

# Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

## Annual General Meeting - 2005

### Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of 2004 AGM – 9 April 2005
3. Directors' reports
4. Financial Report
  - a. Financial Statements - 2005

**"Moved** by Ben Braun, **Seconded** by Edward Hildebrand that the financial transactions of the Society as detailed in the 2005 Financial Statements contained in the Annual Report be approved."

- b. Budget 2006

**"Moved** by Ben Braun, **Seconded** by John B. Toews, that the Budget for 2006 as detailed in the 2005 Annual Report be approved."

5. Election of Directors

**"Moved** by Lora Sawatsky, **Seconded**, by Helen Rose Pauls that the persons listed below be elected as Directors for three year terms ending on the date of the AGM in the year indicated."

Edward Hildebrand	2009
Robert Martens	2009
Ben Stobbe	2009
John B. Toews	2009

6. Adjournment

# Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting — 2004

Date: April 9, 2005.

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Garden Park Tower

1. The meeting was opened by John Konrad with prayer and words of welcome.

2. The Minutes of the 2003 AGM were accepted and approved.

3. Committee Reports

a. Events Committee — Helen Rose Pauls

i. Reviewed Events for 2004

ii. Commented on Future Events — Cemetery Tour, May Music Event,  
October Banquet

iii. John Konrad reported on Molotschna Project

b. Archives — Hugo Friesen reported on activities at the Archives.

4. Financial Reports

a. Treasurer Ben Braun presented the 2004 Financial Statements.

**Upon Motion** by Ben Braun, **Seconded** by Edward Hildebrand the financial transaction of the Society as represented by the Financial Statements contained in the Annual Report were approved.

b. Ben Braun presented the proposed Budget for 2005

**Upon Motion** by Ben Braun, **Seconded** by Peter Neudorf, the proposed Budget for 2005 the proposed Budget for 2005 was approved.

5. Election of Directors

**Upon Motion** by Hugo Friesen, **Seconded** by Helen Rose Pauls, the persons listed below were elected as Directors of the Society for terms ending on the date of the AGM in the year indicated.

John Konrad 2008

Peter Neudorf 2008

Louise Price 2008

Lora Sawatsky 2008

6. Peter Bargaen Project

Ruth Derksen Siemens gave a brief introduction and sample Video of the Peter Bargaen Project. This will become a Video documentary based on a collection of more than 700 letters received by the Bargaen family from friends and relatives in Russia between 1930 and 1970.

7. The Meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served.

Minutes by Edward Hildebrand, Secretary

## Board of Directors

- Ben Braun - Retired Computer Programmer, Abbotsford
- David Giesbrecht - Direct of the Archives, Abbotsford
- Edward Hildebrand - Retired Executive, Vancouver
- John Konrad - Management Consultant, West Vancouver
- Peter Neudorf - Retired IBM Technician, North Vancouver
- Helen Rose Pauls - Teacher, Chilliwack
- Louise Price - Library Technician & Writer, Abbotsford
- Lora Sawatsky - Retired Teacher, Chilliwack
- Ben Stobbe - Retired Public Service Manager, Victoria
- Richard Thiessen - Librarian, Columbia Bible College, Abbotsford
- Dr. John B. Toews - Professor of Church History, Vancouver

## Officers

- President - John Konrad
- Vice-President - David Giesbrecht
- Secretary - Edward Hildebrand
- Treasurer - Ben Braun

## President's Report

On behalf of the board of directors, I am pleased to report that 2005 has been another successful year in the life of our Society. We have sponsored four well-attended public events and our annual genealogy workshop; and have expanded and added content to our newsletter. We have continued to develop our web-site and for better accountability to our members, this report, including our financial statements, are now accessible on line. We are pleased to note that public participation has increased both in terms of attendance at our public events and the number of people visiting our centre. We have also enjoyed strong volunteer support which has allowed us to collect, process and preserve an increasing volume of historical information which would eventually be lost. Thanks to the generosity and loyalty of our constituency, we have again received adequate financial support to maintain our programs.

John Konrad - President

## Major Events

Special events serve to connect the Mennonite community. With many others, we explore stories from the past, celebrate our rich heritage, and enjoy being together as an extended Mennonite family.

This year, we held three special events:

Feb. 16, 2005 Lecture at Emmanuel Church: Bruce Guenther, instructor at ACTS.

Topic: "Wrenching Our Youth From Trivial Pursuits"...the early Bible School movement in western Canada.

May 15, 2005 "Mennonite Concerto" at the Central Heights Church with Hildegard Baerg and Betty Suderman.

The concert was preceded by a narrative read by Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen and written by John Klassen, outlining the events in our history that the piece brings to life. Interspersed by songs from a volunteer choir led by Bill Baerg, this was a very moving rendition of our story. About 1000 people attended the Sunday afternoon event.

A Graveyard Tour the day before, explored the Mennonite cemeteries in South Abbotsford, Greendale and Yarrow, culminating with faspas at the Yarrow church. Many enjoyed this tangible connection with our forebears, and the biographies of many leaders along the way.

October 15, 2005 Annual banquet at CBC gym.

We had 425 people come out to dinner to hear Dr. John Ruth tell about Swiss Mennonite aid to Russian Mennonites. John B. Toews paid a tribute to the Swiss Mennonites, Evan Kreider taught us about Swiss Mennonite singing, and Hugo Friesen was recognized for his devotion to our archives over the last many years.

Events for 2006 include:

Feb. 18, 2006....Lecture by Dr. Helmut Harder "The Story of David Toews" at Emmanuel Church

May 13, 2006 Memorial Cemetery Tour in Abbotsford at the Bakerview Church.

Oct. 14, 2006 Annual Banquet at Eben-Ezer Church with Dr. Harvey Dyck.

Events Committee: Ben Stobbe, Richard Thiessen, David Giesbrecht, Dr. John B. Toews, Helen Rose Pauls [chair]

# The Archives

## Volunteers and Visitors

The operation of our Centre continues to be dependent on an enthusiastic and hard working group of nearly 20 volunteers. They give their time, expertise and energy to accomplish a great variety of tasks that relate to archival and genealogical research. Recently this has also included rearranging our archival holdings for entry in the InMagic indexing program.

We were pleased to have Waylon Klix work with us this summer on a grant from the Federal Career Placement program.

We recorded more than 1000 visitors during 2005, with additional inquiries and requests coming by e-mail and telephone. Most people are interested in family research but others are interested in our Mennonite people and their various institutions. Others come to check out our library books or to purchase books that we have for sale.

## Acquisitions

- We have received over 30 Family Histories and autobiographies, making a total of more than 300 in our collection.
- Another 43 EWZ Microfilms, mostly from Dr. Tim Janzen.
- In connection with our Cemetery Tour we received the South Poplar Cemetery Lists and Greendale Cemetery Minutes dated 1947.
- After the death of Cornelia Lehn we received some of her family records and writings.
- Copies of the Jakob C. Reimer Dairies translated by son Edgar Reimer.
- A variety of other items that have been added to our collection.

## Projects

- Extracting and indexing genealogical information from Mennonite periodicals and EWZ microfilms has continued during this year as has the scanning and cataloguing of photographs.
- Arranging the documents in our collections for entry in the InMagic program has taken up a great deal of volunteer time.

## Events

The Genealogy Workshop took place November 12, 2006 with presenters Dr. Tim Janzen on Genealogical Resources for the Low German Mennonite Researcher and Glenn Penner on The Mennonite DNA Project. There were 27 participants for this interesting and informative workshop.

## Personal Comment

My personal thanks to the MHS of BC Board, to the Volunteers and to Office Manager, Mary Ann Quiring, all of whose encouragement and support during the last 12 years has been much appreciated.

## Volunteer List

Erna Block	Hugo Friesen	Agatha Klassen	Helga Rempel
Verna Crofton	Jake Geddert	Jean Neufeld	Erica Suderman
Marie Doerksen	Dolores Harder	David Nickel	Ethel Suderman
Mary Epp	Ed Hildebrand	Helen Nickel	Frank Toews
Nellie Epp	Lydia Isaak	Vi Ratzlaff	Mary Woelk

Hugo Friesen, Archivist

## Special Projects

### Moscow Project

Your Society is a participant in a project to microfilm a large volume of Mennonite related archival material discovered in Moscow at the State Archive of the Russian Federation. This material was found by, and the recovery effort is led by Dr. Paul Toews of Fresno.

These records are unique in that they pertain to the work of All-Russian Mennonite Agricultural Union. (The familiar German acronym is AMLV.) Most of the records retrieved to date have pertained to the Ukrainian Mennonites. The AMLV was concerned with Mennonite interest in Russia and Siberia. Therefore this information will be totally new.

The collection consists of 101 reels of microfilm. (93 reels of AMLV records and 8 reels of American Mennonite Relief records). These were collected from the Russian State Archives in December 2005 and transported to Fresno. We will shortly be receiving our copy.

These records were created by Mennonites in the 1920's, seized by the NKVD in 1928 and kept by them until 1951. In 1951 they were transferred to the State Archives, and in the early 1990's declassified. Now, after more than seventy-five years, even if only on film rather than original, they are coming home to their rightful owners.

Edward Hildebrand

### Inmagic Project

The Board is pleased to announce the introduction of a major electronic innovation for our Centre at Garden Park Tower. Recently we acquired an archival indexing software called InMagic, a state of the art, software program commonly used for finding information in archival collections.

This software requires a very large investment of time to enter all of the relevant details so that our collection becomes electronically searchable. An implementation group of eight volunteers led by Erica Suderman are presently laying the foundation for this project.

Completing this project will take several years. The first part of the procedure is to ensure that our Centre has legal custody of the records. (If you have been a donor of materials to our Centre, you will shortly be contacted in this regard.) The next task is to arrange and describe all of our records according to the Canadian Council of Archives (RAD) standards. In all of these changes every effort will be made to protect the integrity of records entrusted to us, and where confidentially has been requested, to ensure that any use of these records will conform to the wishes of our donors.

Presently some 200 people visit our Centre each month. Our concern is to provide visitors with a variety searching options. The "InMagic" software is primarily designed for archival searches. The GRANDMA database (Genealogical Registry and Database of Mennonite Ancestry) with more than 800,000 names will continue to be our main source for genealogical searching. Our library books have been catalogued and entered into a separate software package. With the completion of the InMagic project, finding information in our Centre will be considerably enhanced.

The Board wishes to express particular thanks to Erica Suderman and her group of volunteers for undertaking the massive InMagic implementation project.

David Giesbrecht

## Peter Bergen Project

The Peter Bergen Project is based on some 400 letters received by Dr. Bergen's parents and subsequently edited and translated by Dr. Peter Bergen and his wife. Before his untimely passing, Dr. Bergen was interviewed on videotape by Ruth Derksen Siemens, commenting on these letters. From the four and one half hours of taping, a Promo Video has been prepared for the purpose of finding a major producer of an hour long TV documentary. This effort is still in progress.

In the past few months Ruth Siemens has located and interviewed on videotape a Miss Lena Regehr in Cologne Germany. Miss Regehr is a survivor of the Soviet Gulag and one of the correspondents of the original letters to the Bergens. These interviews will be added to the Bergen collection to build an even more dramatic documentary.

Edward Hildebrand

## Newsletter

“What we have heard and seen, we will tell the next generation.” It's been a privilege working with so many people who take this admonition seriously! Thank you to all those who have written articles or submitted photos, and to the volunteers at the Archive office who get the mail-outs done. Special thanks to assistant editors Helen Rose Pauls and Lora Sawatsky, and to Hugo and Jean Friesen for faithful proof reading. We were saddened by the death of Ron Isaak who, in spite of ill health, wrote several excellent articles on researching family histories. He will be missed.

Roots and Branches now appears 3 times a year: December, April and August. In each publication, we try to present a variety of articles on local history, research methods, family histories, book reviews, MHSBC events, letters from the past.

Suggestions, letters to the editor, articles are all welcome. Future topics include history of medicine among Mennonites here and in Russia, farming methods then and now, as well as the formation of co-operatives here and in the Russian commonwealth. We also welcome articles about Mennonite settlements in north and central BC and stories of interesting men and women in our past.

Louise Price - for the editorial committee

## Financial Support

We must again thank our faithful members for their generous financial support. We believe this work honours God as well as the memory of our ancestors who served His community most faithfully, and therefore your support will be doubly rewarded. Your generosity this past year, again, allowed us to end the year with a small positive balance.

Although most of the work at the Archives is done gratis by our loyal crew of volunteers, there are inevitably cash costs that must be paid and they are inexorably rising. Our annual costs for premise, services, part time staff, and general operating expenses are almost \$50,000.00 About one third of this amount is covered by investment income and gains on book and tape/CD sales. For the balance we have only one source – namely the generosity of our loyal members and friends.

Next year we do not plan any major document retrieval projects although we will budget a modest sum for such a project, should it arise. However, our Inmagic project to digitize our archival records is underway and will undoubtedly require some expenditure of funds, as included in the budget.

Please help and support us as you have so generously in the past.

Edward Hildebrand

# Financial Statements

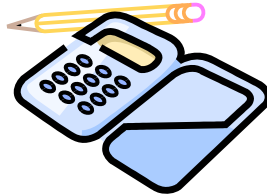
## Treasurer's Comments

Financial Statements for 2005 (with comparative statements for 2004) and a Budget for 2006 are included in this Annual Report for your consideration.

### Current Year

1. We have significantly upgraded our Software with the addition of the Inmagic program.
2. Long term Endowment is shown at cost (\$185,366). The market value as at December 31, 2005 was \$244,176 (2004 - \$224,830). This is an increase of \$19,346 for the year.

Our thanks to Henry Martens for performing the Society's financial review for the 2005 year.



## Financial Review

To the Directors  
MHSBC  
Abbotsford, B.C.

I have reviewed the balance sheet of the Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia as at December 31, 2005 and the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management and Directors of the Society.

I have conducted a review to determine if the financial statements are free of material misstatement. I reviewed, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis.

The financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia as at December 31, 2005 and the results of operations for the year ended, in accordance with principles of cash accounting.

Original signed by

Henry Martens  
Abbotsford, B.C.  
5 April 2005



Mennonite Historical Society of BC  
**Balance Sheet (UNAUDITED)**  
 Consolidated – January 2005 – December 2005

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Previous Year</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash – Petty	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Checking Account – Envision	30,133.07	29,739.52
US – Envision	473.53	273.82
<b>Investments</b>		
Endowment – Closed	135,465.75	135,465.75
Endowment – Open	<u>49,900.00</u>	<u>49,900.00</u>
Subtotal Investments	<u>185,365.75</u>	<u>185,365.75</u>
Subtotal Current Investments	216,172.35	215,579.09
Fixed Assets		
Shares	<u>711.57</u>	<u>688.77</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 216,883.92</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 216,267.86</u></b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Bargen Project	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 10,070.00
Moscow Project	<u>4,200.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
Subtotal Current Liabilities	<u>5,200.00</u>	<u>10,070.00</u>
Long Term Liabilities		
Member Equity – Endowment	185,365.75	170,365.75
Member Equity – General	<u>26,318.17</u>	<u>31,761.87</u>
Subtotal Long Term Liabilities	<u>211,683.92</u>	<u>202,197.62</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>216,883.92</u></b>	<b><u>212,197.62</u></b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>		
Fund Balance	<u>00.00</u>	<u>4,070.24</u>
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<u>00.00</u>	<u>4,070.24</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>\$ 216,883.92</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 216,267.86</u></b>

Mennonite Historical Society of BC  
**Income & Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)**  
 Consolidated – January 2005 – December 2005

	<b>Current 2005</b>	<b>2005 Budget</b>	<b>2006 Budget</b>
Income			
Contributions – Donations			
General Fund	\$44,824.68	\$45,000.00	\$47,500.00
Memorial Wall	<u>1,850.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Subtotal Contributions- Donations	<u>46,674.68</u>	<u>46,500.00</u>	<u>49,500.00</u>
Investment Income			
Account Interest	57.25	80.00	100.00
Investment Interest	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Subtotal Investment Income	<u>12,057.25</u>	<u>12,080.00</u>	<u>12,100.00</u>
Other Income			
Book Sales, etc.	18,327.24	17,000.00	12,000.00
Institutional Income	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
HRDC – Wage Grant	3,403.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	100.00	600.00	100.00
Photocopy	404.35	00.00	300.00
Postage Recovery	279.92	00.00	200.00
GST	1,483.53	1,400.00	1,400.00
Ticket Sales	12,095.00	10,000.00	5,000.00
Subtotal Other Income	<u>36,593.04</u>	<u>31,652.00</u>	<u>23,000.00</u>
Total Income	<u>\$95,325.00</u>	<u>\$91,580.00</u>	<u>\$84,600.00</u>

Mennonite Historical Society of BC  
**Income & Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)**  
 Consolidated – January 2005 – December 2005

	<b>Current 2005</b>	<b>2005 Budget</b>	<b>2006 Budget</b>
Expenses			
General Expenses	\$	\$	\$
Card Discount Fee	501.71	300.00	500.00
Archival supplies a/f	852.69	400.00	1,000.00
Bank Charge	544.61	500.00	100.00
Books & Tapes	8,508.93	10,000.00	8,000.00
Computer/Internet	2,477.81	2,000.00	3,500.00
Wages	14,234.37	13,000.00	14,000.00
Fixtures	70.49	300.00	500.00
Currency Exchange	00.00	200.00	500.00
Insurance	1,952.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Archival/Library	892.53	1,500.00	1,000.00
InMagic Project	4,020.57	3,800.00	
Maintenance			300.00
Training			500.00
Legal	212.75	200.00	200.00
Photocopy	885.89	1,000.00	1,000.00
Lectures & Events	5,930.95	5,000.00	3,000.00
Office Expenses	2,370.04	1,500.00	2,000.00
Utilities	2,153.73	2,000.00	4,000.00
Membership dues	850.00	830.00	850.00
Miscellaneous	1,224.27	1,000.00	1,000.00
Newsletter	3,959.68	3,000.00	4,000.00
Telephones	1,461.85	1,400.00	1,500.00
Postage	1,333.94	500.00	800.00
Rent	14,069.60	14,000.00	14,000.00
HRDC – Wages	6,344.89	4,500.00	5,000.00
Taxes	1,899.30	2,100.00	2,000.00
Travel	132.76	800.00	500.00
Publicity			1,000.00
Fundraising			
Banquet Costs	10,629.37	9,000.00	8,000.00
Projects			
Memorial Wall	124.21		
Bargen Project	1,000.00		
Moscow Project	4,200.00	2,500.00	
New Project			3,000.00
Subtotal Projects	<u>5,324.21</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$92,838.94</u>	<u>\$83,330.00</u>	<u>\$83,750.00</u>
Excess Income/Expenses	<u>\$5,486.06</u>	<u>\$8,255.00</u>	<u>\$850.00</u>