

Mennonite Historical Society
of British Columbia

2011 Annual Report

211 – 2825 Clearbrook Road,

Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 6S3

Phone: 604-853-6177 FAX: 604-853-6246

Website: www.mhsbc.com Email: archives@mhsbc.com

Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

2011 Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 21 June 2012, 1:30 pm
ABC Restaurant,
32080 Marshall Road, Abbotsford, B.C.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of 2010 AGM – 29 May 2011
3. Financial Reports
 - a. Financial Statements – 2011
4. Moved that the Financial Statements printed in the 2011 Annual Report be accepted and approved.
 - b. Budget - 2012
Moved that the Budget for 2012 as printed in the Annual Report be approved
5. Re-election of current Board Members.

Wilf Penner, John van Dyck and Robert Martens to be re-elected for a three year term ending in 2015.
6. Election of Directors

Moved that Henry Wieler, who has served as interim director during the last year to be elected for a two 2 year term ending 2014.

Moved that Don Fehr be elected as a Director for three years ending on the date of AGM in 2015.

Nominations from the floor.
7. Questions pertaining to the 2011 Annual Report
8. Adjournment

Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting
Sunday, May 29, 2011 at 2:30 P.M.
Columbia Bible College Chapel,
2940 Clearbrook 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 2010 AGM:

Thiessen/Penner: Moved and seconded that the minutes of the June 5, 2010 Annual General Meeting, as printed in the 2010 Annual Report, be approved and accepted. Carried.

3. Financial Report:

Thiessen/Martens: Moved and seconded that the Financial Statements for 2010, as printed in the 2010 Annual Report, be accepted and approved. Carried.

4. 2011 Budget:

Thiessen/Martens: Moved and seconded that the 2011 Budget, as printed in the 2010 Annual Report, be approved. Carried.

5. Election of Directors:

Martens/Jantzen: Moved and seconded that Elmer Wiens be elected as Director for the three years ending on the date of the AGM in 2013. Carried.

As noted in the President's Report, five directors are retiring from the Board: Connie Braun, John Konrad, Peter Neudorf, Louise Price and John B. Toews. Since we had only one name to recommend as a new Board member, there remain 4 vacancies to be filled. Attendees are encouraged to recommend qualified and interested persons to current directors to fill those vacancies.

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
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
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 2011 has been another successful year in the life of our Society. We sponsored six public events including our annual Genealogy Workshop. We began the year with a presentation of two Otto Klassen films dealing with the history of Mennonites in the early years of the Soviet Union and the Great Trek. Our third event was a film and lecture featuring Walter Ratliff's portrayal of the Trek to Central Asia and Claas Epp. Colin Neufeldt was the speaker for our Annual Banquet in October, continuing where he left off in 2010 with a description of the plight of Mennonites under Stalin in the early 1930s.

Our publications committee was very active in 2011, producing three very informative newsletters. Article topics included a review of the history of our society, the American Mennonite Relief Organization and the Birth of the MCC, A Russian Mennonite Wedding in Einlage, 1913, Mennonites and Jews in South Russia, Lev Tolstoy and Clarence Bauman: Sermon on the Mount Affinities, several perspectives on mental illness, a tribute to David Ewert, and a number of informative book reviews.

Last year we saw the departure of five board members. Fortunately, we were able to welcome three new board members – Bob Weinreich and Elmer Wiens, who were elected at last year's AGM, and Henry Wieler, who joined us during the year and has been nominated for election this year.

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

31 May 2012

The Archives

Staffing and Personnel

Currently, 29 volunteers, one part-time office manager, and one part-time receptionist staff our Archives office. We are lucky indeed to have such enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers working on genealogy and archival material, and a big thank you is owed our paid staff. We simply couldn't do without the dedication displayed by these individuals.

Communications

Roots and Branches, the MHSBC periodical, is our primary mode of communication with the public. A great deal of energy and work is expended on every issue, and public response has generally been very positive. Our website is now being upgraded and updated by our new webmaster, Elmer Wiens, and added uploads have increased the attractiveness of the site.

MHSBC Events

1. Otto Klassen film series, March 12, 2011. "Remembering Russia: 1914-1927: War and the End of Mennonite Tranquillity." Columbia Bible College chapel.
"Remembering Russia: 1928-1938: Collectivization and Mass Arrest."
2. Otto Klassen film series, April 16, 2011. "The Great Trek: 1939-1945." Columbia Bible College chapel.
3. Walter Ratliff film, May 28, 2011. "Through the Desert Goes Our Journey." Columbia Bible College chapel.
4. Walter Ratliff lecture, May 29, 2011. "Pilgrims on the Silk Road." Columbia Bible College chapel.
5. Annual General Meeting, May 29, 2011. Columbia Bible College chapel.
6. Annual Fundraising banquet, October 15, 2011. Lecture by Colin Neufeldt: "The Experience of Mennonite Exiles at Siberian Special Settlements (1930-1933)." Emmanuel Mennonite Church.
7. Genealogy workshop, November 12, 2011. Speakers: Drs. Tim Janzen and Glenn Penner and Dr. Matt Farrer with the Parkinson Project. Azalea Room, Garden Park Tower, Abbotsford, B.C.

Main Projects

1. Digitizing projects

- (a) *Mennonitische Rundschau*: Now digitized: 1880-90; 1925; 1938-41; 1949-2007. A new flatbed scanner has been purchased and consequently medium oversize issues are now being digitized.
- (b) *Der Bote*: Digitized: 1924-36; 1963-64; 1966; 1970-72; 1974; 1976; 1980-83; 1986; 1988-2008.
- (c) *Canadian Mennonite*: Digitized: 1954; 1956-63; 1998-2008.
- (d) *MB Herald* obituaries: Digitized: 1996-2009.
- (e) Yearbooks: We are in the beginnings of scanning conference yearbooks.

2. InMagic

Major progress has been made on entering archival data into the InMagic program. Volunteers have worked extremely hard at this project, and without the assistance of a professional archivist. We have received some invaluable help from Sylvia Stopforth of Trinity Western College.

3. Microfilm digitization

We have completed 30% of the digitization of EWZ microfilms, and volunteers have put in countless hours getting the work done. At this point 252 microfilms have been digitized, consisting of about 755,956 frames.

4. Indexing

MB Herald births and marriages are in an ongoing process of upgrading.
Mennonitische Rundschau periodicals are being digitized.

Der Bote issues are being digitized and indices have been uploaded to the web.
EWZ files are being prepared for the GRANDMA database.
Canadian Mennonite marriages are now being indexed as well as births.

Wall of Remembrance

Several more plaques have been added to the wall; Jacob H. & Sara (Tiessen) Isaak; Abram J. & Maria (Thiessen) Friesen; John & Maria (Klassen) Enns. Many thanks to our donors.

Archival Committee

Volunteers met with Board members to discuss archival issues and problems. This will be an ongoing process, and meetings will be called as needed.

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.

After meeting with the committee, Elmer made changes to the website to make navigation more user friendly, and added a new web page with the MHSBC Mission Statement.

Don obtained/created copies of all MHSBC newsletters (Roots & Branches) and Annual Reports in PDF format, and these files were posted to the website.

We hope to get up-to-date photos of volunteers, staff members, and directors, with a short biography plus links to personal websites.

Don investigated getting a larger scanner for issues of *Der Bote* and *Mennonitische Rundschau* that do not fit the existing multi- function printer. A new scanner was purchased.

MHSBC has switched to Shaw's business website hosting package, with a wider band width and a faster speed connection. This change facilitates website viewers when downloading the newsletter PDF files, and provides greater storage capacity and enhanced website design features.

Corrections and updates are being made to the website as they are presented.

Future events are now also being posted to the www.MHSBC.com entry (home) web page to increase awareness by website visitors.

The committee also discussed finding sponsors and advertising, a matter that was brought up with the other board members.

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. Our themes this past year have included Mennonites and mental health, Mennonites and spirituality and Mennonite working together; each issue also includes book reviews, articles on specific congregations and other 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. Our intentions for the coming year are to include a genealogical column entitled “The Ties that Bind” in each issue, to encourage letters to the editors, 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, and to Wilf Penner, Anne Andres, and Heather Murray Pauls for articles, practical advice and inspiration. Thanks to Heather Pauls Murray for doing layout; and to Mary Ann Quiring, Elisabeth Klassen and the volunteers at the archive office who complete the process, of stuffing envelopes, and addressing and sorting, stamping and mailing them to MHSBC members.

Our policy is to try to provide a broad range of articles so that all readers 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.

Maryann Tjart Jantzen

MHSBC director and *Roots and Branches* editor.

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, 2011 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 2011.

Abbotsford, B.C.
April 15, 2012

Henry Martens

HENEL CONSULTING
(Original signed letter held in MHSBC office)

Financial Report

During 2011, 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. Again the October Fund Raising Banquet was the main source of revenue for the year with net proceeds of \$24,219.

Total donations for the year were \$60,190 compared to a budget of \$62,442. Total income for 2011 was \$95,437 against a budget of \$94,342.

Total expenditures for the year were \$84,840 compared to a budget of \$94,342 a savings of \$9,502. The operating surplus totalled \$10,597 for the year and with the increase in the investment portfolio the MHSBC ended the year with an increase in Members Equity of \$22,801.

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 2011



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

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Assets		
Current		
Cash -Petty	\$ 200.00	200.00
Cash - Cdn Chequing account	38,659.51	48,175.71
Cash - Cdn- Savings	6,123.58	0.00
Cash - US Chequing	1,795.92	1,710.92
Stewardship account – MB	28,273.47	27,443.94
Investments	309,473.00	293,901.00
	<u>384,525.48</u>	<u>371,431.57</u>
Long-term		
Shares	859.26	834.19
	<u>\$ 385,384.74</u>	<u>372,265.76</u>
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable accrued liabilities	\$ 2,295.00	11,976.94
Member Equity		
Member equity - Endowment	224,773.75	224,773.75
Member equity - General	158,315.99	135,515.07
	<u>383,089.74</u>	<u>360,288.82</u>
	<u>\$ 385,384.74</u>	<u>372,265.76</u>

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

	Budget December 31, 2011	Actual December 31, 2011	Actual December 31, 2010	Budget December 31, 2012
Receipts				
Donations				
General Fund	\$ 62,442	60,189.57	\$ 62,855.04	66,726
Memorial Wall	-	1,510.00	-	-
Subtotal Contributions/Donations	<u>62,442</u>	<u>61,699.57</u>	<u>62,855.04</u>	<u>66,726</u>
Investment Income				
Account Interest	500	1,005.67	808.09	500
Credit Card Rebate	-	73.67	172.12	-
Investment Gains/(Losses)	-	3,368.00	(7,387.00)	-
Investment Interest	12,000	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000
Subtotal Investment Income	<u>12,500</u>	<u>16,447.34</u>	<u>5,593.21</u>	<u>12,500</u>
Other Income				
Book Sales, etc.	7,000	3,530.25	6,211.85	3,500
DVD/CD/Tape Sales	2,200	3,851.36	2,695.00	3,000
Miscellaneous Income	500	770.86	483.93	500
Photocopy Income	200	59.85	184.50	200
Postage Recovery - Income	100	126.44	58.61	-
GST/HST Recovery	1,400	2,626.00	1,710.78	1,500
Ticket Sales	8,000	6,325.00	6,163.00	8,000
Subtotal Other Income	<u>19,400</u>	<u>17,289.76</u>	<u>17,507.67</u>	<u>16,700</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 94,342</u>	<u>95,436.67</u>	<u>85,955.92</u>	<u>\$ 95,926</u>

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

	Budget December 31, 2011	Actual December 31, 2011	Actual December 31, 2010	Budget December 31, 2012
Expenses				
General Expenses				
Credit Card Fees	\$ 800	\$ 719.94	\$ 2,172.81	800
Archival Supplies	250	59.98	-	250
Bank Charge	50	-	3.00	50
Book Purchases	3,500	2,091.18	3,473.39	1,920
DVD/CD/Tape Purchases	1,100	1,419.97	1,085.02	1,500
Computer/Internet	4,000	3,233.38	2,143.14	4,000
Contract/Wages	25,000	22,610.29	23,164.42	25,000
Fixtures	500	25.75	589.35	500
Insurance	2,100	2,000.00	1,972.00	2,100
Archives/Library Expense	500	192.93	74.80	300
Inmagic Project /Supplies	1,400	267.80	2,007.86	300
Inmagic Maintenance	400	392.00	380.80	400
Inmagic Training	500	-	12.00	600
Legal	300	-	-	300
Photocopy Expense	1,500	3,472.00	1,243.14	1,200
Lectures and Events	2,500	1,777.38	3,217.78	1,800
Office Expense	3,000	1,639.19	1,725.52	2,400
Utilities	8,376	8,097.32	8,120.52	9,300
Membership Dues	850	850.00	850.00	850
Miscellaneous Expense	1,000	864.58	544.28	1,000
Newsletter	5,500	5,525.85	5,821.71	5,550
Telephones	1,600	984.98	1,507.24	1,200
Postage	900	892.04	822.59	900
Publicity	100	-	-	120
Rent	16,766	15,405.20	16,239.98	16,766
Property Taxes	2,750	2,788.15	2,532.79	2,900
Travel	5,000	2,365.47	338.87	2,800
Banquet Costs	8,000	6,996.77	7,638.67	8,000
Subtotal General Expenses	<u>93,742</u>	<u>84,672.15</u>	<u>87,681.68</u>	<u>92,806</u>
Projects				
Memorial Wall	100	81.05	27.95	-
Omsk Historical Project	-	-	3,000.00	-
MHSC Genealogy Project	-	-	-	3,000
Microfilm Digitization	500	86.55	111.98	120
Subtotal Projects	<u>600</u>	<u>167.60</u>	<u>3,139.93</u>	<u>3,120</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>94,342</u>	<u>84,839.75</u>	<u>90,821.61</u>	<u>95,926</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations		10,596.92	(4,865.69)	
Mark to market value adjustment of Investment Portfolio		12,204.00	39,125.00	
Excess/Income/Expenses	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 22,800.92</u>	<u>\$ 34,259.31</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Members Equity at beginning of		360,288.82	326,029.51	
Members Equity at end of year		<u>\$ 383,089.74</u>	<u>\$ 360,288.82</u>	

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

	December 31, 2011	December 31, 2010
Excess/Expenses/Income	\$ 22,800.92	\$ 34,259.31
Items not involving cash		
Mark to market value adjustment of Investment Portfolio	(12,204.00)	(39,125.00)
Unrealized Investment Gains	(3,368.00)	7,387.00
	<u>7,228.92</u>	<u>2,521.31</u>
Change in non-cash working capital		
(Decrease)/Increase in accounts payable	(9,681.94)	(4,386.62)
	<u>(9,681.94)</u>	<u>(4,386.62)</u>
Cash Flow from Operations	<u>\$ (2,453.02)</u>	<u>\$ (1,865.31)</u>
Financing Activities		
Increase in investment in shares	\$ (25.07)	\$ (19.16)
	<u>(25.07)</u>	<u>(19.16)</u>
(Decrease)/Increase in Cash for the year	<u>\$ (2,478.09)</u>	<u>\$ (1,884.47)</u>
Cash at beginning of year	<u>77,530.57</u>	<u>79,415.04</u>
Cash at end of year	<u>\$ 75,052.48</u>	<u>\$ 77,530.57</u>
Cash is comprised of:		
Cash -Petty	200.00	200.00
Cash – CDN Chequing	38,659.51	48,175.71
Cash – CDN Savings	6,123.58	-
Cash - US chequing	1,795.92	1,710.92
Stewardship account - MB Conference	28,273.47	27,443.94
	<u>28,273.47</u>	<u>27,443.94</u>
	<u>\$ 75,052.48</u>	<u>\$ 77,530.57</u>