



## **MINUTES OF THE 2020 BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION (BCHF) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Online via Zoom.

### **1. Welcome**

President Shannon Bettles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees.

### **2. Member Society Reports**

The following individuals delivered reports for Member Societies:

- Nan Martin (B.C. History of Nursing Society)
- Mike Yusko (B.C. Dairy Historical Society)
- Michael Gibbs (Surrey Historical Society and Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society)
- Mark Forsythe (Langley Historical Society)
- Ron Welwood (Touchstones Nelson)
- Lily Chow and Susanna Ng (New Pathways to Gold Society / Chinatown Storytelling Centre)
- Maurice Guibord (Société historique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique)
- Jack Bryden (Victoria Historical Society)
- Joyce Johnson (Slocan Valley Historical Society)

### **3. Greeting from the Honorary President**

Gary Mitchell, our Honorary President and British Columbia's Provincial Archivist emeritus, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **4. In Memoriam**

Attendees watched a slide show honouring BCHF members and friends who passed away in the last year. We remember Irene Dodek, Robert A.J. “Bob” McDonald, John Herd Thompson, Gordon Butt, Steve Lapshinoff, Ulrich “Fred” Herzog, Elizabeth “Betty” Blyth Walker, Shirley Emmeline Rea Ridalls, Ann Patricia Greene (née Bartlett), Ross Brand, Robin “Rob” Gresko, Neil Sterritt, Mary Nutting (née Geerlgis), William Sterling Haynes, Shirley Marie Stinson, Donald Reksten and Marjorie David (née Grattan).

## 5. Recognition of Societies Represented

The following individuals were present at the meeting:

### Voting Delegates

Organization	Name
Alder Grove Heritage Society	Tami Quiring
Arrow Lakes Historical Society	Kyle Kusch
BC Dairy Historical Society	Mike Yusko
BC History of Nursing Society	Agnes (Nan) Martin
BC History of Nursing Society	Glennis Zilm
Boswell Historical Society	Margaret Crossley
Friends of the BC Archives	Gary A Mitchell
Heritage Abbotsford Society	Gerry Borden
Langley Heritage Society	Mark Forsythe
Maple Ridge Historical Society	Erica Williams
New Pathways to Gold Society	Lily Chow
Point Ellice House Museum / Vancouver Island Local History Society	Kelly Black
Slocan Valley Historical Society	Joyce Johnson
Slocan Valley Historical Society	Greg Nesteroff
Société historique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique	Maurice Guibord
Surrey Historical Society	Barbara Hynek
Touchstones Nelson	Ron Welwood
Vancouver Chinatown Storytelling Centre	Susanna Ng
Vernon Cadet Camp Museum	Maria Brunskill
VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association	Kathy Murphy
VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association	K. Mary Watt
Victoria Historical Society	Jack Bryden

Victoria Historical Society	Ronald Greene
Victoria Historical Society	Britta Gundersen-Bryden
Victoria Historical Society	Patricia Roy

### **Non-voting Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Elaine Baxter	
Ben Clinton-Baker	
Doug Halverson	
Doug Hatlelid	
Martin Hilmer	
Michael Kluckner	
Emma Quan	
Cheryl Vickers	
Wendy Wickwire	
Janet Nicol	
Susan Sullivan	Family Ancestrees
Paul Gravett	Heritage BC
Ellen Edwards	Surrey Historical Society
Elwin Xie	Vancouver Historical Society
Paul Ferguson	Victoria Historical Society
John Perry	Victoria Historical Society
Frances Welwood	Touchstones Nelson

The following BCHF Council members were in attendance: Shannon Bettles (President), Doug Brigham (Secretary), Rosa Flinton-Brown (Treasurer), Mark Forsythe (Second Vice President), Michael Gibbs (Director), Maurice Guibord (Director), Gary Mitchell (Honorary President), K. Jane Watt (Past-President).

## **6. President's Report**

Shannon expressed deep appreciation for all of the work that our member societies and Federation have done in this difficult year. She addressed the President's Report on page 3 of the BCHF Annual Report 2020. Highlights of this year include:

- Pivoting to online meeting technologies. Everyone has been generous and flexible as we learned to use the platforms.
- Launching a series of video interviews with our historical writing award winners.

- Fundraising and awarding \$4,000 from the Centennial Legacy Fund.
- Further improving the reach and relevance of our magazine.
- Meeting the challenges of staying safe and staying connected during the pandemic.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

Rosa spoke to the Treasurer's report on pages 30-36 of the BCHF Annual Report 2019, including financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2020: Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Net Assets, Statement of Operations and Notes to Financial Statements.

We received \$2,148 in donations this year, allotted to the Centennial Legacy Fund, which we matched from within the Federation's unrestricted net assets. We also hosted a donation campaign in June via Canada Gives and raised \$2,300 for the CLF. We paid out a total of \$12,000 from the CLF. The Contingency Fund remained unchanged.

Subscriptions and magazine sales have declined slightly from the previous year, but this has been largely offset by increases in advertising revenues and the referral fees from Johnson Inc. Johnson Inc. is not offering the travel insurance product for which we receive referral fees this year and we should plan for a decrease in this revenue stream for 2020/2021.

The costs for the Zinio magazine platform are new, but were anticipated back in 2018. We are committed to our effort to modernize the magazine and will monitor the costs closely to ensure that this is the most efficient and cost-effective way to deliver the digital magazine. Last year's conference in Courtney cost more than projected, due to lower attendance and our desire to share costs with our local partners more fairly. This year's in person conference has been cancelled due to COVID and we look forward to meeting together in 2021.

Council continues to face the challenges of the pandemic head on. We have curtailed many expenses, particularly for travel and meetings. We remain conscious that our member organizations have also felt the financial impacts of the pandemic and we have begun to develop a campaign to encourage local buying. We should expect losses in 2020/2021 and we remain committed to balancing our commitments to meeting the needs of our members with the requirement to remain financially responsible.

**Motion to approve the 2020 Financial Statements as presented in the BCHF Annual Report 2020.** Moved by Michael Gibbs. Seconded by Britta Gundersen-Bryden. Carried.

## 8. Committee Reports

Committee reports are available in the BCHF Annual Report 2020. Directors noted the following additional items:

- We have 99 member societies, 482 associate members, 4 honorary members, 17 affiliate members and 2 corporate members. We are looking for a new membership coordinator.
- Greg Nesteroff encouraged members to submit content for the website and for the newsletter.
- The conference committee has begun planning our 2021 conference in Surrey. It will be either a hybrid or a virtual event, depending on what is possible. The theme will be “Connections.”
- 40 publications were submitted for the historical writing awards. Congratulations to all of our winners!
- Our thanks go to Aimee Greenaway for her work on the recognition awards. Aimee will no longer be a member of Council but will continue to work on the magazine.
- We received a total of ten submissions for the W. Kaye Lamb Scholarships and award prizes in both categories.
- The pandemic has forced us to communicate more effectively, a challenge we have met head on. Council members have been active this year in discussing heritage issues with local media. More and more people are finding our interviews on YouTube.
- We have updated our submission guidelines for magazine authors. We have launched the first in a series of study guides aimed at connecting the magazine with teachers in the province.
- The Fall 2020 issue is Andrea Lister’s final issue as Editor. Our heartfelt thanks go to Andrea for her contributions to the magazine over the past decade. We wish her well in her next endeavours!
- Satwinder Bains will be the guest editor for the Winter issue and we will have a series of guest editors throughout the coming year.
- Anyone interested in the new editorial advisory group for the magazine is asked to email K. Jane Watt.
- We will focus our fundraising efforts this year on expanding the Centennial Legacy Fund.
- We have collaborated with the Friends of the BC Archives and the BC Museums Association on the important issues of fees and access to the reading room at the BC Archives.

**Motion to approve all Committee Reports as presented in the BCHF Annual Report 2020.** Moved by Gerry Borden. Seconded by Rosa Flinton-Brown. Carried.

## 9. Buy Local Campaign

K. Jane Watt reported on our “Buy Local / Give Local” campaign. As we approach the gift-giving season, we want to remind people that there are many opportunities to support our local communities and heritage societies. Member societies are encouraged to submit information for the campaign.

## 10. Election of Officers and Directors

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

- **President:** Shannon Bettles
- **Second Vice President:** Mark Forsythe
- **Secretary:** Doug Brigham
- **Treasurer:** Rosa Flinton-Brown
- **Directors:** Michael Gibbs, Maurice Guibord, Greg Nesteroff, Emma Quan, Caroline Ross, Elwin Xie
- **Past President:** K. Jane Watt
- **Honorary President:** Gary Mitchell

Thank you to Aimee Greenaway, who has completed her Council terms.

Motion to appoint the slate of nominees to the BCHF Executive Council. Moved by K. Jane Watt. Seconded by Ron Greene. Carried.

## 11. Future Conferences: Surrey 2021

The conference will be hosted by the Surrey Historical Society and will take place on June 03, 04 and 05, 2021.

## 12. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.** Moved by Kelly Black. Seconded by Kathleen Murphy. Carried.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**

The meeting was followed by a brief intermission and a talk by Wendy Wickwire entitled “Public History: Academic History vs Trade History Publications.” The recording of Wendy’s talk is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Mz5zPZKeYeQ>.