total) in support of continued development of the BC Heritage Fairs Program.

Discussion ensued as to whether the BCHF could afford this expense, and how the funds would be used by each regional committee. Jane Watt noted that the Federation has tremendous resources at hand; we are ready to start investing in the historical community, not just sitting on money in the bank. Each regional organizing committee would be free to use its \$100 grant according to its own unique needs. Ron Hyde noted that BC Heritage Fairs participants are the future members of the BCHF.

Moved by Mark Forsythe. Seconded by Frances Welwood. Carried unanimously.

10. Election of Officers and Directors

Ronald Greene oversaw the nomination of 2018-2019 BCHF Officers and Directors. The following individuals were nominated to the BCHF Executive Council:

- **President:** K. Jane Watt
- **First Vice President:** Shannon Bettles
- **Second Vice President:** Caroline Ross
- **Treasurer:** Ken Welwood
- **Secretary:** Vacant
- **Directors:** Mark Forsythe, Michael Gibbs, Maurice Guibord, Michael Gurney, Ron Hyde, Greg Nesteroff, Sharanjit Sandhra

Motion to appoint the above slate of nominees to the BCHF Executive Council. Moved by Ronald Greene. Seconded by Loretta Greenough. Carried unanimously.

11. Future Conferences

2019: There is no confirmed host for the 2019 conference. Jane Watt has approached societies in the Comox Valley to gauge interest.

2020: Michael Gibbs stated interest by organizations in Surrey-Cloverdale to host the 2020 conference, in concert with the launch of a new museum in the area.

2021: Maurice Guibord voiced the idea of a “super-conference” in Victoria in 2021, in partnership with BC Studies, the BC Museums Association and Heritage BC.

Motion that the BCHF not host future annual conferences in the latter half of May, due to conflicts with May holidays (Mother’s Day, Victoria Day) and AGM dates for the Victoria and Vancouver Historical Societies.

Discussion ensued and attendees agreed that the first week in June might be a good option, and that the dates could change year-to-year depending on the needs of host organizations. Maurice Guibord agreed to research a date for 2019.

Moved by Ron Greene. Seconded by Jacqueline Gresko. Carried.

12. Appreciation of Conference Partner, Arrow Lakes Historical Society

Jane Watt expressed the Federation’s gratitude to the members of the Arrow Lakes Historical Society conference organizing committee for making the Nakusp conference a memorable one: Annette Devlin, Kathy Bone, Susan Smith, Ken Williams, Kyle Kusch, Rosemarie Parent, Karen Marshall and Marilyn Taylor.

13. Announcements Re. Conference Events

Marilyn Taylor made house-keeping announcements about the conference program.

14. Member Society Reports

The following delegates delivered reports for Member Societies:

- Ron Welwood, Touchstones Nelson
- Pricilla Lowe, Cowichan Historical Society
- Marilyn Taylor, Arrow Lakes Historical Society
- John Azar, Old Cemeteries Society
- Maurice Guibord, La Société historique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique

These reports, and others provided but not spoken to, are available on the BCHF web site at <http://www.bchistory.ca/about-the-bchf/council-records/>.

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. *Moved by Maurice Guibord. Seconded by Jacqueline Gresko. Carried unanimously.*

AGM adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

16. Appendices

“Telling Our Stories” – Member Society Discussion Session (notes from an open forum hosted by the BCHF Advocacy Committee on May 26, 2018)