

**British Columbia Historical Federation**  
**AGM 23 May 2015 9:00**  
**Banquet Room, Billy Barker Casino Hotel, Quesnel BC**  
**Minutes**

**Call to Order:**

Gary Mitchell, President issued a welcome and call to order.

**In Memoriam:**

Jacqueline Gresko acknowledged those members who had passed away this year, including Frances Florence Olga Dodwell of the Gulf Islands Historical Society; David Bruce Mason of the BC Archives; Shirley Cuthbertson of the BC Archives; Bea Haines of New Westminster, Robert Genn, Canadian artist and founder of the Painter's Keys website; Alice Glanville, former BCHF Chair; Len McCann former BCHF Chair, longtime heritage advocate and member of the Vancouver Historical Society; Paul St. Pierre of Fort Langley, folk historian of the Cariboo-Chilcotin; Kirstine Griffiths of the History of Nursing Society; Verna Huffman Splane, one of Canada's most noted nursing leaders and honorary life member of the History of Nursing Society, Francis John Sleight, of Deroche, former BCHF Treasurer.

**Members, Delegates of Member Societies, and Affiliates in attendance**

1. Mary Watt, VGH Nursing Alumni
2. Ron Greene, Victoria Historical Society
3. Anne Greene, Victoria Historical Society
4. Carole Todd, Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria
5. Patricia Dirks, Friends of the BC Archives
6. Patricia Roy, Victoria Historical Society
7. Loretta Greenough, North Shuswap Historical Society
8. Melanie Riley, North Shuswap Historical Society
9. Frank Riley, North Shuswap Historical Society
10. Randy Bell, Edmonton
11. John Whittaker, Victoria
12. Rick Hart, Surrey Heritage Commission
13. Erica Williams, Maple Ridge Historical Society
14. Gary Mitchell, President BCHF
15. Rob Gresko, Vancouver
16. Jacqueline Gresko, Honourary President, BCHF
17. Ron Hyde, Richmond Museum Society
18. Glennis Zilm, BC History of Nursing Society
19. Nan Martin, BC History of Nursing Society
20. Alice Marwood, BC Genealogical Society
21. Elizabeth Hunter, Quesnel and District Museum and Archives
22. Brenda Smith, Maple Ridge Heritage Commission
23. Shannon Bettles, Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society
24. Ron Welwood, Touchstones Nelson
25. Ron Jones, Victoria Historical Society

26. Frances Welwood, Nelson and District Historical Society
27. M. Diane Rogers, Vancouver Postcard Club
28. Bente Svendsen, Old Cemeteries Society
29. Andrea Lister, BCHF
30. Russ Fuller, Victoria Historical Society
31. Ken Williams, Arrow Lakes Historical Society
32. Joyce Clearihue, Victoria Historical Society
33. Caroline Ross, Associate member, Prince George
34. David Lowe, Cowichan Historical Society
35. Priscilla Lowe, Cowichan Historical Society
36. Tom Lymbery, Gray Creek Historical Society
37. Sharon Lymbery, Gray Creek Historical Society
38. Barry Gough, Past President, BCHF
39. K. Jane Watt, 1st Vice President, BCHF

**Regrets:** Kerri Gibson, Treasurer; Maurice Guibord, 2nd Vice President.

**Agenda:**

Under New Business, an advocacy item on the British Columbia Maritime Museum was added.

**Minutes:**

Approved as circulated in the AGM meeting package.

**Treasurer's Report**

*That the Treasurer's Report included in the meeting package be approved.*

Moved: Gary Mitchell

Second: Barry Gough

Discussion: Gary Mitchell pledged that he would put the Treasurer, Kerri Gibson, in touch with Ken Welwood to answer his query about the representation of cash resources in the report.

*Carried.*

**President's Report**

President Gary Mitchell noted that dollars for history and heritage will be increasingly hard to come by in the public sector and affirmed the need to continue to lobby senior levels of government to recognize the value of history, and to recognize the contribution that women and men of heritage have made -- and continue to make -- to the province.

He thanked Council members for their diligence over the past year.

*That the President's Report be received as presented.*

Moved: Gary Mitchell

Second: Russ Fuller

Carried.

**Committee Reports**

*That the Committee Reports be received as presented in the AGM package.*

Moved: Ron Welwood

Second: Ron Greene

Carried.

Tom Lymbery was asked to address the question of the new stainless steel **monument for pioneer rail surveyor Walter Moberly**. He reported that he has been in negotiation with the City of Revelstoke for a good site for the monument. He has confirmation of \$10,000 from the City of Revelstoke for a base for the Moberly monument, and a commitment of \$1,500 from the BC Land Surveyors Association. Other funding is expected. He noted that Revelstoke is in the Columbia Basin Trust's district, and the Trust has advised him that they will favourably consider an application for funding to make up the balance needed, but that they prefer applications in which several prestigious organizations have contributed, and therefore seeks the financial support of the BCHF.

*That the British Columbia Historical Federation contribute \$2,000 to the Moberly Monument Project.*

Moved: Tom Lymbery

Second: Jacqueline Gresko

Carried

*That the funding for the Moberly Monument Project be taken from the funds received from Johnson Inc.*

Moved: Ron Hyde

Second: Jacqueline Gresko

Tom Lymbery and John Whittaker were commended by members for their patience and endurance in making the Moberly Monument possible.

## **New Business**

### **New Societies Act**

Gary Mitchell reported that the new Societies Act had been given Royal Assent last week. The new Act is intended to "modernize societies." It will require all existing societies to resubmit for approval under the new law. Because re-registration will require both extensive documentation in the form of a comprehensive constitution and bylaws AND a high degree of computer literacy, it could pose a problem for small societies on a number of fronts. Gary pledged that Council will do all it can to streamline this process for member societies.

Ron Greene asked whether the new legislation offered an opportunity for the Federation to review its constitution and bylaws and operating procedures and was answered in the affirmative.

## **Canada 150**

Canada is gearing up for its 150th birthday in 2017. Jacqueline Gresko reported that her discussion among members and member societies had suggested interest in the following types of legacy projects if funding comes available:

- **Improvements to museums and archives.** The last wave of significant infrastructure funding for these institutions occurred in 1958 and 1968, during centennial celebrations. New funding is needed.
- **Planning and Training:** Museums, archives, historical societies need training in business planning and development, board development, and member service and liaison.
- **Canadian Before Canada:** Although sesquicentennial funding will target national projects in the post-confederation era, it is important to make a case for people who were Canadian Before Canada. British Columbia was populated, and it was an evolving and dynamic place before a stroke of a pen deemed it to be a part of Canada. These are the stories that need to be gathered and celebrated through telling in a variety of media. Ken Welwood suggested that the 2017 special issue of *British Columbia History* be devoted to this theme. Members were in agreement with this suggestion.
- **Workshops at Conference:** Member workshops at our annual AGM and Conference offer opportunities for member engagement in the Federation, member development, and development of the community of history in BC.

Jacqueline Gresko reminded the Federation of the need to be proactive and cohesive in funding applications. Rick Hart added that it was important for the Federation to create programs and projects that appeal to young people and urged members to consider the Canada 150 funding as an opportunity to create fun, invigorating, and long-lasting programs. Elizabeth Hunter noted that the federal programs require a high degree of collaboration among groups since the funding packages are large. Caroline Ross suggested that all forms of media be engaged: web, social media, and include many formats. Shannon Bettles suggested that teachers are looking for short films on a variety of themes and stories related to history that are suitable for classroom use.

#### **Advocacy: British Columbia Maritime Museum Society**

Barry Gough brought to the meeting's attention that Advocacy is a renewed function of BCHF, and although an Advocacy, Care and Concern Committee exists, the current state of affairs regarding the future and wellbeing of the Maritime Museum of British Columbia, in Victoria, requires BCHF's urgent attention, resolution and action.

He explained that MMBC has been housed in the Old Courthouse, 28 Bastion Square, for years, since the 1960s, and the deteriorating condition of that building requires the Province of British Columbia which owns the property to do repairs. MMBC's

tenure at that property was terminated by the Province of British Columbia, an action that coincided with longstanding plans of the MMBC to seek new premises, more particularly at the old CPR Steamships Ticket Office. Negotiations have resulted in no decision, and administrative shifts in the Capital Regional District and Victoria Harbour Authority further complicate circumstances. Barry called for a resolution to give undivided support for the MMBC in its efforts to find a new home and to resume its various roles that are key to our understanding and promotion of British Columbia's maritime history.

In answer to various questions he explained that unlike the Vancouver Maritime Museum (a charge on the City of Vancouver) and the Naval & Military Museum at CFB Esquimalt (Department of National Defence) the MMBC is established as an independent historic and museum society dependent on memberships, tourism, and benefactors as well as civic grants. The MMBC has a business plan, but is in search of a suitable home. With discussions with the Province at a difficult stage BCHF's support by advocacy will be a strong indication of province-wide support for MMBC and its future. This resolution is intended to give the Executive such latitude as it deems fit. It was the will of the meeting that President Gary Mitchell will be taking advocacy action on behalf of BCHF, in consultation with Barry Gough.

*That the British Columbia Historical Federation support the Maritime Museum Society of British Columbia in its efforts to preserve the maritime heritage of this province, including its need for new premises.*

Moved: Barry Gough

Second: Ken Williams

Carried. The vote was unanimous.

### **Online Presence/Social Media**

As Magazine Liaison to Council, Jane Watt reported on the work being done on the public face of the Federation, including a redesign of *British Columbia History* magazine, work on Phase One of the new Federation website, plans for Phase Two, and the launch of a successful facebook page and promotion campaign.

She extended her thanks on behalf of Council to all the volunteers who have worked on these initiatives, and to Andrea Lister for her work as magazine editor.

### **Elections**

Past President Barry Gough handled the election of President for the 2015-2015 year.

Gary Mitchell was acclaimed President.

Gary Mitchell handled the election for the remainder of the slate of Council Members for 2015-2016.

K. Jane Watt: 1st Vice President

Maurice Guibord: 2nd Vice President  
Kerri Gibson: Treasurer  
Secretary: Vacant

*Directors:*

Shannon Bettles  
Marie Elliott  
Ron Hyde  
Sandra Martins  
Judy Lam Maxwell

All returning and retiring members of Council were commended for their hard work over the past year.

Reports on Society activities were delivered by

Loretta Greenough, North Shuswap Historical Society  
Patricia Dirks, Friends of the BC Archives  
Diane Rogers, Vancouver Postcard Club  
Ken Williams, Arrow Lakes Historical Society, as prepared by Rosmary Parent  
Erica Williams, Maple Ridge Historical Society  
Nan Martin, BC History of Nursing Society  
Ron Welwood, Touchstones Nelson  
Patricia Lowe, Cowichan Historical Society  
Brenda Smith, Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission  
Ron Hyde, Richmond Museum Society

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45