

Minutes of the 2019 British Columbia Historical Federation (BCHF) Annual General Meeting (Draft)

June 8, 2019, 9:00-11:00 a.m. PST, Native Sons Hall, Courtenay, BC

1. Welcome and recognition of Societies represented

President Jane Watt called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and welcomed attendees.

The following individuals signed the register:

Voting Delegates

Organization	Name	Voting Card
Friends of the BC Archives	Kelly Black	45
Nanaimo Museum	Aimee Greenaway	46
Société historique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique	Maurice Guibord	47
VGH Nursing Alumnae Association	K. Mary Watt	52
Victoria Historical Society	Ronald Greene	2
West Coast Ringette Historical Society	Shannon Bettles	38
Courtenay & District Museum	Deborah Griffiths	55
Arrow Lakes Historical Society	Kyle Kusch	40
Surrey Historical Society	Michael Gibbs	43
Arrow Lakes Historical Society	Ken Williams	39
Lantzville Historical Society	Lynn Reeve	54
Victoria Historical Society	Britta Gundersen-Bryden	41
Victoria Historical Society	Jack Bryden	42
Cowichan Historical Society	David Lowe	48
Cowichan Historical Society	Priscilla Lowe	49
Touchstones Nelson	Ron Welwood	44
Touchstones Nelson	Frances Welwood	50
Slocan Valley Historical Society	Joyce Johnson	37
Slocan Valley Historical Society	Greg Nesteroff	36
Surrey Historical Society	Ellen Edwards	12
Friends of the BC Archives	Patrick Dunae	1
BCHF	Barry Gough	58
BC History of Nursing Society	Nan Martin	3
BCHF	Ron Hyde	4
BC History of Nursing Society	Glennis Zilm	51
Langley Heritage Society	Mark Forsythe	53
BCHF	K. Jane Watt	56
BCHF	Gary Mitchell	59

Non-Voting Attendees

Name	Organization
Caroline Ross	BCHF
Doug Brigham	
Andrea Lister	
Darren Durupt	
Layton Park	
Ken Welwood	PV Historical
Rosa Flinton-Brown	
Jacques P. Vallée	
Gisèle Samson	
Gloria Currie	
Denton Pendergast	Friends of the BC Archives
Laura Anderson	WVHS

The following BCHF Council members were in attendance: Jane Watt, President; Shannon Bettles, Vice President, Webmaster, Recognition Chair; Caroline Ross, Second Vice President, Membership Chair; Ken Welwood, Treasurer; Mark Forsythe, Director, Advocacy Committee; Michael Gibbs, Director; Ron Hyde, Director; Greg Nesteroff, Director, Newsletter Editor; Gary Mitchell, Past President; Barry Gough, Honorary President.

2. In Memoriam

Attendees watched a slide show honouring BCHF members and friends who passed away in the last year. We remember Thomas R. "Bob" Broadland, Greg Evans, Dr. Daniel Thomas Gallacher, Bakshish Gill, Ken McLeod, Jessie Annie Middleton (nee Lee), Bill McNamara, Arnold Ranneris, Shirley Stainton.

3. Welcome to New BCHF Members

Jane Watt welcomed new members to the Federation. A list of all current BCHF members was consolidated on June 2, 2019.

Caroline Ross reported that the Federation currently carries 468 members, including 101 member societies. The Federation represents over 7,300 individuals and organizations across the province.

4. Report on attendance and voting delegates

Forty individuals, including 28 voting delegates and 12 non-voting attendees, signed the AGM register.

5. Minutes of 2018 AGM (May 26, 2018)

The minutes from the 2018 AGM were posted in draft format on the website in June 2018. A reminder was sent in May 2019. No corrections noted.

Motion that the minutes of the 2018 British Columbia Historical Federation Annual General Meeting, held May 26, 2018, at the Senior Citizen's Hall in Nakusp, BC, be approved as written. Moved by Maurice Guibord. Seconded by Ronald Greene. Carried unanimously.

6. President's Report

Jane expressed appreciation for the work done by the Federation over the last year, and spoke to the President's Report on page 3 of the BCHF Annual Report 2019. Highlights this year include:

- Digitization of back issues of *British Columbia History* magazine is now complete. Issues from 1922 to 2015 are available on the UBC site. Going forward, the Federation will keep each issue available in print format for two years (to facilitate retail sales), then migrate it to the UBC site.
 - Ron Welwood asked about improving usability of the UBC site. Shannon Bettles noted that UBC uses a specific system and hosts our material for free. We can let UBC know that we would like to improve user-friendliness. We may be able to host digitized magazine content ourselves in the future.
 - Ron Greene stated that the Royal BC Archives' fee schedule is also a concern for members. Jane Watt noted that agenda item 11.b includes a resolution on this issue.
- The digital issue of *British Columbia History* magazine has now been available for one year. We hope to increase subscription numbers going forward.
- 2018 was the first year of disbursement from our new Centennial Legacy Fund. Awards will be presented at tonight's gala.
- Council continues to work on centennial plans for BC150, 2021 and 2022 (BCHF centennial).
- Finances are in great shape.

Jane noted that Council operates via consensus-based management; Council workshops material then makes motions in support of it.

7. Treasurer's Report

Ken Welwood spoke to the Treasurer's report on pages 20-26 of the BCHF Annual Report 2019, including financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2019: Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Net Assets, Statement of Operations and Notes to Financial Statements.

Revenue is up 15% over last year. Revenue from magazine subscriptions and sales is up 13.6%. Revenue from memberships is up 38%. Donations are now allotted to the Centennial Legacy Fund and matched from within the Federation's unrestricted net assets.

In response to a question from the floor, Jane Watt explained that the revenue source "Referral Fees – Johnson Inc." in the Statement of Operations comes from our partnership with Johnson Inc. Johnson gives the BCHF a percentage of each travel and home insurance policy it sells under our group plan.

Motion to approve the 2019 Financial Statements as presented in the BCHF Annual Report 2019. Moved by Ken Welwood. Seconded by Ron Hyde. Carried unanimously.

Jane noted that Ken is finished his term as Treasurer. His work has been invaluable.

8. Committee Reports

Committee reports are available in the BCHF Annual Report 2019. Directors noted the following additional items:

Shannon Bettles, Webmaster, encouraged members to send in stories for the web site.

Mark Forsythe, Advocacy Committee, encouraged members to nominate sites, trails and marine areas for the Federation's 150 Best Sites and Trails centennial project.

Greg Nesteroff, Newsletter Editor, noted that the May issue of the BCHF Buzz was sent to 546 email addresses. 310 recipients opened the newsletter and made 151 clicks on links.

Andrea Lister, Editor of *British Columbia History* magazine, noted that newsstand sales are down and that the digital newsstand is the "new grocery store." BCHF is well-positioned here with our digital magazine. Members can opt to receive the magazine in digital or print format. The digital magazine is also available through subscribing libraries (public, school and university). It can be downloaded to mobile devices. The mobile version allows users to adjust text size. Next steps are to get the magazine on EBSCOhost for use in schools. EBSCO will pay the BCHF royalties.

Note: The report from the Historic Trails & Sites Committee can be found on the web site at <http://www.bchistory.ca/about-the-bchf/committees/historic-trails-and-sites/>.

9. Constitution and Bylaws

The BCHF Constitution and Bylaws have been reformatted to conform to the standards set by the new *Societies Act* (SBC 2015, C.18). The content of both remains unchanged, except the following amendment to the Bylaws:

- In Part 2, Section 4, the number of Honorary Members that can be appointed in any given year increases from one to three, and the number of Honorary Members the Federation can carry at any given time increases from 10 to 25.

Motion to approve the 2019 Constitution.

Moved by Gary Mitchell. Seconded by Kelly Black. Carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the 2019 Bylaws.

Moved by Gary Mitchell. Seconded by Britta Gundersen-Bryden. Carried unanimously.

10. Centennial Work: Centennial Legacy Fund, BC 150, BCHF 100

Shannon Bettles gave an overview of the Centennial Legacy Fund. 2018 was the BCHF's first year administering the Fund. The Selection Committee received approximately 15 applications asking for over \$40,000. The Committee selected three recipients, which will be announced at tonight's Awards Gala. The BCHF aims to maintain the fund through donations.

Gary Mitchell outlined upcoming centennial projects:

- BCHF has applied to Canada Post for a regional stamp celebrating the Federation's centennial in 2022, and for a stamp celebrating the 150th anniversary of BC's Confederation in 2021.
- BCHF will ask the Lieutenant Governor for a tree to be planted at Government House in celebration of the Federation's centennial, and for October 22, 2022, to be recognized as Centennial Day for our Federation.

11. New Business

a. Support for Maritime Museum of BC

Barry Gough noted that the BCHF has written a letter in support of the Maritime Museum of British Columbia's bid for national accreditation.

b. Support for Friends of the BC Archives Report Recommendations

Kelly Black, President of the Friends of the British Columbia Archives (FBCA), stated that in March 2019, the FBCA released the report "Accessing the Archives: Reproduction & Licensing Fees at the Royal BC Museum & Archives." The report addresses concerns about the high costs of licensing and reproduction fees and recommends that the Royal BC Museum & Archives:

- eliminate licensing fees for non-commercial use of digitized materials;
- reevaluate fees associated with commercial publication, as well as the overall reproduction fee framework;
- increase digital file size available for download through the Access to Memory (AtoM) database.

View the full report at https://friendsofbcarchives.files.wordpress.com/2019/03/fbca-report_reproduction-publication-fees.pdf.

Motion that the BCHF endorses the recommendations in the Friends of the BC Archives report "Accessing the Archives: Reproduction & Licensing Fees at the Royal BC Museum & Archives" AND that the BCHF Executive write to the minister responsible and to the CEO of the Royal BC Museum & Archives supporting the report.

Moved by Kelly Black. Seconded by Ron Welwood. Carried unanimously.

Members discussed other options to advocate for this initiative in a strategic manner.

Motion that, pending response from the government on the FBCA report, the BCHF Executive will write to the Premier, opposition party leaders and ministers involved expressing support for the terms of the original FBCA report.

Moved by Michael Gibbs. Seconded by Ken Williams. Carried unanimously.

Ron Hyde suggested that the motions and supporting letters be sent to BCHF members via the newsletter, and that members be encouraged to send copies to their local MLAs. Attendees supported this idea.

c. Support for Heritage BC recommendations to Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

Paul Gravett, Executive Director of Heritage BC, explained that every year Heritage BC presents to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Governance Services (a permanent all-party committee of the Legislative Assembly of BC) to advocate for the sector. This year, Heritage BC will present the results of its *Provincial Roundtables on the State of Heritage Report*. The BCHF has been very supportive of this report and will be one of the signatories on a joint letter Heritage BC is crafting. Other signatories include BC Museums Association and BC Heritage Fairs.

d. Other

i. Federal call to action on heritage preservation

As John Aldag, Member of Parliament, stated yesterday, there are no safeguards for historic places owned by government or private individuals. Gary Mitchell proposed a motion to reaffirm the need for the Government of Canada to commit to heritage and do more to support preservation at the grassroots level.

Motion: BCHF strongly believes that the Government of Canada has a fundamental role in preserving the heritage of our communities; stronger legislative action and more consistent resource allocations are urgently needed to safeguard our communities' heritage in the face of economic and environmental change.

*Moved by Gary Mitchell. Seconded by Barry Gough. Carried.
Shannon Bettles abstains due to a conflict of interest.*

Paul Gravett stated that Heritage BC will support this resolution, and added that there are supporting resources available on the National Trust for Canada web site.

Mark Forsythe suggested that the BCHF back up this resolution with local action, e.g., through our Step Up for History campaign.

Jack Bryden suggested that the BCHF contact provincial heritage associations across Canada to generate support and partnership on this initiative.

Laura Anderson suggested that the BCHF develop a communications strategy and campaign that includes the various initiatives discussed today and reaches the grassroots level.

ii. Support for Kumugwe Cultural Society

The Kumugwe Cultural Society, whose dance group performed during last night's conference program, incorporates story, language and reconciliation in their work, all of which are important to the future of history and heritage.

Motion that the BCHF support the activities of the Kumugwe Cultural Society in the amount of \$2,000.

Moved by Mark Forsythe. Seconded by Joyce Johnson. Carried unanimously.

12. Election of Officers and Directors

Barry Gough thanked outgoing President Jane Watt and welcomed new Honorary President Gary Mitchell.

The following individuals stand for election to the BCHF Executive Council:

- **President:** Shannon Bettles
- **First Vice President:** Caroline Ross
- **Second Vice President:** Mark Forsythe

- **Secretary:** Doug Brigham
- **Treasurer:** Rosa Flinton-Brown
- **Directors:** Michael Gibbs, Aimee Greenaway, Maurice Guibord, Greg Nesteroff
- **Past President:** K. Jane Watt
- **Honorary President:** Gary Mitchell

Motion to appoint the above slate of nominees to the BCHF Executive Council.

Moved by Barry Gough. Seconded by Kelly Black. Carried unanimously.

Thank you to Ken Welwood, Ron Hyde and Barry Gough, who have completed their Council terms.

13. Future Conferences: Surrey 2020, Mega-Conference 2021

Michael Gibbs shared initial plans for the 2020 Annual Conference in Surrey, including the conference poster. The conference will run June 5-7, 2020, and the theme is “Back to the Future: Celebrating Heritage in the 21st Century.” The program will include a youth component.

Jane Watt stated that the BCHF is exploring the idea of a mega-conference in 2021, in partnership with other large provincial heritage and history organizations. Comments from the floor supported this concept.

14. Appreciation of Conference Partners

Jane Watt expressed the Federation’s gratitude to the Courtenay and District Museum for their hard and excellent work in organizing the conference. Specifically recognized were Deborah Griffiths and Gillian Miller.

15. Member Society Reports

The following individuals delivered reports for Member Societies:

- Maurice Guibord, La Société historique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique
- Nan Martin, BC History of Nursing Society
- Michael Gibbs, Surrey Historical Society
- Jack Bryden, Victoria Historical Society
- Kelly Black, Friends of the BC Archives Society
- Kyle Kusch, Arrow Lakes Historical Society
- Deborah Griffiths, Courtenay & District Museum & Historic Society
- Mark Forsythe, Langley Heritage Society

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/>.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Maurice Guibord. Seconded by Frances Welwood. Carried unanimously.

AGM adjourned at 10:55 a.m.