

Mennonite Historical Society  
of British Columbia



# 2018 Annual Report

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**Mennonite Historical Society of BC**  
**Agenda of the 2018 Annual General Meeting**  
**Friday, 5 April 2019, 1:30 pm**  
**Ricky's Country Restaurant,**  
**32080 Marshall Road, Abbotsford, B.C.**

1. Welcome: Richard Thiessen, President
2. Minutes of 2017 AGM - 6 April 2018
3. Financial Reports: Rod Ewert, Treasurer
  - (a) Financial Statements - 2018
  - (b) Budget - 2019
4. Election of Directors

Current terms:

Ending in 2019: Elma Pauls, Maryann Jantzen, Rod Ewert, and Richard Thiessen

Ending in 2020: Elmer Wiens, Laura Unger and Cheryl Isaac

Ending in 2021: Don Fehr, Linda Klassen, and Robert Martens

Elma Pauls has decided to not let her name stand again for election to the Board. We thank her for her phenomenal work on the Board, and are happy to hear that she will continue as a volunteer for the Society.

Rod Ewert was appointed by the Board in the interim to serve out Arnold Klassen's term, which concluded in 2019.

The board is nominating Ingrid Epp, Rod Ewert, Maryann Jantzen, and Richard Thiessen for three year terms, ending in 2022.

We will be left with two vacancies on our Board. We have actively sought additional members throughout the past few months, and will continue to do so. If there are individuals who come forward, they will be appointed by the Board in the interim, and formally approved at the next AGM.

5. Presentation of Committee Reports
6. Questions / Further Business
7. Adjournment

**Mennonite Historical Society of BC**  
**Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting**  
**Friday, 7 April 2018, 1:30 pm**  
**Ricky's Country Restaurant,**  
**32080 Marshall Road, Abbotsford, B.C.**

Chair: Richard Thiessen

Recording Secretary: Elma Pauls

Attendance: Members of MHSBC

Handouts: 2017 Annual Report - Agenda,

- Minutes of the AGM 2016
- List of Directors
- Reports (President's, Office & Volunteer Manager, Archives Report, Newsletter, Account Reports and Financial Reports).

1. Call to Order

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of MHSBC was called to order by Richard Thiessen, President.

Agenda – Laura Unger / Cheryl Isaac moved / seconded the acceptance of the agenda. Carried.

2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM – 7 April 2017

Hilda de Haan / Julia Toews moved / seconded the acceptance of the minutes of the 2016 AGM. Carried.

3. Financial Reports: Arnold Klassen, Treasurer

a. Financial Statements 2017

Richard Thiessen presented the report on behalf of Arnold Klassen. The reports were reviewed by John Konrad.

Robert Martens / Hilda de Haan moved / seconded the acceptance of the 2017 Financial Reports as presented. Carried.

b. Budget 2018

Richard Thiessen presented the Budget for 2018.

Laura Unger / Cheryl Isaac moved / seconded approval of the 2018 Budget as presented. Carried.

4. Election of Directors

Current Terms:

Ending in 2018: Don Fehr, Robert Martens

Ending in 2019: Elma Pauls, Maryann Jantzen, Arnold Klassen, Richard Thiessen

Ending in 2020: Elmer Wiens, Laura Unger, Cheryl Isaac.

Arnold Klassen has tendered his resignation from the Board. We thank him for his service, especially in his capacity as Treasurer over these past years. His experience and insight have been greatly appreciated.

The Board is nominating Don Fehr, Robert Martens and Linda Klassen for three years terms ending in 2021.

There are three vacancies on the Board. Nominations were called for with no nominees coming forward. If individuals come forward, or are approached and they accept, they will be appointed by the Board in the interim and formally approved at the next AGM.

Julia Toews / Ernie Thiessen moved / seconded approved the appointment of the three Directors and plan to fill vacant positions. Carried.

5. Presentation of Committee Reports – as per attachments
  - a. President’s Report – Richard Thiessen
  - b. Office & Volunteer Manager – Jennifer Martens  
Jennifer noted that 40 volunteers had contributed more than 150 hours of volunteer hours each in 2017.
  - c. Archives Report – Laura Unger
  - d. Publications – Maryann Jantzen
  - e. Website – Richard Thiessen
  - f. Events - Richard Thiessen

Dora Becker / Ernie Thiessen moved / seconded acceptance of the Reports as presented. Carried.

6. New Business:  
No new business to report.

7. Adjournment.

Robert Martens / Menno Bergen moved / seconded to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

## **Board of Directors**

Rod Ewert	- Retired Chartered Accountant – Envision Credit Union - Abbotsford
Don Fehr	- Retired Telus Technician – Port Coquitlam
Cheryl Isaac	- Retired Director, Continuing Education, UFV – Yarrow
Maryann Jantzen	- Assistant Professor; Writing Centre Co-Director Trinity Western University – Abbotsford
Linda Klassen	- Former Business Owner - Abbotsford
Robert Martens	- Poet, Writer & Editor – Abbotsford
Elma Pauls	- Retired Health Care Administrator - Chilliwack
Richard Thiessen	- Executive Director Mennonite Museum– Abbotsford
Laura Unger	- Retired Library Technician – Abbotsford
Elmer G. Wiens	- Economist/Webmaster – Vancouver

## **Officers**

President	-	Richard Thiessen
Vice President	-	Elma Pauls
Secretary	-	Linda Klassen
Treasurer	-	Rod Ewert

## President's Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present my 2018 report for our Society.

We have now completed our third year in our new home on the second floor of the Mennonite Heritage Museum in Abbotsford. We also occupy a portion of the basement of the Museum. The additional space and high visibility has been good for the Society. We have increased both our number of volunteers as well as our number of visitors. The relationship between the Historical Society and the Mennonite Museum Society is a positive one, and both Societies benefit from the ability to cost-share a number of expenditures, including staffing.

Together, the Society and the Museum employ two full-time persons: Jennifer Martens serves as Office and Volunteer Manager and Mary Ann Quiring serves as Receptionist and Office Assistant. Each are employed half-time by the Society and half-time by the Museum.

Approximately 60 volunteers provide staffing for the Society and work on a variety of indexing, filing, translation, and scanning projects. Our volunteer structure includes several volunteer coordinators who work alongside our Office and Volunteer Manager. These coordinators maintain weekly contact with our volunteers and provide direct supervision and resourcing. This allows our Office and Volunteer Manager to focus more attention on volunteer policies and procedures and in-take procedures for new volunteers.

We sponsored several events in 2018. On 6<sup>th</sup> May we showed the film "*Seven Points on Earth: A Film Depicting Seven Mennonite Farming Communities Around the World*" at the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium. Our guest speaker was producer Paul Plett from Winnipeg. On 23<sup>rd</sup> September we held our fall fundraising event at King Road MB Church with Dr. Royden Loewen from the University of Winnipeg. His topic was based on the above film and was entitled "*The Mennonite Farmer and the State: Friend or Foe in Global Context.*" On 4<sup>th</sup> November we gathered at Level Ground Mennonite Church to hear our guest speaker, Dr. Hans Werner, recently retired from the University of Winnipeg. His topic was "*Caught in the Middle: Mennonites in Stalin's and Hitler's Armies.*" We concluded with our annual Genealogy Workshop on 9-10<sup>th</sup> November, which again featured Tim Janzen and Glenn Penner. Glenn's topics were: "*What's New in Mennonite Genealogy,*" "*My Love-Hate Relationship with GRANDMA: (Or Don't Believe Everything GRANDMA Tells You),*" and "*Playing with GRANDMA.*" Tim's topics were: "*DNA Website Overviews and Comparisons*" and "*Chromosome Mapping and DNA Painter.*"

Our publications committee was very active in 2018, chaired by Maryann Jantzen and assisted by Robert Martens. We published three issues, each 32 pages, along with a fourth issue of 16 pages. We send out approximately 400 copies of the newsletter to members, churches, and sister organizations.

Volunteers from the society have been digitizing issues of *Die Mennonitische Rundschau* and *Der Bote* for several years. At this point in time the scans are only available on the society's internal server. In the future we will explore uploading these scans to the Internet Archive ([archive.org](http://archive.org)), where a number of other Mennonite periodicals and publications are available in various digital formats.

As of November 2018 the following issues of *Die Mennonitische Rundschau* had been scanned: 1880 (partial), 1881-1886, 1887 (partial), 1888-1891, 1892 (partial), 1893-1896, 1903-1896, 1898-1911, 1913-1915 (partial), 1923 (partial), 1924-1925, 1926-1932 (partial), 1938 (partial), 1939-1943, 1944 (partial), 1945-1947, 1949-1950, 1951 (partial), 1952-1955, 1956 (partial), 1957, 1958-1959 (partial), 1960-1965, 1966 (partial), 1967-1971, 1972-1974 (partial), 1975-1977, 1978-1979 (partial), 1980, 1981-1982 (partial), 1983-1991, 1992 (partial), 1993-2002, 2003 (partial), 2004, 2005-2006 (partial), 2007.

The following issues of *Der Bote* had been scanned: 1924-1934, 1935 (partial), 1936, 1961 (partial), 1962, 1963-1964 (partial), 1966 (partial), 1969-1970, 1971 (partial). 1972-1978, 1979 (partial), 1980-1990, 1991-1992 (partial), 1993-2003, 2004 (partial), 2005-2008. These numbers remain unchanged from 2017.

We have a group of volunteers who come in weekly to work on the processing of records. Our “senior” volunteer, Dolores Harder, moved to Vancouver Island at the end of 2017, and so much time and energy was invested in preparations for her departure and the handing over of many of her responsibilities to Linda Klassen. Linda now has publishing privileges in MAID when it comes to archival records in the database. Dolores continues to publish photos and supervises what some of the volunteers are doing with archival records for documents.

Several of our volunteers continue to reorganize records in the archival vault. Boxes are all being relabeled, and this requires that volunteers look at each box and make any necessary adjustments before the records are edited in MAID.

The primary focus of our digitization work in 2018 continued to be the digitization of the Einwandererzentralstelle (EWZ-50) microfilm collection, which we began in September 2009. As of November 2018 we have completed approximately 57% of the collection. We have completed 480 of 843 films. All of the scans of these films will be in PDF format. MHSBC will be purchasing a second microfilm digitizer with better features to allow for more efficient scans of the microfilms, thus speeding up the project considerably.

The following partners are supporting the project financially, and will be receiving copies of the digital files:

- American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Lincoln, NE
- California Mennonite Historical Society, Fresno, CA
- Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Hillsboro, KS
- Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Winnipeg, MB
- Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON
- Germans from Russia Heritage Society, Bismarck, ND
- Mennonite Heritage Archives, Winnipeg, MB
- Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia, Abbotsford, BC
- David Obee, Victoria, BC
- Hermann Schirmacher, Germany

We should note that the Black Sea German Research Group has incorporated all of the names indexed from the EWZ-50 series of microfilms into their online database, available at <http://www.blackseagr.org/>.

We are constantly creating and upgrading indexes to various periodicals, church registers, and other primary and secondary sources, and entering data into searchable databases. Several of our volunteers also enter data and make corrections for the GRANDMA database, owned by the California Mennonite Historical Society.

Most of the visitors to our Archives have an interest in genealogy. Our volunteers assist visitors in compiling their family histories and they also respond to emails and letters.

Volunteers have also been quite busy scanning unpublished family histories and newspaper obituaries. One of our volunteers is copying and pasting obituaries from the digital scans of the MB Herald into the Biographical Wiki database ([https://mla.bethelks.edu/mediawiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://mla.bethelks.edu/mediawiki/index.php/Main_Page)) maintained by John Thiesen at the Mennonite Library & Archives at Bethel College. This database includes the full text of obituaries from a number of Mennonite periodicals, including Mennonite Weekly Review, The Mennonite, and a number of geographical newspapers. Our volunteer, Cheryl Isaac, has entered 1,183 obituaries from the MB Herald, covering the years 1962 to 1975.

Several of our volunteers also do a significant amount of work with the GRANDMA database. Members of the public submit corrections and additions to their family information that is in GRANDMA, and our volunteers are able to log into the database in California and make the necessary changes. Several volunteers are also working at creating a Legacy database of individuals in the EWZ records. Once completed, this database will be merged with GRANDMA.

Volunteers are involved with several other projects, including the translation letters and diaries from German to English. Many of these projects begin as requests from individuals who make a donation to have something translated. Once the project is completed, a copy of the translation is made available to MHSBC.



Richard D. Thiessen  
1 April 2019

## **Office & Volunteer Manager**

Hello, my name is Jennifer Martens and as Office and Volunteer Manager, I am pleased to present the report for the office.

*“Yesterday, I didn’t know anything about my dad’s side of the family, and today, because of all the data collecting and preservation you have all done, I know about this ancestry going back several generations! I can’t wait to share this information with my family! Thank you!”* –Ross H., visitor to the MHSBC.

Having begun my placement as Office and Volunteer Manager on July 26<sup>th</sup> of 2016, I have now completed my third year at the Historical Society. I have really appreciated working with the wonderful staff and volunteers to serve our board, members and community. I’ve continued to be very impressed with the caliber of expertise and the passion & intensity with which everyone applies to their work, all in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. It is this kind of atmosphere which breeds the kind of response above: the excitement, astonishment and delight of our patrons.

The really challenging and exciting thing about being the Office and Volunteer Manager is the wide variety and scope of responsibilities. Our focus in 2018 was to continue to streamline our efficiencies for processing memberships. This has been very effective; Mary Ann and I are finding that there is less confusion about the tax deductible portion vs. the membership fee which is not tax deductible. We also continued with the highlighting of “gift memberships” which we started in 2017, and that has continued to be very popular especially before Christmas. You might consider gifting someone with an MHSBC Membership for their birthday, too! We are now able to more accurately assign members to current vs. former members on our email distribution lists for those members with emails. Our goal is to surpass 500 members that receive Roots & Branches by mail. One reason for this number is so that we no longer have to sort the mail in-house (very labour intensive); once we surpass 500, the post office will do all the sorting for us. We are requesting members to send us a one or two sentence endorsement to help us expand our social media campaign for more memberships. Since everyone has something so positive to say about our wonderful newsletter, we would like to spread the word and have ever more people enjoying it! The most powerful form of advertising is person to person, so I really encourage everyone to choose one or two people in their circle this year that don’t know about our publication, and entreat them personally to become members.

Another role has been to expand our publicity and marketing. In 2017 we reached over 400 followers on our Facebook page, almost making a goal of 500 by Christmas. In 2018 we reached that goal and now have 595 followers. The MHSBC hosted a number of events in 2018 (see the President's Report) and hosted booths at 2 events: FVRL Literacy Fair and the MCC Festival. In 2018 we did not have volunteers available to do lookups at the event at the MCC Festival, so our goal in 2019 is to aim to be able to provide this service again. We also sponsored the Immigration & Multiculturalism Award at the Fraser Valley Heritage Fair. The Fair is celebrating its 23rd year in 2019. The ceremony took place on May 12<sup>th</sup> at UFV. The winner of this award was Xavier McFadden from James Kennedy Elementary School in Langley. Xavier's project focused on the Underground Railroad and its links to Canada. Advertising for our events was done through the Roots & Branches publication, event programme inserts, direct emails, social media, our MHSBC website, church bulletins and distributions, posters, word of mouth, The Canadian Mennonite, MB Herald and free calendars online. Our new volunteer, Doug J. delivers 70-80 posters to churches for us on a monthly basis in Abbotsford and Chilliwack. In 2018, we continued to create and print our posters in-house. We are looking for volunteers who will deliver posters for us to more places in the Fraser Valley and Vancouver.

Another one of my roles is to recruit new volunteers and update and maintain each person's profile. We are continually updating information in our files. Elma Pauls has been a significant help with these projects along with our team of dedicated office support volunteers. We are continually looking for volunteers to bring on board. We have a number of roles available. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please ask them to contact me. We work hard and we enjoy our time together! Generally people come in to volunteer for 2 to 4 hours or more at a time. Some volunteers come twice a week, most just one day per week. We would like to have all our computers in use each day, and we have many openings available. We need more help with IT, publicity and marketing, digitizing, scanning and working with our used books for sale. More volunteers are needed in the Project Room and on the second floor to help visitors with family tree searches.

In 2018, we have had the following MHSBC Volunteers come on board: Heather Tekavec, Doug Johnson, Janet Brock, Leona Schmidt, Martha Unger, Bonnie Brauer, Rod Ewert and Caroline Thurley. We had 2 interns: Emma Sorenson from MB Historical Commission in May and Caroline Thurley, UFV Arts 280, Sept. to Nov. 2018.

Volunteers that have moved on to other endeavors: John Friesen moved to Winnipeg, Caroline Thurley finished her internship/practicum with us and began volunteering for the MHM, Arnold Klassen resigned from the Board of Directors. We also lost one of our valued, long time volunteers: Erna Block passed away on October 30, 2018.

In 2018, we continue to have a dedicated and faithful team of volunteers. Recorded volunteer hours for 2018 MHSBC totaled: 8373 (2017: 8125). Ella Born diligently continues to record our hours each week.

Our genealogy research services continue to be very active. In 2018, 116 responses to requests went out from the genealogy email. Sandi Massie handles these requests on and off site, working throughout the week on our backlog of requests. (I don't have 2017 numbers for comparison because our email server went down and our statistics data was lost). Many of our requests are for ancestry charts, requests to make corrections and add updates in the Grandma database, EWZ records, obituaries and more. Paypal continues to be an efficient way to invoice for look-ups online and payments are usually made fairly quickly after billing.

Since the move to the new facility, we have continued to work on efficient and successful ways to keep statistics which continues to be challenging but I believe we are moving in the right direction.

Recorded on-site visitors for 2018 was 740 (January to May 2018 was not recorded), (2017: 852) with 504 (2017: 372) visiting for a face to face genealogy look-up. Visitors include site tours, drop-ins, event ticket purchases, donations (monetary, photos, documents, books) and memberships, meetings and information requests. Robert Martens accessioned 702 (2017: 304) items for the archives in 2018. Visitors also come for personal research and to buy books, receive translation help, read books and magazines in the reference libraries, say hi, drop off translation work, and/or use our public GRANDMA station for research. Another request that is still gaining popularity is for “Christmas Trees”; some parents wish to give their children a family tree for Christmas and so will come in for a look-up and a print out.

My correspondence via email for the MHSBC has totaled over 1135 in (2017: 900). This included communications with churches, community, volunteers, staff, members and visitors. Most of communication outside the office is done via email. I did not record the number of phone calls in and out this year. Our members with email address receive emails with calendar, membership and information. Our volunteers with email addresses receive emails with event volunteer help requests, calendar information, event details, and more.

One important focus continues to be effective communication with our current members and our past members. This is ongoing and something I’ve been working on since I came on board to help this communication be valuable, efficient and up to date. I really enjoy it when members come to the MHSBC offices and say ‘Hi’ and when our out of town members send me an email and keep me posted about where they’re at. I’ve continued to find that our members are of the most positive, kindest and sweetest people! So often I’m at an event and someone who hasn’t met me says, “Are you the Jennifer that sends me emails?” I really enjoy the aspect of connecting with my MHSBC “penpals”. It is great to have your support at the MHSBC and for myself personally. All the words of encouragement and affirmation that come my way have been wonderful and appreciated.

One focus in 2018 was to provide brochures for visitors on the following topics: Genealogy, EWZ, GRANDMA, MAID, and more. These brochures provide information such as emails, descriptions, definitions, FAQ and useful access details for users. We have also updated our MHSBC Research Centre brochure which visitors keep or pass along to family and friends. The brochures provide a way for our volunteers to give patrons standardized, readily available information to questions about our policies, services and databases.

The highlight of the year for me was being able to attend the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada meetings in Manitoba. I was able to meet board members from the other Mennonite historical societies in Canada and see the societies represented in the national context. It was very meaningful for me to be able to meet and connect with people that I had been corresponding with only by phone or email. At the meeting, the directors shared about their struggles and successes which was very interesting and informative for me. It was incredible to be able to visit the Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives in person. I can’t thank the MHSBC board enough for sponsoring my trip to Winnipeg in order to be able to attend the meetings.

For the MHSBC, some of our goals for 2019 include greater outreach for recruiting members, visitors and ongoing volunteers; fine-tuning our policies and procedures as best we can in each area; seeking and implementing more effective fundraising, utilizing the new digitizer to complete the EWZ digitizing project, defining and extending greater support for our volunteer coordinators and updating our volunteer job roles as we continue to expand into the future and more technologies become available to us.

As the Office and Volunteer Manager, I have this unique vantage point to observe all the ways that, through our programs, the volunteers faithfully keep the society running smoothly. The significant

way that their work affects those people and their families connecting with us for information continues to be a very exciting aspect of working for the MHSBC. One special privilege I have is to work with Mary Ann who powerfully assists grapples and tirelessly works alongside me to ensure the MHSBC continues to thrive. To say that we all appreciate her is a great understatement! I am really looking forward to continuing to serve in the capacity of Office and Volunteer Manager in the next year. Thank you!

Jennifer Martens, April 2019

## **Archives Report 2018**

The archive department is always a busy place. We have a wonderful group of talented, dedicated volunteers who make the job fun. We were saddened by the passing of our long-time volunteer, Erna Block, last year, who spent many years working to sort and catalogue photos and made a significant contribution to the archives. Joan Enns has taken over Erna's role and is doing a great job! Helen Nickel & Hildegard Baerg have added hundreds of these photos into MAID this past year. Laura Unger continues her work with the John B. Toews collection, sorting, organizing and entering the information into MAID. Julia Toews and Linda Klassen are working with printed records and are nearing the end of a large project. Janet Brock has recently joined us and has already been a valuable addition to our team. Al & Dolores Wall are also reorganizing duplicate and triplicate periodicals collected over the years. The cold room reorganization begun by Dolores Harder is also nearing completion and has benefited us in a number of ways. We're so happy that Dolores Harder is still involved in all aspects of MAID and continues to be a valuable help and support to us. We've had several new jobs come in and we won't be running out of work anytime soon! We would love to have new volunteers join us, particularly those who are detail oriented and love history. We've had so many interesting things entrusted to us and it's a privilege to work to preserve these records and photos and to make them available to the public.

Our Aim: To provide access to primary and published materials about Mennonites

Projects our volunteers are working on:

- \*Accession numbers are assigned to new donations.
- \*New donations are labeled and placed in the storage room.
- \*New donations are sorted in the project room
- \*Textual material undergoes further sorting and organizing
- \*Textual material is entered into the MAID database
- \*Photos are accessioned, scanned, described and entered into the MAID database.
- \*John B. Toews manuscripts, letters, diaries, biographies & maps are described and entered into the MAID database.
- \*John B. Toews books are catalogued and shelved in the John B. Toews library.
- \*MHSBC Library books are processed and catalogued when received
- \*Family Histories are processed, scanned and bound when necessary
- \*Periodicals are received, maintained and shelved
- \*Translation work: Family Histories and letters from German or Russian to English
- \*Translation of song texts from Gothic and Latin script to English
- \*Obituaries: paper copies are entered into an Excel document
- \*Obituaries: older MB Herald obits are copied to Bethel College Archives
- \*Canadian Board of Colonization indexing and scanning
- \*EWZ – ongoing digitization
- \*EWZ Data Base Project: inserting data into Legacy database
- \*Reinlaender Data: transcribing and merging into Legacy database
- \*Digitization of Mennonitische Rundschau, Der Bote, Conference Yearbooks, and School Yearbooks

Submitted by Linda Klassen

## **Library Committee Report**

The library committee consists of Cheryl Isaac, Robert Martens, Elma Pauls, Arlene Peters, and Pat Wood.

The MHSBC library has been functioning well, based on the hard work and passion of volunteers. Consequently, meetings have been minimal.

The library saw a large influx of books over 2018, largely due to one-time personal donations. It would be expected that 2019 will not be nearly as busy. It might be conjectured that MHSBC has one of the most complete Mennonite-based libraries in Canada.

Thanks to volunteers and staff for making the library so successful.

Submitted by Robert Martens

## **Newsletter - *Roots and Branches***

In 2018, the editorial team of *Roots and Branches* worked on producing three full-length issues of 32 pages each; in addition, a special shorter edition was produced in December, primarily featuring articles related to Mennonite experiences of Christmas.

Each full-length issue typically included a variety of articles on historical topics, along with event reports, a genealogy column, news releases and notifications of upcoming events. Our themes this year included Mennonites and Music, Mennonites and German Nationalism, and the Contributions of Mennonite Women. Also included in 2018 were two more articles in our continuing series on ships that brought Mennonites to their new homes in North America. In addition, we continued to feature images from local Mennonite artists on the back and front covers of each full-length issue.

The editorial team welcomed Julia Toews as a new member partway through 2018. Julia is assisting Louise Price with choosing pictures for each issue and has also written articles for *Roots and Branches*: her contributions are much appreciated by the rest of the team.

Maryann Tjart Jantzen, Robert Martens, Louise Price and now also Julia Toews continue to work together to share editorial responsibilities and Heather Pauls Murray continues to do an excellent job of layout. Other members of the *Roots and Branches* committee continue to provide feedback on potential articles. We seek to feature a variety of writers in each issue, from diverse segments of our constituency. And the office staff works hard to see that each issue is printed and mailed in a timely fashion. In house publishing of the newsletter has streamlined the process for the editorial team, for which we are grateful. Without the contributions of all these individuals, *Roots and Branches* would not exist.

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). All contributions are subject to editorial approval and revision, as needed.

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

Maryann Tjart Jantzen  
MHSBC director and *Roots and Branches* co-editor

## **Website and Computer Technical Committee**

Members: Elmer Wiens (Chair) and Don Fehr

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

Our website is relatively unchanged from last year, reflecting the maturity of our organization.

Elmer Wiens works with Jennifer Martens to handle changes, updates, revisions, trouble shooting as events unfold.

The following list itemizes features available on the [www.MHSBC.com](http://www.MHSBC.com) website.

1. Members of the Society can pay their membership dues online with PayPal. Alternatively, they can submit their membership information on an online form and then be invoiced by MHSBC using the Paypal format. (<http://www.mhsbc.com/memberships.html>)
2. Donations to MHSBC can be made by way of PayPal, or be made using the Canada Helps portal. (<http://www.mhsbc.com/donations.html>)
3. Potential volunteers can complete and submit our online membership and volunteer form. (<http://www.mhsbc.com/volunteers.html>)
4. Tickets to events like our Annual Fundraising Banquet can be purchased online through PayPal on the ([http://www.mhsbc.com/futureevents/purchase\\_event.html](http://www.mhsbc.com/futureevents/purchase_event.html)) webpage. This webpage must be changed each year along with the PayPal buttons to reflect the topic and speaker at the event. The webpages ([http://www.mhsbc.com/futureevents/purchase\\_event\\_cancel.html](http://www.mhsbc.com/futureevents/purchase_event_cancel.html)) and ([http://www.mhsbc.com/futureevents/purchase\\_event\\_success.html](http://www.mhsbc.com/futureevents/purchase_event_success.html)) must also be changed. A link to the ([http://www.mhsbc.com/futureevents/purchase\\_event.html](http://www.mhsbc.com/futureevents/purchase_event.html)) webpage must be placed on the (<http://www.mhsbc.com/futureevents/index.html>) webpage when announcing the event.
5. MHSBC events and meeting are posted on the website entry page (<http://www.mhsbc.com/index.html>), and the Future Events web page <http://www.mhsbc.com/futureevents/index.html>. Major events also get a separate webpage providing more detailed information e.g ([http://www.mhsbc.com/futureevents/stobbe\\_stephanie.html](http://www.mhsbc.com/futureevents/stobbe_stephanie.html)).

Once the event is over, the event details are transferred to the Past Events web page. (<http://www.mhsbc.com/pastevents.html>) This web page provides a list of past events going back over a decade to November 2004.

It has been my pleasure to continue working on these tasks this year.

Respectfully submitted  
by Elmer G. Wiens (2019)

## **Account 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, 2018 and the Statement of Income and Expense for the year 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 2018.

Abbotsford, B.C.  
March 14, 2019.

John Konrad

Original signed copy held at MHSBC

Mennonite Historical Society of BC 2018 Statement of Receipts and Disbursements & 2019 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Variance	2019 Budget
<b>Receipts</b>					
<b>Donations &amp; Membership</b>					
Donations, General	85,889	50,177	60,080	(9,903)	51,000
Donations, Digitalization Project	-	14,000	20,000	(6,000)	14,000 (a)
Donations, EWZ Project	60	-	-	-	2,600 (a)
Membership	11,450	9,671	12,000	(2,329)	12,000
Fund Raising Events	8,430	4,090	8,000	(3,910)	12,000 (b)
<b>Total Donations and Membership</b>	<b>105,829</b>	<b>77,938</b>	<b>100,080</b>	<b>(22,142)</b>	<b>91,600</b>
<b>Investments</b>					
Interest	371	515	500	15	400
Investment Income	20,000	23,511	20,000	3,511	22,000 (c)
Mark to Market Gain (loss)	(35,932)	(74,527)	-	(74,527)	15,420 (c)
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>(15,561)</b>	<b>(50,501)</b>	<b>20,500</b>	<b>(71,001)</b>	<b>37,820</b>
<b>Other Income</b>					
Book Sales	2,961	2,312	500	1,812	2,000
DVD/CD/Tape Sales	2,826	2,198	2,500	(302)	2,500
Genealogy Research	604	969	-	969	1,000
Miscellaneous Income	1,839	1,032	1,750	(718)	1,000
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>8,229</b>	<b>6,511</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>6,500</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>98,498</b>	<b>33,948</b>	<b>125,330</b>	<b>(91,382)</b>	<b>135,920</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>					
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>					
Wages & Benefits	45,499	46,557	48,000	1,443	94,600 (d)
Training	-	-	-	-	2,500 (e)
Travel	3,370	820	3,500	2,680	1,500
<b>Total Personnel Expenses</b>	<b>48,870</b>	<b>47,377</b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>4,123</b>	<b>98,600</b>
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>					
Office	3,669	5,357	4,000	(1,357)	5,000
Photocopy Expense	1,763	952	1,800	848	1,800 (f)
Phones	1,420	2,845	1,500	(1,345)	1,500 (f)
Technology	3,643	3,640	3,700	60	2,400 (f)
Postage	1,308	1,284	1,400	116	1,400
Insurance	(794)	500	500	-	520
Legal	95	40	100	60	100
Fees	1,485	961	1,350	389	1,000
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>12,589</b>	<b>15,580</b>	<b>14,350</b>	<b>(1,230)</b>	<b>13,720</b>
<b>Operations Expenses</b>					
Annual General Meeting	1,812	1,952	1,800	(152)	2,000
Archival/Library Supplies	1,829	1,180	1,900	720	1,300
Dues and Subscriptions	2,610	2,815	2,580	(235)	2,950
DVD/CD/Tape Purchases	1,626	1,194	1,500	306	1,500
Equipment	14,019	782	1,000	218	500
Digitalization Project Expense	20	16	-	(16)	25,000 (a)
EWZ Project Expense	89	-	-	-	- (a)
Lectures and Events	6,155	2,978	6,200	3,222	4,000
Newsletter	2,897	2,003	3,000	997	3,000 (g)
Publicity	1,274	661	1,300	639	1,300
Banquet Costs	3,659	3,274	4,000	726	- (b)
Miscellaneous Expense	1,775	521	2,700	2,179	1,000
<b>Total Operations Expenses</b>	<b>37,765</b>	<b>17,375</b>	<b>25,980</b>	<b>8,605</b>	<b>42,550</b>
<b>Cost Sharing</b>					
Facility Cost Sharing	32,672	34,991	33,500	(1,491)	36,040
Payroll Cost Sharing	-	-	-	-	(43,100)
Technology & Office Sharing	-	-	-	-	1,625
<b>Net MMS Cost Sharing Expense</b>	<b>32,672</b>	<b>34,991</b>	<b>33,500</b>	<b>(1,491)</b>	<b>(5,435)</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>131,895</b>	<b>115,324</b>	<b>125,330</b>	<b>10,006</b>	<b>149,435</b>
<b>Net Receipts and Disbursements</b>	<b>(33,398)</b>	<b>(81,376)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(101,388)</b>	<b>(13,515)</b>
<b>Operational Surplus (Deficit)</b>					<b>(20,535) (h)</b>

## Notes to Financial Statements

- (a) \$14,000 was donated to the Digitalization Project in 2018 bringing the fund balance up to \$26,750. An additional \$14,000 is expected to be received in 2019 and \$25,000 is expected to be spent on the project. The EWZ Project is expected to receive \$2,600 in donations in 2019 which will be held in the fund for planned work in 2020.
- (b) In 2018 \$4,090 was received in ticket sales for events offset by \$3,274 in costs for those events, the net proceeds being \$816. Starting in 2019 all fundraising events will be recorded net of costs as "Fundraising Events." Any donations received during these events have been recorded as donations rather than included in fundraising.
- (c) **Investment Income** includes any realized gains from the Endowment Fund whether from dividends paid on investments or gains from rebalancing the portfolio. **Mark to Market Gains (Losses)** are differences from book value due to changes in the market position of the Endowment fund. The Endowment Fund recorded a loss of \$74,527 in 2018 due to temporary decline in market conditions.
- (d) In 2018 the Wages and Benefits are recorded as net of cost sharing with MMS. In the 2019 budget the cost sharing payroll costs are recorded as Payroll Cost Sharing to make comparisons easier.
- (e) Training for Archival and Software
- (f) In 2018 Photocopy, Phones and Technology are recorded as net of cost sharing with MMS. In the 2019 budget these costs are recorded as Technology and Office Sharing to make comparisons easier.
- (g) 2019 budget increased to include all newsletter costs as well as accommodate the release of 4 newsletters in 2019.
- (h) The operational deficit excludes Mark to Market Gains (losses) and annual differences in fund balancing (Digitalization, EWZ Projects). Intended to show the net impact on operational cash flows. The 2018 bank balance \$33,065 (Chequing, Saving) is expected to cover the deficit for the year.

Mennonite Historical Society of BC Statement of Funds and Equity as at Dec 31, 2018	2017 Actual	2018 Actual
<b>Cash &amp; Investments</b>		
<b>Funds</b>		
Petty Cash	200	200
Chequing, Envision	16,716	10,376
Savings, ENVISION	43,226	22,689
US\$, ENVISION	190	330
Stewardship Account, MBCONF	11,597	-
EWZ Project	-	2,976
Digitalization Project	-	26,750
Shares	1,016	1,047
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>72,946</b>	<b>64,369</b>
Accounts Receivable and Prepaid		
GST Receivable	1,844	2
Accounts Receivable MMS	548	1,734
Prepaid Expenses	1,675	-
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>4,066</b>	<b>1,736</b>
Endowment, Cash	31,221	6,081
Endowment, Book Value	424,476	452,368
Endowment, Mark to Market	101,178	26,655
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>556,875</b>	<b>485,104</b>
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>633,887</b>	<b>551,208</b>
<b>Accounts Payable and Equity</b>		
Digitalization Project	12,750	-
Accounts Payable	1,634	-
Equity	619,503	632,584
Interim Equity	-	(81,376)
<b>Total Accounts Payable and Equity</b>	<b>633,887</b>	<b>551,208</b>