

# Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

Annual General Meeting – 2006

May 6, 2007 – Abbotsford, B.C.

## Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of 2005 AGM – 21 May 2005
3. Directors' reports
4. Financial Reports

- a. Financial Statements - 2006

**"Moved** by Ben Braun, **Seconded** by Edward Hildebrand that the financial transactions of the Society as detailed in the 2006 Financial Statements contained in the Annual Report be approved."

- b. Budget 2007

**"Moved** by Ben Braun, **Seconded** by David Giesbrecht, that the Budget for 2007 as detailed in the 2006 Annual Report be approved."

5. Election of Directors

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

Ben Braun	2010
David Giesbrecht	2010
Helen Rose Pauls	2010
Richard Thiessen	2010

6. Adjournment

# Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting – 2005

Date: May 21, 2006  
 Time: 5:00 PM  
 Place: Bakerview MB Church

1. Guests were welcomed to the meeting by David Giesbrecht, Chair.
2. Minutes of the 2004 AGM – April 9, 2005

**Upon Motion** by John B. Toews, **Seconded** by Edward Hildebrand, the Minutes were approved

3. Directors Report

The Chair introduced the Annual Report which includes the Financial Statements for 2005 and the Budget for 2006. In addition he mentioned that we regularly welcomed about 200 visitors per month to the Archives and recognized the work of our volunteer staff.

4. Financial Report

- a. Financial Statements for 2005

**Upon Motion** by Ben Braun, **Seconded** by Edward Hildebrand, the financial transactions for the year 2005 as detailed in the Financial Statements in the Annual Report were approved.

- b. Budget for 2006

**Upon Motion** by Ben Braun, **Seconded** by John B. Toews, the Budget for 2006 as detailed in the Annual Report were approved..

- 5 Election of Directors.

**Upon Motion** by Lora Sawatsky, **Seconded** by Helen Rose Pauls, the persons listed below were elected as Directors for a term ending on the date of the AGM in the year indicated.

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

The Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes by Edward Hildebrand, Secretary

## **Board of Directors**

- Ben Braun - Retired Computer Programmer - Abbotsford
- David Giesbrecht - Director of the Archives - Abbotsford
- Edward Hildebrand - Retired Executive - Vancouver
- John Konrad - Management Consultant - West Vancouver
- Peter Neudorf - Retired IBM Technician - North Vancouver
- Robert Martens - Poet, Writer & Editor - Abbotsford
- Helen Rose Pauls - Retired 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 Emeritus Regent College - Abbotsford

## **Officers**

- President - John Konrad
- Vice-President - Peter Neudorf
- Secretary - Edward Hildebrand
- Treasurer - Ben Braun

## Directors' Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that 2006 has been another successful year in the life of our Society. We have sponsored several well-attended public events and our annual genealogy workshop, and have continued to add interesting content to our newsletter. We have continued to develop our web-site for better accountability to our members. This report, including our financial statements, is now accessible on line. We are pleased to note that this year public participation has increased both in terms of attendance at our events and the number of people visiting our centre. We continue to enjoy strong volunteer support which has allowed us to collect, process and preserve an increasing volume of historical information which might eventually have been lost. Thanks to the generosity and loyalty of our constituency we have again received adequate financial support to maintain our programs.

We reported in our April 2006 newsletter that an attempt was underway at that time by a private investor group (CAOBO) to gain access to lands seized by the Soviet government from former Mennonite landowners. As reported in our December 2006 newsletter, this initiative has been abandoned.

The members of our Board of Directors are working members who donate their time without compensation. Except in special circumstances, they are not reimbursed for expenses they incur in carrying out their responsibilities.

John Konrad - President

## Major Events

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

This year, 2006, was a very busy one for the Committee as we held five special events:

Feb. 18, 2006 "The David Toews Story" with speaker Helmut Harder at Emmanuel Mennonite Church.

May 13, 2006 Another committee organized a graveyard tour of the Mennonite cemetery at Maclure Road with faspas at Bakerview.

June 11, 2006 "Hymns and Platz" at Arnold Community Church. We explored the music and history of one of our heritage churches.

October 14, 2006 Annual banquet at Ebenezer Church.

We had 425 people come out to dinner and to hear Dr. Harvey Dyck talk about "Soviet Mennonite Migrations"

Nov. 16, 2006 Theological discussion of the issues of the last century" David Ewert and John Neufeld.

In 2007, we anticipate the following events:

Feb. 17 Quilt show and a lecture by Ron Matthies on "The MCC Story".

May 6, 2007 at 3 p.m.: Saengerfest": Choir Festival of Praise and Worship

Oct. 13 Banquet at Emmanuel Church featuring Dr. John B. Toews.

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

# Archives Report

## Personnel:

Our Center continues to thrive on volunteer help. Presently more than two dozen volunteers spend part of each week with us. We gratefully recognize the contributions of two valued colleagues not longer with us: Verna Crofton passed away in December 2006, and Jake Geddert moved out of the Fraser Valley. The regular volunteers include: Ben & MaryLue Braun, Erna Block, Marie Doerksen, Luella Enns, Elma Ens, Mary Epp, Nellie Epp, Hugo & Jean Friesen, Dolores Harder, Esther Harder, Lydia Isaak, Agnes Loewen, Sandi Massie, Jean & Wilmer Neufeld, David Nickel, Helen Nickel, Helga Rempel, Erica Suderman, Ethel Suderman, Clara Thiessen, Frank P. Toews, Laura Unger, Joe Kraftchick, and Blake Chursihoff.

This report also recognizes the important contribution of Mary Ann Quiring, our office manager. Her compensation package is calculated as less than the value of her work, including a substantial volunteer component. She contributes many hours of service at our public events and otherwise as required by her work load, and thus serves both as a volunteer as well as a paid employee.

## Visitors:

Given the location of our Center, numerous visitors stop by to make acquaintance with our information collection and the services we offer. During the past year we welcomed some 1,714 visitors an average of 143 per month.

## Membership in the Society:

Presently we have 520 Society members. Membership fees are maintained at a very modest cost of \$25.00 per year. We invite interested persons to partner with us in this way.

## Information Center:

In a relatively short period of time, we have developed a significant number of books and archival records in our collection, including more than a million pages of Russian Mennonite microfilm documentation. Receipt of family histories continues to be brisk. We welcome anyone wishing to discover their family roots, or needing assistance with some academic research, coming for help. We are also pleased to continue receiving donated materials reflecting the larger Mennonite story.

## Book and CD Sales:

We are pleased to offer for sale an assortment of new and used Mennonite-related books, CDs and DVDs in our office, most of which are listed on our website. Please note that for prepaid requests, we will order books not in our inventory.

## Genealogical Workshop:

Thanks to Richard Thiessen and Mary Ann Quiring, MHSBC annually sponsors a genealogical workshop. On November 11, 2006 Dr. Tim Janzen and Mr. Don Fehr presented two informative lectures on a variety of recent genealogical information finding sources as well as a lecture on the relevance of DNA testing to genealogical research. Volunteers are invited to participate in DNA testing. Please contact Richard Thiessen if interested.

## Projects:

Owing to a large pool of volunteers, we are able to work at numerous information-finding projects, many of them on an ongoing basis.

1. **Die Mennonitsche Rundschau**
  - a. have created an index of **obituaries** from 1930 to 2006.  
have extracted the data and entered in the Brother's Keeper program  
are currently working in the 1920's.
  - b. are creating an index of **marriages**, 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries  
will eventually enter this data in the above BK data base
  - c. are creating an index of Mennonite **immigration** from Europe to Canada  
after WWII 1947 -
  - d. have created an index of **Aussiedler** from Russia to Germany. 1974 to 1990.
  - e. are currently scanning each issue of the MR – done by Ben Braun.
  
2. **Der Bote**
  - a. have created an index of **obituaries** from 1950 to 2006.  
are currently indexing obituaries from 1930 to 1950.  
are currently entering the extracted data into BK.
  - b. are creating an index of **marriages**, 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.  
will eventually enter this data in the above BK data base.
  
3. **Mennonite Brethren Herald**
  - a. have created an index of **marriages** from 1962 to 2006.  
have indexed many marriages from **The Observer**.
  
4. **Canadian Mennonite**
  - a. have created an index of **obituaries**
  
5. **EWZ Microfilms:**
  - a. Creating records of persons with "Mennonite" names in these files.
  
6. **Implementation of InMagic Software:** see Special projects

David Giesbrecht

## Newsletter – Roots & Branches

"What we have heard and known... 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 and writers Helen Rose Pauls and Robert Martens, and to Hugo and Jean Friesen for faithful proof reading.

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 and letters from the past.

Please keep the letters, stories, articles and photos coming!

Louise Price, editor

## Special Projects

### InMagic

After participating in a three day workshop with the BC archives adviser as the director in November of 2005, eight volunteers embarked on a monumental assignment that likely would take a minimum of five years to complete. This huge task was to bring the holdings of our MHS archives up to the standards set out by the Canadian Council of Archives.

The first step in this undertaking was to formalize a gift agreement and secure ownership of all donated materials. All items were then accessioned and given a sequential number reflecting the year when they were donated.

The next step was to separate archival from non-archival materials. Archival materials, such as textual records, are grouped basically into institutions, societies and personal papers. Published items, such as books and periodicals, classified as non-archival materials were separated from textual materials and housed elsewhere.

Newspaper clippings were photocopied and added to the biographical and subject divisions in our vertical files.

We began the process of appraising, arranging and describing our fonds (records) starting with our church and school records. This is very labour intensive work, so we have added seven new volunteers to the original eight that we started with. The records are arranged chronologically into series such as minutes, correspondence, reports, financial records etc. This description will make it possible to access the information after it has been entered into our InMagic software.

In our institution division, we have completed almost all of our churches and schools. The two large church conferences are being arranged and described this year. In our societies group, we have begun the Mennonite Historical Society fonds, the Golden Age Society fonds and the MCC fonds. The MCC records consist of 50 boxes and will take a number of years to complete. In the personal papers or manuscript group, we have begun P. R. Toews fonds and the G. I. Peters papers.

Approximately 400 photographs have been arranged and described according to the new standard and are ready to be entered into the InMagic program.

Erica Suderman

### Friends of the Mennonite Center

The Mennonite Centre in Ukraine is a former Mennonite girls school located in the village of Molochansk – formerly known as Halbstadt. This school, built at the turn of the last century, was restored in 2001 and now serves as a place where the hopes and dreams of Ukrainians meet the generosity of North American Mennonites. Seniors come to this Centre twice a week for lunch, medical clinics are held here twice a week, the Kutuzovka Mennonite Church has Bible Study and children's programs at the Centre, children from the neighbouring kindergarten classes come to learn computer skills, and people in financial, medical and emotional need come to visit and seek assistance. The Centre serves as a beacon of hope for the community and a reminder of the contributions of Mennonites to Southern Ukraine.

The Mennonite Historical Society has been supportive of the ongoing work in keeping the Mennonite story in Ukraine alive. Articles from Ukraine are published in our newsletter and funds are provided for archival research. Volunteers in our Abbotsford office file and catalogue documents from Ukraine, and banquet speakers remind BC Mennonites of the lives of their parents and grandparents in Southern Russia. Our work as a historical society and the work at the Mennonite Centre compliment each other, and together we can continue to keep the vision and prayers of our parents alive. This writer, his wife, and many others have spent the last two summers as volunteers at the Center and have been richly blessed by the experience.

Ben Stobbe

## Website

The MHSBC website provides information about the Society and some of the resources available at the Archives. Some of the material listed is available for purchase, some for lending and some for reference on site at the Archives.

The largest volume of material available on the website itself consists of Genealogical Resources. There are Census Lists, Migration Lists, Obituary Indexes and Cemetery Lists.

To use the Obituary and Death Notice Indexes, you find the name you are researching and tell an MHSBC volunteer which periodical, issue and page number it is and they will provide you with a photocopy of that notice.

The MHSBC website continues to expand. Last year we added Annual Reports. This year we are including the Text of past lectures on the Events page.

### Community Events

We have opened a separate web page to help planners to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Active Participants for now:

CBC - Columbia Bible College

MC BC - Mennonite Church BC

FVG - Fraser Valley Gleaners

BC MBC - BC

Conference of MB Churches

MCC – Mennonite Central Committee

MCC SCS - Supportive Care Services

M2/W2 Restorative Christian Ministries

MHSBC - Mennonite Historical Society of BC

Ben Braun - Webmaster

## Financial Support

This past year our true and faithful members have again supported our work most generously, and we thank them. We believe our work honors God, as well as our ancestors who served His community most faithfully. Therefore your gifts will be doubly rewarded.

Although most of the work for the Society and at the Archives is done by our loyal crew of volunteers, there are inevitable cash costs that must be paid. Our annual cost for premises, supplies, part time staff, and other operating costs are approximately \$50,000. About one third of this is covered by Investment Income and Revenue from Book/CD Sales. For the balance, we have only one source of funds, namely, the generosity of you, our loyal members and friends.

This year we must acknowledge a substantial, and very timely, gift from the estate of the late Henry and Margaret (Enns) Neufeldt. The Neufeldt family generously allocated a gift from this estate to defray the cost of a vital piece of equipment much used at the Archives. On behalf of the Society we thank the Neufeldt family.

We do appreciate the support we have received in the past from all our members and friends and hope this will continue in future.

Edward Hildebrand

# Financial



# Statements

# 2006



## **Treasurer's comments**

Financial Statements for 2006 (with comparative statements for 2005) and a Budget for 2007 are included in this Annual Report for your consideration.

Income exceeded expenses by \$7,000 for the year.

Long term Endowment is shown at cost (\$185,366). The market value as at December 31, 2006 was \$238,000. This is down slightly from last year.

Our thanks to Henry Martens for performing the Society's financial review for the 2006 year.

Ben Braun

## **Financial Review**

To the Directors  
The MHS of BC  
Abbotsford, B.C.

I have reviewed the balance sheet of the Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia as at December 31, 2006 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 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, 2006 and the results of operations for the year ended, in accordance with principles of cash accounting.

Original signed by

Henry Martens  
Abbotsford, B.C.  
7 March 2007

## Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

**Balance Sheet**

As at December 31, 2006

(With comparative for 2005)

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
CASH -PETTY	\$200.00	\$200.00
CHECKING ACCT.-Envision	31,874.76	30,133.07
US - Envision	624.04	473.53
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		
ENDOWMENT - CLOSED	135,465.75	135,465.75
ENDOWMENT - OPEN	49,900.00	49,900.00
<b>SUBTOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	185,365.75	185,365.75
<b>SUBTOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>218,064.55</u>	<u>216,172.35</u>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
SHARES	733.64	711.57
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$218,798.19</u>	<u>\$216,883.92</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
BARGEN PROJECT	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
MOSCOW PROJECT	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,200.00</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>5,200.00</u>
<b>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
MEMBER EQUITY - ENDOWMENT	185,365.75	185,365.75
MEMBER EQUITY - GENERAL	<u>33,432.44</u>	<u>26,318.17</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL LONG TERM LIABILITIES</b>	<u>218,798.19</u>	<u>211,683.92</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>218,798.19</u>	<u>216,883.92</u>
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>\$218,798.19</u>	<u>\$216,883.92</u>

Mennonite Historical Society of B. C.  
**Income & Expense Statement**  
 As at December 31, 2006

	Year 2006 Budget	Year 2006 Actual	Year 2007 Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS - DONATIONS</b>			
GENERAL FUND	\$47,500	\$48,514.66	\$38,000
BARGEN PROJECT	0	0.00	
INMAGIC	0	0.00	
MEMORIAL WALL	<u>2,000</u>	<u>950.00</u>	<u>2,000</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS</b>	<b><u>49,500</u></b>	<b><u>49,464.66</u></b>	<b><u>40,000</u></b>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>			
ACCOUNT INTEREST	100	50.15	100
INVESTMENT INTEREST	<u>12,000</u>	<u>12,000.00</u>	<u>12,000</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	<b><u>12,100</u></b>	<b><u>12,050.15</u></b>	<b><u>12,100</u></b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
BOOK SALES, etc.	12,000	13,229.68	9,000
DVD/CD/TAPE SALES	0	0.00	7,000
INSTITUTIONAL INCOME	1,000	0.00	1,000
HRDC - WAGE GRANT	3,000	0.00	0
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	100	385.00	200
PHOTOCOPY - INCOME	300	605.60	300
POSTAGE RECOVERY - INCOME	200	140.97	200
GST RECOVERY	1,400	1,838.62	1,800
TICKET SALES	5,000	4,629.26	14,000
LEGACY	<u>0.00</u>	<u>8,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b><u>23,000</u></b>	<b><u>28,829.13</u></b>	<b><u>33,500</u></b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>84,600</u></b>	<b><u>90,343.94</u></b>	<b><u>85,600</u></b>

## Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

**Income & Expense Statement**

As at December 31, 2006

	Year 2006 Budget	Year 2006 Actual	Year 2007 Budget
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>			
CREDIT CARD FEES	\$500	\$864.24	\$1,000
ARCHIVAL SUPPLIES	1,000	2,246.20	1,500
BANK CHARGE	100	70.73	100
BOOKS SALES	8,000	9,114.71	6,000
DVD/CD/TAPE SALES	0	0	4,000
COMPUTER/INTERNET	3,500	3,224.16	4,500
CONTRACT / WAGES	14,000	14,733.38	15,000
FIXTURES	500	1,198.50	500
CURRENCY EXCHANGE EX.	500	0.00	100
INSURANCE	2,000	1,744.00	2,000
ARCHIVES/LIBRARY EXPENSE	1,000	439.45	500
INMAGIC PROJECT/SUPPLIES	0	553.60	600
INMAGIC MAINTENANCE	300	342.00	300
INMAGIC TRAINING	500	343.75	400
LEGAL	200	212.75	200
PHOTOCOPY EXPENSE	1,000	6,221.81	1,000
LECTURES & EVENTS	3,000	3,052.58	3,000
OFFICE EXPENSE	2,000	2,356.19	2,000
UTILITIES	4,000	2,274.59	4,000
MEMBERSHIP DUES	850	850.00	850
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	1,000	627.94	1,000
NEWSLETTER	4,000	2,398.30	4,000
TELEPHONES	1,500	1,477.63	1,500
POSTAGE	800	658.08	700
PUBLICITY	1,000	1,453.44	500
RENT	14,000	13,729.16	14,000
WAGES - HRDC	5,000	3,977.46	4,000
SCHOLARSHIP	0	500.00	500
TAXES	2,000	1,909.95	2,000
TRAVEL	500	350.75	500
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>			
BANQUET COSTS	8,000	5,755.22	7,000
<b>PROJECTS</b>			
MEMORIAL WALL	0	85.25	100
BARGEN PROJECT	0	443.72	0
MOSCOW PROJECT	3,000	20.13	0
POTENTIAL PROJECT	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,000</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL PROJECTS</b>	<b><u>3,000</u></b>	<b><u>549.10</u></b>	<b><u>2,100</u></b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>83,750</u></b>	<b><u>83,229.67</u></b>	<b><u>85,350</u></b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$850</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,114.27</u></b>	<b><u>\$250</u></b>