



Mennonite Historical Society  
of British Columbia

# 2010 Annual Report

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## **Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.**

### **2010 Annual General Meeting**

Sunday, 29 May 2011 at 2:30 PM

held at

Columbia Bible College Chapel  
2940 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford, B.C.

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of 2009 AGM – 5 June 2010
3. Financial Reports
  - a. Financial Statements – 2010
4. Moved that the Financial Statements printed in the 2010 Annual Report be accepted and approved.
  - b. Budget - 2011

Moved that the Budget for 2011 as printed in the Annual Report be approved
5. Election of Directors

Moved that Elmer Wiens be elected as a Director for three years ending on the date of AGM in 2014.
6. Questions pertaining to the 2010 Annual Report
7. Adjournment

**Mennonite Historical Society of BC**  
**Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting**  
Saturday, June 5, 2010, at 3:00 P.M.  
Azalea Room, 2825 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford, B.C.

1. Chairman John Konrad Welcomes board members and an assembly of about 50 Society supporters and opens the meeting with prayer.
2. Introduction of board officers: John Konrad, President; Wilfred Penner, Secretary; Arnold Klassen, Treasurer; Peter Neudorf, Vice chairman. Other board members present were:

Helen Rose Pauls, Robert Martens, Jim Baerg, Connie Braun, Louise Price, Richard Thiessen, David Giesbrecht, Harry Heidebrecht, John B.Toews

3. Minutes of the 2008 AGM of June 4, 2009 were approved and accepted as circulated in the 2009 Annual Report packet.
4. Financial report: The financial statements for 2009 and budget for 2010 were presented in the 2009 Annual Report.

**Moved by Arnold Klassen, Seconded by John Konrad**, that the financial statements printed in the 2009 Annual Report be accepted and approved. **Motion unanimously accepted.**

**Moved by Richard Thiessen, Seconded by Arnold Klassen**, that the Budget for 2010 as printed in the 2009 Annual Report be accepted and approved. **Motion unanimously accepted.**

5. Election of Directors: **Moved by Helen Rose Pauls, Seconded by Robert Martens**, that the persons listed below be elected as Directors for three year terms ending on the date of the AGM in the year indicated.

Wilfred Penner	2012
John van Dyck Jr.	2012
Jim Baerg	2013
Maryann Jantzen	2013
Arnold Klassen	2013
Richard Thiessen	2013

**Motion unanimously accepted.**

6. Special feature: John B. Toews introduced and showed a very interesting DVD about present day Mennonites in Siberia.
7. Adjournment and refreshments.

## **Board of Directors**

Jim Baerg	- Retired Probation Officer - Abbotsford
Connie Braun	- Author - Vancouver
Maryann Jantzen	- Assistant Professor; Writing Centre Co-Director Trinity Western University - Abbotsford
Arnold Klassen	- Chartered Accountant - Coquitlam
John Konrad	- Retired Management Consultant - West Vancouver
Robert Martens	- Poet, Writer & Editor – Abbotsford
Peter Neudorf	- Retired IBM Technician - North Vancouver
Wilfred Penner	- Retired Teacher - Chilliwack
Louise Price	- Library Technician & Writer - Abbotsford
Richard Thiessen	- Librarian Columbia Bible College - Abbotsford
Dr. John B. Toews	- Professor Emeritus Regent College – Abbotsford
John van Dyck	- Businessman - Coquitlam

## **Officers**

President	-	Richard Thiessen
Vice-President	-	Peter Neudorf
Secretary	-	Wilf Penner
Treasurer	-	Arnold Klassen

## President's Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that 2010 has been another successful year in the life of our Society. We sponsored five well-attended public events including our annual Genealogy Workshop. We began the year with a presentation by Dr. Colin Neufeldt from Edmonton, dealing with Mennonites and Collectivization under Stalin. This was followed by another lecture, this time given by Dr. Marlene Epp of Waterloo. Her topic was Mennonite Women in Canada, based on her book by the same title. Our 2009 AGM included a film presentation on Mennonites currently living in Siberia, and our annual banquet in October featured a presentation by Dr. John B. Toews entitled "Mennonite Church and Mennonite Brethren Church: The 100 Years War."

Our publications committee was very active in 2010, producing three very informative newsletters. Article topics included Dr. Gertrude Dyck, the Mennonite Church in Ethiopia, the Mennonite connection with the Ignatieff family, Evangelicalism and the rise of the Mennonite Brethren, Mennonites and the Charismatic Movement, Johann and Helena Wieler, Bindu Sidhu and the Life Centre, and a number of excellent book and art reviews.

The Mennonite Historical Society of BC has seen many changes over the past several years, especially when it comes to people. The passing of several volunteers and a board member in the past few years has left several holes that have been a challenge to fill. The retirement of five board members this year – Connie Braun, John Konrad, Peter Neudorf, Louise Price, and John B. Toews – signals an opportunity for the Society to reach out to attract new board members who have an interest in telling the Mennonite story here in BC and beyond. At this time I want to thank our retiring board members, several who have served for a number of years. Special mention must go to John Konrad, who completed 13 years as president of the society in 2010. Our society simply would not exist in its present form without the dedication that these people have given to our board, whether it be the writing and editing of our newsletter, the planning of special events, or the managing of our finances. On behalf of our remaining board members, thank you for a job well done!

We continue to enjoy strong staff and volunteer support which has allowed us to collect, process and preserve historical information in a variety of forms. Our historical and genealogical collections are well-used by the public, and I know that many researchers, from amateur family historians to university scholars, have been well-served by our staff and volunteers.

Thanks to the generosity and loyalty of our constituency, we have again received the necessary financial support to maintain our programs. We are thankful for the support we have felt from our constituency, and will strive to provide the public with a variety of resources that we hope will meet their needs.



Richard D. Thiessen

# The Archives

## Staffing and Personnel:

We have 26 regular volunteers, one part-time office manager and one part-time receptionist provide staffing for our centre. We receive approximately 1,783 visitors per year and about 75% of those visiting are interested in their family histories and genealogy. The Board is also in the process of searching for a new director for the archives. In the meantime, Harry Heidebrecht and Robert Martens are serving as interim directors.

## Communications:

“Roots and Branches,” our periodical newsletter, is our primary means of communication with our supporting members. We send out approximately 800 copies quarterly.

Further, we rely on our website [www.mhsbc.com] to broadcast important developments in our Center and also to provide a means of sharing information.

## Society Events:

The MHSBC Board benefits from the strong interest and support of our community. Our public events continue to be our primary source of revenue.

Date	Speaker/Event	Theme
February 6, 2010	Dr. Colin Neufeld	“Mennonites and Collectivization under Stalin.”
May, 2010	Marlene Epp	“Mennonite Women in Canada”
June 2-6, 2010	Siberian Mennonite Conference in Omsk, Russia (MHSBC – a joint sponsor)	“Germans of Siberia – History and Culture”
June 5, 2010	Video Documentary Annual General Meeting	“Mennonite Life In Present Day Siberia”
October 23, 2010	Annual Fund Raising Banquet Dr. John B. Toews	“Understanding the 100 Years War (1860-1960: The Mennonite & Mennonite Brethren Church in Russia.”
November 13, 2010	Annual Genealogy Workshop	David Obee, Dr. Tim Janzen & Dr. Bruce Hiebert

## **Main Projects:**

### **1. Digitizing the Mennonitsche Rundschau and Der Bote**

The project is progressing. We have completely digitized 65 years of the Rundschau; 31 full years, as well as eight partial years, of Der Bote. We have also partnered with Winnipeg to digitize some of the earlier *Der Bote* and *Mennonitische Rundschau* issues to complete our collection. Jean Friesen is working on the *Der Bote* films. John Friesen, our part-time volunteer from Winnipeg and Helga Rempel were working to create PDF files of the digitized scans of the periodicals. This process is necessary to overcome certain printing and scanning limitations we have encountered.

### **2. Implementation of InMagic:**

The project continues under the efforts of many volunteers. Many volunteers are still organizing collections with hopes of starting the inputting into the InMagic database. This will greatly enhance the capability to access the information. A map cabinet has been purchased and utilized in the archives in Erica's name.

### **3. Microfilm Digitization Project:**

We have completed 153 EWZ microfilms comprised of 459,778 frames many of which needed individual adjusting. We have 77 more films are in progress and in various stages of completion. Our thanks to Don Fehr, Jim Baerg and Wilf Penner for their tireless efforts in this endeavour.

### **4. Indexing Projects**

We are constantly upgrading our indexes with hopes of including them on our website. They are:

Mennonite Brethren Herald births & marriages are now up to date to the end of 2010.

Mennonitische Rundschau obituary indexes are being updated and amalgamated with earlier indexes for eventual uploading to our website.

Der Bote indexes are being updated and readied for uplink to the web

EWZ records are being readied for the GRANDMA database

### **5. Wall of Remembrance**

There was one addition, that of Peter P. & Helena (Wieler) Martens by the Martens family.

### **6. Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**

The MHSBC sponsored a Volunteer appreciation luncheon at the Mandarin Gardens Restaurant on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> of January as a small token of our gratitude for all the hard work and time that volunteers give to the Society. Without the dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and expertise to the Society we would not be able to provide the high level assistance and material to the many people who come through our doors. It is no small accomplishment that we have an archives and research center of such a high calibre.

Submitted by Harry Heidebrecht & Robert Martens



## **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 in and they will provide you with a photocopy or scan of that notice. If you email your requests the copies are \$5.00 for the first and an additional \$1.00 thereafter. These will then be mailed or emailed to you.

Richard Thiessen  
Acting Webmaster

## **Newsletter**

Each issue of Roots and Branches involves the work of numerous people. Thanks to associate editors Robert Martens and Maryann Jantzen for many hours of writing and editing, and to Connie Braun, Wilf Penner, and Anne Andres for articles, practical advice and inspiration. Thanks to Heather Pauls Murray, who has given our periodical a fresh new look; to Hugo and Jean Friesen for copy-editing; and to Mary Ann Quiring, Elisabeth Klassen and the volunteers at the archive office who complete the process, stuffing envelopes, addressing and sorting, stamping and mailing.

Our policy is to try to provide a broad range of articles so that all will find something of interest. We welcome receiving any of the following: letters and photos from the past; stories; book reviews; memoirs; biographies; articles of historical interest. Contributions can be in English or German (we will translate).

Please direct any letters, comments or questions to the Newsletter committee c/o the Mennonite Historical Society of BC, or email [archives@mhsbc](mailto:archives@mhsbc).

On a personal note, I would like to give thanks for the many words of encouragement I have received over the years. I have greatly enjoyed my work on Roots and Branches and, as I phase out my term as editor, I know that our periodical is in good hands, and with your support, will continue to flourish.

Louise Bergen Price, Editor

## **Accountant Review**

To the Directors of,  
Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia,  
Abbotsford, B.C.

I have reviewed the Balance Sheet of the Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia as at December 31, 2010 and the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year then ended. In so doing, I accepted the statements received from the Society's bank and the holder of its investments and did not conduct independent enquiries. The Society's accounting being conducted on a cash basis, I did not test for any liabilities outstanding as at year-end.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Society derives part of its revenue from the general public in the form of donations and membership fees which are not susceptible to complete verification. Accordingly, my verification of revenue from these sources was limited to a comparison on a test basis of recorded receipts and bank deposits by the Society and I was unable to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation revenues and membership fees and their impact on total revenues reported on the Statement of Income and Expense.

The Balance Sheet and the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements reflect fairly the financial position and the results from operations of the Society for the Year 2010.

Abbotsford, B.C.  
March 24, 2011

HENEL CONSULTING  
Henry Martens (original signed held at MHSBC)

## **Financial Report**

During 2010, the supporters of the Mennonite Historical Society of B.C. ("MHSBC") have once again been most generous in their gifts of time and financial support that have allowed the MHSBC to end the financial year in a very strong financial position. This was especially true for the October 2010 Fund Raising Banquet which raised \$31,221 after expenses compared to \$14,023 for the 2009 banquet.

Total donations for the year were \$62,885 compared to a budget of \$60,972. While total donations were down from the \$101,683 raised last year, the donations that went to the general fund increased from \$45,007 to \$62,855. Total income for 2010 was \$85,955 against a budget of \$96,072. This difference is primarily the result of some losses on investments sold during the year. This \$7,387 investment loss was more than made up by unrealized investment gains totalling \$39,125 for the year.

Total expenditures for the year were \$90,822 compared to a budget of \$96,072 a savings of \$5,250. The operating deficit totalled \$4,865 for the year and with the increase in the investment portfolio the MHSBC ended the year with an increase in Members Equity of \$34,259

Again, the with generous support of our members with both in time and in funds the MHSBC has been able to carry out its mandate for another year and for that the Board of Directors are most grateful.

Arnold Klassen, Treasurer

# Financial Statements 2010



**Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.**  
**Balance Sheets**  
**As at December 31,**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current		
Cash -Petty	\$	\$
Cash - Cdn Chequing		
Cash - US chequing		
Stewardship account - MB Conference		
Investments		
	<hr/>	
Long-term		
Shares		
	<hr/>	
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
	<hr/>	
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current		
Accounts payable accrued liabilities	\$	\$
<b>Member Equity</b>		
Member equity -		
Member equity - General		
	<hr/>	
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
	<hr/>	

**Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.**  
**Statements of Receipts and Expenditures and Members Equity**  
**For the years ended**

	Budget December 31, 2010	Actual December 2010	Actual December 2009	Budget December 2011
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations				
General Fund	\$	\$	\$	\$
Digitization Project				
Ukraine Memorial Wall				
Memorial Wall				
Subtotal				
Investment Income				
Account Interest				
Credit Card Rebate				
Investment				
Investment Interest				
Subtotal Investment Income				
Other Income				
Book Sales, etc.				
DVD/CD/Tape Sales				
Miscellaneous Income				
Photocopy Income				
Postage Recovery -				
GST/HST Recovery				
Ticket Sales				
Subtotal Other Income				
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

**Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.  
 Statements of Receipts and Expenditures and Members Equity  
 For the years ended**

	Budget December 31, 2010	Actual December 2010	Actual December 2009	Budget December 2011
<b>Expenses</b>				
General Expenses				
Credit Card Fees	\$	\$	\$	\$
Archival Supplies				
Bank Charge				
Book Purchases				
DVD/CD/Tape				
Computer/Internet				
Contract/Wages				
Fixtures				
Insurance				
Archives/Library Expense				
Inmagic Project				
Inmagic Maintenance				
Inmagic Training				
Legal				
Photocopy Expense				
Lectures and Events				
Office Expense				
Utilities				
Membership Dues				
Miscellaneous Expense				
Newsletter				
Telephones				
Postage				
Publicity				
Rent				
Property Taxes				
Travel				
Banquet Costs				
Subtotal General				
Projects				
Memorial Wall				
Omsk Historical Project				
Ukraine Memorial				
Microfilm Digitization				
Subtotal Projects				
<b>Total Expenditures</b>				
(Deficit)/Surplus from				
Mark to market value adjustment of Investment				
Depreciation of Investment				
<b>Excess/Expenses/Income</b>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
Members Equity at beginning				
<b>Members Equity at end of</b>		<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	

**Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.  
 Statements of Cash  
 For the years ended**

	<u>December 2010</u>	<u>December 2009</u>
Excess/Expenses/Income	\$	\$
Items not involving cash		
Depreciation of Investment Portfolio		
Mark to market value adjustment of Investment Unrealized Investment		
Change in non-cash working (Decrease)/Increase in accounts payable		
Cash Flow from Operations	\$	\$
Financing Activities		
Increase in investment in	\$	\$
(Decrease)/Increase in Cash for the year	\$	\$
Cash at beginning of year		
<b>Cash at end of year</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Cash is comprised of:		
Cash -Petty		
Cash - Chequing		
Cash - US chequing		
Stewardship account - MB Conference		
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>