

Mennonite Historical Society
of British Columbia

2013 Annual Report

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Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

2013 Annual General Meeting

Friday, 4 April 2014, 1:30 pm
ABC Restaurant,
32080 Marshall Road, Abbotsford, B.C.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of 2012 AGM – 11 April 2013
3. Financial Reports
 - a. Financial Statements – 2013
4. Moved that the Financial Statements printed in the 2013 Annual Report be accepted and approved.
 - b. Budget - 2014

Moved that the Budget for 2014 as printed in the Annual Report be approved
5. Current Board Members.

Current Board Members include:
Don Fehr, Wilf Penner, John van Dyck, Robert Martens whose terms end in 2015.
Jim Baerg, MaryAnn Jantzen, Arnold Klassen, Richard Thiessen whose terms end in 2016.
6. Election of Directors

Moved that Vi Chappell, Elmer Wiens and Bob Weinreich be elected for 3 year terms ending in 2017.
Moved that Laura Unger be nominated to the board for a 3 year term also in 2017.
Gerald van Dyck has resigned his position on the board. Gerald's term ended in 2014 and he is not letting his name stand for re-election.
7. Questions pertaining to the 2013 Annual Report
8. Adjournment

Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting
Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 1:30 P.M.
ABC Restaurant,
32080 Marshall Road, Abbotsford, B.C.

1. Welcome:

Chairman Richard Thiessen welcomes board members and an assembly of Society supporters and calls the meeting to order, noting that our quorum requirements are met.

2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM:

Thiessen/Penner: Moved and seconded that the minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting, as printed in the 2012 Annual Report, be approved and accepted. Carried.

3. Financial Report:

Thiessen/Martens: Moved and seconded that the Financial Statements for 2012, as printed in the 2012 Annual Report, be accepted and approved. Carried.

4. 2013 Budget:

Thiessen/Martens: Moved and seconded that the 2013 Budget, as printed in the 2012 Annual Report, be approved. Carried.

5. Election of Directors:

Moved and seconded that Jim Baerg, Maryanne Jantzen, Arnold Klassen and Richard Thiessen be re-elected for terms ending in 2016. Carried.

Moved and seconded that Vi Chappell be nominated to complete term left by Henry Wieler's resignation, term ending in 2014. Carried.

6. Adjournment:

Opportunity for questions and discussion was given. No questions were asked so the meeting was adjourned.

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
Vice President	-	Jim Baerg
Secretary	-	Gerald Van Dyck
Treasurer	-	Arnold Klassen

President's Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that 2013 has been another successful year in the life of our Society. We sponsored five public events including our annual Genealogy Workshop. We began the year with a presentation by Anne Konrad, who gave a presentation based on her book *Red Quarter Moon*. Our next public event was a focus on the Old Colony Mennonites of Bolivia and Belize with Dr. Royden Loewen from Winnipeg and Eric Dreger of Vancouver. In July we hosted a book launch of *It Happened in Moscow* by Maureen Klassen. This was followed by our annual banquet, featuring Dr. John B. Toews, who spoke on the topic of Mennonite Pacifists in Ukraine Amidst Anarchy (1917-1920). We concluded the year with our Genealogy Workshop with guest speakers Dr. Glenn Penner, Dr. Tim Janzen, and Danny Unrau.

Our publications committee was very active in 2013, chaired by Maryann Jantzen. The committee produced three very informative newsletters. Article topics included Mennonites in Latin America, Mennonite Central Committee, and the Holodomor. The newsletter also included some congregational articles, genealogical articles, and a number of book reviews.

Last year we re-elected four board members for three-year terms ending in 2016: Jim Baerg, Maryann Jantzen, Arnold Klassen, and Richard Thiessen. Vi Chappell from Chilliwack was elected to a one-year term to fill a vacancy on our board. Gerald van Dyck has resigned his position on the board, and Laura Unger has been nominated to replace him. We will also be asking the membership to re-elect Vi Chappell, Elmer Wiens, and Bob Weinreich for three-year terms ending in 2017.

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
24 March 2014

The Archives

Staffing and personnel

Close to 30 volunteers continue to staff the Archives office. We have said goodbye to some and welcomed newcomers. Elisabeth Klassen and Mary Ann Quiring, part-time paid employees of MHSBC, sustain the office with typical enthusiasm and efficiency.

Communications

The MHSBC periodical, *Roots and Branches*, is an essential communications vehicle between the organization and its supporters. Currently an experiment is being carried out in which the periodical will appear 4 times annually, in 2 smaller issues and 2 of the standard size. Maryann Jantzen, Louise Bergen Price, Heather Pauls Murray, and Robert Martens put a lot of effort and hours into making it work, with the help of Wilf Penner and Anne Andres.

MHSBC events

1. April 5, 2013. Anne Konrad spoke on her book, *A Search for Family in the Soviet Union*, at Bakerview MB Church.
2. April 11, 2013. The annual general meeting of MHSBC took place at ABC Restaurant, Abbotsford.
3. June 1, 2013. Royden Loewen spoke on "Old Colony Mennonites: Travelling with the Horse and Buggy Mennonites in Bolivia." Eric Dreger presented a photo essay on the Mennonites of Shipyard, Belize. Venue was Level Ground Mennonite Church.
4. July 9, 2013. Maureen and Herb Klassen staged a launch for their book, *It Happened in Moscow*, at Bakerview MB Church.
5. September 21, 2013. John B. Toews was featured speaker at the annual MHSBC fundraiser banquet. His topic was "Mennonite Pacifists in Ukraine Amidst Anarchy (1917-1920)." The venue was Emmanuel Mennonite Church.
6. November 16, 2013. The annual genealogy workshop with presenters Glenn Penner, Timothy Janzen, and Danny Unrau took place at Garden Park Tower.

Main projects

1. Digitization.

(a) *Mennonitische Rundschau*. Digitized: 1880-96; 1898-1904; 1925; 1938-47; 1949-2002; 2004; 2005; 2007. Some other years are in process of digitization. John Friesen is doing this work. There is also some scanning of family histories in which John is involved.

(b) *Der Bote*. Digitized: 1924-36; 1963-64; 1966; 1969-2008. John Friesen.

(c) *Canadian Mennonite* obituaries. Digitized: 1954; 1956-63; 1998; 2001-2007. Helga Rempel.

(d) *MB Herald* obituaries. Digitized and searchable: 1996-2009. Helga Rempel. *MB Herald* births are being scanned by Vicky Hooek. *MB Herald* marriages: Dora Becker.

(e) Yearbooks.

- Mennonite Church Canada: Digitized: 1945; 1948-49; 1951; 1953-56; 1958-60; 1963-64; 1968; 1971-73; 1979-80.

- 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.

(f) Canadian Mennonite Board of Colonization cards are being indexed by Sharon Landry (Quesnel), Hugo Friesen, Hilda de Haan, and Helga Rempel.

(g) EWZ files are being inserted into the Legacy genealogy database where necessary by Sandi Massie, Agnes Loewen, Sally Dueck and Irma Giesbrecht.

(h) Reinlander C data is being incorporated into Legacy for merging with GRANDMA by Dora Becker.

(i) Jean Friesen is digitizing *Mennonitische Rundschau* issues from microfilm. She has so far completed years 1888-1904.

Robert Martens is currently updating the accessions database, which has some time gaps on the Excel Spreadsheet.

2. InMagic.

Dolores Harder, Helen Nickel, and Laura Unger continue to make steady progress on input into the InMagic database.

3. Microfilm digitization.

Jim Baerg, Wilf Penner, and Don Fehr continue in the major project of digitizing EWZ (*Einwandererzentralstelle*) microfilms. The EWZ files are the records of over 2 million individuals immigrating into Germany between 1939-45.

Approximately 1.4 million frames are now complete.

4. Indexing.

MB Herald birth and marriage announcements are being added to our database on an ongoing basis. The obituaries in *Mennonitische Rundschau* are being indexed as well. Another ongoing project is the indexing of *Canadian Mennonite* marriage notices.

Ongoing archival work

Erna Block continues her work identifying and cataloguing photos for entry into InMagic. Photos will eventually be uploaded to a national database in cooperation with other Canadian Mennonite historical societies. Laura Unger has been working with maps. Genealogists keep the MHSBC office buzzing. New entries are added by staff and volunteers to the GRANDMA database whenever possible.

Wall of Remembrance

One new plaque was added to the wall in 2013. Thank you to our donors.

Library

The office library has been catalogued by Arlene Peters, and new books are entered into the system. Work has begun cataloguing the vertical file in the archives room.

Thanks to everyone for working together so beautifully.

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 Future Events section to the website. The entry web page to this section lists future events with links to separate web pages for each event. These “event” web pages remain online after the event to facilitate search and find by web search engines.
2. Revisions to the Family Histories web page are ongoing. Added a link to this web page to an up-to-date online PDF document. This PDF web page can be easily updated as changes are noted
3. Updated the “Genealogies and Family Histories” web pages.
4. Corrections and updates are being made to the website as they are presented.
5. Roots and Branches are up-to-date to July 2013 newsletter.
6. Still waiting for the 2012 AGM Annual Report.

MHSBC Office computers and equipment:

Please check with Don Fehr about this.

Respectfully submitted
by Elmer G. Wiens

Newsletter

Three issues of Roots and Branches were published in 2013: themes included Latin American Mennonites, Mennonites and Peacemaking, and Mennonites & Soviet Rule. Also included were book reviews, articles on specific Mennonite congregations, articles with specific historical interest, “mystery pictures,” a genealogy column, relevant news releases, and announcements of upcoming events.

Late in 2013, the committee decided, in consultation with board chair Richard Thiessen, to experiment with a change to the publishing schedule and format of the newsletter. Instead of the usual three full-size issues, we will experiment in 2014 with publishing four issues, two full-length ones and two shorter ones. Robert Martens will take responsibility for editing the shorter issues, while Maryann Jantzen will continue as editor for the longer issues.

The publication of each newsletter would not be possible without numerous hours of volunteer service 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 prepare each issue for mailing.

We continue to welcome contributions from our readers. As many as possible will be selected for publication in the newsletter, while others will be posted on the historical society webpage (subject to suitability). We welcome letters, photos, and articles of historical interest, as well as “mystery” pictures that need identification, short personal narratives, book reviews and biographical sketches. 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.com

Maryann Tjart Jantzen
MHSBC director and *Roots and Branches* editor.

Mennonite Historical Society of BC – Capital Endowment Fund

Investment Committee Summary for 2013 period.

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 for general operations. Currently the Fund provides \$12,000 per year of income to the Society. At the latest Investment Committee meeting, February 25th, the members agreed to increase the annual contribution for the Society to \$16,000 per year effective March 31st, 2014.

The Endowment Fund generated \$16,302 of income in 2012. The portfolio value as at December 31, 2012 totalled \$326,100 after transferring \$12,000 to operations in 2012.

In 2013, the Fund income was \$17,382. The portfolio value at December 31, 2013 totaled \$356,556 after transferring \$12K to Society operations in 2013.

As of December 31, 2013 the Fund has grown 13.3% during the past year. Overall, the Fund continues to perform very well achieving 18.2% annualized growth over the past five years, and 8.4% over ten years.

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

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.

The investment committee and our society continue to benefit from the contribution of time, experience, and wisdom of our long term members; Messrs. Hildebrand, Neudorf and Konrad.

Bob Weinreich

Accountant Review

To the Directors & Members
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, 2013 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 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 2013.

Abbotsford, B.C.
April 1, 2014

Henry Martens
(Original signed and filed at the MHSBC office)

Financial Report

During 2013, 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 MHS to end the financial year in a very strong financial position. The October 2013 Fund Raising Banquet was again our largest source of donations which raised \$ 29,604 for the MHSBC after expenses.

Total donations for the year were \$56,240 compared to a budget of \$66,766 and donations of \$60,283 in 2012. Total receipts decreased from \$100,706 last year to \$91,822 (after removing the impact of investment losses for the year). The \$54,183 gain on investments is due to the realization of gains on certain investments sold during the year. Offsetting this was a decrease in the unrealized market value of investments held by \$24,017. Total cash on hand decreased from \$72,514 as at December 31, 2012 to \$49,187 as at December 31, 2013 due to a cash operating loss of \$13,810 and an increase in prepaid expense of \$8,395.

Total expenditures for the year were \$105,632 compared to expenditures of \$102,568 for 2012, an increase of \$3,064. A large part of this increase is due to the higher property tax expense which increased from \$3,221 to \$6,116. The operating surplus totalled \$40,373 for the year included Investment income of \$54,183 and a loss on mark to market value adjustment of Investment Portfolio of \$24,017, leaving a cash operating loss of \$13,810. The MHSBC ended the year with an increase in Members Equity of \$16,356.

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 2013



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

	2013	2012
Assets		
Current		
Cash -Petty	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Cash - Cdn Chequing account	17,214.01	17,190.56
Cash - Cdn- Savings	860.41	25,230.39
Cash - US Chequing	1,035.03	806.03
Stewardship account – MB	29,877.65	29,087.02
Prepaid expense	8,394.75	-
Investments	<u>354,989.00</u>	<u>324,823.00</u>
	412,570.85	397,337.00
Long-term		
Shares	911.70	885.05
	<u>\$ 413,482.55</u>	<u>\$ 398,222.05</u>
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable accrued liabilities	\$ 549.43	\$ 1,644.77
Member Equity		
Member equity - Endowment	224,773.75	224,773.75
Member equity - General	188,159.37	171,803.53
	<u>412,933.12</u>	<u>396,577.28</u>
	<u>\$ 413,482.55</u>	<u>\$ 398,222.05</u>

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

	Budget December 31, 2013	Actual December 31, 2013	Actual December 31, 2012	Budget December 31, 2014
Receipts				
Donations				
General Fund	\$66,766.00	\$56,239.54	\$60,283.06	\$67,416.00
Memorial Wall	-	500.00	-	-
Subtotal Contributions/Donations	66,766.00	56,739.54	60,283.06	67,416.00
Investment Income				
Account Interest	1,000.00	969.93	1,061.50	1,000.00
Credit Card Rebate	-	-	-	-
Investment Gains/(Losses)	-	54,183.00	(14,662.00)	-
Investment Interest	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	16,000.00
Subtotal Investment Income	13,000.00	67,152.93	(1,600.50)	17,000.00
Other Income				
Book Sales, etc.	6,500.00	10,470.85	11,455.13	7,500.00
DVD/CD/Tape Sales	2,500.00	2,212.00	4,091.00	3,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	500.00	691.34	1,430.85	500.00
Photocopy Income	200.00	245.00	234.50	200.00
Postage Recovery - Income	100.00	392.07	341.67	-
GST/HST Recovery	500.00	2,605.86	2,978.16	1,500.00
Ticket Sales	8,000.00	5,495.00	6,830.00	8,000.00
Subtotal Other Income	18,300.00	22,112.12	27,361.31	20,700.00
Total Receipts	\$ 98,066.00	\$ 146,004.59	\$ 86,043.87	\$ 105,116.00

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

	Budget December 31, 2013	Actual December 31, 2013	Actual December 31, 2012	Budget December 31, 2014
Expenses				
General Expenses				
Annual General Meeting	-	\$789.90	-	\$800.00
Credit Card Fees	\$800.00	833.89	\$686.90	800.00
Archival Supplies	250.00	-	102.36	250.00
Bank Charge	50.00	-	34.29	50.00
Book Purchases	3,500.00	6,199.94	6,279.94	5,000.00
DVD/CD/Tape Purchases	1,100.00	949.51	1,773.24	1,500.00
Computer/Internet	2,500.00	2,898.51	2,112.67	4,000.00
Contract/Wages	29,000.00	26,215.42	28,086.94	25,650.00
Fixtures	500.00	-	478.03	500.00
Insurance	2,100.00	2,103.00	2,015.00	2,100.00
Archives/Library Expense	500.00	269.64	578.63	300.00
Inmagic Project /Supplies	-	15.05	-	300.00
Inmagic Maintenance	400.00	392.00	392.00	400.00
Inmagic Training	-	-	-	-
Legal	350.00	60.38	318.02	50.00
Photocopy Expense	600.00	526.82	515.60	1,200.00
Lectures and Events	3,500.00	2,783.72	3,680.62	2,000.00
Office Expense	2,000.00	3,164.64	1,521.66	2,400.00
Utilities	10,000.00	10,362.70	9,228.00	10,300.00
Membership Dues	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00
Miscellaneous Expense	1,000.00	-	670.79	1,000.00
Newsletter	7,000.00	6,268.96	6,941.13	5,500.00
Telephones	1,000.00	911.04	874.52	-
Postage	1,500.00	1,113.68	1,333.42	900.00
Publicity	100.00	-	-	120.00
Rent	16,766.00	16,884.99	16,825.10	16,766.00
Property Taxes	3,200.00	6,115.54	3,221.23	6,200.00
Subscriptions	-	-	-	1,680.00
Travel	1,000.00	4,475.08	4,057.84	5,000.00
Banquet Costs	8,500.00	7,110.30	9,873.50	8,000.00
Subtotal General Expenses	98,066.00	101,294.71	102,451.43	103,616.00
Projects				
Memorial Wall	-	25.71	-	-
MHSBC Project	-	250.00	-	-
MHSC Genealogy Project	-	4,000.00	-	1,000.00
Microfilm Digitization	-	61.33	116.90	500.00
Subtotal Projects	-	4,337.04	116.90	1,500.00
Total Expenditures	98,066.00	105,631.75	102,568.33	105,116.00
Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations		40,372.84	(16,524.46)	
Mark to market value adjustment of Investment Portfolio		(24,017.00)	30,012.00	
Excess/Income/Expenses	\$ -	16,355.84	13,487.54	\$ -
Members Equity at beginning of		396,577.28	383,089.74	
Members Equity at end of year		<u>\$ 412,933.12</u>	<u>\$ 396,577.28</u>	

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

	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2012</u>
Excess/Expenses/Income	\$ 16,355.84	\$ 13,487.54
Items not involving cash		
Mark to market value adjustment of Investment Portfolio	24,017.00	(30,012.00)
Unrealized Investment Gains	(54,183.00)	14,662.00
	<u>(13,810.16)</u>	<u>(1,862.46)</u>
Change in non-cash working capital		
Increase in Prepaid expenses	(8,394.75)	
(Decrease)/Increase in accounts payable	(1,095.34)	(650.23)
	<u>(9,490.09)</u>	<u>(1,510.49)</u>
Cash Flow from Operations	<u>\$ (23,300.25)</u>	<u>\$ (2,512.69)</u>
Financing Activities		
Increase in investment in shares	\$ (26.65)	\$ (25.79)
(Decrease)/Increase in Cash for the year	<u>\$ (23,326.90)</u>	<u>\$ (2,538.48)</u>
Cash at beginning of year	<u>72,514.00</u>	<u>75,052.48</u>
Cash at end of year	<u><u>\$ 49,187.10</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 72,514.00</u></u>
Cash is comprised of:		
Cash -Petty	200.00	200.00
Cash – CDN Chequing	17,214.01	17,190.56
Cash – CDN Savings	860.41	25,230.39
Cash - US chequing	1,035.03	806.03
Stewardship account - MB Conference	29,877.65	29,087.02
	<u><u>\$ 49,187.10</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 72,514.00</u></u>

