



Mennonite Historical Society
of British Columbia

2012 Annual Report

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Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

2012 Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 11 April 2013, 1:30 pm
ABC Restaurant,
32080 Marshall Road, Abbotsford, B.C.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of 2011 AGM – 21 June 2012
3. Financial Reports
 - a. Financial Statements – 2012
4. Moved that the Financial Statements printed in the 2012 Annual Report be accepted and approved.
 - b. Budget - 2013

Moved that the Budget for 2013 as printed in the Annual Report be approved
5. Re-election of current Board Members.

Jim Baerg, MaryAnn Jantzen, Arnold Klassen, Richard Thiessen for a term ending in 2016.
6. Election of Director

Henry Wieler has resigned his position. Moved that Vi Chappell be nominated to complete his term ending in 2014.
7. Questions pertaining to the 2012 Annual Report
8. Adjournment

Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting
Thursday, 21 June 2012, at 1:30 pm
ABC Restaurant,
32080 Marshall Road, Abbotsford, B.C.

1. Welcome

Chairman Richard Thiessen welcomes board members and an assembly of Society supporters, calls the meeting to order, and opens the meeting with prayer.

2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM:

Penner/Van Dyck: Moved and seconded that the minutes of the 2010 AGM, held on May 29, 2011, as printed in the 2010 Annual Report, be approved and accepted. Carried.

3. Financial Reports: Chairman Richard Thiessen reviewed the 2011 financial statements (pages 11-15 of the 2011 Annual Report) with the assembled group.

Thiessen/Baerg: Moved and seconded that the financial statements for 2011 be approved and accepted. Carried.

4. Budget for 2012 fiscal year :

The 2012 budget (page 13 of annual report) was reviewed and approved.

Thiessen/ Martens: Moved and seconded, that the 2012 budget be approved and accepted. Carried.

5. Re-election of current board members:

Wilf Penner, John van Dyck and Robert Martens were nominated and approved for a further three year term, ending in 2015.

6. Election of new board members:

Thiessen/ Hugo Friesen: Moved and seconded that Henry Wieler, who has served as interim director during the last year be elected for a two year term, ending in 2014. Carried.

Moved/Seconded Bob Weinreich be elected to a 2 year term ending in 2014.

Thiessen/Wiens: Moved and seconded that Don Fehr be elected as a director for three years, ending on the date of the 2015 AGM. Carried

Nominations from the floor: **John van Dyck** nominated his brother, Gerald, who has expressed his willingness to serve as a director; **seconded by Helen Nickel**, will serve as director for a 2 year term ending on the date of the 2014 AGM. Carried.

7. Adjournment at 3:20 P.M.

Board of Directors

Jim Baerg	- Retired Probation Officer – Abbotsford
Don Fehr	- Retired Telus Technician – Port Coquitlam
Maryann Jantzen	- Assistant Professor; Writing Centre Co-Director Trinity Western University - Abbotsford
Arnold Klassen	- Chartered Accountant - Coquitlam
Robert Martens	- Poet, Writer & Editor – Abbotsford
Wilfred Penner	- Retired Teacher - Chilliwack
Richard Thiessen	- Librarian Columbia Bible College – Abbotsford
Gerald Van Dyck	- Manager in Audit - Public Sector - Surrey
John Van Dyck	- Businessman – Coquitlam
Henry Wieler	- Retired Teacher - Abbotsford
Bob Weinreich	- Retired Industrial Sales – New Westminster
Elmer G. Wiens	- Economist/Webmaster - Vancouver

Officers

President	-	Richard Thiessen
Secretary	-	Wilf Penner
Treasurer	-	Arnold Klassen

President's Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that 2012 has been another successful year in the life of our Society. We sponsored five public events. We began the year with a presentation by Harry Loewen, featuring stories from his new book entitled *Cities of Refuge*. In June, Dora Dueck, Ruth Derksen Siemens, and Sandra Borger focused their presentations on Mennonite women working as domestic servants. Our Annual Fundraising Banquet featured Rudy Wiebe and the 50th anniversary, to the very day, of the publication of his novel *Peace Shall Destroy Many*. In the fall, Royden Loewen was in Abbotsford to help launch his and Steven Nolt's volume in the Global Mennonite History Project dealing with North America entitled *Seeking Places of Peace*. We ended the year with our Genealogy Workshop, featuring Glenn Penner and Tim Janzen.

Our publications committee was very active in 2012, chaired by Maryann Jantzen. The committee produced three very informative newsletters. Article topics included Mennonite spirituality, Mennonite cooperative ventures, and Mennonites and the literary and visual arts.

Last year we re-elected three board members for three-year terms ending in 2015: Wilf Penner, John van Dyck, and Robert Martens. Henry Wieler, who had served as an interim director beginning in 2011, was elected to a two-year term ending in 2014. Henry tendered his resignation from the board for personal reasons this spring, and Vi Chappell from Chilliwack has been nominated to serve out his term. Gerald van Dyck was newly elected to the board to a three-year term. Today we will be asking the membership to re-elect Jim Baerg, Maryann Jantzen, Arnold Klassen, and Richard Thiessen for three-year terms ending in 2016.

We continue to enjoy strong staff and volunteer support that 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

25 March 2013

The Archives

Staffing and Personnel

At this time, some 27 volunteers, one part-time office manager, and one part-time receptionist staff the Archives office with an energy that can only be admired. Thanks to Mary Ann Quiring and Elisabeth Klassen for their dedication to the non-stop work at the Archives.

Communications

The MHSBC periodical, *Roots and Branches*, appears three times annually, and has attracted some favourable notice. Maryann Jantzen does superlative work as chief editor. Time has sometimes been an issue, as marking season at her university has conflicted with the printing of *Roots and Branches*. There are ongoing discussions on perhaps changing the print times to different times of the year in order to eliminate this conflict. Our webmaster, Elmer Wiens, has made an accessible and attractive place of our website. Book reviews now have their own link on the site.

MHSBC Events

1. March 24, 2012: Harry Loewen presented excerpts from his recent book, *City of Refuge* as well as some of the background notes.
2. June 6, 2012: Dora Dueck, Ruth Derksen Siemens, and Sandra Borger presented an evening on “Mennonite Women Working as Domestic Servants.” The latter two focused on the Vancouver *Maedchenheim*. Dora Dueck spoke and read from her novel, *This Hidden Thing*, which deals with the “Girls’ Home” of Winnipeg.
3. June 21, 2012: The AGM was held following the volunteer luncheon at ABC Restaurant.
4. October 13, 2012: Rudy Wiebe was guest speaker at the MHSBC annual fundraising banquet. He spoke on the original publication of his first novel, *Peace Shall Destroy Many*.
5. November 1, 2012: A book launch was held for Royden Loewen’s and Steve Nolt’s *Seeking Places of Peace*. This is the fifth and final volume in the Global Mennonite History Project series.
6. November 17, 2012: Tim Janzen and Glenn Penner presided over the annual Genealogy Workshop.

Main Projects

1. Digitization

- (a) *Mennonitische Rundschau*. Digitized: 1880-96; 1898-1900; 1925; 1938-41; 1949-2007.
- (b) *Der Bote*. Digitized: 1924-36; 1963-64; 1966; 1970-2008. These two Mennonite papers are being digitized at a good pace thanks to Jean Friesen, Helga Rempel, and John Friesen.
- (c) *Canadian Mennonite*. Digitized: 1954; 1956-63; 1998-2008.
- (d) *MB Herald* obituaries. Digitized and searchable: 1996-2009.
- (e) Yearbooks.
 - *Mennonite Church Canada. Digitized: 1945, 1948-49; 1951; 1953-56; 1958-60; 1963-64; 1968; 1971-73; 1978-80.
 - *Mennonite Church BC. Digitized: 1951.
 - *MB Church Canada. Digitized: 1931-39; 1941-55; 1965-71; 1973-78; 1980; 1982-85; 1987.
 - *MB Church North America. Digitized: 1939; 1943; 1945; 1948; 1951; 1966; 1969; 1972; 1975.

In coming months, Robert Martens will have more time to pursue this project. Hardcopy versions of the yearbooks are also kept in the archives room.

2. InMagic

Dolores Harder, Helen Nickel, and Laura Unger have made major progress on filing and cataloguing archival documents. We will be having discussions on uploading our InMagic files to a central archival website. Sylvia Stopforth continues to be a great help with the InMagic program.

3. Microfilm digitization

Board member Don Fehr reports: "The major project that is being worked on is EWZ digitization. We are nearing the 40% completion point, with 949,000 of approximately 2.5 million frames done. A big thank you goes out to Jim Baerg and Wilf Penner for all their efforts and perseverance. They are working very hard at this challenging job. It is our intention to send out an interim release to our partners later this year."

4. Indexing

MB Herald birth and marriage announcements are being added to our database as an ongoing project. *Mennonitische Rundschau* obituaries are indexed. *Der Bote* indexes have been uploaded and the digitization of the actual issues continues. EWZ files are being prepared for the GRANDMA database. *Canadian Mennonite* marriage notices are being indexed, this also an ongoing project.

Ongoing archival work

Erna Block has made remarkable progress on the organization of photos. Laura Unger has been working on our map collection. And as always, the genealogist volunteers continue to do their "detective work" with unstoppable energy. Visitors are sometimes astonished at how seriously queries on their ancestral heritage are taken.

Library

Arlene Peters has finished cataloguing the lending and reference library.

The MHSBC office has received several valuable donations over the past year, including two antique clocks. One a Mantler Clock circa. donated by Martha Wiebe and a Kroeger clock donated by Sara & the late Peter Heinrichs.

Submitted by Robert Martens

Website and Computer Technical Committee Report

Members: Elmer Wiens (Chair), John Van Dyck, Don Fehr

Objectives: The committee was formed to discuss and implement improvements to the www.MHSBC.com website, and changes to the MHSBC computer facilities, scanners, software, etc.

Website:

1. Added a new webpage, "Book Reviews," to the www.mhsbc.com website
2. Revised the "html code" to ensure compatibility with current web browsers (some of the old code is "deprecated").
3. Revised web pages – added a standard heading, "Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia," to all web pages.
4. Updated the "Genealogies and Family Histories" web pages.

5. Updated / deleted titles not available on the "Book Sales" web page
6. Corrections and updates are being made to the website as they are presented.

MHSBC Office computers:

At the March 7, 2013 meeting of the Board Meeting it was agreed that the existing complement of computer equipment was adequate for the office's needs in the near future.

Respectfully submitted
by Elmer G. Wiens

Newsletter

The newsletter committee has once more fulfilled its mandate of publishing three issues of *Roots and Branches* yearly, with a fall, winter and spring issue. Special themes in 2012 included Mennonite spirituality, Mennonite cooperative ventures and Mennonites and the literary and visual arts; each issue also includes book reviews, articles on specific Mennonite congregations and articles with specific historical interest. We attempt to provide a balance between academic and narrative approaches, between distant and more recent history and between the real and the idealized aspects of Mennonite history. During this year, we have instituted a genealogical column entitled "The Ties that Bind" in each issue; we have also featured photographs of artwork by local Mennonite artists in each issue. We want to continue to be relevant to our readers and to pursue excellence in both content and format.

We continue to rely on numerous hours of volunteer service for each issue as contributors write articles (some commissioned and some voluntarily submitted), committee members provide feedback and article ideas, and the editors prepare articles for publication. Thanks to associate editors Robert Martens and Louise Bergen Price for many hours of writing and editing, to Heather Pauls Murray for layout, to Wilf Penner and Anne Andres for feedback and to all our writers for their contributions. Thanks also to Mary Ann Quiring, Elisabeth Klassen and the office volunteers who work to get each issue into the mail in a timely fashion.

Our policy is to try to provide a broad range of material so that all readers will find something of interest. We welcome receiving any of the following: letters and photos from the past; "mystery" pictures that need identification; short personal narratives; book reviews; biographical sketches; 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.

Maryann Tjart Jantzen

MHSBC director and *Roots and Branches* editor.

Mennonite Historical Society – Capital Endowment Fund

Investment Committee Summary

The MHSBC – Endowment Fund, currently known as the Edward D. Hildebrand Endowment Fund, was established in February, 1998 to provide ongoing income to the MHSBC. The initial donation was provided by Mr. Hildebrand.

The MHSBC – Endowment Fund was established to provide an annual income to the Society for general operations. Currently the Fund provides \$12,000 per year of income to the Society.

The fund balance as at December 31, 2011 totaled \$309,473 income for the year including capital gains totaling \$27,350 and after transferring \$12,000 to operations the Fund balance as at December 31, 2012 was \$324,823.

As of March 18th, 2013 the Fund has earned 8.8% during the past year. The Fund has performed very well achieving 9.46% annualized earnings over the past ten years.

The Fund is managed by an investment committee made up of six members and meets quarterly during the calendar year. The committee members are Edward Hildebrand, Peter Neudorf, John Konrad, and Richard Thiessen with two new members, Arnold Klassen and Bob Weinreich in 2013. Mr. Klassen is serving as Chairman.

The committee meetings are informal assemblies of the members and Bill Acorn, Investment Advisor, CIBC Wood Gundy, who provides portfolio statistics and market information for consideration.

This committee and our society are indeed fortunate for the contribution of time, experience, and wisdom of our long term members; Messrs. Hildebrand, Neudorf and Konrad and we look forward to that continued benefit.

Accountant Review

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

I have reviewed the Balance Sheet of the Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia as at December 31, 2012 and the Statement of Income and Expense 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 Income and Expense reflect fairly the financial position and the results from operations of the Society for the Year 2012.

Abbotsford, B.C.
April 5, 2013

John Konrad
(Original signed letter held in MHSBC office)

Financial Report

During 2012, the supporters of the Mennonite Historical Society of B.C. ("MHS") have once again been most generous in their gifts of time and financial support that have allowed the MHS to end the financial year in a very strong financial position. The October 2012 Fund Raising Banquet was again our largest source of donations which raised \$26,810 for the MHS after expenses.

Total donations for the year were \$60,283 compared to a budget of \$63,726. Total receipts increased from \$95,437 last year to \$100,706 (after removing the impact of investment losses for the year). The \$14,662 loss on investments is due to the realization of losses on certain investments sold during the year. Offsetting this was an increase in the market value of investments held by \$30,012. Total cash on hand decreased from \$75,052 as at December 31, 2011 to \$72,514 as at December 31, 2012.

Total expenditures for the year were \$102,568 compared to a budget of \$92,926 an increase of \$9,642. A large part of this increase is due to the higher costs of Books and DVD's sold. Offsetting this increase was a large increase in book and DVD sales which increased from \$7,381 to \$15,546 and increase of \$8,165. The operating deficit totalled \$16,524 for the year and with the increase in the investment portfolio the MHS ended the year with an increase in Members Equity of \$13,488.

Again, with generous support of our members with both in time and in funds the MHS 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 2012



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

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Assets		
Current		
Cash -Petty	\$ 200.00	200.00
Cash - Cdn Chequing account	17,190.56	38,659.51
Cash - Cdn- Savings	25,230.39	6,123.58
Cash - US Chequing	806.03	1,795.92
Stewardship account – MB Conference	29,087.02	28,273.47
Investments	324,823.00	309,473.00
	<u>397,337.00</u>	<u>384,525.48</u>
Long-term		
Shares	885.05	859.26
	<u>\$ 398,222.05</u>	<u>\$ 385,384.74</u>
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable accrued liabilities	\$ 1,644.77	\$ 2,295.00
Member Equity		
Member equity - Endowment	224,773.75	224,773.75
Member equity - General	171,803.53	158,315.99
	<u>396,577.28</u>	<u>383,089.74</u>
	<u>\$ 398,222.05</u>	<u>\$ 385,384.74</u>

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

	Budget December 31, 2012	Actual December 31, 2012	Actual December 31, 2011	Budget December 31, 2013
Receipts				
Donations				
General Fund	\$ 63,726	\$ 60,283.06	\$ 60,189.57	69,066
Memorial Wall	-		1,510.00	-
Subtotal Contributions/Donations	<u>63,726</u>	<u>60,283.06</u>	<u>61,699.57</u>	<u>69,066</u>
Investment Income				
Account Interest	500	1,061.50	1,005.67	1,000
Credit Card Rebate	-		73.67	-
Investment Gains/(Losses)	-	(14,662.00)	3,368.00	-
Investment Interest	12,000	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000
Subtotal Investment Income	<u>12,500</u>	<u>(1,600.50)</u>	<u>16,447.34</u>	<u>13,000</u>
Other Income				
Book Sales, etc.	3,500	11,455.13	3,530.25	6,500
DVD/CD/Tape Sales	3,000	4,091.00	3,851.36	2,500
Miscellaneous Income	500	1,430.85	770.86	700
Photocopy Income	200	234.50	59.85	200
Postage Recovery - Income	0	341.67	126.44	100
GST/HST Recovery	1,500	2,978.16	2,626.00	1,500
Ticket Sales	8,000	6,830.00	6,325.00	8,000
Subtotal Other Income	<u>16,700</u>	<u>27,361.31</u>	<u>17,289.76</u>	<u>19,500</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 92,926</u>	<u>\$ 86,043.87</u>	<u>\$ 95,436.67</u>	<u>\$ 101,566</u>

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

	Budget December 31, 2012	Actual December 31, 2012	Actual December 31, 2011	Budget December 31, 2013
Expenses				
General Expenses				
Credit Card Fees	\$ 800	\$ 686.90	\$ 719.94	800
Archival Supplies	250	102.36	59.98	250
Bank Charge	50	34.29		50
Book Purchases	1,920	6,279.94	2,091.18	3,500
DVD/CD/Tape Purchases	1,500	1,773.24	1,419.97	1,100
Computer/Internet	4,000	2,112.67	3,233.38	2,500
Contract/Wages	25,000	28,086.94	22,610.29	29,000
Fixtures	500	478.03	25.75	500
Insurance	2,100	2,015.00	2,000.00	2,100
Archives/Library Expense	300	578.63	192.93	500
Inmagic Project /Supplies	300	0.00	267.80	
Inmagic Maintenance	400	392.00	392.00	400
Inmagic Training	600	0.00		
Legal	300	318.02	-	50
Photocopy Expense	1,200	515.60	3,472.00	600
Lectures and Events	1,800	3,680.62	1,777.38	3,500
Office Expense	2,400	1,521.66	1,639.19	2,000
Utilities	9,300	9,228.00	8,097.32	10,000
Membership Dues	850	850.00	850.00	850
Miscellaneous Expense	1,000	670.79	864.58	1,000
Newsletter	5,550	6,941.13	5,525.85	7,000
Telephones	1,200	874.52	984.98	1,000
Postage	900	1,333.42	892.04	1,500
Publicity	120		-	100
Rent	16,766	16,825.10	15,405.20	16,766
Property Taxes	2,900	3,221.23	2,788.15	3,200
Travel	2,800	4,057.84	2,365.47	1,300
Banquet Costs	8,000	9,873.50	6,996.77	8,500
Subtotal General Expenses	<u>92,806</u>	<u>102,451.43</u>	<u>84,672.15</u>	<u>98,066</u>
Projects				
Memorial Wall			81.05	-
Omsk Historical Project	-	-		-
MHSC Genealogy Project				3,000
Microfilm Digitization	120	116.90	86.55	500
Subtotal Projects		<u>116.90</u>	<u>167.60</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>92,926</u>	<u>102,568.33</u>	<u>84,839.75</u>	<u>101,566</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations		(16,524.46)	10,596.92	
Mark to market value adjustment of Investment Portfolio		30,012.00	12,204.00	
Excess/Income/Expenses	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 13,487.54</u>	<u>\$ 22,800.92</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Members Equity at beginning of		383,089.74	360,288.82	
Members Equity at end of year		<u>\$ 396,577.28</u>	<u>\$ 383,089.74</u>	

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

	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2011</u>
Excess/Expenses/Income	\$ 13,487.54	\$ 22,800.92
Items not involving cash		
Mark to market value adjustment of Investment Portfolio	(30,012.00)	(12,204.00)
Unrealized Investment Gains	14,662.00	(3,368.00)
	<u>(1,862.46)</u>	<u>7,228.92</u>
Change in non-cash working capital		
(Decrease)/Increase in accounts payable	(650.23)	(9,681.94).
	<u>(650.23)</u>	<u>(9,681.94).</u>
Cash Flow from Operations	<u>\$ (2,512.69)</u>	<u>\$ (2,453.02)</u>
Financing Activities		
Increase in investment in shares	\$ (25.79)	\$ (25.07)
	<u>(25.79)</u>	<u>(25.07)</u>
(Decrease)/Increase in Cash for the year	<u>\$ (2,538.48)</u>	<u>\$ (2,478.09)</u>
Cash at beginning of year	<u>75,052.48</u>	<u>77,530.57</u>
Cash at end of year	<u><u>\$ 72,514.00</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 75,052.48</u></u>
Cash is comprised of:		
Cash -Petty	200.00	200.00
Cash – CDN Chequing	17,190.56	38,659.51
Cash – CDN Savings	25,230.39	6,123.58
Cash - US chequing	806.03	1,795.92
Stewardship account - MB Conference	29,087.02	28,273.47
	<u>29,087.02</u>	<u>28,273.47</u>
	<u><u>\$ 72,514.00</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 75,052.48</u></u>