

MINUTES OF THE ABBOTSFORD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

January 15, 2008 - Clearbrook Library

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. Chris Longley, President, chaired the meeting. 27 members present; 1 guest in attendance. Quorum established.
2. MINUTES of AGM Meeting January 29, 2007 reviewed. One correction: Change the date from January 16 to January 29, 2007. Pat moved/Eileen seconded the adoption of the minutes. Carried.
3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None
4. BY-LAW AMENDMENTS: There are 2 categories of honorary membership: 1) Honorary Membership and 2) Life Membership. The Society's Bylaws were amended to reflect current practice as follows:
 8. MEMBERSHIP:
 - h. Honorary Membership in the Society may be granted to a person the Society wishes to honour for services rendered. The Executive shall consider any proposal to grant Honorary Membership and shall bring forward their recommendation to grant Honorary Membership to the members of the Society. Such granting of Honorary Membership shall be by a two-thirds vote of the members at any general meeting. All Honorary memberships shall be subject to an annual review each January by the Executive. Any recommendation of the Executive to extend an honorary membership shall be considered and voted on at the next General Meeting. Honorary membership will not exceed five percent of the number of regular members. Honorary members shall pay no dues and have no voting privileges.
 - i. Life Membership in the Society may be granted to a person the Society wishes to honour for exceptional services rendered over a period of at least five years. The Executive shall consider any proposal to grant Life Membership and shall bring forward their recommendation to grant Life Membership to the members of the Society. Such granting of Life Membership shall be by a two-thirds vote of the members at any general meeting. Life Membership will not exceed five percent of the number of regular members. Life members shall pay no dues and have full voting privileges.

MOTION 1: Pat moved/Donna seconded that the proposed bylaw changes be accepted as printed. Carried.

MOTION 2: Christine moved/Lois seconded confirmation of the bylaws as amended. Carried.

MOTION 3: Lorene moved/Linda Mesetovic seconded that Pat Confrey be re-affirmed as a Lifetime member. Carried. (Note: Pat is the founding member of our Society and her Lifetime Membership acknowledges her contribution to the Society for over 30 years).

Judy will make the changes to the Constitution and will forward the new Constitution to Margaret (to send to Victoria) and to Roy (for posting on the website).

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: Margaret presented the following financial reports:
BUDGET COMPARISON FIGURES - DECEMBER 31, 2007:
Margaret moved/Gary seconded this report be accepted as printed. No discussion. Carried.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2008: Note this is a balanced budget; note the small movement of funds from Savings. Margaret moved/Lois seconded this report be accepted as printed. No discussion. Carried.
6. FUNDRAISING REPORT: Hal reported that overall, entertainment book fundraising was successful but we are down about \$60 from 2006 and we did not receive the bonus of \$110. 7 Okanagan area books, 20 Value Books and 36 Vancouver area books were sold. 11 unsold Vancouver area books were returned. Total profit (after expenses) was \$526.80. This will be Hal's final report as he is resigning from this position but will be available to help the next person for a short time. Chris Longley thanked Hal for his hard work over the years.

7. REPORTS FROM THE OUTGOING EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- ◇ 1st VICE PRESIDENT: Lois Martin reported that family illness kept her away for a good part of the year but she did fill in for the President on two occasions at executive and regular meetings. Also, she spent much time coordinating the Roots Seminar 2007 with Fay Hicks. Twenty lectures given by 10 different speakers were offered. Lois was grateful to some of our members for making presentations at the Seminar. About 130 people attended the lectures and many others came for the DNA testing. Lastly, there was a large display and marketplace area at the Seminar. Net profit for the day was over \$2,300.
- ◇ 2nd VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: Christine Lamb reported that a variety of program topics were scheduled monthly as well as 2 Round Table discussion evenings. The heirlooms and family treasures night was very popular and we learned much from seeing the items collected through the years. Several speakers declined or returned their honorarium, bringing expenses to the minimum. Christine is stepping down from this position due to other commitments and has set the programs for the first 6 months of 2008. She will work with the new Program Coordinator and will continue to create and post the monthly posters as she has the template on her computer. She will also notify the media of our meetings and events.
- ◇ TREASURER'S REPORT: Margaret had no further information to add to her annual report.
- ◇ RECORDING SECRETARY: Judy had no further information to add to her annual report.
- ◇ CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY: Fay reported that she continues to look at then distribute good internet sites to all the members and she requested that any members who know good websites should email her the URL and she will send them out for the benefit of everyone. Fay continues to pick up and distribute the mail. It was a busy year with many requests for copies of wills. When Fay is informed of members who are sick or have deceased, she sends out cards. She requests that members keep her informed of those who are not well or who have passed on. Fay also emails out the minutes to all members so if anyone is not receiving them, please contact her.
- ◇ TECHNICAL SERVICES: Roy reported that he had renewed the web contract which cost slightly less due to the strong Canadian dollar. The AGS website has grown in content and the CD, microfiche, and book holdings are on the website and kept up to date.
- ◇ CEMETERY COMMITTEE: Eileen thanked all the members who helped out when she broke her ankle last summer. We should be able to finish recording the names at the Hazelwood Cemetery this year. The lists for the Musselwhite Cemetery are almost ready and recording will start when the weather turns good. The numbering for the Aberdeen Cemetery will be redone to match the city numbering and another one-third of the names were found so we need to have another cemetery picnic in 2008.
- ◇ COMMUNITY EVENTS: Lorene thanked all those who had helped her over the past year. She reviewed her report in the annual docket. Highlights were as follows:
 - January - Family Literacy Day - thanks to Fay, Lorene, Christine
 - February - Mission Genealogy Seminar - Lorene presented "Finding the Family Homestead"
 - April - Roots Around the World Seminar - thanks to all who made it a great success
 - May - Historica Fair - judges will be needed for May 2008
 - May - Genealogy Fair - thanks to Lorene, Brenda, Cloverdale and Clearbrook libraries
 - July - Canada Day - problems with the tent but thanks to Judy and her husband, Mike
 - Aug & Sept - Hazelwood Cemetery workbees - thanks to all the helpers
 - October - TriStakes Seminar - thanks to Donna, Chris, Margaret, Penny, John
 - November - Chris Longley, Terry Fox Library, Port Coquitlam - a source of income to our Society
 - November - Cemetery Master Plan Committee - presentation to City Council
 - December - Christmas Dinner - another success

- ◇ LIBRARY REPORT: Pat and Christine reviewed their report in the annual docket. During the year, many donations of books, CDs and microfiche were added to the library shelves. Some of the shelves were rearranged and a book shelf was installed to hold the magazines. Roy Kelly made and installed a large CD shelf to hold all the CDs. Unfortunately, not too many of the members are using our library resources and the librarians encourage everyone to come down and take a look. Christine reminded the members that much information is not on the internet and researchers need to be familiar with books and other resources. The librarians are available every Wednesday night for orientation tours but if that time is inconvenient to members, she will be available for daytime orientations by appointment. Regarding the surplus books and magazines on the table at the back, this is the last night if you wish to purchase anything - these items will now be donated to the MCC.
- ◇ MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Donna reported that due to a power outage in her area, the membership cards did not get printed out for pickup tonight. Presently, AGS has 39 paid members with one new member signing tonight. Lisa has been a good partner.
- ◇ NEWSLETTER: Nancy thanked all members who have made contributions to the newsletter. Emailing out newsletters has resulted in lesser mailing out costs. Other Society newsletters are being received in exchange for ours. If anyone is working on something exciting, Nancy encouraged the members to share their research with others through the newsletter. Any items of interest to the members are always welcomed. Nancy will be stepping down from her position as newsletter editor and noted that it was not a difficult job and was a very fun experience!
- ◇ NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Margaret mentioned the Nominating committee had a difficult time filling some of the positions and not too many people are here tonight. Status of positions is as follows:

President - Open
 1st Vice President - Open
 2nd Vice President - Open
 Recording Secretary - Judy Phelps
 Correspondence Secretary - Fay Hicks
 Treasurer - Margaret Finniss - has served for 5 years
 Community Events - Open
 Entertainment Books - Open
 Coffee Maker - Marion Prowse
 Greeter - Open

- ◇ PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chris read her year end report noting the successes of the Society: the Cemetery Indexing Project; the Wills Indexing Project which is proving to generate an income for the Society; the Roots Around the World Seminar, and the many new resources added to the AGS library. Chris acknowledged the efforts all of the Executive and Committee members by presenting them with lovely appreciation certificates. Lois Martin thanked Chris Longley for leading us these past two years.

8. ELECTIONS: Eileen moved/Hal seconded the motion to elect sole nominees by acclamation. Carried.

EXECUTIVE:

Immediate Past President - Chris Longley
 President - Gary Prowse
 1st Vice President - Lois Martin - Unable to coordinate Seminar
 2nd Vice President - Vacant
 Treasurer - Margaret Finniss - has served for 5 years
 Recording Secretary - Judy Phelps
 Correspondence Secretary - Fay Hicks
 Technical Services - Roy Kelly

COMMITTEES:
 (Appointed)

- Community Events - Lorene Lyle - must have helpers to carry/setup/takedown
- Membership - Donna Bohnet & Lisa Charuk
- Newsletter - Vacant
- Entertainment Books - Vacant
- Library Scheduling - Bonnie Joerger
- Cemetery Committee - Eileen Kaufenberg, Gil Bodkin, Bob Ripley, Bonnie Joerger
- Coffee Maker - Marion Prowse
- Greeter - Hal Brown - for the next 3 months

9. TURN OVER CHAIR: Chris Longley turned the chair over to the new President, Gary Prowse, and stepped down. Gary expressed thanks to Chris and the Executive for the good job done last year.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
 After discussion with the Membership Committee, everyone was asked to pull out the membership lists from their annual dockets due to privacy laws which we must obey. The membership lists are to remain in the AGS Library in the locked drawer.

OUR FAVOURITE 150 THINGS: January Museum Annex Exhibit - Memorabilia from the 1958 BC Centennial festivities. Monday to Friday from 1 to 5 pm.

ANTIQUÉ APPRAISAL: On February 9, Ted Pappas of Westcoast Estate Auction will appraise antiques. Purchase tickets in advance. \$5 per item with a maximum of 2 items per person.

11. PROGRAM SCHEDULE: Christine Lamb presented the program schedule for the coming year:

- February 19 - Heraldry, Molly Ungar
- March 18 - Family Search Indexing Project, Ralph Harvey
- April 15 - Using The Family Search Database, Donna Bohnet
- May 20 - Scotland's People Database, Chris Longley
- June 17 - Round Table Discussions/Questions/Problems
- September - Ideas for speaker needed
- October - Ideas for speaker needed
- November - Round Table & Show and Tell
- December - Christmas Party

12. NEW BUSINESS: None

13. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: Gary welcomed any and all member suggestions, ideas, or criticisms concerning how to keep our Society running smoothly and to provide "a shot in the arm" so we can continue to provide interesting programs and expand our membership.

Gary invited all committee heads and volunteers to come to the monthly executive meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Carriage Lane Clubhouse, 32691 Garibaldi Drive, Abbotsford. All members are also invited to all executive meetings.

Judy Phelps mentioned that all of the minutes, agendas, and financial statements are located in the library for any member to peruse during library open hours. Look for the red, labelled binder on top of the file cabinets.

ANCESTOR DRAW: Won by LOIS MARTIN.

50/50 DRAW: \$11.50 won by CHERYL TARBETT.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 19, 2008 - Heraldry, Molly Ungar.

Adjournment of Annual Meeting and Elections: 8:15 PM

Judy Phelps